



James Madison Activity Bundle Integrated Reading and CRITICAL THOUGHT Activities

For Grades 5-8

10 INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES
Perfect for Interactive Notebooks
Perfect for Morning Work or Assessments

MR. NUSSBAUM
LEARNING + FUN

ANSWERS

Name	Answers
James Madison	B, D, A, C, 1812, D, ACD, B, BCD, D
Constitutional Convention	D, B, B, D, C, C, D, Delaware, C, A
Federalist Papers	C, D, B, A, B, D, B

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Name _____

In Between a Rock and a Hard Place

The term “in between a rock and a hard place” refers to “no-win” situations, where all possible choices or outcomes are negative in some way. The United States was between a rock and a hard place for much of the early 1800s when it came to France and England. Both countries were constantly at war and both sides desperately tried to force America to take its side. Can you think of a situation in which you were in between a rock and a hard place? Describe it below and then draw a cartoon showing you, the rock, and the hard place.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a cartoon.

Sequencing the Life of James Madison

Name: _____

Below is a biography on James Madison. On the following page is a chart to sequence the events of his life.

Father of the Constitution

James Madison was born on March 16, 1751, in King George County, Virginia. He graduated from Princeton University at the age of 20 in 1771. He served in the Virginia Constitutional Convention in 1776. In 1780, Madison served as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. Madison served as the chief recorder at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. He is regarded as the "Father of the Constitution" for his ambitious Virginia Plan, which proposed that representation in both houses of Congress should be proportionate to a state's population. Later in 1787, Madison teamed with Alexander Hamilton (and to a small extent, John Jay) to write the Federalist Papers, a series of persuasive essays designed to convince the states to ratify the Constitution. Written under the pen name "Publius," the Federalist Papers is considered one of the most important documents in American history.

The Democratic Party

In 1789, Madison was elected to the House of Representatives, where he helped draft the Bill of Rights and fought against passage of the Alien and Sedition Acts. Madison married Dolley Payne Todd in 1794. He helped found the Democratic Party and was chosen as Jefferson's secretary of state in 1801. As a leader of the Democrats, Madison believed that power should be invested in the states rather than a central government, and that the nation's economy should ultimately be powered by agriculture. In contrast to the Federalists, Madison believed in forging diplomatic and economic relationships with France rather than England.

Presidency and War of 1812

Madison was elected as America's fourth president in 1808. George Clinton was appointed vice president but died in office in 1812. Madison's first term was plagued by tensions with Great Britain, and his foreign policy was widely criticized. Despite the problems that characterized his first term, Madison was reelected in 1812 for a second term. Elbridge Gerry was appointed vice president, but he too died in office in 1814. During Madison's second term, he guided the nation through The War of 1812 with Great Britain, which many called the second American Revolution. Unfortunately, the peace treaty signed between the two countries ultimately settled few of the issues between the countries.

Later Years

Madison served two terms in office. Following his presidency, he retired to his home in Virginia, Montpelier. He died in 1836, at the age of 85.

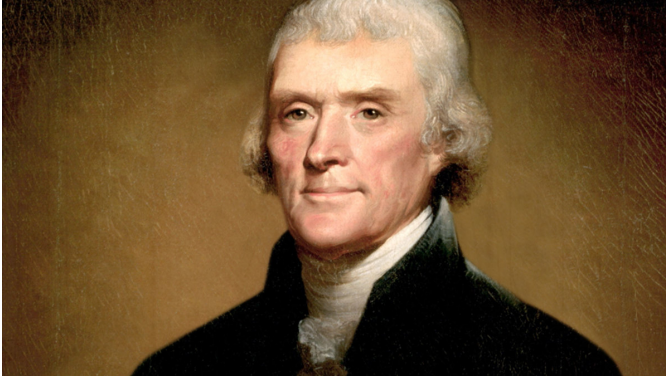
Event	From Earliest to Latest
Madison co-authors the Federalist Papers	
The War of 1812 began.	
Madison’s second vice-president dies in office.	
Madison becomes the 4 th president.	
Madison graduates from Princeton University.	1
Jefferson marries Dolley Payne.	
Madison served as a delegate in the Second Continental Congress.	
He serves as the chief recorder in the Constitutional Convention	

Answers:

Event	From Earliest to Latest
Madison co-authors the Federalist Papers	4
The War of 1812 began.	7
Madison's second vice-president dies in office.	8
Madison becomes the 4 th president.	6
Madison graduates from Princeton University.	1
Jefferson marries Dolley Payne.	5
Madison served as a delegate in the Second Continental Congress.	2
He serves as the chief recorder in the Constitutional Convention	3

Compare and Thomas Jefferson and James Madison

Name _____



Jefferson



Madison

Read the narratives at: <https://mrnussbaum.com/thomas-jefferson-biography>
and <https://mrnussbaum.com/james-madison-biography>

Then, organize the statements below into: Jefferson, Madison, or both.

