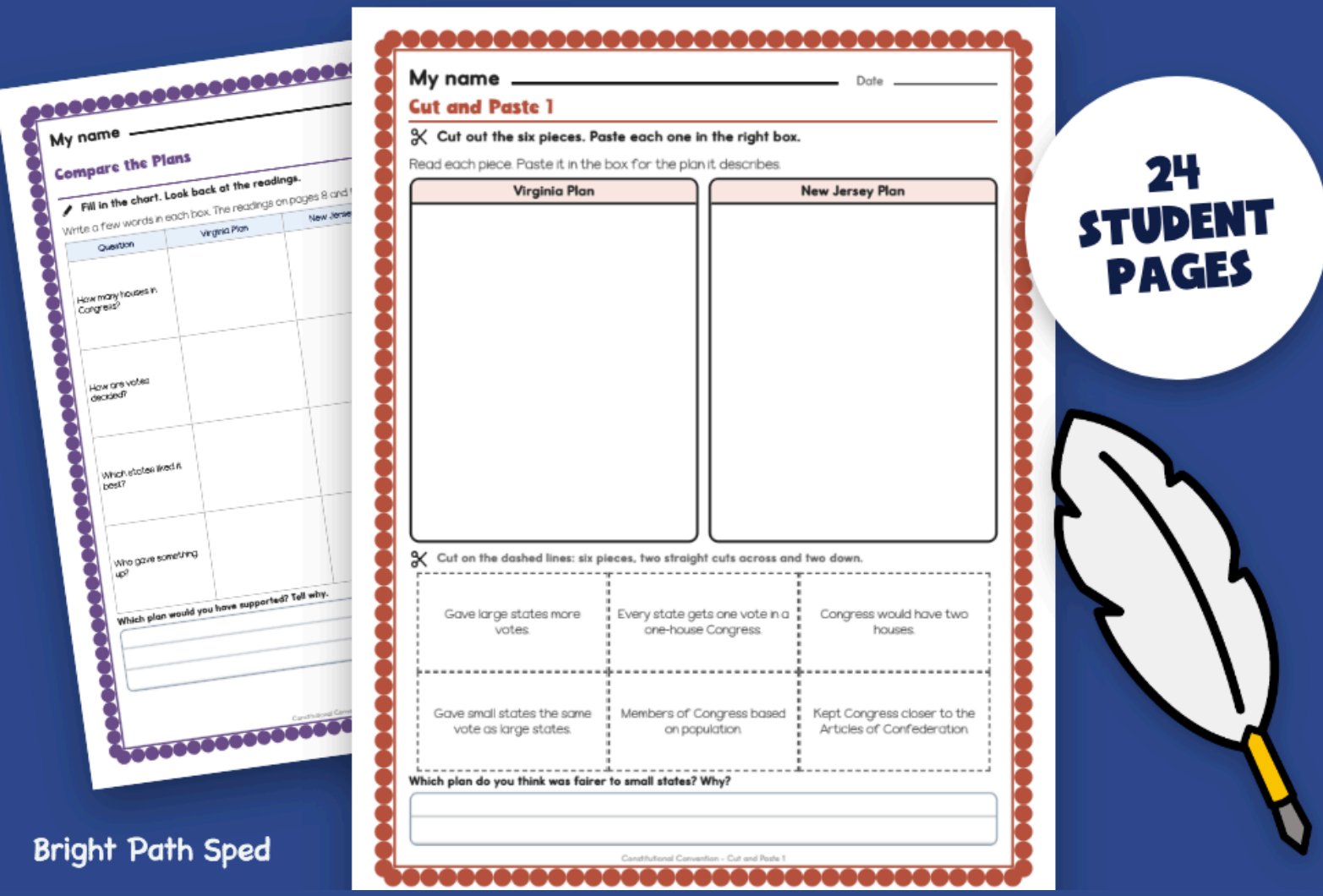
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WORKSHEETS

Readings, Compromises, Sort - Grades 6-8



24 STUDENT PAGES

Bright Path Sped

Terms of Use

Please read before you print your first page.

One classroom license

- This file is for one classroom: one teacher, one group of students.
- Please do not share it, post it online, or sell it.
- Extra licenses for a team or a school are available on the product page.

