

CHAPTER
2
SECTION 5

READING COMPREHENSION

Ratifying the Constitution

3

1. Who represented each side of the ratification battle?

Federalists

Anti-Federalists

2. Identify the basic arguments for and against ratification of the Constitution.

Federalists

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Anti-Federalists

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Directions: Write an answer to each question in the space provided.
Use complete sentences.

1. What four men represented the Federalists in the ratification battle?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. What two men represented the Anti-Federalists in the ratification battle?

- _____
- _____

3. What basic arguments did the Federalists use to support ratification?

4. What basic arguments did the Anti-Federalists use to oppose ratification?

5. What convinced many Anti-Federalists to support the Constitution?

CHAPTER
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SECTION 5**BELLRINGER WORKSHEET****Ratifying the Constitution****3**

Study the chart below and answer the questions.

Ratification of the Constitution		
State	Date	Vote
Delaware	December 7, 1787	30-0
Pennsylvania	December 12, 1787	46-23
New Jersey	December 18, 1787	38-0
Georgia	January 2, 1788	26-0
Connecticut	January 9, 1788	128-40
Massachusetts	February 6, 1788	187-168
Maryland	April 28, 1788	63-11
South Carolina	May 23, 1788	149-73
New Hampshire	June 21, 1788	57-46
Virginia	June 25, 1788	89-79
New York	July 26, 1788	30-27
North Carolina	November 21, 1789*	195-77
Rhode Island	May 29, 1790	34-32
*Second vote; ratification was originally defeated on August 4, 1788, by a vote of 184-84.		

1. Which State voted for ratification first? Which voted last?

2. Which three States ratified the Constitution by the widest margins?

3. Which three States ratified the Constitution by the narrowest margins?

4. The Constitution actually took effect after ratification by which State?

5. Why was the backing of New York and Virginia important?

CHAPTER
2
SECTION 5**CORE WORKSHEET****Ratifying the Constitution****3**

Part 1 The new Constitution's lack of a bill of rights drew strong criticism from many quarters. The following excerpts address this issue. Read each excerpt and answer the questions below.

Alexander Hamilton

"Bills of Rights . . . are not only unnecessary in the proposed Constitution but would even be dangerous. They would contain various exceptions to powers which are not granted; on this very account, would afford a colorable pretext to claim more than were granted. For why declare that things shall not be done which there is no power to do? Why, for instance, should it be said that the liberty of the press shall not be restricted when no power is given by which restrictions may be imposed?"

—from *The Federalist* No. 84 (May 27, 1788)

1. Does Hamilton support or oppose a bill of rights?

2. Underline the sentence that best states Hamilton's position.
3. How would you paraphrase Hamilton's argument?

4. Do you think the argument is strong? Why or why not?

Thomas Jefferson

"... I will now tell you what I do not like. First, the omission of a bill of rights, providing clearly . . . for freedom of religion, freedom of the press, protection against standing armies . . . [and] the eternal and unremitting force of the habeas corpus laws, and trials by jury Let me add that a bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth . . . and what no just government should refuse or rest on inference."

—from a letter written to James Madison, December 20, 1787

CORE WORKSHEET (continued)

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1. Does Jefferson support or oppose a bill of rights?

2. Underline the sentence that best states Jefferson's position.

3. How would you paraphrase Jefferson's argument?

4. Do you think the argument is strong? Why or why not?

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney

"Another reason weighed particularly, with the members from this state, against the insertion of a bill of rights. Such bills generally begin with declaring that all men are by nature born free. Now, we should make that declaration in very bad grace, when a large part of our property consists in men who are actually born slaves."

—from a speech to the South Carolina House of Representatives,
January 18, 1788, during the ratification debate

1. Does Pinckney support or oppose a bill of rights?

2. Underline the sentence that best states Pinckney's position.

3. How would you paraphrase Pinckney's argument?

4. Do you think the argument is strong? Why or why not?

CORE WORKSHEET (continued)**Ratifying the Constitution****3****Mercy Otis Warren**

"Of thirteen state conventions, to which the constitution was submitted, those of Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Georgia, ratified it unconditionally, and those of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, and South Carolina, in full confidence of amendments which they thought necessary, and proposed to the first congress; the other two, of Rhode Island and North Carolina, rejected it. Thus, it is evident that a majority of the states were convinced that the constitution, as at first proposed, endangered their liberties."
—from *Rise, Progress and Termination of the American Revolution*, Volume II (1805)

1. Does Warren support or oppose a bill of rights?

2. Underline the sentence that best states Warren's position.
3. How would you paraphrase Warren's argument?

4. Do you think the argument is strong? Why or why not?

Roger Sherman

"The only real security that you can have for all your important rights must be in the nature of your government. If you suffer [permit] any man to govern you who is not strongly interested in supporting your privileges [rights], you will certainly lose them. If you are to trust your liberties to people whom it is necessary to bind by stipulation [written contract] . . . your stipulation is not worth even the trouble of writing."
—from *A Countryman*

1. Does Sherman support or oppose a bill of rights?

2. Underline the sentence that best states Sherman's position.

CORE WORKSHEET (continued)

Ratifying the Constitution

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3. How would you paraphrase Sherman's argument?

4. Do you think the argument is strong? Why or why not?

Part 2 Summarize each argument given in the excerpts and list them in rank order, from strongest to weakest, in the chart below.

Strongest Arguments For a Bill of Rights	Strongest Arguments Against a Bill of Rights