



Name _____

Date: _____

Course: US History/Ms. Brown

Homeroom:



7th Grade US History
Standard # – Do Now – Day #71

Aims: SWBAT identify parts of the Great Compromise, and evaluate it’s effectiveness

DO NOW

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete and historically accurate sentences. Use your notes and knowledge of history. You **MUST** annotate your answers, which means cross off the question stem, capitalize the first letter, and cross off the question mark.

1. Would a small state support **equal** representation or **proportional** representation? Explain.

2. Would a large state support **equal** representation or **proportional** representation? Explain.

3. What is one point that both the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plans have in common?

4. In your opinion, what is the most important requirement for the new Constitution? Explain.



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Part I: Making Predictions

Directions: With your shoulder partner discuss and write down a possible compromise that could be made between the small states (New Jersey Plan) and the big states (Virginia Plan)

Issue #1: Representation in Congress: How many representatives will each state have in the legislature (law-making body)?

Plans	Your Compromise	Actual Compromise
<p>New Jersey Plan (small states): Each state has the same number of representatives in Congress, no matter how many people live in the state. (Equal Representation)</p> <p>Virginia Plan (big states): States that have larger populations have more representatives in Congress; states with smaller populations have fewer representatives. (Proportional Representation)</p>		<p>Name: _____</p>

Part II: Checking Your Predictions

Skills: Reading and Annotating Secondary Sources



Roger Sherman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, helped construct the Great Compromise that called for a Congress of two houses.

Resolution: The Great Compromise

The New Jersey Plan was warmly received by delegates from small states. The majority of delegates, however, saw Paterson’s plan as little improvement over the Articles of Confederation and rejected it. But they could not agree on what should replace it.

Tempers Rise The debate over who Congress should represent continued into July, with tempers rising day to day.

To most delegates from large states, representation based on population seemed both logical and fair. “Can we forget for whom we are forming a government?” asked James Wilson of Pennsylvania. “Is it for men, or for the imaginary beings called States?”



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To Wilson, the answer was obvious. But his logic could not overcome the fears of small state delegates. One hot Saturday afternoon, Gunning Bedford of Delaware tore into the delegates from large states. “They insist,” he said. “they will never hurt or injure the lesser states.” His reply was, “I do not, gentlemen, trust you!” If the large states continued trying to “crush the smaller states,” Bedford warned, “the small ones will find some foreign ally of more honor and good faith who will take them by the hand and do them justice.”

Rufus King of Massachusetts was shocked at this reference to foreign powers. He shot back that he was “grieved, that such a thought had entered into the heart.” Still, every delegate knew that Britain, France, Spain were just waiting for the United States to fall apart so they could pick up the pieces.

A Compromise is Reached Finally, a **compromise**¹ was proposed based on a plan put forward earlier by Roger Sherman of Connecticut.

The compromise plan kept a two-house Congress. The first house, the House of Representatives, would represent the people. In this house, the number of representatives from each state would be based on the state’s population. The second house, the Senate, would represent the states. Each state would have two senators, to be elected by their legislatures.

The vote was very close, but the compromise plan was approved. This plan saved the convention and became known as the Great Compromise.

1. Why was the New Jersey Plan rejected?

2. What was small states’ concern with large states being represented by population?

3. Why would the European nations be waiting for the United States to fall apart?

¹ **Compromise:** an agreement in which both sides in a dispute agree to give up something they want in order to achieve a settlement.



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The Great Compromise- compromise that created two houses in the legislature: one in which the number of representatives would be based on a state's population (House of Representatives), and the other in which every state would have two representatives (Senate)

- Congress would have two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- The number of representatives in the House of Representatives would be based on a state's population (proportional representation).
- The House has all the power to develop all bills dealing with taxes and government spending.
- Every state would have an equal number of representatives (2) in the Senate. The Senate has the power to accept, reject or change bills passed in the House.

1. What part of the Virginia Plan does the Great Compromise include?

2. What part of the New Jersey Plan does the Great Compromise include?

3. Do you think that this is a fair compromise? Explain.



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The Great Compromise HOMEWORK

_____/10 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

❖ The Virginia Plan proposed a legislature that included:	❖ The New Jersey Plan proposed a legislature that included:
❖ Who supported the Virginia Plan?	❖ Who supported the New Jersey Plan?
❖ How did the Great Compromise solve this problem?	

1. What did the Great Compromise decide?
 - a. representation in Congress
 - b. the names of political parties
 - c. the system of checks and balances
 - d. process of selecting the president

2. The number of members of which of these is affected by state population?
 - a. Senate
 - b. Supreme Court
 - c. president's cabinet
 - d. House of Representatives

3. When the United States Constitution was written, which compromise was reached by the authors to gain the support of the states with small population?
 - a. Congress would consist of both a House of Representatives and a Senate
 - b. Five enslaved persons would be counted as three free persons for the purpose of taxation
 - c. The President would be selected by the direct vote of the people
 - d. Exported goods could not be taxed, but imported goods could be taxed





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The Great Compromise EXIT TICKET

_____/5 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

1. Who created the plan that became know as the Great Compromise?
2. According to the Great Compromise, how are states represented in each house of Congress?

In the House of Representatives:

In the Senate:

This favors the (circle one): people states

This favors the (circle one): people states

3. Which of the following is a requirement of the New Jersey Plan?
 - a. Weak national government
 - b. Proportional representation
 - c. A two-house legislature
 - d. Congress cannot impose taxes

Use the table below to answer question 4

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-house legislature: Senate and House of Representatives • Each state has 2 Senate members • Saved the Constitutional Convention |
|--|

4. Which plan is described above?
 - a. Virginia Plan
 - b. New Jersey Plan
 - c. Great Compromise
 - d. Emancipation Proclamation