


ASSESSMENT

Vocabulary and Key Ideas

- 1. Describe** What is the difference between **natural rights** and **unalienable rights**?
- 2. Identify** Name two allies of the United States during the American Revolution. Why were they considered allies?
- 3. Check Understanding** Why was the Boston Tea Party considered an example of **civil disobedience**?
- 4. Recall** How did **Patriots** and **Loyalists** differ?
- 5. Identify** After the **preamble**, what are the three parts of the Declaration of Independence, and what is the purpose of each?
- 6. Check Understanding** Why was the Battle of Saratoga important?
- 7. Identify Main Ideas** How did the Stamp Act help fuel the Boston Massacre?

Critical Thinking and Writing

- 8. Summarize** List three factors that contributed to the colonies winning the American Revolution.
- 9. Identify Cause and Effect** What motivated African American soldiers to fight with the Patriots during the Revolution?
- 10. Compare and Contrast** Compare and contrast the Treaty of Paris signed in 1763 and the Treaty of Paris signed in 1783.
- 11. Summarize** What was the relationship of American Indians to Europeans and to the colonists during the Revolutionary Era?
- 12. Revisit the Essential Question** Was the American Revolution justified? Explain your answer in one or two paragraphs.
- 13. Writing Workshop: Write an Explanatory Essay** Using the notes you created in your  Active Journal, answer the following question in a three-paragraph essay: Why was there an American Revolution?

Analyze Primary Sources

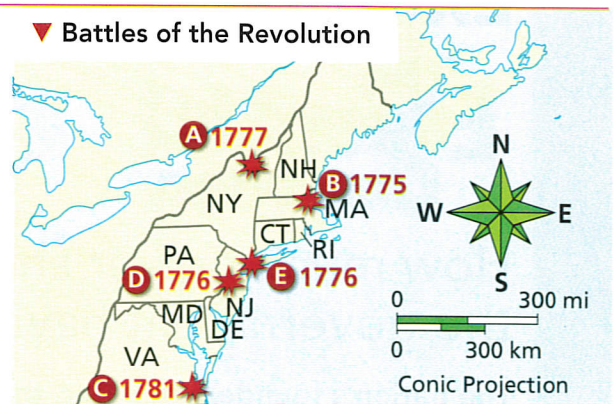
- 14.** Who is most likely to have made the following statement?
 - A. a Patriot
 - B. a Loyalist
 - C. a British citizen
 - D. a mercenary

“Our Colonies must be the biggest Beggars in the World, if such small Duties appear to be intolerable in their Eyes.”

Analyze Maps

Use the map to answer the following questions.

- 15.** Which letters represent Lexington, Concord, and Saratoga? In which region of the colonies did these battles take place?
- 16.** Which letter represents the Battle of Trenton? From which colony did Washington cross over the Delaware River to fight this battle?
- 17.** Which letter represents the Battle of Yorktown? How did the geography of this location help lead to Cornwallis’s defeat?



TOPIC

4

A Constitution for the United States

(1776–Present)

GO ONLINE
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Go back to the late 1700s,


when the **NATION'S FOUNDERS PRODUCED A CONSTITUTION FOR THE UNITED STATES**. See how these leaders applied the ideals of the Declaration of Independence to create a government that has served Americans well for more than 200 years.

Explore

The Essential Question

How much power should the government have?

The nation's founders debated this question. What did they decide?

Unlock the Essential Question in your  Active Journal.

Watch

 **NBC LEARN**



 **BOUNCE TO ACTIVATE**  **VIDEO**

James Madison

Learn how a quiet man had a tremendous impact.

Read

about how the Constitution was written.

Lesson 1 A Weak Confederation

Lesson 2 Drafting a Constitution

Lesson 3 Ideas That Influenced the Constitution

Primary Source Thomas Jefferson, Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom

