Name: _____ Date: _____

The Compromise That Gave Congress Two Chambers

Circle group

In the summer of 1787, delegates from the states met in Philadelphia. Their job was to design a new national government. They agreed that Congress should make the laws. But they hit a hard question. How should each state be represented? States with the most people said they should have more votes. The laws would affect them the most. Smaller states were afraid. They thought they would lose every vote and have no real voice.

The fight went on for weeks. Some delegates worried the meeting would fail. At last, a committee found an answer that gave each side something it wanted. Congress would have two chambers. In the House of Representatives, each state would get seats based on its population. Larger states would have more members. In the Senate, every state would have two members, big or small.

This plan is often called the Connecticut Compromise. Delegates from that state helped to shape it. Under the plan, a bill must pass both the House and the Senate to become a law. A large state cannot ignore the small ones. A group of small states cannot ignore the large ones.

Nobody got everything. Neither side had total control, so both were willing to accept the Constitution. Compromise is not always weakness. Here, it made a lasting government possible.

Questions

1. Where and when did the delegates meet?

_____

_____

2. What did the states with the most people want?

_____

_____

3. How are Senate seats decided?

_____

_____

4. What must happen before a bill becomes a law?

_____

_____

5. Why were the smaller states afraid of the larger states' plan?

_____

_____

6. Why does the passage say compromise is not always weakness?

_____

_____

Words to know

delegates: people chosen to speak and act for a group
represented: given a voice by someone who speaks for you
chambers: the separate halves of a lawmaking body
population: the number of people who live in a place
compromise: an agreement where each side gives up something

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Compromise That Gave Congress Two Chambers

Triangle group

In the summer of 1787, delegates from the states met in Philadelphia to design a new national government. They agreed that Congress should make the laws, but they quickly ran into a hard question: how should each state be represented? The states with the most people argued that they should have more votes, because they would be affected by the laws the most. The smaller states feared that they would be outvoted every time and would have no real voice.

The disagreement lasted for weeks, and some delegates worried that the meeting would fail. Eventually a committee worked out an answer that gave each side something it wanted. Congress would have two chambers. In the House of Representatives, each state would have a number of seats based on its population, so larger states would have more members. In the Senate, every state would have two members, no matter how large or small it was.

This plan is often called the Connecticut Compromise, because delegates from that state were among those who helped to shape it. Under the plan, a bill must pass both the House and the Senate before it can become a law. A large state cannot ignore the small ones, and a group of small states cannot ignore the large ones.

Nobody got everything. The result was a design in which neither side had total control, and that made both willing to accept the Constitution. Compromise is not always a sign of weakness. In this case, it made a lasting government possible.

Questions

1. Where and when did the delegates meet to design a new government?

_____

_____

2. What did the states with the most people want?

_____

_____

3. How are the seats in the Senate decided?

_____

_____

4. What must happen before a bill can become a law?

_____

_____

5. Why did the smaller states fear the plan of the larger ones?

_____

_____

6. Why does the passage say compromise is not always a sign of weakness?

_____

_____

Words to know

delegates: people chosen to speak and act for a group
represented: given a voice by someone who speaks for you
chambers: the separate halves of a lawmaking body
population: the number of people who live in a place
compromise: an agreement where each side gives up something

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Compromise That Gave Congress Two Chambers

Square group

In the summer of 1787, delegates from the various states gathered in Philadelphia to design a new national government. They agreed without much difficulty that Congress ought to make the laws, but they soon collided with a stubborn question: how should each state be represented? The states with the largest populations insisted that they deserved more votes, since the laws would affect their citizens the most. The smaller states feared that they would be outvoted on every issue and would be left without any meaningful voice.

The dispute dragged on for weeks, and a number of delegates worried that the entire convention might collapse. Eventually a committee devised a solution that gave each side a portion of what it wanted. Congress would be divided into two chambers. In the House of Representatives, each state would receive a number of seats based on its population, so that larger states would have more members. In the Senate, every state would be given two members, regardless of how large or small it happened to be.

This arrangement is often called the Connecticut Compromise, because delegates from that state were among those who helped to shape it. Under the plan, a bill must pass both the House and the Senate before it can become law. A large state cannot disregard the small ones, and a coalition of small states cannot disregard the large ones.

Nobody received everything he or she wanted. The outcome was a design in which neither side held total control, and that balance made both willing to accept the Constitution. Compromise is not always a sign of weakness. In this case, it made a lasting government possible.

Questions

1. Where and when did the delegates gather to design a new government?

_____

_____

2. What did the states with the largest populations insist on?

_____

_____

3. How are the seats in the Senate determined?

_____

_____

4. What must happen before a bill can become law?

_____

_____

5. Why did the smaller states fear the plan favored by the larger ones?

_____

_____

6. Why does the passage claim that compromise is not always a sign of weakness?

_____

_____

Words to know

delegates: people chosen to speak and act for a group
represented: given a voice by someone who speaks for you
chambers: the separate halves of a lawmaking body
population: the number of people who live in a place
compromise: an agreement where each side gives up something

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Compromise That Gave Congress Two Chambers

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Compromise That Gave Congress Two Chambers

Easier · 217 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. In Philadelphia, in the summer of 1787.
2. More votes, because the laws would affect them the most.
3. Every state has two members, big or small.
4. It must pass both the House and the Senate.
5. They thought they would lose every vote and have no real voice.
6. It made both sides willing to accept the Constitution and made a lasting government possible.

Triangle: The Compromise That Gave Congress Two Chambers

This passage · 253 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.4

1. In Philadelphia, in the summer of 1787.
2. More votes in Congress, because they would be affected by the laws the most.
3. Every state has two members, no matter its size.
4. It must pass both the House and the Senate.
5. They would be outvoted every time and would have no real voice.
6. It made both sides willing to accept the Constitution and made a lasting government possible.

Square: The Compromise That Gave Congress Two Chambers

Harder · 275 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9

1. In Philadelphia, in the summer of 1787.
2. More votes in Congress, since the laws would affect their citizens the most.
3. Every state is given two members, regardless of its size.
4. It must pass both the House and the Senate.
5. They would be outvoted on every issue and left without a meaningful voice.
6. It made both sides willing to accept the Constitution and made a lasting government possible.