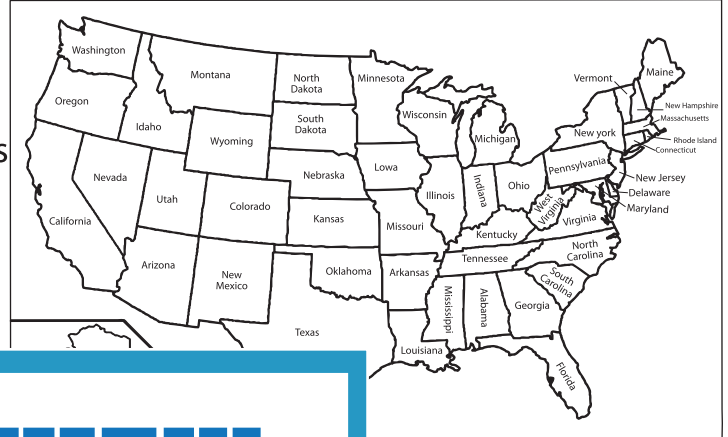


The Great Compromise of 1787

by Katie Clark

Back when America was a new country, the leaders were not sure how to set up their government. It was during this time they were busy writing the Declaration of Independence. Men including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin worked hard



But choosing what to do was difficult. The Americans paid taxes, but not the people but not giving them, as well.

One of the biggest problems was that states like Virginia had a lot of people. Bigger states like Virginia wanted a government system that allowed the states with more people to get more say in how things were run.

However, the people in New Jersey wanted an equal say in how things in the new country were handled. They felt their needs were just as important as the needs of the people in the bigger states.

successful.

the Americans had the monarchy had taxed them. They made the colonists angry. The government didn't do this to the people.

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population. Bigger states like New Jersey. The people in

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These different points of view led to two very different plans being drawn. They were called the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan.

The leaders did not know which plan to choose. The people in larger states thought that if they were giving more money in taxes then they should have more control. The people in the smaller states did not want to be forgotten, though. They did not want things to return to the way they had been when they were under British rule. They didn't want to pay taxes and have no representation.

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state. This would make the larger states happy.

This new plan was called the Great Compromise. It was a way to show favor to both small and large states. It was a way to be fair to everyone and not only to some.

At last, the leaders of the young country cast their votes on whether the Great

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Compromise was a good plan. The plan was accepted by a majority of one single vote!

The government America had chosen would be a bicameral government. This meant it would be run by two houses of legislators rather than only one.

Both the House and the Senate have their own set of responsibilities.

For instance, only the House of Representatives can initiate bills that pertain to spending and revenue. Only the Senate can confirm the appointment of a new president and the appointment of a new justice to the Supreme Court. Now both the large and the small states have a voice in the way the government is run.

The Great Compromise became the foundation on which the government of the United States was built. The Great Compromise can still be seen in the way the government is run today.

It affects how bills are passed. It affects how the executive branch is chosen. It affects how the judicial branch is chosen. This is because by making both large and small states have a voice, the government can consider the needs of all the people rather than just the needs of the large states.

It also affects how the government is run. The Great Compromise paved the way for the electoral college, which is a way for both large and small states to have a voice in the way the national executive is chosen.

These examples are only a handful the ways the Great Compromise affects America. Overall, it was a unique bill that helped shape an already unique government.

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The Great Compromise of 1787

1) What did the British monarchy do to Americans before they became free from the British?

2) What problem did the states face when they met in 1787 to form a new government?

3) How did the Americans solve this problem?

4) What is an electoral college?

5) Describe how the Great Compromise is an excellent representation of the great American Spirit.

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