

**Directions: Close read the document below. SHOW THAT YOU WERE IN THE TEXT: circle unknown words/phrases, underline/highlight important information, & write a 1 sentence summary per paragraph.**

#### The Articles of Confederation

“Once the war against Great Britain had started, each state was like a separate nation. Each state had its own constitution and government. To the people, their state was their country. The Founders believed that a national government was needed to unify the states and to conduct the war. A national government could also control trade and manage conflicts among the states. The states also needed to be united in how they related with the rest of the world.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced two proposals to the Second Continental Congress. In one, Lee proposed independence from Great Britain. In the other, Lee proposed a national government to unify the states. Both resolutions were adopted.

Our nation’s first constitution was the Articles of Confederation. The Articles created our first national government. Congress adopted the Articles in 1777. Final approval by the states occurred in 1781, and then the Articles came into effect.” ~ We the People

**Directions: Answer the questions below in complete sentences.**

1- Why was each state like a separate nation during the American Revolution?

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2- Why did the Founders believe that a national government was needed?

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3- What could a national government do that state governments could not do?

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4- What were the two proposals introduced to the Second Continental Congress on June 7, 1776, by Richard Henry Lee? \_\_\_\_\_

5- What was our nation’s first constitution?

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“It was not easy to write and agree upon a constitution for the United States. The Founders had to deal with a number of difficult questions. What type of national government should they create? How much power should they give it?

The first problem the Founders faced was the people’s fear of a strong national government. Americans believed that the British government had deprived people of their rights. They thought this was likely to happen with any national government that was both powerful and far away from the people. Citizens were convinced that government should be close to the people. That way the people could control their government and make certain that it did not violate their rights.

The second problem the Founders faced was the fear that some states would have more power in a national government than other states. The leaders in each state wanted to make sure that a national government would not threaten their state’s interests. As a result, the most important issue was how states would vote in Congress. Would states with greater population or wealth have more votes than other states? Decisions in the Congress would be made by majority vote. Some leaders were afraid that the majority would use its power for its own interest at the expense of those who were in the minority.” ~ We the People

**Directions: Answer the questions below in complete sentences.**

6- What was the first problem the Founders faced?

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7- Why did many citizens fear a strong national government?

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8- Why were citizens convinced that government should be close to the people?

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9- What was the second problem the Founders faced?

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10- What did state leaders want?

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11- Why was voting in Congress a concern?

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12- What fear did citizens have of majority rule?

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“The Founders did agree that the states needed a central government. Their solution to fears of a strong national government was to create a weak one. The national government under the Articles of Confederation was simply a legislature, Congress; there were no executive or judicial branches.

The states were afraid that Congress might be able to control them. So they made sure that Congress was weak and its powers limited. The Articles left most of the powers of government with the states. The national government had little power over the states and their citizens. Every action taken by Congress had to be with the consent, approval, and cooperation of the states.

To solve the problem of representation, the Articles gave each state one vote in Congress. The more populous states did not have more than one vote. The Articles also provided that on important matters, such as declaring war, nine states would have to agree. This way, the seven less populated states could not outvote the six larger states.”~ We the People

**Directions: Answer the questions below in complete sentences.**

13- What was the Founders’ solution regarding a central government?

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14- Describe the national government under the Articles of Confederation.

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15- What did the states fear?

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16- Who received most of the powers of government under the Articles of Confederation?

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17- Prove that the national government had little power under the Articles of Confederation.

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18- What did each state receive under the Articles of Confederation?

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19- Did any difference exist between more populous states and less populous states? Explain your answer.

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20- What was needed for a declaration of war?

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21- Why was this needed for a declaration of war?

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