

AP US Government & Politics
The Summer of 1787
Guided Reading Assignment
2023-2024 School Year
Leonardtown High School

Students are encouraged to obtain their own copy of the book, **The Summer of 1787**, by David O. Stewart, so that they can highlight the selections and quotes from the book needed to respond to the guided reading questions. Students who do not obtain their own copy of the book will have to write out the selections and quotes from the book needed to support their responses to the guided reading questions.

While reading, **identify quotes** that answer the discussion questions below. ***Note: Students must not simply answer these questions, but must be able to refer to quotes that respond to the following questions. Students will be expected to discuss their answers and provide supporting quotes during a series of teacher-led class discussions starting the 3rd week of class.***

All students will be required to participate in these teacher-led class discussions. Students will be graded on the quality of their contributions to these discussions. Again, students must be able to refer to specific quotes from the book during these discussions to get credit for their responses.

Discussion questions for pages ix-xi:

1. What kind of individuals attended the convention? ***Describe.***
2. Do you think the delegates were representative of the population of the US at the time? ***Explain.***
3. What kinds of divisions existed within the US during 1787? ***Describe.***
4. Do you think similar divisions still exist in the US? ***Explain.***

Discussion questions for Chapter One: "It Started at Mount Vernon"

1. Who met at Mount Vernon? ***Identify.***
2. When did they meet? ***Identify.***
3. Why did they meet? ***Explain.***
4. What did they decide? ***Describe.***
5. How is this related to the creation of the US Constitution? ***Explain.***

Discussion questions for Chapter Two: "Blood on the Snow"

1. What happened during the Winter of 1787? ***Describe.***
2. How is this related to the creation of the US Constitution? ***Explain.***

Discussion questions for Chapter Three: "A House on Fire"

1. What was going on in the US during the spring of 1787? ***Describe.***
2. How is this related to the creation of the US Constitution? ***Explain.***

Discussion questions for Chapter Four: "Demigods and Coxcombs Assemble"

1. ***Define*** "demigod".
2. ***Define*** "coxcomb".
3. ***Describe*** what James Madison did during the month of May 1787.
4. ***Explain*** why Madison's activities during this month were important to the creation of the US Constitution.
5. ***Describe*** what George Washington did during the month of May 1787.
6. ***Explain*** why Washington's activities during this month were important to the creation of the US Constitution.
7. ***Identify*** one of the delegates from Pennsylvania and ***describe*** their characteristics/background/ contributions to the creation of the US Constitution.
8. ***Identify*** one of the delegates from South Carolina and ***describe*** their characteristics/ background/ contributions to the creation of the US Constitution.

Discussion questions for Chapter Five: "Virginia Leads"

1. **Explain** why Madison's notes of the Convention are important.
2. **Describe** the concerns regarding Madison's notes.
3. **Identify** another delegate who took notes and **explain** why his notes are not considered to be as important as Madison's.
4. **Describe** the seating arrangements at the Convention and **explain** how it influenced the creation of the Constitution.
5. **Describe** how votes were taken at the Convention and **explain** how this influenced the creation of the Constitution.
6. **Describe** the rule regarding the "code of silence" adopted at the Convention and **explain** how it influenced the creation of the Constitution.
7. **Describe** the rule regarding reconsideration of decisions made by the delegates and **explain** how it influenced the creation of the Constitution.
8. **Identify** the delegate who presented the Virginia Plan to the convention delegates and **describe** his presentation.
9. **Describe** the layout (form) of the Virginia Plan.
10. **Describe** the proposals contained in the Virginia Plan.
11. **Describe** what happened to Charles Pinckney's plan.
12. **Describe** Nathaniel Gorham's reaction to Shays' Rebellion.
13. **Describe** the debate over the Virginia Plan's first resolution.
14. **Describe** the two provisions of the Virginia Plan that triggered the fiercest conflicts among the delegates and **explain** why they caused controversy.

