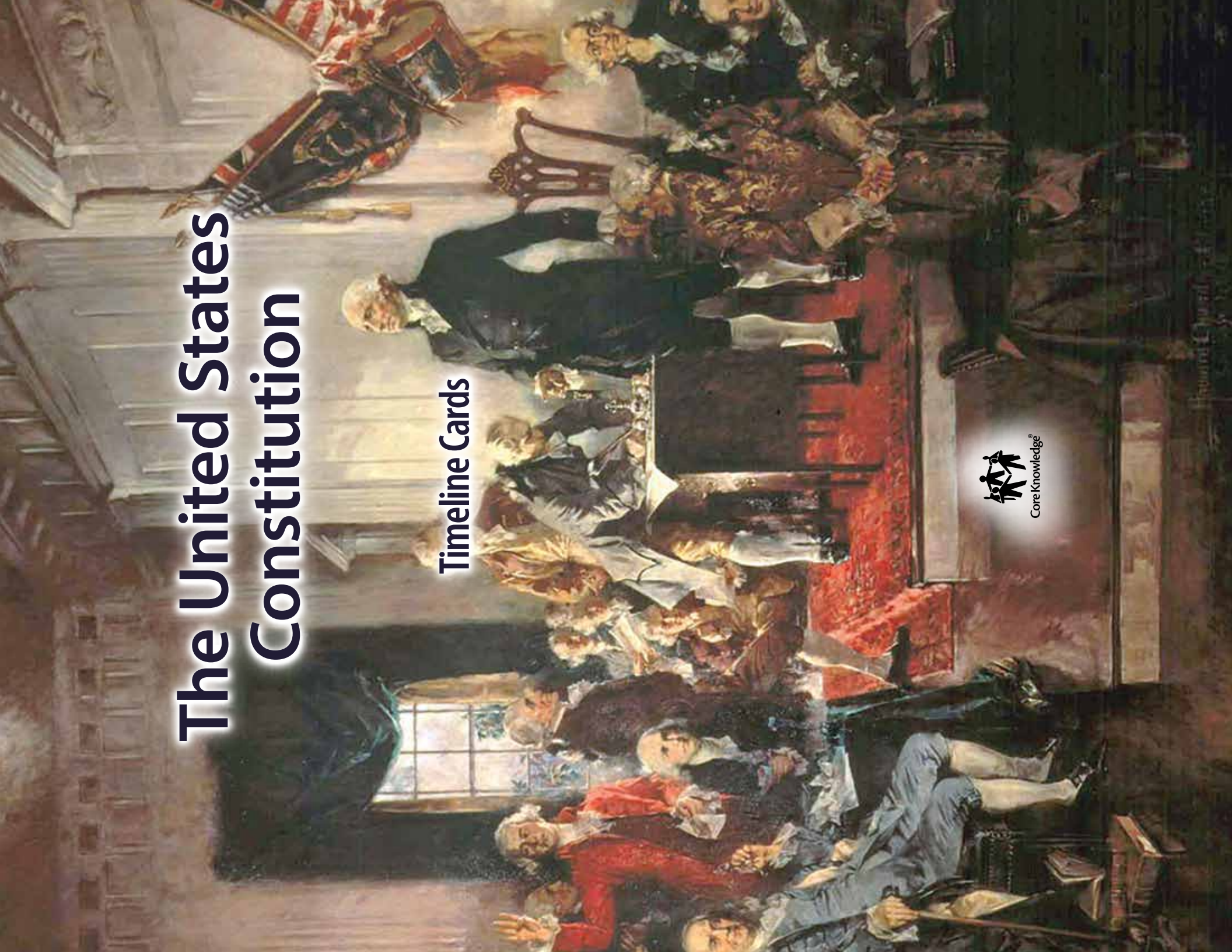


# The United States Constitution

Timeline Cards



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# Introduction

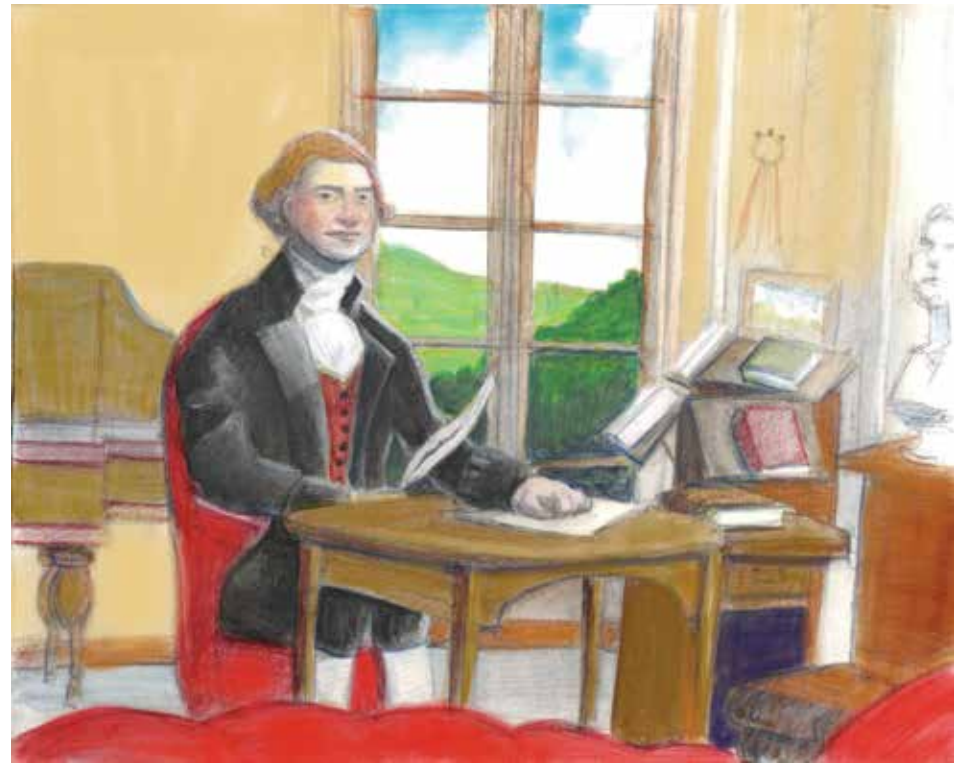
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In 1765, the colonists objected to the British government collecting taxes in the thirteen colonies.

# Introduction

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**George Washington (left) and Thomas Jefferson (right) participated in the First Continental Congress, in 1774, which sent King George III a list of the colonists' complaints.**

# Introduction

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**In 1775, the Second Continental Congress chose George Washington to command the Continental Army during the American Revolution.**

