



# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, 1787

- The Constitution is the supreme law of the land.
  - It sets up the government and protects the basic rights of Americans.
- The Constitution was written after the American War of Independence.
  - It was drafted in 1787.
  - The Federalist Papers are a group of essays that supported the Constitution.
  - The federal government only has the powers that the Constitution says it has.
  - The states have the powers that the federal government does not have.
  - The Preamble is a short statement about the purpose of the Constitution. The Preamble does not prohibit actions or grant rights.
  - The Preamble starts with the words "We the People." This means that the power of the government comes from the people.
  - Changes to the Constitution are Amendments. There are 27 amendments to the Constitution.
  - There are seven Articles in the Constitution.
  - The Constitution separates the government into three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial.

## ► FUN FACTS

1. There were 55 delegates at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. The delegates are called the Founding Fathers because they wrote the Constitution.
2. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest member of the Constitutional Convention. He gave a speech when it was completed and asked that all 13 states vote to approve it unanimously.
3. The Constitution was written in the same building that the Declaration of Independence was written in.
4. George Washington was the leader of the men who wrote the Constitution. He remained silent during most of the debates.
5. The first state to ratify the Constitution was Delaware.