Discussion questions for Chapter Six: "Wilson's Bargain"

1. **Describe** James Wilson's goals as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.
2. **Identify** the goal of the large states regarding representation in Congress and **explain** why they wanted it.
3. **Describe** how the Virginia Plan "mixed the issues of democracy and slavery".
4. **Describe** the proposal made on the last day of May to change the Virginia Plan as regards this issue.
5. **Describe** Elbridge Gerry's reaction to the May 31st motion.
6. **Describe** the method the delegates approved for how members of the House of Representatives would be chosen.
7. **Describe** the role that the delegates intended for the US Senate.
8. **Describe** the method the delegates approved for how members of the US Senate would be chosen and **explain** why that method was chosen.
9. **Describe** the arguments made by delegates from small states as to why each state should have the same number of votes in Congress.
10. **Describe** the arguments made by delegates from large states as to why the more populous states should have more votes in Congress.
11. **Describe** the primary goal of the southern delegates to the Constitutional Convention.
12. **Describe** the deal made between James Wilson of Pennsylvania and John Rutledge of South Carolina and **explain** why some people refer to it as an "unholy alliance" or "covenant with death".
13. **Identify** the phrase in the Virginia Plan that opened the door to discussions about slavery at the Convention.
14. **Identify** the number of slaves and where most of them lived in the US according to the census of 1790.
15. **Describe** what Madison did when his runaway slave Billey was returned to him in 1783.
16. **Identify** which states had banned slavery in 1787.
17. **Explain** why the delegates from the southern states insisted on including protections for slavery in the Constitution.
18. **Identify** the groups that petitioned the delegates to the Constitutional Convention to abolish the slave trade and **explain** what happened to these petitions.

Discussion questions for Chapter Seven: "Three-Fifths of a Human Being"

1. **Describe** the proposals made on June 11th by Sherman, Wilson, Rutledge and Franklin regarding how a state's representation in Congress should be determined.
2. **Describe** Franklin's remarks about why per-state voting had been adopted at the 1774 Continental Congress.
3. **Describe** the vote taken on Wilson's Resolution on representation in Congress.
4. **Describe** the alternative motion presented by Wilson and seconded by General Pinckney.
5. **Describe** Elbridge Gerry's response to Wilson's proposal.
6. **Describe** the vote on Wilson's proposal.
7. **Describe** the precedent for the 3/5ths ratio.
8. **Describe** Wilson's motion on representation in the Senate and the June 11th vote on that proposal.
9. **Describe** the role of the Virginia delegates in the 3/5ths compromise.
10. **Describe** the weather in Philadelphia during the summer of 1787 and its effects on the delegates.
11. **Describe** the Philadelphia social scene during the summer of 1787.
12. **Describe** the author's assessment of the southern delegates' accomplishments on June 11, 1787.

Discussion questions for Chapter Eight: "Fastina Lente"

1. **Define** "Fastina Lente".
2. **Explain** why George Mason said "Fastina Lente" could be the motto of the convention.
3. **Describe** the arguments presented by Madison and Wilson as to why the small states should not fear the large states.
4. **Describe** why delegates from the small states were not persuaded by these arguments.
5. **Describe** Alexander Hamilton's background.
6. **Describe** the plan that Hamilton proposed on June 18th.
7. **Describe** the delegates reaction to Hamilton's plan.
8. **Describe** the vote taken on June 19th regarding the Virginia Plan.
9. **Describe** Roger Sherman's background.
10. **Describe** Roger Sherman's political motto.
11. **Describe** the impact of the slow pace of the convention on the financial situations of many of the delegates.

Discussion questions for Chapter Nine: "To the Brink"

1. **Describe** the strategy small state delegates, like Luther Martin from Maryland, adopted to fight for equal voting in the Senate.
2. **Describe** what Madison said was the true cause of the stalemate between the large and small states.
3. **Describe** what Gunning Bedford of Delaware threatened small states would do rather than be "ruined" by the large state/slave state alliance.
4. **Describe** the delegates' reactions to Bedford's suggestion.
5. **Describe** the July 2nd vote on Ellsworth's motion calling for equal votes in the US Senate.
6. **Explain** why this vote was important.
7. **Describe** the first Committee of Eleven and explain its purpose.
8. **Describe** the compromise that the first Committee of Eleven accepted.
9. **Describe** the delegates' reaction to the Committee of Eleven's compromise proposal on July 5, 1787.

Discussion questions for Chapter Ten: "The Small States Win"

1. **Describe** the debate and vote that took place on July 12, 1787.
2. **Describe** the second motion made by Edmund Randolph on July 13, 1787.
3. **Describe** Gouverneur Morris' reaction to Randolph's second motion.
4. **Describe** the vote taken on Randolph's second motion.
5. **Describe** the vote taken on Franklin's compromise on July 16, 1787.
6. **Describe** how the author believes the small states prevailed at the Constitutional Convention.

