

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

The Articles of Confederation was a document that outlined how the federal government would operate. It was the nation's first Constitution. The word 'constitution' simply means a plan of government. After the Revolutionary War, the leaders of the nation felt that an official document was necessary to outline the government. Six drafts were prepared of the Articles of Confederation. Each draft was unique in different ways. In 1777, Congress selected a final version. There was much deliberation (discussion) about what should be included in the Articles of Confederation.

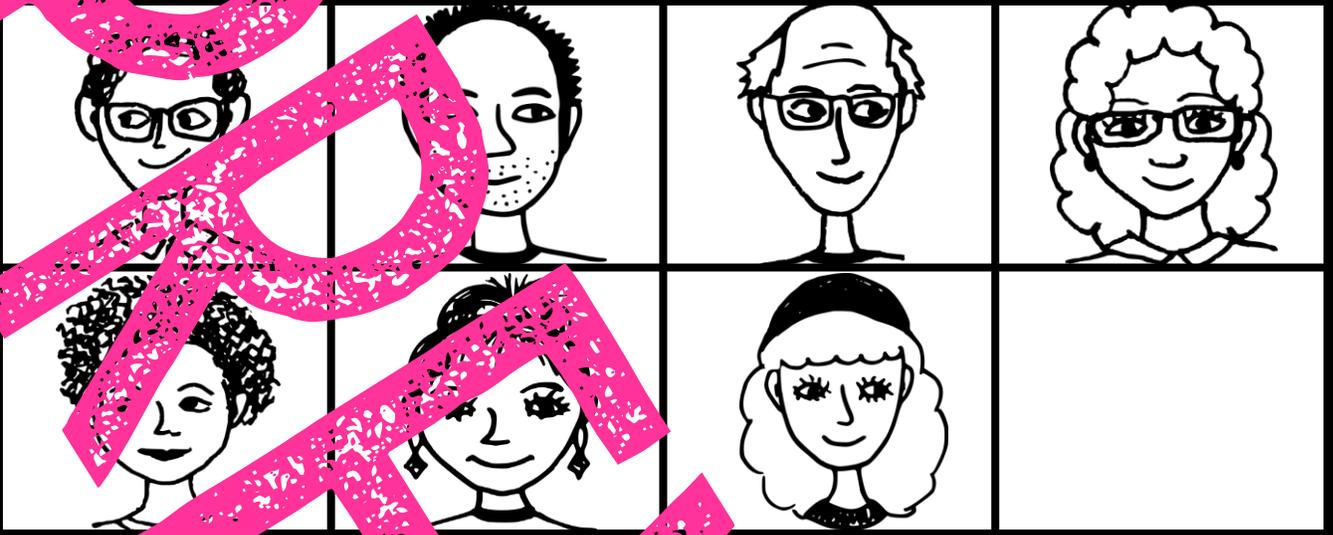
The document provided a firm, written set of rules for the government of the 13 states. The Founding Fathers were concerned about a government that was too powerful. The Founding Fathers did not want to create a government that was out of touch and too powerful. Having just come out of the Revolutionary War, they were afraid of being ruled by another abusive government like Britain. The hope was to create a federal (national) government with just the right amount of power. They wanted it to be powerful enough to be effective but not excessively powerful. A committee of thirteen men from the Second Continental Congress prepared the document. The Articles of Confederation was only 5 pages long and included 13 articles. The document was then sent to the states for ratification, or approval, in 1777. The Articles provided a framework for the government to operate and went into effect on March 1, 1781. In order for the Articles to become official, all thirteen states had to approve. Virginia was the first state to ratify it while Maryland was the last.

The Articles of Confederation had many flaws or weaknesses. The States basically operated as independent countries. The federal government was so weak that it could barely operate under the Articles of Confederation, and there was concern that the government needed to be stronger. The Articles of Confederation were filled with many flaws. For

