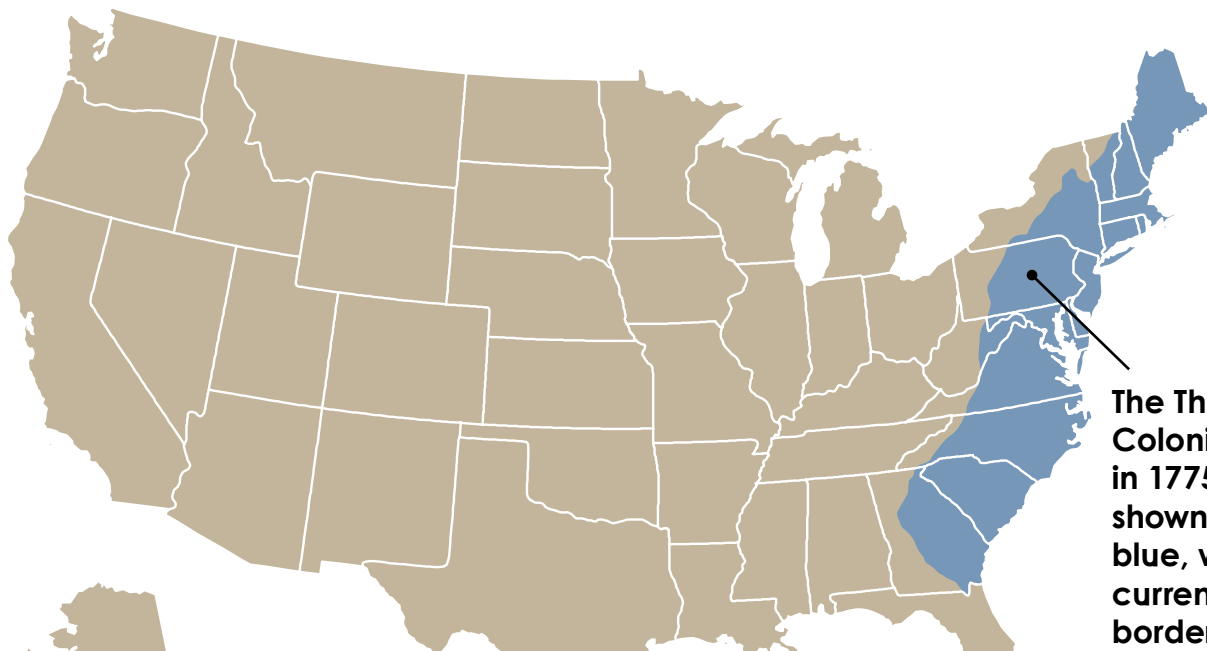


Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Preview

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**H**ow many states are in the United States? You likely know there are 50. Before there were states, there were colonies. Colonies are places under the control of another country. You may know there were 13 British colonies at first. Do you know how those colonies became states? Or how we went from 13 to 50?

Before any colony could become a state, they had to

declare independence from Great Britain. They did this on July 4, 1776. We call it Independence Day. The colonies were already fighting by then! The first American attack on the British was in Rhode Island. Rhode Islanders attacked an English ship in 1772. That was well before the war began.

The colonies' war for independence is called the American Revolution. It went from

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1775 to 1783. The colonies weren't like today's states when it ended. There weren't any states like today's states until they made the government they use today. That means they had to write the Constitution. Delaware was the first to ratify, or approve, the Constitution. It became the first state on December 7, 1787. Even



## Preview

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Many more states joined the United States. After the 13 colonies, Vermont was the first new state. It joined in 1791. The 48 connected states all joined by 1912. The newest state is Hawaii. It became a state on August 21, 1959. Alaska became a state earlier the same year.

How did they become states?  
Becoming a state can take many

states needs to agree to it too. If no changes are needed, Congress can vote to let the new state join. Then the president needs to approve that vote.

You can still see these steps being followed today. Many people in Puerto Rico want it to become a state, but not all. Who knows? The 50 states might become 51 or more one day!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Becoming States

By Olivia Mendoza



**Officials  
celebrate Alaska's  
statehood**

1. How many states have joined the U.S. besides \_\_\_\_\_  
the colonies?
2. Which statement is true?
  - a. Rhode Island began the American Revolution.
  - b. It took more than 2 years for all colonies to ratify the Constitution.
  - c. The Constitution was written before the war ended.
  - d. All current U.S. states declared independence from Great Britain.
3. The 14th state joined \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) after the 13th state joined.