Discussion questions for Chapter Eleven: “The Touch of a Feather”

1. **Describe** what was meant by “the West” in 1787.
2. **Describe** the fears that some of the delegates had regarding the West.
3. **Describe** Rufus King’s concerns regarding new states in the Northwest Territory.
4. **Describe** Nathaniel Gorham’s concerns about the West.
5. **Describe** Mason’s and Madison’s response to the concerns regarding the West.
6. **Identify** the group (institution) that created the “Northwest Ordinance.”
7. **Describe** Elbridge Gerry’s proposal to “contain the malignant influences of the West.”
8. **Describe** the vote on Gerry’s motion.

Discussion questions for Chapter Twelve: “The Ipswich Miracle”

1. **Identify** the institution that banned slavery in the Northwest Territory.

NOTE: Discussion questions for Chapter Thirteen will be addressed later with other Chapters dealing with the Presidency

Discussion questions for Chapter Fourteen: “Rutledge Hijacks the Constitution”

1. **Describe** the purpose of the Committee of Detail.
2. **Identify** the members and the chairman of the Committee of Detail.
3. **Describe** the provisions that the Committee of Detail added to their draft Constitution.
4. **Describe** how John Rutledge changed the powers of Congress from the original resolution approved by the delegates.
5. **Describe** James Wilson’s contributions to the draft Constitution created by the Committee of Detail.
6. **Describe** the 3 provisions added to their draft Constitution by the Committee of Detail to protect the interests of the southern delegates.

Discussion questions for Chapter Fifteen: “Back to Work”

1. **Explain** why the author refers to 4 members of the Committee of Detail as “sheepdogs” from this point forward.
2. **Explain** why Rutledge was opposed to giving the delegates a day off to read the Committee of Detail’s report?
3. **Describe** how the Rutledge Committee’s report differed from the Virginia Plan.
4. **Describe** how the delegates broke out of the cycle of endless reconsideration and delay.
5. **Describe** how committee members were chosen at the Convention.
6. **Describe** the reaction of the Maryland delegates to the Committee of Detail’s report.
7. **Describe** the only concrete contribution made by the Maryland delegation to the Constitution.
8. **Describe** Gouverneur Morris’ reasoning for limiting voting rights to landowners.
9. **Describe** the arguments regarding residency requirements for the House and the Senate.
10. **Describe** what happened to Madison’s proposal that Congress have the power to veto state laws.
11. **Describe** Mason’s argument for why the House of Representatives should be in control of money matters.

Discussion questions for Chapter Sixteen: “The Curse of Heaven”

1. **Describe** what Gouverneur Morris of Pennsylvania said about slavery and the 3/5ths compromise at the Convention on August 8, 1787
2. **Explain** why it was easier for the delegates to attack the slave trade than slavery.
3. **Describe** General Pinckney’s defense of slavery made at the Convention on August 8, 1787.
4. **Describe** what Luther Martin said about slavery on August 21, 1787 at the Convention.
5. **Describe** what George Mason of Virginia said about slavery on August 22, 1787 at the Convention.
6. **Describe** what many of the delegates went to see on the Delaware River after the Convention ended on August 22, 1787.

7. **Describe** what Governor William Livingston of New Jersey wrote about slavery in 1786.
8. **Describe** the proposals made by the Livingston Committee regarding slavery on August 24, 1787.
9. **Describe** the “fugitive slave clause” proposed by General Pinckney and Major Butler on August 28, 1787 at the Convention.
10. **Describe** what General Pinckney said about the protections for slavery that the southern delegates secured.
11. **Describe** the consequences of the Constitution’s slavery provisions.

NOTE: Discussion questions for Chapter Seventeen will be addressed later with other Chapters dealing with the Presidency

Discussion questions for Chapter Eighteen: “The Loyal Opposition”

1. **Describe** what George Mason said on August 31, 1787 that he would do rather than sign the current draft of the Constitution?
2. **Identify** the 3 delegates who on August 31, 1787 raised objections to the Constitution as written at the Convention and **explain why** their concerns were considered serious.
3. **Identify** what George Mason proposed on September 12, 1787, be added to the Constitution.
4. **Describe** the reasons why Mason’s proposal was rejected by the state delegations.
5. **Describe** Charles Pinckney’s reasons for rejecting a Bill of Rights.