This is a fillable PDF

- Open it in a PDF reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or your browser), click into a line or a box, type, and Save As.
- The name line, every answer box, every ruled work box and every check box on the student pages are type-in fields, and so are the tracker, class grid, team note and family page. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- It works offline. No account, no subscription, no internet connection needed after you download it.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the ruled lines stay 0.34 inch apart. Every student page is black and white inside a colored border, so it still reads when copied in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker, class grid or team note carries a real student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

© Bright Path Sped. For single-classroom use by the original purchaser.

PREVIEW

Preview · Bright Path Sped

How To Read a Page

The parts of a student page, then the page types in the order they come.

The parts of a page

- **The answer box.** A bordered box for a letter or a number. Click it to type, or print and write in it.
- **The ruled work box.** Lines 0.34 inch apart. A short answer gets 4 lines; the cause and effect boxes get 3 and the paragraph page gets 18. It types and prints.
- **The check box.** True or false, yes or not yet: click or mark one.
- **The reading.** A short passage with a heading, then a cause box, an effect box and two checks.
- **The cut line.** Six pieces in a 3 by 2 grid, each 2.4 by 1.25 inches, edge to edge: two cuts across and two down.

Page type	What it looks like	What the student does
Before You Read, Words to Know	2 pages, 12 items	True or false on the big picture, match eight words to their meanings.
7 Readings	14 checks	Read, write the cause and the effect, answer two checks with a letter.
Timeline, Compare, Problem and Fix	3 pages, 7 scored items	Number seven mixed-up events, fill in a plan chart and a problem and fix chart.
Two Points of View	1 page	What a delegate from a large or small state, a Federalist and an Anti-Federalist might say.
Think It Through, claim-evidence-reasoning	9 questions, 2 organizer pages	4 lines per question; a plan and an 18-line paragraph.
Quiz, Cut and Paste	12 items, 18 pieces	A quiz in two parts and three cut-and-paste mats (plans, delegates, sides).

Untimed, unscored on the page

No student page has a timer or a score on it. The keys and the tracker are for you. The answer keys are on pages 29 to 32.

A short account, not a full textbook

Each reading is a summary of one part of the story in plain words. It is not a complete history, and it is not tied to any particular standard. Add your own textbook, map or source for more depth.

Printing and the type-in fields

Every page prints clean in black and white. The name line, every answer box, every ruled box and every check box are type-in fields in any PDF reader: click one, type, then save. This is a fillable PDF, not a slideshow or a word-processor file.

Open answers

Short answers, the charts, the points of view and the paragraph are open. The keys give a sample and what to look for. Accept any answer that is true to the readings and explains its reason.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



Before You Read

Read the big idea. Then check true or false.

The United States had won its freedom. Now it needed a government that worked.

The first plan	After the Revolution, the thirteen states joined under a plan called the Articles of Confederation.
The trouble	The national government was weak. It could not collect taxes, and it could not make the states work together.
The meeting	In 1787, delegates, people chosen to speak for their states, met in Philadelphia to talk about fixing the plan.
The big question	How strong should the national government be? You will read about seven parts of the story, one at a time, on the next pages.

Try it. Is each sentence true or false?

1. The delegates met in Philadelphia in 1787. ☐ true ☐ false

2. Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress could collect taxes on its own. ☐ true ☐ false

3. The delegates were asked to improve the Articles, but they wrote a new plan. ☐ true ☐ false

4. All thirteen states sent delegates to Philadelphia. ☐ true ☐ false

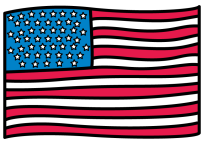
In your own words: why did the states send delegates to Philadelphia?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

The Delegates Meet in Philadelphia



Read the story. Then fill in cause and effect.

The Delegates Meet

In May 1787, delegates began to arrive in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A delegate is a person chosen to speak and act for others. They met in the Pennsylvania State House, which is now called Independence Hall. Over the summer, fifty-five delegates took part, from twelve of the thirteen states. Rhode Island did not send anyone. George Washington, who had led the army in the Revolution, was chosen to run the meetings. Benjamin Franklin, then in his eighties, was the oldest delegate. James Madison of Virginia took careful notes of the debates, and people later called him the Father of the Constitution. Alexander Hamilton of New York wanted a strong national government. Edmund Randolph of Virginia presented the first big plan. The delegates agreed to keep their talks secret so they could speak freely and change their minds. Their job was to improve the Articles of Confederation. Instead, they decided to write a brand new plan of government.