Statements:

1. Worked on important documents in American history
2. Born in Virginia
3. Was part of George Washington's cabinet
4. Co-wrote the Federalist Papers
5. Was president of the United States
6. Led the country through a major war
7. Was part of the Democratic Party
8. Lived at Monticello
9. Was Secretary of State
10. Lived to be 80 years old or more



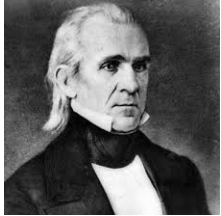




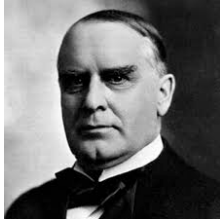


Jefferson	Both	Madison

Answers:

Jefferson	Both	Madison
3. 8.	1. 2. 5. 7. 9. 10.	4. 6.

James and William

Did you know that 23% of United States presidents were named James or William?

James:			
	Madison (4)	Monroe (5)	Polk (11)
			
	Buchanan (15)	Garfield (20)	Carter (38)
			
	Harrison (9)	McKinley (25)	Taft (27)
William:			
	Clinton (42)		

Think of two common first names. How many famous (or not so famous people) can you think of with those names? List them below.

[illegible]

Possible Answers if using James and William

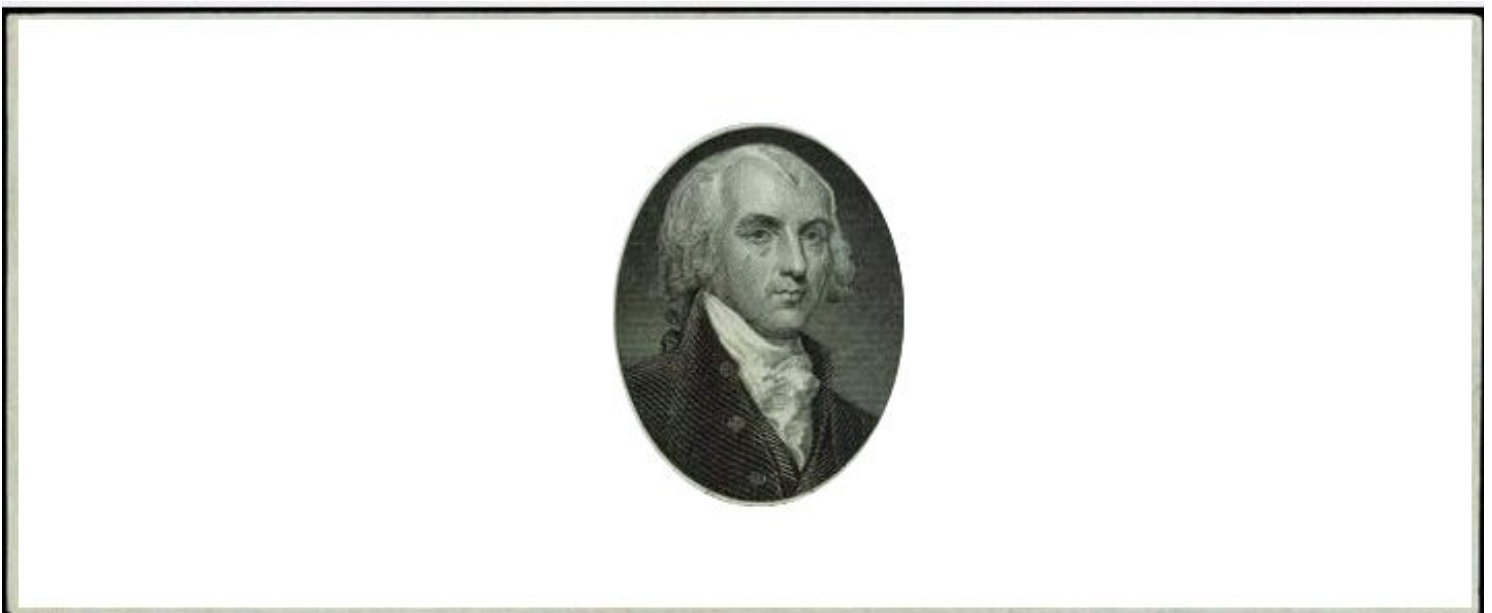
James	William
Longstreet	Shakespeare
(Jeb) Stuart	The Conqueror
Oglethorpe	Penn
King James	Pitt
Whistler	(Billy) the Kid
Dean	Wordsworth
Otis	(Will) Rogers
Fenimore Cooper	Randolph Hearst
Naismith	Clark
Cook	Prince William
Taylor	H. Seward

