**Section 4 – Constitutional Convention**

1. New Constitution

* **May 1787 –**
* **Constitutional Convention –**
* One of the most important events in world history because of the model it establishes
* Going from no written constitutions in the world to many
* Constitution created is the oldest written constitution still in effect in the world

B. Organization

* **55 Delegates** –
* **George Washington –**
* Spoke little but his presence helped make the convention successful
* Convention was held in secret to allow the free exchange of ideas – Nailed windows shut

C. Father of the Constitution

* No stenographer was hired
* **James Madison –**
* Major source of information on the events of the convention - by no means complete

D. Major Compromises

* Major disagreement arose over the question of representation in the new government
* **Virginia Plan –**
* Introduced by Edmond Randolph
* Favored large states
* Representation would be based on the size of a state’s population
* Wanted national sovereignty to replace state sovereignty
* **New Jersey Plan –** William Patterson
* Favored small states
* Each state was given equal representation
* **Results in bickering, name-calling, wig-pulling, and almost a full stop of the convention**

E. Great Compromise

* **Connecticut Compromise –** Roger Sherman
* Created a two house lawmaking body called Congress
* **Senate** –
* **House of Representative –**
* F. Slavery Compromises
* **Commerce and Slave Trade** –
* Congress could not interfere with the slave trade for 20 years (1808)
* Fugitive slave clause
* **Three-Fifths Compromise**
* Proposed by James Madison
* Decided the question of how slaves would be counted for representation
* Counted each slave as 3/5th of a person
* Victory for the South because white men would be overrepresented there
* **“Great as the evil is, a dismemberment of the union would be worse” – James Madison**

G. Approving the Constitution

* Needed 9 states to approve the Constitution
* **Federalist –**
* Favored a strong central government
* Believe the Articles were too weak to keep the states unified
* **Anti-Federalist –**
* Feared strong central governments
* Believed Constitution would fail to protect individual rights
* Called for a bill of rights

H. Constitution is Ratified

* **Federalist Papers –**
* 85 Essays
* Written by Alexander Hamilton (51), James Madison (29), and John Jay (5)
* Papers provide insight into the mindset of two of the most brilliant thinkers of the day
* Regarded as the authoritative documentation of "original intent"
* Reached compromise on adding a bill of rights
* Critiqued the Articles
* Explained how the new government would work
* **April 30, 1789 –**