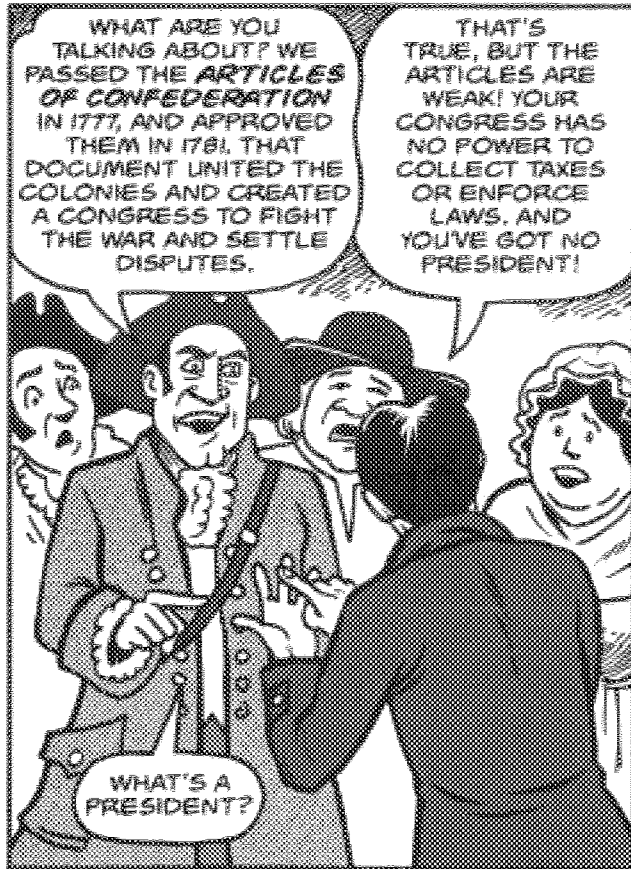


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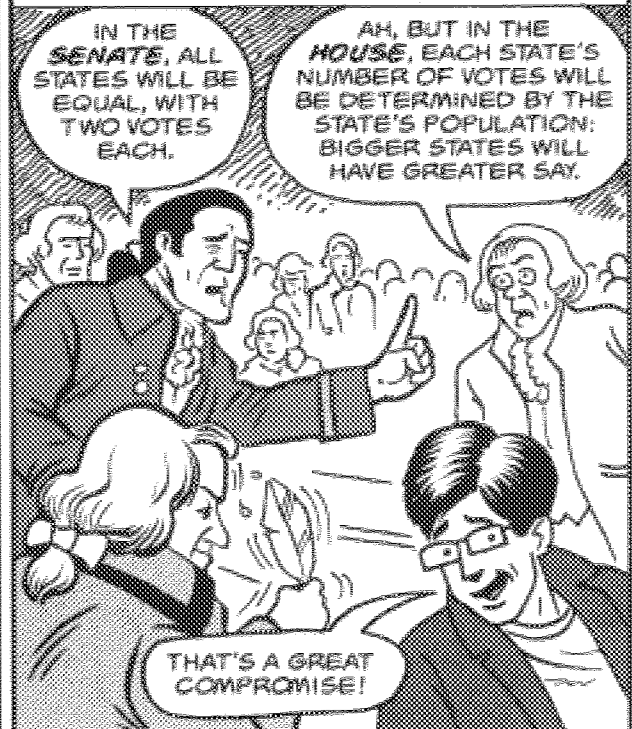
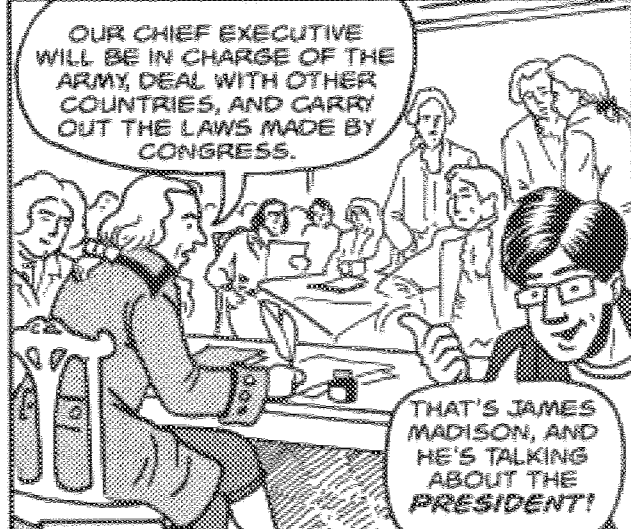
# The CONSTITUTION *and the* BILL of RIGHTS