James Madison on the \$5,000 Bill!



Most people have no idea that there were once large denominations of U.S. currency that were in circulation. There was a \$500 bill, a \$1000 bill, this \$5000 bill you see above, and even a \$10,000 bill! These bills were used during the 1930s and 1940s mostly by the United States government in international agreements or loans. These are no longer in circulation and are sought after antiques by currency collectors. The bill above was being sold at auction recently for \$100,000!

Let's pretend that the United States Government decided to reintroduce the \$5,000 into circulation and has commissioned you to modernize it. Use the template below to fashion a modern, re-designed \$5,000 bill.



Fact or Fiction?

Name: _____

Below is a biography on James Madison. On the following page is a chart with ten statements. Indicate whether each statement is fact or fiction.

Father of the Constitution

James Madison was born on March 16, 1751, in King George County, Virginia. He graduated from Princeton University at the age of 20 in 1771. He served in the Virginia Constitutional Convention in 1776. In 1780, Madison served as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. Madison served as the chief recorder at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. He is regarded as the “Father of the Constitution” for his ambitious Virginia Plan, which proposed that representation in both houses of Congress should be proportionate to a state's population. Later in 1787, Madison teamed with Alexander Hamilton (and to a small extent, John Jay) to write the Federalist Papers, a series of persuasive essays designed to convince the states to ratify the Constitution. Written under the pen name “Publius,” the Federalist Papers is considered one of the most important documents in American history.

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Later Years

Madison served two terms in office. Following his presidency, he retired to his home in Virginia, Montpelier. He died in 1836, at the age of 85.

	FACT	FICTION
James Madison was the “Father of Virginia’s Constitution.”		
James Madison was one of the authors of the Federalist Papers.		
There were three authors of the Federalist Papers.		
Madison got married after he was elected to the House of Representatives.		
Madison believed the power should lie with a central government rather than with the states.		
Madison also believed that the national economy should be powered by agriculture.		
Madison believed that America should forge trade relations with England instead of France.		
James Madison would become president after Thomas Jefferson.		
Much of Madison’s presidency was plagued with problems between American and England.		
James Madison ultimately served two terms in office.		
The War of 1812 was between America and France.		

Answers:

	FACT	FICTION
James Madison was the “Father of Virginia’s Constitution.”		X
James Madison was one of the authors of the Federalist Papers.	X	
There were three authors of the Federalist Papers.	X	
Madison got married after he was elected to the House of Representatives.	X	
Madison believed the power should lie with a central government rather than with the states.		X
Madison also believed that the national economy should be powered by agriculture.	X	
Madison believed that America should forge trade relations with England instead of France.		X
James Madison would become president after Thomas Jefferson.	X	
Much of Madison’s presidency was plagued with problems between American and England.		X
James Madison ultimately served two terms in office.	X	
The War of 1812 was between America and France.		X



CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION Reading Comprehension

It was soon becoming apparent that the Articles of Confederation were insufficient as a means of governing the nation. Important legislators such as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison quickly realized the importance of establishing national laws to prevent the states from becoming independent countries on their own. The new United States was on the verge of collapse due to a lack of monetary funds and a series of rebellions. Shays' Rebellion in Massachusetts was an uprising of debtor farmers led by Daniel Shays that resulted in a failed attempt to seize a federal arsenal in Springfield.

The Constitutional (Philadelphia) Convention was called in 1786 and was held at Independence Hall in 1787. Fifty-five men from throughout the colonies convened for the purpose of strengthening the Articles of Confederation. George Washington was chosen to preside over the convention. From the start of the convention, controversy arose concerning voting on legislation. Larger states such as Pennsylvania wanted their votes to count more than smaller states because they represented larger populations. Smaller states such as Rhode Island and New Jersey feared that their interests would be ignored.

