

## FORMING A GOVERNMENT

### How was the United States Government formed?

After the Revolutionary War, the new nation of the United States of America needed a government. The first attempt at a written plan of government had been the **Articles of Confederation**. The Articles of Confederation, passed in 1781 during the War, gave much power to the individual states. Eventually, the citizens of the United States decided that a new government needed to give power to a central government while still keeping some powers for the states.

A meeting to change the Articles of Confederation was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1787. This meeting was called the **Constitutional Convention**. James Madison took notes at the Constitutional Convention and wrote the Bill of Rights. At the meeting, it was decided that a new form of government for the nation would be



The men of government were elected by the people. The power would be divided among three branches with equal powers:

- **The Executive Branch**



- The Legislative Branch



- The Judicial Branch



Each branch is called the **Executive Branch**. This idea

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The **Executive Branch** is the branch made up of the President and his advisers. The President's closest advisers are called the Cabinet. This branch **enforces the laws**.

The branch that **makes the laws** is called the **Legislative Branch**. The Legislative Branch, also known as the **Congress**, is divided into two parts: the **House of Representatives** and the **Senate**.

