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WHEN AND WHERE WAS THE US CONSTITUTION WRITTEN?

Multiple Choice Quiz

ABOUT THIS QUIZ



When and Where Was the US Constitution Written?

This quiz is about when and where the US Constitution was written.

All questions have 4 possible answers of which only 1 is correct.

You may read the article over the next few pages to freshen up before taking the quiz!

At the back of the book, will be an answer sheet.

For more information, go to:
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When was the US Constitution Written?

It was written from May to September 1787, however, amendments have been made since.

Where was the US Constitution Written?

The Constitution was written and signed in Philadelphia in the Assembly Room of the Pennsylvania State House. This room is now known as Independence Hall.

The United States Constitution

The United States Constitution is one of the most important political documents ever created. It emerged out of a series of events in which the American colonies began to distance themselves from a foreign power's tyranny and demand self-governance. In doing so, they began creating a government and Constitution that exists to serve the people's interests.

Over 200 years old, the US Constitution is perhaps the most successful Constitution ever written. It has ensured the United State's stability as a self-governing nation-state while protecting the rights and freedoms of the people. Such a long-standing document could only have come about through the careful deliberation of America's most highly educated leaders.

They set out to create a unique and unprecedented document that would ensure a free state that was powerful enough to defend itself. This careful balancing act between state and federal power makes the US an almost perfect union founded upon a carefully constructed constitution.

The Constitution's value cannot be overstated, but when and where did this vital writing process happen? To answer this question it's important to understand the historical context that led to the writing of the Constitution.

What Led To The Writing Of The Constitution?

The US Constitution was written following the American Revolutionary War, in which the 13 colonies fought for their right to self-governance. The British Empire had expanded and attempted to tax the American colonies without sufficiently representing their interests in government. During this time, ideas about a government existing to serve the people were becoming popular, and a War of Independence broke out to fight for these ideals.

The war lasted from 1775 to 1783, with the Declaration of Independence being pronounced in 1776. The Declaration of Independence was when the American colonies declared themselves independent, self-governing states.

Purpose of the US Constitution

In 1781, the US first ratified the Articles of Confederation. The Articles of Confederation is regarded as the first American Constitution ever written and was designed to set out how the American government functions. Although each of the 13 colonies was considered an independent nation-state, they were unified under Congress and known as the United States of America.

Congress was given certain powers, including regulating currency and conducting foreign affairs. In 1783, after winning the Revolutionary War, it became clear that America needed a more powerful central government to protect America's freedom from foreign tyrants. A constitution was created to create a free and stable nation that protected the rights of the people.

When was the US Constitution Written?

In 1787, drafting began on the US Constitution. The Constitutional Convention was opened in May of that year, and the writing process began. Fifty-five delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies attended, and George Washington was unanimously voted president of the Constitutional Convention. Having become a war hero who led the colonies to victory over the British, Washington was considered the right person to oversee proceedings.

Other well-educated leaders such as Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Samuel Adams also attended the Convention. After fierce debate regarding which powers should be given to independent states and afforded to the federal government, the US Constitution was written down.

In September 1787, the Constitution was signed. However, it still needed to be ratified by at least nine states to become enshrined in law. Ratification didn't happen until June 1788, but the Constitution has remained in force ever since.

When Was The US Constitution Ratified?

Although written in 1787, the US Constitution wasn't finished. The Founding Fathers left the option to suggest amendments. James Madison first put forward such amendments in September 1789. He introduced 19 amendments. A successful amendment must pass through Congress and be ratified by at least three-fourths of the states. Out of 19 introduced, 12 were ratified and included in the Constitution, 10 of which became the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights.

The ten rights protected by the Bill of Rights are:

- Freedom of speech
- Right to bear arms
- No quartering of soldiers
- Freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures
- Right to due process of law
- Right to a speedy and public trial
- Right of trial by jury
- Freedom from cruel and unusual punishment

- Other rights of the people
- Powers given to the states

Beyond these 10, just seven other amendments have been ratified and become part of the US Constitution. The most recent amendment to pass was ratified in 1992, so you could say that the US Constitution was written between 1787 and 1992.