On May 29, 1787, Virginia governor Edmund Randolph presented the Virginia Plan, a compilation of proposals drafted by future president James Madison. Madison proposed a three-tiered government with a legislative branch consisting of two houses (Senate and House of Representatives) that would make laws, an executive branch to carry out the laws, and a judicial branch to enforce the laws. Madison's proposal also called for proportional representation in both houses of the legislative branch. This meant that states would be represented based on their populations or the amount of tax payments paid. Furthermore, the House of Representatives would be elected by the people, and the Senate would be elected by the representatives. To quell the rising tide of state sovereignty (independence), the Virginia Plan would authorize the national government to have direct authority over American citizens, as well as to negate any state laws that were not deemed in the best interest of the United States.

While the larger states seemed to support the Virginia Plan, the smaller states began to voice their opposition. William Paterson, from New Jersey, warned that his state would never go along with the plan, and Roger Sherman, from Connecticut, opposed the popular election (by the people) of representatives. Others, such as Alexander Hamilton, claimed that the Virginia Plan was too democratic and failed to protect the government against the passage of popular, but ultimately, harmful laws. Nevertheless, the Virginia Plan was voted (7 states

to 3) as the convention's basis for deliberations. Thus, the Articles of Confederation would be effectively replaced rather than amended.

The issue of equal versus proportional representation, however, was the most contentious issue and threatened to destroy the deliberations, and perhaps, the new nation. The smaller states would not agree to any plan in which the larger ones had more votes. On July 5, 1787, a special committee was formed to try to come to a compromise regarding the issue of representation. The Great Compromise, as it came to be known, formed an alternative plan in which the House of Representatives would include one state delegate for every 40,000 citizens of a particular state, and the Senate would have the same number of delegates, regardless of population, for each state. On July 16, five states voted for the plan, and four (the larger states) voted against it. It was a victory for the smaller states.

On July 26, another committee was formed to begin drafting what would become the U.S. Constitution. On August 17, 1787, the Constitution was signed. The Constitution was first ratified by Delaware on December 7, 1787, and then by Pennsylvania on December 12. Although wealthy and powerful citizens in many states were reluctant to lend support to the Constitution because they would be relinquishing some powers, influential officials such as Benjamin Franklin and George Washington voiced their support for the Constitution which helped sway popular opinion. Alexander Hamilton and James Madison were among those who wrote *The Federalist*—a series of political essays written to promote ratification of the Constitution. By 1790, all thirteen colonies ratified the Constitution and became states.

1.) In what year was the Constitutional Convention held?

- a.) 1776
- b.) 1788
- c.) 1786
- d.) 1787

2.) Why was the Constitutional Convention held in the first place?

- a.) To discuss a solution to Shays' Rebellion
- b.) To strengthen the Articles of Confederation
- c.) To elect George Washington as president
- d.) To write a new Constitution

3.) What did larger states want as part of the Constitution?

- a.) All states to have equal votes/
- b.) States with larger populations to have more votes.
- c.) States with more slaves to have less votes.
- d.) States with larger areas to have more votes.

4.) In James Madison's Virginia Plan, what branch of government would ENFORCE laws?

- a.) executive
- b.) the Senate
- c.) legislative
- d.) judicial

5.) Which of the following is NOT true about Madison's Virginia Plan?

- a.) The executive branch carries out laws.
- b.) It called for the nullification of any state law that was not in the best interest of the United States.
- c.) The judicial branch has two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- d.) States with smaller populations would have less votes.

6.) States with larger populations...

- a.) overwhelmingly disliked the Virginia Plan.
- b.) agreed with states with smaller populations.
- c.) generally liked the Virginia Plan.
- d.) generally disliked the Virginia Plan.

7.) The Great Compromise...

- a.) really didn't help either side.
- b.) provided a system that favored the smaller states.
- c.) provided a system that favored the larger states.
- d.) provided a system that tried to appease larger states and smaller states.

8.) _____ was the first state to ratify the Constitution.

9.) Alexander Hamilton _____ the ratification of the Constitution.

