

Name: Period:

Liberty : Episode #6 - Are We To Be A Nation?

1. In what year did the American Revolution end?
2. True or false? By 1783, most Native Americans had still never seen a white man.
3. To what two places did "Loyalists" flee after the Revolution?
4. What two men were considered "visionaries" for the new American Republic?
5. Why was Alexander Hamilton critical of the Confederation government?
6. What was the biggest crisis facing the American nation at the Revolutionary War's end?
7. Into what two camps did Americans divide themselves after the war?
8. What famous rebellion takes place in 1786?
9. Why did Prince Henry of Prussia decline Nathaniel Gorham's offer to become America's king?
10. Who presided over the Constitutional Convention of 1787?
11. How would one describe James Madison?
12. Why did the Constitutional Convention conduct its meetings in secret?
13. How long did it take for the delegates to draft the Constitution?
14. When was the Constitution first made public?
15. Why were some people skeptical (even fearful) about the new Constitution?
16. What name was given to the people who opposed the Constitution?
17. How many states needed to ratify (or approve) the Constitution for it to go into effect?
18. Why were some people skeptical about six year terms for Senators?
19. True or false? Noah Webster that felt a Bill of Rights was unnecessary.
20. Who (primarily) drafts the Bill of Rights?
21. What three papers are basic the foundation of American government?

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22. How was the issue of slavery affected by the American Revolution?
23. What is the difference between a republican government and a monarchy?
24. How long has the U.S. Constitution survived?
25. How long do you think the U.S. Constitution will survive? Explain.

In-Depth Questions:

In the opening minutes of Episode 6, historian Gordon Wood mentions the difficulty of “bringing together separate states.” Why do you think the states might have resisted having a national government instead of 13 separate governments?

Gordon Wood notes that the Bill of Rights is “what makes us a single people... We’re the first nation, I suppose, in modern times, to make ideology the basis of our existence.” In your view, does the Bill of Rights fill that role? Explain your answer.

Historian Pauline Maier states in the closing minutes of Episode 6 that, “I think it’s one of the greatest ironies of human history that the American Revolution is sometimes considered no revolution at all. That honor goes to others -- the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution -- revolutions that fail to realize their promise of liberty, revolutions that ultimately failed. Our revolution, I think, is underestimated mainly because it succeeded.” Do you agree with this assessment? Explain your answer.