# CHAPTER 1: The Idea of Self-Rule

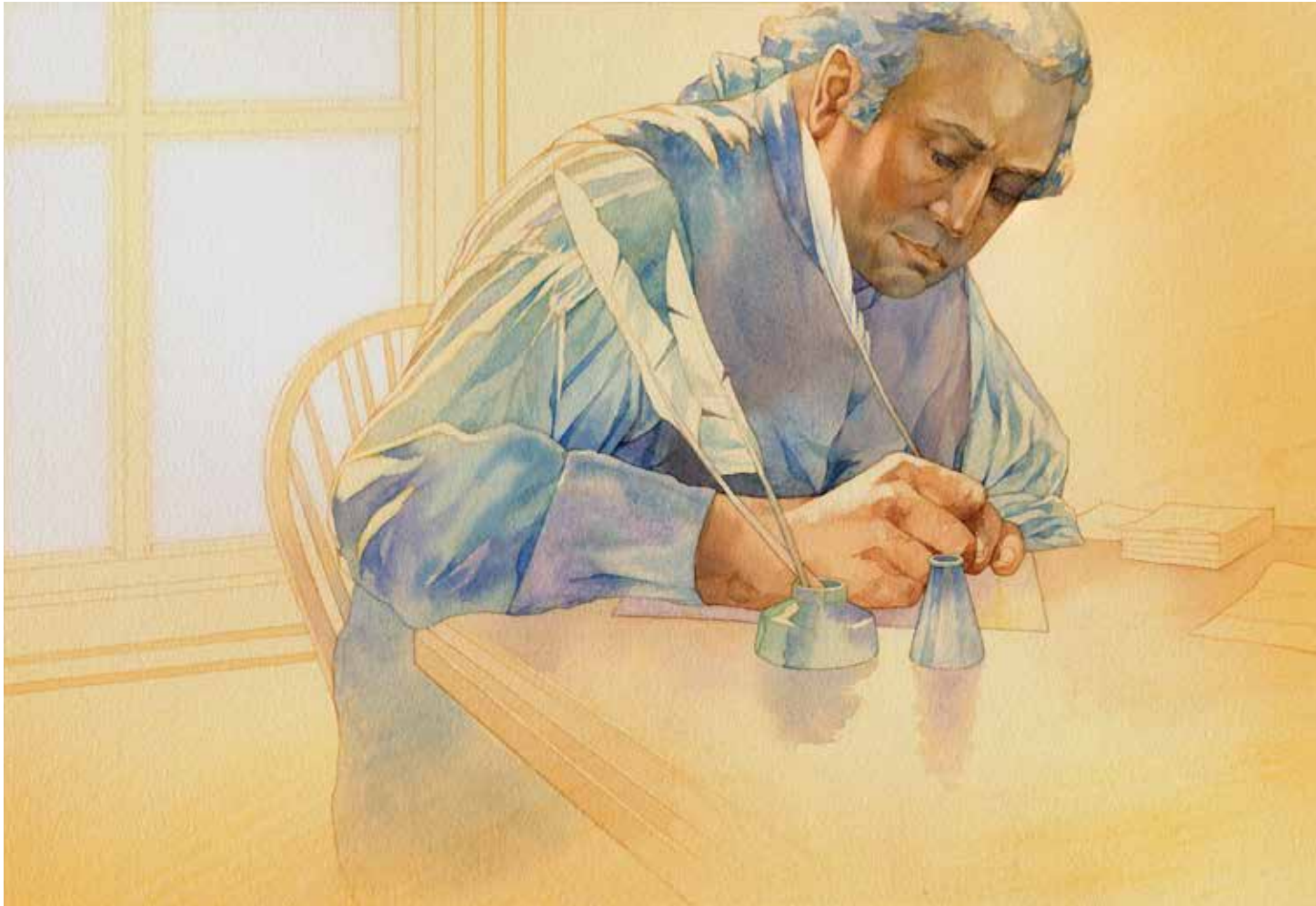


In 1776, the Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson, declared the colonies' separation from Britain and their establishment as "free and independent states."

**Big Question:** What does self-government mean, and why was it such a revolutionary idea?

## CHAPTER 2: New Constitutions for the States

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From 1776–1780, each of the thirteen states wrote and adopted its own state constitution.

**Big Question:** What is a republic or a republican form of government?

# CHAPTER 3: The Articles of Confederation

A scroll with a quill pen resting on it. The scroll is unrolled and has a list of powers on it. The quill is positioned at the bottom right of the scroll.

