

# Lesson 3: Ratifying the Constitution

## Vocabulary

**Federalists** people who supported the Constitution

**federal** related to the national government

**Antifederalists** people who were against the Constitution

***The Federalist*** a group of essays in support of the Constitution

**amendment** a change or addition to the Constitution

**Bill of Rights** the first 10 amendments to the Constitution

## The Federalists and Antifederalists

Nationalists became known as **Federalists**. They supported the Constitution. They liked that it created a strong **federal**, or national, government. **Antifederalists** were against the Constitution. They worried that it would take away power from the states. They were afraid that it did not protect the people's rights. They also thought the government would pass laws that were not good for all states. Federalists worked to pass the Constitution. In 1787 they wrote a group of essays called ***The Federalist***. The essays argued against the Antifederalist point of view.

## The Bill of Rights

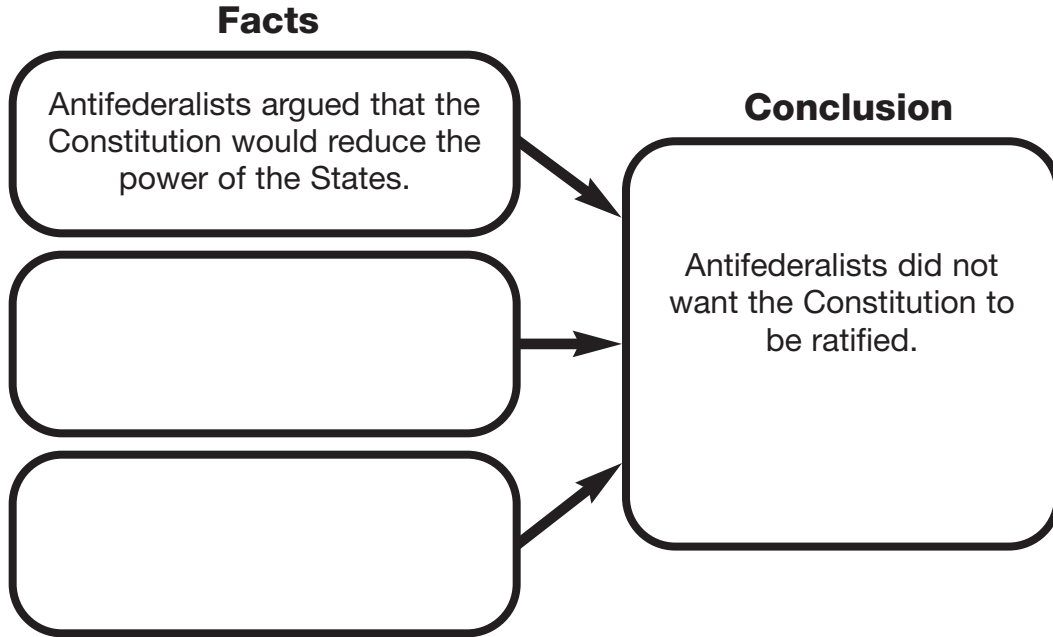
A few states quickly ratified the Constitution. Other states were worried that the government would take away the rights of its citizens. The Federalists promised that Congress would add a **Bill of Rights** to the Constitution. The first 10 **amendments**, or changes, to the Constitution became known as the Bill of Rights. They limit the government's power. The Bill of Rights gives certain rights and freedoms to Americans. By 1790 all 13 states accepted the Constitution.

## A New Government

The Constitution was a very important step in building a fair and strong government. But many people knew that it would take hard work to keep the country strong.

# Lesson 3: Review

1.  **Draw Conclusions** Fill in the diagram with two more facts that support the conclusion.



2. Who were the Federalists? The Antifederalists?

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3. What was *The Federalist*?

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4. Why is the Bill of Rights so important in American government?

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5. **Critical Thinking: Express Ideas** Why do you think the Constitution is called a “living document”?

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