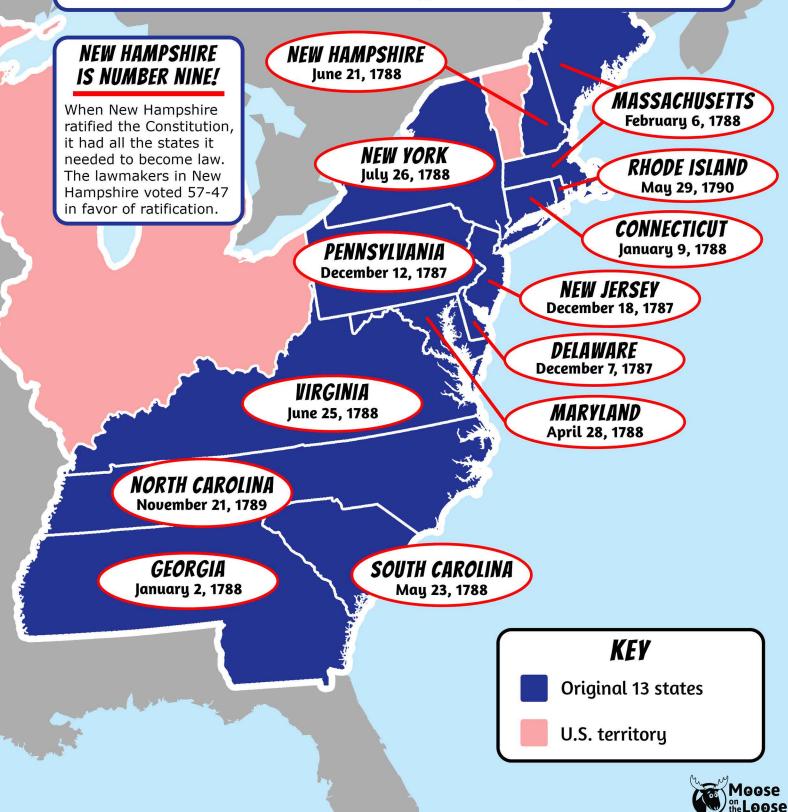
RATIFYING THE CONSTITUTION

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.



- 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?