Thousands of more amendments have been introduced but getting them ratified is no easy task. It could be many decades before we see another change to the Constitution.

Where was the US Constitution Written?

The US Constitution was written in Philadelphia. The Constitutional Convention, known as the Philadelphia Convention, was how the founding fathers gathered to debate, write, and sign the Constitution. Specifically, they did so in the Assembly Room of the Pennsylvania State House. The Founding Fathers chose this venue because it's where the Declaration of Independence was signed 11 years earlier. This building has since had its name changed to Independence Hall in honor of its significance in the US's history.

The writing of the US Constitution didn't happen overnight. It occurred across many months of high-pressure debate and depended on the cooperation of many important people. Although the writing happened in one room, the completed document resulted from many years of fighting against tyranny in favor of freedom.

Even after its initial ratification, amendments mean the Constitution is continuously being written. The debate continues, and suggestions for changes are constantly being raised. The United States government's current role is to protect the US Constitution, making changes if it can be widely agreed upon as a necessary amendment. This process has produced an almost perfect document that has protected US citizens for over two centuries.

Multiple Choice Quiz

1. What year was the US Constitution written?

- A. 1776
- B. 1783
- C. 1787
- D. 1788

2. What city was the US Constitution written in?

- A. Philadelphia
- B. New York
- C. Washington D.C.
- D. Boston

3. What is the name of the room where the US Constitution was written and signed in?

- A. The Forum
- B. Independence Hall
- C. The West Wing
- D. Liberty Hall

4. How many original American colonies fought for their independence from Great Britain?

- A. 10
- B. 11
- C. 12
- D. 13

5. What year was the Declaration of Independence written?

- A. 1775
- B. 1776
- C. 1778
- D. 1781

6. What year did the Revolutionary War end?

- A. 1780
- B. 1781
- C. 1783
- D. 1785

7. What was the name of the first constitution that the original 13 colonies ratified?

- A. Declaration of the Rights of Man
- B. Declaration of Independence
- C. Articles of Independence
- D. Articles of Confederation

8. What year was the first constitution ratified by the original 13 colonies?

- A. 1775
- B. 1776
- C. 1780
- D. 1781

9. What was one of the most important reasons that a new constitution was needed?

- A. The federal government was too weak in the first constitution
- B. The federal government was too strong in the first constitution
- C. The states governments were too weak in the first constitution
- D. There was no legislative branch in the first constitution

10. How many delegates attended the Constitutional Convention?

- A. 35
- B. 45
- C. 55
- D. 75

11. Who was unanimously voted president of the Constitutional Convention?

- A. Thomas Jefferson
- B. George Washington
- C. Benjamin Franklin
- D. James Madison

12. How many colonies/states were represented by the 55 delegates at the Constitutional Convention?

- A. 8
- B. 10
- C. 12
- D. 13

13. How many colonies/states had to ratify the US Constitution for it to become established law?

- A. 7
- B. 8
- C. 9
- D. 10

14. When was the US Constitution finally ratified?

- A. June 1788
- B. August 1788
- C. October 1789
- D. March 1790

15. How many amendments were originally proposed by James Madison in September 1789?

- A. 10
- B. 12
- C. 15
- D. 19

16. How many states had to ratify an amendment for it to become a part of the US Constitution?

- A. One-fourth
- B. One-half
- C. Three-Fourths
- D. Four-Fifths

17. How many of James Madison's originally proposed 19 amendments were eventually ratified and incorporated into the US Constitution?

- A. 10
- B. 12
- C. 14
- D. 15

18. When was the last time an amendment was ratified?

- A. 1976
- B. 1992
- C. 2000
- D. 2006

Multiple Choice Quiz Answers

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. D
5. B
6. C
7. D
8. D
9. A
10. C
11. B
12. C
13. C
14. A
15. D
16. C
17. B
18. B