

# United States Government Lapbook



(7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades)

Designed by  
Cyndi Kinney and Judy Trout  
of Knowledge Box Central



United States Government Lapbook (Grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

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This book is dedicated to my amazing family. Thank you to my wonderful husband, Scott, who ate a lot of leftovers, listened to a lot of whining (from me!), and sent lots of positive energy my way. Thank you to my daughter, Shelby, who truly inspired me through her love for learning. Thank you to my parents, Judy and Billy Trout, who taught me to trust in my abilities and to never give up.

## How do I get started?

First, you will want to gather your supplies. Depending on which format you purchased from us, you will need different supplies. So, take what applies, and skip over the rest.

### \*\*\* Printing:

\*Print instructions and study guide on white copy paper.



\*Print the booklet templates on 24# colored paper or 110# cardstock.

For some booklets, we have suggested specific colors or cardstock. You may choose to use those suggested colors, or you may choose to print on any color that you like.



### \*\*\* Assembly:

\***Folders:** We use colored file folders, which can be found at Walmart, Sam's, Office Depot, Costco, etc. You will need between 2 and 4 file folders, depending on which product you have purchased. You may use manilla folders if you prefer, but we have found that children respond better with the brightly colored folders. Don't worry about the tabs...they aren't important. If you prefer, you can purchase the assembled lapbook bases from our website.



\***Glue:** For the folder assembly, we use hot glue. For booklet assembly, we use glue sticks and sometimes hot glue, depending on the specific booklet. We have found that bottle glue stays wet for too long, so it's not a great choice for lapbooking.



\***Other Supplies:** Of course, you will need scissors. Many booklets require additional supplies. Some of these include metal brad fasteners, paper clips, ribbon, yarn, staples, hole puncher, etc. You may want to add decorations of your own, including stickers, buttons, coloring pages, cut-out clipart, etc. The most important thing is to use your imagination! Make it your own!!



## **Ok. I've gathered the supplies. Now how do I use this product?**

Inside, you will find several sections. They are as follows:

- 1. Student Assembly and Completion Instructions:** This section is written directly to the student, in language that he or she can understand. However, depending on the age of the child, there may be some parent/teacher assistance needed. These instructions will tell the student exactly how to assemble the lapbook base and how to cut out and assemble each booklet. Here, they will find a layout of where each booklet should be placed in the lapbook and pictures of a completed lapbook. They will also tell the student exactly what should be written inside each booklet as he or she comes to it during the study.
- 2. Teacher's Guide:** This section is a great resource for the parent/teacher. In this section, you will find the answer to each question. You will also find suggestions of extra activities that you may want to use with your student.
- 3. Study Guide:** This section includes ALL of the information that you need to teach this subject. You may choose to teach directly from the Study Guide, or you may choose to allow your student to read the study guide himself. Either way, you will find all of the information here.

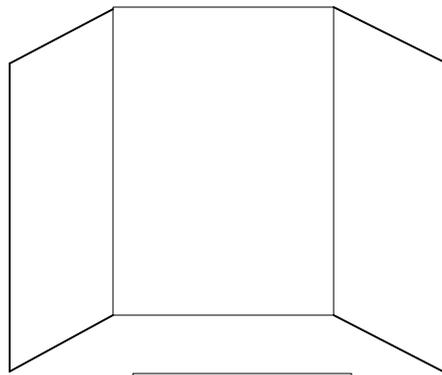
*United States Government*  
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**Student Instruction Guide**

**Lapbook Base Assembly:**

First, you will need to assemble the “Lapbook Base” for your project. This is not such an easy task, so you may want to ask for some assistance with this part.

For this lapbook, you will need 3 file folders. Open each file folder, and lay it flat in front of you. Fold both sides of each folder toward the middle. The edges (or tabs) of the folded sides should touch the center original fold line on the folders. See **Figure 1** below. Then, lay all 3 file folders out in front of you after you have folded them all to look like **Figure 1**. Now glue the smaller “flaps” of each folder to those of the next folder as in **Figure 2** below.

