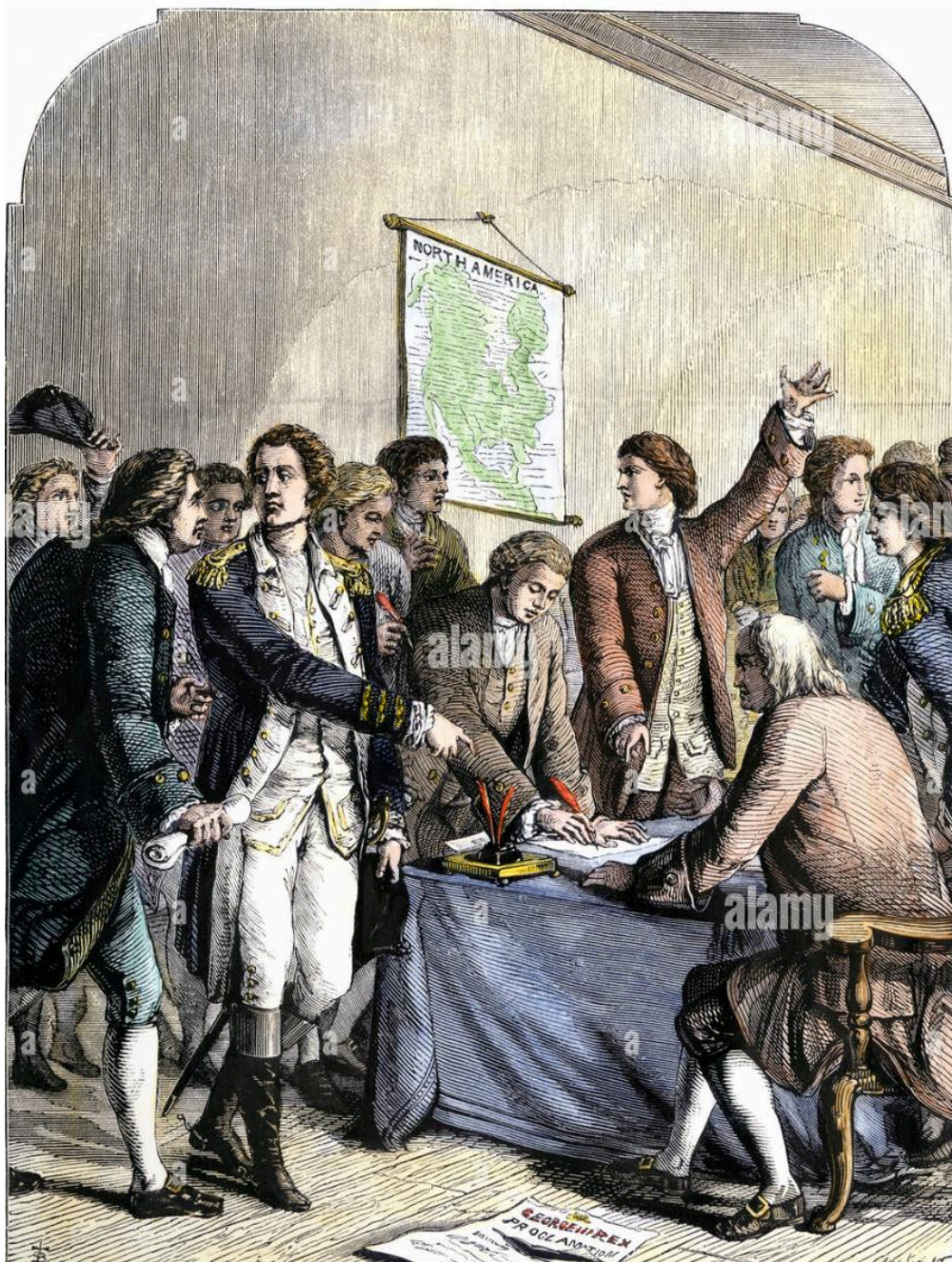


## English Reading Comprehension - "Founding Fathers and the American Constitution"



The Founding Fathers of the United States were a group of visionary leaders who played a crucial role in shaping the nation's history. Among their most significant achievements was the drafting and ratification of the American Constitution, a document that continues to serve as the foundation of the country's legal and political system.

The Constitution, adopted in 1787, established the framework for the federal government and outlined the rights and responsibilities of its citizens. It laid the groundwork for a system of

checks and balances, dividing governmental powers between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful.

One of the key figures in the drafting of the Constitution was James Madison, often referred to as the "Father of the Constitution." Madison played a central role in the Constitutional Convention, where delegates from the thirteen states came together to draft the document. His insights and contributions helped shape many of the Constitution's key provisions, including the separation of powers and the creation of a bicameral legislature.

Another influential figure was Alexander Hamilton, who championed the idea of a strong central government. Hamilton's advocacy for a national bank and a system of tariffs and taxes laid the groundwork for the economic policies that would shape the young nation's growth and development.

The Constitution has undergone numerous amendments since its adoption, reflecting the changing needs and values of American society. However, its core principles of democracy, liberty, and equality continue to guide the nation and inspire people around the world.

