

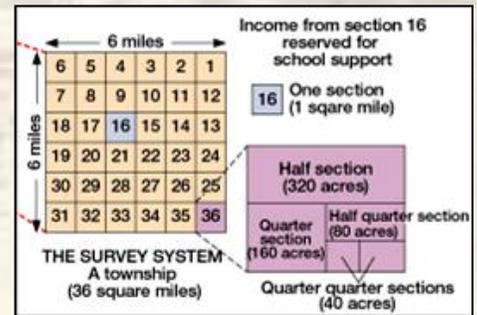
AMERICA'S FIRST NATIONAL GOVERNMENT—THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

II. THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

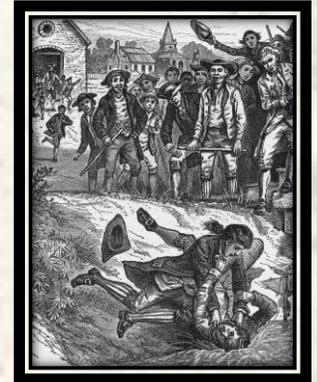
- A. When Americans declared _____ in 1776, they needed to form a new _____:
1. They wanted to form a _____ where citizens _____ for elected leaders to represent them
 2. They wanted to _____ citizens & individual states from a _____ national government
- B. Thirteen Independent States
1. When independence was declared, the 13 colonies became _____
 2. Each state had its own constitution, _____, & an elected governor; 8 states had _____
 3. But, the USA needed a national gov't to do things that states could not, like sign _____ & form a _____
- C. The National Government
1. America's 1st national gov't was the _____ (1777-1789)
 2. This "_____" style gov't loosely connected the states under a _____ national government
 - a. *Structure:* Each state could send between 2-7 _____ to the national _____, but each state had only _____; To pass a law, _____ of the 13 states had to agree
 - b. *Powers:* The national congress could make _____, settle disputes between states, negotiate _____, handle Indian affairs, oversee a military; But all other _____ were left up to the _____
 - c. Americans did not want to re-create a powerful gov't like the one they just fought the Revolutionary War to break away from; So, the national gov't had no _____ & could not _____ the states or citizens

II. SUCCESSES OF THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

- A. The Land Ordinance of 1785
1. The Articles established a good system of _____ lands
 2. First, states had _____ (give up) their _____ to lands in the west to the national gov't
 3. Congress passed the _____ of 1785 to create an orderly way to divide the west into _____ & farms
 - a. Selling western lands was the only way the national gov't could generate _____ since it did not have the power to _____
 - b. Section 16 of the each township was set aside for a _____



- B. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 gave _____ to the territories
1. When a territory had _____ residents, it could create a self-governing _____
 2. When a territory had _____ residents, it could apply to become a _____
 3. _____ was outlawed in the northwest



III. THE WEAKNESSES OF THE ARTICLES

- A. The Articles of Confederation was America's 1st form of gov't:
1. The _____ the national gov't was originally seen as _____ because it eliminated _____
 2. Later, these same weaknesses kept the gov't from solving serious _____
- B. Economic Problems & Shays' Rebellion in 1787
1. The inability of the government to _____ led to problems:
 - a. America could not pay off _____ from the _____ War
 - b. Property foreclosures led an _____ among Massachusetts farmers called _____ Rebellion in 1787 but the gov't could not _____ to stop it
 - i. Poor farmers in western Massachusetts were angered over _____ & the prospect of debtors _____
 - ii. Daniel Shays led an uprising & closed _____ & threatened a federal arsenal
 2. Shays' Rebellion proved to be the convincing event that led to the _____ of 1787
- C. The Philadelphia Convention in 1787
1. After _____, people like Hamilton & Madison began calling for a _____ national gov't
 2. In 1787, delegates met in _____ to discuss ways to _____ the Articles
 3. Instead of _____ the Articles of Confederation, the delegates _____ it with the Constitution

10 DAYS THAT UNEXPECTEDLY CHANGED AMERICA:

Shay's Rebellion



1. What were the major complaints of Shays and his followers?

2. What goals did Shays have for the rebellion?

3. Why was Shays' Rebellion considered to be the United States' first civil war?

4. How did Shays' Rebellion reveal these weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?

5. What provisions were included in the Articles for a federal government?

6. What could have been included in the Articles to help the emerging nation recover from war?

7. What role did Shays' Rebellion play in the creation of the Constitution?

8. What was the Riot Act?

9. What punishment did Shays and the lead rebels receive for their actions?

10. Do you think their treatment was just? Discuss.

PART TWO: Continental Congress on November 15, 1777 as an agreement between the states. This document served as the nation's constitution until 1789 when the present day Constitution was adopted in 1787. After reading this excerpt, respond to the questions listed below.

EXCERPT FROM THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled. The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretense whatever.

1. How would you describe core ideas of each of these two statements from the Articles of Confederation? What do you think the authors of the Articles meant when they described the states as being in a "firm league of friendship"? Why was a stronger document ultimately important?
2. Based on these statements, and what you have learned from this documentary, why do you think the founding fathers found it necessary to form a more formal Constitution?