

Activity 2: The Problems with the Articles of Confederation

Student Name _____ Date _____

Read the following document and complete the Questions for Analysis.

The Articles of Confederation, 1777 (ratified in 1781)

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/artconf.htm>

Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts-bay Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Article I. The Stile of this Confederacy shall be "The United States of America".

Article II. Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.

Article III. The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretense whatever...

Article V. For the most convenient management of the general interests of the United States, delegates shall be annually appointed in such manner as the legislatures of each State shall direct, to meet in Congress on the first Monday in November, in every year, with a power reserved to each State to recall its delegates, or any of them, at any time within the year, and to send others in their stead for the remainder of the year.

No State shall be represented in Congress by less than two, nor more than seven members; and no person shall be capable of being a delegate for more than three years in any term of six years; nor shall any person, being a delegate, be capable of holding any office under the United States, for which he, or another for his benefit, receives any salary, fees or emolument of any kind.

Each State shall maintain its own delegates in a meeting of the States, and while they act as members of the committee of the States.

In determining questions in the United States in Congress assembled, each State shall have one vote...

Article VI. No State, without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, shall send any embassy to, or receive any embassy from, or enter into any conference, agreement, alliance or treaty with any King, Prince or State; nor shall any person holding any office of profit or trust under the United States, or any of them, accept any present, emolument, office or title of any kind whatever from any King, Prince or foreign State; nor shall the United States in Congress assembled, or any of them, grant any title of nobility.

No two or more States shall enter into any treaty, confederation or alliance whatever between them, without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, specifying accurately the purposes for which the same is to be entered into, and how long it shall continue...

No vessel of war shall be kept up in time of peace by any State, except such number only, as shall be deemed necessary by the United States in Congress assembled, for the defense of such State, or its trade; nor shall any body of forces be kept up by any State in time of peace, except such number only, as in the

judgement of the United States in Congress assembled, shall be deemed requisite to garrison the forts necessary for the defense of such State; but every State shall always keep up a well-regulated and disciplined militia, sufficiently armed and accoutered, and shall provide and constantly have ready for use, in public stores, a due number of filed pieces and tents, and a proper quantity of arms, ammunition and camp equipage.

No State shall engage in any war without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, unless such State be actually invaded by enemies...

Article VIII. All charges of war, and all other expenses that shall be incurred for the common defense or general welfare, and allowed by the United States in Congress assembled, shall be defrayed out of a common treasury, which shall be supplied by the several States in proportion to the value of all land within each State, granted or surveyed for any person, as such land and the buildings and improvements thereon shall be estimated according to such mode as the United States in Congress assembled, shall from time to time direct and appoint.

The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the several States within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled.

Article IX. The United States in Congress assembled, shall have the sole and exclusive right and power of determining on peace and war, except in the cases mentioned in the sixth article -- of sending and receiving ambassadors -- entering into treaties and alliances...

The United States in Congress assembled shall have authority to...ascertain the necessary sums of money to be raised for the service of the United States, and to appropriate and apply the same for defraying the public expenses -- to borrow money, or emit bills on the credit of the United States, transmitting every half-year to the respective States an account of the sums of money so borrowed or emitted -- to build and equip a navy -- to agree upon the number of land forces, and to make requisitions from each State for its quota, in proportion to the number of white inhabitants in such State; which requisition shall be binding, and thereupon the legislature of each State shall appoint the regimental officers, raise the men and cloath, arm and equip them in a solid-like manner, at the expense of the United States...

The United States in Congress assembled shall never engage in a war, nor grant letters of marque or reprisal in time of peace, nor enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money, nor regulate the value thereof, nor ascertain the sums and expenses necessary for the defense and welfare of the United States, or any of them, nor emit bills, nor borrow money on the credit of the United States, nor appropriate money, nor agree upon the number of vessels of war, to be built or purchased, or the number of land or sea forces to be raised, nor appoint a commander in chief of the army or navy, unless nine States assent to the same: nor shall a question on any other point, except for adjourning from day to day be determined, unless by the votes of the majority of the United States in Congress assembled...

