

# THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



The leaders who created the  
United States' government.

# The States are Out

Let's **o** recap! **f** **C**ontrol!

- The Articles of Confederation were **WEAK!**
- States began fighting with one another!
- States began printing their own money!
- States began increasing taxes on their citizens, especially Massachusetts.
- Farmers began losing their farms!
- An economic depression hit!
- **Shays' Rebellion** became the “wake up call” for the country to **fix the broken government!**

# Constitutional Convention

- After Shays' Rebellion, Congress decided that they need a stronger central government.
- In May 1787, representatives from the states met in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation.
- The representatives quickly agreed to throw out the Articles of



When the convention began, the delegates decided to keep their talks secret.

*Why do you think they wanted their talks secret?*

- Guards stood at the door to keep the secrecy, and the windows were left closed to keep passersby from overhearing the debate.
- With the summer heat, the closed



The Convention officially began two weeks late on Friday, May 25, 1787, with a quorum of seven states.

During its hot, 4-month schedule of 6-hour meetings, six days a week, 13 of the 55 delegates withdrew for personal or policy reasons. The Convention rarely drew more than 30 to 35 delegates at a time.

The first day: George Washington, unanimously elected president of the Convention, took his presiding chair, saying...

LET US RAISE A STANDARD TO WHICH THE WISE AND HONEST CAN REPAIR.... THE EVENT IS IN THE HANDS OF GOD.



# George Washington



- Delegate from Virginia
- **Washington elected president of the Convention**
- Spoke little, but commanded respect due to his experience
- **Washington supported a new kind of government.**

# James Madison

- **James Madison** was a delegate from Virginia
- **Called the “Father of the Constitution”**
- **Author of the Virginia Plan which became the blueprint for the Constitution**



# Alexander Hamilton



- **Alexander Hamilton**
- Delegate from New York
- Wanted to replace the Articles of Confederation
- **Supported a strong central government**
- Wrote many of the *Federalist Papers* calling for a new gov't



# Benjamin Franklin

- Delegate from Pennsylvania
- Ben Franklin was the oldest delegate at the Convention
- He argued for the abolition of slavery
- Supported a new government, but not happy with some parts of it