Lesson 4 Federalists, Antifederalists, and the Bill of Rights

Lesson 5 Understanding the Constitution


Lesson 6 Federalism and Amendments

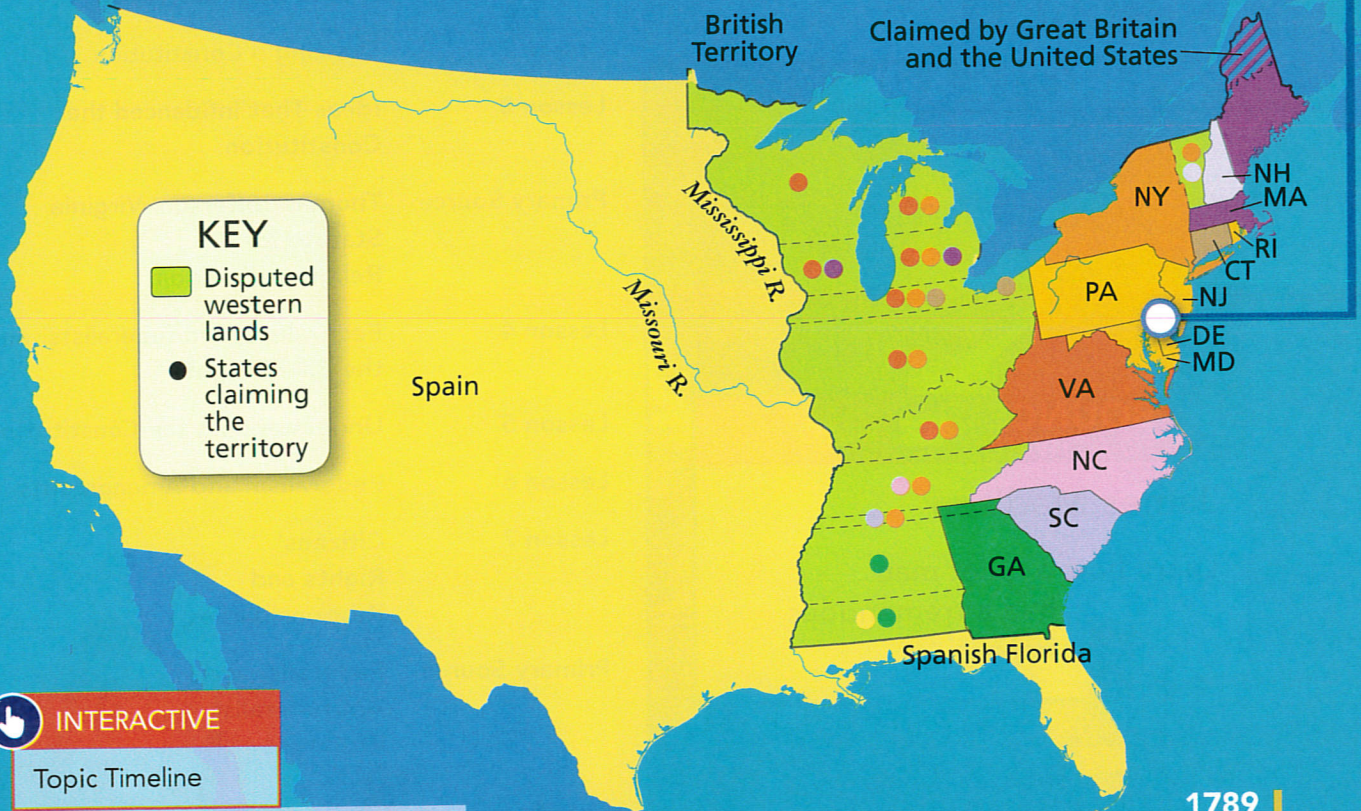
Lesson 7 Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities

Primary Source Federalist and Antifederalist Writings

Independence Hall, Philadelphia, PA

A Constitution for the United States (1776–Present)

Learn more about the early United States by making your own map and timeline in your  Active Journal.



 INTERACTIVE
Topic Timeline

What happened and when?

Explore the timeline to see some of what was happening in the early years of the United States and in the rest of the world.

TOPIC EVENTS

1770

1780

WORLD EVENTS

1776
Declaration of Independence written.

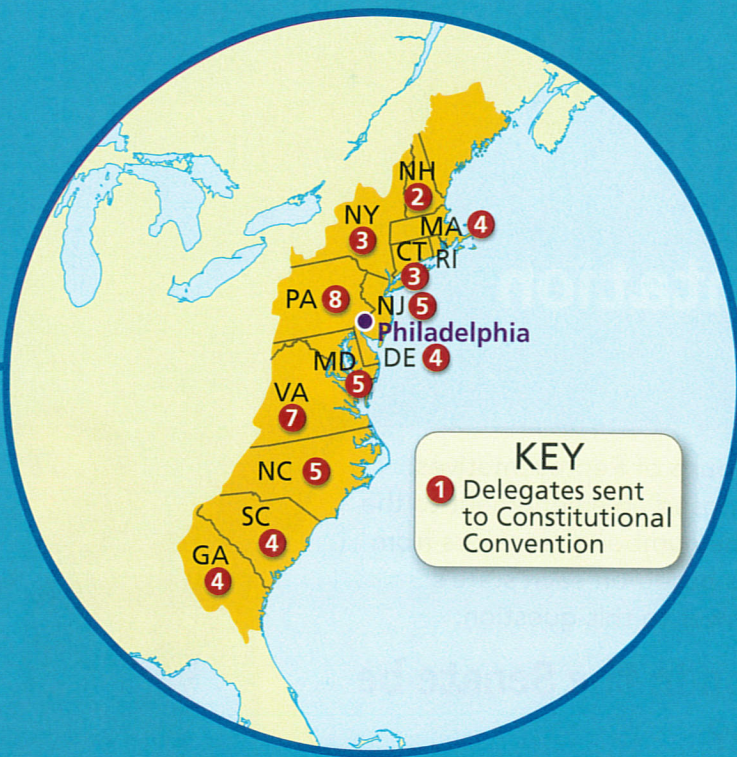
1777
Articles of Confederation approved.