Article XIII. Every State shall abide by the determination of the United States in Congress assembled, on all questions which by this confederation are submitted to them. And the Articles of this Confederation shall be inviolably observed by every State, and the Union shall be perpetual; nor shall any alteration at any time hereafter be made in any of them; unless such alteration be agreed to in a Congress of the United States, and be afterwards confirmed by the legislatures of every State...

Activity 2: The Problems with the Articles of Confederation

Student Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read the Articles of Confederation (assigned for Activity 2) and answer the following questions.

| Question | Answer |
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| <p>What is the role of the state governments under the Articles of Confederation?</p> | |
| <p>What specific things can the state governments NOT do, according to the Articles of Confederation?</p> | |
| <p>What are the responsibilities of Congress under the Articles of Confederation?</p> | |

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| <p>What are the specific powers of Congress?</p> | |
| <p>How are delegates selected for Congress?</p> | |
| <p>What is the process for voting on resolutions in Congress?</p> | |
| <p>What is the procedure by which Congress was to raise funds?</p> | |

Activity 2: The Problems with the Articles of Confederation

Teacher Directions: Print the following “State Delegate” cards, State ID placards, and list of possible resolutions to be introduced during the activity. Make sure that you have one State Delegate card for each student.

List of Possible Resolutions

Resolution #1: A requisition to raise \$1,000,000 in revenue from the states to pay foreign debts owed to France and Great Britain from the Revolutionary War. Each state will pay its proportion based on annual state wealth.

If the resolution passes: Rhode Island, New Jersey, Connecticut and Delaware claim that they are unable to pay the tax; Great Britain refuses to pull its soldiers from Western American territory as promised in 1783.

If the resolution fails: Great Britain issues a proclamation that it will not remove its soldiers from Western American territory until the debts are paid back in full; France sends a secret diplomatic dispatch warning Congress that unless some payment on debts is made, the peace between the U.S. and France might become endangered.

Resolution #2: A requisition to raise \$500,000 in revenue from the states to pay soldiers’ pensions and back-pay still owed from the Revolutionary War. Each state will pay its proportion based on population.

If the resolution passes: Rhode Island, New Jersey, South Carolina and Georgia claim that they are unable to pay the tax, and the other states are forced to pay more than their share in order to prevent a revolt by the Army.

If the resolution fails: The Army officers plan a revolt to march on Philadelphia and demand pay from Congress at bayonet point. The plot is only halted because of the immense respect the soldiers have for George Washington, who persuades them to give up the plot.

Resolution #3: A requisition to raise \$750,000 in revenue from the states to pay for supplies to the army and to build three new U.S. naval ships. Each state will pay its proportion based on land value.

If the resolution passes: Rhode Island, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia claim that they are unable to pay the tax. The army and navy remain pitifully undersupplied, as Great Britain waits for an opportune moment to sweep down from Canada and the Western territories. Spain takes advantage of America’s military and naval weakness by closing the Mississippi to navigation by American ships.

If the resolution fails: The army and navy remain pitifully undersupplied, as Great Britain waits for an opportune moment to sweep down from Canada and the Western territories. Spain takes

advantage of America's military and naval weakness by closing the Mississippi to navigation by American ships.

Resolution #4: A bill to levy an import tax on certain farm goods to pay for construction of a road connecting Pennsylvania and Virginia. The road is meant to make trade and commerce easier between Northern and Southern states. For every \$100 of cattle, rice, indigo and grain imported into any state (whether from another state or a foreign country), a \$5 tax will be collected.

If the resolution passes: Rhode Island, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia refuse to pay the tax because the road will not be in their states. But the road is built anyway after the other states pay more than their fair share. As a result, commerce and trade is much easier between the Northern and Southern states.

If the resolution fails: Land commerce and trade remain difficult between the Northern and Southern states. It is also difficult to move soldiers from the North to the South to protect citizens against a recent rash of Indian attacks in the Southern territories.

Resolution #5: A bill to levy an export tax on tobacco to fund the building of four new U.S. military posts in the Western territories. For every \$100 of tobacco exported from any state, a \$5 tax will be collected.

If the resolution passes: Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware and New Jersey are unable to pay the tax, and the Western borders of the U.S. remain undefended against British soldiers and Spanish naval vessels on the Mississippi River.

