

- The thirteen colonies were acting as independent countries, making up their own constitutions.
- The first capital of the country was in New York.
- The country moved the capital from New York to the District of Columbia, or Washington D.C.

The New Country

After America made peace with England, many Americans hated the idea of a federal government. But American leaders like Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, and George Washington saw that the colonies would be in trouble if they continued to act like independent states. Even before the revolution, in 1754, Benjamin Franklin published a drawing of a snake cut into eight parts. He used this to show the Albany Congress the dangers of disunity. This drawing was later used on an American flag.

NEW WORDS!

Constitution - a set of rules explaining how a country will work.

Verging - Border on; come close to.

Anarchy - a state of lawlessness and disorder.

Federal government - a government that has authority to act for all states.

Delegates - A person appointed or elected to represent others.

Senate - Assembly possessing high legislative powers.

Legislative - related to the act of making or enacting laws.

Veto - stop.

Executive - Having the function of carrying out plans or orders etc.

NEW WORDS!

Judicial - Relating to the administration of justice.

Ratify - agree to accept.

Bill of rights - a list of powers that the government couldn't use against the people of the United States.

Amendments - additions.

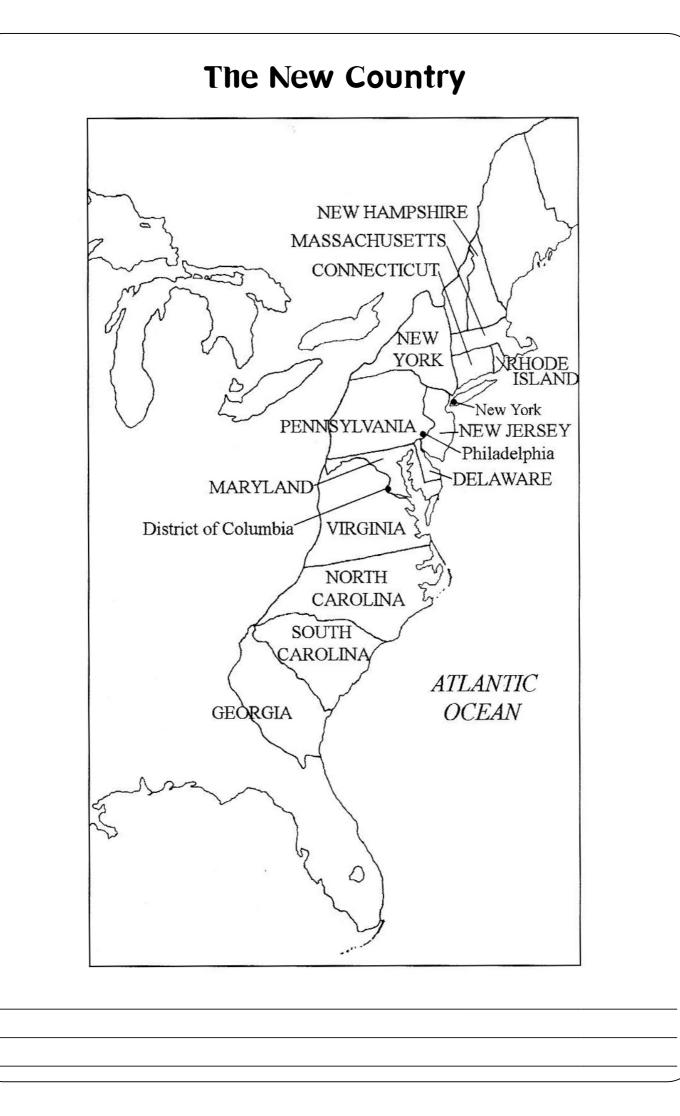
Inaugurated - sworn in as President.

Barge - A flat-bottom boat for carrying heavy loads.

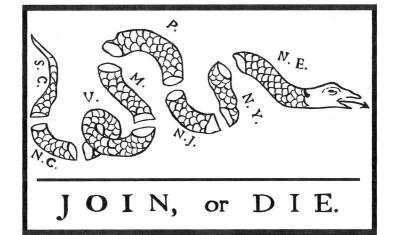
Secretary - An assistant who handles correspondence and clerical work for a boss or an organization.

Treasury - The federal department that collects revenue and administers federal finances

Rheumatism - painful disorder of the joints, muscles or connective tissues.



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