After years of struggle for independence from Great Britain, the men who would later be known as the Founding Fathers gathered in Philadelphia in 1787 to form a government that would not only strengthen the new nation but unify it. Realizing that the country needed a stronger government than the one that had been established following the Revolutionary War, the founding fathers carefully considered what that government should stand for and then wrote the words that became the Constitution of the United States. This document of democracy, along with the Bill of Rights has guided our nation's government and people ever since.