

Second Continental Congress

Answered the questions:

How do we manage the war effort against the British?

How do we organize the government?

How will we pay for the war effort?

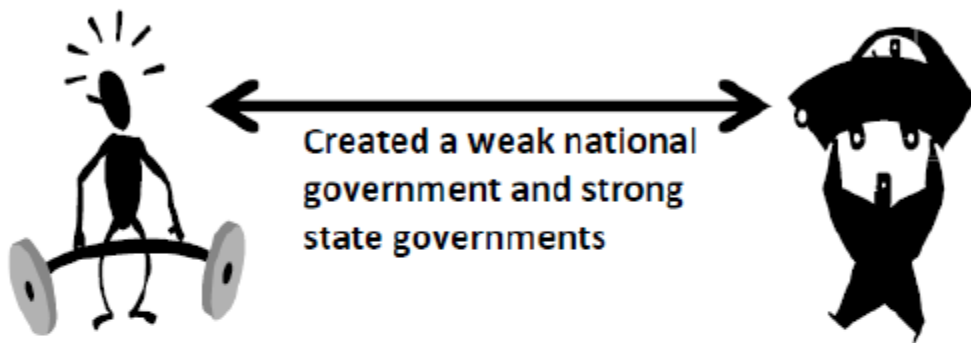
How do we work with other countries to borrow money and get help with the war?

How will we unite the northern and southern colonies in rebellion against the king?



The Articles of Confederation

The United States' first organized national government



Allowed the government to raise and maintain an army



Could make agreements (Treaties) with other countries



PAY YOUR TAXES
Federal government could not levy or raise taxes



Could not regulate trade or collect tariffs

Weaknesses of The Articles of Confederation

Weaknesses	Outcomes
Congress could not pass or collect taxes	The government was short on money and could not pay war debt
Congress did not have power to regulate trade with other countries	Arguments broke out between states and trade with foreign countries was difficult
Congress had no power to enforce its own laws	The federal government depended on the states to enforce the law
Approval of 9 states was needed to make a law	It was difficult to have 9 states agree and enact laws
13 states were needed to make changes to (amend) the Articles of Confederation	There was no practical way to change the Articles (power of government)
The government did not have an executive branch	There was no leader to coordinate the way the government worked
There was no federal court system	The federal government could not settle disputes between the states

Daniel Shays' Rebellion

A rebellion that took place in Massachusetts after the American Revolution. The rebellion focused on the collections of debt and taxes in the newly formed United States. The rebellion showed many of the weaknesses of the new government. The outcome of the rebellion was increased pressure to change the Articles of Confederation. This led to the Constitutional Convention.



