***The United States Constitution*,** written by Kristal Leebrick

**Read pp. 3-23**

*debtor* **sovereign**

*secrecy* **convention**

**delegates**

1. Why weren’t *The Articles of Confederation* enough to run the new country?
2. What had James Madison done that earned him the title “Father of the Constitution”?
3. Why is the three branch system known as “The Virginia Plan”?
4. What is the Three-Fifths Compromise?

Would the compromise be considered “fair” today? Why/why not?

Why was it important back then?

***C:\Documents and Settings\sandrews\My Documents\My Pictures\Microsoft Clip Organizer\j0250592.wmfThe United States Constitution*,** written by Kristal Leebrick

**Read pp. 24-43**

*majority* **ratify**

*proposals* **amendment**

1. Why did the author include p. 29?
2. Why is Chapter 5 entitled “Selling the Constitution”?
3. It is hard for us to imagine life without The Constitution now. Why were many people against ratification back then?

How was this eventually resolved?

1. According to p. 40, other countries have used our Constitution as a guide to write their own. Why would they want to do this?

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**Guided Reading Introductions**

pp. 3-23 **Predict/Locate**—*debtor* (p. 9); *secrecy* (p. 15)

**Vocabulary**—*sovereign* (p. 4)-self-governing

*convention* (p. 11)-a large group of people coming together with a

common goal or interest

*delegates* (p. 12)-those who represent others in making

decisions (especially in governmental decisions)

**Text Structure**—use of parentheses to support reader’s inference (p. 15)

**Text Feature**—*sidebars*—offers explanation or additional information that helps

the reader even though it does not belong with the main text.

*paintings*—this is a non-fiction text but paintings and drawing are

used because the Constitution was written before photography

*map* (p. 20)—to help readers remember the size of the United States

*portraits* (p. 11 and 13)—so reader can visualize each man

Question Answers:

1. The Articles did not provide any power for the federal government. There were no taxes to pay war debts of the government, there was no common monetary system across states, no trade agreements could be made at the federal level, and no military forces were provided.
2. J. Madison had studied the governments of ancient Greece and Rome which were the earliest democracies. He wrote the proposal for the three branch system, better known as The Virginia Plan. He took lots of detailed notes throughout the convention.
3. James Madison wrote the plan but it was presented by Edmund Randolph of Virginia.
4. The 3/5 Compromise allowed for compromise on counting people in each state to determine the number of representatives to be elected per state.

\*It would not be considered “Fair” today because Americans have learned that slavery is immoral and is now illegal.

\*\*If they had not reached the 3/5 Compromise, the Constitution would not have been ratified by a large group of states—either the South, or the North, depending on how the slaves were recognized in the population count.

pp. 24-43 **Predict/Locate**—majority (p. 28); proposals (p. 36)

**Vocabulary**—*ratify* (p. 32)—to make something (a law or document) official

*amendment* (p. 36)—to make a change (especially to The

Constitution)

**Text Structure**—“second thoughts” (p. 24)

“taken for granted” (p. 26)

**Text Feature**—*timeline* (p. 42)

**Question Answers:**

1. The Summary helps readers understand the “Bill of Rights”.
2. Delegates had to go back to their individual states and share the proposed Constitution and convince people to support the ratification efforts.
3. The original Constitution did not contain “The Bill of Rights” and citizens feared they would lose their individual rights. The first 10 amendments are “The Bill of Rights”.
4. Other countries hope to have a democracy that is as successful as ours has been for over 200 years.