

## Lesson Title

**Time Needed:** One Class Period

**Materials Needed:**

Student worksheets

Power Point and projector -*or*-  
overhead transparencies

**Copy Instructions:**

Guided notes worksheet (*2 pages double-sided; class set*)

Crossword worksheet (class set)

**Learning Objectives.** Students will be able to:

- Identify how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to the writing of the Constitution
- Compare different states' needs and interests
- Compare the Virginia plan with the New Jersey plan.
- Compare the Articles of Confederation with the Constitution

## STEP BY STEP

- ANTICIPATE** with a quick poll of the class. Ask students, "Imagine we were going to have a class ice cream party and we could only have one kind of ice cream. How many people would want chocolate? Strawberry? Rocky Road?" After the poll, ask students whether they think it would be possible to get everyone to agree. What about if the class could have two flavors? Three? Would it be possible to at least satisfy everyone, even if they don't get their very favorite flavor? Tell students they are going to learn how the U.S. government was created, and that a lot of the process had to do with getting people to agree on things.
- DISTRIBUTE** one "Wanted: A Just Right Government" guided notes worksheet to each student
- READ** the introduction paragraph on the guided notes worksheet.
- WORK THROUGH** the guided notes worksheet using either the Power Point presentation or the overhead transparencies. If you are using overhead transparencies, keep them covered with a sheet of paper and uncover the parts you need as you go.
- DISTRIBUTE** one crossword worksheet to each student.
- ALLOW** time for students to complete the crossword.
- REVIEW** the answers with the class if you wish.
- CLOSE** by asking students to silently recall one problem with the Articles of Confederation that the Constitution solved. Conduct a check for understanding by having students write down or share their answers.

# Wanted: A Just Right Government Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Starting From Scratch

After the American colonists declared independence from Great Britain, the first thing they had to decide was what kind of government to have. The colonists were tired of living under British control. The British government had treated them unfairly, and the colonists set out to make sure their new government would be much, much better!



## The First Attempt:

The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

A **confederation** is a \_\_\_\_\_ of individuals \_\_\_\_\_ together for a \_\_\_\_\_.

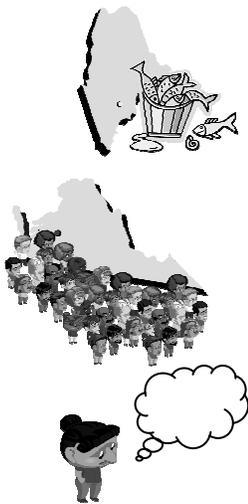
- Each state was \_\_\_\_\_ and had its own \_\_\_\_\_.
- Each state sent \_\_\_\_\_ to the "Congress of the Confederation."
- The Congress was the only \_\_\_\_\_ government. There was no \_\_\_\_\_.
- In Congress, each state got \_\_\_\_\_ vote.



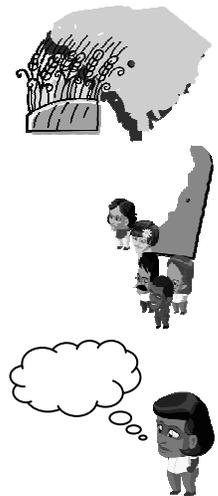
 <b>Hey, this sounds great!</b>	<b>Wait! Not so fast...</b> 
States get to keep their _____ and _____.	Congress had no way to _____ its laws!
No _____ telling states what to do.	Congress had no power to collect _____ to pay for the military!
Congress had the power to create a _____ to _____ all the states.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

# Wanted: A Just Right Government Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No one could agree on what kind of government this new country needed! This was because...



- **States had different** \_\_\_\_\_. For example, some states depended on \_\_\_\_\_, while others mostly grew \_\_\_\_\_.
- **States had different** \_\_\_\_\_. Some states had \_\_\_\_\_ people and some had \_\_\_\_\_.
- **People had different** \_\_\_\_\_. Some people \_\_\_\_\_ a central government, while others thought a central government was \_\_\_\_\_.



## A New Idea

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION	NEW IDEA
Government has _____ branch:	Government has _____ branches:
✓ Legislative: _____ laws	✓ Legislative: _____ laws ✓ Executive: _____ laws ✓ Judicial: _____ laws

**BUT WAIT!** How many \_\_\_\_\_ should each state get in the legislature?

<b>Virginia Plan</b>	<b>New Jersey Plan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of votes depends on _____</li> <li>• _____ states would have more power</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each state gets _____ vote</li> <li>• _____ states would have more power</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>The Constitution Solution!</u></b></p> <p>Divide the legislature into _____ houses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate: Each state gets _____ votes</li> <li>• House of Representatives: Number of votes depends on _____</li> </ul>	



## More Constitution Solutions

- The Constitution requires each state to treat \_\_\_\_\_ of other states the \_\_\_\_\_ as it treats its own citizens.
- The Constitution can be changed if \_\_\_\_\_ of the members of Congress and \_\_\_\_\_ of the states agree.
- The Constitution says that the laws passed by Congress are \_\_\_\_\_ to laws passed by the \_\_\_\_\_.