If the resolution fails: Convinced that the U.S. is incapable of defending itself, Great Britain continues to increase troop levels in the Western territories, possibly planning to recapture valuable areas of land.

Resolution #6: A bill to levy a tax on imported manufactured iron works to protect local iron works manufacturers. For every \$100 of manufactured iron works imported into any state from a foreign country, a \$10 tax will be collected.

If the resolution passes: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia protest strongly against the import tax because they rely heavily on imported manufactured iron works, especially for farm tools. This import tax means the southern states will have to buy more manufactured goods imported from the northern states at higher prices. South Carolina even hints that they will not pay the tax.

If the resolution fails: Manufacturers in the North lose a large share of the iron works market to foreign competition; as a result, foreign manufacturers raise their prices, and Southern states (which rely heavily on imported manufactured goods) pay more for manufactured goods needed to manage their farms and plantations.

Resolution #7: A bill meant to encourage Southern states to reduce their reliance on slave labor. This bill would levy a tax on all farm goods produced by slave labor. For every \$100 of tobacco, rice or indigo produced by slave labor and exported from any state, a \$20 tax will be collected.

If the resolution passes: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia protest very strongly and threaten to leave the Union immediately unless the resolution is repealed.

If the resolution fails: New York and Massachusetts state legislatures immediately pass laws banning the importation of goods from Southern states produced by slave labor, but otherwise slavery continues to thrive in the South.

Resolution #8: A bill to place limits on the importation of farm foods (including cattle and grain) into New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey to protect local farmers. New York can only import \$75,000 worth of cattle and grain from another state; Pennsylvania can only import \$100,000 worth of cattle and grain from another state; and New Jersey can only import \$25,000 worth of cattle and grain from another state.

If the resolution passes: Maryland, Delaware, and Massachusetts protest very strongly, and threaten to pass their own state laws banning the importation of manufactured iron works goods from NY, PA and NJ.

If the resolution fails: Farmers in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey continue to have difficulty selling their farm goods for a profit, and threaten to revolt and march on New York and Philadelphia.

Resolution #9: A bill to levy a tax on exported rice to raise money for military outposts along the Canadian border. For every \$100 of rice exported from any state, a tax of \$3 will be collected.

If the resolution passes: North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia strongly protest, and threaten to ignore the tax.

If the resolution fails: Great Britain continues to increase troop levels along the Canadian border, possibly waiting for the opportune moment to sweep southward into the United States.

Resolution #10: A treaty with Great Britain to share the waters off the New England coast for fishing and whaling between Americans and Canadians. The treaty will also allow Canadian furs and timber to be imported into the U.S. tax-free, but all furs and timber exported from one state and imported into another will be taxed \$1 for every \$100 exported. In exchange, Great Britain will dismantle four military outposts along the border with Massachusetts' northern territory of Maine.

If the resolution passes: New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Massachusetts take serious losses both to their fishing/whaling industry and in the fur and timber trade. To recover losses, these states are forced to levy a tax on exported manufactured iron works, which raises prices that other states pay for these goods as well.

If the resolution fails: Great Britain claims that American fur traders and lumberjacks have been sneaking across the border and taking furs and timber from Canadian soil; they also claim that American fisherman and whalers have stopped and captured several Canadian fishing boats. Great Britain demands that Congress reconsider the treaty, or they might be forced to resort to arms for redress.

Connecticut

Massachusetts

New Hampshire

Rhode Island

New York

New Jersey

Pennsylvania

Delaware

Georgia

South Carolina

Maryland

North Carolina

Virginia

State Delegate Cards

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Area: 10,000 sq. miles (9th)
Population: 141,885 (10th)
Economy: Mainly commercial:
Shipbuilding, Naval Stores, Lumber and
Timber, Fishing, Furs (Backcountry)
Annual State Wealth: \$675,000.00
Land Value: \$1,000,000
Import/Export ratio: 3:10

MASSACHUSETTS

Area: 10,000 sq miles and part of Maine
(8th)
Population: 378,787 (4th)
Economy: Mainly manufacturing and
commercial: Iron works, shipbuilding, trade
and shipping, rum distilling, fishing,
farming, furs (backcountry)
Other: Boston-population over 10,000
Annual State Wealth: \$4,500,000.00
Land Value: \$1,000,000
Import/Export ratio: 1:10

