

Come in quietly.  
Take out your chromebook.  
Open Problems Under the Articles of  
Confederation Assignment  
Begin working on the "We Do" #2

# PROBLEMS UNDER THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

Objective

**Obj: Evaluate the problems created by the Articles of Confederation.**

Standard 8.3.5: Know the significance of domestic resistance movements and ways in which the central government responded to such movements (e.g., Shays Rebellion, the Whiskey Rebellion).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.8.RH.2: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

# PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

You already know that the Articles of Confederation was the first constitution for the United States.



Use your Graphic Organizer to explain:

What were some of the Articles weaknesses?

“Some weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation were \_\_\_\_\_.”

Partner B tell Partner A “Some weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation were \_\_\_\_\_”.

Partner A tell Partner B “I (agree or disagree) some weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation were \_\_\_\_\_. Some other weaknesses were \_\_\_\_\_.”

## PROBLEMS UNDER ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION.

Problem - a matter or situation regarded as unwelcome or harmful and needing to be dealt with and overcome.

Concept

The Articles of Confederation maintained the principle that the **national government would not hold more power than the states**. This satisfied the fears that many of the States had regarding a strong central power, as Britain was before the Declaration of Independence.

In fact, there was no Executive Branch, President, because they **feared giving one man that much power**, and it was decided that Congress would handle all the nation's affairs.

However, there were many **weaknesses** with the Articles of Confederation:

The national government did not have the power to tax.

Congress did not have the power to force states to obey its laws.

Congress could not enforce laws.

Each state could issue its own paper money.

Any state could put tariffs on trade between other states or countries.

There was no system of national courts.

Congress could declare war and raise an army, but it could not force the states to give men or money.

# Concept - Definitions

**Problem - a matter or situation regarded as unwelcome or harmful and needing to be dealt with and overcome.**



# Example/Non-Example

**Problem - a matter or situation regarded as unwelcome or harmful and needing to be dealt with and overcome.**

A



B



Example \_\_\_\_ is an example of a problem because \_\_\_\_\_.

Example \_\_\_\_ is not an example of a problem because \_\_\_\_\_.

## PROBLEMS UNDER ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION.

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**Step 1: Read the passage**  
**Step 2: Highlight or underline the key phrases that can be used as evidence of a problem created under the Articles of Confederation.**  
**Step 3: Write your answer.**

**Skill - I Do**

During the American Revolution, the states and the Continental Congress had borrowed large amounts of money from wealthy merchants. After the war, the merchants demanded that they be repaid, but the national government under the Articles of Confederation had no power to raise money. The states had to repay their own debts, and the only way for them to raise the money was to tax their citizens heavily.

- 1. What are some of the problems created under the Articles of Confederation?**

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### 1. What are some of the problems created under the Articles of Confederation?

Some problems created under the Articles of Confederation were large amounts of money owed to wealthy merchants from the American Revolution “the states and the Continental Congress had borrowed large amounts of money”. The demand for repayment from the merchants led the states to raise taxes on their citizens “the states...tax their citizens heavily”.

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Skill - We Do

Many farmers in the western part of Massachusetts had an especially hard time paying their bills at this time. The Massachusetts farmers, many of whom were war veterans who had never been paid, owed about one-third of their income for state taxes. The Massachusetts legislature refused to issue paper money as other states had done, instead they demanded payment in gold and silver.

Those Massachusetts farmers who could not pay their taxes had their farms taken away by state courts. Court officials then auctioned off the farms and used the money from the sale to pay the taxes. Farmers who could not pay their personal debts were often put into prison.

### 2. What problems did Massachusetts farmers face under the Articles of Confederation?

Partner B tell Partner A “Some of the problems faced by Massachusetts farmers were \_\_\_\_\_”.

Partner A tell Partner B “I (agree or disagree) some of the problems faced by Massachusetts farmers were \_\_\_\_\_”.

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**Skill - You Do**

To be able to vote during this time, you had to own land, and for many, the loss of their land and their loss of status, from not being able to vote, was too much for them to take. This made many decide that the form of government they had was not working for them, and that something had to be done.

The farmers asked the Massachusetts legislature to lower taxes and let them pay taxes and other debts with farm produce. They begged the legislature to stop jailing people who could not pay their debts. Instead the legislature listened to merchants and bankers to whom the farmers owed money. It refused to pass laws to help the farmers.

### 3. What was another problem the Massachusetts farmers faced?

Partner A tell Partner B “Another problem Massachusetts farmers faced was \_\_\_\_\_”.

Partner B tell Partner A “I (agree or disagree) another problem Massachusetts farmers faced was \_\_\_\_\_”

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Skill - Independent Practice

Because they could not get help through legal means, a group of farmers decided they had no choice but to rebel. Their leader was Daniel Shays, a former Revolutionary War captain. In the fall of 1786, Shays led armed farmers in marches outside county courthouses in Springfield, Northampton and other towns in western Massachusetts. The purpose was to keep the courts from meeting. If the courts did not meet, bankers and others to whom farmers owed money could not take away their farms.

In January 1787, Shays' men attacked a Springfield building where the government stored guns. Wealthy merchants from as far away as Baltimore, Maryland paid to raise a militia and the governor of Massachusetts sent the soldiers to fight the rebels. The soldiers shot and killed four men, and soon the rest of Shays' followers fled. Several rebel leaders were caught. The men were brought to trial, found guilty, and sentenced to death. Later the court set them all free, including Shays.

### 4. What actions did the Massachusetts farmers take to try to solve their problems under the Articles of Confederation?

Partner A tell Partner B "Massachusetts farmers tried to solve their problems by \_\_\_\_\_".

Partner B tell Partner A "I (agree or disagree) Massachusetts farmers tried to solve their problems by \_\_\_".

## RELEVANCE

Relevance

It is important for us to understand that the way we set-up our government can have unexpected results. A weak government can lead to a country filled with problems where a strong government can prevent these problems.

**5. Did the Articles of Confederation create a strong or a weak government? Why?**

Partner **A** tell Partner **B** “**The Articles of Confederation created a (strong or weak) government because \_\_\_\_\_**”.

Partner **B** tell Partner **A** “**I (agree or disagree) the Articles of Confederation created a (strong or weak) government because \_\_\_\_\_**”.



Obj: (Standard 8.3.5) Evaluate the problems created by the Articles of Confederation.

11/3/16

CLOSURE

Closure

**Login to Google Classroom and open the Problems with the Articles Assignment.**

**Write a paragraph summarizing the problems created by the Articles of Confederation. Be sure to respond to the focus questions.**