



Making the United States of America

Timeline Cards

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Chapter 1: Making the Constitution



In May 1787, political leaders from different states met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to decide what powers the new U.S. government should have.

Framing Question: How did the Constitution come to be?



Chapter 1: Making the Constitution

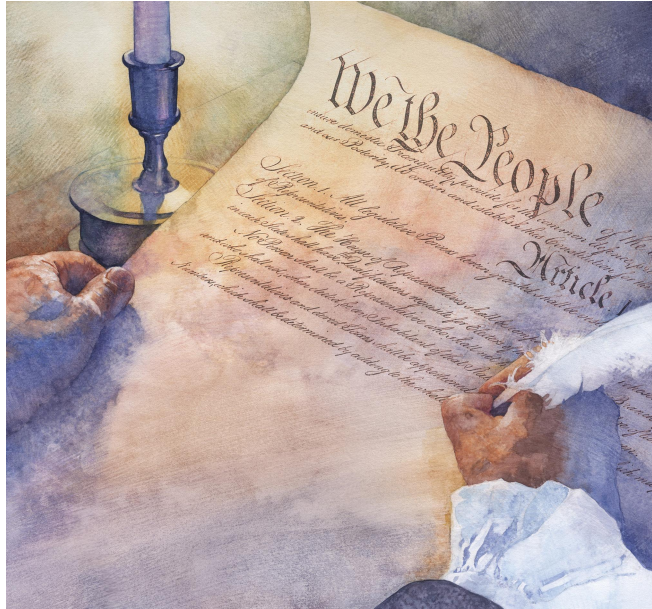


In September 1787, the state leaders finished writing the Constitution of the United States.

Framing Question: How did the Constitution come to be?



Chapter 1: Making the Constitution



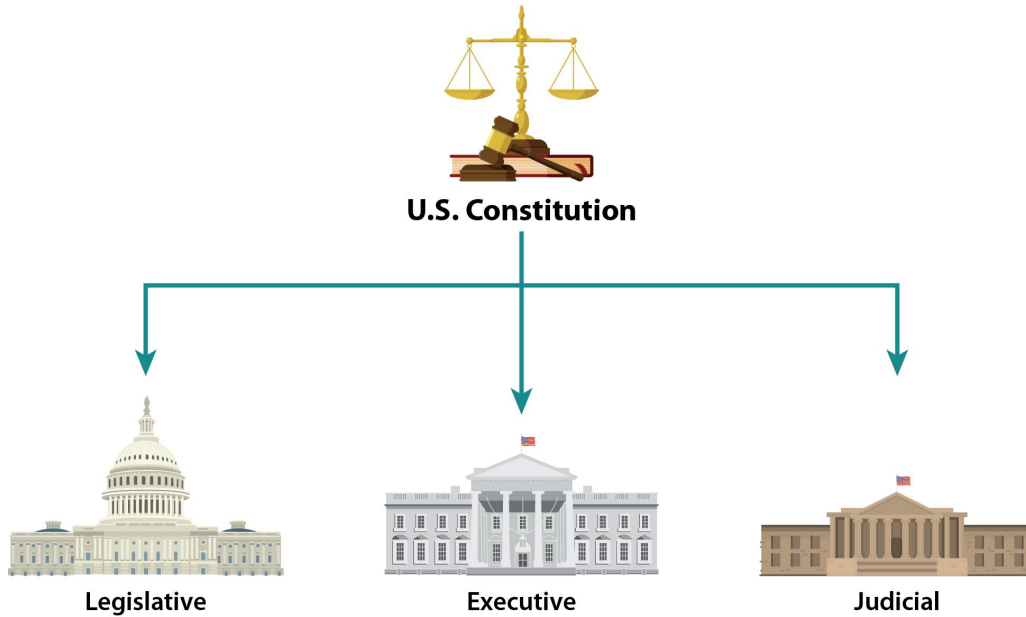
In 1787–88, the thirteen states voted on the Constitution. The Constitution became law after nine states voted “yes.”

Framing Question: How did the Constitution come to be?



Chapter 2: The Three Branches of Government

The Constitution divides the government into three parts, called branches.



Framing Question: How does the U.S. government work?



