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***Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists***

**Circle anything that describes the two systems of government created by the Articles and the Constitution.**

**Draw a box around the meaning of ratify. Underline the two groups that people were divided into after the Constitution was created.**

In America’s earliest days, the Founders experimented with several types of government. The first one was organized under an agreement called the Articles of Confederation. It created a central government that had very little power. Individual state governments kept most of the power, which gave the states a lot of independence, but it also created problems.

So, the Founders tried again, and this time they wrote the Constitution. The Constitution created a **federal** **system** of government, which included a stronger central government that *shared* power with the states. But, there was one problem: The Constitution couldn’t be passed until it was **ratified**, or formally approved by 9 out of 13 states, and when it was sent out for approval, a raging debate started! Many people feared a strong central government, so they feared the Constitution. The debate over the Constitution involved conflict and compromise. Even when it was completed, some people were unhappy with it. People split into two groups that argued bitterly about certain parts of the proposed Constitution, the **Federalists** and the **Anti-Federalists**.

Circle anything that explains the Anti-Federalist position on the Constitution.

Underline anything that explains why a bill of rights was so important to the Anti-Federalists.

Draw a box around thepurpose of the Anti-Fedrealist papers.

***Anti-Federalists: Down with Central Government!***

The **Anti-Federalists** such as Patrick Henry did not want to **ratify**, or approve the Constitution. They argued that:

* It gave too much power to the national government and not enough to the state governments.
* The Legislative Branch (Congress) and the Executive Branch (President) held too much power
* It did not guarantee citizens any specific rights, (there was no bill of rights).

Of these complaints, the lack of a bill of rights was the most important. The American people had just fought a war to defend their rights, and they did not want a controlling national government taking those rights away again. They feared that a central government would become so powerful it would be just like having a king. The Anti-Federalists spread their concerns through a series of essays and articles called the **Anti-Federalist Papers**.

Circle anything that explains the Federalist position on the Constitution.

Underline anything that describes their feelings on the Bill of Rights.

Put a star next to their response to the Anti-Federalists’ concerns of too much government power

***Federalists: Yay for the Central Government!***

The **Federalist**s, such as James Madison and John Jay, liked and supported the Constitution just the way it was and had answers to all of the Anti-Federalist complaints. Among them:

* They believed that a strong central government was necessary if the states were going to band together to form a successful nation. A strong central government could represent the nation to other countries. It could also control individual states that would not cooperate with the rest.
* They also believed that a strong central government could best protect individual citizens’ rights and freedoms. They felt that a listing of rights (bill of rights) can be a dangerous thing. If the national government were to protect *specific* listed rights, what would stop it from violating rights other than the listed ones? Since we can't list all the rights, the Federalists argued that it's better to list none at all.
* Federalists were not afraid of the central government created by the Constitution because the three branches it was separated into could limit each other’s power. And because all three branches are equal, no one group can take control over another. That way, the central government could not become too powerful.

These arguments were written as a series of letters called the **Federalist Papers** as a way to convince others to agree with the Federalist view-point.

***Compromise***

In the end, the federalists and anti-federalists found a compromise and the Constitution was accepted. Federalists agreed to add ten amendments, or changes, to the end of the Constitution. These amendments guaranteed a list of rights to citizens and are known as the **Bill of Rights**. The anti-federalists were pleased with this addition because the Bill of Rights limited the central government’s power.

1. **Explain the compromise the Federalists and Anti- Federalists came to regarding the Constitution:**

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**Write-Pair-Share:** In *complete sentences*, pick one of the viewpoints and defend it using examples from the reading.

**Write-Pair-Share:** In complete sentences, contrast the view-points of the Anti-Federalists and the Federalists. What did each group believe and why?

**ded Notes Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists** Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_ Pd.\_\_\_

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| --- | --- |
| 1. Compare the two systems of government created by the Articles and the Constitution. |  |
| 2. What does it mean to ratify something? |  |
| 3. What are the two groups that people were divided into after the Constitution was created? |  |

**Anti-Federalists:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 4. Explain the Anti-Federalist position on the Constitution. |  |
| 5. Explain why a bill of rights was so important to Anti-Federalists. |  |
| 6. How did the Anti-Federalists share their concerns? |  |

**Federalists:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 7. Explain the Federalist viewpoint on the Constitution. |  |
| 8. Explain the Federalists’ opinion on the Bill of Rights. |  |
| 9. What were the Federalist Papers? |  |

**Compromise:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 10. Explain the compromise the Federalists and Anti-Federalists came to regarding the Constitution. |  |

**Write-Pair-Share:** On the back and in *complete sentences*, pick one of the viewpoints and defend it using examples from the reading.

**Exit Ticket:** On the back and in complete sentences, contrast the view-points of the Anti-Federalists and the Federalists. What did each group believe and why?