1789
George Washington becomes first U.S. President.

1787
Continental Congress

1795
Fire destroys one-third of Copenhagen.

1789
French Revolution begins.



KEY
 1 Delegates sent to Constitutional Convention

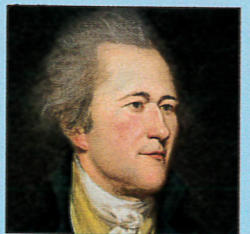
Who will you meet?



James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution"



Roger Sherman, who masterminded the Great Compromise



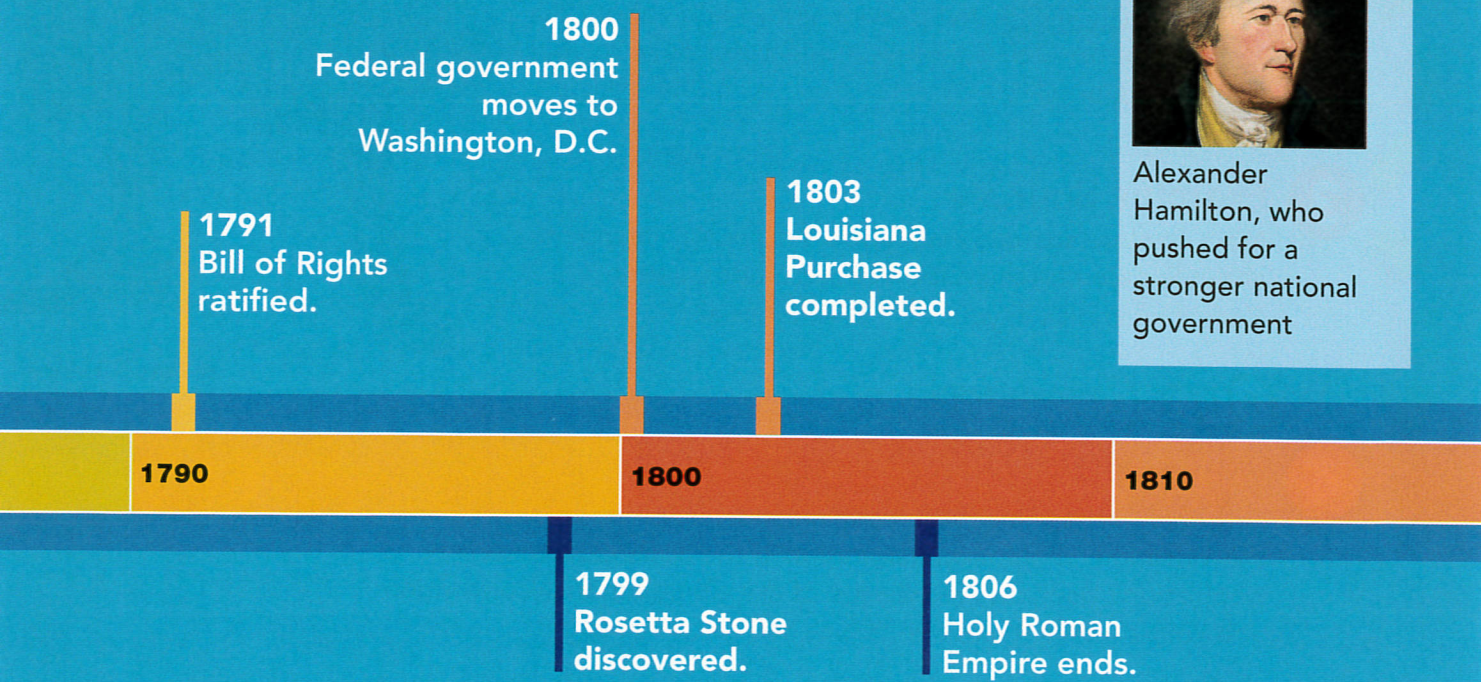
Alexander Hamilton, who pushed for a stronger national government

INTERACTIVE

Topic Map

Why did leaders from throughout the United States travel to Philadelphia in 1787?

These leaders were determined to make the existing constitution—and the government—stronger.



Quest

Civic Discussion Inquiry

Senate Representation


Quest KICK OFF

You are a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Another representative has proposed an amendment to the Constitution. It would change the number of senators from each state so that the number is based on each state's population. Help decide the answer to this question:


Should representation in the Senate be based on population?

Be ready! Other representatives will challenge your arguments.


1 Ask Questions

You are determined to know the best answer to the Guiding Question. Get started by making a list of questions about the major debates in the Constitutional Convention. Write questions in your  Active Journal.

2 Investigate

As you read the lessons in this Topic, look for **Quest CONNECTIONS** that provide information about the structure of the U.S. Congress. Collect examples in your  Active Journal.

