

Online Information

The Counterfeit Constitution Mystery

Fascinating Facts

The U.S. Constitution

1. Only 12 of the 13 states were represented at the Constitutional Convention. Rhode Island was the only state not to send anyone to the convention.
2. The Constitution was written in 1787 but did not become law until June 21, 1788 after two-thirds of the states ratified it. Not all the states had ratified it by April 30, 1789 when George Washington became the first president of the United States.
3. James Madison is known as the "Father of the Constitution."
4. When writing the Constitution, the delegates made sure that what went on inside the convention was a secret. Dirt was spread on the streets to muffle the sounds outside the Pennsylvania State House. There were even armed guards to protect the secrecy of the meetings!
5. The U.S. Constitution has 4,400 words. It is the oldest and shortest written constitution of any major government in the world.
6. Benjamin Franklin was in such poor health that he needed help to sign the Constitution. Tears ran down his face. He was 81 years old.
7. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941, the Constitution was moved from the National Archives to Fort Knox in Kentucky.
8. The word "democracy" does not appear once in the Constitution.
9. The United States' population was 4 million when the Constitution was signed. Today, the U.S. population is more than 300 million!

