



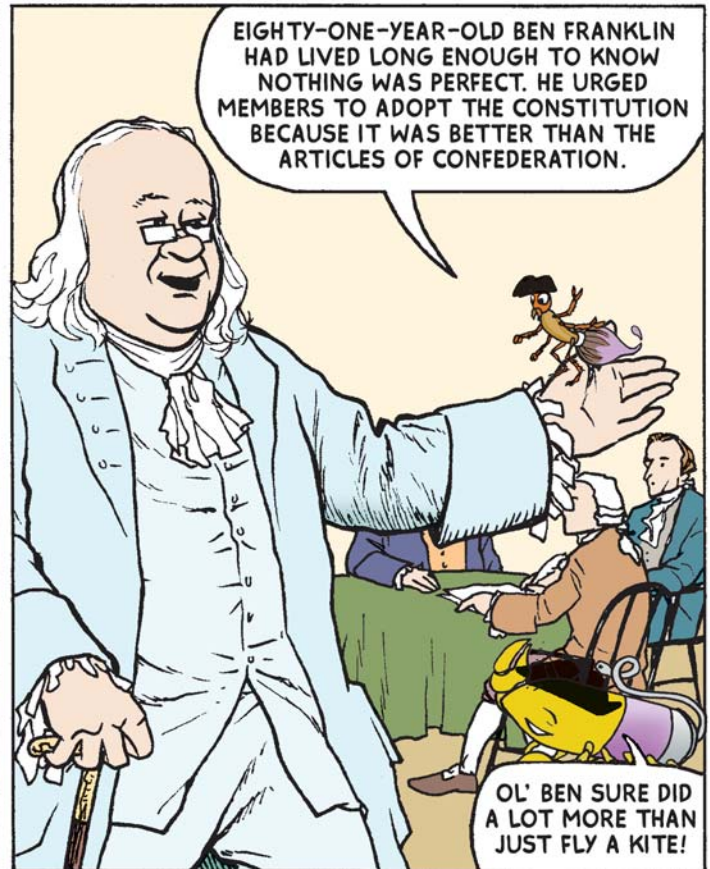
THERE SURE WERE A LOT OF PROBLEMS WITH THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION!

WELL, THAT'S WHY 55 REPRESENTATIVES FROM 12 OF THE 13 STATES MET IN PHILADELPHIA TO DISCUSS WAYS TO IMPROVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.



GROWNUPS SURE SPEND A LOT OF TIME IN MEETINGS!

THIS GROUP OF MEN DECIDED TO DO AWAY WITH THE ARTICLES AND WROTE A NEW DOCUMENT CALLED THE **UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION** THAT CREATED A STRONG FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD DIVIDE GOVERNMENTAL POWERS BETWEEN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATES.



EIGHTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD BEN FRANKLIN HAD LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW NOTHING WAS PERFECT. HE URGED MEMBERS TO ADOPT THE CONSTITUTION BECAUSE IT WAS BETTER THAN THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION.

OL' BEN SURE DID A LOT MORE THAN JUST FLY A KITE!


UH-OH, THAT GUY MUST HAVE WAITED UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO DO HIS HOMEWORK!




NOT EXACTLY, SCORPY. THAT IS VIRGINIAN JAMES MADISON WRITING THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

MADISON'S VIRGINIA PLAN CALLED FOR THREE SEPARATE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT.


WITH POWER DIVIDED LIKE THAT, NO BRANCH SHOULD BE MORE POWERFUL THAN ANOTHER!

EXECUTIVE BRANCH
PRESIDENT
ENFORCES THE LAWS



JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT
INTERPRETS THE LAWS



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
CONGRESS
MAKES LAWS




HOUSE

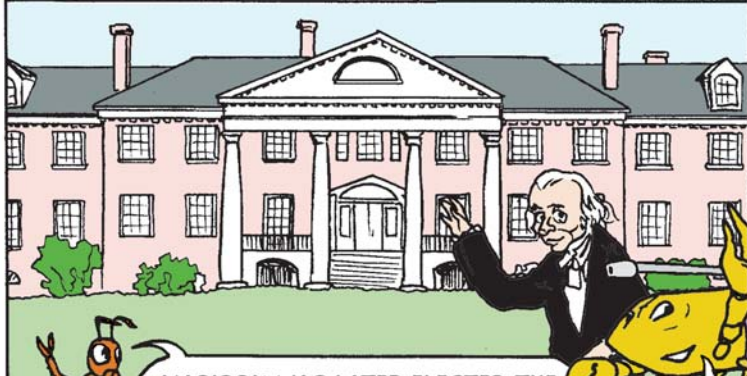


SENATE

HE EVEN TRIED TO MAKE ALL STATES HAPPY BY HAVING TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS, ONE WITH EQUAL REPRESENTATION, THE OTHER BASED ON POPULATION.