Comparing the Articles of Confederation to the Constitution

Articles of Confederation

States had more power than the federal government

One house of Congress

No Power to tax

Not able to regulate trade or commerce

Amendments had to have unanimous approval of the states

The Constitution

Federal government shares power with the states

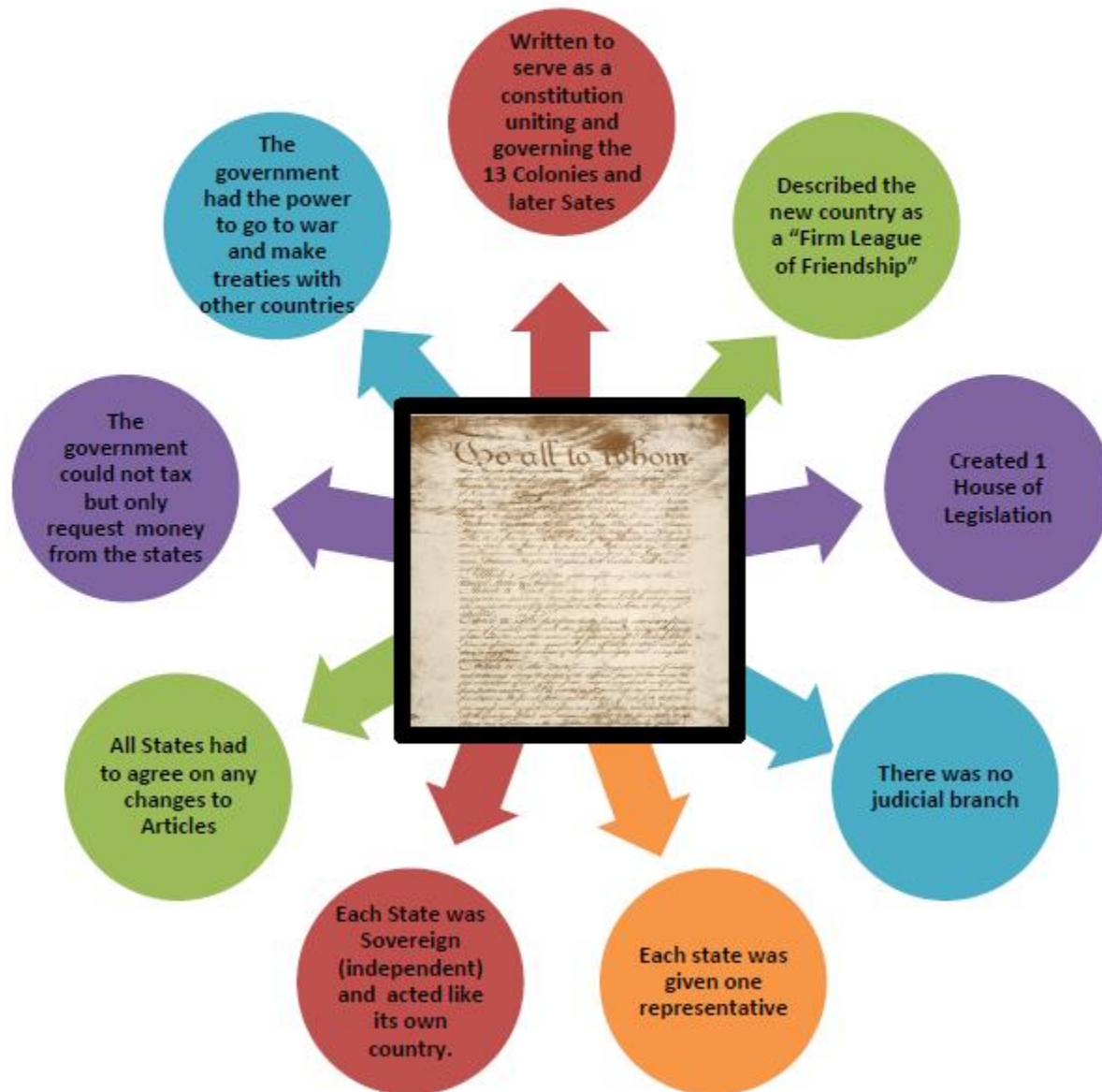
Bicameral legislature

Shared Power of taxation

Power to regulate interstate commerce

Amendments have to have $\frac{3}{4}$ of the states to approve

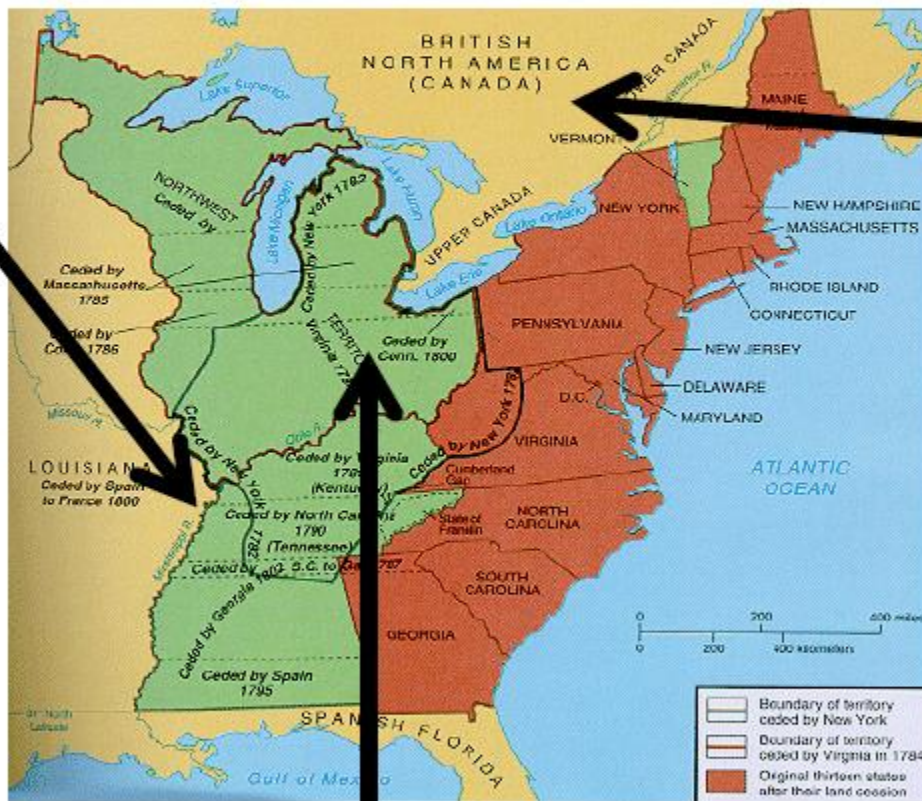
The Articles of Confederation



Life Under the Articles of Confederation

Working with other Countries was extremely difficult. Other countries saw the weaknesses of the United States and tried to break the new country apart.

Spain controlled the Mississippi River and all land west of the River. It shut down river traffic to Americans. This was done to cripple the economy and convince western territories to leave the United States and join Spain.



British forces remained stationed in Canada ready to attack. They refused to send their ambassador to the US and tried to cripple the economy by refusing to purchase any good from the United States.

The Ohio Territory was settled and leaders made plans for admitting new states. Relationships with Native Americans were still tense.