



# America's Founding Documents

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## America's Founding Documents

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### Explore the Documents

- Declaration of Independence
- Constitution of the United States
- Bill of Rights

### Special Features

- High Resolution Downloads
- Sign the Declaration or Constitution
- The Faulkner Murals
- Meet the Framers of the Constitution

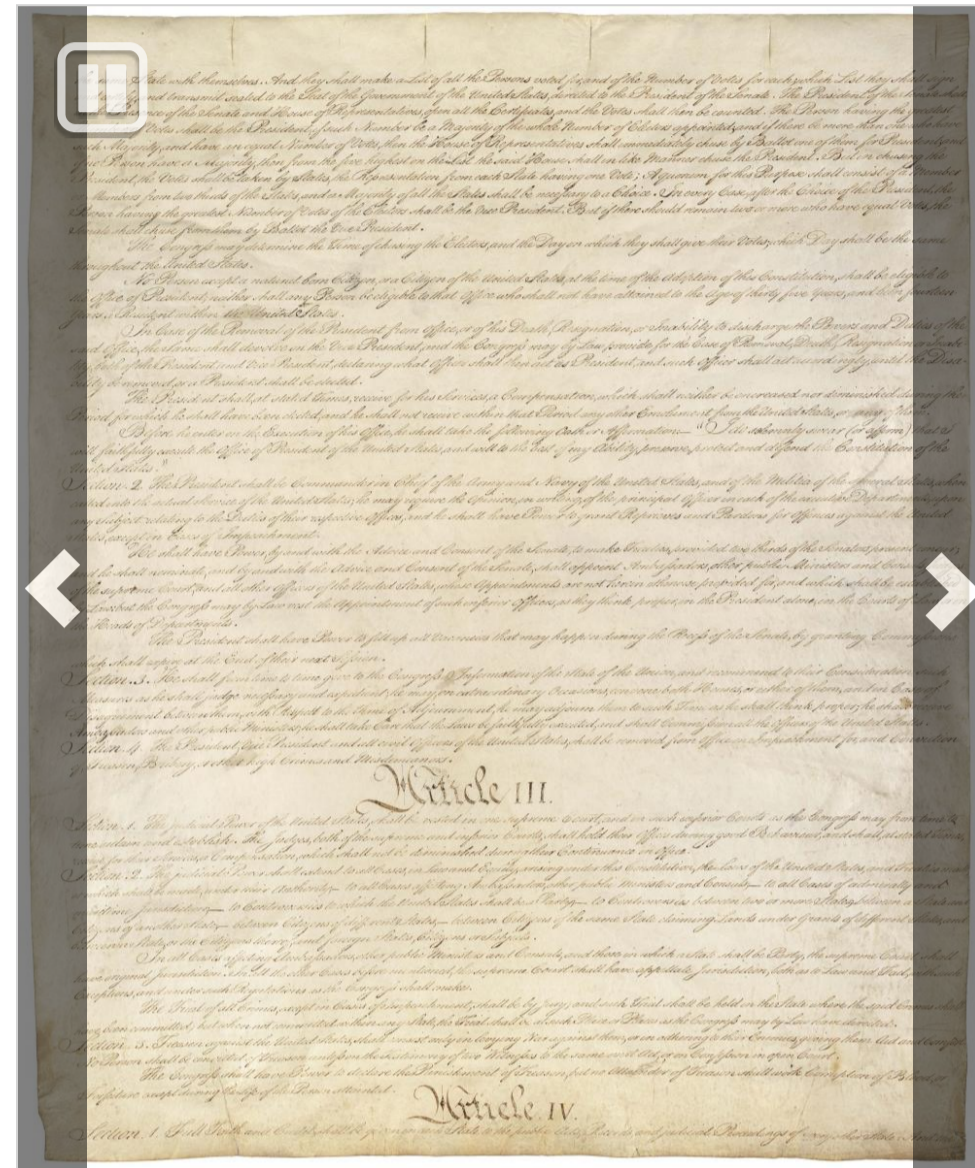
### Other Resources

- Visit the National Archives Museum
- View Other Milestone Documents
- Browse Teaching Resources for the Revolutionary Era
- Civics for All of US
- Explore Online Exhibits
- Search the National Archives Catalog
- Discover the Founders Online
- Shop the Archives Store
- Ask a Question on History Hub

## The Constitution of the United States

Español

***We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.***  
 -- Preamble to the United States Constitution



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### The Constitution of the United States

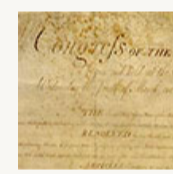
All four pages of the document are on permanent display at the National Archives.

[Read a Transcript](#)

**The Constitution acted like a colossal merger**, uniting a group of states with different interests, laws, and cultures. Under America's first national government, the Articles of Confederation, the states acted together only for specific purposes. The Constitution united its citizens as members of a whole, vesting the power of the union in the people. Without it, the American Experiment might have ended as quickly as it had begun.

### Read Articles About the Constitution

- The article "[A More Perfect Union](#)" is an in-depth look at the Constitutional Convention and the ratification process.
- "[Questions and Answers Pertaining to the Constitution](#)" presents dozens of fascinating facts about the Constitution.
- "[Errors in the Constitution—Typographical and Congressional](#)" discusses discrepancies in various printed and handwritten versions of the document.



### Amendments 1-10

Amendments 1-10 constitute what is known as the Bill of Rights



### Amendments 11-27

Discover the other changes and additions that have been made to the Constitution over the past 200+ years.

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[What Does it Say?](#)

### About the Constitution

#### What Does it Say?

The meaning of the document

#### How Did it Happen?

The history of the document

#### How Was it Made?

The creation of the parchment document

#### Who were the framers of the Constitution?

Additional activities and information

#### How can I visit the Constitution?

The National Archives Museum

#### Read a Transcript

The Constitution of the United States Transcript

#### Constitution-Related Events

DECEMBER  
**08**  
 Thursday

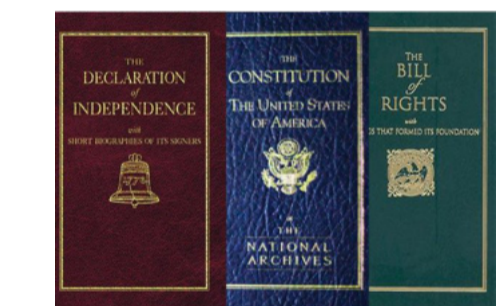
Online - 11:00am to 12:00pm EST

**The National Archives Comes Alive! Young Learners Program—Meet George Mason**

Actor Don McAndrews portrays George Mason, known as the "Father of the Bill of Rights," who in 1787 refused to sign the Constitution because he believed it did not secure individual rights.

**History Hub** Our crowdsourcing platform to find help, ask questions, and get started with historical research. [→](#)

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This page was last reviewed on September 21, 2022.

[Contact us with questions or comments.](#)

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### I Want To...

- Get My Military Record
- Plan a Research Visit
- Visit the Museum
- View Online Exhibits
- Apply for a Grant

### Participate

- Attend an Event
- Donate to the Archives
- Work at the Archives
- Volunteer at the Archives

### Resources

- America's Founding Docs
- Contact Us
- En Español
- FAQs
- Forms

### Shop Online

- Visit the National Archives Store
- Buy Reproductions and Microfilm

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