

Name: _____

date: _____

Period: _____

NJ vs VA Plan

Directions: Read the article and answer the questions.

Articles of Confederation

The first Constitution was called the Articles of Confederation, which was ratified in 1781. The Articles of Confederation had issues, however. The main issue was that the government had no money or way to get money under the Articles. The army wasn't being paid and was deserting. Debts to foreign countries weren't being paid. The government became too weak and a new constitution was needed.

1. Define ratified:
2. When was the Articles of Confederation passed?
3. Name three problems with the Articles of Confederation?

Constitutional Convention

In May of 1787 the Constitutional Convention gathered to discuss changes to the Articles of the Confederation. After some debate it became apparent to the representatives that a new Constitution was needed. A lot of the debate was held in secret so that the delegates would feel free to speak their minds.

A primary aim of the Constitution was to create a government that would be powerful enough to run the country, but would not impose on people's or state's rights. To avoid too much power being held by one person or group, they created the Balance of Power between the three branches of government: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

4. What was the main goal of the Constitution?

5. The three branches of the government are?

Excerpt from New York Times Article: "Suffrage Wins in Senate; Now Goes to States"

Thursday, June 5, 1919

WASHINGTON, June 4 - After a long and persistent fight advocates of woman suffrage won a victory in the Senate today when that body, by a vote of 56 to 25, adopted the Susan Anthony amendment to the Constitution. The suffrage supporters had two more than the necessary two-thirds vote of Senators present. Had all the Senators known to be in favor of suffrage been present the amendment would have had 66 votes, or two more than a two-thirds vote of the entire Senate.

The amendment, having already been passed by the House, where the vote was 304 to 89, now goes to the States for ratification, where it will be passed upon in the form in which it has been adopted by Congress, as follows:

"Article-, Section 1. - The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Section 2. - Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article."

Leaders of the National Woman's Party announced tonight that they would at once embark upon a campaign to obtain ratification of the amendment by the necessary three-fourths of the States so that women might have the vote in the next Presidential election. To achieve this ratification it will be necessary to hold special sessions of some Legislatures which otherwise would not convene until after the Presidential election in 1920. Miss Alice Paul, Chairman of the Woman's Party, predicted that the campaign for ratification would succeed and that women would vote for the next President.

Suffragists thronged the Senate galleries in anticipation of the final vote, and when the outcome was announced by President Pro Tem. Cummins they broke into deafening applause. For two minutes the demonstration went on, Senator Cummins making no effort to check it.

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1. At the time this article was written, the amendment had passed first in the _____ and then in the Senate. It was then being sent to the _____ for ratification.

- A House; States
- B United States; Constitution
- C States; House
- D House; President

2. Paragraph 4 begins with the sentence, "Leaders of the National Woman's Party announced tonight..." What does paragraph 4 describe?

- A the back-up plan the National Woman's Party has prepared in the event the amendment does not get ratified by the states
- B the tactics the leaders of the National Woman's Party will use in their campaign to obtain ratification of the amendment
- C the schedule of state legislatures when special sessions are held
- D next steps to be taken for ratification of the amendment at the state level

3. Read the sentence:

"To achieve this ratification it will be necessary to hold special sessions of some Legislatures which otherwise would not convene until after the Presidential election in 1920."

Another way to state this information would be:

- A The ratification will be extremely difficult to achieve; so, the Women's Party will have to hold special sessions to convince the Legislatures.
- B Some state legislatures will have to meet again, before they had planned, to ratify the amendment.
- C State legislatures will probably not meet again to ratify the amendment until after the Presidential election in 1920.
- D To achieve ratification, it will be necessary to hold special sessions of some Legislatures which otherwise would never have considered the amendment.

4. Read the sentence: "Leaders of the National Woman's Party announced tonight that they would at once embark upon a campaign to obtain ratification of the amendment by the necessary three-fourths of the States so that women might have the vote in the next Presidential election."

What does **embark** mean in this sentence?

- A embark (*verb*): to board a vessel or aircraft
- B embark (*verb*): to set out, to start
- C embark (*verb*): to invest money in a business
- D embark (*verb*): to involve someone in a business

5. What is the main idea of this excerpt from this *New York Times* article?

- A The amendment giving women the right to vote has passed the Senate and now will go to the states for ratification.
- B Women deserve the right to vote, as granted by the Constitution and their human rights.
- C The National Woman's Party predicts that women will have the vote by the next Presidential election in 1920.
- D The House and Senate generally agree on passing amendments to the Constitution, as evidenced in the passage of this amendment.

6. What happened when President Pro Tem. Cummins announced the outcome of the vote?

7. What evidence can be used to make the inference: "The amendment was popular among lawmakers in the House and Senate." Identify at least two pieces of evidence.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Suffragists had already gathered in the Senate galleries _____ the announcement of the vote's outcome.

- A prior to
- B after
- C during
- D initially

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Advocates of women’s suffrage won a victory on June 5, 1919 because the Senate, by a vote of 56 to 25, adopted the Susan Anthony amendment to the Constitution on that day.

Who? advocates of women’s suffrage

(did) What? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

10. Vocabulary Word: advocate (noun): supporter, or someone who speaks in favor of a particular belief or set of interests.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____
