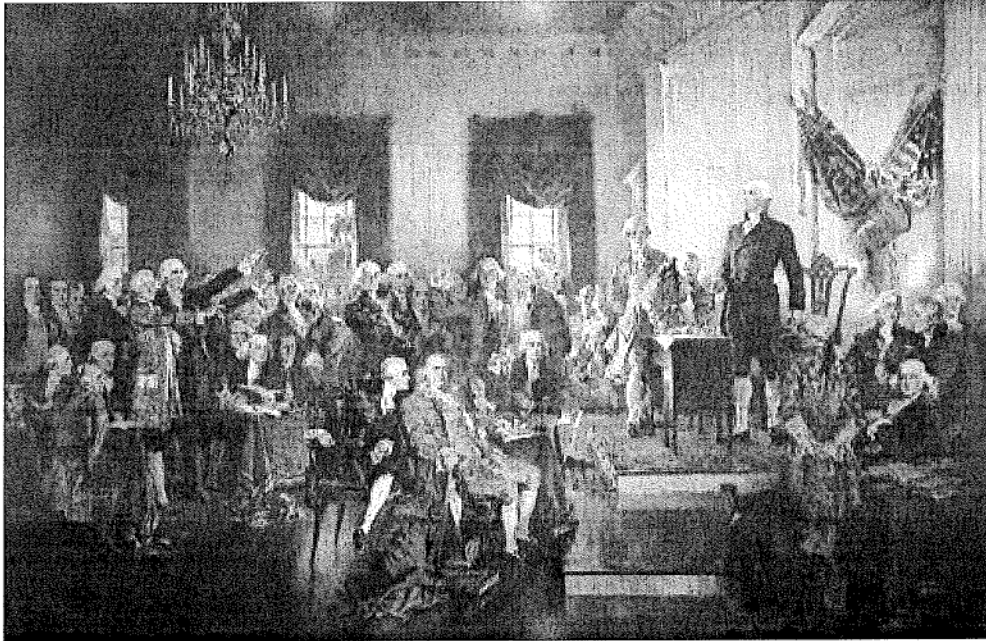


The United States Constitution

by Susan LaBella



The United States Constitution is the highest law in the nation. It is the set of rules that Americans live by.

In 1787, a group of Americans did not like how their new country's government worked. They sat down to write new rules for the government. Among those men were Ben Franklin and George Washington.

The men met at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during a hot summer. Sometimes they had disagreements. They had to work hard to solve those disagreements. When they finished, they had written the country's Constitution. Next, the Constitution had to be approved by the states. After a few years, the states voted in favor of the Constitution. It was now the law of the land.

According to the Constitution, an election for president must be held every four years. The Constitution also says that the United States must have a Congress and a Supreme Court. Congress makes laws. The Supreme Court decides if laws are correctly written and followed.

The Constitution promises important rights to the American people. These include the right to believe what you wish and the right to say what you believe. These promises are listed in the part of the Constitution known as the Bill of Rights.