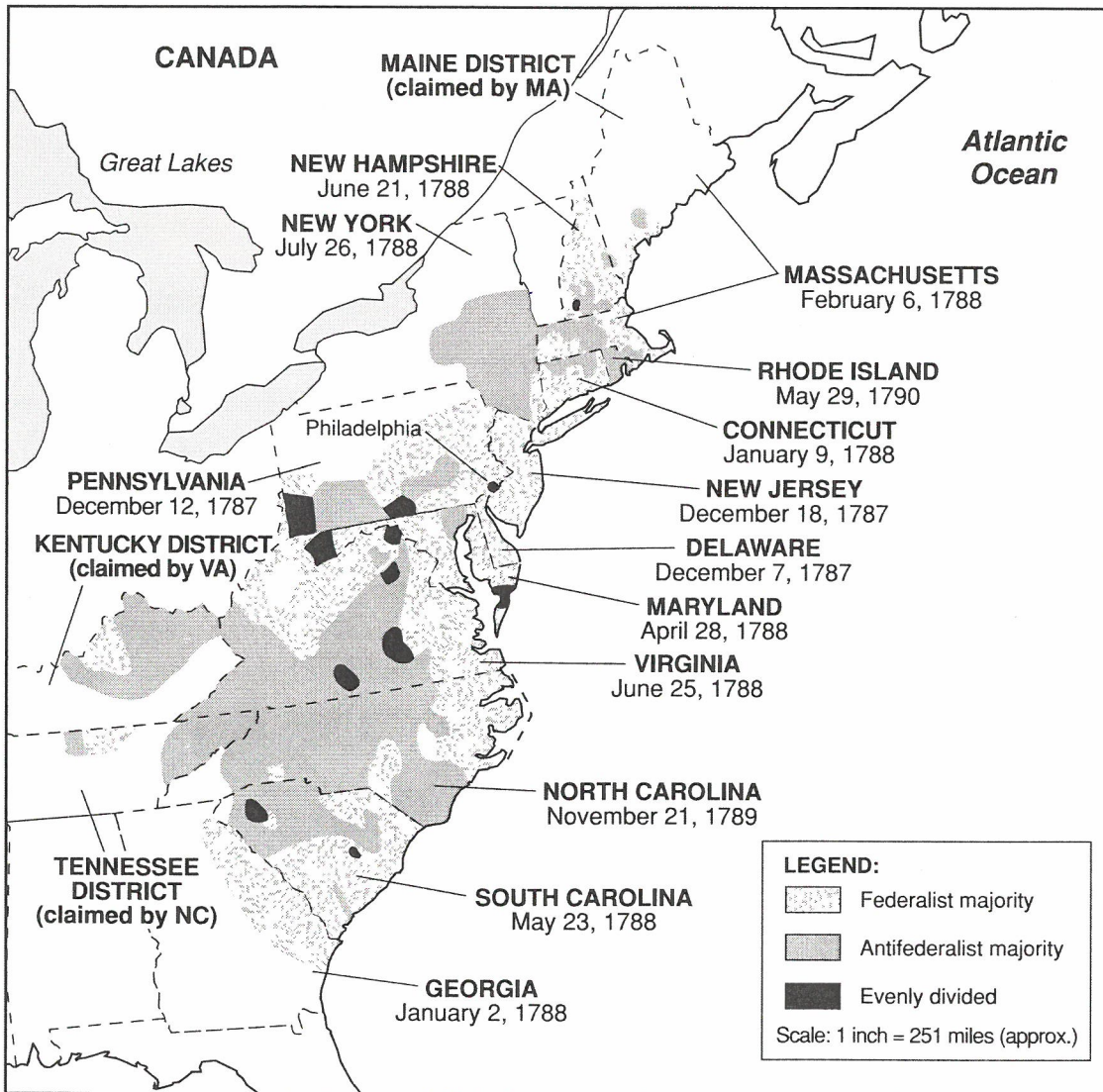


Ratifying the Constitution

After the Constitution was drafted, the document was sent to the states for ratification. This event sparked a furious debate between Federalists, people who favored ratifying the Constitution, and Antifederalists, people who opposed ratifying the Constitution. The map below shows areas with populations favoring and opposing the Constitution. It also shows the date each state ratified the document. Study the map. Then complete the activity and answer the questions on the next page.

Ratification of the Federal Constitution, 1787-1790



Adapted from map "Ratification of the Federal Constitution" from *American History Atlas*, by Martin Gilbert. Copyright © 1968 by Weidenfeld and Nicolson. Reprinted by permission of *Routledge*.

MAP ACTIVITY

1. Write the number *1* on the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
2. Circle the name of the last state to ratify the Constitution.
3. Use a dark color to trace the three states that had an Antifederalist majority.
4. Write the letter *D* in the three districts claimed by states at the time.

ANALYZING MAPS

1. **Movement** If you lived in Philadelphia in the late 1780s, what is the fewest number of miles you would have to travel to enter an area that opposed ratifying the Constitution?

2. **Place** Which states had areas evenly divided between people favoring and opposing ratification of the Constitution?

3. **Analyze** Why do you think some areas are shown as having neither a majority nor an evenly divided population?

4. **Compare and Contrast** Compare the locations of Federalist and Antifederalist majorities in the states of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. How are the locations of these populations similar? What do you think caused this pattern?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Imagine that you are a citizen of the United States in September 1787. Create a poster for or against ratification of the Constitution. Make sure your poster includes the reasons for your opinion.

