Constitutional Convention, 1787

Absences:

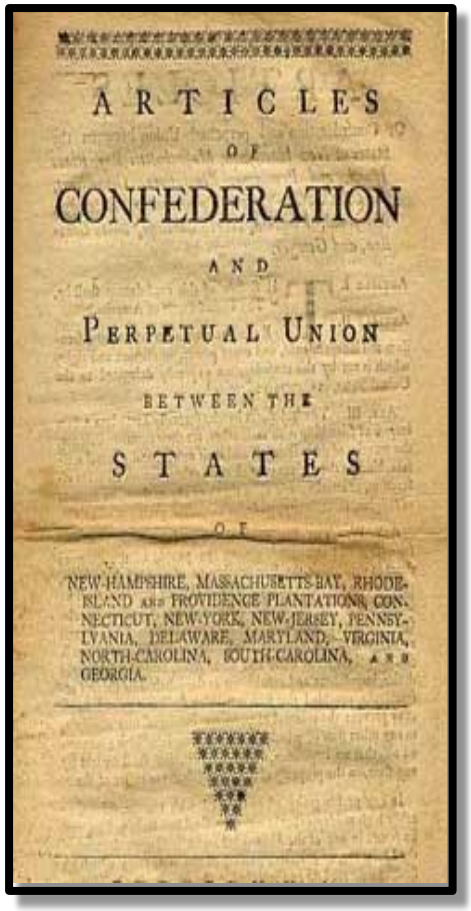
- John Adams & Thomas Jefferson were in France
- Thomas Paine was in England
- Samuel Adams and John Hancock were not invited
- Patrick Henry refused to attend
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JDF0WWW13A

- Benjamin Franklin was 81, the oldest delegate at the Constitutional Convention.

  Franklin's body had not stayed as young as his mind. He suffered from gout and from bladder stones. Franklin was carried to and from the Convention everyday in a sedan chair.

C h a n g e i t ?

- Soon after the meeting began, the delegates decided to do more than **revise the Articles of Confederation.**
- They **chose instead to write an entirely new constitution for the nation**.
- They disagreed (of course!) about what form the national government should take.


ARTICLES
OF
CONFEDERATION
AND
PERPETUAL UNION
BETWEEN THE
STATES
OF
NEW-HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, RHODE-ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, CONNECTICUT, NEW-YORK, NEW-JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, NORTH-CAROLINA, SOUTH-CAROLINA, AND GEORGIA.

R e - W r i t e I t ! !

The Virginia Plan

- Edmund Randolph and **James Madison**, both from Virginia, proposed a plan for the new government.
- **The Virginia Plan** called for a strong national government with three branches.