# Wanted: A Just Right Government

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Across

3. Fraction of states that must agree to change the Constitution
5. Under the Virginia Plan, these states would have more power
7. The branch that makes laws
9. States must treat their own citizens and other states' citizens this way
12. The branch that interprets laws
13. The document that replaced the Articles of Confederation
16. One problem was that states charged these on goods from other states
17. Under the Articles of Confederation, congress could not do this to its laws, so states could just ignore laws
19. The Articles let Congress create this but not pay for it
20. States send these to Congress
22. Under the Articles, America did not have one of these

## Down

1. Early Americans had something in common with this fictional character!
2. These were the "individuals" in the "confederation" created by the Articles
4. Under the New Jersey plan, these states would have more power
6. the branch that carries out laws
8. In the House of Representatives, the number of votes a state gets depends on this
9. The chamber of Congress where each state gets two votes
10. A group of individuals united together for a purpose
11. The Articles of Confederation was America's first plan for \_\_\_\_\_.
14. One of two things people were afraid states might lose
15. The Articles of Confederation created a government that had only one of these
18. The Constitution says laws passed by Congress are \_\_\_ to state laws.
21. One of two things people were afraid states might lose

# Wanted: A Just Right Government

Name: **\*\* Teacher Key \*\***




A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- Across:
  - 3. FRACTION OF STATES THAT MUST AGREE TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION
  - 5. UNDER THE VIRGINIA PLAN, THESE STATES WOULD HAVE MORE POWER
  - 6. THE BRANCH THAT MAKES LAWS
  - 9. STATES MUST TREAT THEIR OWN CITIZENS AND OTHER STATES' CITIZENS THIS WAY
  - 12. THE BRANCH THAT INTERPRETS LAWS
  - 13. THE DOCUMENT THAT REPLACED THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION
  - 16. ONE PROBLEM WAS THAT STATES CHARGED THESE ON GOODS FROM OTHER STATES
  - 17. UNDER THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION, CONGRESS COULD NOT DO THIS TO ITS LAWS, SO STATES COULD JUST IGNORE LAWS
  - 19. THE ARTICLES LET CONGRESS CREATE THIS BUT NOT PAY FOR IT
  - 20. STATES SEND THESE TO CONGRESS
  - 22. UNDER THE ARTICLES, AMERICA DID NOT HAVE ONE OF THESE
- Down:
  - 1. EARLY AMERICANS HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH THIS FICTIONAL CHARACTER!
  - 2. THESE WERE THE "INDIVIDUALS" IN THE "CONFEDERATION" CREATED BY THE ARTICLES
  - 4. UNDER THE NEW JERSEY PLAN, THESE STATES WOULD HAVE MORE POWER
  - 6. THE BRANCH THAT CARRIES OUT LAWS
  - 8. IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE NUMBER OF VOTES A STATE GETS DEPENDS ON THIS
  - 9. THE CHAMBER OF CONGRESS WHERE EACH STATE GETS TWO VOTES
  - 10. A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS UNITED TOGETHER FOR A PURPOSE
  - 11. THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION WAS AMERICA'S FIRST PLAN FOR \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 14. ONE OF TWO THINGS PEOPLE WERE AFRAID STATES MIGHT LOSE
  - 15. THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION CREATED A GOVERNMENT THAT HAD ONLY ONE OF THESE
  - 18. THE CONSTITUTION SAYS LAWS PASSED BY CONGRESS ARE \_\_\_ TO STATE LAWS.
  - 21. ONE OF TWO THINGS PEOPLE WERE AFRAID STATES MIGHT LOSE

## Across

- Fraction of states that must agree to change the Constitution
- Under the Virginia Plan, these states would have more power
- The branch that makes laws
- States must treat their own citizens and other states' citizens this way
- The branch that interprets laws
- The document that replaced the Articles of Confederation
- One problem was that states charged these on goods from other states
- Under the Articles of Confederation, congress could not do this to its laws, so states could just ignore laws
- The Articles let Congress create this but not pay for it
- States send these to Congress
- Under the Articles, America did not have one of these

