

Washington as Statesman at the Constitutional Convention

Artwork Viewing Guide **Sample Answers**

Directions: Using the image of the artwork, answer the following questions.

The artwork is a depiction of Washington as Statesman at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 by Junius Brutus Stearns.

WHO? Who is being represented in the painting?	WHAT? Explain what is happening in the painting using specific examples.
The painting portrays the 39 (out of 55) delegates in attendance at the Convention that would ultimately sign the Constitution. George Washington is at the center.	The delegates were working together to decide that the Constitution would replace the Articles of Confederation. You can see the delegates collaborating and discussing options that were part of the change.
WHEN? When did this event take place?	WHERE? Where did this event take place?
During the summer of 1787, between May and September	The Philadelphia Convention at Independence Hall

WHY? Why would Stearns choose to create this piece of art almost 70 years later?
To commemorate, honor, and remember this historic event. Up until this painting, there was not a full picture representation of the convention. This also served as a reminder of the role Washington played in the creation of the new U.S. Constitution. Years later, it was important to remind Americans of the debates and struggles endured by the Founding Fathers to create a document that still protected the rights of the people, even as the nation faced new challenges.