

**The Three-Fifths Compromise** Representation based on population raised the question of whether slaves should be counted as people. The Southern states had many more slaves than the Northern states. Southerners wanted the slaves to be counted as part of the population for representation but not for taxation. Northerners, whose states had few slaves, argued that slaves were not citizens and should not be counted for representation but should be counted for taxation.

The delegates reached an agreement, known as the **Three-Fifths Compromise**. Three-fifths of the slave population would be counted for both purposes: representation in the legislature and taxation.

The delegates had another point of disagreement. Slavery had already been outlawed in several Northern states. Many Northerners wanted to see this ban extended to the rest of the nation. But Southern slaveholders disagreed. The delegates from South Carolina and Georgia stated that they would never accept any plan “unless their right to import slaves be untouched.” Again, the delegates settled on a compromise. On August 29, they agreed that Congress could not ban the slave trade until 1808.

On September 17, 1787, the delegates passed the Constitution. All but three of the 42 delegates present signed the Constitution. It was then sent to each state for approval.

**ANALYZE POINT OF VIEW** Explain how the Constitutional Convention compromised on the issue of slavery.

### Connecting History

#### Individual Rights vs. Majority Rule

Congress decided to end the importation of Africans after 1808. However, the slave trade continued in the slave states.



## Section Assessment



### ONLINE QUIZ

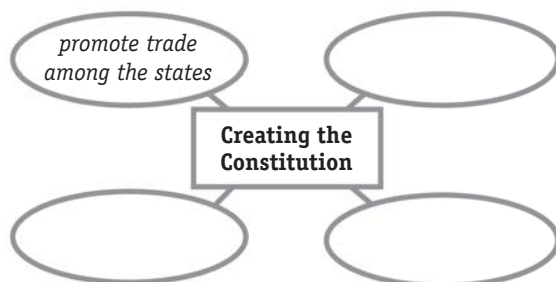
For test practice, go to Interactive Review @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)

### TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of
  - Constitutional Convention
  - Founders
  - James Madison
  - legislative branch
  - Virginia Plan
  - checks and balances
  - New Jersey Plan
  - Great Compromise
  - executive branch
  - judicial branch
  - Three-Fifths Compromise

### USING YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Summarize** Summarize the important achievements of the Constitution.



### KEY IDEAS

3. What was the relationship between the Annapolis Convention and the Constitutional Convention?
4. Why did the Virginia delegates insist that the new government have three branches?
5. Under the Three-Fifths Compromise, how would each state’s population be decided?

### CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Analyze Point of View** Why did supporters of the Virginia Plan believe their plan was the best way to create a new government?
7. **Connect to Today** What American political traditions can be traced back to the Constitutional Convention?
8. **Art** Think about the Three-Fifths Compromise. Draw a political cartoon that expresses your views on the issue.