

## Founding Fathers - Benjamin Franklin

1) "History affords us many instances of the ruin of states, by the prosecution of measures ill suited to the temper and genius of their people. The ordaining of laws in favor of one part of the nation, to the prejudice and oppression of another, is certainly the most erroneous and mistaken policy. An equal dispensation of protection, rights, privileges, and advantages, is what every part is entitled to, and ought to enjoy. . . . These measures never fail to create great and violent jealousies and animosities between the people favored and the people oppressed; whence a total separation of affections, interests, political obligations, and all manner of connections necessarily ensue, by which the whole state is weakened."

- Benjamin Franklin, "Emblematical Representations," ca. 1774

Key Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Author's Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Your Own Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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2) "When a broad table is to be made, and the edges of planks do not fit, the artist takes a little from both, and makes a good joint. In like manner, here, both sides must part from some of their demands, in order that they may join in some accommodating proposition."

- Benjamin Franklin, Constitutional Convention debate, June 30, 1787

Key Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Author's Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Your Own Words:

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Prompt for Student Response:

Benjamin Franklin states in the first quotation, "the ordaining of laws in favor of one part of the nation, to the prejudice and oppression of another . . . never fail[s] to create great and violent jealousies and animosities between the people favored and the people oppressed." Explain how his suggestion of compromise in the second quotation could lessen those "great and violent jealousies and animosities."

## Founding Fathers - Thomas Jefferson

1) "Every man, and every body of men on earth, possesses the right of self-government. They receive it with their being from the hand of nature. Individuals exercise it by their single will, collections of men by that of their majority; for the law of the majority is the natural law of every society of men."

- Thomas Jefferson, Constitutionality of the Residence Bill of 1790, July 15, 1790

Key Words: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary in Author's Words: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary in Your Own Words: \_\_\_\_\_

2) "Never was a finer canvas presented to work on than our countrymen. All of them engaged in agriculture, or in the pursuits of honest industry, independent in their circumstances, enlightened as to their rights, and firm in their habits of order and obedience to the laws."

- Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, February 28, 1796

Key Words: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary in Author's Words: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary in Your Own Words: \_\_\_\_\_

3) "A government is republican in proportion as every member composing it has his equal voice in the direction of its concerns (not indeed in person, which would be impracticable beyond the limits of a city, or small township, but) by representatives chosen by himself, and responsible to him at short periods."

- Thomas Jefferson to Samuel Kerchival, July 12, 1816

Key Words: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary in Author's Words: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary in Your Own Words: \_\_\_\_\_

Prompt for Student Response:

Using your analysis of these three quotations by Thomas Jefferson, describe Jefferson's expectations for the government of the new nation.

## Founding Fathers - Alexander Hamilton

1) "It has been observed . . . that a pure democracy, if it were practicable, would be the most perfect government. Experience has proved, that no position in politics is more false than this. The ancient democracies, in which the people themselves deliberated, never possessed one feature of good government. Their very character was tyranny; their figure deformity."

- Alexander Hamilton, Speech to the New York Ratifying Convention, June 21, 1788

Key Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Author's Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Your Own Words:

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2) "All communities divide themselves into the few and the many. The first are the rich and well born, the other the mass of the people. . . . The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right. Give therefore to the first class a distinct, permanent share in the government. They will check the unsteadiness of the second, and as they cannot receive any advantage by a change, they therefore will ever maintain good government."

- Alexander Hamilton, Constitutional Convention debate, June 18, 1787

Key Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Author's Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Your Own Words:

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Prompt for Student Response:

Based on the quotations you just read, what does Alexander Hamilton believe to be important attributes of government?

## Founding Fathers - James Madison

1) "The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite."

- James Madison, *Federalist No. 45*, January 26, 1788

Key Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Author's Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Your Own Words:

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2) "There are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people, by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power, than by violent and sudden usurpations."

- James Madison, Speech to the Virginia Ratifying Convention, June 16, 1788

Key Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Author's Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Your Own Words:

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3) "A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy, or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

- James Madison to W. T. Barry, August 4, 1822

Key Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Author's Words: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summary in Your Own Words:

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## Founding Fathers - James Madison

Prompt for Student Response:

In these three quotations James Madison speaks about the power held by the federal government. Using your analysis of these quotations, summarize Madison's views on keeping the federal government's powers in check.

## Founding Fathers – Ideas about Government

Review the summary statements of the Founding Fathers' quotations as you respond to the following:

Benjamin Franklin said, "both sides must part from some of their demands in order that they may join in some accommodating proposition." This suggests he knew compromise was necessary as the new United States government was formed because everyone had his own ideas about government. As you think about the quotations from these Founding Fathers, what are the similarities in their thinking? What are the differences? Where will compromise most likely be necessary?