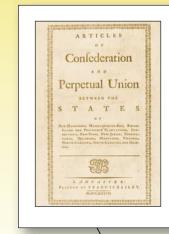
Timeline Challenge

Forming a New Nation



1781 Articles of

Confederation Adopted

The states adopt the Articles of Confederation as the first plan of government for the United States. The plan is too weak to be effective.



Aug. 1786 – Feb. 1787

Shays's Rebellion
In Massachusetts, a
rebellion of farmers
shows the weakness
of the new U.S. government under the Articles
of Confederation.



1787

Constitutional Convention Opens

Delegates from 12 states meet in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and create a new plan of government that becomes the U.S. Constitution. George Washington leads the convention.



Oct. 1787

The Federalist Papers

Leaders who support ratification of the Constitution, including James Madison, begin publishing a series of essays explaining how the Constitution would create a stronger union of states.



Dec. 1791

Bill of Rights Adopted

Nine of the 13 states ratify the Bill of Rights, which becomes the first 10 amendments to the Constitution.



1780 1781 1782 1783 1784 1785 1786



1788

1789

1790

1791

1792



1787

Northwest Ordinance

Congress passes the Northwest Ordinance as the plan under which the Northwest Territory will be governed. The law also establishes the process for admitting new states to the Union.



July 1787

The Great Compromise

Proposed by Roger Sherman, the Great Compromise is accepted by the Constitutional Convention. Under this plan, representation in the House of Representatives is based on each state's population. In the Senate, each state has equal representation.



June 1788

U.S. Constitution Adopted

The U.S. Constitution is adopted after having been ratified by 9 of the 13 states. It becomes the supreme law of the United States and provides the framework for the organization of government.