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| <p style="text-align: center;">NEW YORK</p> <p>Area: 54,500 sq. miles (3rd) Population: 340,120 (5th) Economy: Mainly manufacturing and commercial: Iron works, shipping and trade, shipbuilding, Cattle and grain farming, furs (upstate) Other: New York City-population over 10,000 Annual State Wealth: \$3,900,000.00 Land Value: \$5,500,000 Import/Export ratio: 1:10</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">NEW JERSEY</p> <p>Area: 9,000 sq. miles (10th) Population: 184,139 (9th) Demographics: Predominantly English Economy: Manufacturing, commercial and farming: Iron works, shipping and trade, shipbuilding, Cattle and grain farming Annual State Wealth: \$715,000.00 Land Value: \$900,000 Import/Export ratio: 3:10</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">NORTH CAROLINA</p> <p>Area: 54,000 sq. miles (4th) Population: 393,791 (3rd) Economy: Mainly farming: Tidewater: Mostly tobacco, some rice and indigo and naval stores. Piedmont: Cattle and grain farming, lumber Other: Heavily reliant on slave labor Annual State Wealth: \$875,000.00 Land Value: \$5,500,000 Import/Export ratio: 8:10</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">VIRGINIA</p> <p>Area: 67,000 sq. miles (1st) Population: 691,737 (1st) Economy: Mainly farming: Tobacco, Cattle and grain (Piedmont) Other: Heavily reliant on slave labor Annual State Wealth: \$2,355,000.00 Land Value: \$6,500,000 Import/Export ratio: 6:10</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">SOUTH CAROLINA</p> <p>Area: 35,000 sq. miles (6th) Population: 249,073 (7th) Economy: Mainly farming: Tidewater: Rice and indigo, naval stores; Piedmont: Cattle and grain; Charleston: shipping and trade Other: Charleston-population over 10,000 Other: Heavily reliant on slave labor Annual State Wealth: \$445,000.00 Land Value: \$3,500,000 Import/Export ratio: 10:10</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">GEORGIA</p> <p>Area: 59,500 sq. miles (2nd) Population: 82,528 (11th) Economy: Mainly farming: Tidewater-Rice and indigo, naval stores; Savannah-shipping and trade Other: Heavily reliant on slave labor Annual State Wealth: \$395,000.00 Land Value: \$6,000,000 Import/Export ratio: 10:10</p> |

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| <p style="text-align: center;">MARYLAND</p> <p>Area: 12,500 sq. miles (7th) Population: 319,728 (6th) Economy: Manufacturing and farming: Iron works, Cattle and grain, tobacco Other: Somewhat reliant on slave labor Annual State Wealth: \$375,000.00 Land Value: \$1,250,000 Import/Export ratio: 6:10</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">DELAWARE</p> <p>Area: 2,500 sq. miles (12th) Population: 59,096 (13th) Economy: Mainly farming: Tobacco, Cattle and grain Other: Somewhat reliant on slave labor Annual State Wealth: \$175,000.00 Land Value: \$350,000 Import/Export ratio: 7:10</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">RHODE ISLAND</p> <p>Area: 1,000 sq. miles (13th) Population: 68,825 (12th) Economy: Mainly manufacturing and commercial: Iron works, shipbuilding, rum distilling, whaling Annual State Wealth: \$165,000.00 Land Value: \$250,000 Import/Export ratio: 3:10</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">CONNECTICUT</p> <p>Area: 5,500 sq. miles (11th) Population: 237,946 (8th) Economy: Mainly farming: Some iron works, Cattle and grain farming Annual State Wealth: \$425,000.00 Land Value: \$500,000 Import/Export ratio: 5:10</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">PENNSYLVANIA</p> <p>Area: 46,000 sq. miles (5th) Population: 434,373 (2nd) Economy: Manufacturing, commercial and farming: Iron works, cattle and grain, mills, timber, furs (backcountry) Other: Philadelphia-population over 10,000 Annual State Wealth: \$6,175,000.00 Land Value: \$4,500,000 Import/Export ratio: 2:10</p> | |