

# A More Perfect Union Movie Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**A More Perfect Union**

Movie Questions

1. Why did the delegates meet in Philadelphia?
2. What was wrong with the Articles of Confederation?
3. What was the Virginia Plan?
4. Why did smaller states not like the Virginia Plan?
5. What was the New Jersey Plan?
6. What does the word "compromise" mean in the film?
7. Why was the Great Compromise so important?
8. How did delegates feel about slavery during the Convention?
9. What was the Three-Fifths Compromise?
10. Why did some delegates want a stronger national government?



**A MORE PERFECT UNION MOVIE WORKSHEET** IS AN ESSENTIAL EDUCATIONAL TOOL DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE OF STUDENTS STUDYING AMERICAN HISTORY, PARTICULARLY THE FORMATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. THIS WORKSHEET SERVES AS A GUIDE TO HELP STUDENTS ENGAGE WITH THE FILM "A MORE PERFECT UNION," WHICH DRAMATIZES THE DEBATES, CHALLENGES, AND COMPROMISES THAT SHAPED THE FOUNDATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

## OVERVIEW OF THE FILM

"A MORE PERFECT UNION" IS A HISTORICAL DRAMA THAT PROVIDES AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1787. THE FILM EXPLORES THE LIVES OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS, THEIR DIFFERING VISIONS FOR THE NATION, AND THE COMPROMISES THEY MADE TO CREATE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. IT PRESENTS A NARRATIVE THAT IS BOTH INFORMATIVE AND ENGAGING, MAKING IT AN IDEAL RESOURCE FOR EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS ALIKE.

## KEY THEMES AND CONCEPTS

THE FILM DELVES INTO SEVERAL KEY THEMES THAT ARE CRUCIAL FOR UNDERSTANDING THE CREATION OF THE CONSTITUTION:

1. **COMPROMISE:** THE FILM ILLUSTRATES HOW THE FOUNDING FATHERS HAD TO NEGOTIATE AND COMPROMISE ON VARIOUS ISSUES, INCLUDING REPRESENTATION, SLAVERY, AND STATE VERSUS FEDERAL POWER.
2. **FEDERALISM:** IT HIGHLIGHTS THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS AS A CORNERSTONE OF THE NEW NATION.
3. **INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS:** THE FILM ADDRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, WHICH WOULD LATER BE ENCAPSULATED IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS.
4. **DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES:** THE MOVIE SHOWCASES THE DIFFERING OPINIONS AND BACKGROUNDS OF THE DELEGATES, EMPHASIZING THAT THE CONSTITUTION WAS A PRODUCT OF COLLABORATION AND DIALOGUE.

# STRUCTURE OF THE WORKSHEET

THE **A MORE PERFECT UNION MOVIE WORKSHEET** IS STRUCTURED TO FACILITATE CRITICAL THINKING AND REFLECTION ON THE FILM. IT TYPICALLY INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

## 1. PRE-WATCHING ACTIVITIES

BEFORE VIEWING THE FILM, STUDENTS CAN ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES THAT PREPARE THEM FOR THE CONTENT. THESE MAY INCLUDE:

- BACKGROUND RESEARCH: STUDENTS RESEARCH THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, FOCUSING ON KEY FIGURES LIKE GEORGE WASHINGTON, JAMES MADISON, AND BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.
- DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: FACILITATE A CLASS DISCUSSION ABOUT WHAT STUDENTS ALREADY KNOW REGARDING THE CONSTITUTION AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE.

## 2. WHILE WATCHING THE FILM

DURING THE FILM, STUDENTS CAN FILL OUT SECTIONS OF THE WORKSHEET THAT PROMPT THEM TO TAKE NOTES AND REFLECT ON IMPORTANT MOMENTS. THIS MAY INCLUDE:

- CHARACTER ANALYSIS: IDENTIFY MAJOR CHARACTERS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.
- IMPORTANT QUOTES: NOTE SIGNIFICANT QUOTES FROM THE FILM THAT CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF THE DEBATES.

## 3. POST-WATCHING REFLECTION

AFTER VIEWING THE FILM, STUDENTS CAN ENGAGE IN REFLECTIVE ACTIVITIES. THIS SECTION MAY INCLUDE:

- ESSAY QUESTIONS: REFLECTIVE PROMPTS THAT ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO EXPLORE THEMES SUCH AS COMPROMISE AND REPRESENTATION.
- GROUP DISCUSSION: SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS TO SHARE INSIGHTS AND THOUGHTS ON THE FILM'S PORTRAYAL OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS.

# SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR THE WORKSHEET

TO FACILITATE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE FILM, THE WORKSHEET MAY INCLUDE VARIOUS TYPES OF QUESTIONS. HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES:

## CHARACTER AND EVENT QUESTIONS

1. WHO WERE THE KEY FIGURES IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, AND WHAT ROLES DID THEY PLAY?
2. DESCRIBE A MAJOR CONFLICT THAT AROSE DURING THE CONVENTION AND HOW IT WAS RESOLVED.

## THEMATIC QUESTIONS

1. WHAT DOES THE FILM SUGGEST ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF COMPROMISE IN POLITICS?
2. HOW DOES THE FILM PORTRAY THE CONCEPT OF FEDERALISM? PROVIDE EXAMPLES.

## CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

1. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE FILM REMAIN RELEVANT TO CONTEMPORARY DISCUSSIONS ABOUT GOVERNANCE?
2. IF YOU WERE A DELEGATE AT THE CONVENTION, WHAT ISSUES WOULD BE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU AND WHY?

