

SS.7.C.1.8

Explain the viewpoints of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists regarding the ratification of the Constitution and inclusion of a bill of rights.

The proposed new Constitution (1787-1789) was very controversial
Federalists favored the new Constitution

Most favored the "Virginia Plan" - more votes in Congress for larger states

Important Federalists: James Madison, John Jay, Alexander Hamilton

those three wrote the Federalist Papers

essays that convinced many citizens to support the Constitution

Madison is called "The Father of the Constitution"

Anti-Federalists opposed the new Constitution

Afraid of federal government becoming too strong

most liked the "New Jersey Plan" - one vote for each state

most did not want a president, preferred a committee to head the executive branch

Compromises:

Bicameral Legislature ("The Great Compromise")

Each state gets two votes in the Senate

Larger states get more votes than smaller states in the House of Representatives

Three-Fifths compromise

count 60% of the slave population when deciding how many votes each state gets in the House of Representatives

President & VP elected by the Electoral College

each state sends "electors" to vote

each state's number of electors =

number of Representatives

+

number of Senators