Virginia Plan – Based on Population

Few representatives =

RHODE ISLAND

Little power in government

Small population =

VIRGINIA

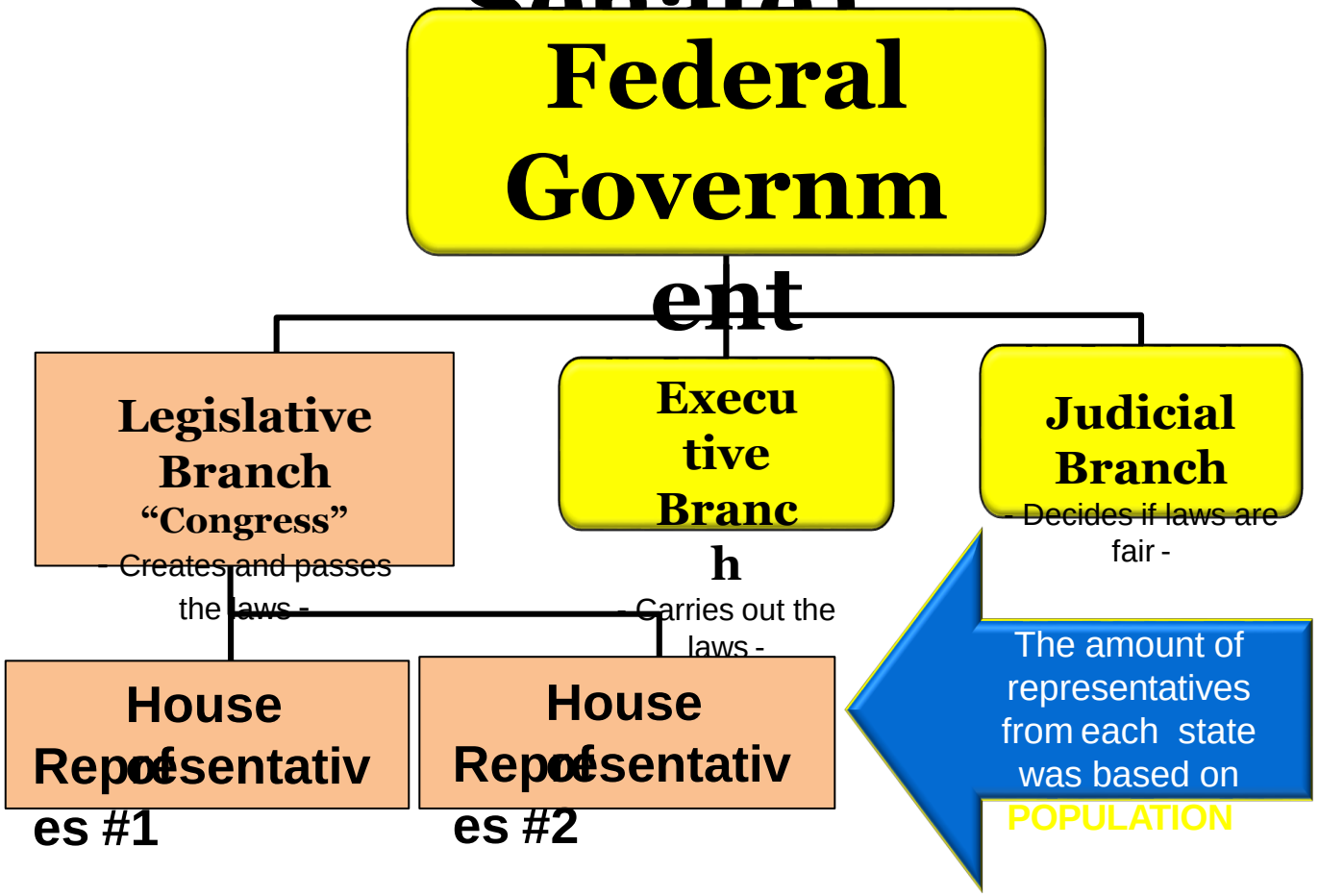
Many representatives =

Large population =

BIG power in government

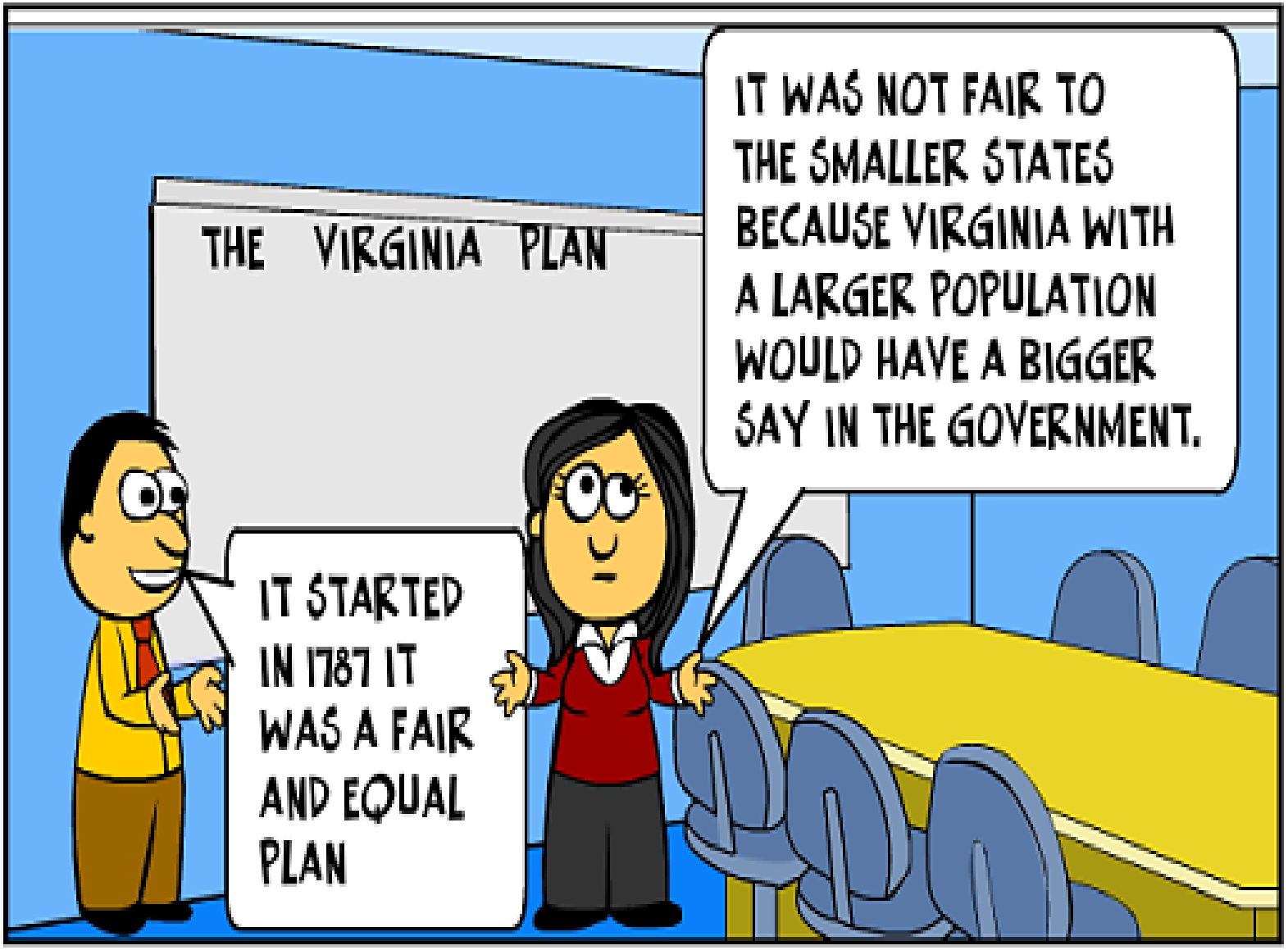
HMMMMMM…. The Virginia Plan sounds fair, right?

The Virginia Plan also included two Houses of Representatives (no Senate)



THE VIRGINIA PLAN - BY CMSADRIENEGIBSO

WWW.TOONDOO.COM

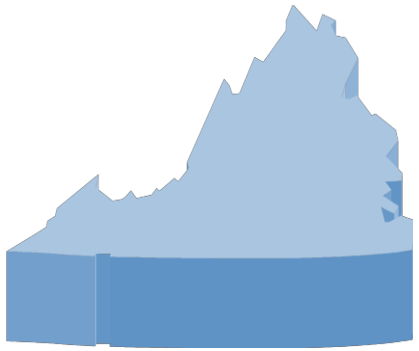


- **Small states HATED the Virginia Plan.**
- They feared that the large states could easily outvote them in Congress.
- Supporters of the Virginia Plan said it was only fair for a state with more people to have more representatives.

The New Jersey Plan

- But another state proposed a different plan.
- Like the Virginia Plan, the **New Jersey Plan** called for 3 branches of government, but it called for only one house.

