

# A More Perfect Union Video Questions

The movie is filmed on location in Williamsburg & Philadelphia!!!

## Lesson One

1. The movie opens with James Madison. What does Jefferson send to Madison in the big crate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In the beginning of the movie, they say that the states who had once been united in a war for Independence were now divided over what?  
\_\_\_\_\_



3. At the Virginia convention, the delegates are arguing over how to control trade. They felt that what country was still controlling their trade? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Madison is now speaking to Mr. George Mason. Mr. Mason wrote
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia State Constitution	<input type="checkbox"/> Declaration of Independence
<input type="checkbox"/> Wealth of Nations	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Declaration of Rights



5. Who was considered to be the nation's "indispensable friend?" It was said that "where he goes, so goes America."  
\_\_\_\_\_



6. Where was John Adams at this time? \_\_\_\_\_
7. According to Adams, what were the **two words** used to describe what America wanted from Great Britain? \_\_\_\_\_
8. According to Britain, how much money did America owe to Britain? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What does "cui bono" mean? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Over and over and over they make it very clear that General Washington should attend the convention. Why do you think they cared so much about him coming?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Who wrote to Washington imploring him to come to the convention? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Did Washington agree to come at first? \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson Two

Moderator questions only apply if you view the version split up into lessons!

- ❖ According to the moderator - The people of America and Great Britain thought very much alike on one important issue. What issue? \_\_\_\_\_
  - ❖ Many feared the idea of a strong central government because it smacked of \_\_\_\_\_
13. Washington calls Franklin the \_\_\_\_\_ of Philadelphia.

**Note that Madison studied HISTORY in order to understand government!! ☺ At this table sits James Madison, Edmund Randolph, General Washington, George Mason, and George Wythe!!**

14. Who has written a plan for the new government? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Governor Randolph was governor of what state? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Who will present the plan to Convention on the first day? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Madison's plan.... [  improves OR  abolishes ] .....the Articles of Confederation.

**At another table in this public house, we have: Alexander Hamilton, James Wilson, & Gouverneur Morris!!** (It's his name – not a typo!!)

18. Madison is proposing how many branches in the new government? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Under the Articles of Confederation, how many houses does the Congress have? \_\_\_\_\_

20. Under Madison's "Virginia plan," how many houses will Congress have? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Under the Articles of Confederation, how many votes do each state get in the current Congress? \_\_\_\_\_

22. What unique idea did Madison propose regarding the influence of each state?  
\_\_\_\_\_

❖ Why did our founding fathers think that the Articles of Confederation had to be abandoned entirely instead of just amended? \_\_\_\_\_

23. According to Madison, at this point in time, the battle for the soul of America is?

- the battle to save the Articles of Confederation
- the battle to form a federal bureau of education
- the battle for proportional representation

*WOW! The Assembly Room at Independence Hall!*

24. Who has been elected president of the Assembly? \_\_\_\_\_

25. **Where** was the Constitutional Convention held? \_\_\_\_\_

26. **When** was the Constitutional Convention held? \_\_\_\_\_

27. What man kept detailed notes at the Convention? \_\_\_\_\_

28. When Benjamin Franklin was carried into the convention, he referred to a previous document that he signed there that got them in a little bit of trouble! What document is he referring to?  
\_\_\_\_\_

29. Why do you think the delegates wanted to meet as a **committee** of the convention while debating the issues - with non-binding *and* non-recorded votes? (and secrecy)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mr. Nathaniel Gorham of Massachusetts, who has served as the President of Congress under the Articles of Confederation, will now serve as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole. So for clarity - When they are meeting as the Committee of the Whole, Gorham presides. When they are meeting as the Convention, Washington presides.**

30. Someone arrived who had not signed the Declaration of Independence. Who? \_\_\_\_\_

31. According to Madison, all societies are made up of **W**\_\_\_\_\_ **F**\_\_\_\_\_.

32. Small republics can fall prey to dominance by one of these factions, and this can lead to lawlessness and oppression, especially oppression of **M**\_\_\_\_\_.

33. Madison believed that a large republic made up of many differently-minded people, can keep factions from gaining control and thus safeguard the liberty of all the people.  True  False

34. **Pause the movie and ponder...** Madison was worried about factions taking control and oppressing minorities. He felt that a larger republic with more factions overall would keep any one faction from becoming large enough to oppress. BUT.... Many people would say that history has proven Madison to be wrong. Today, it seems as though factions can have a **huge** influence - even in large republics like the United States. What do you think? Do you think that mass media has made it possible for factions to control even large republics now? Are there other factors that have made factions possible in the U.S.? OR do you believe that the size of our "republic" has protected us from factions?
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### Lesson Three