**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**

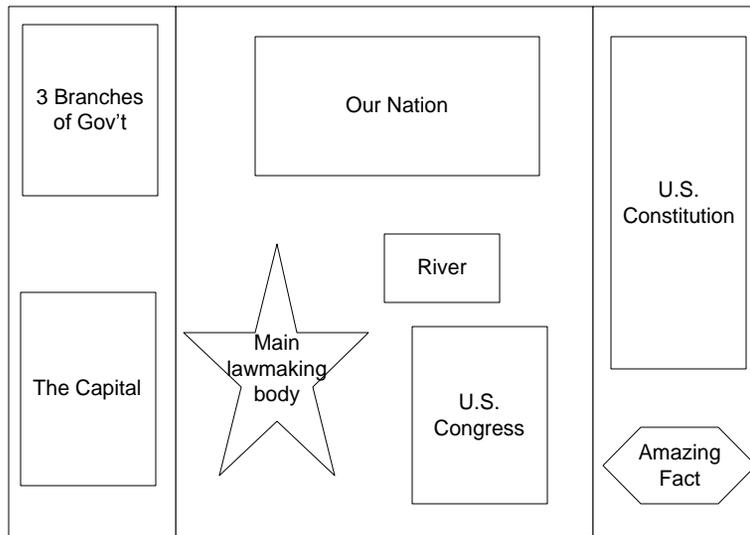


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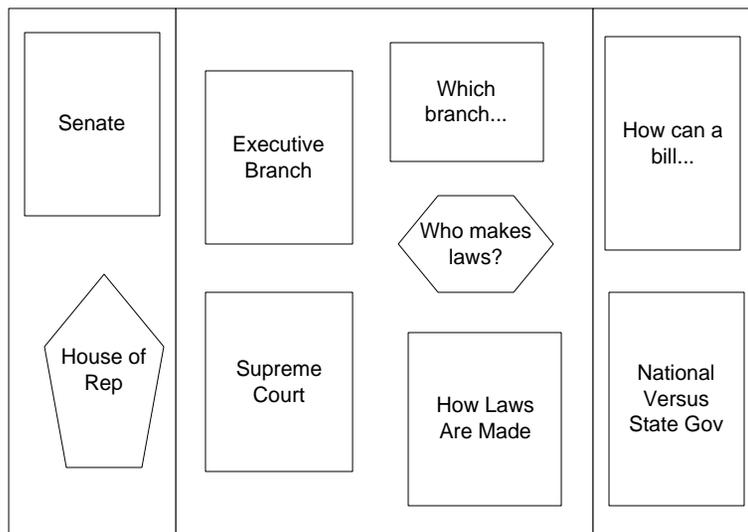
## Lapbook Layout:

Below, you will see a layout for each folder in the lapbook. You may choose to glue the booklets into your Lapbook Base in any order that you like. However, you may have trouble fitting all of them in unless you follow the layout below. Some of the shapes aren't exactly the same on the layout as the booklets themselves.

Inside of 1<sup>st</sup> Folder:

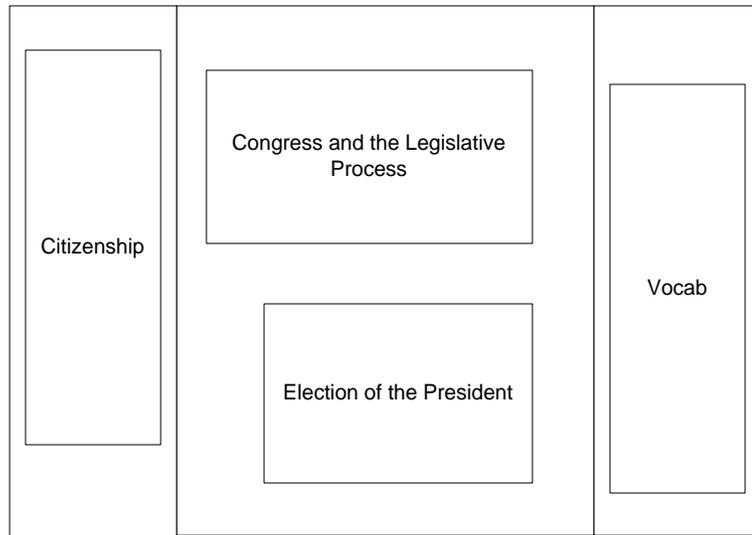


Inside of 2<sup>nd</sup> Folder:

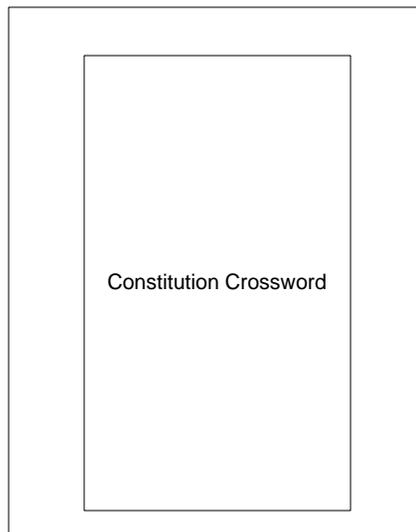


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Inside of 3<sup>rd</sup> Folder:



Back of 3<sup>rd</sup> Folder:



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Below, you will find pictures of how the lapbook should look when you have completely assembled it.