Cause: Why did this happen?

Effect: What happened because of it?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. Who was chosen to run the meetings? ☐
   - A Benjamin Franklin
   - B George Washington
   - C James Madison

2. Which state did not send delegates? ☐
   - A Virginia
   - B Pennsylvania
   - C Rhode Island

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

The Great Compromise

Read the story. Then fill in cause and effect.

The Great Compromise

The fight over how many votes each state should have lasted for weeks. Some delegates feared the meeting would end with no new plan at all. Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth, delegates from Connecticut, suggested a way to give each side part of what it wanted. In July 1787, the delegates agreed. Today we call it the Great Compromise, or the Connecticut Compromise. Congress would have two houses. In the House of Representatives, each state would have a number of members based on its population, so large states would have more. In the Senate, every state would have two members, no matter how big or small. A law would have to pass both houses. The compromise gave large states more power in one house and small states equal power in the other. Neither side got everything it wanted, but the meeting could go on. The Congress of the United States still has a House and a Senate.

Cause: Why did this happen?

Effect: What happened because of it?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. How are the seats in the House of Representatives divided among the states?
   - **A** Equally, the same for every state
   - **B** By each state's population
   - **C** By a vote of the Senate

2. How many members does each state have in the Senate?
   - **A** It depends on the state's population.
   - **B** One
   - **C** Two

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

The Ratification Debate

Read the story. Then fill in cause and effect.

Ratification Debate

On September 17, 1787, thirty-nine delegates signed the new Constitution. It was not law yet. Nine of the thirteen states had to ratify, or approve, it. Each state held a meeting to debate and vote. People who supported the Constitution were called Federalists. They said the country needed a stronger national government to keep order, collect taxes and defend itself. James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay wrote newspaper essays called the Federalist Papers to explain their case. People who opposed it were called Anti-Federalists. They worried that the national government would be too strong, that it could take power away from the states, and that the Constitution had no list of the rights of citizens. Patrick Henry of Virginia was one leader who spoke against it. Delaware was the first state to ratify, in December 1787. New Hampshire became the ninth state in June 1788, so the Constitution could go into effect. Virginia and New York, two large states, ratified soon after.

Cause: Why did this happen?

Effect: What happened because of it?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. How many of the thirteen states had to ratify the Constitution? ☐
   - **A** Seven
   - **B** Nine
   - **C** All thirteen

2. What did Anti-Federalists worry about? ☐
   - **A** That the Senate was too small
   - **B** That too many states had signed
   - **C** That the national government would be too strong and the Constitution had no list of citizens' rights

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



Words to Know

Write the letter of each meaning.

1	ratify		A	the group of people who make the laws
2	compromise		B	a written plan that sets up a government and its powers
3	population		C	the number of people who live in a place
4	constitution		D	an agreement in which each side gives up something
5	federal		E	having to do with the national government that is shared by all the states
6	legislature		F	a person chosen to speak and act for others
7	amendment		G	to approve something officially
8	delegate		H	a change or addition to the Constitution

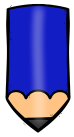
Use two of the words in one sentence about the Constitutional Convention.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ideas Social

My name _____ Date _____

Compare the Plans



Fill in the chart. Look back at the readings.

Write a few words in each box. The readings on pages 8 and 9 have the facts.

Question	Virginia Plan	New Jersey Plan	Great Compromise
How many houses in Congress?			
How are votes decided?			
Which states liked it best?			
Who gave something up?			

Which plan would you have supported? Tell why.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Think It Through A

Answer each question in full sentences.

Use facts from the readings to answer.

1. Why did leaders think the Articles of Confederation needed to be fixed?

2. How did the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan disagree?

3. Why did the delegates agree to keep their talks secret?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Think It Through C

Answer each question in full sentences.

Use facts from the readings to answer.

7 How did Federalists and Anti-Federalists disagree about the Constitution?

8 Why did Anti-Federalists want a list of rights added?

9 Which problem do you think was hardest for the delegates to solve? Why?

PREVIEW

Preview · Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

My Paragraph

Write your paragraph. Use your plan.

Check your plan first: ☐ **claim** ☐ **evidence** ☐ **reasoning**

Write one paragraph. Start with your claim. Add your evidence. Then explain it. End with a sentence that ties back to the question.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Quiz, Part B

Read each one. Write the letter of the best answer.

