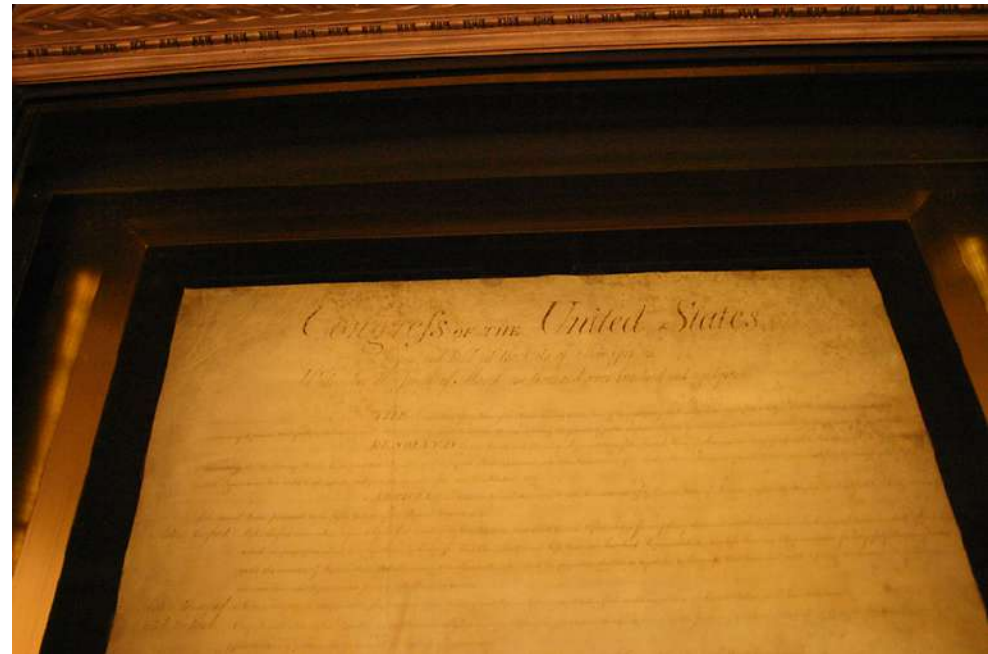


The U.S. Constitution

- Constitutional Convention
- The Writers
- The Debate
- Ratification
- The Bill of Rights



A. Constitutional Convention

- Meeting from May - September 1787
- Delegates (representatives) met in Philadelphia at Independence Hall.
- Their goal was to fix the Articles of Confederation
- Realized they needed a whole new system of government instead



B.The Writers

- George Washington
- Benjamin Franklin
- James Madison
- NO THOMAS
JEFFERSON – HE
WAS IN PARIS



C. The Debate

- Two plans were initially proposed
- The Virginia Plan called for a bicameral legislature with the number of representatives determined by population
- The New Jersey Plan called for a bicameral legislature with the number of representatives being equal for every state

- The Great Compromise – a combination of the two plans was decided on for the Constitution
- One house would have equal representation (Senate), one would be based on population (House of Representatives).
- Federalism – proposed by James Madison
- Divide the power between the National (Central) government & the State governments

D.Ratification

- The Constitution was signed by the writers on September 17, 1787 and then sent to the states to be ratified (approved)
- Some people liked the Constitution and wanted it to be ratified, some didn't
- Federalists supported the Constitution while Anti-Federalists did not

- It was ratified
- Constitution went into effect on March 4, 1789

E. The Bill of Rights

- First 10 amendments (add-ons) of the Constitution
- Guaranteed basic rights of the people
- Anti-Federalists insisted these be added or the Constitution would not be ratified
- Borrowed ideas from the English Bill of Rights and from Enlightenment thinkers