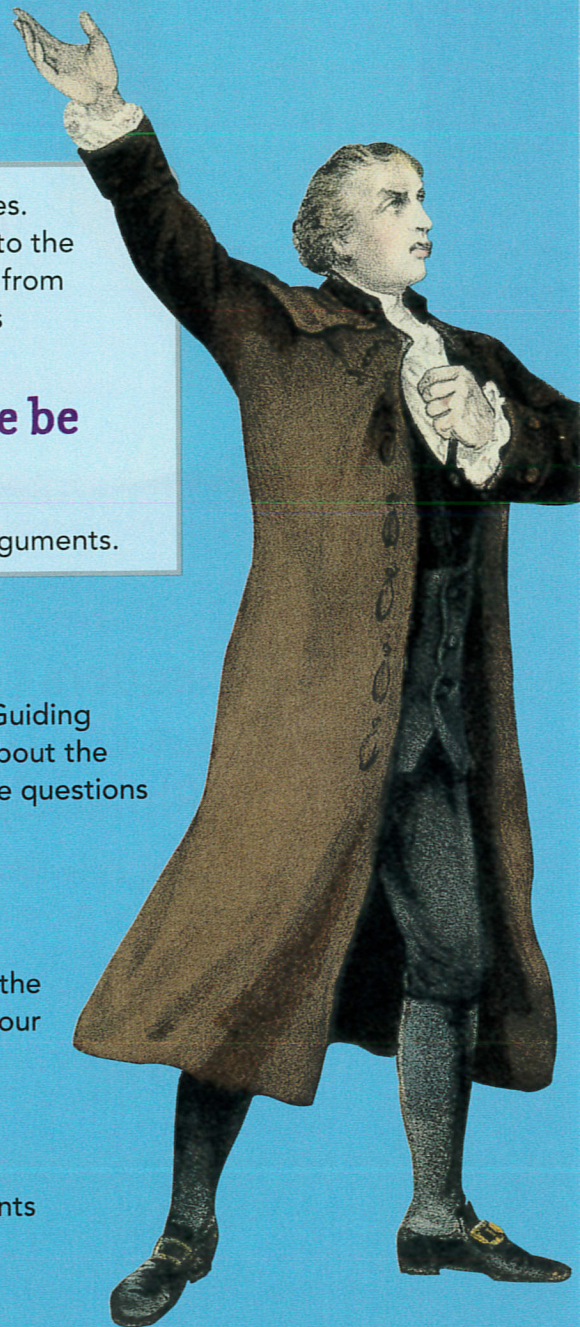
3 Examine Sources

Next, explore sources that support differing viewpoints about Senate representation based on population. Collect examples in your  Active Journal.

Quest FINDINGS

4 Discuss!

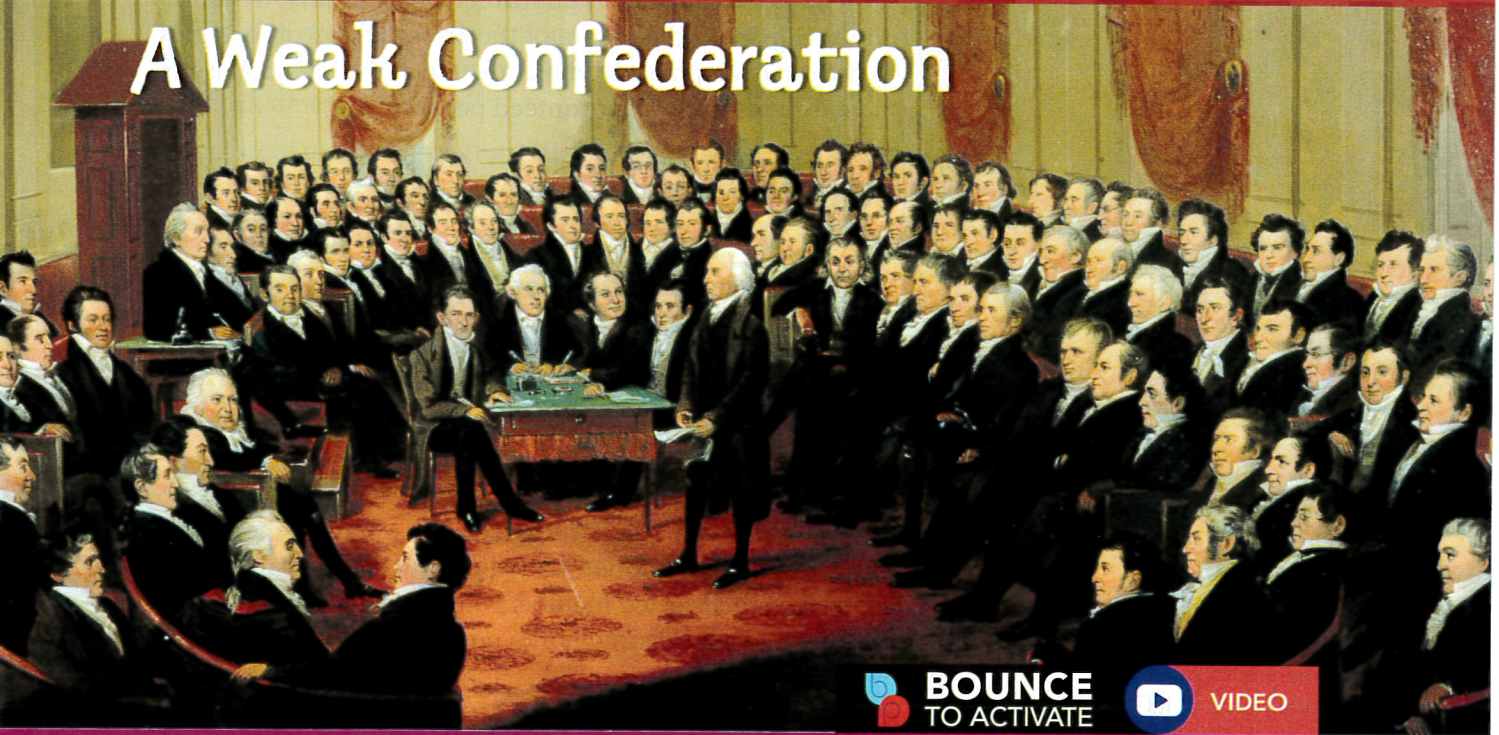
After you collect clues and examine sources, prepare to discuss this question: Should representation in the Senate be based on population? Use your knowledge of the Constitutional Convention and your sources to answer YES or NO to the question.