- ❖ According to the moderator, what was wrong with the way states were represented in Congress?
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35. Did the committee *unanimously* agree to abolish the Articles of Confederation?  Yes  NO
36. After they agreed to abolish the articles, they found new issues to discuss. The next one revolved around the issue of "proportional representation." How do the small states feel about this idea? \_\_\_\_\_
37. Because there was much disagreement, they agreed to postpone discussion on the issue.  True  False
38. Another thing they fought over was slavery. Rutledge uses the term "Import" with regard to slaves. What does Mr. King call it? \_\_\_\_\_
39. According to Colonel Mason from Virginia, what must Americans do about slavery? \_\_\_\_\_  
Should they do this immediately? \_\_\_\_\_
40. Would the southern states join the union if they were not allowed to have slavery?  
 Yes  No  Depends on the state
41. Mr. Rutledge suggested what compromise? \_\_\_\_\_  
And by what year should this take place? \_\_\_\_\_
42. The convention had decided that senators would be selected by \_\_\_\_\_
43. James Wilson wanted senators to be selected by \_\_\_\_\_
44. What do you think he would say now, given the power of the media to sway public opinion and influence majorities? \_\_\_\_\_
45. Representing smaller states, Roger Sherman devised a plan to address the issue of "proportional representation in Congress." With this plan, the lower house would have:  
 one representative for each state  
 proportional representation depending on population
46. Did the committee vote to accept the plan for proportional representation in the lower house?  Yes  No
47. According to this plan proposed by Sherman, the upper house would have:  
 one representative for each state  
 proportional representation depending on population
48. When voting on Sherman's proposal, the larger states wanted (for both the lower & upper houses):  
 one representative for each state  
 proportional representation depending on population

49. Did Ben Franklin of Pennsylvania (large state) vote in agreement with both parts of this Great Compromise?  Yes  No
50. Alexander Hamilton moved that representation in the upper house be determined in exactly the same way as the lower house – proportional representation based on population.  True  False

#### Lesson Four

The **New Jersey Plan** (also widely known as the **Paterson Plan**) was a proposal presented by William Paterson at the Constitutional Convention on June 15, 1787. The plan was created in response to the **Virginia Plan**, which called for both houses of Congress to be elected with proportional representation based on population. Under the New Jersey /Paterson Plan there would be only one house with one vote per state. This idea was inherited from the Articles of Confederation.

51. Did the committee vote to accept the Patterson Plan?  Yes  No

52. Who left the convention early, tired of being constantly outvoted? \_\_\_\_\_

***The person pictured reading a letter is Thomas Jefferson hearing from Madison about the Constitutional Convention.***

53. The ever-wise, ever quotable Ben Franklin stood up and gave a reminder to the delegates. What was his advice? \_\_\_\_\_

54. According to Franklin, **who** governs in the affairs of men? \_\_\_\_\_

55. Madison, Mason, Washington, & Randolph meet to discuss the representation debate. Madison is determined to have:

- proportional representation based on population in both the upper and lower houses (House & Senate)
- one representative for each state in both the upper and lower houses (House & Senate)
- proportional representation in lower house & one representative for each state in upper house (Senate)

56. Does Madison think his side will win? \_\_\_\_\_

57. When the convention opens, the motion is made that in the new Senate, each state will have \_\_\_\_\_ vote.

58. The outcome of this vote is \_\_\_\_\_.

59. What does Franklin say to Madison? \_\_\_\_\_

60. Washington implores someone to return to the convention? Who? \_\_\_\_\_

61. A committee called the Grand Committee has been meeting to come up with a compromise plan. When we rejoin the convention, they have been debating on the Grand Committee's Compromise Report for nine days. The Grand Committee's Compromise Report provides for:

- (1) Lower house that represents the states according to \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Upper House (Senate) where each state will have \_\_\_\_\_ senators and each senator will have \_\_\_\_\_ vote.

62. Who returns to the convention after an absence? \_\_\_\_\_

63. The state of \_\_\_\_\_ was told it could not vote because it only had one delegate *in the city* instead of two.

64. SO with Massachusetts divided, New York ineligible, and New Hampshire absent, the compromise:  
 was defeated  passed  there was another tie

65. Which side was pleased with this result?  the SMALL states  the LARGE states

66. Was this the result Madison and Randolph wanted?  Yes  No

This compromise was called the GREAT COMPROMISE!

Lesson Five

67. What does Mr. Randolph ask for? \_\_\_\_\_
68. Did James Madison come to see the benefits of the Great Compromise? \_\_\_\_\_

We the \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States, in Order to

- form a more perfect Union,
  - establish \_\_\_\_\_,
  - insure domestic Tranquility,
  - provide for the common defense,
  - promote the general Welfare,
  - and secure the Blessings of \_\_\_\_\_ to ourselves and our Posterity,
- do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

69. What sentiments does Franklin share about the Constitution?  
\_\_\_\_\_
70. Why does Colonel Mason from Virginia refuse to ratify the Constitution?  
\_\_\_\_\_
71. Why did some delegates believe they did not need a Bill of Rights in the Constitution?  
\_\_\_\_\_
72. Because of Colonel Mason, and several others, what important addition will be made to the Constitution?  
\_\_\_\_\_
73. What date is it ratified and signed? \_\_\_\_\_
74. What does Hamilton want permission to do? \_\_\_\_\_
75. What does Franklin say with regard to the sun on the chair? (very famous)  
\_\_\_\_\_
76. What did George Washington do after he took his presidential oath? \_\_\_\_\_

A little trivia!! Many presidents ended their oath as Washington did. Dwight Eisenhower broke that tradition by saying his own prayer instead of kissing the Bible. Franklin Pierce was the only president known to use the word affirm rather than swear. Theodore Roosevelt did not use a Bible when taking the oath in 1901. Dwight Eisenhower, Harry Truman, and Richard Nixon swore the oath on two Bibles. John Quincy Adams swore on a book of law. Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in on a Roman Catholic missal on Air Force One.