## Some Powers of the Central Government Under the Articles of Confederation:

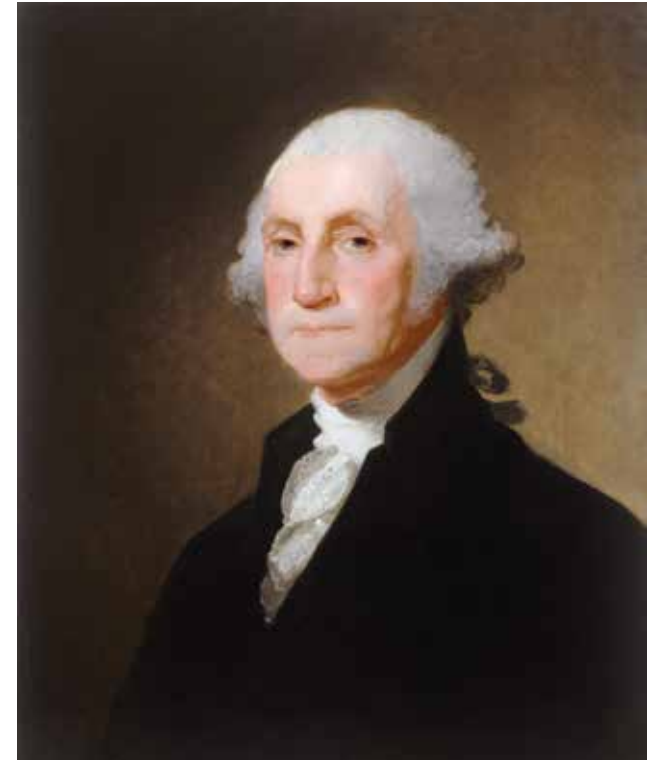
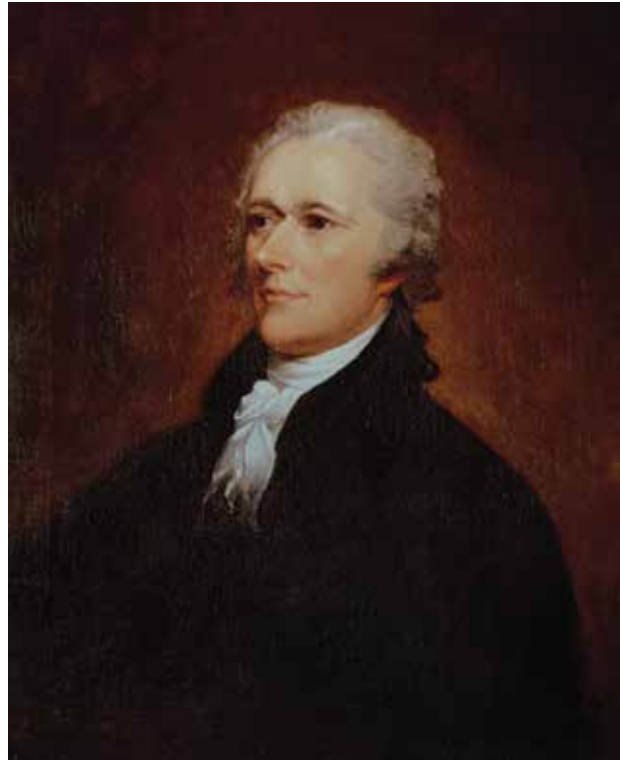
- Declare war and make peace
- Create an army and a navy
- Send representatives to foreign countries
- Borrow money
- Establish a system of weights and measures
- Establish post offices
- Print money

In 1777, the Second Continental Congress approved the Articles of Confederation to form a central government beyond the individual state governments.

**Big Question:** Why did the lack of a central government prove to be a problem?



## CHAPTER 4: Planning a New Constitution



James Madison (left), Alexander Hamilton (middle), George Washington (right), and others decided that the nation needed a stronger central government.

**Big Question:** Why did James Madison and Alexander Hamilton think a stronger central government was needed?

## CHAPTER 4: Planning a New Constitution



In 1787, a convention was held in Philadelphia to reconsider the need for a stronger central government.

**Big Question:** Why did James Madison and Alexander Hamilton think a stronger central government was needed?

## CHAPTER 6: Some Major Decisions

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### **Powers the Central Government Should Have**

- Protect the people against enemies
- Protect the liberties of its citizens
- Control trade between the states
- Provide for the good of all the people
- Raise money through some form of taxation

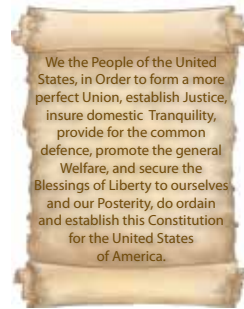
The convention delegates decided that they should write a new constitution to form a stronger central government.

**Big Question:** What was the Virginia Plan, and why might some delegates have objected to it?

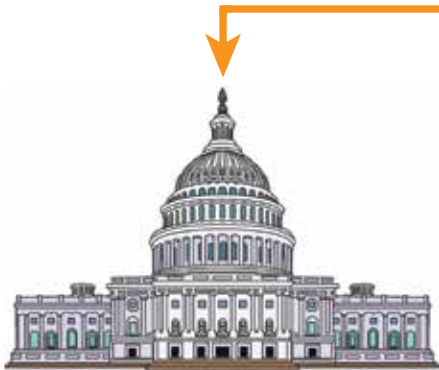
# CHAPTER 7: Checks, Balances, and Compromises

## Separation of Powers

The new government was organized into three branches of government.



