

Name _____

The Constitution

Read the passage.

James Madison had a plan. In his plan, Congress would be based on the number of people in each state. Large states would send more members to Congress. The small states did not like this plan. The small states wanted the number of members from each state to be equal.

The delegates reached a compromise. A compromise means that each side got a part of what it wanted. The men agreed that Congress would have two houses. One house would have two members from each state. The other house would have members based on the number of people in each state.

The delegates knew that the country needed a leader. They decided to have a president. They decided how a president would be elected. Then they decided what the president's jobs would be.

The men also made decisions about laws. They wanted to know how laws would be made. They wanted to decide who would make sure that laws were followed.

Finally, the delegates decided how the Constitution would become law. They also decided how it could be changed. When they agreed, they wrote their decisions down. Then, on September 17, 1787, they signed the Constitution.



Write three things the delegates talked about.