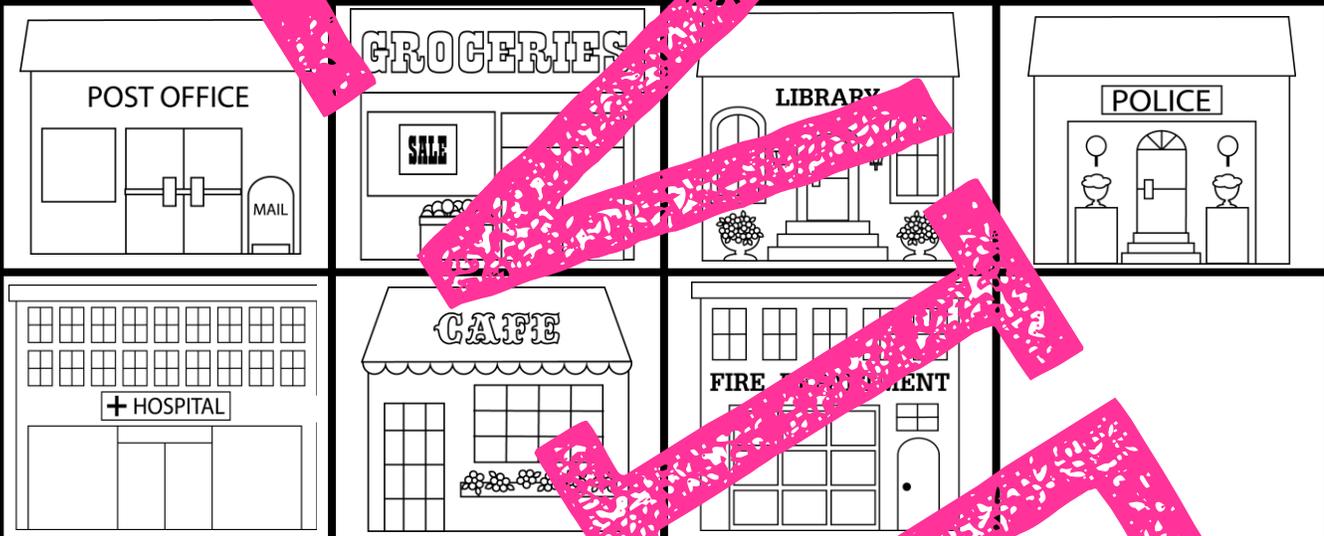
CASE FILE

Cross out the images you use as an answer. What remains will solve the case!

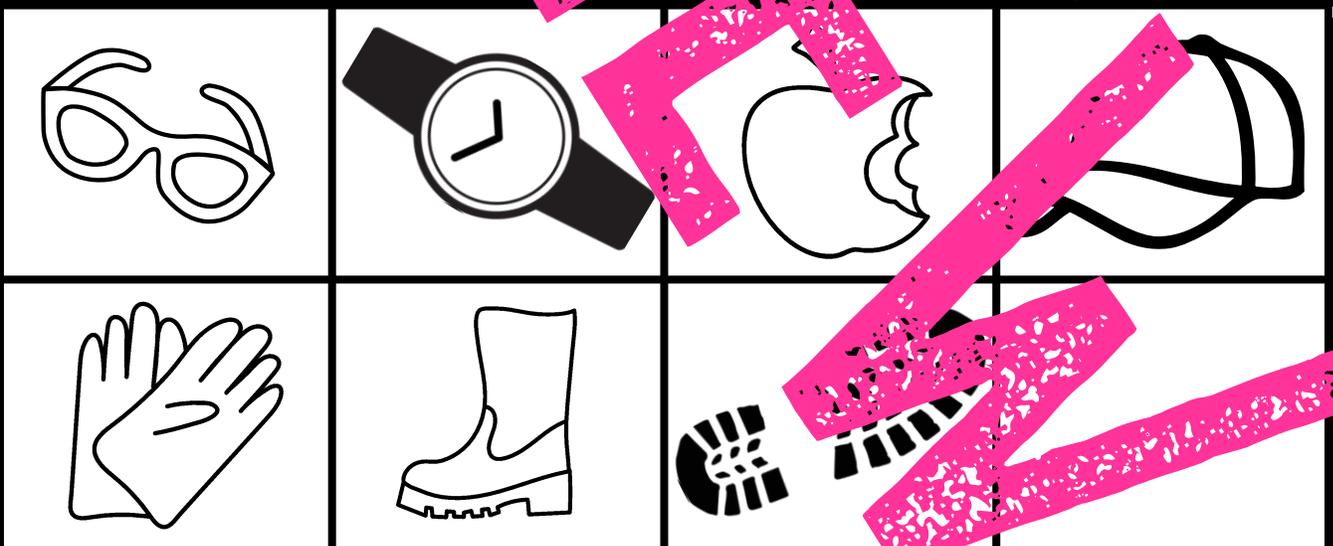
SUSPECTS



LOCATION



EVIDENCE



7

The Articles of Confederation was the first constitution.



Last



Second



Fourth



First

8

Where was the Constitutional Convention?



Washington DC



Cleveland



New York City



Philadelphia

9

What event proved the Articles of Confederation were failing?



Boston Massacre



Shays' Rebellion



Bacon's Rebellion



Siege of Yorktown

10

The Articles outlined how the government would operate.



International



Federal



State



County

11

How many drafts of the Articles were created?



8

9

12

When did Congress select a final version of the Articles?



1757

1767

1777

1787

13

How many branches of government did the new constitution create?



3

4

5

6

14

What does deliberation mean?



To discuss

To vote

To borrow

To discuss

CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



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