

***“A More Perfect Union”* Discussion & Quiz Questions**

1. How much time elapsed between the announcement of the Declaration of Independence and the writing of the Constitution?
 - a. four years
 - b. eight years
 - c. eleven years
 - d. fourteen years
2. Three of the following four delegates to the Convention did not sign the finished document on Monday, September 17, 1787, because it lacked a Bill of Rights. Which one of the following delegates **did** sign the Constitution?
 - a. Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts
 - b. George Mason of Virginia
 - c. Governor Edmund Randolph of Virginia
 - d. Gouverneur Morris of Pennsylvania
3. What was the exact day, month, and year that the Constitution was signed by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention?
 - a. May 31, 1787
 - b. September 17, 1787
 - c. May 5, 1788
 - d. July 4, 1787
4. Who made the following statement in his Notes on the State of Virginia in 1781: “Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone. The people themselves, therefore, are its only safe depositories.”?
 - a. John Adams
 - b. Thomas Jefferson
 - c. James Madison
 - d. Samuel Adams
5. Between July 10 and July 16 over sixty ballots were cast in the Convention to determine what issue?
 - a. How to abolish slavery
 - b. How the President should be elected
 - c. How senators should be appointed
 - d. How many representatives each state should have
6. How much access did the public have to the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention?
 - a. None
 - b. Daily reports sent to the Philadelphia presses
 - c. James Madison’s notes were published the week after the convention adjourned.
 - d. One non-partisan reporter was allowed access to the proceedings, and reported back to Congress.

7. What level of government should have the exclusive power to deal with foreign nations?
 - a. State government
 - b. Local government
 - c. County government
 - d. National government

8. What item(s) do Americans call "the supreme law of the land"?
 - a. The Constitution
 - b. Laws passed by Congress
 - c. Treaties
 - d. All of the above

9. Can the Congress propose new amendments to the Constitution?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

10. What power was not provided for under the Articles of Confederation?
 - a. The power to tax
 - b. The power to regulate interstate commerce
 - c. The power to regulate foreign commerce
 - d. All of the above

11. When Hamilton, Madison, and Jay wrote The Federalist Papers, they all used the same pen name. What was it?
 - a. The Federal Farmer
 - b. Brutus
 - c. Cincinnatus
 - d. Publius

12. Who was the first vice president of the United States under the new Constitution?
 - a. John Adams
 - b. James Madison
 - c. Thomas Jefferson
 - d. Gouverneur Morris

13. The electoral system was deliberately set up to slightly favor the small states. How does it favor them?
 - a. This statement is false. There is no advantage.
 - b. The small states get equal representation in the Senate and this gives them an advantage in computing electoral votes.
 - c. The small states get equal representation in the House of Representatives and this gives them an advantage in computing electoral votes.
 - d. The small states are predominantly in the eastern area of the country. They vote first on election day which sways voters from larger states out west.

14. Who is commonly referred to as the “Father of the Constitution”?
- John Dickinson
 - James Madison
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - Gouverneur Morris
15. Which delegate to the Convention took copious notes on everything that was said? These notes were kept secret for 30 years, but they were finally published by an act of Congress in 1843. They constitute the most authoritative record available on the Convention.
- Gouverneur Morris
 - George Washington
 - James Madison
 - George Mason
16. The Virginia Plan called for power to tax, to regulate money, to conduct foreign affairs, and to regulate commerce. Who was the architect behind the Virginia Plan?
- George Wythe
 - James Madison
 - George Washington
 - Nathaniel Gorham
17. Who made the following statement while trying to persuade his colleagues from Virginia to oppose the proposed Constitution: “As much as I value a union of all the states, I would not admit the Southern states into the Union, unless they agreed to the discontinuance of this disgraceful (slave) trade”?
- Thomas Jefferson
 - Patrick Henry
 - James Madison
 - George Mason
18. Who served as the chairman of the Committee of the Whole at the Constitutional Convention?
- George Wythe
 - James Madison
 - George Washington
 - Nathaniel Gorham
19. What was the exact day, month, and year that the Constitutional Convention convened?
- May 25, 1787
 - September 17, 1787
 - May 5, 1787
 - July 4, 1787
20. Who was unanimously elected as president of the Constitutional Convention?
- George Wythe
 - James Madison
 - George Washington
 - Nathaniel Gorham

21. What was the exact day, month, and year that the Congress, by joint resolution, requested that the President proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as “Constitution Week”?
- May 25, 1787
 - September 17, 1787
 - August 2, 1956
 - July 4, 1987
22. Thomas Jefferson, appointed ambassador to the French court in 1785, kept which young scholar-statesman well supplied with appropriate books from European publishers before and during the Constitutional Convention?
- Nathaniel Gorham
 - Patrick Henry
 - James Madison
 - George Wythe
23. Who was America’s ambassador to England during the Constitutional Convention time period?
- Gouverneur Morris
 - John Adams
 - James Madison
 - George Mason
24. The delegates to the Constitutional Convention believed that they had met to _____ the Articles of Confederation.
- abolish
 - adopt
 - ratify
 - amend

Answer Key:

1.c 2.d 3.b 4.b 5.b 6.a 7.d 8.a 9.a 10.d 11.d 12.a 13.b 14.b 15.c 16.b 17.c 18.d 19.a 20.c 21.c 22.c 23.b 24.d