

Name: _____

Date: _____

Great Compromise

The committee appointed to solve the problem of representation came up with the Connecticut compromise. It is now called the Great Compromise and is made up of 3 parts.

- 1) Congress would have two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives
- 2) Membership in the House of Representatives would be based on proportional representation. The house would have the power to develop all bills (laws) dealing with taxes and government spending.
- 3) Membership in the Senate would be based on equal representation. At first, the senate only had power to accept or reject bills (laws) related to taxes and spending passed in the House. This power was later changed to let the Senate make changes to bills involving taxes and spending developed in the House.

As in most compromises, each side received a little and each gave up a little. The small states got equal representation in the Senate. The large states got proportional representation in the House. Also the House would have important powers related to taxing and spending.

The compromise meant that the large states would have slightly more influence over issues of taxes and spending. In the senate, the small states could check the large states by changing or rejecting taxes and spending bills passed in the House. The Great Compromise was hotly debated. It finally passed by one vote.

Directions: Answer each question in complete sentences based on the reading.

1) How did the Great Compromise solve the conflict about representation?

2) What did the small states and large states gain or lose as a result of the Great Compromise?

3) What did individual citizens gain or lose as a result of the Great Compromise?