### The Constitution



#### The Congress

- Passes laws



#### The President

- Carries out the laws of Congress
- Suggests new laws



#### The Supreme Court

- Settles arguments about the law

**Big Question:** What were the main challenges that had to be overcome in order to create a new constitution?

## CHAPTER 7: Checks, Balances, and Compromises

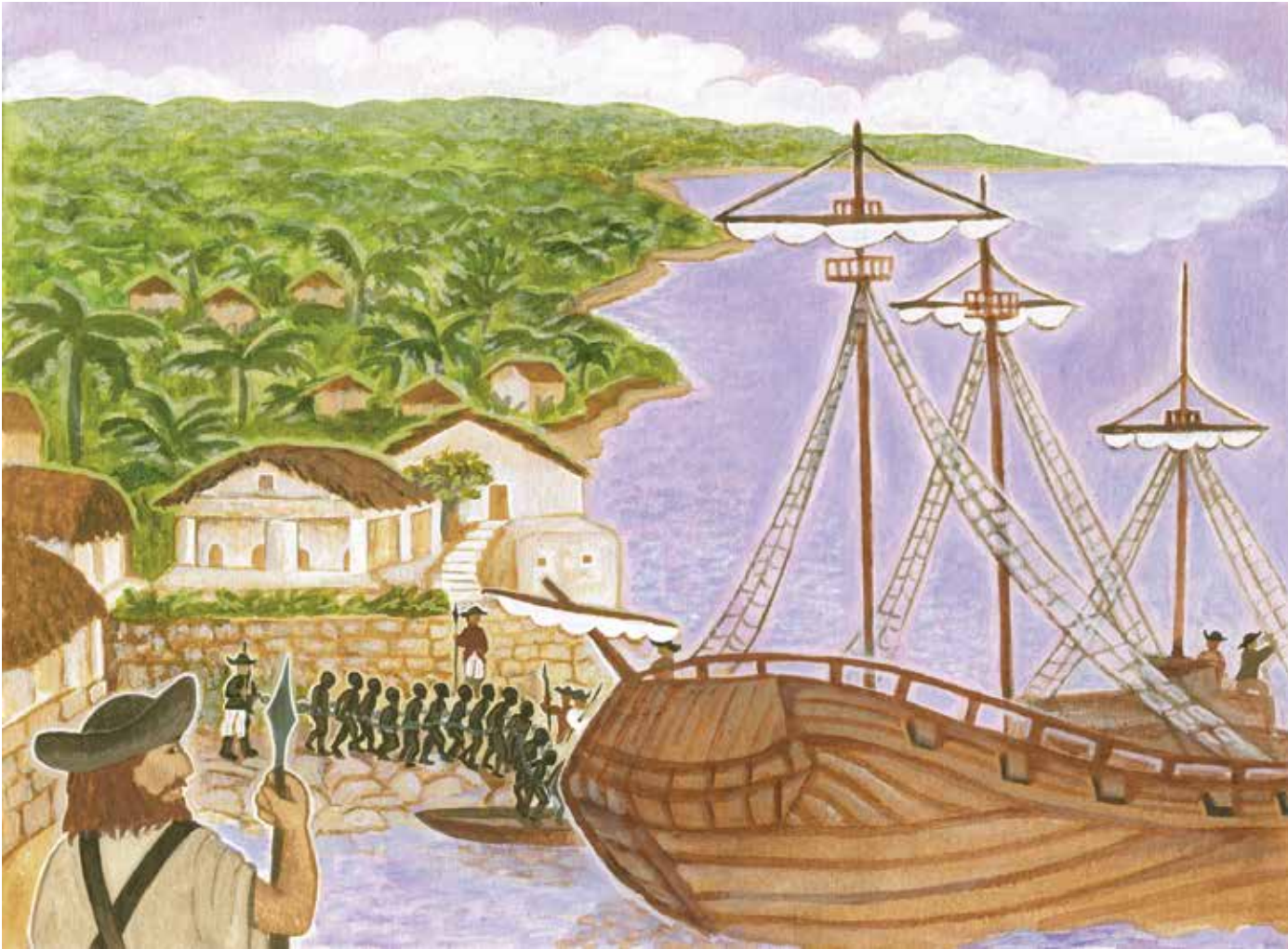
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Roger Sherman introduced a plan that shared power between large and small states.

**Big Question:** What were the main challenges that had to be overcome in order to create a new constitution?

## CHAPTER 7: Checks, Balances, and Compromises



The slave trade continued, even though many people were against slavery.

**Big Question:** What were the main challenges that had to be overcome in order to create a new constitution?

## CHAPTER 9: The States Ratify



Finally, in 1789, the Constitution was ratified.

**Big Question:** Why was it considered essential to have a Bill of Rights added to the U.S. Constitution?

