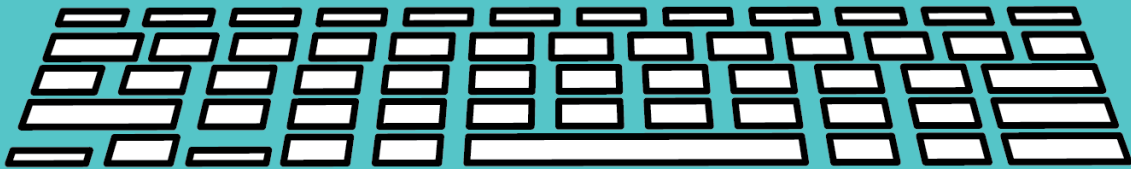
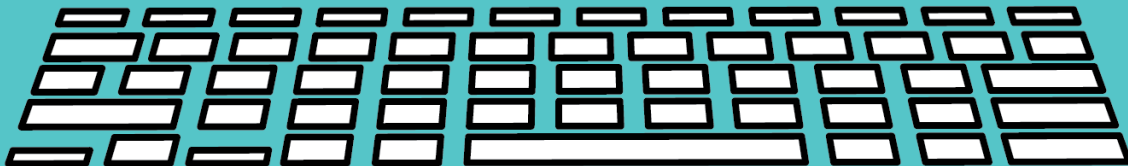


THE SHAYS' REBELLION HELPED LEAD TO THE WRITING OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION IN 1787

Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. How many colonies were there originally?	
2. How many pages long were the Articles?	
3. How many votes would each state get in Congress?	
4. What state was Daniel Shays from?	
5. What year was the first Shays' Rebellion?	
6. How many articles were written by the colonies?	
7. Who did the Articles negotiate a peace treaty with?	
8. Where was King George III from?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. How many colonies were there originally?		9. The Articles created a ___ central government.	
2. How many pages long were the Articles?		10. A ___ is a loose association or organization.	
3. How many votes would each state get in Congress?		11. Changing the Articles required a ___ vote.	
4. What state was Daniel Shays from?		12. ___ when a bank takes a man's property.	
5. What year was the first Shays' Rebellion?		13. The focus of the Founding Fathers was the ___ for ___.	
6. How many articles were written by the colonies?		14. In 1787, Shays led an attack on a federal ___.	
7. Who did the Articles negotiate a peace treaty with?		15. The Articles established a "league of ___".	
8. Where was King George III from?		16. Each state ___ their own money.	



ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

The Declaration of Independence stated reasons to break away from England, but did NOT state a plan of government. After writing the Declaration, the thirteen colonies needed to create a system of government to replace their royal and individual monarchies.

The colonies did not leave power in the hands of one person for fear of what happened in England. The colonial concept of not recreating a monarchy led to the adoption of the Articles of Confederation as the first plan of government.

The focus of the Articles of Confederation was the rights of the states. They wanted a document that would protect the rights of the states. The fear of repeating the conflict with England over the restoration of government led to the Articles of Confederation, which gave more authority to the states and less to a central or federal government. A confederation is a loose association or organization of separate states that cooperate together. The Articles of Confederation became the first constitution and officially established the government of the thirteen colonies.

The Articles of Confederation was only five pages long. There were 13 articles written and ratified by the 13 colonies or states. Each colony acted as an independent state and each state had the right to pass their own laws. The association of states had a "Congress" which was the only branch of the national government.

The Articles of Confederation created a weak central government. Most power remained with the states as they each had their own constitutions. The Articles established what was known as a "league of friendship" among the 13 states. The new confederation was known as the United States of America.

According to the Articles of Confederation, each state would get one vote in Congress. Some powers given to the Confederation Congress were to declare war, enter into treaties, print money and establish post offices. Congress could direct an army or equip a navy but it could not raise its own troops. Congress could not directly tax citizens on its own, instead it relied on the states to contribute money. Each state minted their own money, even though they weren't supposed to. Each state functioned independently rather than the nation as a whole.

One major accomplishment of the Confederation Congress was that it

was able to negotiate a peace treaty with Great Britain. They were also able to create a process for admitting new states. Lastly, Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance which allowed western territories to organize their own governments.

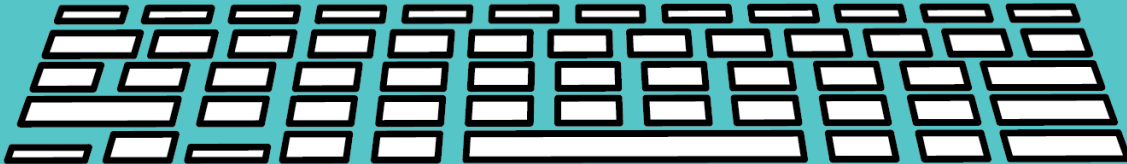
The Articles of Confederation was a direct response to colonial grievances regarding King George III of England. Under the Articles of Confederation, the U.S. government couldn't protect the borders of their country. The British still had forts on American soil, but the American Army was too weak to do anything about it.

While the Articles of Confederation were created to help the thirteen colonies, some serious problems needed attention. There were several weaknesses with the Articles of Confederation.

1) Congress did not have the power to levy (collect) taxes. This meant that Congress could not collect money from the states. 2) Congress had no power to regulate trade. Each state was acting like their own country when it came to selling goods. 3) Congress had no power to enforce its laws. Therefore, many states did not follow the laws. 4) The national government lacked a court system. There was no central leader. There was no chief executive to manage the national government. 6) Changing the Articles of Confederation required a unanimous vote, which was nearly impossible.

States raised taxes to pay their debts of the war. In the 1780's, an economic crisis occurred in Massachusetts. The state raised taxes. Those hit hardest were former Continental Army soldiers who owned farms. After the war, they had no money to invest in their farms and were unable to pay their taxes. When farmers could not pay back the loans, the courts demanded foreclosure. Foreclosure is when a bank takes a person's property if he cannot pay his debts. Debtors also went to prison.

Shays' Rebellion in Massachusetts lost momentum due to unpaid debts and overdue taxes, and other farmers organized a protest. These protests were known as Shays' Rebellion, which occurred in 1786 and 1787. Several hundred angry farmers attacked the Springfield Armory and it was forced to close down. In January 1787, the state government called for a general election. Privately funded forces were able to suppress the rebellion. Shays' Rebellion sent a wave of fear across the country. The rebellion was a wake up call. The national Congress could do nothing about Shays' Rebellion, so a local militia had to put it down. Many government leaders began calling for a stronger national government.





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