

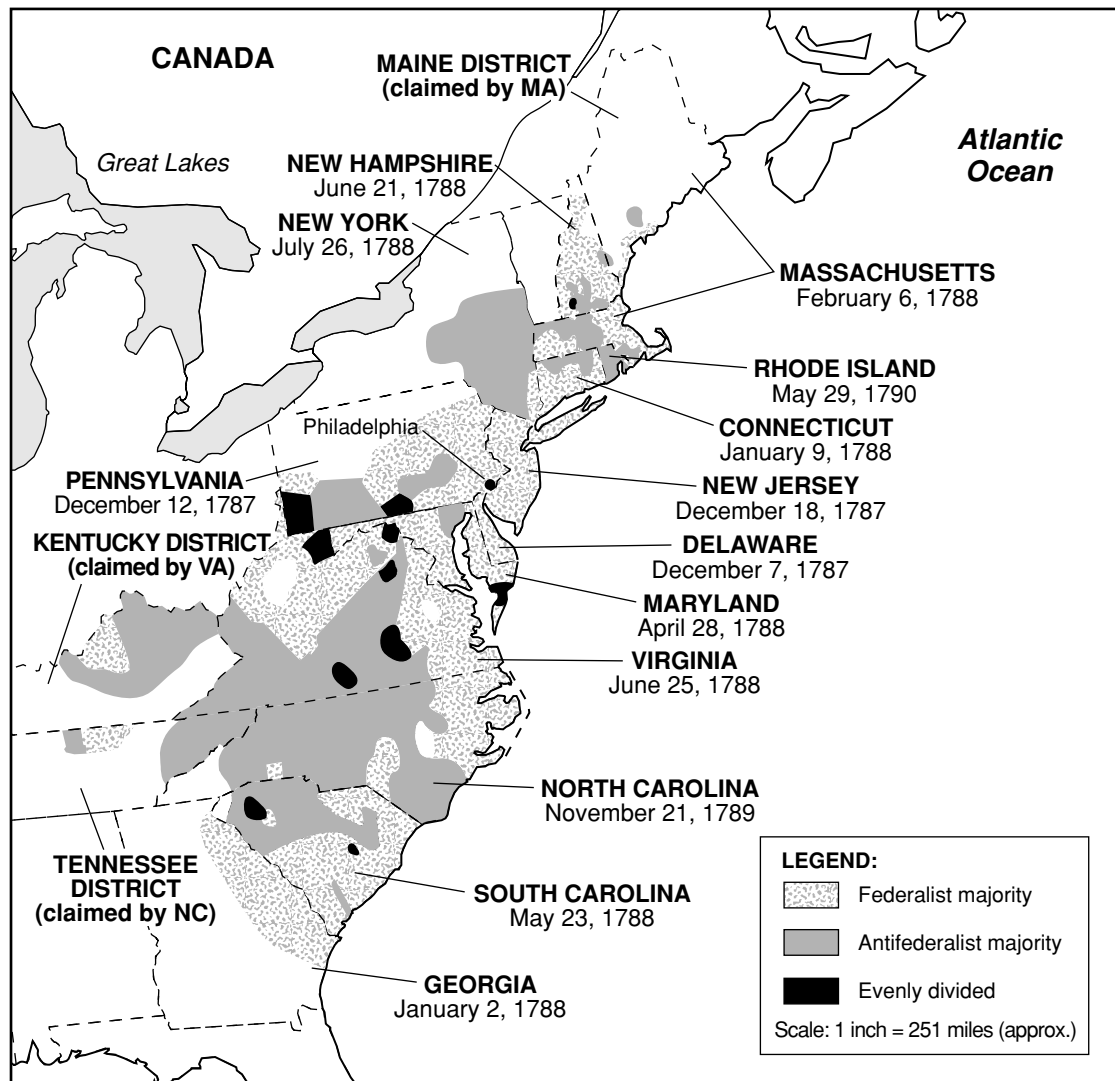
Forming a Government

GEOGRAPHY ACTIVITIES

Ratification of the Constitution

On September 17, 1787, delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia finished drafting the Constitution. The document was then sent to the states for ratification, sparking furious debate between Federalists (those supporting the Constitution) and Antifederalists (those opposing the document). The map below shows areas with populations favoring and opposing the Constitution, along with the date each state ratified the document. Study the map below, and then answer the questions that follow.

Ratification of the Federal Constitution, 1787–1790



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Adapted from map "Ratification of the Federal Constitution" from *American History Atlas*, by Martin Gilbert. Copyright © 1968 by Weidenfeld and Nicolson. Reprinted by permission of Routledge.

Chapter 8: Geography Activities continued

1. What are the 13 states listed on this map? Which districts were claimed by existing states?

2. Which state was the first to ratify the Constitution? Which state was the last? How much time passed between the two?

3. Which two states show the most support for the Antifederalists?

4. Which state ratified the Constitution in 1789? Based on the information on this map, why might ratification have been delayed in this state?

5. Why are some areas shown as neither a majority nor a divided vote?

6. **Critical Thinking: Region** Consider the economies of New England, the middle colonies, and the South. How do Federalist majorities, Antifederalist majorities, and divided votes reflect the influences of agriculture and shipping in each region?

ACTIVITY

Imagine that you are a citizen of the United States in September 1787. Create a poster for or against ratification of the Constitution. Make sure your poster includes the reasons for your opinion.