# George Washington

Born: 1732

Died: 1799

Birthplace:
Virginia

Delegate from
Virginia



# Benjamin Franklin

Born: 1706

Died: 1790

Birthplace:
Massachusetts

Delegate from
Pennsylvania



# James Madison

Born: 1751

Died: 1836

Birthplace:
Virginia

Delegate from
Virginia



# Edmund Randolph

Born: 1753

Died: 1813

Birthplace:
Virginia

Delegate from
Virginia

- Oldest of the delegates
- He was in such ill health that he had to be carried to the meetings.
- Wrote *Poor Richard's Almanack*
- He was a newspaper publisher
- He was an inventor of the lightning conductor, Franklin stove, and bifocals
- He built the first free library in the colonies.
- He served as a diplomat to foreign nations.
- He helped draft the Declaration of Independence.

- Unanimously elected as president of the Constitutional Convention
- Had been a delegate to the Continental Congress of 1774-1775 previously.
- Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War of 1775
- Largely due to his urging a strong united government was instituted.
- Became the first President of the U.S.

- He served as Virginia's governor from 1786-1788.
- He proposed the Virginia Plan at the Grand Convention whose ideas formed the basis of the Constitution.
- He did not sign the Constitution, however, at the convention.
- He did later ratify it.
- In 1789, he became the first U.S. Attorney General
- He became the first Secretary of State from 1794-1795

- He was the shortest man there.
- He proposed many of the ideas adopted by the Constitutional Convention and he kept careful notes of the proceedings.
- He is called the "Father of the Constitution."
- He had served as a member of the Continental Congress previously.
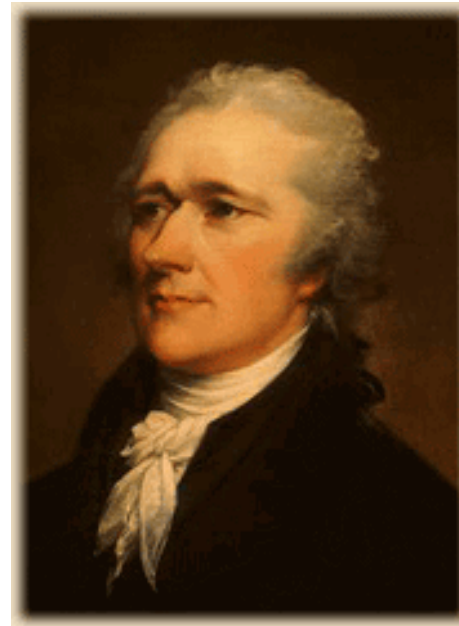- He was elected President in 1809 with the help of his long-time friend Thomas Jefferson.

**Elbridge Gerry**

Born: 1744

Died: 1814

Birthplace:
Massachusetts

Delegate from
Massachusetts

**Alexander Hamilton**

Born: 1755

Died: 1804

Birthplace:
West Indies

Delegate from
New York

**Gouverneur Morris**

Born: 1753

Died: 1813

Birthplace:
New York

Delegate from
Pennsylvania

**Roger Sherman**

Born: 1721

Died: 1793

Birthplace:
Massachusetts

Delegate from
Connecticut

- He was known as "Grumbletonian."
- He believed that the plan for the constitution should begin with the bill of rights, but his idea was defeated.
- He refused to sign the constitution.
- He was a defender of states' rights and personal liberty.
- He served as Vice-President under James Madison.

- He argued that a Bill of Rights was unnecessary in the Constitution at the Convention.
- He co-authored *The Federalist Papers* with John Jay and James Madison.
- He served as the first Secretary of the Treasury.
- He became the leader of the Federalist Party.
- During his presidency, he was killed in a duel with his political opponent, Aaron Burr.

- Oliver Ellsworth and he introduced the Connecticut Compromise to the Convention.
- Their plan called for both proportional and equal representation in Congress.
- After some changes by Benjamin Franklin, the proposal was accepted.
- He served as a U.S. representative from 1789-1791.
- From 1791-1793, he served as a senator for the state of Connecticut.

- He was the tallest of the Convention and was known as "Tall Boy."
- He lobbied for strong federal government.
- He served as a literary advisor and was responsible for much of the wording of the Constitution.
- He served as a minister to France from 1792-1794.
- He was one of the promoters for the Erie Canal.
- He planned the U,S. decimal coin system.