MADISON - ALONG WITH ALEXANDER HAMILTON AND JOHN JAY - ALSO WROTE THE FEDERALIST PAPERS, WHICH DEFENDED THE STRONG FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OUTLINED IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION.



MADISON WAS LATER ELECTED THE FOURTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. HE DIED ON JUNE 28, 1836, AT HIS HOME IN MONTPELIER, VIRGINIA.

HE MAKES VIRGINIA PROUD!!

SO WHAT'S IN THE CONSTITUTION?

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION IS THE OUTLINE OF HOW OUR GOVERNMENT WORKS. IT CAN BE BROKEN DOWN INTO THREE PARTS: THE PREAMBLE, THE ARTICLES, AND THE AMENDMENTS. LET'S START WITH THE PREAMBLE - THE INTRODUCTION TO THE CONSTITUTION.

We the People...

in order to form a more perfect Union

WHAT IS A MORE PERFECT UNION?

Establish justice



Insure domestic tranquility

ONE THAT HAS A STRONGER FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UNITING THE STATES.

Provide for the common defense



Promote the general welfare and



Secure the blessings of Liberty



LOOK WHAT A STRONG FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN DO.

to ourselves and our posterity do ordain and establish this Constitution

THEY ARE LOOKING OUT FOR THE PEOPLE!

AND THAT MEANS FOR OUR FOUNDING FATHERS GENERATIONS AND GENERATIONS TO COME!

WOW, THEY REALLY WANTED IT TO BE A LIVING DOCUMENT!



THE 7 ARTICLES MAKE UP THE SECOND PART OF THE CONSTITUTION. THESE ARTICLES DETAIL THE POWERS OF EACH BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT.

THE FIRST THREE ARTICLES DEAL WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS, ELECTION, TERMS, AND POWERS OF CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT, AND THE SUPREME COURT. THERE ARE ALSO SECTIONS THAT ADDRESS STATE'S RIGHTS AND RELATIONS.



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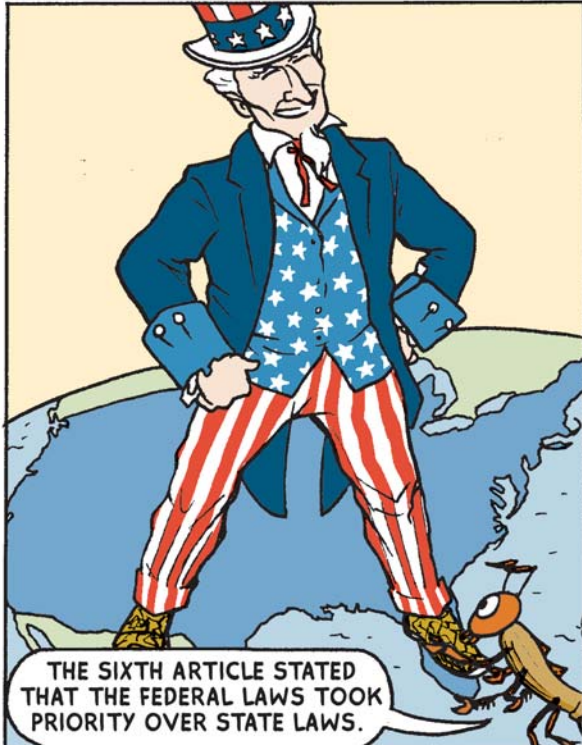
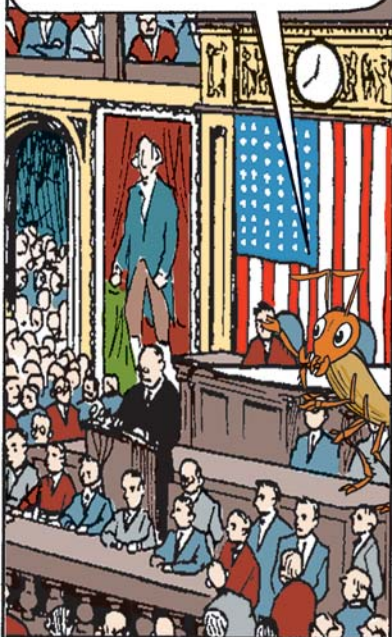


LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
CONGRESS
MAKES LAWS

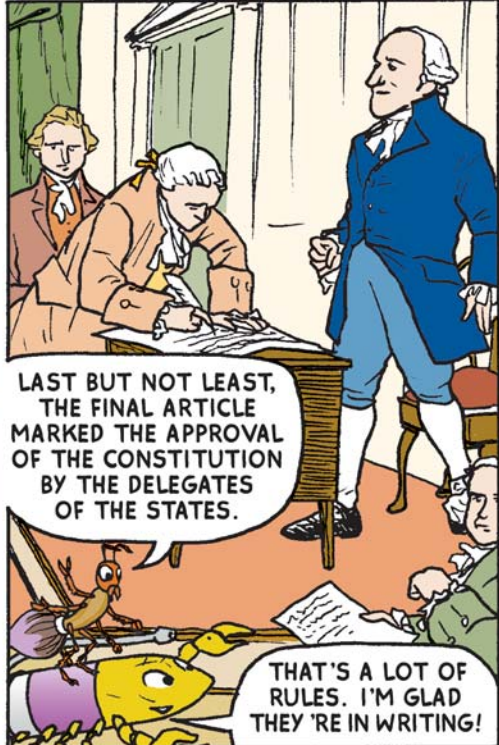
SOUNDS COMPLICATED TO ME!

WHEW, THAT COVERS ALMOST EVERYTHING!

IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO CHANGE OR AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AS NEEDED.



THE SIXTH ARTICLE STATED THAT THE FEDERAL LAWS TOOK PRIORITY OVER STATE LAWS.

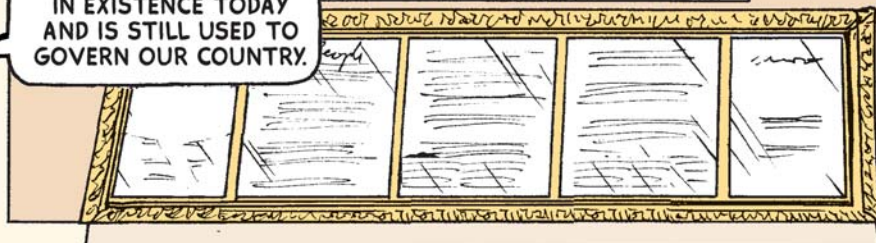
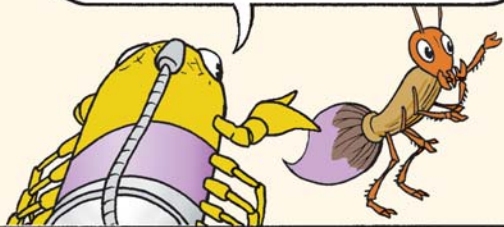


LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE FINAL ARTICLE MARKED THE APPROVAL OF THE CONSTITUTION BY THE DELEGATES OF THE STATES.

THAT'S A LOT OF RULES. I'M GLAD THEY'RE IN WRITING!

SO I GUESS THE **CONSTITUTION** APPROVED IN 1787 HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A MORE MODERN DOCUMENT?

ACTUALLY, SCORPY, THE CONSTITUTION IS STILL IN EXISTENCE TODAY AND IS STILL USED TO GOVERN OUR COUNTRY.