▲ Patrick Henry

LESSON 1

A Weak Confederation



 **BOUNCE**
TO ACTIVATE

 **VIDEO**

GET READY TO READ

START UP


Look at the image of the Second Continental Congress. What principles did these men support?

GUIDING QUESTIONS


- What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?
- How did Congress plan for governing the Northwest Territory and opening it to settlers?
- How did Shays' Rebellion influence leaders to revise the Articles of Confederation?

TAKE NOTES

Literacy Skills Summarize

Use the graphic organizer in your  Active Journal to take notes as you read the lesson.

PRACTICE VOCABULARY

Use the vocabulary activity in your  Active Journal to practice the vocabulary words.

Vocabulary

constitution
bill of rights
Articles of Confederation
cede
currency
Northwest Ordinance
Shays' Rebellion

Academic Vocabulary

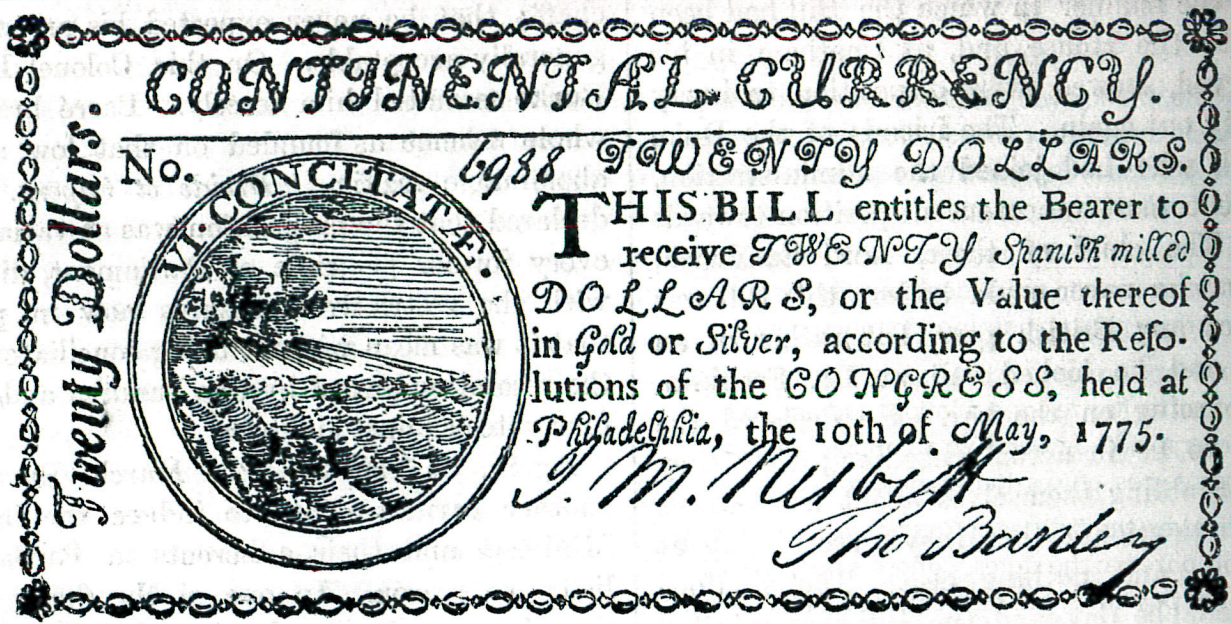
privatize
depression

When Americans declared their independence in 1776, they also assumed the right to govern themselves. The next year, the Continental Congress drew up plans for a national government. By that time, several states had already begun to create their own governments.

How Were State Constitutions Similar?

Americans fought the Revolution to uphold the principles and ideas set forth in the Declaration of Independence. These include freedom, liberty, equality, democracy, and the concept that people have natural rights. States sought to reflect those principles in their **constitutions**, the documents that set out the basic laws, principles, organization, and processes of a government. They wanted to spell out the rights of all citizens and limit the power of government.

