

# Constitution Day Sept. 17



The Signing of the United States Constitution by Louis S. Glanzman, 1987, National Park Service in Philadelphia

## Play by the rules

Rules are part of the Kid's life. The Kid has rules at home and at school. There are also rules of the road when the Kid is out on a bike ride or walking around the neighborhood. There are rules almost everywhere the Kid goes.

Rules help people get along with each other in a game or driving on a highway. Rules can help keep us safe.

After the Revolutionary War between the Colonies and Britain, rules had to be made to form a new government. These rules would be called the Constitution. However, the 55 men who worked on the Constitution didn't always agree about what the rules should be. They had to work on them for several months.

The Kid is going to give you some important dates that led to the creation of the Constitution. With these dates, you can create a time line. Have fun!

1775: The Revolutionary War between Britain and the 13 Colonies starts when the Colonies revolt.

1776: The Continental Congress approves the Declaration of Independence. The 13 colonies became 13 states. However, they are not yet united under one central government.

1781: American and French troops defeat the British at the Siege of Yorktown, Virginia, the final battle

Unscramble these words from the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution:

S	T	I	J	C	U	E	N	I	N	O	U	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
T	E	R	Y	B	I	L	P	E	L	O	P	E
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

of the Revolutionary War.

The Continental Congress agrees on the Articles of Confederation. The Continental Congress is replaced by the Congress of the Confederation, basis of the new United States government.

1783: Britain recognizes the independence of the United States of America.

1786: Representatives from only five states meet at Annapolis, Maryland, to talk about interstate trade. Since so few states attend James Madison and Alexander Hamilton call for another convention.

1787: The Constitutional Convention starts on May 25 in Philadelphia as 55 men join together to draft the Constitution. On September 17, representatives sign the document and end the session

1788: The Constitution is ratified and becomes the law of the United States after New Hampshire is the ninth and last state required to give its approval.

1791: The Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments, is added to the Constitution.

The Constitution and its amendments still guide the citizens of the United States of America 229 years after its creation.



### Newspaper activity

Search through your newspaper for important dates and explain why they are important.