

Name: _____

History Mystery Message Challenge

Gather the history facts to solve this mystery message about the U. S. Constitution. Enter the first letter of each answer in the message. The questions are in order left to right, top row then bottom row.

1. The month the U.S. Constitution was signed by the delegates of the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

2. The Motto of the United States of America is

3. The 1787 Constitution replaced the Articles of _____

4. According to the rules of the Constitutional Convention, no matter how many delegates a state sent, each state was given only one vote. The state's delegates all had to agree on their one vote. When everyone casts the same vote, the vote is said to be ... (Hint 9 letters)

5. This state did not send delegates to the 1787 Constitutional Convention.

6. Article II of the US Constitution establishes this branch of the federal government.

Not a clue, just curious - Compare this to the constitution of your state or commonwealth. Does its Article II serve the same purpose?

7. To express gratitude for the new Constitution, President George Washington declared our first national

8. A militiaman during the Revolutionary War, he played a critical role in establishing the financial stability of the United States. He advocated for the Constitution through a series of essays that are now called The Federalist Papers.

9. The Fifth Amendment says, "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." The government's authority to take a citizen's land is known as -----

10. They establish the rights of individual American citizens that the government must respect.

11. During the Constitutional Convention discussions, the doors to the building were

12. Amendment VIII, which was ratified on December 15, 1791, protects citizens against the imposition of -----

13. The Constitution was written in this building. _____

14. This delegate from Connecticut proposed a two-house legislature, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives (based on population).

15. In 1776, a group of delegates, who had gathered in Philadelphia, approved the Declaration of

16. The Constitution became the law of the land on June 21, 1788, when this number of states had ratified it.

17. The fifth state to ratify the Constitution. _____

18. Supporters of the Constitution believed that the checks and balances system would allow a strong central government and still preserve the rights of the ----- .

19. On July 12, ----- Ellsworth, of Connecticut, proposed that representation for the lower house be based on the number of free persons and three-fifths of "all other persons," (slaves). He participated in drawing up the first draft of the Constitution.

20. The last name of the oldest delegate at the Constitutional Convention.

21. Per the U.S. Constitution, all bills for raising Revenue initiate in this branch.

22. The Constitution specifies that the House of Representatives has the sole power to bring charges against an official. This is called -----

23. Anti-Federalist Samuel ----- wrote his "Centinel" essays. He argued the Constitution had created a new government that would become one controlled by the wealthy families and the culturally refined. He believed the common working people would be left out.

24. This group elects the President. _____

25. Patrick Henry, an ardent advocate for the Revolutionary War said, "Give me Liberty or give me death". But he refused to attend the 1787 Constitutional Convention, saying he "smelt a _____."

Not a clue, but Curious - Why was he so concerned about the convention? _____

26. Over 11,000 amendments have been introduced in Congress. Thirty-three amendments have gone to the states to be ratified. How many have been approved by 2/3rds of the States and so became the law of the land?

27. The length of service for an elected official is called a term. Terms are measured in _____

28. When the President refuses to sign legislation _____

29. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the U.S.
The nine Justices hear cases and deliver _____.

30. According to the Constitution, each state has this number of Senators. _____

31. The process by which citizens select the individuals who represent them in the government or decide an issue.