People valued the rights that state governments protected. Virginia's constitution included a **bill of rights**, or list of freedoms that the government promises to protect.



Analyze Images This \$20 Continental bill was worth little in the eyes of the states. **Infer** If Congress had no power to raise money, how did that affect the value of the currency it issued?

Like other small states, Maryland feared that “landed” states would become too powerful. One by one, the states agreed to cede their western claims to Congress. Finally, only Virginia held out. However, Thomas Jefferson and other leading Virginians recognized the great need to form a central government. They persuaded state lawmakers to give up Virginia’s claims in the West.

With its demands met, Maryland ratified the Articles of Confederation in 1781. The new American government could at last go into effect.

READING CHECK **Identify Supporting Details** What were the functions of Congress under the Articles of Confederation?

Weaknesses of the Confederation

By 1783, the United States had won its independence. Yet, the end of the American Revolution did not solve the confederation’s troubles. Americans doubted whether “these United States” could survive.

Many States Have Disagreements Disputes continued to arise among states. For example, both New Hampshire and New York claimed Vermont. The Articles did not give the central government power to resolve such conflicts.

Concerns Over Debt and Currency After the Revolution, the United States owed millions of dollars to individuals and foreign nations. Without the power to tax, Congress had no way to repay these debts. It asked the states for money, but the states often refused.

During the Revolution, the Continental Congress had solved the problem of raising funds by printing paper **currency**, or money. However, the Continental dollar had little value because it was not backed by gold or silver. Before long, Americans began to describe any useless thing as “not worth a Continental.”

As Continental dollars became nearly worthless, states printed their own currency. This caused confusion. Most states refused to accept the money of other states. As a result, trade became very difficult.

Foreign Countries Promote Their Own Interests Foreign countries took advantage of the confederation's weakness. Ignoring the Treaty of Paris, Britain refused to withdraw its troops from American territory on the Great Lakes. Spain closed its port in New Orleans to American shipping. This was a serious blow to western farmers, who depended on the port to ship their products to the East.

Academic Vocabulary
privatize • v., to put private individuals or companies in charge of something

READING CHECK Understand Effects Why did trade between states become increasingly difficult?

An Orderly Expansion

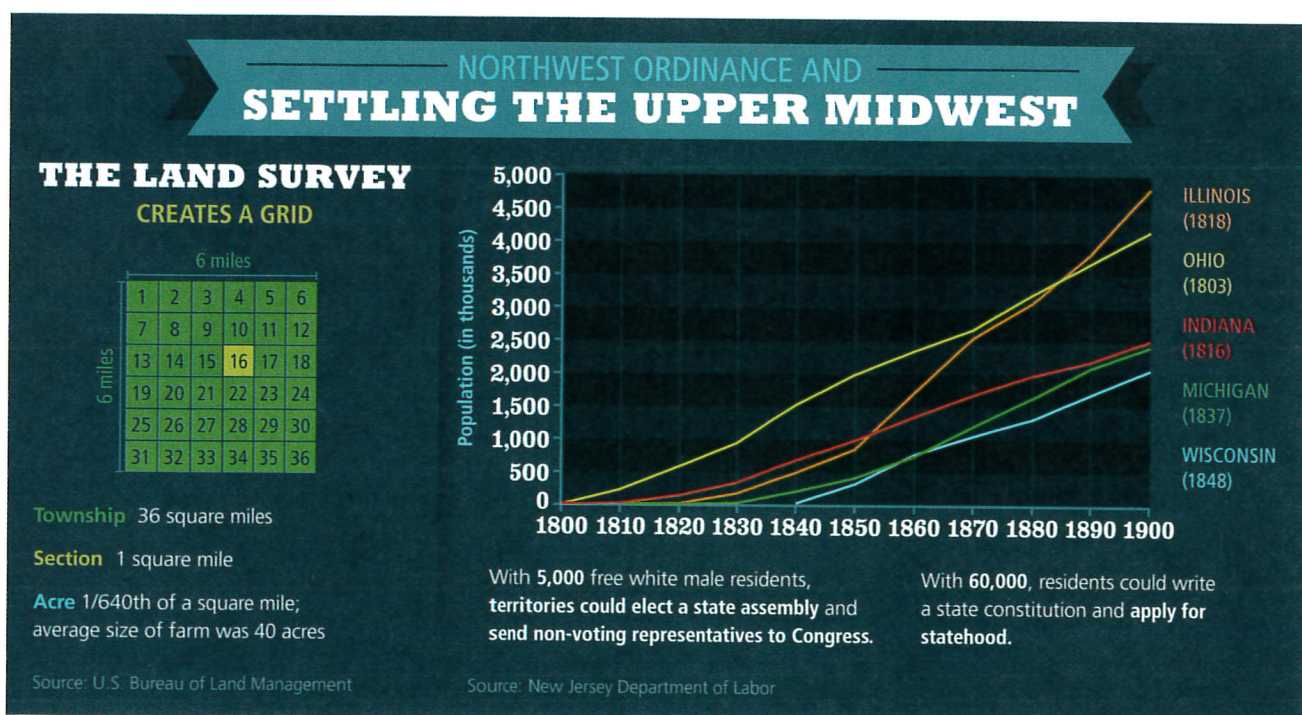
Despite its troubles, Congress did pass important laws about how to govern the Northwest Territory. This was the U.S. territory west of Pennsylvania, north of the Ohio River, south of the Great Lakes, and east of the Mississippi. The laws established how territories would be governed and how they could become states.