## Down

- Early Americans had something in common with this fictional character!
- These were the "individuals" in the "confederation" created by the Articles
- Under the New Jersey plan, these states would have more power
- the branch that carries out laws
- In the House of Representatives, the number of votes a state gets depends on this
- The chamber of Congress where each state gets two votes
- A group of individuals united together for a purpose
- The Articles of Confederation was America's first plan for \_\_\_\_\_.
- One of two things people were afraid states might lose
- The Articles of Confederation created a government that had only one of these
- The Constitution says laws passed by Congress are \_\_\_ to state laws.
- One of two things people were afraid states might lose

# WANTED

A government that:

- Has enough \_\_\_\_\_ to do its job.
- Doesn't give anyone too \_\_\_\_\_ power.
- Considers the needs of all \_\_\_\_\_
- Lets people have a \_\_\_\_\_
- Protects individual \_\_\_\_\_

much      say      states  
power      rights

# The First Attempt:

The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_



Wait! What's a *confederation*??

A **confederation** is a \_\_\_\_\_ of individuals \_\_\_\_\_ together for a \_\_\_\_\_.



Under the Articles of Confederation:

- Each state was \_\_\_\_\_ and had its own \_\_\_\_\_.
- Each state sent \_\_\_\_\_ to the "Congress of the Confederation."
- The Congress was the only \_\_\_\_\_ government. There was no \_\_\_\_\_.
- In Congress, each state got \_\_\_\_\_ vote.

# The First Attempt: The Articles of Confederation



Hey, this sounds great!

States get to keep their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

No \_\_\_\_\_ telling states what to do.

Congress had the power to create a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ all the states.

Wait! Not so fast...



Congress had no way to \_\_\_\_\_ its laws!

Congress had no power to collect \_\_\_\_\_ to pay for the military!

The Articles could only be \_\_\_\_\_ if \_\_\_\_\_ the states agreed!

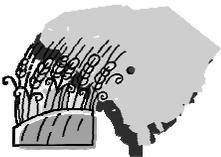
NEEDS  
WORK

# The First Attempt: The Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation had problems. But people could not agree on what kind of government this new country needed! There was no easy solution because...



- States had different \_\_\_\_\_.



For example, some states depended on \_\_\_\_\_ while others mainly grew \_\_\_\_\_.



- States had different \_\_\_\_\_.



Some states had \_\_\_\_\_ people and some had \_\_\_\_\_.



- People had different \_\_\_\_\_.

Some people \_\_\_\_\_ a central government, while others thought a central government was \_\_\_\_\_.



# A New Idea



## Articles of Confederation

\_\_\_\_\_ branch

Legislative: \_\_\_\_\_ laws

## New Idea!!

\_\_\_\_\_ branches

Legislative: \_\_\_\_\_ laws

Executive: \_\_\_\_\_ laws

Judicial: \_\_\_\_\_ laws

**BUT WAIT!** How many \_\_\_\_\_ should each state get in the legislature?

### **Virginia Plan**

- Number of votes depends on \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ states would have more power.

### **New Jersey Plan**

- Each state gets \_\_\_\_\_ vote.
- \_\_\_\_\_ states would have more power.

### **The Constitution Solution!**

Divide the legislature into \_\_\_\_\_ house:

- Senate: Each state gets \_\_\_\_\_ votes
- House: Number of votes depends on \_\_\_\_\_



### **More Constitution Solutions**

- The Constitution requires that each state treat \_\_\_\_\_ of other states the \_\_\_\_\_ as it treats its own citizens.
- The Constitution can be changed if \_\_\_\_\_ of the members of Congress and \_\_\_\_\_ of the states agree.
- The Constitution says that the laws passed by Congress are \_\_\_\_\_ to laws passed by the \_\_\_\_\_.

# Final Review!

Under the Constitution...	A	B
1. Laws are made by the _____ branch.	executive	legislative
2. States must treat people from other states _____.	the same	differently
3. Laws passed by Congress are _____ to state laws.	inferior	superior
4. Congress has _____.	one chamber	two chambers
5. Each state gets two votes (representatives) in the _____.	Senate	House
6. In the _____, the number of votes each state gets is based on its population.	Senate	House
7. A change to the Constitution must be approved by _____.	All states	3/4 of states

# Wanted: A Just Right Government TEACHER'S GUIDE

## TRANSPARENCY GUIDE

If using transparencies, use the teacher's guides at the end of the lesson to fill in the blanks and insert the following mini-quizzes as a check for understanding.

PROJECT transparency #1. Allow students to complete the cloze activity in their notes and then review the correct answers as a class.

AFTER completing transparency #3, read the following statements aloud to students and let them give a thumbs up or thumbs down response based on whether the statement is true or false.

