

*American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course*

Guided Reading

Section 2.1: The Articles of Confederation

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

 **Before you read**

**Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.**

**Learning Target:** Explain how weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation led to the proposal for a new, stronger national government.

**AP® Key Concepts**

constitution

unicameral

republic

Shays's Rebellion

Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union

 **While you read**

**Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.**

<b>Weaknesses in Articles of Confederation</b>	<b>Event that emphasized weakness</b>	<b>How weakness contributed to new national government</b>

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 **After you read**

**Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.**

1. A document that outlines principles for governance and establishes institutions of government is called:
  - A. a league of friendship.
  - B. The Articles of Confederation.
  - C. a republic.
  - D. a constitution.
  
2. A republic can be defined as:
  - A. a government ruled by a king or queen.
  - B. a government ruled by representatives of the people.
  - C. a government ruled by a religious figurehead.
  - D. a government ruled by one leader.
  
3. Why did James Madison study the histories of different forms of government?
  - A. To find out why dynasties lasted so long.
  - B. To understand how to create a republic that would last.
  - C. He wanted to know how to overthrow a monarchy.
  - D. To understand how an empire is created.
  
4. Article VIII of the Articles of Confederation calls for all costs of defense to be taken from a common treasury, why was this an issue?
  - A. States spent money on their own state defense and did not have funds available for national defense.
  - B. The costs of defense were often more than what the treasury had available.
  - C. Congress did not have the power to tax and states generally refused to send money when it was requested.
  - D. States would argue over who would receive more protection based on contribution to the treasury.
  
5. The approval of how many states was required to amend the Articles of Confederation?
  - A. nine
  - B. seven
  - C. thirteen
  - D. ten
  
6. According to Article VIII, what factor determined how much a state was supposed to contribute to the common treasury?
  - A. Each state was to contribute equally.
  - B. The proportion of wealthy elites within each state.
  - C. The population of each state.
  - D. The size and value of land within each state.

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7. The Confederal Congress was made up of one chamber, making it \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Why was the national government left intentionally weak under the Articles of Confederation?
- A. Americans could not find a suitable president immediately after the Revolutionary War.
  - B. Americans did not want to feel misrepresented by a large national government.
  - C. Americans feared a government that would become tyrannical as Great Britain had.
  - D. Americans did not want a government to tax them unjustly.
9. Which statement BEST describes James Madison's attitude towards the Annapolis Convention?
- A. Hopeful for a major change in the structure of the government.
  - B. Fearful of a major change in the structure of the government.
  - C. Optimistic for change and participation among states.
  - D. Reluctant for change to the Articles of Confederation.
10. One important outcome of the Annapolis Convention was:
- A. Resolution of trade and navigation disputes among the conflicting states.
  - B. The drafting of a new form of government.
  - C. The call for another convention in Philadelphia the following year.
  - D. The adoption of a new amendment giving power over trade relations to the national government.
11. It is 1786 and William, who lives in Rhode Island, is hearing talk of replacing the Articles of Confederation. Which is a fear William is MOST likely to have?
- A. slavery being outlawed
  - B. loss of equal representation in Congress
  - C. a national government that is too weak
  - D. fear of high taxation
12. Shays's Rebellion was a grassroots uprising against the \_\_\_\_\_ state government.
13. What was the root cause of Shays's Rebellion?
- A. increased foreclosures to pay state debts
  - B. a tyrannical national government
  - C. unequal representation of states
  - D. unsuccessful crop yields
14. Which statement BEST describes the economic state of America following the Revolutionary War?
- A. Difficult, but on track to rebound with sound policy in place.
  - B. Thriving, with a surplus of hard money.
  - C. Thriving, as a result of successful interstate trade.
  - D. Difficult, lacking hard money with increased debt.

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15. How were the members of Shays's Rebellion able to genuinely challenge the Massachusetts government?
- A. Through violent ambush tactics.
  - B. Rebels had monetary incentive to fight.
  - C. Many were veterans of the Revolutionary War.
  - D. There was no opposition fight against Shays's Rebellion.
16. Which statement BEST defines the Riot Act?
- A. A law that absolved sheriffs or other officials from prosecution from killing rebels or rioters.
  - B. A law that allowed members of Shays's Rebellion to riot in the streets during specified hours.
  - C. A law that allowed anyone to rebel against the government without legal repercussions.
  - D. A law that forbid the courts from processing foreclosures as a result of riots.
17. Despite the rebels being defeated, Shays's Rebellion was successful in:
- A. Stopping the foreclosure process.
  - B. Drawing George Washington out of retirement.
  - C. Boosting attendance at the Annapolis Convention.
  - D. Establishing new interstate trade laws.
18. Which statement BEST describes how the rebels were treated following Shays's Rebellion?
- A. Many were ridiculed and could not return to their normal lives.
  - B. Many were executed for their participation in the rebellion.
  - C. Many returned to their homes and towns and lived normal lives.
  - D. Many were forced to live life in hiding.
19. Assume Spain has territory in North America and hopes to acquire more. What outcome would Spain hope for from the Philadelphia Convention?
- A. Success, so trade between territories would go smooth.
  - B. Success, so purchase deals could be made.
  - C. Failure, so the United States would not be successful and want to expand themselves.
  - D. Failure, so Spain could launch a war on the weak United States and overtake all territory.