

# THE DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCE

# THE CONSTITUTION

# THE BILL of RIGHTS

## WHY WAS IT CREATED?



**DECLARE INDEPENDENCE FROM BRITAIN** and tell the world why it was necessary.



The **GOVERNMENT** under the Articles of Confederation was **TOO WEAK** to be effective.



The Framers agreed to add a Bill of Rights to the **CONSTITUTION** during a tough battle over **RATIFICATION**.



## WHERE AND WHEN WAS IT CREATED?

Second Continental Congress

★ **1776** ★

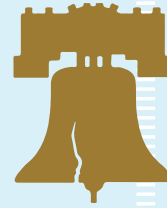
**INDEPENDENCE HALL**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Constitutional Convention

**1787**

**INDEPENDENCE HALL**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



First Congress of the United States

**1789**

**FEDERAL HALL**  
New York, New York



## WHO WROTE IT?



**THE COMMITTEE of 5**

**John Adams, Roger Sherman, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston, and Thomas Jefferson.**

**Thomas Jefferson** wrote the first drafts. He gets most of the credit.



**IT WAS A GROUP EFFORT**

formed by 4 months of debate among the delegates.



**James Madison** and **Gouverneur Morris** made major contributions.



**JAMES MADISON**

drew up 19 amendments based on **George Mason's** Virginia Bill of Rights and suggestions at the state ratifying conventions.



A congressional committee edited the list down to 12, and 10 were ratified by the states.

19 → 12 → 10

## WHAT'S IN IT?

Life, **LIBERTY**  
and the pursuit of  
**HAPPINESS**

- ★ Beliefs about rights and government
- ★ Complaints against the King
- ★ Attempts to reconcile with Great Britain
- ★ Official breakup with the British Crown
- ★ Outline of the powers of the United States

**UNION JUSTICE**  
Domestic  
*Tranquility*

- ★ Purpose of the new government
- ★ Structure of the legislative (Congress), executive (Office of the President), and judicial (Supreme and Federal courts) branches
- ★ Processes for amending and ratifying the Constitution

Rights, **Due Process**  
AND  
**FREEDOM**

- ★ List of rights, including: freedom of religion, speech, assembly and petition, to bear arms, rules about criminal trials and property search and seizure
- ★ People have rights that aren't listed
- ★ Federal Government only has powers granted by the Constitution

## HOW DID IT BECOME OFFICIAL?

The Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on

**JULY 4, 1776**



The **minimum requirements for ratification** were met when **NEW HAMPSHIRE** became the ninth state to **ratify** on **JUNE 21, 1788.**

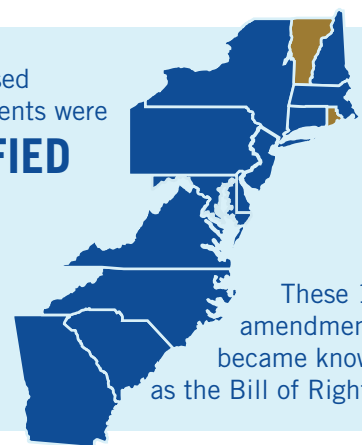
10 of the proposed 12 Amendments were

**RATIFIED**

**3/4**

by

of the **STATES** IN 1791.



These 10 amendments became known as the Bill of Rights.

## WHO SIGNED IT?

**56**

*Signers*

including **John Hancock, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin.**

**39**

of the **55 DELEGATES** present

including **George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, and Gouverneur Morris.**



Members of the **STATE LEGISLATURES**

## WHO DIDN'T SIGN IT?

**Robert Livingston** (one of the Committee of Five) because he thought it was too soon to declare independence.

**George Washington** was in New York getting ready to fight the British.



**George Mason** and **Edmund Randolph** of Virginia, and **Elbridge Gerry** of Massachusetts didn't like it and refused to sign. **NO!**

**Thomas Jefferson** and **John Adams** were on diplomatic missions in Europe at the time of the signing.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES FOUNDATION