Complete



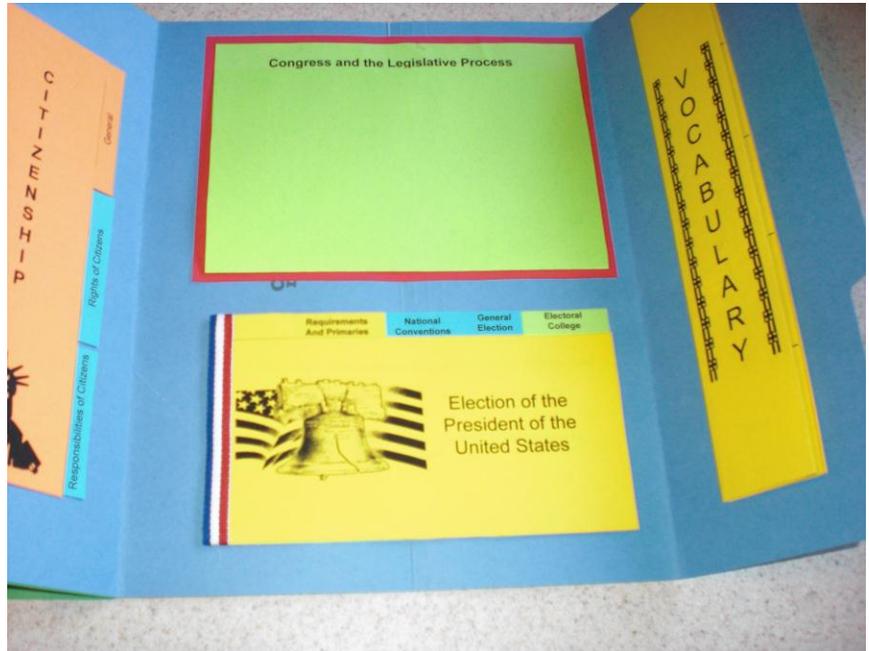
Folder 1



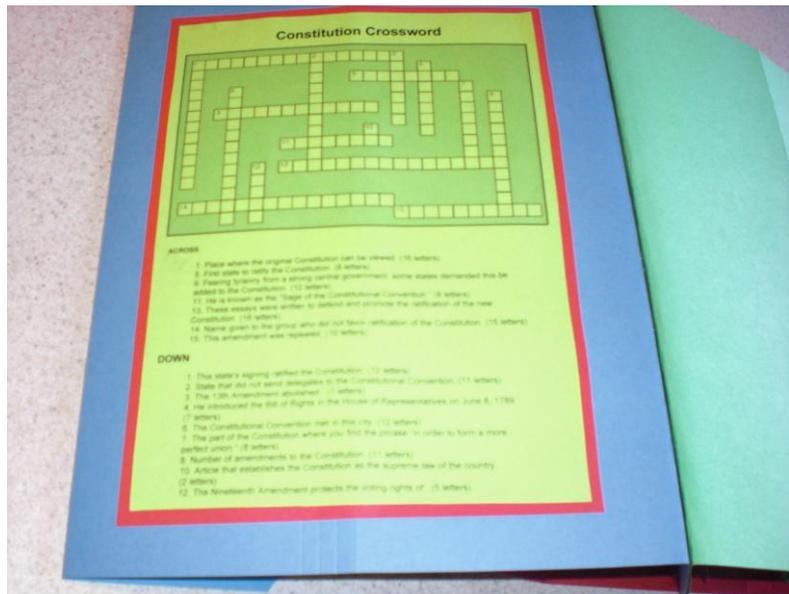
Folder 2



Folder 3



Back of Folder 3



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**Student Instruction Guide**

## **Booklet #1**

**\*Booklet Title:** “Our Nation” Booklet

**\*Student Instructions:** We live in an amazing country. Answer the questions about it within this booklet.

**\*Completed booklet will be glued into Folder #1** (See Layout)

**\*\*Assembly Instructions:** Cut out the booklet along the outer black line edges of each page of the booklet. Stack the pages so that the title is on top. Along the left side, you may secure with staples, or you may punch 2 holes and secure with metal brad fasteners or ribbon.