Write the letter of the best answer in the box.

7 What was the Federalist Papers' main job?

A To list the rights of citizens
B To explain and defend the Constitution
C To end the convention

8 Which group feared the new government might be too strong?

A Federalists
B The delegates from Virginia
C Anti-Federalists

9 Which state was the first to ratify the Constitution, in December 1787?

A Delaware
B New York
C Virginia

10 What happened when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify?

A The Bill of Rights became law.
B The Constitution could go into effect.
C The convention ended.

11 What is the Bill of Rights?

A A plan written by William Paterson
B The Articles of Confederation
C The first ten amendments to the Constitution

12 Why was the Bill of Rights added?

A To make Congress bigger
B To answer worries that citizens' rights were not listed
C To end the slave trade

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 2

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Read each piece. Paste it in the box for the delegate it describes.

George Washington	Benjamin Franklin	James Madison

Alexander Hamilton	Edmund Randolph	William Paterson

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

Took careful notes of the debates. Called the Father of the Constitution.	Presented the Virginia Plan.	Chosen to run the meetings. Had led the army in the Revolution.
A delegate from New Jersey. Presented the New Jersey Plan.	The oldest delegate, in his eighties.	A delegate from New York who wanted a strong national government.

Which delegate would you most like to learn more about? Why?

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Reading and Words

Before You Read, the 14 checks that follow the readings, and Words to Know.

Readings: the checks pages 6 to 12

#	Reading	Answer
1	Articles of Confederation	A: Collect taxes on its own
2	Articles of Confederation	C: The national government seemed too weak to solve ...
1	The Delegates	B: George Washington
2	The Delegates	C: Rhode Island
1	Two Plans	B: By the population of the state.
2	Two Plans	C: Every state had one vote, so small states ...
1	Great Compromise	B: By each state's population
2	Great Compromise	C: Two
1	Three-Fifths	C: As three-fifths of a person
2	Three-Fifths	A: More power in Congress, and slavery was protected
1	Ratification	B: Nine
2	Ratification	C: That the national government would be too strong ...
1	Bill of Rights	C: The Bill of Rights
2	Bill of Rights	A: James Madison

Before You Read page 5

#	Starts with	Answer
1	The delegates met in Philadelphia in ...	True
2	Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress ...	False
3	The delegates were asked to improve ...	True
4	All thirteen states sent delegates to ...	False

Words to Know page 13

#	Word	Letter
1	ratify	G
2	compromise	D
3	population	C
4	constitution	B
5	federal	E
6	legislature	A
7	amendment	H
8	delegate	F

How the checks were made

Every reading was written so each check has one best answer that is stated in the passage. If a student picks another letter, point to the sentence that settles it.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Cause, Effect, Compare

Samples for the cause and effect boxes on pages 6 to 12 and for the compare chart on page 15. Accept any wording that matches the reading.

Cause and effect boxes

Reading	A good cause box says	A good effect box says
Articles of Confederation	The Articles gave Congress too little power: no taxes of its own, no control of trade, no president and no national court.	Leaders worried the country could fall apart, and the states were asked to send delegates to Philadelphia in 1787.
The Delegates	The Articles were not working, so the states sent delegates to Philadelphia to improve them.	The delegates met in secret all summer and decided to write a new plan of government instead.
Two Plans	Large states wanted votes based on population. Small states wanted every state to have an equal vote.	The delegates were stuck. They could not agree on how many votes each state would have in Congress.
Great Compromise	Large and small states could not agree on how many votes each state should have in Congress.	Congress was set up with a House based on population and a Senate with two members from every state.
Three-Fifths	States disagreed about whether and how to count enslaved people when deciding seats in the House and some taxes.	Each enslaved person counted as three-fifths of a person. Slaveholding states gained power in Congress and slavery was protected.
Ratification	The new Constitution needed nine states to ratify it, and people disagreed about whether it gave the national government too much power.	Federalists and Anti-Federalists debated state by state. New Hampshire became the ninth state in June 1788.
Bill of Rights	Anti-Federalists feared the Constitution did not protect citizens' rights, so leaders promised to add a list of them.	Congress sent amendments to the states, and ten of them became the Bill of Rights in December 1791.

