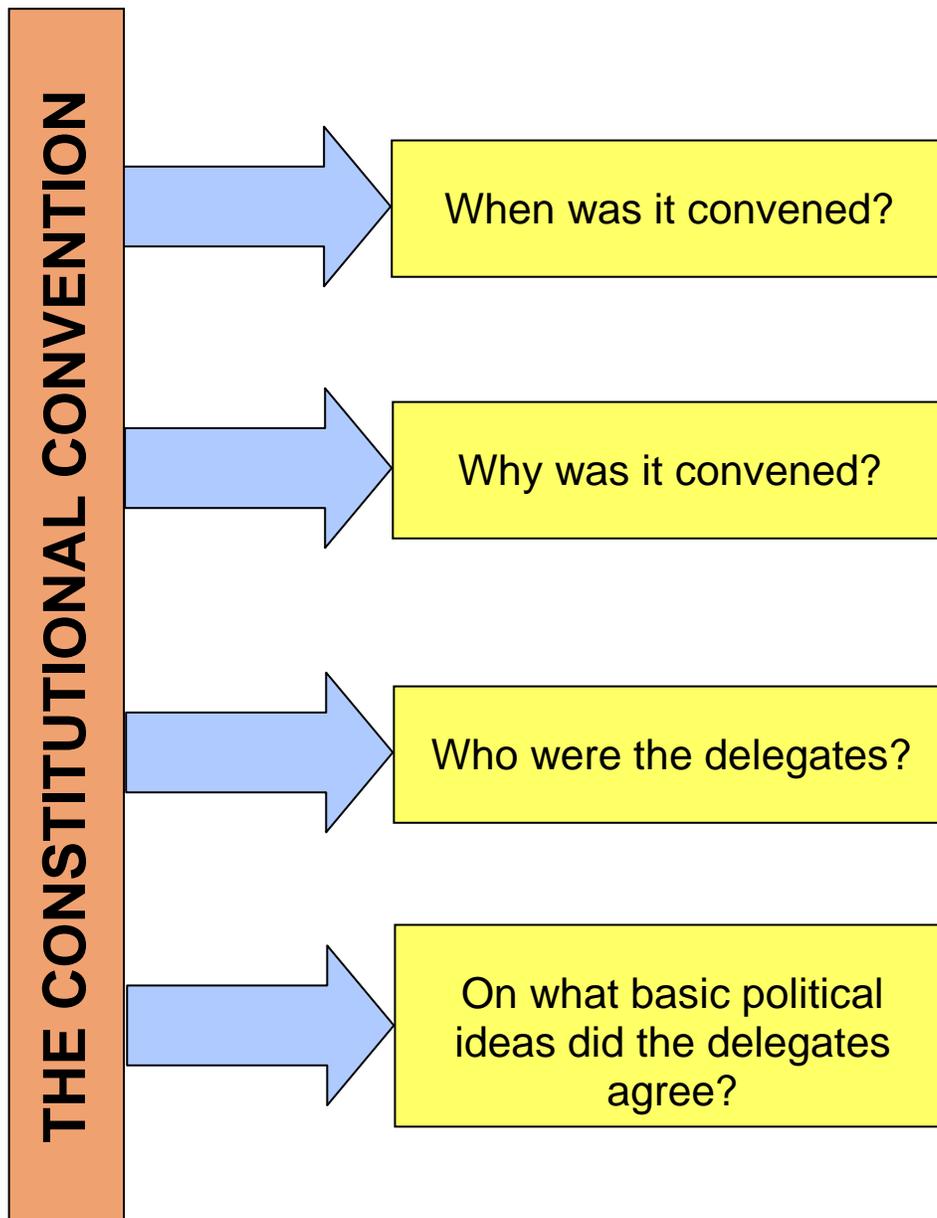


## Graphic Organizer



## Big Ideas Card

### Big Ideas of Lesson 2, Unit 7

- Delegates gathered in Philadelphia in 1787 to change and improve the Articles of Confederation. Instead they wrote a whole new Constitution.
- The delegates represented many of the best -known leaders of the country. As a group they were better educated and richer than most Americans. Many were lawyers.
- Two important delegates were George Washington, who was chosen to lead the Convention, and James Madison, who took careful notes at the Convention.
- Basic ideas agreed upon at the beginning of the Convention included the importance of limited government, individual rights, and representative government.

## Word Cards

### Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:

- Articles of Confederation – Word Card #3 from Lesson 1
- Republic – Word Card #6 from Lesson 1

### 7 Constitution



the highest law of our land and the document that describes how our government is organized

**Example:** Our Constitution is one of our most important documents.

(SS050702)

## Analyzing Quotations

“Congress has become a rope of sand.”

- James Madison

“A rope of sand is better than a rod of iron.”

- Patrick Henry

# Independence Hall



Source: Independence Hall. Ben's Guide to Government. 3 April 2012 <[http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/symbols/print/independence\\_hall.html](http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/symbols/print/independence_hall.html)>.

## Washington's Chair



Source: *Washington's Chair*. National Park Service Museum Collections. 3 April 2012  
[http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/revwar/image\\_gal/indeimg/armchair.html](http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/revwar/image_gal/indeimg/armchair.html)>.

## Quotation

From *Shh! We're Writing a Constitution* by Jean Fritz

“It was a blistering summer, especially for the delegates from new England who, not used to such heat, seated out the summer in woolen suits. And there were bluebottle flies. Philadelphia was bombarded by these huge, buzzing flies. They flung themselves at the windows of the State House, attacked delegates when they stepped outside, and invaded bedrooms, buzzing all night in such a frenzy, they sounded insane.”

## The Constitutional Convention

### Assessment

<b>What was the original reason the Constitutional Convention was convened</b>	
<b>How did this change?</b>	
<b>What were some common characteristics of the delegates?</b>	
<b>Who was one significant delegate and what role did he play at the Convention?</b>	
<b>What were two basic political ideas the delegates agreed on at the beginning of the Convention?</b>	

## The Constitutional Convention

### Assessment – Possible Answers

<b>What was the original reason the Constitutional Convention was convened</b>	<i>The Convention was convened to improve the Articles of Confederation.</i>
<b>How did this change?</b>	<i>Instead of improving the Articles of Confederation the delegates decided to write a Constitution describing a brand new government.</i>
<b>What were some common characteristics of the delegates?</b>	<i>They were white males who were more educated and richer than most Americans.</i>
<b>Who was one significant delegate and what role did he play at the Convention?</b>	<i>George Washington was chosen to lead the Convention.</i> <i>James Madison took notes at the Convention.</i>
<b>What were two basic political ideas the delegates agreed on at the beginning of the Convention?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>The government should be a government with limited powers.</i></li><li><i>The purpose of the government should be to protect basic rights and promote the common good.</i></li><li><i>A stronger national government was needed to serve these purposes. Governments of the states were still important, however.</i></li><li><i>The government needed to be a republic where people elected representatives.</i></li><li><i>There needed to be a separation of powers and a system of checks and balances so power would not be abused.</i></li></ul>