

Study Guide



Chapter 5, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 172–175

RATIFICATION

KEY TERMS AND NAMES

Federalists those who supported the Constitution (page 173)

Antifederalists those who opposed the Constitution (page 173)

John Hancock prominent Antifederalist (page 173)

Patrick Henry prominent Antifederalist (page 173)

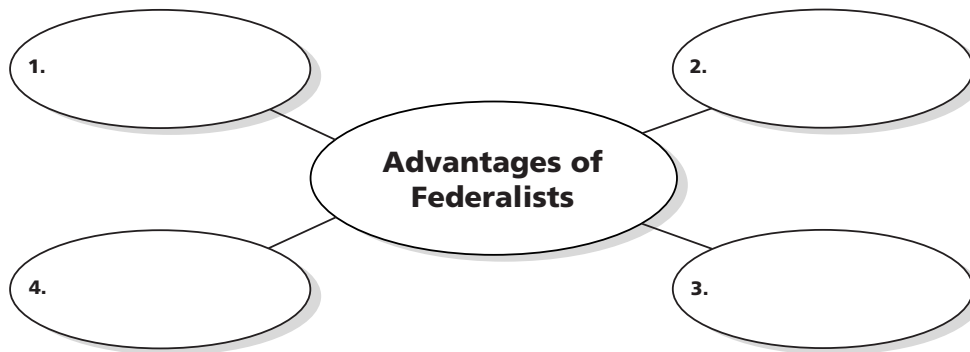
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Imagine that you are a delegate to one of the state conventions called to ratify the Constitution. Would you support ratification or oppose it? Why?

The last section discussed the creation of the Constitution. This section explains how the Constitution was ratified.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. The Federalists had several advantages over the Antifederalists in their fight for ratification. List the advantages.



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READ TO LEARN

- **A Great Debate** (page 172)

After the Constitution was written, each state had to elect a convention to vote on the new Constitution. Those who supported the Constitution called themselves **Federalists**. They chose the name to indicate that they supported the federal system of government. They hoped that people who feared the central government would become too powerful would be reminded that the states would keep many of their powers. Those who supported the Federalists included large landowners, merchants, and artisans. They believed that a strong central government would levy taxes on imports, which would help American businesses. Farmers who lived near the coast or along rivers and shipped goods across state borders also supported the Federalists.

Those who opposed the Constitution were called **Antifederalists**. They supported the need for a national government, but they questioned whether the national government or the state governments should be dominant. Antifederalists included prominent Americans such as **John Hancock** and **Patrick Henry**. Many Antifederalists were western farmers who lived far from the coast. They were generally self-sufficient and were suspicious of the wealthy.

The Antifederalists conducted a negative campaign. Whereas the Federalists presented a definite program for solving the nation's problems, the Antifederalists did not. The Antifederalists complained that the Constitution did not protect people's rights, but they did not present their own plan for protecting rights. The Federalists were better organized than the Antifederalists. Most newspapers supported the Federalists. They presented their program in speeches, pamphlets and debates. The Federalists explained why the Constitution should be ratified in a collection of essays known as *The Federalist*. The essays were written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay under the pen name of Publius. The essays explained how the new Constitution worked. The essays were very influential.

5. What group of people tended to support the Antifederalists?

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- **The Fight for Ratification** *(page 174)*

The ratifying conventions started in December 1787. Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut quickly ratified the Constitution. In Massachusetts, Antifederalists held a majority at the convention. They included Samuel Adams, who objected to the Constitution because he believed it endangered the independence of the states. The Federalists worked to meet his objections. They promised to attach a bill of rights once the Constitution was ratified. They also promised to add an amendment that would reserve for the states all the powers not specifically given to the federal government. This persuaded Adams to vote for ratification, and Massachusetts ratified it. By June 1788, Maryland, South Carolina, and New Hampshire had also ratified the Constitution. Virginia and New York, however, had not yet ratified it. The Federalists believed that without the support of the two large states, the new government would not succeed.

Federalists, including George Washington and James Madison, presented strong arguments for ratification to the Virginia convention. Finally, the promise to add a bill of rights won Virginia's support. A close vote in New York resulted in a Federalist victory there. By July 1788, all states except Rhode Island and North Carolina had ratified the Constitution. Because nine states were all that was necessary for ratification, the new government could start without those two states. By 1790 both states finally ratified the Constitution.

6. How did Federalists manage to convince the Massachusetts convention to ratify the Constitution?
