



Federalists and Anti-Federalists

The Federalists MS A1

Grades 6-8

United States History

Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. identify the main Federalist and anti-federalist leaders.
2. identify and explain the differences between the Federalists and the anti-federalists
3. explain the purposes Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison had in writing the Federalist.
4. analyze a federalist primary source excerpt (from "Federalist No. 15")
5. evaluate Hamilton's criticisms of the government under the Articles of Confederation.
6. analyze anti-federalist excerpts ("Centinel," and "Letters from the Federal Farmer to the Republican II")
7. explain anti-federalists' concerns about the Constitution.
8. assume the role of Federalist and anti-federalist and compose short paragraphs stating their positions.

BINARY PAIDEIA		
Segment of Society	Time Period	Segment of Society
Federalists	Constitutional	Anti-Federalists
Constitutional Federal Republic	<i>Politeia/Regime</i>	Democratic State Assemblies
Upper-class White Males	<i>Politeuma/Ruling Class</i>	White male landowners
Constitution	<i>Paideia/What makes a society what it is</i>	Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights
Ordered Liberty	<i>Virtue/ The highest moral excellence</i>	Individual Liberty

Background

After laboring for several months, from May to September of 1787, the Founding Fathers completed the writing of the Constitution to correct the problems faced under the Articles of Confederation. The next obstacle they had to overcome was ratification by at least 9 of the 13 states. It would be a difficult task for the Founding Fathers, the Federalists, to counter the criticism of their opponents, the anti-federalists, who wrote numerous newspaper articles against the Constitution. Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison led the fight for ratification of the Constitution with a series of essays called “The Federalist Papers” published under the pen name “Publius,” a famous defender of the ancient Roman Republic.

Procedure

- I. Previous Night’s Lesson
 - a. Students will briefly research background from their texts or (at Founders Biographies www.AmericasnInstituteforHistory.org) online about Federalists Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, Gouverneur Morris, James Wilson, Robert Morris, John Jay, and James Madison, and some of the following anti-federalists, Patrick Henry, George Mason, and James Monroe of Virginia, Samuel Adams and Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, and George Clinton of New York.
- II. On the Day of Lesson
 - a. Review Binary *Paideia* with students. Make sure they understand the differences between how the Federalists Party defined themselves and how the Jeffersonian Republicans defined themselves. (MS A1a)
 - b. In small groups students should read together the excerpt from Federalist No.15 (3rd paragraph) (www.AmericasnInstituteforHistory.org).
 - i. They will answer the questions in class (MS A1b).
 - c. Have students give definitions of Federalist and anti-federalist.
 - d. Again in small groups, students should read the excerpts from the 27th to 29th paragraphs of “Centinel,” (that starts “Thus we see” and end with *ARISTOCRACY*) and the 8th paragraph (that starts “The number of the representatives”) of “Letters from the Federal Farmer to the Republican II” and answer questions asked throughout. (at www.AmericasnInstituteforHistory.org).
 - i. Students will answer the accompanying questions at MS A1c.

Homework

As a culminating activity, each small group should compose two paragraphs. In their own words they are to take the role of the Federalists and the anti-federalist and explain their positions.