

The Articles of Confederation

The First Government Falls Flat on its Face

("We the People" – lesson 10)

1. List and define, in your own words, the following terms:

- Articles of Confederation
- national government
- Confederation Congress
- Northwest Ordinance
- Shays' Rebellion

2. Explain why the *Continental Congress* deliberately made the national government weak under the *Articles of Confederation*. Provide two (2) examples of how the national government was weak.

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3. Draw an original picture/cartoon detailing one of the problems caused by having a weak national government. Include a brief description or explanation of your political cartoon.

4. Using John Locke's ideas about *natural rights*, explain why an American citizen involved in "Shay's Rebellion" would have felt justified revolting against their government. Use at least one example of *tyranny* which the "Shaysites" (supporters of Shays) would have cited to justify their rebellion. What was one result of Shays Rebellion?

5. Imagine you are a delegate from one of the 13 states who has been invited to the convention called to "revise the Articles of Confederation." Describe three (3) specific suggestion you will make at the meeting to fix the government. Support your idea with facts and reasons.

a)

b)

c)

6. Lastly, which one of the thirteen states are you representing at this newly formed 'Constitutional Convention'?