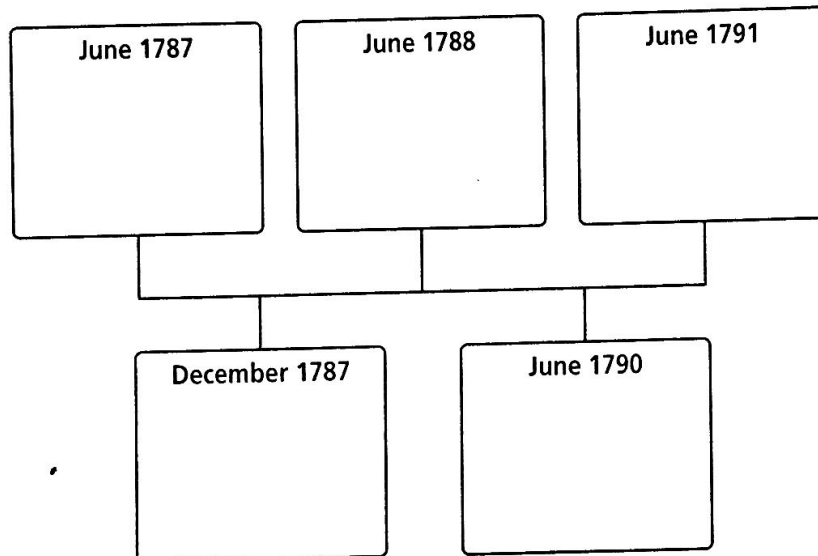


Chapter **8** Section 3 (pages 234–237)**Ratifying the Constitution****BEFORE YOU READ**

In the last section, you read how the Constitution was created.
In this section, you will learn how the Constitution was ratified.

AS YOU READ

Use this time line to take notes on the events that led to the ratification of the Constitution.

**TERMS & NAMES**

federalism A system of government in which power is shared among the federal government and the states

Federalists People who supported ratification of the Constitution

Antifederalists People who opposed ratification of the Constitution

The Federalist papers Essays that explained and defended the Constitution

George Mason Influential Virginian who opposed ratification of the Constitution

Bill of Rights Set of amendments to the Constitution passed to protect individual rights

Federalists and Antifederalists

(pages 234–235)

Who were the Federalists and Antifederalists?

The framers of the Constitution knew that the Constitution would cause *controversy*. They began to work for its *ratification*.

The framers knew that people feared that the Constitution might give the national government too much power. The framers explained that the new Constitution was based on **federalism**. In a federal system, the national government and state governments share power.

The people who supported ratification were known as **Federalists**. People who opposed the Constitution were known as **Antifederalists**. They thought that the Constitution took too much power

away from the states. They also thought it did not guarantee people's rights. Both sides published their arguments in newspapers and pamphlets.

1. What side did the Federalists and Antifederalists take on the Constitution?

The Federalist Papers (pages 235–236)

Who wrote The Federalist papers?

The Federalists wrote and published essays in support of the Constitution. The best known essays are **The Federalist papers**. They were later published as a book called *The Federalist*.

The authors of *The Federalist* papers were Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay. Jay had been the secretary of foreign affairs for the Confederation Congress.

Most of the newspapers supported the Constitution. As a result, they gave more publicity to the Federalists than the Antifederalists. Even so, opposition to ratification was strong in many areas.

2. What were *The Federalist* papers?

The Battle for Ratification (pages 236–237)

How many states ratified the Constitution by June 1788?

By late June 1788, nine states had ratified the Constitution. However, New York and Virginia had not yet voted. Virginia's convention opened the first week in June. Patrick Henry and **George Mason** refused to sign the final document unless a bill of rights was added. James Madison was also at Virginia's convention. He suggested that Virginia ratify the Constitution and recommended a bill of rights be added. With the addition of a bill of rights likely, Virginia ratified the Constitution.

The news that Virginia had ratified the Constitution reached New York while its delegates were still meeting. New York also ratified the

Constitution and called for a bill of rights to be added. Rhode Island became the last state to ratify the Constitution in 1790. By then, the new Congress had already written a bill of rights and submitted it to the states for approval.

3. Why were Virginia and New York reluctant to ratify the Constitution?

The Bill of Rights (page 237)

Who wrote the first ten amendments?

James Madison, a member of the new Congress, proposed a set of *amendments* to the Constitution. Congress edited Madison's list of amendments. Then it proposed to add the amendments to the Constitution.

As with the Constitution, three-fourths of the states had to ratify the amendments for them to take effect. In 1791, ten amendments were ratified and became law. These ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution became known as the **Bill of Rights**.

4. What are the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

Skillbuilder

Use the chart below to answer the questions.

Federalists	Antifederalists
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported removing some powers from the states and giving more powers to the national government • Favored dividing powers among different branches of government • Proposed a single person to lead the executive branch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wanted important political powers to remain with the states • Wanted the legislative branch to have more power than the executive • Feared that a strong executive might become a king or tyrant • Believed a bill of rights needed to be added to the Constitution to protect people's rights

1. Which group wanted the national government to have more power?

2. Which group was more in favor of adding a bill of rights to the Constitution?