

Essential Question

How were both consensus
and compromise evident at
the Constitutional
Convention?

SS.8.A.3.9

COMPROMISES



- Turn to your shoulder partner and talk about a time when you had to make a compromise.
- What did you learn?
- How did you come to a compromise?

When the Founding Fathers met to make amendments to the Articles of Confederation, they found the process too tedious. They decided to scrap the current plan of government and start over. What they create is known as the United States Constitution, and it is the result of **FOUR** major compromises between different factions.



ISSUE #1: How will the states (and people) be represented in the new government?

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Proposal #1: The Virginia Plan

Made by: Edmund Randolph

- **Bicameral (two house) legislature**
- **Representation in both houses based on state's population**
- **Greatly favors large (population) states**

ISSUE #1: How will the states (and people) be represented in the new government?

Proposal #2: The New Jersey Plan

Made by: William Patterson

- **Unicameral (one house) legislature**
- **Representation based on equality; each state gets 1 representative**
- **Very similar to old system under Articles of Confederation**
- **Favors small states, since their vote would be swallowed up under VA Plan**

ISSUE #1: How will the states (and people) be represented in the new government?



Compromise: **The Great Compromise** (The Connecticut Compromise)

Made by: **Roger Sherman**

- **Creates bicameral legislature**
- **Upper house (Senate) based on equality**
 - **Each state receives 2 senators**
 - **Serve 6 year terms**
- **Lower house (House of Representatives) based on a state's population**
 - **A representative for every 30,000 people**
 - **Serve 2 year terms**

ISSUE #2: How will slaves count toward a state's representation?

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Proposal #1: Slaves Count!

Made by: Southern States

- **When counting a state's population, slaves count just as a free person would**
- **Favors slave states**
- **Would give slave states more representatives in the House**

ISSUE #2: How will slaves count toward a state's representation?

Proposal #2: **No slaves!**

Made by: **Northern States**

- **Slaves should not count at all when determining a state's population**
- **If south can count property, can the north count horses and cattle too?**

ISSUE #2: How will slaves count toward a state's representation?



Compromise: The 3/5 Compromise (the three-fifths compromise)

Made by: Roger Sherman

- Each slave will count as 3/5 of a person when determining a state's population for representation purposes
- For example, if a state has 50k slaves, their population would go up an additional 30k (an extra representative, vote)

ISSUE #3: Where will this new government be headquartered?

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Proposal #1: In the North!

Made by: Alexander Hamilton

- Wants national capital in New York or Philadelphia
- Also wants national government to assume all of state debt incurred during Rev War
 - Would help standing throughout world; countries deal with US instead of states

ISSUE #3: Where will this new government be headquartered?

Proposal #2: In the South!

Made by: Thomas Jefferson, James Madison

- Fear capital in north would lead to it favoring interests
- Southern states already repaid war debts – why should we help the north?

