

The Constitution



THE FOUNDERS LIBRARY BOOKS

Constitutional History



- The Convention was called in 1787 to address the problems of the *Articles of Confederation*.
- *State governments appointed delegates to attend the convention. Twelve states sent delegations (Rhode Island did not participate).*

Constitutional History Cont.



- *Delegates were civic leaders, members of congress, leaders of state governments, and revolutionary war veterans.*
- *The Convention was held in Philadelphia, the largest city in the United States at that time.*
- *The Library Company, one of the nation's first libraries, provided books and reference material for the Convention delegates.*

Influences Activity



- *Compile a list of your favorite books, movies, music, and television shows.*
- *Write down a couple of choices for each category.*
- *Think about items you feel have had an influence on you and not just choose the first item that comes to your mind.*
- *The list should be compiled on a separate piece of paper.*

Structure of the Constitution



- Preamble
- Article I: The Legislative Branch
- Article II: The Executive Branch
- Article III: The Judicial Branch
- Article IV: Relations Among the States
- Article V: The Amendment Process
- Article VI: Supremacy Clause
- Article VII: Ratification Process

Influences on the Constitution Analysis



- You will read excerpts from books that influenced the founding fathers when they wrote The Constitution.
- Read the assigned sections of the *Founders' Library Books* handout.
- *Reading through the Constitution and Bill of Rights (Amendment 1-10), identify key sections that hold similar ideas as those presented in the assigned passages.*
- *Note on the document using a highlighter or pen the sections that correlate with the assigned section.*

Reflective Questions



- Did one thinker or book have more influence on the Constitution?
- Some have called the Constitution one of most revolutionary documents ever produced. If all of these works had been written before the Constitution was ever conceived, how can it be revolutionary?
- What other documents, ideas, or events do you think should have been included?

Influences Activity Paragraphs



- You have to write a paragraph on the current conditions of citizens in the United States.
- Once you have completed the paragraph, review your paragraphs and look for influences you listed.