Chapter 7 Section 2
Constitutional Convention

Objectives:
1) Name the reason there was a need for a new constitution and the rebellion that showed it was needed
2) Name two reasons that Constitutional Convention was held in secret
3) Name the three parts of the Virginia Plan and how was the legislature going to be structured
4) Name the three parts of the New Jersey Plan and how was the legislature going to be structured
5) Name the parts used from the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan in the Great Compromise
6) Give the importance of the 3/5 compromise

VI. The need for a new Constitution
A. The nation was in danger of destroying itself
   1. States were ready to go to war with each other
   2. People felt they were loyal to their state and not the country
B. Shays rebellion
   1. The country went into an economic depression
   2. The worst hit were the farmers
      a. During the revolution most allowed the national government to borrow equipment and money
      b. Could not pay back loans
      c. Massachusetts raises taxes
      d. Farmers can not pay
   3. One farmer Daniel Shay raises an army and attacks the courthouse and tries to burn it down and get guns
   4. Massachusetts raises an army and puts down the rebellion
   5. This worries most Americans and they want to reform the Articles of Confederation
B. A Convention was called in Philadelphia
   1. Leaders at the convention
      a. Ben Franklin was invited because he was well respected
      b. George Washington was respected and was elected president of the convention
         1) Many considered the most important
         2) Was the former general of the army
         3) Demanded a great deal of respect with his presence
      c. James Madison
         1) Came with a great deal of research
         2) Was the unofficial secretary
   2. The only state not to attend was Rhode Island
C. There was a need for secrecy
   1. This would allow members to speak their minds
      a. While debating you may agree with someone else
      b. IF you go public with ANYTHING you can not take it back
VII. The different plans at the Convention
   A. The first plan was to only change the Articles
   B. As the convention went on the delegates knew that they needed a new constitution
   C. Different ideas have shaped our current Constitution
      1. Virginia Plan
         a. Structure
            1) There would be a legislature
               a) It would pass laws
               b) Be bicameral
               c) Each state would have representatives in proportion to population
               d) Large states liked it. Why?
               e) Small states hated it. Why?
      2) Executive would enforce laws
      3) Judicial would decide if laws were fair
   2. New Jersey Plan
      a. Called for the same 3 branches but would have a unicameral legislature
      b. Each state would have equal representation
   3. The delegates decided to take a little of each and came up with the Great Compromise
      a. The legislature would be bicameral
         1) The lower house would be called the House of Representatives
            a) Each state would gain a number of representatives based on population
            b) Larger states favored or disliked this portion of the compromise
         2) The upper house would be called the Senate
            a) Each state would have 2 Senators
            b) Small states favored or disliked this portion of the compromise
   4. The final item to be discussed was on slavery and would be called the 3/5 compromise
      a. Was important because the southern states wanted slaves
         1) The south wanted each slave to be counted as part of its population
         2) This would give the south more representatives in the
         3) The North thought this was unfair since slaves can’t vote
         4) The two sides agreed to allow every 5 slaves to count as 3 whites
         5) The last part of this agreement stated that slavery would be left alone for 20 years
   D. For the Constitution to replace the Articles of Confederacy 9 states would have to accept it.