## BENEFITS OF USING THE WORKSHEET

THE **A MORE PERFECT UNION MOVIE WORKSHEET** OFFERS NUMEROUS BENEFITS FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS:

### 1. ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT

BY INTEGRATING FILM INTO THE CLASSROOM, STUDENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE WITH THE MATERIAL. THE WORKSHEET ENCOURAGES ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, ENSURING THAT STUDENTS ARE NOT PASSIVE VIEWERS.

### 2. CRITICAL THINKING DEVELOPMENT

THE QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN THE WORKSHEET STIMULATE CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS. STUDENTS ARE PROMPTED TO ANALYZE, EVALUATE, AND SYNTHESIZE INFORMATION, WHICH DEEPENS THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF HISTORICAL EVENTS AND CONCEPTS.

### 3. COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOSTER COLLABORATION AMONG STUDENTS. THEY LEARN FROM EACH OTHER'S PERSPECTIVES, WHICH ENRICHES THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE AND BUILDS COMMUNICATION SKILLS.

### 4. HISTORICAL CONTEXTUALIZATION

THE WORKSHEET HELPS STUDENTS PLACE THE EVENTS OF THE FILM IN A BROADER HISTORICAL CONTEXT. BY CONNECTING THE FILM TO ACTUAL HISTORICAL EVENTS, STUDENTS GAIN A MORE COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

## TIPS FOR EDUCATORS

WHEN UTILIZING THE **A MORE PERFECT UNION MOVIE WORKSHEET**, EDUCATORS CAN ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE BY CONSIDERING THE FOLLOWING TIPS:

### 1. PREPARE STUDENTS IN ADVANCE

PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND THE KEY FIGURES INVOLVED TO HELP STUDENTS GRASP THE CONTEXT BEFORE WATCHING THE FILM.

## 2. FOSTER A SAFE DISCUSSION ENVIRONMENT

ENCOURAGE AN OPEN DIALOGUE WHERE STUDENTS CAN EXPRESS THEIR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS WITHOUT FEAR OF JUDGMENT. THIS WILL LEAD TO RICHER DISCUSSIONS AND A MORE MEANINGFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

## 3. CONNECT TO CURRENT EVENTS

DRAW PARALLELS BETWEEN THE THEMES OF THE FILM AND CURRENT POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. THIS CAN HELP STUDENTS SEE THE RELEVANCE OF HISTORICAL EVENTS IN TODAY'S SOCIETY.

## 4. FOLLOW UP WITH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

AFTER COMPLETING THE WORKSHEET, PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION. THIS MAY INCLUDE BOOKS, ARTICLES, OR DOCUMENTARIES THAT DELVE DEEPER INTO THE FORMATION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

## CONCLUSION

THE **A MORE PERFECT UNION MOVIE WORKSHEET** IS AN INVALUABLE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE THAT ENRICHES STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT SURROUNDING ITS CREATION. BY COMBINING FILM WITH STRUCTURED ACTIVITIES, EDUCATORS CAN FOSTER ENGAGEMENT, CRITICAL THINKING, AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING. AS STUDENTS EXPLORE THE COMPLEXITIES OF GOVERNANCE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPROMISE, THEY GAIN INSIGHTS THAT ARE NOT ONLY RELEVANT TO THEIR STUDIES BUT ALSO TO THEIR ROLES AS INFORMED CITIZENS IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE 'A MORE PERFECT UNION' MOVIE WORKSHEET?

THE WORKSHEET FOCUSES ON THE THEMES, HISTORICAL CONTEXT, AND KEY EVENTS DEPICTED IN THE FILM, ENCOURAGING CRITICAL THINKING AND DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FORMATION OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

### HOW CAN TEACHERS EFFECTIVELY USE THE 'A MORE PERFECT UNION' MOVIE WORKSHEET IN THE CLASSROOM?

TEACHERS CAN USE THE WORKSHEET TO GUIDE STUDENTS THROUGH THE FILM, PROMPTING THEM TO TAKE NOTES ON SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS, DISCUSS CHARACTER MOTIVATIONS, AND ANALYZE THE IMPACT OF THE CONSTITUTION ON AMERICAN SOCIETY.

### WHAT KEY HISTORICAL EVENTS SHOULD STUDENTS PAY ATTENTION TO WHILE WATCHING 'A MORE PERFECT UNION'?

STUDENTS SHOULD FOCUS ON EVENTS SUCH AS THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, DEBATES OVER FEDERALISM, THE BILL OF RIGHTS, AND THE DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS.

### WHAT TYPES OF QUESTIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE 'A MORE PERFECT UNION' MOVIE WORKSHEET?

THE WORKSHEET TYPICALLY INCLUDES COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS, DISCUSSION PROMPTS, AND ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS THAT ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO CONNECT THE FILM'S CONTENT TO BROADER HISTORICAL THEMES.

How does the 'A More Perfect Union' movie worksheet promote critical thinking?

By asking students to analyze characters' decisions, evaluate historical accuracy, and relate the film's themes to contemporary issues, the worksheet fosters critical engagement with the material.

What is a common misconception students might have about the events portrayed in 'A More Perfect Union'?

A common misconception is that the Constitution was universally accepted by all Americans; the worksheet can address the debates and dissent surrounding its ratification.

How can the 'A More Perfect Union' movie worksheet be adapted for different grade levels?

The worksheet can be modified by simplifying the questions for younger students or by adding more complex analytical tasks for advanced students, allowing for differentiation in learning.

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