

The Articles of Confederation Guided Notes

Turn to page 173 and begin reading Chapter 7. As you read, fill in the blanks. These will be your notes for this information. At the end of each section, you will have to answer the questions in the notes. Good luck!!

The Story Matters...

The story goes that in June 1776, _____ is mourning her husband, a member of the militia killed that year in the line of duty. A seamstress, Ross is also trying to run her husband's furniture-covering business. One day, she gets a visit from none other than George _____ and two other men. The men ask Ross to make a special _____. They show her their ideas for the flag, and Ross offers some of her own. Then, the seamstress gets to work. On June 14, 1777, the _____ voted to make the Stars and Stripes the national flag of the United States. This was just one of the many decisions facing the leaders of the young United States.

I. The Making of a Republic

A. The _____ states faced the challenge of _____ themselves. The 13 states needed a plan of gov't that would satisfy all their _____.

B. States Write Constitutions

1. In May 1776, _____ asked the states to organize their _____.
2. _____ states had drafted _____ before the end of the year.

C. Limits on Power

1. After years of _____ rule, Americans were determined not to place too much _____ in the hands of _____ or body.
2. States also _____ power between the governor (or council) and the _____.
3. The first state _____ aimed to keep power in the hands of the _____.
4. For example, _____ chose the state legislatures, and states held _____ often.
5. The state legislatures tried to make _____ fair for everyone, but disagreements arose.

Chart Skills (bottom of page 177):

- What was the first capital of the United States? (COMPLETE SENTENCES)

D. A New Republic

1. In addition to forming _____ governments, the American people had to form a _____.
2. They expected each state would remain _____ and act _____ on most issues.

E. The Articles of Confederation

1. In 1776, the Second Continental Congress appointed a _____ to draw up a plan for a new central gov't.
2. The result of this committee's work was the _____.
3. The Articles of Confederation established a _____ central gov't.
4. The Articles of Confederation gave the _____ limited powers.
5. Congress could:
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
6. Congress did not have the power to:
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
7. If Congress needed to raise money or troops, it had to ask the _____.
8. The new central gov't had no _____.
9. _____ the states had to _____ the Articles and any amendments.

F. The Confederation Government

1. It soon became clear that the new _____ gov't was too _____ to handle the problems facing the United States.
2. This made it hard for Congress to _____ when there was any disagreement.
3. Under the Confederation gov't, Americans negotiated a _____ with Britain and expanded the country's _____.

Chart Skill (top of page 179):

- Why do you think getting 13 states to agree on decisions and actions was so difficult?

II. Policies for Western Lands

- A. The Articles of Confederation did not propose a way to _____ new states to the United States.
- B. The Ordinance of 1785

1. In 1785, the Confederation Congress passed an ordinance, or _____, that set up a process to survey and _____ the lands north of the Ohio River.
2. Congress drafted another law to _____ the interests of hardworking settlers.

C. The Northwest Ordinance

1. The _____, passed in 1787, created a single Northwest Territory from lands _____ of the Ohio River and _____ of the Mississippi River.
2. When a territory had 60,000 residents, the people could seek _____.
3. The Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance attempted to make possible the _____ of the Northwest territory in a peaceful and orderly way.

Progress Check (bottom of page 181):

- What did the Northwest Ordinance say about slavery? (COMPLETE SENTENCES)

III. Problems at Home and Abroad

- A. In the 1780s, the Continental Congress faced a large _____.
- B. Without the power to _____, the Confederation could not easily raise _____ to pay its debts.

C. Plan for Import Tax

1. While serving in Congress, Morris had proposed a 5 percent tax on _____ goods to help pay the national debt.
2. The plan required a _____ to the Articles of Confederation.

D. Relations with Britain

1. Trouble with foreign gov'ts also revealed the _____ of the American gov't.
2. In 1785, Congress sent _____ to London to discuss these problems.
3. The British claimed that Americans had agreed to pay _____ for the property taken from them during the Revolutionary War.
4. The states simply refused to pay, and Congress could do _____ about it.

E. Relations with Spain

1. The United States had even greater problems with _____.
2. Western settlers could no longer use the Mississippi River, which they relied on to ship _____ to market.
3. Representatives from the _____ states, however, blocked the agreement because it did not include the _____ to use the Mississippi River.
4. Americans began to agree that the country needed a _____ gov't.

Review:

- Why did most states limit the power of their governors and divide their legislatures into two bodies? (COMPLETE SENTENCES)
- Complete the following chart using the information in your notes and in the text.

- You are a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. You are debating whether the new United States should keep the Articles of Confederation or not. Use the information in the chart above to argue for or against the Articles of Confederation. **WRITE A PARAGRAPH THAT EXPLAINS YOUR SIDE OF THE ARGUMENT.**