

Mainly written by  
Thomas Jefferson

Listed grievances  
against King George

Adopted on July 4,  
1776

Signed by members of  
the Continental  
Congress

Declared the United  
States as a sovereign  
nation independent of  
British rule

Used to rally support  
for the American  
Revolutionary War

This document describes  
the concept of “unalienable  
rights” including “life,  
liberty, and the pursuit  
of happiness”

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights...”



Anyone who signed  
this document could  
be arrested for  
Treason

This document inspired the  
women's suffrage  
movement to say that; "all  
men and women are  
created equal"

“We the People of the United States, in  
Order to form a more perfect Union,  
establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility,  
provide for the common defense, promote  
the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings  
of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do  
ordain and establish this \_\_\_\_\_ for the  
United States of America.

Created after the failure  
of the Articles of  
Confederation

Main author was  
James Madison

This document divides  
the government into  
three branches:  
executive, legislative,  
and judicial

Formed after  
compromises such as  
the Great Compromise  
and the Three-Fifths  
Compromise

Written in 1787, this  
document became the  
supreme law of the land  
in 1789



Established the framework  
of the federal government  
which divided powers  
between the national  
government and state  
governments

Created a *system* of  
checks and balances

One of its amendments  
guarantees individual  
freedoms such as:  
freedom of speech,  
religion, and the press

This document  
combined the Virginia  
Plan and the New Jersey  
Plan to resolve issues of  
representation

Anti-Federalists and  
Federalists fought over  
this document until the  
Bill of Rights was added

We can amend or  
change this document,  
but it isn't easy. It's  
happened just 27 times.