Chapter 2: The Three Branches of Government

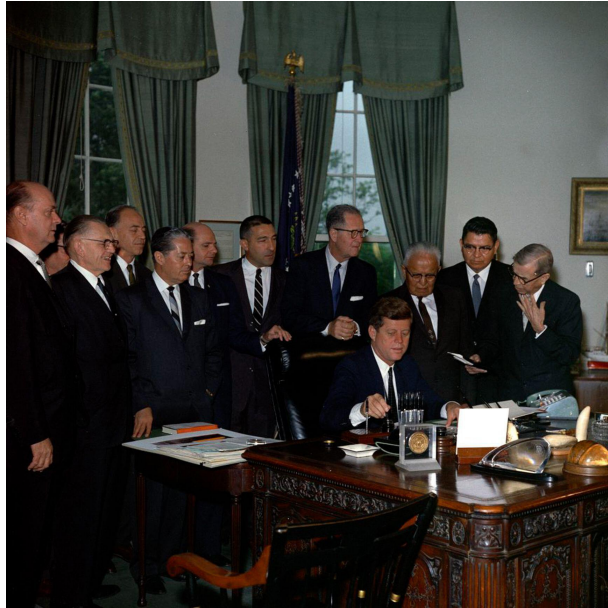


Congress makes up the legislative branch of government. It makes the laws for the country.

Framing Question: How does the U.S. government work?



Chapter 2: The Three Branches of Government



The president of the United States is the leader of the executive branch. The president approves and signs laws made by Congress. The executive branch makes sure laws are followed.

Framing Question: How does the U.S. government work?



Chapter 2: The Three Branches of Government



The judicial branch is made up of courts and judges. It decides whether laws passed by Congress follow the Constitution. It also decides whether people have broken the law and what should happen when they do.

Framing Question: How does the U.S. government work?



Chapter 2: The Three Branches of Government

The Constitution uses checks and balances to limit the powers of the three branches.

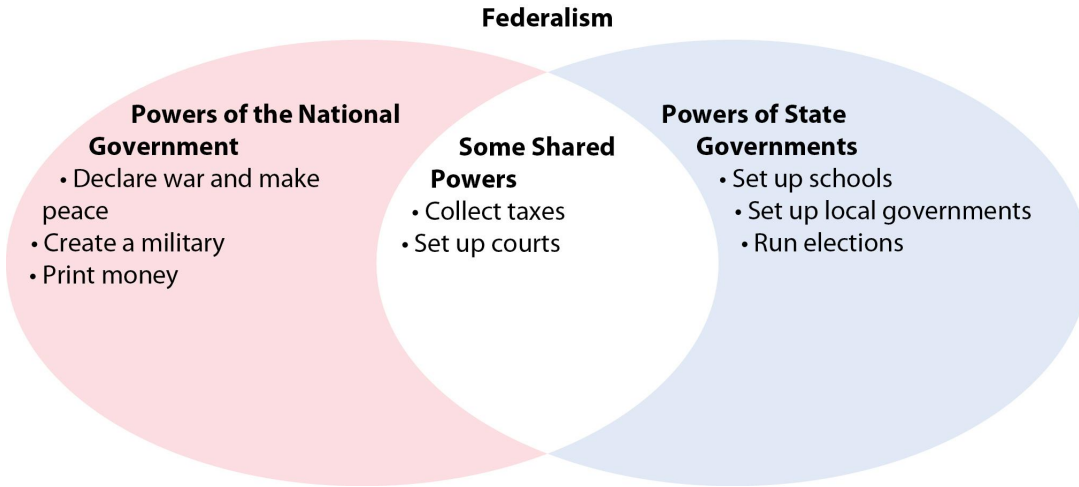


Framing Question: How does the U.S. government work?



Chapter 2: The Three Branches of Government

Federalism gives powers to the national government and to the state governments.



Framing Question: How does the U.S. government work?



Chapter 2: The Three Branches of Government

State governments have three branches, like the national government.



Framing Question: How does the U.S. government work?



Chapter 2: The Three Branches of Government



States also have local governments that make laws for parishes, cities, and towns.

Framing Question: How does the U.S. government work?



Chapter 3: Citizenship

One responsibility of good citizens is to follow rules and laws.



Framing Question: How can we be good citizens?



Chapter 3: Citizenship



Another way to be a good citizen is by showing civic virtue.

Framing Question: How can we be good citizens?



Chapter 3: Citizenship



One of the most important civic virtues is voting in elections.

Framing Question: How can we be good citizens?



Chapter 3: Citizenship



Sometimes people want to make their communities better by becoming a leader in the government.

Framing Question: How can we be good citizens?



Chapter 3: Citizenship



People can show civic virtue by working together on a committee.

Framing Question: How can we be good citizens?



Chapter 3: Citizenship



Volunteering is one more way to show civic virtue.

Framing Question: How can we be good citizens?



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