- **Each state regardless of their population, would have**



RHODE ISLAND

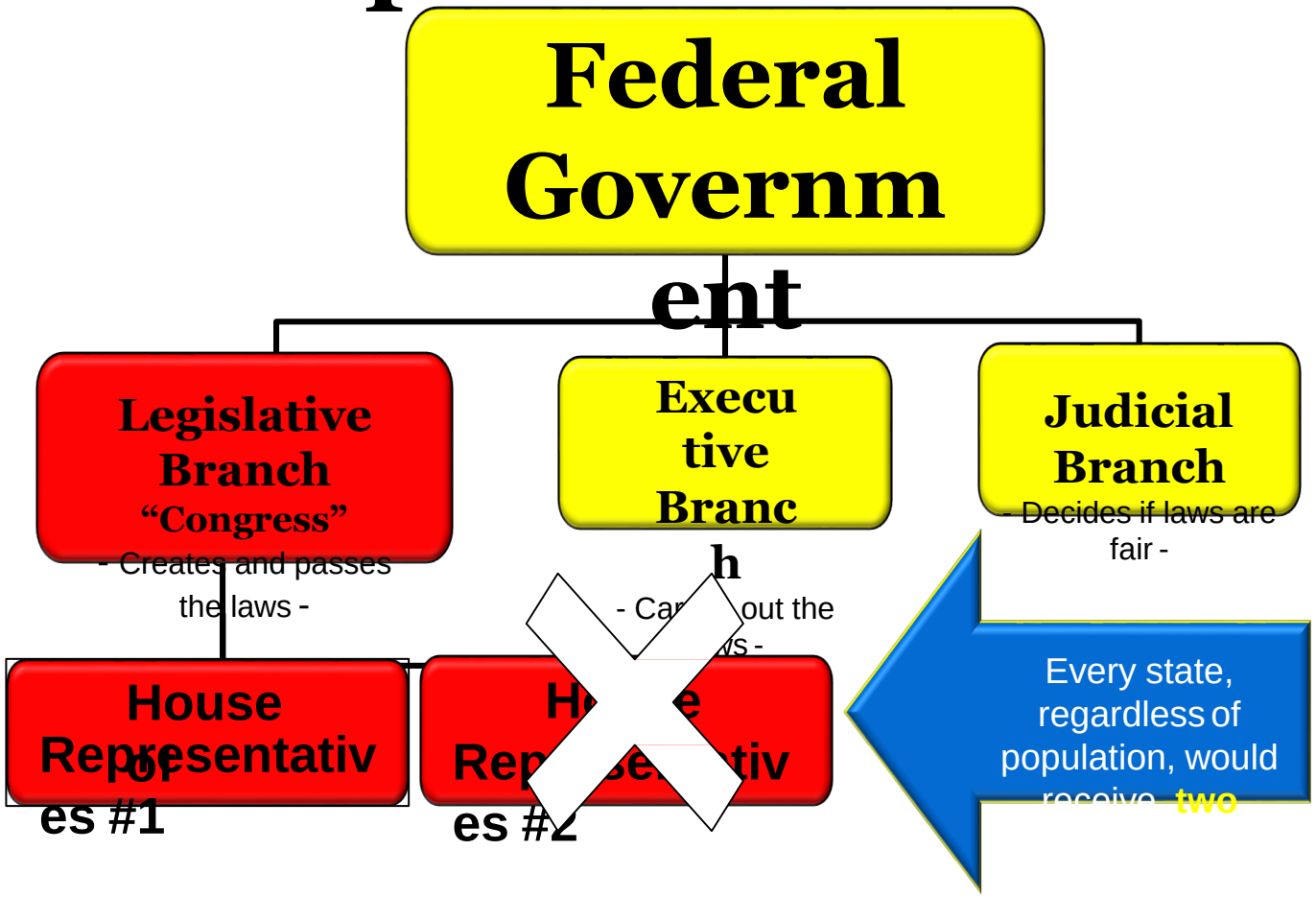
Small population = **ONE VOTE in government**

VIRGINIA

Large population = **ONE VOTE in government**

The New Jersey Plan sounds the same as the Articles of Confederation, right?

The NEW JERSEY Plan called for ONE ~~H~~ouse of Representatives.



Agreement, Disagreement, and Compromise

- No one could agree on what the new government would LOOK like
- **Compromise** – an agreement where each side settles to make each other happy.
- **The Great Compromise**
  - A compromise between the Virginia Plan and New Jersey Plan

Virginia Plan:

