

Name: _____

U.S. Constitution Fact Sheet 2

- The Constitution was written in 1787.
- The Constitution is stored at the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C.
- From May to September 1787 a group of men known as the Framers held the Constitutional Convention to talk about what should be in the Constitution.
- Three of the Framers were James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, and George Washington.
- In 1787 there were only 13 states. The Framers came from all the states except Rhode Island, which didn't send any delegates.
- The Framers debated many issues about government and what kind of country the United States should be.
- The Framers had to work out a lot of compromises.
- After the Convention, the Constitution needed to be approved.
- Although only nine states had to agree in order to ratify the Constitution (or make it into law), everyone wanted all 13 states to ratify the document.
- When the Framers ratified the Constitution, they knew that as times changed, the document would have to change too. They wanted to make sure that it wasn't too hard or too easy to make these kinds of changes so they included an amendment process.
- An amendment is a change that can add to the Constitution or revise an existing part of the Constitution.
- Originally, the Constitution did not have a Bill of Rights. Some Framers did not think it needed one. But many others disagreed, and so promises were made to add a Bill of Rights, using the amendment process that the Framers created.
- Soon, the new Congress proposed a list of 12 changes that was sent to the states.
- In 1791, 10 of those changes were agreed to by 11 states and were ratified. These 10 changes or amendments are called the Bill of Rights.