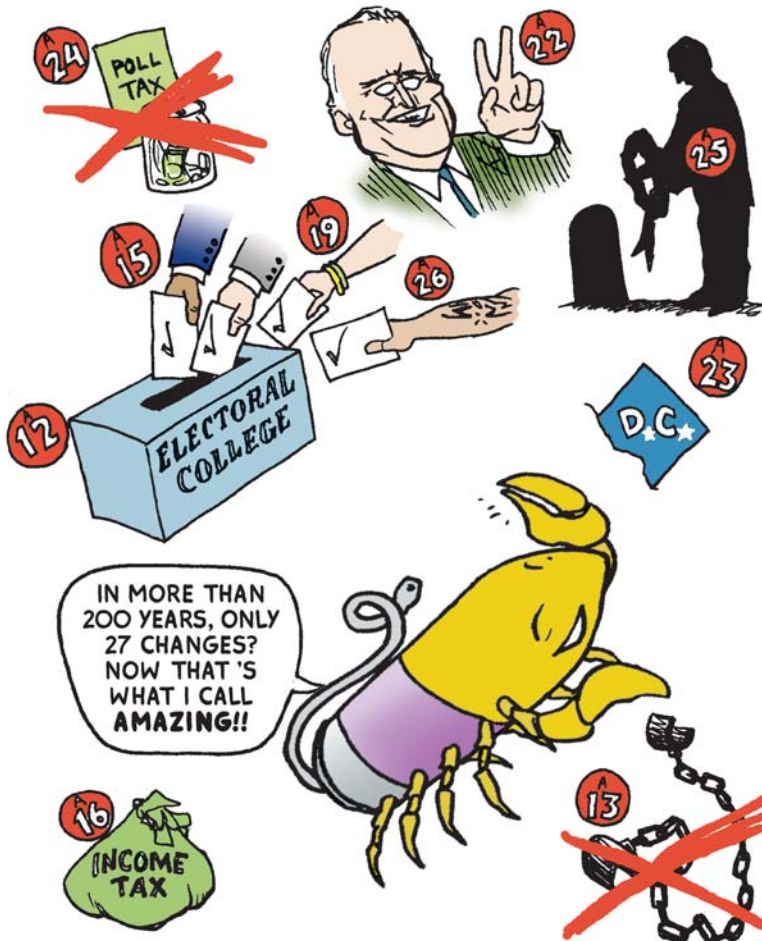
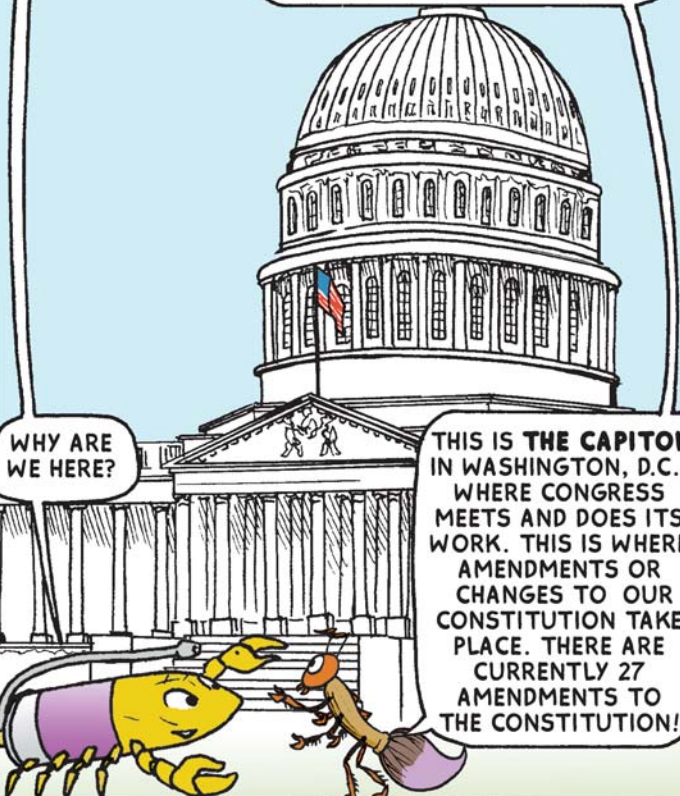


HAS IT CHANGED IN OVER 200 YEARS?

THE WRITERS OF IT KNEW THAT CHANGES WOULD BE NEEDED FROM TIME TO TIME, SO THEY INCLUDED A PART THAT ALLOWS CONGRESS AND THE INDIVIDUAL STATES TO CHANGE OR **AMEND** IT.

WHY ARE WE HERE?

THIS IS THE **CAPITOL** IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WHERE CONGRESS MEETS AND DOES ITS WORK. THIS IS WHERE AMENDMENTS OR CHANGES TO OUR CONSTITUTION TAKE PLACE. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 27 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION!



IN MORE THAN 200 YEARS, ONLY 27 CHANGES? NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL **AMAZING!!**