

**Constitution Day Lesson**  
**Third Grade**  
**The Making of the U.S. Constitution**

**Main ideas of this lesson:**

- All citizens of a community are governed by laws to keep order and protect people.
- Citizens who break laws face consequences.
- A government is a group of citizens who make the rules for a community, state or country.
- Communities have a leader such as a mayor who helps carry out the laws.
- Communities have a group of citizens who make the laws and courts that decide what to do when laws are broken.

**Connections to the Constitution:**

- Our country has laws also. Our highest law is our Constitution.
- Our Constitution creates a President as our leader, a Congress to make laws and a Supreme Court.
- As citizens of a community we follow our community laws.
- As citizens of our country we follow the laws of our Constitution.

**Basic Ideas about the Constitution for third graders:**

- The law is the set of rules that we live by. The Constitution is the highest law. It belongs to the United States. It belongs to all Americans.
- The Constitution says how the government works. It creates the President. It creates the Congress. It creates the Supreme Court.
- The Constitution lists some key rights. Rights are things that all people have just because they are alive. By listing the rights, they are made special. They are made safe. The Bill of Rights is a part of the Constitution. The Bill of Rights lists many rights of the people.
- The Constitution was written in 1787. So, is over 200 years old. We actually have old copies of what was created.
- In 1787, a group of men met to write the Constitution. They did not like the way the country was going. They fixed it by creating the Constitution. We call these men The Framers.
- Some of the framers are very famous. George Washington was a Framers. So was Ben Franklin.
- The Framers met during a hot summer. They had a lot of arguments. In the end, they agreed to the words in the Constitution. They knew they had to agree. If they did not agree, the fighting would keep going.
- After the Framers wrote the Constitution, they asked the states to approve it. It took some time, but all the states did approve it.
- Some people did not like the Constitution. Some were afraid because it did not protect the rights of the people. It had no bill of rights.
- Promises were made to add a bill of rights. After the Constitution passed, the Bill of Rights was added. The Bill of Rights is the first ten changes to the Constitution.

**Activity: The Making of the U.S. Constitution Little Book (see attached sheets)**

- Guide students in cutting out and assembling the 'little book.' Then, go over the information in the book together.

**Supplemental Activities:**

- **Video:** *Snoopy and the Making of the Constitution* or *Shh! We're Writing a Constitution*

The states began arguing among themselves after the Revolutionary War.

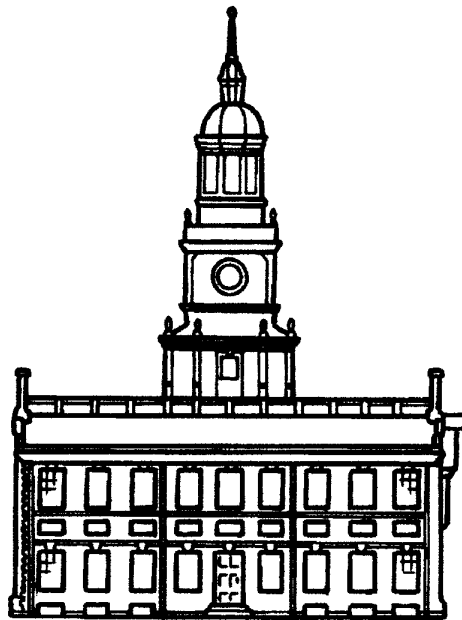
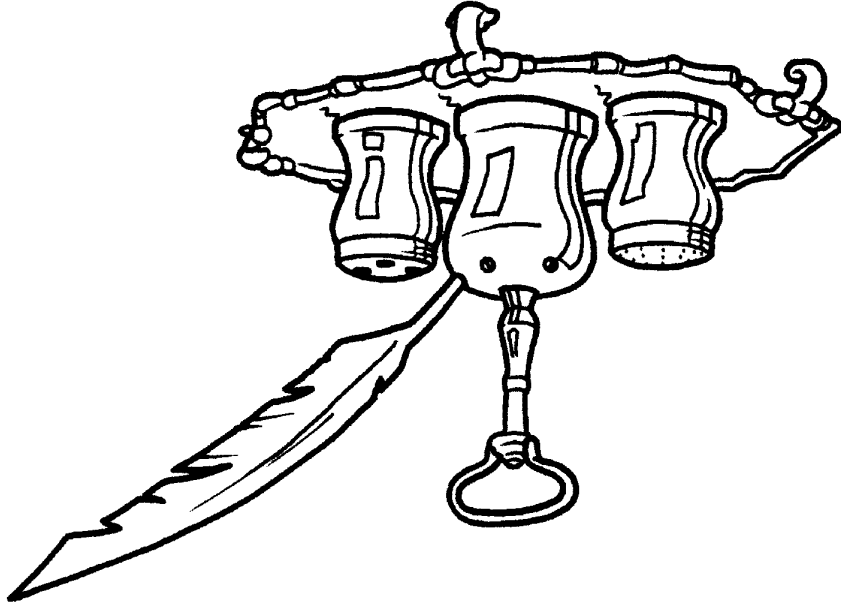


