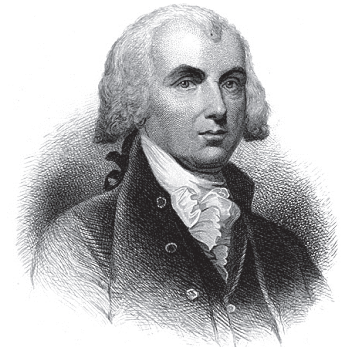


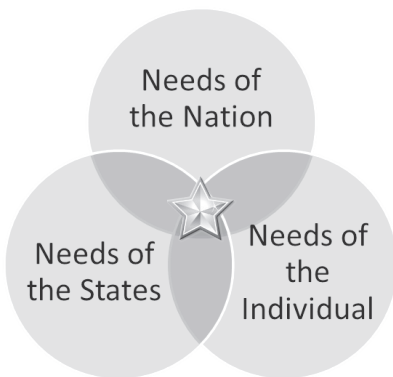
James Madison

Name: _____

James Madison was born in 1751 on his family's Virginia plantation. He served for 41 years as a politician, writing a constitution for Virginia and playing a large role in setting up the U.S. government. He would eventually become the 4th president of the United States. After the American Revolution, there was a lot of disagreement between those who wanted a strong national government and those who wanted to give more power to the states. Madison saw the advantage of having both, and he found a way to balance both state and national power.



Preparing a Plan



James Madison did such a good job writing the Virginia Constitution that he was asked to help write a constitution for the whole country. He took his job at the Constitutional Convention very seriously! Before the convention started, he studied why earlier attempts to build a representative democracy had failed. He didn't have to go far. The *Articles of Confederation*, the country's first attempt at democracy, was not working very well. It gave too much power to the states and not enough power to the national government. Madison knew they needed a way to balance the needs of individuals, the states, and the nation all at the same time.

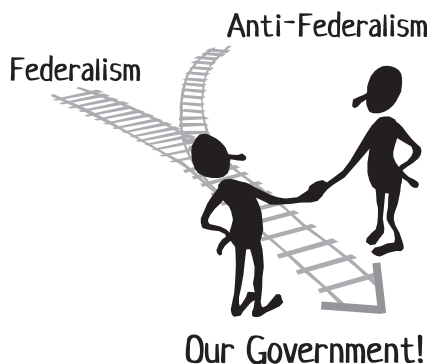
Taking Action

Madison came up with an idea, which he wrote in the *Virginia Plan*. He argued for a **federalist** government — a strong national government that would rule over less powerful state governments. Madison convinced the others at the Convention to follow his plan when writing the Constitution. But afterward, they still needed to get the public's support for the new Constitution and the federalist government. Madison helped write the *Federalist Papers*, which explained why the government created by the Constitution would work well and why people should support it.

The Federalist Requests

- A union to tie states together
- Separation of powers
- Checks and balances
- Representatives chosen by the people

Facing Opposition



But not everyone did support the new Constitution. Many people resisted the idea of a strong federal government. **Anti-Federalists** worried that the new government would ignore the rights of individuals and the states. Madison was friends with anti-federalist Thomas Jefferson, who helped him see the anti-federalist point of view. When Madison became a representative in Congress, he wrote the *Bill of Rights* — a set of ten amendments to the Constitution that guarantee the government will protect individual and state rights. The Bill of Rights was a compromise that made it easier for both Federalists and Anti-Federalists to support the new Constitution and government.

Father of Balance

James Madison practiced the fine art of balancing the needs of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists. He was a prime architect in the creation of a strong national government. He also fought for the addition of a federal bill of rights. This made it easier for the citizens of this budding nation to trust their new national government.