



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Course: US History/Ms. Brown****Homeroom:**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade US History  
Standard # – Do Now – Day #68

**Aims:** SWBAT identify and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation**DO NOW**

**Directions:** Answer the following questions in complete and historically accurate sentences. You must attempt each question, there should be absolutely no blank spaces. Be sure to provide examples and evidence to support your answers. Also be sure to cross off the question stems!

1. What were the Articles of Confederation?

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2. What powers did Congress have under the Articles of Confederation?

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3. What limitations did Congress have under the Articles of Confederation?

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4. What did the Federalists believe in? What did the Anti-Federalists believe in?

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## Daily Debrief

Dear Scholars,

Even before the American Revolution was over, the states began quarrelling among themselves. Many of their quarrels were about taxes on goods that crossed state borders. New York for example, taxed firewood from Connecticut and cabbages from New Jersey. The states also disagreed over boundaries. The inability of Congress to end such disagreements was one of the key weaknesses of the **Articles of Confederation**<sup>1</sup>. Let's read more about some of the disagreements that the new nation had to contend with.

### Developing Western Lands

Congress did get the states to agree on one important issue: how to develop the western lands acquired in the Treaty of Paris. At that time, there was no orderly way to divide up and sell these lands. Settlers walked into the wilderness and claimed the land that they liked. Disputes over who owned what clogged the courts.

To end this confusion, Congress passed the Land Ordinance of 1785. Under this law western lands were divided into six-mile squares called townships. Each township was then divided into 36 sections of 640 acres each. One section of each township was set aside to support the township's public schools. The other sections were to be sold to settlers.

Surveyors proceeded to lay out townships in the Ohio Valley, then known as the **Northwest Territory**<sup>2</sup>. By 1787, the government was ready to sell sections to settlers. This raised the question of how these areas should be governed. Were they to be US colonies or new states?



The Land Ordinance of 1785 organized the Northwest Territory into townships. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 set rules for how western lands would be governed. Within half-century of its passage, enough people had settled in the Northwest Territory to create 5 new states.

<sup>1</sup> Articles of Confederation: the first written plan of government for the United States. A confederation is an association of states that cooperate for a common purpose

<sup>2</sup> Northwest Territory: a region of the United States bounded by the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and the Great Lakes. The region was given to the United States by the Treaty of Paris in 1783.



**The Northwest Ordinance** Congress answered this question in the **Northwest Ordinance<sup>3</sup>** of 1787. This law divided the Northwest Territory into small territories, each governed by a territorial governor. As soon as a territory had 5,000 free adult males, it could elect its own legislature, or lawmaking body. When the population reached 60,000, a territory could apply to Congress to become a state.

The Northwest Ordinance included a list of rights that gave settlers the same privileges as other citizens, except for one. Slavery was banned in the Northwest Territory.

This system of settlement served the nation well. Over time, the United States would continue to establish territories as it spread to the shores of the Pacific Ocean and beyond.

1. What issue did the Land Ordinance of 1785 address?

2. Complete this list of rules for the Northwest Territory.

**Rules Set by the Northwest Ordinance**

- When a territory has 5,000 free adult males, it can elect its own legislature.
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- Settlers have the same rights and privileges as other citizens.
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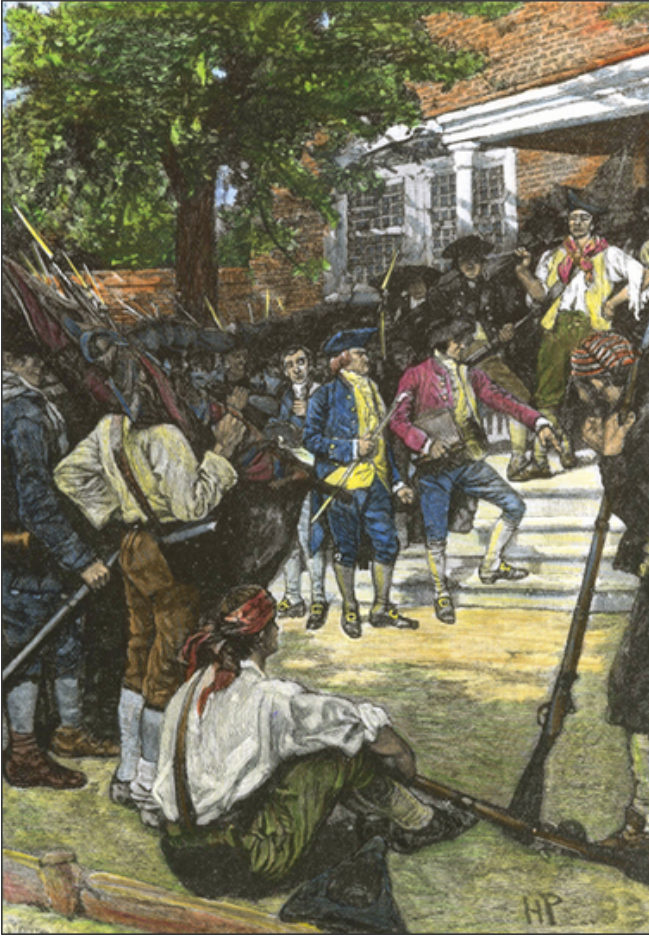
## II. Shay's Rebellion and the Need for Change

Under the Articles of Confederation, the new nation had serious money problems. The paper money printed by Congress during the war was worthless. Congress had the power to make coins that would not lose their value. But it lacked gold or silver to mint into coins.

The states reacted to the shortage by printing their own paper currency. Before long, bills of different sizes and colors were distributed from state to state. No one knew what any of these currencies were worth, but most agreed they were not worth much.