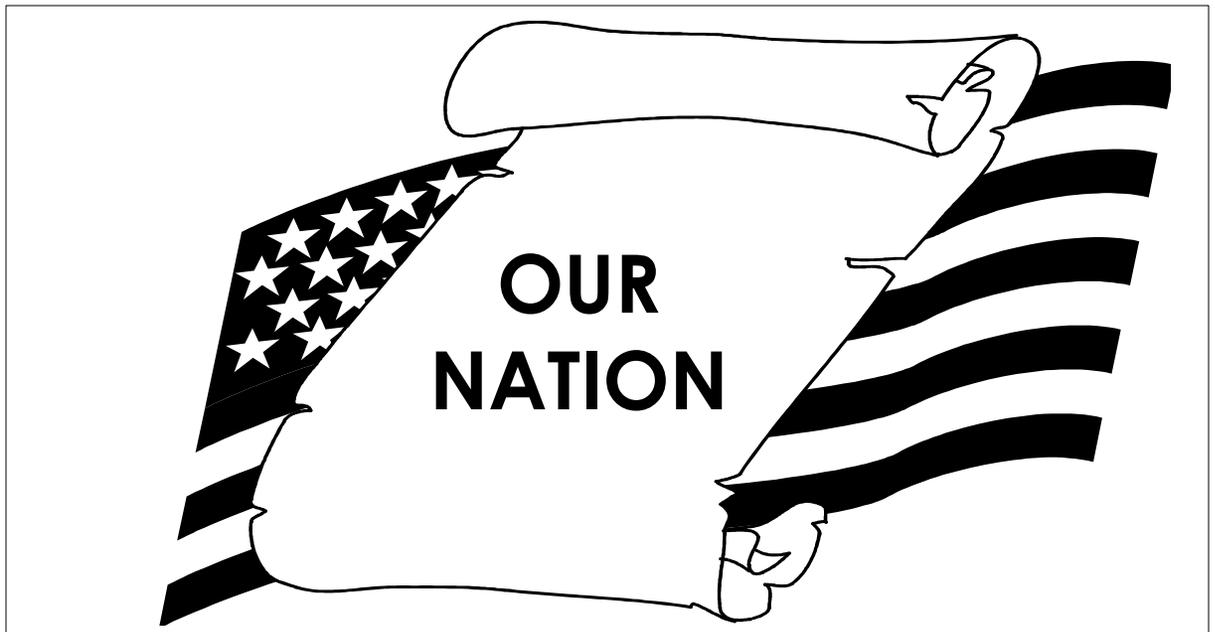
## **Booklet #2**

**\*Booklet Title:** “Capital” Booklet

**\*Student Instructions:** How much do you know about the nation’s capital? Have you ever been there? Answer the questions inside the booklet.

**\*Completed booklet will be glued into Folder #1** (See Layout)

**\*\*Assembly Instructions:** Cut out along the outer black line edges of each page of the booklet. Stack them so that the title is on top. Punch 2 holes along the outer left side, and secure with a ribbon. You may choose to just staple the edge instead.



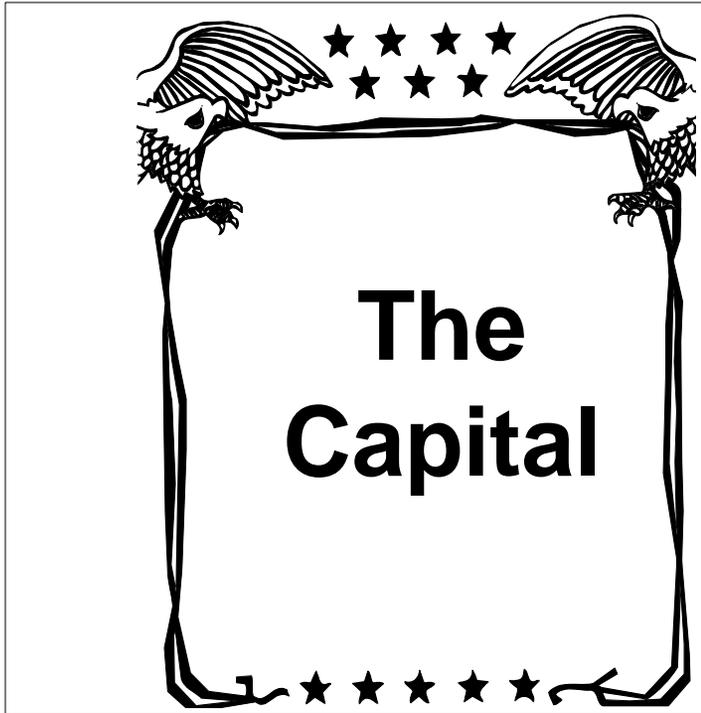
On what continent is the United States of America located?

