

# **SSUSH5: INVESTIGATE SPECIFIC EVENTS AND KEY IDEAS THAT BROUGHT THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION**

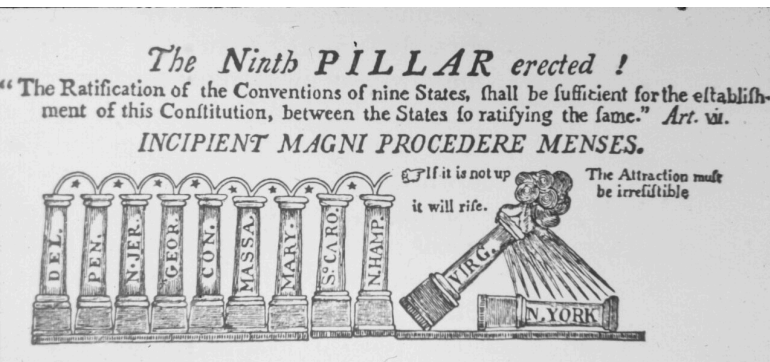


***ELEMENT E: EXPLAIN*** how objections to the ratification of the Constitution were addressed in the Bill of Rights.

# Bill of Rights



- ❑ One of the principle reasons that the American colonists revolted against the British government was the colonists' belief that Parliament had abridged colonial rights as guaranteed to them under the English Bill of Rights.
- ❑ When the Constitution was drafted, the Anti-Federalists felt that a strong central government could also infringe upon civil liberties.
  - The Anti-Federalists would not ratify the new Constitution without the inclusion of a bill to protect citizen rights.
  - The Federalists indicated that they would support the addition of a Bill of Rights as one of the first orders of business in the new government if the Anti-Federalists would ratify the Constitution in its current form.
  - The deal resolved the impasse and the Constitution was ratified by the required nine states upon New Hampshire's vote on June 21, 1788, thus putting the new United States Constitution into effect. The remaining states soon followed.



# Bill of Rights

❑ As was pledged during the ratification process, James Madison introduced a proposal to the new federal Congress for a Bill of Rights in June 1789.



- The proposal was approved separately by both houses of Congress by September 1789 and ratified by the states by April 1792.
- The negotiation between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists had succeeded in getting the Constitution ratified and the Bill of Rights was added as promised.
- An examination of the Bill of Rights should emphasize that the first nine rights deal with key individual protections.
- These rights include the right of free expression, assembly, protections against self-incrimination, and the right to a trial by a civilian jury (as opposed to the hated Admiralty Courts).
- To protect these individual rights, Madison limited the power of the federal government in the Tenth Amendment by reserving any un-enumerated rights to the states.
- The rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights remedied the objections Anti-Federalists had to the original Constitution, which they feared did not protect citizens from the potential abuse of power by the federal government.