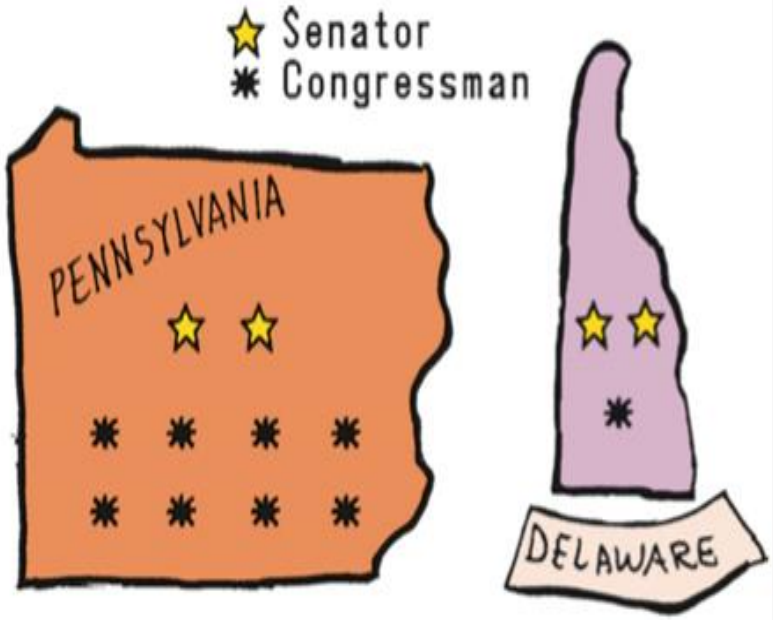
- Two house legislature (bicameral)
- Representation to Congress based on population
- Supported by larger states

V.

New Jersey Plan:

- One house legislature (unicameral)
- Equal representation in Congress
- Supported by smaller states who feared losing power in federal the federal government

Here's how Sherman's plan would work in the case of **Pennsylvania (pop. 434,373)** and of **Delaware (pop. 59,096):**

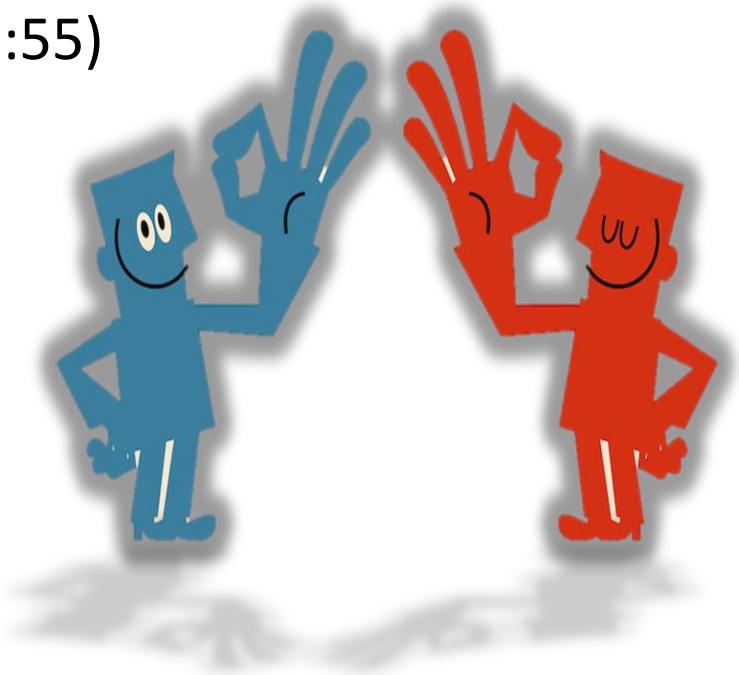


By compromising—each side "shaving" some demands in order to reach agreement—the Convention was saved: a valuable lesson!

https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/ushistory/constitutionalconvention/