### Mini-Quiz #1: True or False?

1. There would be a President to lead the country. (F)
2. States would still be independent. (T)
3. The Articles were easy to change. (F)
4. The more people a state had, the more votes it got in Congress. (F)
5. Congress did not have the power to collect taxes. (T)
6. Congress could pass laws that the states had to obey. (F)
7. The Articles of Confederation created the first American government. (T)

AFTER completing transparency #4, read the following statements aloud to students and let them give a thumbs up or thumbs down response based on whether the statement is true or false.

### Mini-Quiz #2: True or False?

1. Everybody thought the central government should have more power. (F)
2. Some people were afraid states might lose their independence. (T)
3. Different states had different needs for government to meet. (T)
4. The states all got along with each other. (F)
5. The government created by the Articles of Confederation had everything under control between the states. (F)

PROJECT transparency #6. Preface each statement with "Under the Constitution..." and allow students to vote for the term in column A or column B.

1. Laws are made by the ____ branch.	executive	<b>legislative</b>
2. States must treat people from other states ____.	<b>the same</b>	differently
3. Laws passed by Congress are ____ to state laws.	inferior	<b>superior</b>
4. Congress has ____.	one chamber	<b>two chambers</b>
5. Each state gets two votes (representatives) in the ____.	<b>Senate</b>	House
6. In the ____, the number of votes each state gets is based on its population.	Senate	<b>House</b>
7. A change to the Constitution must be approved by ____.	All states	<b>3/4 of states</b>

**Directions:** Project the blank transparency. Give students a few minutes to fill in the cloze activity on their guided notes. Review the answers (below).

# WANTED

A government that:

- Has enough POWER to do its job.
- Doesn't give anyone too MUCH power.
- Considers the needs of all STATES
- Lets people have a SAY
- Protects individual RIGHTS

much      say      states  
power      rights

**Directions:** Project the blank transparencies one by one. Work through each transparency using the following pages as a guide. Students should fill in their guided notes as you work through the transparencies. Discuss the material as you go along.

## The First Attempt:

The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_



Wait! What's a *confederation*??

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



Under the Articles of Confederation:

- Each state was independent and had its own government.
- Each state sent representatives to the "Congress of the Confederation."
- The Congress was the only central government. There was no President.
- In Congress, each state got 1 vote.

## The First Attempt: The Articles of Confederation



Hey, this sounds great!

States get to keep their power and independence.

No government telling 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!

**MINI QUIZ #1:** Pause to give Mini Quiz #1 (found on the teacher guide). Read each True/False question out loud. Have the class answer as a chorus or show "thumbs up" for true and "thumbs down" for false.

## The First Attempt:

# The Articles of Confederation

NEEDS

The Articles of Confederation had problems. But people could not agree on what kind of government this new country needed! There was no easy solution because...



- **States had different needs**.

For example, some states depended on fishing while others mainly grew crops.



- **States had different sizes**.

Some states had many people and some had few.



- **People had different opinions**.

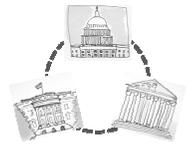
Some people feared a central government, while others thought a central government was necessary.



**MINI QUIZ #2:** Pause to give Mini Quiz #2 (found on the teacher guide). Read each True/False question out loud. Have the class answer as a chorus or show "thumbs up" for true and "thumbs down" for false.



## A New Idea



### Articles of Confederation

\_\_\_\_\_ branch

Legislative: \_\_\_\_\_ laws

### New Idea!!

\_\_\_\_\_ branches

Legislative: \_\_\_\_\_ laws

Executive: \_\_\_\_\_ laws

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**BUT WAIT!** How many \_\_\_\_\_ should each state get in the legislature?

### Virginia Plan

- Number of votes depends on \_\_\_\_\_.
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### New Jersey Plan

- Each state gets \_\_\_\_\_ vote.
- \_\_\_\_\_ states would have more power.

### The Constitution Solution!

Divide the legislature into \_\_\_\_\_ house:

- Senate: Each state gets \_\_\_\_\_ votes
- House: Number of votes depends on \_\_\_\_\_



### More Constitution Solutions

- The Constitution requires that each state treat \_\_\_\_\_ of other states the \_\_\_\_\_ as it treats its own citizens.
- The Constitution can be changed if \_\_\_\_\_ of the members of Congress and \_\_\_\_\_ of the states agree.
- The Constitution says that the laws passed by Congress are \_\_\_\_\_ to laws passed by the \_\_\_\_\_.

**FINAL REVIEW:** Project the Final Review transparency. Uncover each question one by one. Have the class answer "A" or "B" as a chorus (answers are on your teacher guide). Pause to discuss the correct/incorrect answers, then move to the next question.