

Word/phrase bank for the lesson: Battle Over Representation

1. Senate = Equal Representation. Money bills developed in the House.
2. Argument = Each state should have the same number of representatives in Congress (Equal Representation)
3. Slaves = Counted as $\frac{3}{5}$ of a person for representation and taxation purposes.
4. Called for two houses of Congress.
5. Will have two Houses: Senate and House of Representatives.
6. Favored the larger populated states.
7. So, for every five slaves only three will count towards representation and taxation.
8. Argument = States with more people should have more representatives in Congress (Proportional representation).
9. House = Proportional representation, it will alsodevelop bills for taxing and government spending.
10. Called for one house of Congress would send equal number of representatives.
11. Debated, passed by one vote.
12. Favored by the smaller populated states.

BATTLE OVER REPRESENTATION

NEW JERSEY PLAN —

- FAVORED BY _____
- AFRAID THE LARGER POPULATED STATES WOULD CONTROL THE NEW NATIONAL GOV'T
- ARGUMENT = _____

- CALLED FOR _____ IN WHICH EACH STATE WOULD SEND _____

VIRGINIA PLAN —

- FAVORED _____
- ARGUMENT = _____

- CALLED FOR _____

ONE DELEGATE FROM EACH STATE GOT TOGETHER AND CREATED:

THE GREAT COMPROMISE —

- ALSO KNOWN AS THE CONNECTICUT COMPROMISE
- CONGRESS WILL HAVE _____

- HOUSE = _____, IT WILL ALSO
HAVE THE POWER TO _____

- SENATE = _____, IT CAN AMEND (CHANGE)

- GREATLY DEBATED, _____

THREE — FIFTHS COMPROMISE

- SHOULD SLAVES COUNT IN POPULATION REPRESENTATION?
- AGREED THAT SLAVES _____

- SO, _____

What was the conflict over representation?

Purpose of Lesson

As you learned in the previous lesson, the Framers agreed about the need for a strong national government. They also agreed that the Articles of Confederation needed to be replaced by a new constitution. In this and the following two lessons, you will learn about some of the major ideas the delegates did not agree on.

This lesson deals with the disagreement about how many representatives each state should be able to send to Congress. When you finish this lesson, you should be able to explain this conflict over representation and how it was solved.

Terms to know

equal representation
New Jersey Plan
proportional representation
Virginia Plan
Great Compromise/
Connecticut Compromise
bill
amend

The conflict between the large and small states

One of the most important conflicts among the Framers was about representation in Congress. They disagreed over how many representatives each state

should be able to send to Congress. The conflict was between delegates from states with small populations and those from states with large populations. The following were their positions.

- **Small population states.** These states were afraid that the states with larger populations would control the new national government. Their solution was to argue that each state should have the same number of representatives in Congress. This solution was called **equal representation**.

Population of the thirteen original states from the Official Census of 1790

Connecticut	237,946
Delaware	59,096
Georgia	82,548
Maryland	319,728
Massachusetts	378,787
New Hampshire	141,885
New Jersey	184,139
New York	340,120
North Carolina	393,751
Pennsylvania	434,373
Rhode Island	68,825
South Carolina	249,073
Virginia	691,737

Which states do you think were more likely to have supported equal representation?

The idea of equal representation was contained in a plan created by the delegates from New Jersey. It was called the **New Jersey Plan**. The New Jersey Plan called for only one house of Congress. Each state would have an equal number of representatives in Congress.

- **Large population states.** The delegates from the states with larger populations thought this was unfair. They argued that a state with more people should have more representatives in Congress. Their plan was called **proportional representation** and was a part of Madison's **Virginia Plan**. The Virginia Plan called for two houses in Congress.

The Framers were divided on this issue. They could not reach a decision. Neither side was willing to give in. A special committee of one delegate from each state was asked to develop a solution.

Problem solving

Developing a solution on representation

Your class should be divided into committees of about six students each. Each committee should contain some students who represent the small states and some who represent the large states. The task of each committee is as follows.

1. Meet and develop a plan for the number of representatives each state should be allowed to send to Congress. Should Congress have one or two houses?
2. Select a spokesperson to present your committee's plan to the entire class. All members of the committee may help to

