

# Guided Reading

## The Constitution

### Lesson 2 *Creating a New Constitution*

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- *Why do people create, structure, and change governments?*

### The Constitutional Convention

The confederation of states needed a stronger central government. Each state sent delegates to a convention in Philadelphia to come up with a solution.

1. **Describing** What sorts of people attended the Constitutional Convention in 1787?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. **Inferring** The chart below lists three rules followed by the delegates at the Constitutional Convention. Write the possible reasons for each rule.

| Rule  | Reason |
|---|--------|
| Each state gets one vote, no matter how many delegates attend the convention. |        |
| A simple majority of seven votes passes a measure.                            |        |
| Discussions are secret, unattended by the public.                             |        |

# Guided Reading



## The Constitution

### Compromising for a Constitution

Delegates presented two important plans for organizing a central government. They knew they would have to compromise in order to get the plan approved by all of the states.

**3. Explaining** Why did small states fear the Virginia Plan?

---

---

**4. Listing** Name two features of the New Jersey Plan.

---

---

**5. Evaluating** What made the Great Compromise acceptable to both large and small states?

---

---

**6. Analyzing** At the time of the Constitutional Convention, Southern states wanted to include enslaved African Americans in population counts. Why did Northern states oppose the measure?

---

---

# Guided Reading



## The Constitution

- 7. Organizing** Complete the chart below on trade compromises made between Northern and Southern states at the Constitutional Convention.

| Trade Issues  |   |
|---|---|
| The North says . . .  | The South says . . .  |
| Congress should regulate foreign trade and trade between states | Congress would use this power to tax exports. Southern economy depends on exports. Congress might try to stop traders from bringing more slaves into the South. |
| ↓   |   |
| Trade Compromises   |   |
| The North agrees that . . .                                     | The South agrees that . . .   |
|   |   |

## Federalists and Anti-Federalists

After deciding on all the details, the delegates formed a group to write the new Constitution. For the document to become law, at least nine states had to ratify, or approve, it.

- 8. Generalizing** Who were the Federalists and what were their arguments in support of the proposed Constitution?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Identifying** In the opinion of the Anti-Federalists, what important measures were missing from the proposed Constitution?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Explaining** What compromise finally made the Constitution the law of the land?
- \_\_\_\_\_