The Land Ordinance of 1785 set up a system for settling the Northwest Territory. The ordinance called for the territory to be surveyed and divided into townships. Each township would then be further divided into 36 sections of one square mile each (640 acres).

Congress planned to sell sections to settlers for a minimum of \$640 apiece. In this way, much of this federally owned land was **privatized**, or moved from public to private ownership. One section in every township was set aside for public schools. Selling the land provided income for the government.

In 1787, Congress passed the **Northwest Ordinance**. The law set up a government for the Northwest Territory, guaranteed basic rights to settlers, and outlawed slavery there.

Analyze Images This infographic summarizes the changes that occurred after the Northwest Ordinance passed. **Infer** How did the ordinance reduce conflict among the states?



Academic Vocabulary

depression • *n.*, a period when business activity slows, prices and wages fall, and unemployment rises

It encouraged public education and said the vast region could be divided into separate territories in the future.

The Northwest Ordinance stated that new territories should be admitted as new states, rather than become part of existing ones. It provided a process, to admit new states to the nation. Once a territory had a population of 60,000 free settlers, it could ask Congress to be admitted as a new state. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin were created from the Northwest Territory.

However, the lands in this area were already home to American Indian nations. Although the Ordinance stated “the utmost good shall always be observed” toward these nations, conflict would arise and continue for many years.

Despite the drawbacks of the Articles of Confederation, the laws Congress created relating to the Northwest Territory proved to be a major success. These laws defined the basic rights of settlers and established federal support for education.

 **READING CHECK Identify Main Ideas** What was the purpose of the Northwest Ordinance?

How Did Economic Problems Lead to Change?

The Northwest Ordinance was the finest achievement of the national government under the Articles. Still, the government was unable to solve its economic problems. After the Revolution, the nation suffered an economic depression. A **depression** is a period when business activity slows, prices and wages fall, and unemployment rises.

Analyze Images Some Americans moved west after the Revolution, seeking new opportunities.
Infer What do you think people were seeking?



Farmers Demand Fair Treatment The depression hit farmers hard. The war had created a high demand for farm products. Farmers borrowed money for land, seed, animals, and tools. However, when the Revolution ended, demand for farm goods went down. As prices fell, many farmers could not repay their loans.

In Massachusetts, matters worsened when the state raised taxes. The courts seized the farms of those who could not pay their taxes or loans. Angry farmers felt they were being treated unfairly.

Daniel Shays, a Massachusetts farmer who had fought at Bunker Hill and Saratoga, organized an uprising in 1786. More than 1,000 farmers took part in **Shays' Rebellion**. They attacked courthouses and prevented the state from seizing farms when farmers could not pay their debts. Finally, the Massachusetts legislature sent the militia to drive them off.

A Call For Revision Many Americans saw Shays' Rebellion as a sign that the Articles of Confederation did not work.

To avert a crisis, leaders from several states called for a convention to revise the Articles of Confederation. They met in Philadelphia in May 1787. In the end, this convention would create an entirely new framework of government.

 **READING CHECK** **Identify Implied Main Ideas** What did Shays' Rebellion show to many people?



Analyze Images Shays' Rebellion resulted in bloodshed when state militia attacked angry rioters led by Daniel Shays. **Draw Conclusions** How did Shays' Rebellion test the strength of the new federal government?


Lesson Check

Practice Vocabulary

1. How did the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the **Northwest Ordinance** of 1787 **privatize** national resources?
2. Why did **currency** issues and **Shays' Rebellion** cause some leaders to decide that the **Articles of Confederation** should be revised?

