**The delegates of the Constitutional Convention had to compromise on many key points in order to finalize the new Constitution and have it accepted by each of the states.**

**The Great Compromise**, also referred to as the Connecticut Compromise**,** combined plans proposed by Virginia and New Jersey to address the issue of equal representation in Congress. The Virginia plan stated that the population of the state would determine representation, while the New Jersey plan proposed that each state have the same number of representatives. In the end, it was determined that there would be two houses in the Congress—the Senate and the House of Representatives. Each state would get the same number of Senators, while the number of representatives to the House would be based on population.

**Three-Fifths Compromise**

Delegates from the northern and southern states disagreed on how the population in their region would be determined, in regards to counting of their slave population. Since the House of Representatives was to be based on population, this was a big topic up for debate at the Convention. The Northern states did not think the South should count their slaves toward their population. The South, which relied on slave labor, thought the opposite. The compromise was that every five slaves would be counted as three individuals in terms of representation.

**Slave Trade Compromise**

The northern and southern states did not agree on the importation and sale of slaves. The north thought they should bring an end to importation and sale of slaves, while the southern states believed that the government shouldn’t interfere. The south felt the slave trade was important to their economy. The compromise was that the issue of banning the slave trade could not be addressed by Congress until after 1808, pushing the problem off about 20 years.

**Election of the President**

Delegates decided that election of a president was necessary to provide for a Chief Executive. The Articles of Confederation did not provide for a national leader. Some delegates felt the president should be elected by a vote in which each individual cast his/her vote. Other alternatives were presented, including going through the Senate to elect the president. The ending compromise was the Electoral College. The citizens vote for electors who in turn cast their vote for the president.