

**Launching the New Nation
Evidence Packet**

Evidence 1 – Preamble to the Constitution of the United States

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Evidence 2 – Bill of Rights

**The Bill of Rights
The First 10 Amendments to the
Constitution as Ratified by the States
December 15, 1791**

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Evidence 3 – Choices for the Presidential Cabinet

Who would you choose for the following positions in your presidential cabinet and why?

Secretary of the Treasury –

Secretary of State –

Secretary of War –

Attorney General –

Options:

Thomas Jefferson – Jefferson is a Virginian and representative in the Second Continental Congress. He was the author of the *Declaration of Independence* and the author of the French *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen* (the French Revolutionary declaration of independence from the unfair social and political system of France). He has also served as a diplomat to France.

John Hancock – Hancock is the wealthiest man in North America. Made much of his wealth through illegal trade before the American Revolution. Helped fund much of the American Revolution and War for Independence. Served as a representative in the Continental Congress. He is currently the governor of Massachusetts.

James Madison – Madison is known as the Father of the Constitution, for he was responsible for writing much of it. Further, with John Jay and Alexander Hamilton, he was one of the authors of the Federalist Papers that helped persuade the states to accept the new Constitution. He was responsible for drafting the Bill of Rights that were added to the Constitution in 1791.

Alexander Hamilton – Hamilton fought in the Revolutionary War. He has become a financial expert and a major proponent of the capitalist economic system. He was a huge proponent for the US Constitution. He, along with John Jay and James Madison, wrote the Federalist Papers in an effort to secure support for the document.

Gouverneur Morris – Morris was an accomplished statesman that ushered in the idea of a person being a citizen of the union, not the individual states. He was part of the Second Continental Congress and as such helped provide legislative leadership to back up George Washington in his fight against the British. He signed the Articles of Confederation. He is credited with writing parts of the Constitution including possibly its preamble.

Edmund Randolph – Randolph was trained as a lawyer and served as General Washington's aid during the Revolutionary War. He has risen quickly in politics, first being elected as the Mayor of Williamsburg, Virginia, then he served as the Virginia attorney general, and in 1786 he was elected the Governor of Virginia. He presented the Virginia Plan for creating a new government. This plan proposed a strong central government composed of three branches, legislative, executive, and judicial, and enabled the legislative to veto state laws and use force against states that failed to fulfill their duties. After many debates and revisions, including striking the section permitting force against a state, the Virginia Plan became in large part the basis of the Constitution.

Patrick Henry – He was a radical revolutionary who was unafraid to speak up against Great Britain at an early date. He is most famous for his speech which includes the line, "Give me liberty or give me death." He was a Governor of Virginia during the Revolution. He also helped fight for the addition of the Bill of Rights to the US Constitution, a document with which he disagreed because of its strong federal powers.

Henry Knox – Previously a bookstore owner, Knox joined the Continental Army at age 21 and later served under General George Washington in the American Revolutionary War. Knox served in some of the most important battles of the Revolutionary War, and at Valley Forge, Knox was invaluable in organizing and erecting forts to safeguard the winter encampment from British attack. He is currently serving as a Major General in the United States Continental Army.

Evidence 4 - JEFFERSON/HAMILTON VIEWPOINTS

JEFFERSON

HAMILTON

On Who Should Govern

Had deep faith in the common people especially farmers

Believed that the common people often acted foolishly

Distrusted special privilege

Thought that the rich, educated and wellborn were the people who should rule

Wished to lower voting qualifications

Wanted to raise voting qualifications

On the Structure of Government

Favored a weak central government, strong state governments

Favored a strong central government

Preferred a more democratic government

Thought that the American government should be modeled on the British system

Wanted to reduce the number of federal employees

Wanted to increase the number of federal employees

Favored a strict interpretation of the Constitution

Supported a loose interpretation of the Constitution

Believed that individual liberties must be protected by laws

Thought that individual liberties, such as freedom of speech, should be sometimes restricted

On Economics

Thought that agriculture should be the backbone of the nation

Wanted a balanced economy of agriculture, trade, finance, and manufacturing

Did not support giving government aid to trade, finance, and manufacturing

Favored giving government aid to trade, finance, and manufacturing

Opposed the establishment of a national bank

Established a national bank

Wanted to eliminate internal taxes

Wanted to maintain internal taxes

Wanted to pay off the national debt

Wanted to use the national debt to establish credit

On Foreign Policy

Believed that America was obligated to help France

Supported Britain, the parent country

Jeffersonians (Democratic-Republican Party)

Hamiltonians (Federalist Party)

Made up of artisans, shopkeepers, frontier settlers, and small farmers

Consisted of bankers, manufacturers, merchants, professional people, and wealthy farmers

Was strongest in the South, in the Southwest, and on the frontier

Had the most support in New England and along the Atlantic coast