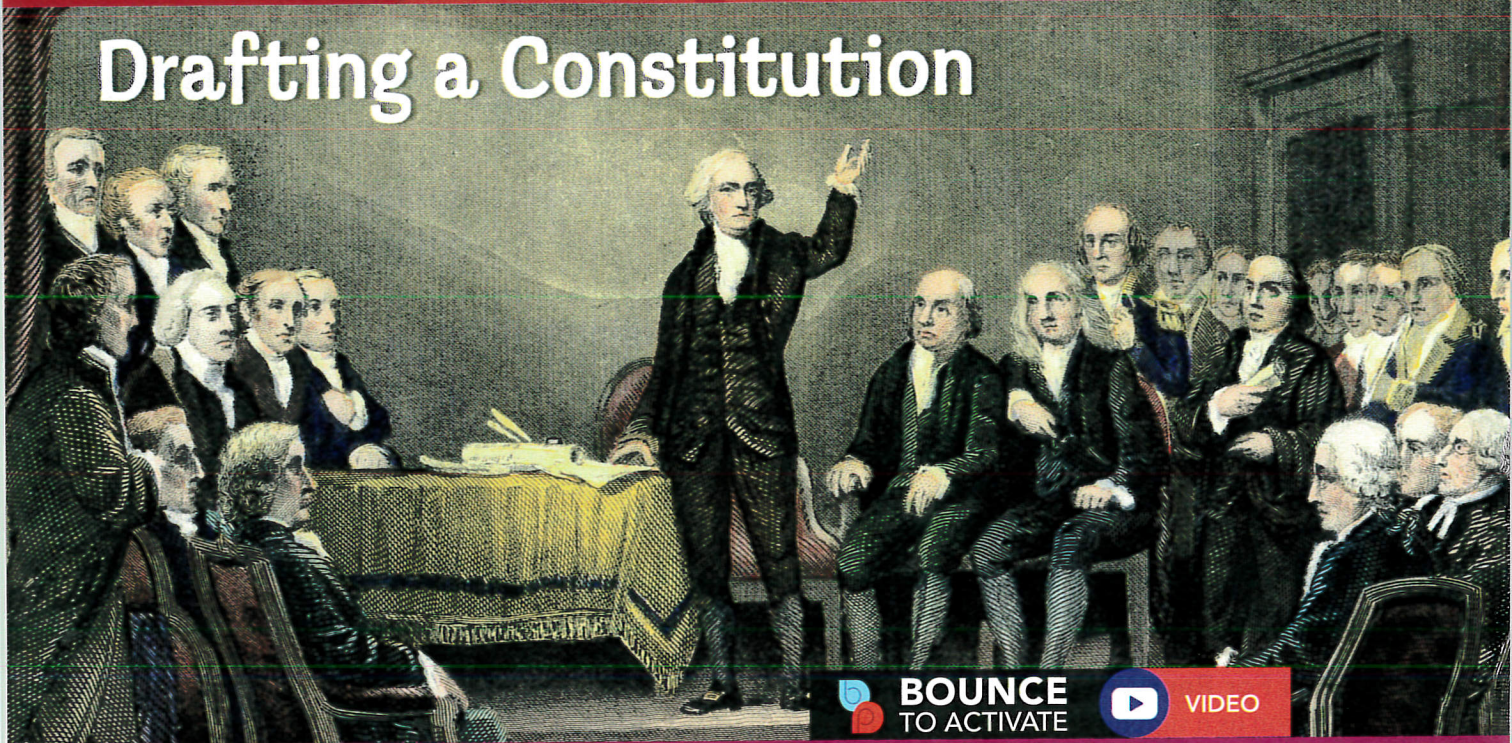
Critical Thinking and Writing

3. **Identify Supporting Details** What were three weaknesses of the central government under the Articles of Confederation?
4. **Draw Conclusions** Why do you think slavery was outlawed in the Northwest Territory?

5. **Evaluate Explanations** Many American leaders, pointed to Shays' Rebellion as proof that the Articles of Confederation were weak. Does this explanation for revising the Articles make sense to you? Why or why not?
6. **Revisit the Essential Question** How much power should the government have? Restrict your answer to what you have learned in this lesson.
7. **Writing Workshop: Introduce Claims** Write a brief paragraph in your  Active Journal introducing two sides of the argument about how much power the government should have. This paragraph will get you started on an essay you will write at the end of the Topic.

LESSON 2

Drafting a Constitution



 **BOUNCE
TO ACTIVATE**

 **VIDEO**

GET READY TO READ

START UP


Look at the image of the delegates. What issues are these men going to face?

GUIDING QUESTIONS


- What was the Revolution's legacy?
- Who led the Constitutional Convention?
- What were the main differences between the two rival plans for the new Constitution?
- How much power should the federal government have, and what should it do?

TAKE NOTES

Literacy Skills Compare and Contrast

Use the graphic organizer in your  Active Journal to take notes as you read the lesson.

PRACTICE VOCABULARY

Use the vocabulary activity in your  Active Journal to practice the vocabulary words.

Vocabulary

Constitutional Convention
Virginia Plan
New Jersey Plan

compromise
Great
Compromise
Three-Fifths
Compromise

Academic Vocabulary

legacy
ethical

The **Constitutional Convention**

opened on May 25, 1787, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Its purpose was to revise the Articles of Confederation. Every state except Rhode Island sent representatives. All of them wanted to honor the **legacy** of the Revolution and the principles for which they had fought. Yet not all delegates would agree on how to achieve that goal.

Who Led the Convention?

The convention would prove historic because it did not revise the Articles of Confederation. Instead, its delegates produced a new United States Constitution. That document established a government that has survived more than 200 years.

A Remarkable Group The convention's 55 delegates were a remarkable group. Eight of them had signed the Declaration of Independence, including the oldest, Benjamin Franklin. At age 81, Franklin was wise in the ways of government and human nature.