What 3 countries are located on this continent?

What body of water borders the United States of America on the East?

What body of water borders the United States of America on the West?

## Booklet # 2



**What city was the first capital of the United States?**

**What city was the second capital of the United States?**

**What is the current capital of the United States, and when did it become the permanent home of the capital?**

**Who designed Washington, D.C.?**



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**Teacher's Guide**

## **Ideas For Further Study:**

Websites:

- \*\* <http://www.kids.gov/>
- \*\* <http://www.congressforkids.net/>
- \*\* <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/white-house-101/>

## **Answers to booklet questions:**

\*Booklet 1: North America; Canada, Mexico, United States of America; West – Pacific Ocean; East – Atlantic Ocean

\*Booklet 2: Current capital – Washington, D.C. became Capital June 11, 1800; First Capital: New York City; Second Capital: Philadelphia; Designed by: Pierre L'Enfant

\*Booklet 3:

- *Question #1:* The Articles of Confederation was the first constitution of the original 13 American states, adopted in 1781. At the end of the Constitutional Convention, the Constitution was drafted and presented to the American public on September 17, 1787.

- *Question #2:* Virginia Plan – called for a powerful central government, comprised of executive, legislative, and judicial branches

New Jersey Plan – would revise and amend the Articles of Confederation to allow Congress to control trade and taxes, but still provide states with much control and autonomy at the local level.

- *Question #3:* Bicameral plan allowed for two chambers under the U. S. Congress: The Senate and the House of Representatives. States would have equal representation in the Senate, regardless of the state size and representation in the House would be based on state population. In addition to this legislative branch, an executive and judicial branch were formed.

Continued on next page

- *Question #4:* Preamble, Articles, Amendments
- *Question #5:*

Inherent rights: Rights that anyone living in America has

Self Government: Government by the people

Separation of Powers: Branches of government with different powers

\*Booklet 4: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches

\*Booklet 5: Potomac River

\*Booklet 6: Congress; House of Representatives and Senate

\*Booklet 7:

-President: Leader of the country and commands the military

-Vice-President: President of the Senate and becomes President if the president can no longer do the job.

-Departments: Department heads advise the President on issues and help carry out policies.

- Independent Agencies: Help carry out policy or provide special services.

\*Booklet 8:

- *Question 1:* Judicial Branch

- *Question 2:* Supreme Court

- *Question 3:* The courts decide arguments about the meaning of laws, how they are applied, and whether they break the rules of the Constitution.

\*Booklet 9:

- *Question 1:* Write, debate, and pass bills, which are then passed on to the President for approval.

- *Question 2:*

Make laws controlling trade between states and between the United States and other countries.

Make laws about taxes and borrowing money

Approve the making of money

Can declare war on other countries

\*Booklet 10:

- *Question 1:* 435; Each member represents an area of the state known as a congressional district. Each state has at least one congressional district.

- *Question 2:*

At least 25 years old

U.S. citizen for past 7 years

Live in the state they represent

Continued on next page



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## U. S. Government Lapbook (7-12)

### *Teacher's Guide*

(The following information was taken with permission from Ben's Guide to US Government for Kids, <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/>.)

### Our Nation

The United States of America is located on the continent of North America. There are 50 states in the U.S. Forty-eight of the states form the contiguous United States. The U.S. borders on Canada to the north, and Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. On the east coast, the U.S. is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the west coast it is bordered by the Pacific Ocean.

To the northwest of Canada is the state of Alaska. The state of Hawaii is located in the Pacific Ocean, southwest of California.