OR

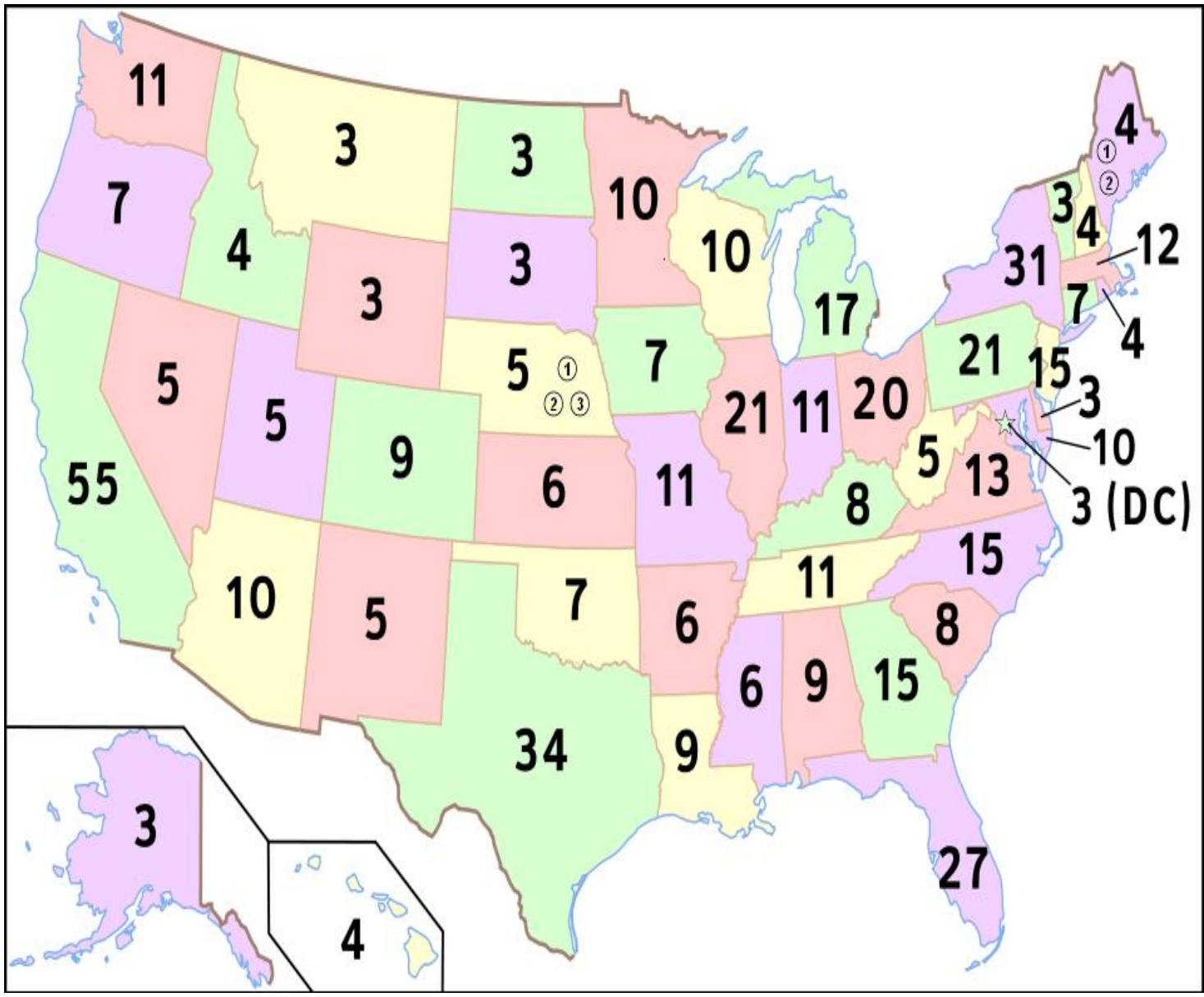
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCCmuftyj8A (:00 – 3:55)