- a.) refused
- b.) opposed
- c.) advocated
- d.) disagreed with

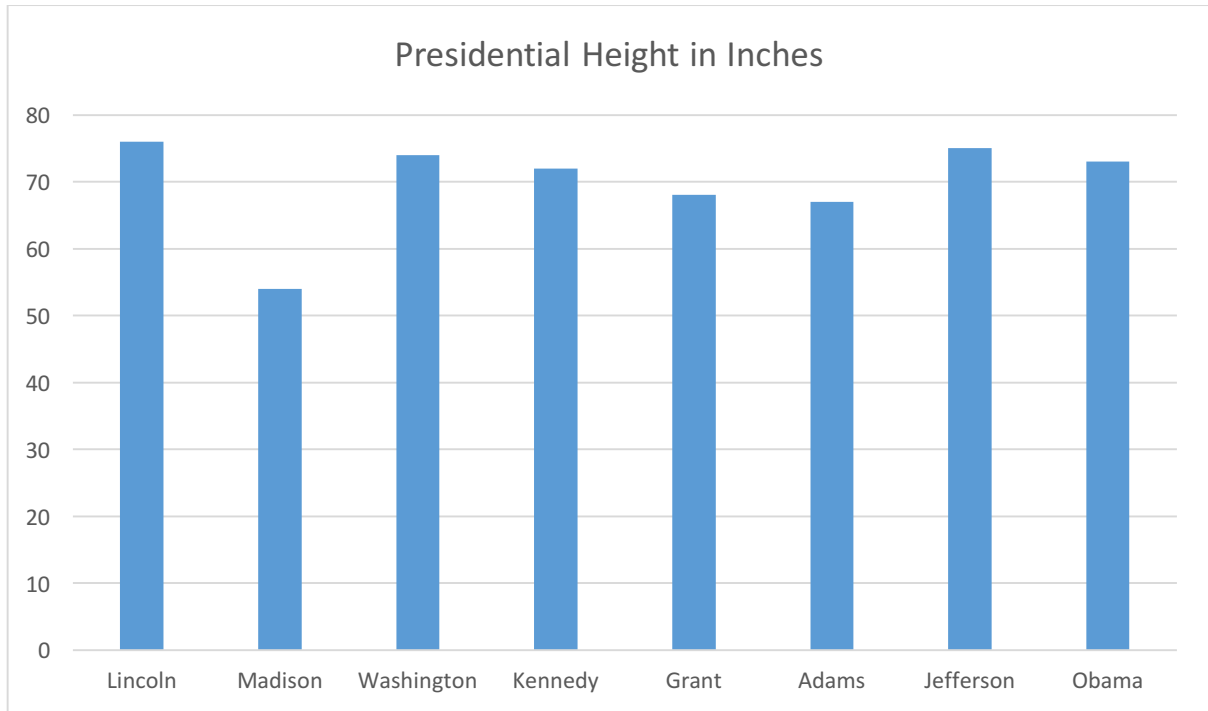
10.) What happened last?

- a.) 1791
- b.) Shays' Rebellion
- c.) All thirteen states ratified the Constitution.
- d.) The Federalist was written.

Presidential Height – Histograms

Name: _____

Can you answer the questions about presidential heights? Be ready to show off your conversion skills!



1. Who is the shortest president? _____
2. Who is the tallest president? _____
3. Which president is 6'0"? _____
4. Which president is 6'4"? _____
5. Which president is 5'7"? _____
6. How many inches taller was Lincoln than Madison? _____
7. Which presidents were under 6'0"? _____
8. If Abraham Lincoln stood on top of George Washington's head, how tall would the two be combined?

Answers:

1. James Madison
2. Abraham Lincoln
3. John F. Kennedy
4. Abraham Lincoln
5. John Adams
6. 12 inches (1 foot) – 6'4" vs 5'4"
7. Grant, Madison, Adams
8. 150 inches – 12'6"

The Bill of Responsibilities

On December 15, 1791, the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution were ratified. Known as the Bill of Rights, these ten amendments were written to preserve the rights of the individual. In any successful Democracy, citizens retain rights, but also have specific responsibilities in maintaining that Democracy. For example, within your school you have various rights and responsibilities. You have the right to be treated fairly by your teachers and the responsibility to do your homework. Imagine if all students refused to do their homework? It would negatively impact society as a whole as learning at school would not be reinforced at home. What if the Founding Fathers had drafted a Bill of Responsibilities alongside the Bill of Rights? Explain five responsibilities of the typical citizen that you think would be included in such a bill. Explain your reasoning.

Responsibility	Reasoning
EXAMPLE - All American citizens should be required to recycle plastic bottles and aluminum cans.	By recycling, Americans will better preserve our natural resources and materials that can be reused.
2.)	
3.)	
4.)	
5.)	