

Topic:

Ratification of States

Time:

30-40 minutes

Grade:

5

Core:

5: 6050-0201

Objectives:

1. Students will learn, in order, the names of states that ratified the Constitution.
2. Students will become acquainted with some of the conflicts involved in the ratification process.

Procedure:

1. Before the lesson, prepare Handout 1 by blowing it up to bulletin board size.
2. Tell the story of the handout and help the students remember which symbol in the story fits each state. Through the discussion, point out the following bits of history.
 - Nine states were needed to ratify.
 - What does ratify mean?
 - Delaware was the first to ratify, in less than three months.
 - Great compromises took place
 - Slavery
 - Big government - federal v. state
 - Position of Federalists and Anti-Federalists. Where were they from?
 - New Jersey plan for small states.
 - New Hampshire was ninth to ratify on June 21, 1788.
 - Large states, New York and Virginia, were slow to ratify.
 - The Bill of Rights was necessary.
 - Rhode Island refused to sign until the Bill of Rights was added.
3. When completely finished, have the children repeat the names using the picture as a clue.
4. Have them memorize the order by closing their eyes and repeating the states' names to a partner.
5. In the presentation, word strips with states' names may be put on the chart to help with remembering the order.
6. Handouts 2, 3, and 4 give additional information about the convention and ratification.

Additional Resources:**Author:**

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BRAINPOWER

Can you remember this story? Can you memorize it and repeat it perfectly? If you can, you have memorized the original 13 colonies, and you will never forget them. And, you will have memorized them in the order in which they became states.

The Story: Picture a great big bowl of Delaware punch. A big pen stabs right through the bowl. At the tip of the pen stands a Jersey cow. On the cow's back stands George Washington. George's hand is stretched out holding two balloons. His hand connects a balloon showing a mass of clouds and a balloon showing a picture of a girl named Mary. Mary is thinking of driving her Southern car, with a new ham in it, to her Aunt Virginia in New York. There, she will trade her old car for a Northern car and get back on the road.

8.



1. **Delaware** punch: Delaware
2. **Pen:** Pennsylvania
3. **Jersey** cow: New Jersey
4. **George** Washington: Georgia
5. **Connects:** Connecticut
6. **Mass** of clouds: Massachusetts
7. **Mary:** Maryland

8. **Southern car:** South Carolina
9. **New Ham:** New Hampshire
10. **Aunt Virginia:** Virginia
11. **New York:** New York
12. **Northern car:** North Carolina
13. **Road:** Rhode Island

TABLE OF DATES

1774 The First Continental Congress, a committee of colonists, meets to consider taking action against unfair British rule. Writes and adopts a Declaration of Rights for the colonies.

1775 American Revolution begins with fighting at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. First meeting of the Second Continental Congress.

1776 Declaration of Independence from Britain is adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

1777 Second Continental Congress creates the Articles of Confederation, a set of laws for governing the new states.

1781 Articles of Confederation become the law of the land. Last battle of the Revolution ends at Yorktown, Virginia, when British surrender to General George Washington.

1783 United States and Britain sign Treaty of Paris to end the American Revolution.

1785 Disputes arise between the thirteen states.

1786 Convention is held in Annapolis, Maryland, to discuss problems between the states. Delegates plan a convention of the states in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1787 Delegates to the Philadelphia convention write the United States Constitution to replace the Articles of Confederation. Constitution is signed in September and ratified by three states by December.

1788 Constitution is ratified by six more states and becomes law on June 21.

1789 George Washington is elected first President of the United States. Bill of Rights is written.

1791 Virginia is the eleventh state to approve the Bill of Rights, making it part of the Constitution.

NOTES ON THE CONNECTICUT COMPROMISE

Delegates from small states objected to the Virginia Plan because it called for more congressional representatives from large states than from small states. The members from small states wanted each state to have the same number of representatives in the government so that all the states would have equal power.

Delegates from large states objected to the New Jersey Plan because they did not think all the people would be represented fairly if each state had an equal number of representatives in Congress, regardless of the size of the state's population.

William Samuel Johnson, Roger Sherman, and Oliver Ellsworth, the delegates from Connecticut, helped lead the way to a compromise that was fair to all the states. Called the Connecticut Compromise or the Great Compromise, the plan divided Congress into two houses: an Upper House, called the Senate, to which each state would send two senators chosen by its state legislature; and a Lower House, called the House of Representatives, where the number of delegates from each state would be determined by the population. These delegates would be elected by the people. A state's population was held to the number of free men plus three-fifths of its slaves. Later amendments to the Constitution abolished slavery and gave every adult, regardless of race or sex, the right to vote.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE CONVENTION AND THE DELEGATES

The average age of the delegates was forty-three. Benjamin Franklin, at eighty-one, was the oldest. Jonathan Dayton, the youngest, was twenty-six.

Twenty-one delegates had fought in the Revolutionary War, eight had signed the Declaration of Independence, and seven were or had been governors of their states.

Gouverneur Morris, James Wilson, James Madison, and Roger Sherman spoke more often than anyone else at the convention.

Delegates who argued for a strong central government included James Wilson, Charles C. Pinckney, and Gouverneur Morris. William Paterson, John Dickinson, and Luther Martin sided with those in favor of individual and states' rights.

The Committee of Detail wrote a rough first draft of the constitution. John Rutledge, Edmund Randolph, Nathaniel Gorham, Oliver

Ellsworth, and James Wilson served on this committee.

The Committee of Style and Arrangement polished the first draft, putting the wording into its final form. The committee members were Gouverneur Morris, Alexander Hamilton, Rufus King, William Samuel Johnson, and James Madison.

New Hampshire could not afford to advance expense money to its delegates. In late June, John Langdon and Nicholas Gilman decided to go to the convention anyway. They didn't reach Philadelphia until late July, when most of the debates were over.

George Mason, Edmund Randolph, and Elbridge Gerry voted against the Constitution and refused to sign it. If a bill of rights had been included, they might have signed.

Rhode Island sent no delegates to the convention and had no signers.

ORDER AND DATES OF RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Delaware • December 7, 1787	South Carolina • May 23, 1788
Pennsylvania • December 12, 1787	New Hampshire • June 21, 1788
New Jersey • December 18, 1787	Virginia • June 25, 1788
Georgia • January 2, 1788	New York • July 26, 1788
Connecticut • January 9, 1788	North Carolina • November 21, 1789
Massachusetts • February 6, 1788	Rhode Island • May 29, 1790
Maryland • April 28, 1788	

HANDOUT 4

RESULTS OF THE VOTING IN THE STATES

Yes, Unanimous	Georgia	All votes for	Unanimous
Yes	South Carolina	149 for, 73 against	Easy vote
No	North Carolina	84 for, 184 against	Lost
Yes	Virginia	89 for 79 against	Close vote
Yes	Maryland	63 for, 11 against	Easy vote
Yes, Unanimous	Delaware	All votes for	Unanimous
Yes	Pennsylvania	46 for, 23 against	Easy vote
Yes, Unanimous	New Jersey	All votes for	Unanimous
Yes	New York	30 for, 27 against	Close vote
Yes	Connecticut	128 for, 40 against	Easy vote
No	Rhode Island	137 for, 278 against	Lost
Yes	Massachusetts	187 for, 168 against	Close vote
Yes	New Hampshire	67 for, 47 against	Close vote