**Preview**  
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the printable version of this worksheet.

Vermont • • 2nd new state in 1959

Alaska • • 13th state

Rhode Island • • 14th state

6. Write the numbers 1–5 to put the steps in the correct order.

\_\_\_\_\_ The place writes a state constitution.

\_\_\_\_\_ The president approves the new state.

\_\_\_\_\_ Congress approves the new state.

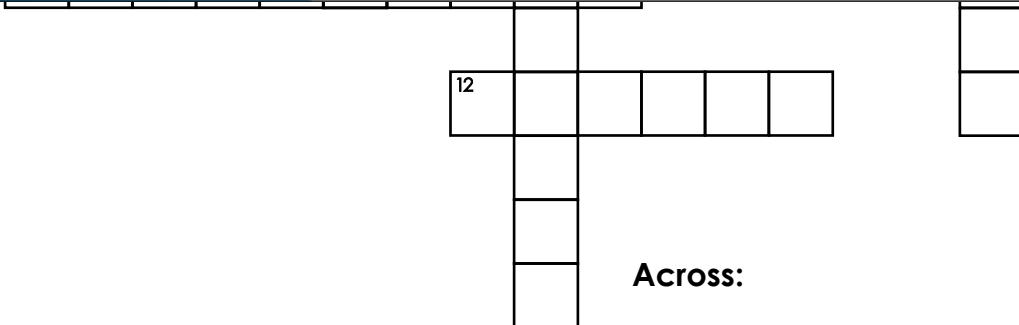
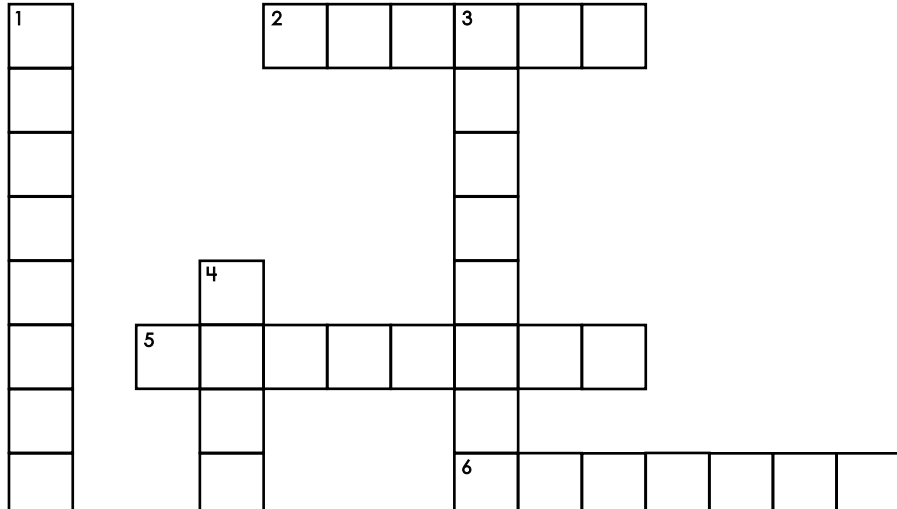
\_\_\_\_\_ The people vote on their constitution.

\_\_\_\_\_ A place votes to try to become a state.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Becoming States

Complete the crossword puzzle using words from the article.



**Down:**

- 1. the basic laws that govern a place; the written record of them
- 3. another word for *freedom*
- 4. laws, systems, and people controlling or leading a place
- 9. a place controlled by another country or nation
- 10. to have power over, or the power itself

**Across:**

- 2. to approve, especially a law
- 5. Senate + House of Representatives
- 6. to say officially
- 7. the leader of the United States
- 8. joined together; touching
- 11. a big, sudden change, e.g., a war for freedom
- 12. to begin a fight; to harm

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Becoming States



In the article, "Becoming States," you read about how states are made.

Pretend a friend says they don't understand why there have been no new states in 40 years. Use facts from the article to correct them about how many years it has been and to tell how places become states. Be sure to explain why it can take a long time.

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## Preview

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## ANSWER KEY

# Becoming States

By Olivia Mendoza



Officials  
celebrate Alaska's  
statehood

1. How many states have joined the U.S. besides the colonies? 37
2. Which statement is true?
  - a. Rhode Island began the American Revolution.



- 4 Congress approves the new state.
- 3 The people vote on their constitution.
- 1 A place votes to try to become a state.

## ANSWER KEY

# Becoming States

# Preview

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the printable version of this worksheet.



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L

### Down:

1. the basic laws that govern a place; the written record of them
3. another word for *freedom*
4. laws, systems, and people controlling or leading a place
9. a place controlled by another country or nation
10. to have power over, or the power itself

### Across:

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