The First Congress of the United States was held in 1789 at Federal Hall in New York, New York. Robert Livingston (one of the Committee of Five) opposed declaring independence too soon.

George Washington was in New York preparing to fight the British.

Ratification of the Constitution was not immediate. The minimum requirements for ratification were met when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify on June 21, 1788.

The Constitution was written during the Constitutional Convention in 1787 at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. How did it become official? The minimum requirements for ratification were met when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify on June 21, 1788.

James Madison drew up 19 amendments based on George Mason's Virginia Bill of Rights and suggestions at the state ratifying conventions. A congressional committee edited the list down to 12, and 10 were ratified by the states.

The Bill of Rights was a group effort formed by 4 months of debate among the delegates. James Madison and Gouverneur Morris made major contributions.

The Committee of Committee of 5 included John Adams, Roger Sherman, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson wrote the first drafts. He gets most of the credit.

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John Hancock, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin signed the Constitution.

56 Signers including John Hancock, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin.

The Bill of Rights includes:
- List of rights, including: freedom of religion, speech, assembly and petition, to bear arms, rules about criminal trials and property search and seizure
- People have rights that aren’t listed
- Federal Government only has powers granted by the Constitution

The minimum requirements for ratification were met when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify on June 21, 1788.

The Bill of Rights became known as the Bill of Rights.