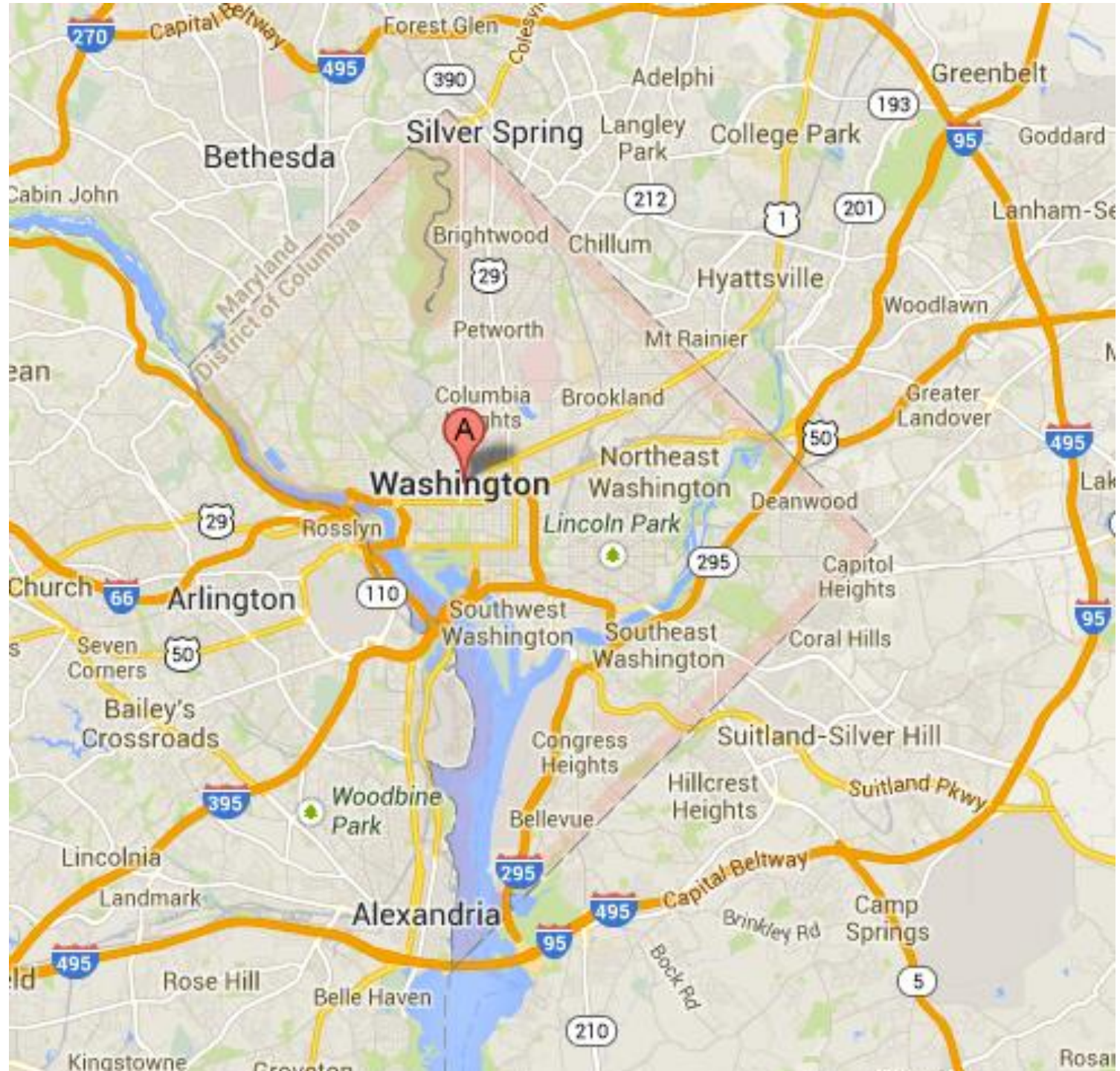
ISSUE #3: Where will this new government be headquartered?



Compromise: The Compromise of 1790

Made by: Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison

- Capital will not be in any state, so no state can be shown favoritism
- Capital will go to the South, along Potomac River in between MD and VA.
- South agrees to let government assume all war debt, essentially agrees to help north repay debt





ISSUE #4: How can we guarantee that this new, strong government will not overstep its bounds and infringe upon the rights of the people?

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Proposal #1: A list of all rights guaranteed to people!

Made by: Anti-Federalists

- **New Constitution needs list of rights guaranteed to citizens**
- **What if this strong government behaves like our old king?**

ISSUE #4: How can we guarantee that this new, strong government will not overstep its bounds and infringe upon the rights of the people?

Proposal #2: A list is unnecessary!

Made by: Federalists

- The Constitution provides for three branches of government and a system of “checks and balances.” This is enough protection.
- If we attempt to list all the rights the people have we will undoubtedly forget some
- Better to list none then try to list all

ISSUE #4: How can we guarantee that this new, strong government will not overstep its bounds and infringe upon the rights of the people?



Compromise: A Bill of Rights is added

Made by: Thomas Jefferson

- A list of freedoms guaranteed to all Americans is added; these are rights that can never be taken away
- These 10 rights were added to the Constitution as amendments. These are changes made to the Constitution.