


WANTED:

A "Just Right" Government

The Articles of Confederation

A *confederation* is a group of individuals united together for a purpose.



Wanted: A government that...


- Has enough _____ to do its job
- Doesn't give anyone too _____ **much say** power
- Considers the needs of all _____ **states**
- Lets people have a _____ **power**
- Protects individual _____ **rights**

The Articles of Confederation

- Each state was independent and had its own government.
- Each state would send representatives to the "Congress of the Confederation."
- The Congress was the only central government. There was no President.
- In Congress, each state got one vote.

In 1777, the Americans wrote their first plan for government in a document called the

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION



A Rocky Relationship

Hey, this sounds great!

- States get to keep their power and independence
- No government telling the states what to do
- Congress had the power to create a military to protect all the states

Wait! Not so fast...

- Congress had no way to enforce its laws!
- Congress had no power to collect taxes to pay for the military!
- The Articles could only be changed if ALL the states agreed!

Wanted a "Just Right" Government

I can-

Describe how the national government was organized at the end of the American Revolution

Wanted: A government that.....

Has enough _____ to do its job

Doesn't give anybody too _____ Power

Considers the needs of all _____

Lets people have a _____

Protects individual _____

In 1777, the Americans wrote their first plan for government called the

Articles of Confederation

A **confederation** is a _____ of individuals _____ together for a purpose.

- Each state was _____ and had its own _____

- Each state would send _____ to the "Congress of the Confederation".

- The Congress was the only _____ government.

There was no _____.

- In Congress, each state got _____ vote.

A Rocky Relationship

Hey, this sounds great!	Wait! Not so fast...
States get to keep their _____ and _____	Congress had no way to _____ its _____!
No _____ telling the states what to do	Congress had no power to collect _____ to pay for the military!
Congress had the power to create a _____ to _____ all the states	The Articles could only be _____ if _____ the states agreed!

Wanted: A Just Right Government Name: _____

Independent Citizens Seek Awesome Government

When the American colonists gained their independence from the British after the Revolutionary War, the Americans were faced with a problem: What kind of government should they have? They'd lived for years under British rule, and they had lots of complaints. Now they would create a government from scratch, and they had a few requirements.

Independent citizens seek government that...

- Has enough power to do its job
- Doesn't give anyone too *much* power
- Considers the needs of all the states
- Lets citizens have a say
- Protects individual rights



Benjamin Franklin worked on the Articles of Confederation before he helped write the Constitution.

Independent Citizens Seek ^{Weak} Awesome Government

Their experience under heavy-handed British rule left the newly independent Americans a little bit skittish. Basically, they wanted a government that couldn't do much. They started by drafting a document called the Articles of Confederation. A **confederation** is a group of individuals united together for a purpose—in this case, the 13 states that had been British colonies before the war. The **Articles of Confederation** explained how the 13 states would be governed as one nation. Here are the basics:

- Each state was independent and had its own government.
- Each state would send representatives to the "Congress of the Confederation," a lawmaking body.
- Congress was the only branch of government. (No president or courts.)
- In Congress, each state got one vote.

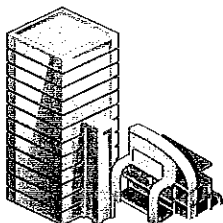
A Rocky Start

On one hand, the Articles of Confederation had qualities that citizens appreciated. Because the Articles did not set up a very strong government, states got to keep their power and independence. There was no powerful government telling them what to do. Citizens also wanted protection, and the Articles gave Congress the power to create a military to protect all the states.

← PROS

However, there were problems. For one thing, the Articles did not give Congress the power to enforce its laws. Congress also had no power to collect taxes to pay for the military. And in order to change the Articles, every single state had to agree to the changes. These and other problems meant that, in general, citizens felt like the relationship... er, the *government*, wasn't working.

← CONS



Lots of Differences

With thirteen different states, there was no easy solution. Here's why:

- *States had different needs.* For example, some states depended on fishing, while others mostly grew crops.
- *States had different sizes.* Some states had many people; others had few.
- *People had different opinions.* Some people feared a central government, while others thought a central government was necessary.



That last one was especially troublesome. Many people feared they would lose their freedom if a central government had too much power. Others were tired of the weak government created under the Articles of Confederation and felt like nothing would ever get done if nobody was in charge.

Wanted: A Just Right Government

Name: _____

BRITISH RULE	
What were the effects of British rule?	
CAUSES	
EFFECTS	



ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION	
What problems did the Articles of Confederation lead to?	
CAUSES	
EFFECTS	

Wanted: A Just Right Government:

Its All About Cause and Effect! When you look at causes and effects, you can see the relationship between different things that take place. Use what you have learned in the reading to match causes and effects for different stages of America's government.

1) Cut out the causes and effects below

2) Look at the two categories on the cause/effect flow chart

3) Match three cause/effects statements for each category on the flow chart

4) Paste the cause and effect statements onto the chart under the correct categories.
(Within each category, it doesn't matter what order you paste them in.)

<u>Effect:</u> The new Americans made sure their new government did not have the power to collect taxes.	<u>Effect:</u> Large states were unhappy because, with bigger populations, they thought they should have more power.
<u>Cause:</u> The Articles of Confederation did not create any courts	<u>Cause:</u> Many former colonists feared losing their freedom to a new government.
<u>Effect:</u> The new Americans made sure their new government could not take away states' freedom and independence.	<u>Effect:</u> The government could not pay its debts from the Revolutionary War, and America lost standing with other nations.
<u>Effects:</u> When a problem arose between states, there was nowhere to settle the dispute	<u>Cause-</u> The legislature created by the Articles of Confederation gave equal power to large and small states
<u>Cause:</u> Many American colonists feared a powerful government	<u>Effect:</u> The British government taxed the American colonists unfairly.
<u>Cause:</u> The government under the Articles of Confederation could not collect taxes to raise money.	<u>Cause:</u> The British government treated the American colonists harshly.