

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

**CC U.S. History #8: Constitution, Articles, and Federalism** - <https://nerdfighteria.info/v/bO7FQsCcbD8/>

The FIRST “constitution” of the United States was called \_\_\_\_\_.

It had several serious problems:

- 1) It established only one branch of government – the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Passing laws required \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) The central government had few real “powers”:
  - (a) It could \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) It could \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (c) It could \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (d) It could \_\_\_\_\_ (but it could NOT \_\_\_\_\_).

This first government was intentionally \_\_\_\_\_. The colonies (now “states”) had just declared themselves independent from England and didn’t want to recreate all the same problems with their new leaders.

It wasn’t ALL bad – the government formed under the Articles of Confederation did accomplish a few things:

- 1) They won \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) They made treaties with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) They passed the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) This created new \_\_\_\_\_ out of lands recently secured from local tribes.
  - (b) It acknowledged that \_\_\_\_\_ should be treated better by the nation.
  - (c) It banned \_\_\_\_\_ in all of the new states.

The NUMBER ONE REASON the Articles of Confederation failed was \_\_\_\_\_!

States trying to raise revenue by \_\_\_\_\_ their citizens. In 1786-1787 in Massachusetts, farmers who were upset about this fought back and refused to let their farms be taken by the government to pay their debts.

This event was known as \_\_\_\_\_.

(There were many reasons the Articles of Confederation failed, but this was the TRIGGER that sparked change.)

**Thought Bubble:** The men who met to “revise” the Articles ended up replacing it with \_\_\_\_\_.

Most of these men were \_\_\_\_\_, more than half had \_\_\_\_\_, and most of them agreed they needed a \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ branches – Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. They agreed it should be “republican” (small ‘r’), meaning people who served in the government should be elected in some way, just not directly by the people. The BIG question was just HOW MUCH POWER THIS GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE (and how should that power be distributed)?

There were several major conflicts which had to be worked out before enough delegates could agree on how the new government should work. The first conflict was over state representation in the new government...

The Virginia Plan: \_\_\_\_\_.

The New Jersey Plan: \_\_\_\_\_.

The Great Compromise: \_\_\_\_\_.

The second conflict was also over representation, but this time the question was whether or not to count

\_\_\_\_\_ as "population." It was resolved by the \_\_\_\_\_

which said that \_\_\_\_\_.

*(Note: This was repealed by the Fourteenth Amendment in 1868 – it's NOT "still in the Constitution"! Also, there were TWO other compromises related to slaves and slavery, but we'll cover these separately.)*

To avoid tyranny (like they'd just escaped from England), the new Constitution tried two things...

1) \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (dividing the government into THREE branches):

(a) Legislative (make the laws / Congress)

(b) Executive (enforce the laws / led by President)

(c) Judicial (interpret the laws / federal courts)

The Constitution created a series of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ by which each branch can limit the powers of the other two.

2) \_\_\_\_\_ (power is 'shared' between \_\_\_\_\_ government and \_\_\_\_\_ governments)

The Framers (the men who wrote the Constitution) didn't want too much central government, but they also

worried about too much \_\_\_\_\_. They didn't fully trust citizens to always make great

choices, so only one part of the government was elected directly by voters – the House of Representatives.

Senators were appointed by state governments and the President was chosen by the Electoral College.

The Federalist Papers: \_\_\_\_\_.

Federalists supported \_\_\_\_\_.

Anti-Federalists believed \_\_\_\_\_.

*One of the BIG QUESTIONS debated before the Constitution could be ratified was HOW MUCH POWER SHOULD THIS GOVERNMENT HAVE? (And how should it be distributed?) That question was partly answered by the addition of a Bill of Rights (the first ten amendments), but it's been an ongoing question for over two hundred years now and is still hotly debated in a wide variety of ways.*