

RATIFYING THE CONSTITUTION

The framers finished writing the U.S. Constitution in September 1787, but they still needed the American people to approve it before the new government went into effect. Nine of the thirteen states had to ratify the document, or vote to approve it, before it was adopted as the law of the land. But not everyone liked the Constitution, and the vote to ratify it was very close in some states.

NEW HAMPSHIRE IS NUMBER NINE!

When New Hampshire ratified the Constitution, it had all the states it needed to become law. The lawmakers in New Hampshire voted 57-47 in favor of ratification.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
June 21, 1788

MASSACHUSETTS
February 6, 1788

NEW YORK
July 26, 1788

RHODE ISLAND
May 29, 1790

PENNSYLVANIA
December 12, 1787

CONNECTICUT
January 9, 1788

NEW JERSEY
December 18, 1787

DELAWARE
December 7, 1787

VIRGINIA
June 25, 1788



MARYLAND
April 28, 1788

NORTH CAROLINA
November 21, 1789

GEORGIA
January 2, 1788

SOUTH CAROLINA
May 23, 1788

KEY

-  Original 13 states
-  U.S. territory



1. Put the states in the order that they ratified the Constitution. Who was first? Who was last? How many months between the first state to ratify and the last one?
2. Why do you think it's important that the states had to approve the Constitution after the framers wrote it in order for it to become law?
3. New Hampshire was the 9th state to ratify the Constitution, which meant it then became law. Do you think all the states should have had to ratify it to become law or do you think 9 of 13 states was enough?