



The Mini Page

Next Week:
The 19th
Amendment

Issue 31, 2020

Founded by Betty Debnam



Mini Fact:

The youngest delegate to the convention was Jonathan Dayton, 26, from New Jersey.

Signing Fact-a-roonies

During the Constitutional Convention from May 25 to Sept. 17, 1787:

- 39 delegates signed the Constitution. They signed in order of their states, from north to south. But ...

- The Constitution has 40 signatures. The 40th is the secretary of the convention, William Jackson. He had been an officer in the Revolutionary War, and later served as President Washington's private secretary.



William Jackson

- 55 men attended at some time or other. Some went every day the convention was in session. Others came and went as they wished. Delegates from New Hampshire did not arrive until July 23.

Four did not agree with what the convention was doing and left.

- They were all well-educated for men of their time. Twenty-seven of them had graduated from college. All were readers of books, especially history books.



This mural of the Constitution's signers hangs in the rotunda of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., near the original Constitution. It was painted by Barry Faulkner in 1936 and is almost 14 feet tall and 35 feet long.

Our Constitution's birthday is Sept. 17. On that day in 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia signed the document that they had worked on for nearly four months.

Ben Franklin's speech

Ben Franklin was 81 years old. He did not have the strength to stand and make a speech at this meeting. He asked another delegate to read one he had written.

Franklin said he did not agree with everything in the Constitution. But he doubted another convention would write a better one. He urged all delegates to sign and support it.

Not everyone signed

Some delegates would not or could not support the Constitution. Three of the delegates at the final meeting refused to sign it.

- George Mason of Virginia did not sign because it did not have a bill of rights.
- Edmund Randolph, also of Virginia, thought it gave the president too much power.
- Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts thought it gave the central government too much power.

After it was signed

After the Constitution was signed, it became part of a six-page report that the convention sent to the Congress, which was meeting in New York City.

Congress received the package containing the Constitution, a resolution, and a letter from George Washington on Sept. 20, 1787. In less than a week, Congress considered it and sent it to the states for **ratification**, or approval. It was ratified by nine of the 13 states by July 1788.

In 2005, Betty Debnam, creator of The Mini Page, worked closely with the National Archives in Washington, D.C., to create a nine-part series of issues about our U.S. Constitution. This is the seventh issue in the series, which will continue once a month until Election Day 2020.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPsigning

At the library:

- "We the People: The Constitution of the United States" by Peter Spier
- "A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution" by Betsy Maestro

The Mini Page® © 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the signing are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

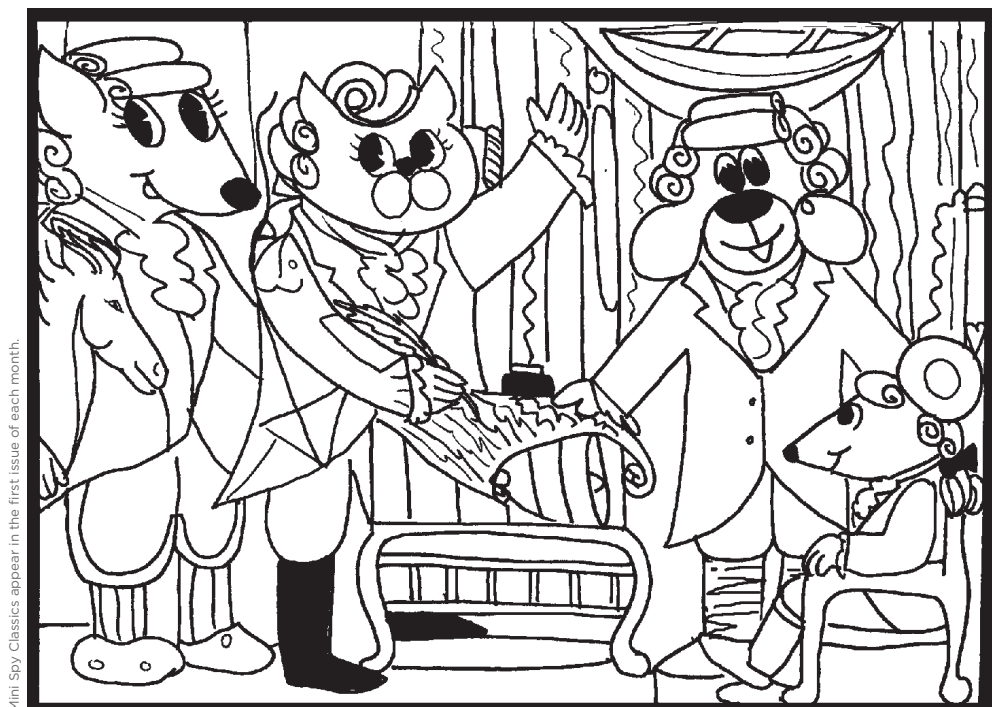


AGREE, BOOKS, COLLEGE, CONGRESS, CONSTITUTION, CONVENTION, DELEGATE, DOCUMENT, FRANKLIN, MAY, PHILADELPHIA, RATIFICATION, SECRETARY, SEPTEMBER, SIGN, SPEECH, STATES.

Y R A T E R C E S Y N G I S B
F R A T I F I C A T I O N B O
R D E L E G A T E E E R G A O
A U P H I L A D E L P H I A K
N H H C E E P S G S E T A T S
K G F O M R E B M E T P E S X
L T N E M U C O D Y A M U O Y
I U S N O I T N E V N O C A B
N E G E L L O C O N G R E S S
G Z C O N S T I T U T I O N H

Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and her friends are signing their copy of our Constitution. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



Mini Spy Classics appear in the first issue of each month.

Hey Mini Spy Fans! Order your Mini Spy Booklets (Volumes 1, 2 and 3) with 48 of your favorite puzzles! Visit MiniPageBooks.com, or call 844-426-1256 to order. Just \$4 plus \$1 shipping.

- exclamation mark
- ladder
- word MINI
- boat
- horse's head
- key
- pencil
- bell
- mushroom
- fish
- kite
- number 3
- olive

Mini Jokes



Ian: How many worms are in a foot?

Isabelle: Twelve inchworms!

Eco Note



Migratory birds are enjoying their historic summer habitats across the wetlands of southern Pakistan without threats from poachers because coronavirus lockdown measures have kept the criminals away. "The birds have stayed longer this year, maybe due to meager disturbances by humans due to the lockdown everywhere," wildlife photographer Ahmer Ali Rizvi said. There have been no reports of trapping, hunting or illegal trading since the lockdown was imposed.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about constitutional rights.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



The Mini Page® © 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

Books from The Mini Page are wonderful resources and make great gifts! See all of our Mini Page products at MiniPageBooks.com, or call 800-642-6480 for more information. Mail payment to: Andrews McMeel Universal, Mini Page Books, 1130 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64106. Include \$4.00 shipping and handling per order.

