

USING VISUAL CUES Cut out the flash cards below and study the vocabulary words for this section.

**Constitutional
Convention**

proper noun

a meeting held to improve the Articles of Confederation, during which a new Constitution was written

delegate

noun

a state representative who speaks about issues

**James
Madison**

proper noun

a Virginia delegate who attended the Constitutional Convention

Virginia Plan

proper noun

a plan presented by Virginia delegate Edmund Randolph that would give supreme power to the central government

New Jersey Plan

proper noun

a plan presented by New Jersey delegate William Paterson that would give each state an equal number of votes in government

Great Compromise

proper noun

a compromise (agreement) presented by Connecticut delegate Roger Sherman that created a two-house legislature

Three-Fifths
Compromise

proper noun

a compromise (agreement) that allowed each slave to be counted as three-fifths of a person when determining population

popular
sovereignty

noun

the idea that political authority belongs to the people (population)

federalism

noun

the sharing of power between a central (federal) government and the states

legislative
branch

noun

branch of government that produces and passes legislation (laws); also called Congress

executive
branch

noun

the branch of government, including the president, that makes sure laws are carried out

judicial
branch

noun

the branch of government that interprets (explains) laws, punishes criminals, and settles arguments between states

**checks and
balances**

noun

a system which keeps
the branches of
government in check
(control) by not
allowing any branch to
have too much power