

Day: _____

Formation of Constitution

Date: _____

The flawed nature of Articles of Confederation, the first American constitution, led to the calling of a convention in Annapolis. This convention was attended only by delegates of five states. The stated purpose of this convention was to amend the Articles of Confederation in order to make national government. However, this convention failed. Another convention was called which came to be known as 'The Philadelphia Convention'. The delegate of Rhode Island did not participate and Massachusetts delegate arrived late. The convention initially started to amend the articles, but this purpose was quickly sidelined and it was decided to bring in a new document for a strong national government. The meetings for framing the new constitution were held in secrecy because it was a controversial matter. The new constitution addressed issues about democracy, representation, slavery etc. Once the constitution reached ratifying stage conflict emerged between Federalists and Anti-Federalists, Proponents

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of the constitution and critics, respectively.
In the end, however the constitution was
ratified by a narrow vote & serves as
'Supreme Law of Land' to date.