

1. **Articles of Confederation:** The first plan of government of the United States. IN effect from 1781 to 1789m it gave more power to the states than the central government.
2. **Shay's Rebellion:** A revolt in 1786 of Massachusetts farmers, led by Daniel Shays, who opposed tax decisions of the state courts.
3. **Northwest Ordinance:** A law passed by Congress in 1787 organizing the Northwest Territory for settlement and eventual statehood.
4. **territory:** An area of land that belongs to a government.
5. **statehood:** Becoming a state in the United States
6. **Richard Allen:** 1760-1831. Abolitionist and founder of the Free African Society in 1787. He helped found the first African Episcopal Church in 1816 with Absalom Jones.
7. **Daniel Shays:** 1747?-1825. American Revolutionary officer who lead a rebellion of Massachusetts farmers against state courts in 1786.
8. **Northwest Territory:** The land claimed by the United States after the Revolutionary War and organized as a territory in 1787, including what became the states of Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois.
9. **Constitutional Convention:** The meeting of twelve states' delegates in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, that replaced the Articles of Confederation with a new Constitution.
10. **Virginia Plan:** The plan, drawn up by James Madison and adopted by the Constitutional Convention in 1787, that established three branches of the federal government.
11. **legislative branch:** The law-making part of government, with the power to raise the money related to running the government.
12. **executive branch:** The part of the government, headed by the President, that carries out the laws.
13. **judicial branch:** The part of government that decides the meaning of the laws.
14. **Supreme Court:** The head of the judicial branch of the federal government. It is the highest court in the country.
15. **New Jersey Plan:** The plan offered by the small states at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 that would have given all states an equal number of representatives in Congress.
16. **Great Compromise:** The plan drawn up by Roger Sherman at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. It proposed the establishment of two houses of Congress.
17. **House of Representatives:** The house of Congress in which each state's number of representative is determined according to its population.
18. **Senate:** The house of Congress in which each state has an equal number of representatives, or Senators, regardless of population.
19. **Alexander Hamilton:** 1757-1804. Colonial assembly member, delegate to the Constitution, and first Secretary of the Treasury from 1789-1795.
20. **James Madison:** 1751-1836. Author of the "Federalist Papers" he was knows as the "Father of the Constitution" because of his influence at the Constitutional Convention.
21. **George Mason:** 1725-1792. Delegate to the Constitutional Convention who called for a Bill of Rights.
22. **Roger Sherman:** 1721-1793. Patriot who proposed the Great Compromise at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 that established the two houses of Congress.
23. **point of view:** The position from which a person looks at an issue or situation.
24. **amendment:** An addition to the Constitution.
25. **Preamble:** The introduction to the Constitution.
26. **federal system:** A system of government in which power is shared between the central government and the state governments. The United States has a federal system of government.
27. **checks and balances:** The system in which the power of each branch of government is balanced by the powers of other branches.
28. **veto:** To refuse to approve.
29. **ratify:** To give official approval, for example, to the Constitution or amendments to it.
30. **Federalist:** A supporter of a strong central federal system of government in the late 1700's.
31. **Antifederalist:** An opponent of a strong central government in the late 1700's.
32. **Bill of Rights:** The first ten amendments to the Constitution, ratified in 1791.
33. **secretary:** The head of each department in the executive branch of government. As a group the secretaries are called the President's Cabinet.
34. **Cabinet:** The officials appointed by the President to be advisers and to head each department in the executive branch.
35. **political party:** A group of people who share similar ideas about government.
36. **George Washington:** 1732-1799. First President of the United States from 1789 to 1797.
37. **New York City:** The largest city in the United States, located in southeastern New York state. 41 degrees North, 71 degrees West.