THE DELEGATES DISCUSSED AND DEBATED HOW TO GOVERN THE NEW NATION. THEY DECIDED THAT A DIVISION OF POWER WOULD BE BEST. THERE WOULD BE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT, AND NONE WOULD BE STRONGER THAN THE OTHERS. ONE WAS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

ANOTHER WAS THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, OR CONGRESS, WHICH MADE THE LAWS. THE DELEGATES DECIDED TO SPLIT CONGRESS INTO TWO: THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.



**FACT BOX** James Madison, who would be the fourth U.S. President, kept the most detailed notes during the convention. He is given credit for writing most of the Constitution.



**FACT BOX** Many of the delegates knew that the final document was not perfect, but as Ben Franklin put it, the government created by the Constitution was "so near to perfection."



**TO WIN THE STATES' APPROVAL, TEN AMENDMENTS WERE FINALLY ADDED TO THE CONSTITUTION. MORE AMENDMENTS WOULD BE ADDED LATER IN AMERICAN HISTORY, BUT THE FIRST TEN WOULD ALWAYS BE CALLED THE "BILL OF RIGHTS."**

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! THIS BILL OF RIGHTS GIVES YOU THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, RELIGION, PRESS, TO ASSEMBLE PEACEFULLY, THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS, THE RIGHT TO A FAIR AND SPEEDY TRIAL BY JURY, FREEDOM FROM UNFAIR SEARCHES OF YOUR HOMES, THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES TO MAKE LAWS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN MADE BY CONGRESS--

NOW THAT THEY'VE ADDED THE BILL OF RIGHTS, I GIVE THE CONSTITUTION A THUMBS-UP! THE GOVERNMENT IS SHARING THE POWER WITH THE PEOPLE!

**TO TEACH PEOPLE HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS FOR THEIR STATES TO APPROVE THE CONSTITUTION, JAMES MADISON, JOHN JAY, AND ALEXANDER HAMILTON PUBLISHED A SERIES OF ESSAYS CALLED "THE FEDERALIST PAPERS."**

READ ALL ABOUT IT! A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IS A GOOD GOVERNMENT!

THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE POWER--BUT SO DO THE PEOPLE!

WE ONLY NEED 9 STATES, BUT WE WANT EVERY STATE TO APPROVE THE CONSTITUTION!

HEY, ALEXANDER HAMILTON! YOU'RE ON THE \$10 BILL!

**THE CONSTITUTION WAS RATIFIED, WITH NINE STATES' APPROVAL, ON JUNE 21, 1788. (THE REMAINING FOUR STATES LATER RATIFIED IT.) LESS THAN A YEAR LATER, THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HELD A SPECIAL CEREMONY...**

**APRIL 30, 1789  
IN THE NATION'S ORIGINAL CAPITAL --  
NEW YORK CITY!**

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, YOU WILL BE CALLED HIS HIGHNESS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND PROTECTOR OF THEIR LIBERTIES!

SOUNDS STUFFY, DOESN'T IT? I BELIEVE CONGRESS JUST WANTS ME TO BE KNOWN AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

## SCOOTER'S QUICK QUIZ

1. What was the name of the WEAK document used to govern the colonies during the Revolutionary War?
2. Who wrote much of the U.S. Constitution?
3. The three branches of government are often called a system of "checks and balances." What do you think this means? What is being checked, and what is balanced?
4. Dividing Congress into two houses was known as the Great Compromise. Research why the Convention delegates did this.
5. Look up the Bill of Rights and choose one amendment to explain to your classmates. What freedoms does it guarantee us?