Discussion questions for Chapter Nineteen: “With All Its Faults”

1. **Identify** the four delegates appointed to the Committee of Style.
2. **Describe** the goal of the Committee of Style.
3. **Describe** what George Washington did while waiting for the Committee of Style to complete their work.
4. **Identify** the delegate who wrote the final draft of the Constitution and **describe** the reasons why he was chosen.
5. **Describe** the changes made to the wording of the preamble of the Constitution and **explain why** they are considered important.
6. **Identify** the delegates that the author argues contributed the most to the creation of the Constitution.
7. **Describe** the author’s view on the contributions of George Washington and Ben Franklin to the creation of the Constitution.
8. **Describe** the statement that appears above the signatures on the Constitution and explain why it is important.
9. **Identify** the 3 “dissident” delegates who refused to sign the Constitution even though they were present at the Convention on September 17, 1787.

Discussion questions for Chapter Thirteen: “The Presidential Muddle”

1. **Describe** the method for selecting the president contained in the Virginia Plan.
2. **Explain** why many of the delegates were hesitant to debate matters of the presidency.
3. **Describe** the type of presidency most delegates wanted to create.
4. **Describe** Gouverneur Morris’ proposal for how the president should be chosen and his objections to having Congress select the president.
5. **Describe** George Mason’s objections to Gouverneur Morris’ proposal.
6. **Describe** James Wilson’s proposal for electing the president.
7. **Describe** the presidential electoral system that the delegates voted to approve.
8. **Describe** Wilson’s reaction to that vote.
9. Describe the proposals made by other delegates for electing the president
10. Describe the objections to these various proposals.

Discussion questions for Chapter Seventeen: “David Brearley’s Presidency”

1. **Describe** David Brearley.
2. **Describe** the method that the delegates ultimately decide upon to select the president.
3. **Describe** how this method was designed to appeal to most of the delegates.
4. **Describe** the concerns some delegates had regarding this method.
5. **Describe** how the presidential election process changed to address this concern.
6. Describe David Brearley’s role in creating the presidential electoral system.

Discussion questions for Appendix 2: “The Constitution of 1787”

Article II, Clauses 2 and 3 of the original US Constitution (pgs. 276-277):

1. How are the presidential electors selected?
2. How many electors does each state get to appoint?
3. Who can be a presidential elector?
4. Where do the presidential electors vote?
5. Whom do they vote for?
6. Can they vote for anyone they choose?
7. What must the presidential electors do after voting?
8. How is the winner determined?
9. What happened if there was a tie vote?
10. What happened if none of the candidates had a majority?
11. How was the vote taken in the House when they chose the president?
12. How many members of the House must be present for the vote to take place?
13. How is the winner determined when the House votes for president?
14. How was the vice-president determined when the House voted?
15. Who decides when the electors are chosen and when the electors vote?
16. Can the electors from different states vote on different days?

Discussion questions for Appendix I: The Elector System (pgs. 265-267)

1. **Describe** the flaws that remain in the presidential electoral system despite the 12th amendment fixes?
2. **Explain** why the delegates adopted the elector system in 1787?

Discussion questions for Chapter Twenty: “Happiness, Perpetual and Otherwise”

1. **Describe** the reactions of the states to the Constitution written at the Convention of 1787.
2. **Describe** the parade that was held in Philadelphia to celebrate the ratification of the Constitution.
3. **Describe** the speech that James Wilson made at this celebration.
4. **Identify** the 2 Convention delegates that subsequently were killed in duels.
5. **Describe** what happened to Convention delegate George Wythe in 1806.
6. **Describe** what happened to Convention delegate William Blount in 1797.
7. **Describe** what happened to Convention delegate John Rutledge in 1795.
8. **Describe** what happened to Convention delegate James Wilson in 1797.
9. **Describe** what happened to George Washington’s slaves after his death.

Discussion questions for Chapter Twenty-one: “Making Amends”

1. **Identify** how many times the Constitution was amended in the first 15 years after its ratification.
2. **Describe** the problems with the presidential electoral system created by the Constitution.
3. **Describe** how the 12th amendment addressed these problems.
4. **Describe** the political consequences of the 3/5ths clause.
5. **Describe** the arguments that compromises over slavery were necessary.
6. **Describe** the arguments that the northern delegates caved in too easily to the demands of the southern delegates.
7. **Identify** when the 27th amendment to the Constitution was approved by Congress and when it was ratified by the states.