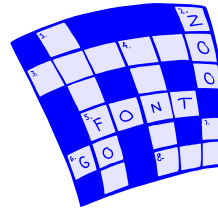


Signers of the Constitution

Washington, George, VA
Franklin, Benjamin, PA
Madison, James, VA
Hamilton, Alexander, NY
Morris, Gouverneur, PA
Morris, Robert, PA
Wilson, James, PA
Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth, SC
Pinckney, Charles, SC
Rutledge, John, SC
Butler, Pierce, SC
Sherman, Roger, CT
Johnson, William Samuel, CT
McHenry, James, MD
Read, George, DE
Bassett, Richard, DE
Spaight, Richard Dobbs, NC
Blount, William, NC
Williamson, Hugh, NC
Jenifer, Daniel of St. Thomas, MD
King, Rufus, MA
Gorham, Nathaniel, MA
Dayton, Jonathan, NJ
Carroll, Daniel, MD
Few, William, GA
Baldwin, Abraham, GA
Langdon, John, NH
Gilman, Nicholas, NH
Livingston, William, NJ
Paterson, William, NJ
Mifflin, Thomas, PA
Clymer, George, PA
FitzSimons, Thomas, PA
Ingersoll, Jared, PA
Bedford, Gunning, Jr., DE
Brearley, David, NJ
Dickinson, John, DE
Blair, John, VA
Broom, Jacob, DE
Jackson, William, Secretary

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Important Dates

May 25, 1787: The Constitutional Convention opens with a quorum of seven states in Philadelphia to discuss revising the Articles of Confederation. Eventually, all states but Rhode Island are represented.

September 17, 1787: All state delegations approve the Constitution. 39 delegates sign it of the 42 present, and the Convention formally adjourns.

March 4, 1789: The first Congress under the Constitution convenes in New York City.

*Image of the Signers courtesy of Office of the Curator,
Architect of the Capitol.*



Richard Bland College

Remembers and Celebrates
the
222nd Anniversary
of
the Signing of the
United States
Constitution

THURSDAY
September 17, 2009



FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

- The U.S. Constitution has 4,400 words. It is the oldest and the shortest written constitution of any major government in the world.
- Of the spelling errors in the Constitution, "Pensylvania" above the signers' names is probably the most glaring.
- Thomas Jefferson did not sign the Constitution. He was in France during the Convention, where he served as the U.S. minister.
- The Constitution was "penned" by Jacob Shallus, a Pennsylvania General Assembly clerk, for \$30 (\$702 today).
- The Constitution does not set forth requirements for the right to vote. As a result, at the outset of the Union, only male property-owners could vote. African Americans were not considered citizens, and women were excluded from the electoral process. Native Americans were not given the right to vote until 1924.
- Patrick Henry was elected as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, but declined, because he "smelt a rat."
- Because of his poor health, Benjamin Franklin needed help to sign the Constitution. As he did so, tears streamed down his face.
- The word "democracy" does not appear once in the Constitution.
- Gouverneur Morris was largely responsible for the "wording" of the constitution, although there was a Committee of Style formed in September 1787.
- The oldest person to sign the Constitution was Benjamin Franklin (81). The youngest was Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey (26).
- It took one hundred days to actually "frame" the Constitution.
- The first time the formal term "the United States of America" was used was in the Declaration of Independence.
- Vermont ratified the Constitution on January 10, 1791, even though it had not yet become a state.
- James Madison was the only delegate to attend every meeting. He took detailed notes of the various discussions and debates that took place during the convention. The journal that he kept during the Constitutional Convention was kept secret until after he died. It also (with other papers) was purchased by the government in 1837 at a price of \$30,000 (that would be \$607,000 today). The journal was published in 1840.
- During an event to celebrate the Constitution's Sesquicentennial in 1937, Harry F. Wilhelm recited the entire document through the newly added 21st Amendment from memory. He then obtained a job in the Sesquicentennial mailroom!

