## A More Perfect Union ...

Mr. Spears

U.S. Government

- 1. How much time (years) elapsed between the announcement of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and the writing of the Constitution (1787)
- 2. Who were some delegates who did not sign the finished document on Monday, September 17, 1787, because it lacked a Bill of Rights? (Lesson 11)
- 3. What was the exact day, month, and year that the Constitution was signed by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention?
- 4. Who made the following statement in his Notes on the State of Virginia in 1781: "Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone. The people themselves, therefore, are its only safe depositories."
- 5. Between July 10 and July 16 over sixty ballots were cast in the Convention to determine what issue?
- 6. How much access did the public have to the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention? Explain why?
- 7. What level of government should have the exclusive power to deal with foreign nations? (State Governments or the Federal Government)
- 8. What item(s) do Americans call "the supreme law of the land"? (See Article VI)
- 9. Can the Congress propose new amendments to the Constitution? What are the 2 methods for proposing an amendment? Ratification? (See Article V of Constitution) PROPOSE: (Federal Level) requires a "super majority" or 2/3 vote

1)

2)

**RATIFY:** (State Level) requires a "super super majority" or 3/4 vote

1)

**2**)

- 10. When Hamilton, Madison, and Jay wrote The Federalist Papers, they all used the same pen name. What was it? What does it mean?
- 11. The electoral system was deliberately set up to slightly favor the small states. How does it favor them?

**CA 37,253,956 population** (55 Electoral Votes) 1:677,345 (3 Electoral Votes) 1:181,667

## WY 545,000

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- 12. Which delegate to the Convention took copious notes on everything that was said? These notes were kept secret for 30 years, but they were finally published by an act of Congress in 1843. They constitute the most authoritative record available on the Convention.
- 13. The Virginia Plan called for power to tax, to regulate money, to conduct foreign affairs, and to regulate commerce. Who was the architect behind the Virginia Plan?
- 14. Who made the following statement while trying to persuade his colleagues from Virginia to oppose the proposed Constitution: "As much as I value a union of all the states, I would not admit the Southern states into the Union, unless they agreed to the discontinuance of this disgraceful (slave) trade"?
- 15. Who served as the chairman of the Committee of the Whole at the Constitutional Convention?
- 16. What were the exact day, month, and year that the Constitutional Convention convened (began)?
- 17. Who was unanimously elected as president of the Constitutional Convention?
- 18. What were the exact day, month, and year that the Congress, by joint resolution, requested that the President proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week"?
- 19. Thomas Jefferson, appointed ambassador to the French court in 1785, kept which young scholar-statesman well supplied with appropriate books from European publishers before and during the Constitutional Convention?
- 20. Who was America's ambassador to England during the Constitutional Convention time period?
- 21. The delegates to the Constitutional Convention believed that they had met to \_\_\_\_\_ the Articles of Confederation.
- 22. What does the Latin phrase *Cui Bono* mean?
- 23. What did Dr. Franklin say that at long last he was happy to say the artist had depicted on the back of George Washington's chair?
- 24. According to the rules of the convention, how many delegates must a state have within the city limits to cast a vote?

- 25. The final vote was 11-0 in favor of making the Constitution the ruling document of the U.S. What 2 states did not cast a vote for or against? Explain why for each.
- 26. James Madison commented that the Constitution created both a nation of united people and a nation of separate states. What fictional animal did he refer to when making this comment about creating a new type of government he had not considered?