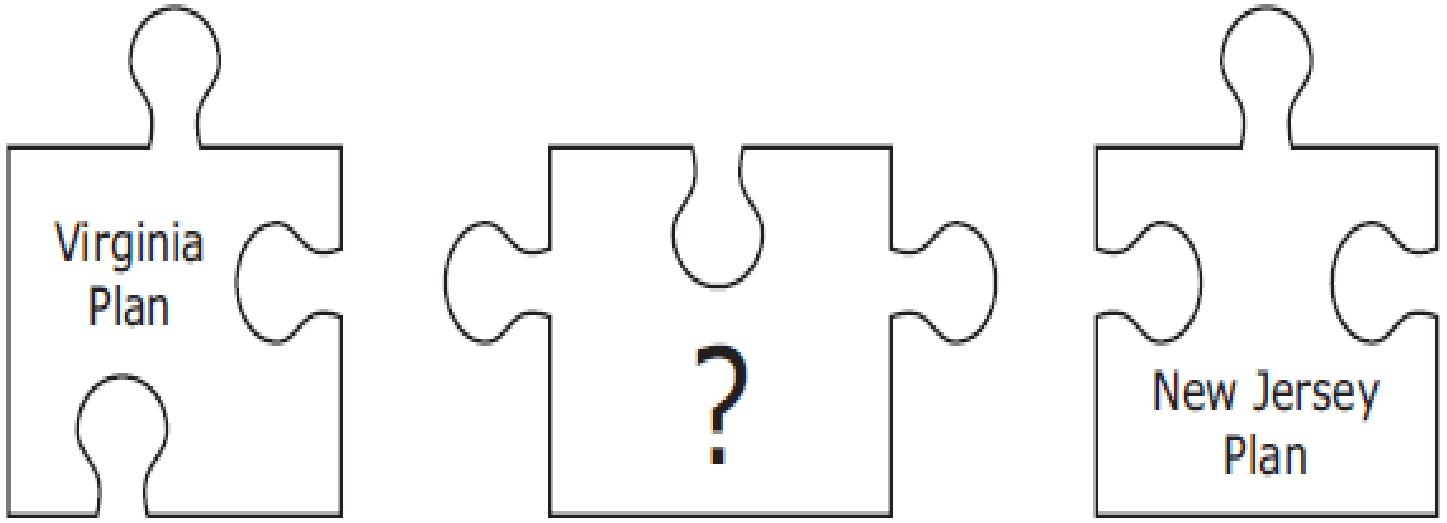
The Virginia Plan
Virginia
New Jersey
The New Jersey Plan
Virginia
New Jersey
The Great Compromise
Virginia
New Jersey

Senate = 2 per state

House of Representatives = # based on population



Constitutional Convention Puzzle



Which of the following should replace the question mark in this diagram?

A Direct democracy

B Great Compromise

C Checks and balances

D Missouri Compromise

Agreement, Disagreement, and Compromise

Now came the challenge of **slaves** – how were they to

Three-Fifths Compromise

- A compromise between the Northern and Southern states on how **slaves** should be counted.

Southern delegates wanted slaves to count as people because MORE congressmen would represent their states.

Count slaves as people + More congressmen = the power to influence votes in the South's favor

Before we continue on, let's do a quick overview on slavery: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NXC4Q_4JVg (:00 – 1:18)

Southern States:

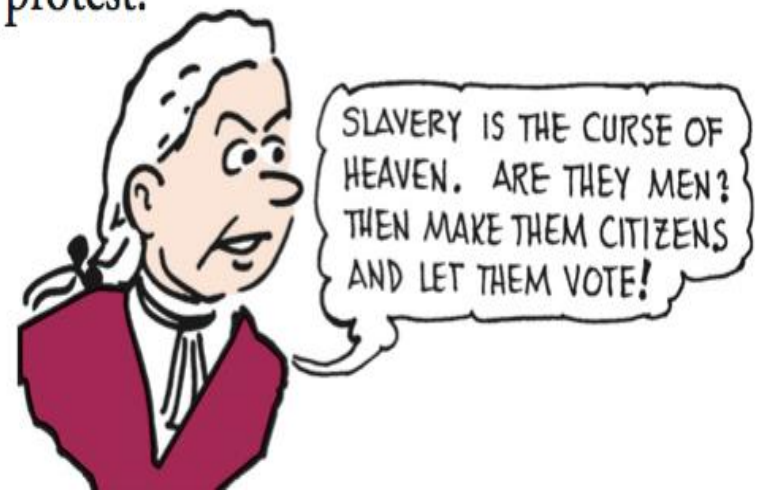
- Wanted slaves counted as population to determine representation in the House of Reps.
- Opposed counting slaves for the purpose of determining taxation

Agreement, Disagreement, and Compromise

Three-Fifths Compromise

- Northern delegates called this "South[illegible]"
  - UNFAIR
  - INCONSISTENT – slaves were always c[illegible]

Gouverneur Morris voiced a moral protest:



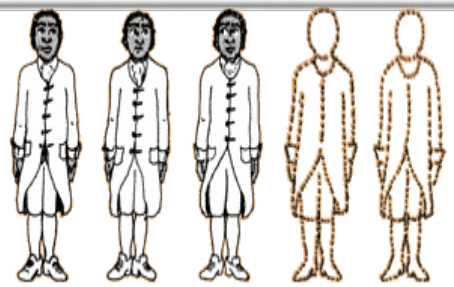
Northern States:

- Opposed counting slaves as population to determine representation in the House of Reps.
- Favored counting slaves for the purpose of determining taxation

The Three-Fifths Plan

- Once again the delegates compromised. They agreed that 3/5 of the slaves in any state would be counted.
- If a state had 5,000 slaves then 3,000 would be included in the state's population.
- This became known as the **Three-Fifths Compromise**.