Compare the Plans page 15

Question	Virginia Plan	New Jersey Plan	Great Compromise
How many houses in Congress?	Two houses	One house	Two houses: the House and the Senate
How are votes decided?	By each state's population	One vote for every state	House by population; Senate two per state
Which states liked it best?	Large states	Small states	Both got part of what they wanted
Who gave something up?	Small states: fewer votes than large states	Large states: no extra votes for size	Large states: equal Senate. Small states: unequal House

PREVIEW

Convention Tracker

One student, every scored page. Filled example: page 37.

Student _____ Teacher _____ Month _____

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Before You Read	4			
6	Why a New Plan? The Articles of Confederation	2			
7	The Delegates Meet in Philadelphia	2			
8	Two Big Plans: Virginia and New Jersey	2			
9	The Great Compromise	2			
10	The Three-Fifths Compromise	2			
11	The Ratification Debate	2			
12	The Bill of Rights Promise	2			
13	Words to Know	8			
14	Put It in Order	7			
23	Quiz, Part A	6			
24	Quiz, Part B	6			
25	Cut and Paste 1	6			
26	Cut and Paste 2	6			
27	Cut and Paste 3	6			

PREVIEW

How to fill this in

Write how many items the student got right with no prompt, and the date. A blank means not tried yet, never wrong. There are 63 items on the 15 scored pages. Answer keys: pages 29 to 32. Filled example: page 37.

This month we are working on (your own standard or wording)

Team Note

Use this page between team meetings or when a student moves classes, to hand off what changed without writing a note from scratch. Everything below is observable, with a blank for the number or the wording your team already uses.

Student _____ Team member _____ Date _____

Page type	Covered since last note (Y/N)	Items right	Still blank
Before You Read			
Readings			
Words to Know			
Timeline			
Quiz			
Cut and paste			

What I saw (observable, not a conclusion)

- Named the cause and the effect of ___ of ___ readings without a prompt.
- Put the events in order on ___ of ___ (page 14).
- Used a fact from a reading in the claim, evidence and reasoning pages (21, 22): yes / no / with a reminder.
- Explained what a compromise is in their own words: yes / no.

Next step

- Next page or set: ___, because ___ (what you saw).
- What to try in another class or at home: ___.
- What to keep doing because it is working: ___.
- Anything for the team meeting to decide: ___ (this page records what happened, never a label or a plan).

Summary, in one or two sentences, for whoever reads this next

A filled-in line, for reference

"Matched 6 of 8 words on Words to Know with no prompt on 10/3. Next step: use ratify and amendment in sentences about the readings." That is the level of detail this page is built for. It matches the filled example on page 37.

PREVIEW

Dana's Tracker (Invented Student)

Dana R. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 33.

Student: Dana R. (an invented student)

Teacher: Ms. Okafor (invented)

Month: September to October

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Before You Read	4	3	9/22	Thought every state sent delegates
6	Why a New Plan? The Articles of Confederation	2	2	9/24	-
7	The Delegates Meet in Philadelphia	2	2	9/25	-
8	Two Big Plans: Virginia and New Jersey	2	1	9/29	Missed why small states liked the New Jersey Plan
9	The Great Compromise	2	2	10/1	-
10	The Three-Fifths Compromise	2	-	-	-
11	The Ratification Debate	2	-	-	-
12	The Bill of Rights Promise	2	-	-	-
13	Words to Know	8	6	10/3	Mixed up ratify and amendment
14	Put It in Order	7	5	10/6	Swapped the two plans
23	Quiz, Part A	6	-	-	-
24	Quiz, Part B	6	-	-	-
25	Cut and Paste 1	6	-	-	-
26	Cut and Paste 2	6	-	-	-
27	Cut and Paste 3	6	-	-	-

How to read it

Dana R. has done **7 of 15** scored pages and got **21 of 27** items right with no prompt. **3** pages were all right and **4** carry a note. Every number comes from the table.

What the table points to

The lowest page is Two Big Plans: Virginia and New Jersey (1 of 2). That is where the next practice goes. The 8 pages left blank are not tried yet, never wrong.

PREVIEW

Binder Cover

Slide this into the front of a binder. The divider tabs and a spine label to cut out are on the next page (page 40).

Social Studies - U.S. History

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Readings, Practice and Keys

Plans | **Compromises** | **Ratification**

Teacher _____

Class or student _____

PREVIEW