### **Vocabulary**

<https://quizlet.com/899550000/panna-the-founding-father-vocabulary-flash-cards/?i=eit6z&x=1jq>  
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### **Vocabulary Test:**

1. Visionary (adj.):
  - a) Skilled
  - b) Imaginative and forward-thinking
  - c) Traditional
  - d) Stubborn
  
2. Ratification (n.):
  - a) Rejection
  - b) Approval
  - c) Modification
  - d) Abolition
  
3. Framework (n.):
  - a) Foundation or structure
  - b) Barrier
  - c) Disorganization
  - d) Expansion

4. Checks and Balances (phrase):
  - a) A system of maintaining financial records
  - b) A method of ensuring equal distribution of resources
  - c) Mechanisms to prevent any one branch of government from becoming too powerful
  - d) An accounting procedure
  
5. Bicameral (adj.):
  - a) Composed of two houses or chambers
  - b) Single-chambered
  - c) Having three branches
  - d) Uniting two countries
  
6. Advocacy (n.):
  - a) Disapproval
  - b) Support or promotion of a cause
  - c) Silence
  - d) Indifference
  
7. Amendments (n.):
  - a) Alterations or changes made to a legal document
  - b) Additions of new clauses
  - c) Rejections of existing laws
  - d) Continuations of existing laws
  
8. Democracy (n.):
  - a) Rule by a single individual
  - b) Government by the people
  - c) Authoritarianism
  - d) Monarchy
  
9. Liberty (n.):
  - a) Freedom
  - b) Tyranny
  - c) Oppression
  - d) Dictatorship
  
10. Equality (n.):
  - a) Fairness and justice
  - b) Discrimination
  - c) Injustice
  - d) Unfairness
  
11. Convention (n.):
  - a) Traditional practice or custom

- b) Conference or gathering
- c) Unorthodox behavior
- d) Rebellion

12. Central (adj.):

- a) Peripheral
- b) Located in the middle
- c) Decentralized
- d) Marginal

13. Championed (v.):

- a) Supported or advocated strongly
- b) Fought against
- c) Criticized
- d) Ignored

14. Tariffs (n.):

- a) Taxes on imported goods
- b) Taxes on exported goods
- c) Subsidies
- d) Trade agreements

15. Inspire (v.):

- a) To discourage
- b) To stimulate or motivate
- c) To hinder
- d) To suppress

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**Answers:**

- 1. b) Imaginative and forward-thinking
- 2. b) Approval
- 3. a) Foundation or structure
- 4. c) Mechanisms to prevent any one branch of government from becoming too powerful
- 5. a) Composed of two houses or chambers
- 6. b) Support or promotion of a cause
- 7. a) Alterations or changes made to a legal document
- 8. b) Government by the people
- 9. a) Freedom
- 10. a) Fairness and justice
- 11. b) Conference or gathering
- 12. b) Located in the middle
- 13. a) Supported or advocated strongly

14. a) Taxes on imported goods
  15. b) To stimulate or motivate
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### Exercise

fill-in-the-blank

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ system in our country ensures that no single branch of government becomes too powerful.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the new law required the approval of the majority of the congress.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a meeting where people discuss important issues and make decisions.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ leader had many innovative ideas for improving the company.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of speech is a fundamental right in a democratic society.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the building provided a strong foundation for the construction.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ government system allows citizens to participate in decision-making.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ on imported goods aims to protect domestic industries.
9. The organization's \_\_\_\_\_ for human rights has gained widespread support.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the legislature were made to address the concerns raised by citizens.
11. The \_\_\_\_\_ between the two branches of government ensures a fair distribution of power.
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ location of the capital city makes it easily accessible from all parts of the country.
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the book inspired many young readers to pursue their dreams.
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ structure of the government includes a lower and upper house.
15. The principle of \_\_\_\_\_ ensures that everyone is treated equally under the law.

### Key

1. Checks and Balances - The phrase "prevents any one branch of government from becoming too powerful" matches the definition provided.

2. Ratification - The word "approval" fits the context of requiring the majority's agreement for a new law.
3. Convention - A "meeting where people discuss important issues and make decisions" describes a convention.
4. Visionary - A "leader with innovative ideas" is described as visionary.
5. Liberty - "Fundamental right in a democratic society" aligns with the concept of liberty.
6. Framework - The "foundation or structure" of a building relates to its framework.
7. Democracy - "Government system allowing citizen participation" refers to democracy.
8. Tariffs - Taxes on imported goods are commonly known as tariffs.
9. Advocacy - "Support for human rights" indicates advocacy.
10. Amendments - Changes made to a legal document, such as laws, are known as amendments.
11. Balance and Checks - The phrase "fair distribution of power" correlates with the concept of checks and balances.
12. Central - The term "easily accessible location" suggests centrality.
13. Inspire - The verb "encourage readers to pursue their dreams" indicates inspiration.
14. Bicameral - A "structure with a lower and upper house" refers to a bicameral system.
15. Equality - "Everyone treated equally under the law" signifies the principle of equality.

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### Writing Exercise

Write a short story using at least five of the vocabulary words provided. Your story should be a minimum of three paragraphs long and should showcase your understanding of the words in context.

Visionary	Imaginative and forward-thinking
Ratification	Approval
Framework	Foundation or structure
Checks and Balances	Mechanisms to prevent any one branch of government from becoming too powerful

Bicameral	Composed of two houses or chambers
Advocacy	Support or promotion of a cause
Amendments	Alterations or changes made to a legal document
Democracy	Government by the people
Liberty	Freedom
Equality	Fairness and justice
Convention	Conference or gathering
Central	Located in the middle
Championed	Supported or advocated strongly
Tariffs	Taxes on imported goods
Inspire	To stimulate or motivate

### **Imaginative Writing Exercise**

1. Prompt 1: Imagine a society where a visionary leader champions a new framework for democracy. Describe how this leader advocates for liberty and equality while navigating the challenges of checks and balances in the government system.
2. Prompt 2: Write a story set in a fictional country where amendments to the constitution are being debated. Explore how different groups advocate for their beliefs, and how the principles of democracy and equality influence the decision-making process.
3. Prompt 3: Create a narrative about a young protagonist who discovers a hidden convention where leaders gather to discuss the future of their nation. Explore the themes of freedom, inspiration, and the central role of checks and balances in maintaining a fair and just society.