In addition to the 50 states, the U.S. has several territories and possessions, located in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

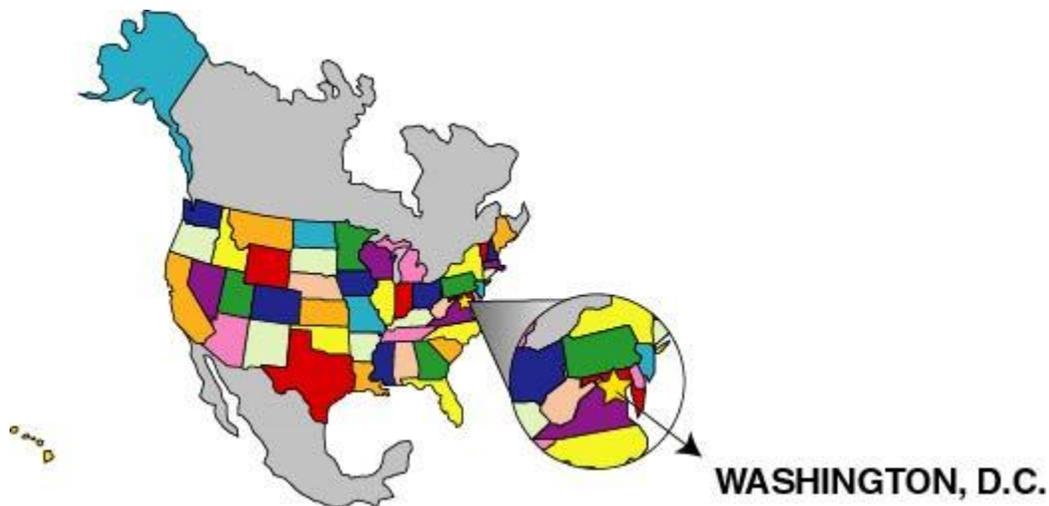


### Our Capital, Washington, D.C.

New York City was the first capital of the United States once the Constitution was ratified. This is where Congress (that was formed under the Articles of

Confederation) met. It is also where George Washington took the oath of office from the balcony of the old City Hall to become the first President of the United States.

One of the issues the President had to deal with was a permanent location for the country's seat of government. As part of a compromise, it was decided that the capital would move to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1791 for ten years and then to a suitable permanent location on the Potomac River. Washington chose an area that included land from the states of Maryland and Virginia. At this time the area was primarily farm and marsh lands. Nevertheless, Congress was scheduled to meet in the new capital on the first Monday in December 1800.



Pierre Charles L'Enfant was hired to design the "Federal City" and within three months the plans were completed. Problems had to be overcome, but on June 11, 1800, Philadelphia was no longer the seat of government. The capital of the United States now had a permanent home in Washington, D.C.

## Early American History

For thousands of years, North America was populated solely by Indian tribes and was unknown to Europe. That changed when Christopher Columbus found the continent in 1492. Inspired by Columbus' tales of the New World, waves of Europeans sailed to North America, found a huge land ripe with resources, and began to claim pieces of it. While the French moved into the North and the Spanish settled in the South and West, the British built communities on the East Coast.

English settlers came to these communities for a variety of reasons. Many wanted to make money by finding gold or establishing trade with their home country, but others sought religious freedom. Whatever their reason for moving to the New World, they found life hard at first, but eventually their settlements began to grow and prosper.

In the early 1600s, the British king began granting charters to establish colonies in America. By the mid 1700s, most of the settlements had been formed into 13 British colonies -- Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.



Although they lived under British rule, the colonists oftentimes ignored British laws. This independent attitude would eventually lead to a clash between the Americans and the British. Little by little, the British tightened control in the colonies until the American Revolution broke out on April 19, 1775. On July 4, 1776, the Americans declared their independence from the British, but it was not until several years later (1783) that the British were finally defeated and America was free to take the first steps toward creating their own government.

Before the Revolutionary War, each new state had its own constitution, which gave people certain rights, such as freedom of speech, religion, and the press. After the war, the states joined together to set up a **federal government** under the Articles of Confederation, which were some basic rules to hold them together.

The Articles proved to be a weak system of government. The federal government only had the power to declare war and manage foreign affairs. Under the Articles, each state worked independently. Chaos erupted from this system of government. Something had to be done, but the road to ahead proved to be a bumpy one. While Americans were glad to be free of British rule, they were used to being **sovereign** and wanted to stay that way.

It was decided that the Articles of Confederation had to be revised, so each state, except Rhode Island, sent delegates (there were 55 total) to Philadelphia in Pennsylvania. The delegates decided that revising the Articles wouldn't work, so instead they agreed to write an entirely new Constitution.

The delegates debated for many months over the contents of the Constitution. Some states favored a strong **central government**, while there were those who opposed a strong central government for fear of a system similar to that of oppressive England. Meanwhile, large states felt they were entitled to more representation in Congress, while small states favored equal representation.

But finally, a compromise had been made among the delegates and the Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787. Although it has been amended over the years, the Constitution's basic form still exists today.