**Philadelphia Convention**

### Date of Constitutional Convention:

The meeting of the Constitutional Convention began on May 25, 1787. They met on 89 of the 116 days between May 25th and their final meeting on September 17, 1787. Their original job was to “fix” or amend the Articles of Confederation.

### Location of Constitutional Convention:

The meetings took place Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### States Participating:

Twelve of the 13 original states participated by sending delegates to the Constitutional Convention. The only state that did not participate was Rhode Island. They were against the idea of a stronger federal government.

### Who was there?:

55 delegates attended the Convention. The most well-known include George Washington, James Madison, George Mason, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Charles Pinckney, and Roger Sherman. Most of these men, including George Washington were businessmen and the weak Articles of Confederation was impacting their ability to trade and do business.

### Who was NOT there?

### Thomas Jefferson was in France and did not attend. Patrick Henry refused to attend because he feared that the others (like Washington and Franklin) wanted to create a government with a strong national government. Jefferson would not have approved of a strong national government either. These men and others believed that the majority of power should be kept in the hands of the individual states.

**Agreements to get the Convention started:**

1. George Washington would serve as president of the convention.
2. Each state, large or small, would have one vote at the convention.
3. They would not do what Congress had asked them to do. They would not try to improve the Articles of Confederation. The Articles had too many weaknesses. They decided to write an entirely new constitution.
4. They would keep their discussions private. They decided that whatever was said at the meeting would remain a secret for thirty years.