# The Making of the U.S. Constitution



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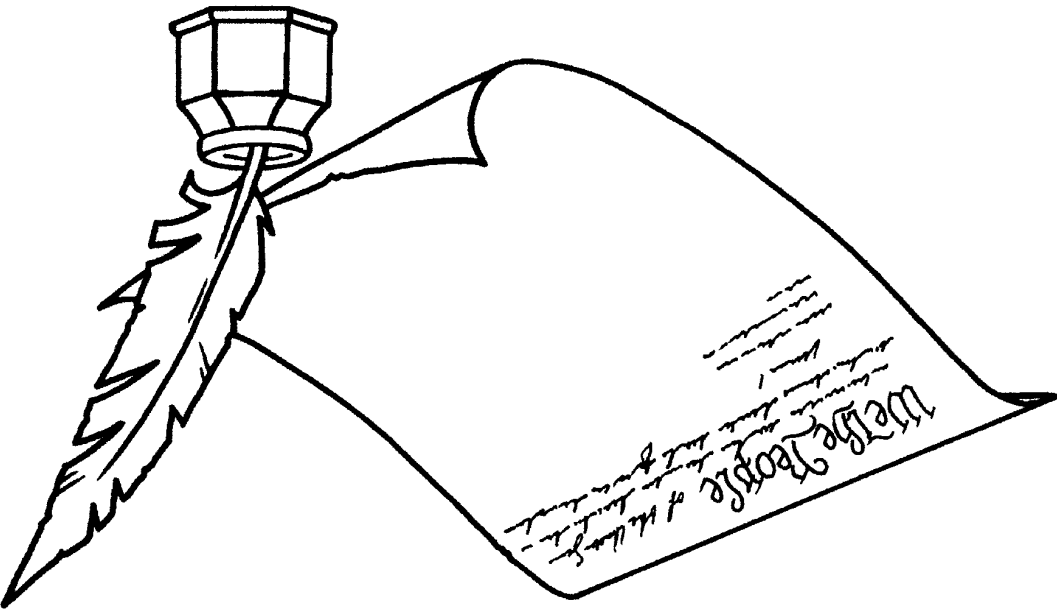
The delegates decided to write a new constitution. It was signed on September 17, 1787.



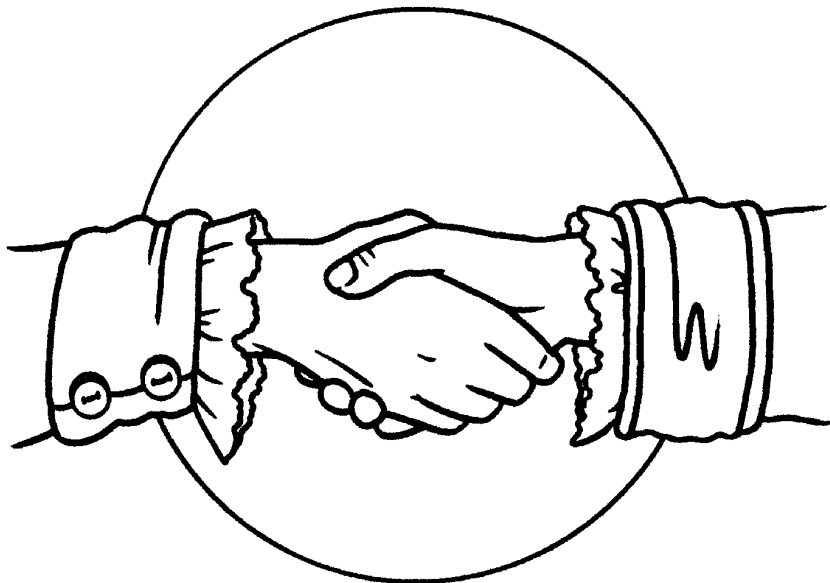
Several leaders decided to meet in Philadelphia to amend the Articles of Confederation in order to have a stronger nation.

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Twenty-six amendments, including the Bill of Rights, have been added to the Constitution. The original document is displayed in the National Archives building in Washington, D.C.



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All of the states ratified the Constitution except North Carolina and Rhode Island. However, they both joined later.

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