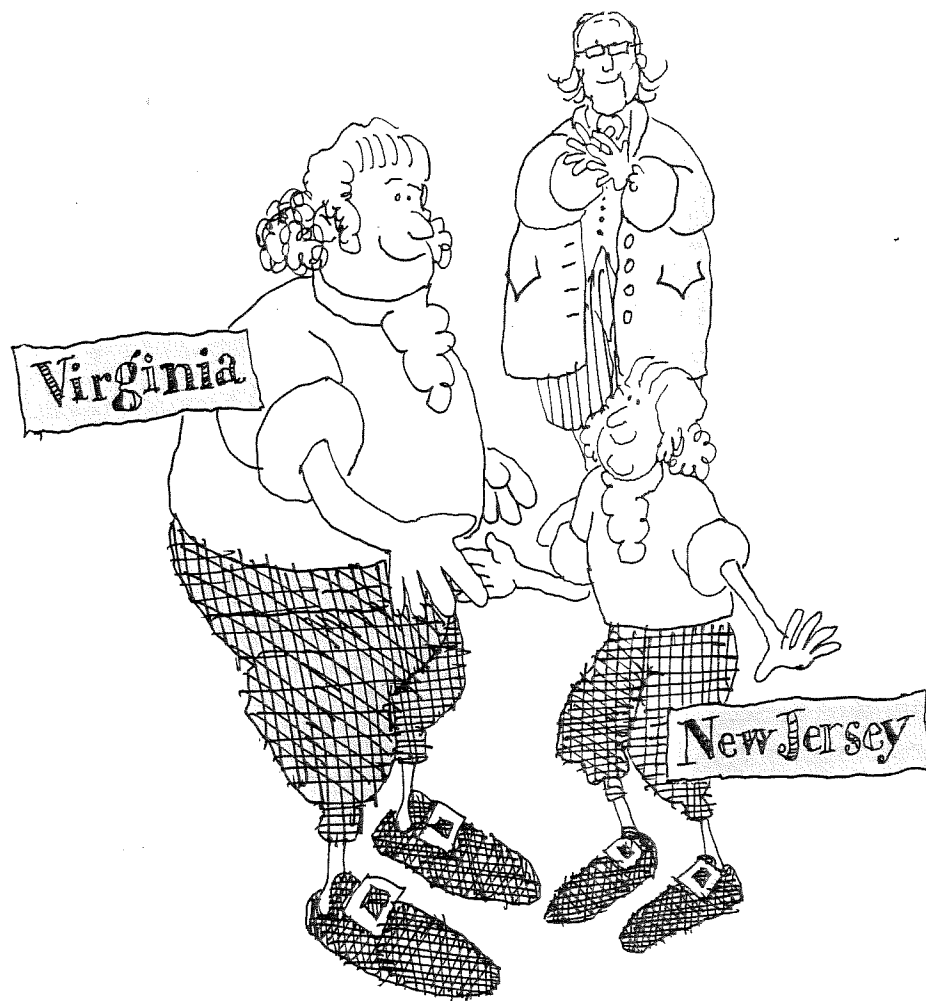
clarify the plan and defend it against criticisms by members of the other committees.

3. Each committee may then revise its plan if it wishes, and put it on the board or chart paper.
4. Finally, the entire class should compare the plans made by each committee. The class should try to reach an agreement on the question of representation. Compare the plan you have developed with the plan arrived at by the Framers.

The Great Compromise

The committee appointed by the Framers to solve the problem you have just discussed recommended a compromise known both as the **Great Compromise** and the **Connecticut Compromise**. Its solution, first suggested by Benjamin Franklin, contains three important parts.

- Congress would have two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- The House of Representatives would be elected on the basis of proportional representation. The House would be given the power to develop all **bills** (proposed laws) for taxing and government spending.
- The Senate would be elected on the basis of equal representation. At first, the Senate was limited to either accepting or rejecting bills for taxing and government spending passed by the House. This was later changed to let the Senate



How did the Great Compromise solve the problem of representation?

amend (change) money bills developed in the House.

As in most compromises, each side received a little and each gave up a little. The small states received equal representation in the Senate. The large states won control of the House of Representatives based on proportional representation. Also, the House was given important powers related to taxing and spending.

The result was that the large states would have slightly more influence over the creation of laws on taxation and how money would be spent. Bills passed by the House could always be checked, or rejected, by the Senate where the small states had equal representation.

The compromise was hotly debated. It finally passed by one vote.

Reviewing and using the lesson

1. Explain the difference between equal representation and proportional representation. Which plan did the states with large populations support? Why?
2. Refer to the chart on page 50. List some of the large and small states that you think were probably on opposite sides of the question on representation.
3. What position would you take on the issue of equal and proportional representation if it were raised today? Explain your answer.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

Conflict Over Representation

Using Lesson 12 in *We the People* answer the following questions. Be sure to answer each question in COMPLETE sentences.

1. Which plan did people from smaller states favor? Why did they favor this plan?
2. Which plan did people from larger states favor? What was their argument for this plan?
3. How was the conflict between the smaller populated and larger populated states resolved?
4. Who suggested the Great Compromise? What were the three main points in this Compromise?
5. Why did the Great Compromise appeal to both the smaller and larger populated states?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Define using the dictionary

1. Represent: _____

2. National: _____

3. Congress: _____

4. Proportional: _____

5. Compromise: _____

6. Amend: _____

7. Elements: _____

8. Positive: _____

9. Negative: _____

10. Conflict: _____

11. Favor: _____

12. Resolve: _____

13. Suggest: _____

14. Appeal: _____

15. Populated: _____

16. Write five sentences from the words above containing at least four words.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____