

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

How much do you know about the American Constitution?

Examine the following questions and see how much you know about our Constitution, its making and its purpose.

- 1) Constitution Day is celebrated on 17 September of each year. What does this anniversary represent in the development of the Constitution?
- 2) Who is known as “the father of the Constitution” and why?
- 3) How many delegates to the Constitutional Convention actually signed the document to illustrate their ratification of it?
- 4) When the Constitution was presented to the various state conventions for ratification, what was the principle challenge to getting their approval?
- 5) How many times does the word “democracy” appear in the Constitution?
- 6) What state did not have a single delegate at the Constitutional Convention but later adopted the Constitution in 1790?
- 7) How many Constitutions has American had and what was America’s first constitution called?

- 8) According to James Madison, from whose diary we learn much of what transpired at the Constitutional Convention, what was the single most important reason that the delegates were able to come to the agreements needed to adopt the Constitution?

- 9) Who were the only two Presidents of the United States to have signed the Constitution?

- 10) How many days did it take the Constitutional Convention delegates to “frame” the Constitution?

Answers

- (1) The day the “framers” signed the document; (2) James Madison, because he brought with him his writings on the subject (the Virginia Plan) which became the ‘blueprint’ for the Constitution (he set the table for discussion); (3) 39; (4) the lack of any focus on individual freedoms of American citizens – this resulted in the creation of the first 10 amendments, our Bill of Rights; (5) zero; (6) Rhode Island; (7) Two, The Articles of Confederation; (8) The convention was held in secret; each day the doors were locked and the delegates worked in private; (9) George Washington and James Madison; (10) 100 is the number usually given.