



Constitutional Principles and
Structures: SS.7.CG.1.10
Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists
READING #2

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.1.10 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will recognize the Anti-Federalists' reasons for the inclusion of a bill of rights in the U.S. Constitution.

The **Anti-Federalists** thought it was important for the Constitution to include a bill of rights. This listing of specific rights protecting the people's speech, property, and religious freedom, among many other rights, would protect the people from the federal government abusing its power. How the British treated the colonists before they declared independence was fresh in their minds. Many Americans believed that a specific listing of rights was needed.

All of the states eventually **ratified** the Constitution. Soon after **ratification**, Congress and the states also ratified the **Bill of Rights**. This compromise allowed the **Federalists** to get the Constitution ratified while also respecting the Anti-Federalists' belief that a bill of rights was necessary to protect the rights of the people.

Anti-Federalists - a group of people in the early United States who opposed ratification of the U.S. Constitution because they feared a strong national government and a lack of protection for individual rights

Bill of Rights - the first ten amendments of the U.S. Constitution

Federalists - a group of people in the early United States who favored the establishment of a strong national government and who worked for ratification of the U.S. Constitution

ratification - the process of formally approving something; ratification of the U.S. Constitution

ratify - to confirm by expressing consent; formally approve