

Big Idea Card

Big Ideas of Lesson 8, Unit 2

- Once the Constitution was drafted, three-quarters of the states had to ratify or accept the new Constitution for it to become effective.
- Some of the Framers expressed concern that the Constitution gave too much power to the central government and put states' rights and individual liberties at risk.
- Two camps developed. Those who favored the new constitution called themselves "Federalists." They called those who opposed them "Antifederalists." Both groups sought to convince the American public of their position on the issues.
- The Federalists published a series of essays, known collectively as "the Federalist Papers." These essays sought to calm fears about the new government under the Constitution.
- The Federalist Papers are considered one of the most important sources for interpreting and understanding the original intent of the Constitution.