Whi men te counted in w the ere population.



Three eve fiv of bla slavy es e ck count in w ed popu lati t on he

Southern States:

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- Opposed counting slaves for the purpose of determining taxation

V.

Northern States:

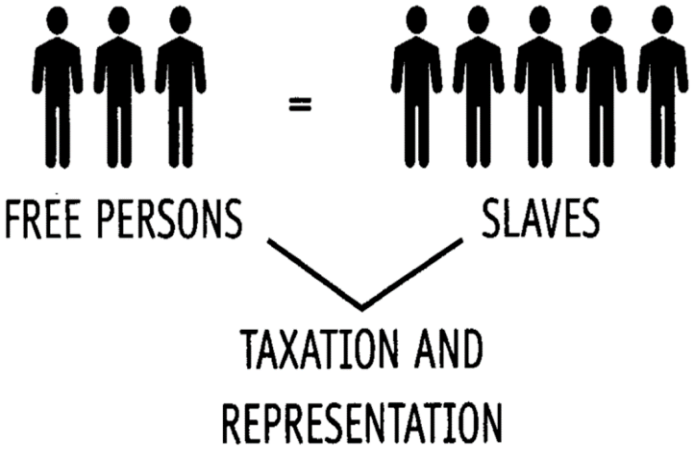
- Opposed counting slaves as population to determine representation in the House of Reps.
- Favored counting slaves for the purpose of determining taxation

THE 3/5^{ths} COMPROMISE:

→ 3/5^{ths} of slaves counted as population in determining representation to the House of Representatives

→ 3/5^{ths} of slaves would be counted for the purpose of determining taxation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCCmuftyj8A (3:55 – 5:05)



1790 Census Data

State	Free Persons	Total Slave Population	Three-Fifths of the Slave Population	Total Population for Representation
New Hampshire	141,727	158	95	141,822
Massachusetts and Maine	475,327	0	0	475,327
Rhode Island	67,877	948	569	68,446
Connecticut	235,182	2,764	1,658	236,840
New York	318,796	21,324	12,794	331,590
New Jersey	172,716	11,423	6,584	179,570
Pennsylvania	430,636	3,737	2,242	432,878
Delaware	50,207	8,887	5,332	55,539
Maryland	216,692	103,036	61,822	278,514
Virginia and Kentucky	516,230	305,057	183,034	699,264
North Carolina	293,179	100,572	60,343	353,522
South Carolina	141,979	107,094	64,256	206,235
Georgia	53,284	29,264	17,558	70,842

Why didn't the Founding Fathers just abolish slavery from the start?????

Economic Reasons

- **Would end a cheap labor supply:** Slaves worked for free (cheap labor). Ending it would harm the southern and US economy.
- **Less Profit:** Southern plantation owners wouldn't

Social Reasons

- **Racism**. Many of the Founding Fathers were slave owners and had difficulty seeing a society where blacks were equal to whites.
- **The South threatened to leave**: The southern states threatened to leave the union if slavery became abolished

Slaveholders		Non-Slaveholders	
Founding Father	State	Founding Father	State
Charles Carroll	Maryland	John Adams	Massachusetts
Samuel Chase	Maryland	Samuel Adams	Massachusetts
Benjamin Franklin	Pennsylvania	Oliver Ellsworth	Connecticut
Button Gwinnett	Georgia	Alexander Hamilton	New York
John Hancock	Massachusetts	Robert Treat Paine	Massachusetts
Patrick Henry	Virginia	Thomas Paine	Pennsylvania
John Jay	New York	Roger Sherman	Connecticut
Thomas Jefferson	Virginia		
Richard Henry Lee	Virginia		
James Madison	Virginia		
Charles Cotesworth Pinckney	South Carolina		
Benjamin Rush	Pennsylvania		
Edward	South Carolina		