











# Review Steps of Independence

#### **Independence Timeline!**

- British colonial policies
- Growing colonial unity
  - stamp act congress
- First / Second Continental Congress
- Declaration of Independence (1776)
- First State Constitutions
- Articles of Confederation (1781)
- Constitutional Convention (1787)
- Ratification of the Constitution (1788)

## **Review Declaration of Independence**

- Structure / Organization of the DOI
  - 4 parts

- Review analysis/response questions
  - Pair / Share: Summarize the key ideas conveyed in the DOI

 Why is the Declaration of Sentiments modeled after the DOI?

## After the American Revolution

- Now what? The founders and other patriots had made some grand statements about government and it's people. The whole world is watching. What will the next steps look like?
- The country needed something more regular and permanent (then the continental congress) to govern the new country.

## The Articles of Confederation

- The Continental Congress debated the best organization for the new government.
  - How much power should the federal government have?
- Reading: <u>Articles of Confederation</u>

• Video: What were the Articles?

## The Articles of Confederation

- The Continental Congress debated the best organization for the new government.
  - How much power should the federal government have?

#### Two main issues of debate

- Amount of money each State should pay into a common treasury (contributions would be based on the value of land within each state)
- Voting power of the States in Congress = each state would have one vote

#### **Overview of the Articles of Confederation**

 The Articles of Confederation established "a firm league of friendship" among the states. (first attempt at national govt)

AofC - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b07FQsCcb">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b07FQsCcb</a>

• Complete class Simulation: Articles of Confederation

### Life with the Articles of Confederation

# **Confederation Congress Powers (only 1 branch)**

- Borrow money
- Make treaties
- Declare war
- Deal with the Indians
- Control Western lands
- Deal with foreign problems
- Run Postal Service
- 9/13 states had to approve any decision

# Weaknesses of the federal government under the AOC

- No power to levy or collect taxes (states collected money and could turn it into the national treasury)
- No power to regulate trade between states or with foreign countries
- No power to enforce laws (no commander in chief and no way to call up an army) States didn't have to follow laws or treaties.
- No power to set up courts (judicial branch) to settle disputes between states
- Laws needed 9/13 states for approval.
- To amend (change) 13/13

# What problems could arise with a confederation?

#### **Powers Granted and Denied Congress**

#### GRANTED CONGRESS

- Conduct foreign affairs
- Declare war and make peace
- Issue or borrow money
- Control Western territories
- Control Indian affairs
- Run postal service

#### DENIED CONGRESS

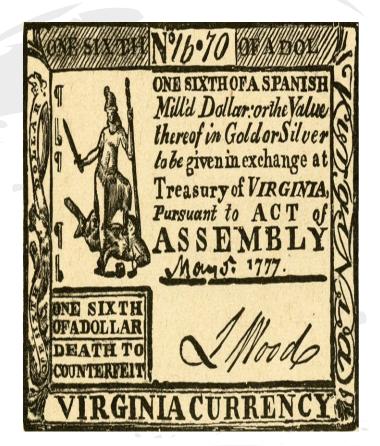
- Establish executive branch
- Enforce national laws
- Enact and collect taxes
- Regulate interstate or foreign trade
- Establish federal courts
- Amend the Articles

CRITICAL THINKING Evaluate Why did the powers denied Congress lead to a weak government?

# Time of Trouble (1780s)

- Peace, however, brought the new nation's economic and political weaknesses into sharp focus.
  - Example: states created their own currency →

Shays' Rebellion = this
 event led to meeting to revise
 the articles



## **Demand for Stronger Government**

- The Articles had created a government unable to deal with the nation's troubles. Primarily economically driven as well as politically.
- Inevitably, demand grew for a stronger, more effective national government.
- The movement for change began to take form in the mid-1780s.

# **Demand for Stronger Government**

• Those who were most threatened by <u>economic and</u> <u>political instability</u>—large property owners, merchants, traders, and other creditors soon took the lead in efforts to that end.

#### A call for action

- Constitutional Convention in 1787 (Philadelphia).
  - Original intent was to revise the articles.

## **Demand for Stronger Government**

- Study Guide
  - In your own words, explain the movement around a demand for a stronger government in the mid-1780s.
- Class Reading / Article: <u>Bill to crack down on</u>
  <u>Minnesota protesters appears to be national trend</u>
  - Role of government theme

# Class discussion questions

- Why did the people in the newly independent states fear a strong national government?
- What were the Articles of Confederation? How did the Articles organize the national government to address the fears of the people and of the states?
- What parts of government were not included in the Articles of Confederation?
- What did the national government achieve under the Articles of Confederation?
- What were the weaknesses of the govt under the AOC?
- Why was Shays' Rebellion an important event?

# Review / Conclusions

- Video clip (Education Portal): <u>Weaknesses of the</u>
  <u>Articles</u>
- Quick write and report out:
  - Why were the Articles of Confederation created?
  - What were the accomplishments and failures of the Articles of Confederation?
  - What do you think accounted for the failures?