

Name _____

Date _____

It Takes Time



The creation of a government that carefully balanced individual rights and government powers took time. Many events led to the freedoms that Americans enjoy today.

Read each fact. Number the facts in chronological order. Next, cut out the boxes and arrange them in order on a sheet of paper. Then glue the boxes to the paper to form a timeline.

A Historical Timeline of the United States Constitution		
<p>The first state to ratify the Constitution was Delaware. This took place on December 7, 1787.</p>	<p>The Constitution was signed four months later by 39 of the 55 delegates present.</p>	<p>Almost two years later, Congress declared an official end to the Revolutionary War by signing the Treaty of Paris.</p>
<p>In August 1786, a rebellion led by Daniel Shays broke out in Massachusetts. This showed the weakness of the national government.</p>	<p>The American Revolution began in April 1775.</p>	<p>On July 16, 1790, legislation making the District of Columbia the permanent federal capital was signed.</p>
<p>The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776.</p>	<p>On March 1, 1780, the Articles of Confederation went into effect.</p>	<p>On December 15, 1791, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, called the Bill of Rights, were approved.</p>
<p>In May 1790, Rhode Island became the last state to sign the Constitution.</p>	<p>In May 1787, delegates arrived in Philadelphia for a convention. This would later become known as the Constitutional Convention.</p>	<p>On October 19, 1783, British General Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.</p>
	<p>On June 21, 1788, the Constitution was put into effect with the approval of the ninth state, New Hampshire.</p>	<p>George Washington was sworn in as the first president under the Constitution. The date was April 30, 1789.</p>