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<sup>3</sup> Northwest Ordinance: a law passed by Congress in 1787 that specified how western lands would be governed  
US History, Ms. Brown



Daniel Shays, at top right, and his followers closed down courthouses in Massachusetts to prevent judges from seizing farmers' land when the farmers could not pay their debts.

**Massachusetts Farmers Rebel** The money shortage was particularly hard on farmers who could not earn enough to pay their debts and taxes. In Massachusetts, judges ordered farmers to sell their land and livestock to pay off their debts. Led by Daniel Shays, a hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill, Massachusetts farmers rebelled.

In 1786, Shays and his followers closed down courthouses to keep judges from taking their farms. When they marched on the national arsenal at Springfield to seize weapons stored there. Having disbanded the Continental army, Congress was unable to stop them.

The Massachusetts government ended Shay's Rebellion in early 1787 by sending militia troops to Springfield to restore order. To many Americans, however, the uprising was a disturbing sign that the nation they fought so hard to create was falling apart. "No respect is paid to the federal [national] authority," James Madison wrote to a friend. "It is not possible that a government can last long under these circumstances."

**A Call for a Convention** Shay's Rebellion shocked Congress into calling for a convention to consider "the situation of the United States." Each state was invited to send delegates to Philadelphia in May 1787 "for the sole and

express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation."

### Causes of Shays's Rebellion

### Effects of Shays's Rebellion



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### Incident Report – Case Study # 1: Shay’s Rebellion

Summary of Important Events

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

How:



Sketch a picture, diagram, or visual metaphor to represent this situation

Explain

Analyze

What was the cause?	What was the effect?
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Whose interests were pitted against each other?

vs.

Evaluate

Generate

Was the national government able to solve the problem effectively? Why or why not?



How would you change the Articles to help the government respond?







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## Case Study #2 – Soldiers in the Time of Peace INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

\_\_\_\_\_/10 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

After their experience under the British government, Americans were especially suspicious of a standing army. They feared that a standing army could be a tool for imposing tyranny on the people.

Because of Congress's weak finances, the soldiers in the Continental Army were poorly treated. Food and clothing were often lacking, while the enlistment bonuses and wages that had been promised to soldiers were never fully paid. On several occasions during the war, entire regiments threatened to mutiny over back pay. George Washington and many of his officers spent large sums of their own money to equip themselves and their troops. In 1780, Congress promised to grant them a lifelong pension equaling half their regular pay once the war was over. Within two years, however, the promise was broken.

The problems did not end after the British surrendered at Yorktown in October 1781. The officers feared that, once the Continental Army was broken up and sent home, they would lose all influence, and Congress would never fulfill its promises. Some secretly joined forces and discussed a plan to threaten a military coup (takeover) as a way of pressuring the states to give Congress more power. When George Washington learned of the plot, he criticized his officers and ended it. Even after Congress announced on April 11, 1783 that the war was officially over, many soldiers refused to put down their weapons and return home until the issue of back pay was settled.

Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress lacked the authority to maintain a standing army in peacetime. America's entire military force, stationed mainly along the frontier, consisted of fewer than 700 soldiers.

Some officers from the Continental Army believed that they, not the politicians in Congress or the state legislatures, were best equipped to guide the young nation, and formed the Society of Cincinnati. The Massachusetts legislature viewed the Society as an effort to create a military aristocracy and strengthen national power. They criticized it as "dangerous to the peace, liberty, and safety of the United States."

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### Incident Report – Case Study # 2

Summary of Important Events

Who:

What:

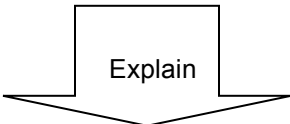
When:

Where:

How:



Sketch a picture, diagram, or visual metaphor to represent this situation

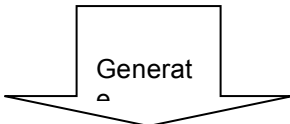
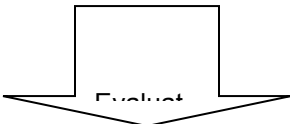


What was the cause?	What was the effect?
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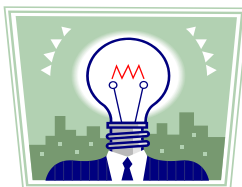


Whose interests were pitted against each other?

vs.



Was the national government able to solve the problem effectively? Why or why not?



How would you change the Articles to help the government respond?





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### Case Study #3 - Western Lands HOMEWORK

\_\_\_\_\_/10 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

Disagreement over what to do with the lands west of the Appalachian Mountains delayed adoption of the Articles of Confederation. In several cases, two states laid claim to the same land; the colonial charters by which they had originally been granted lands from the King of England were often worded in vague ways or in terms that contradicted each other. The states that had no claim to the western lands, such as Maryland and Delaware, argued that territories should be shared among all the states. This issue was settled by January 1781. All states with claims to western lands surrendered them to the national government, and Congress promised that the western lands would “be settled and formed into distinct republican states.”

Questions about how these territories would be settled also caused problems. Some settlers, called squatters, moved onto land without having legal ownership of it. Only after the squatters had labored to clear the land and make it suitable for farming would another person appear with evidence that they owned the land. In some cases, these people, called speculators, claimed to have purchased thousands of acres from Indian tribes. Squatters claimed in opposition that they were entitled to the land, because their labor had increased its value. Often the conflicting claims led to violence, forcing government troops to restore peace.

In 1785, Congress created a system for surveying and selling the western lands, so that ownership would be officially registered. Then, in July 1787, Congress approved the Northwest Ordinance, a plan for settling the western lands bounded by the Great Lakes, the Ohio River, and the Mississippi River. It included these terms:

- As soon as 5,000 free male adults settled in a district, they could elect representatives to represent their county in the territory’s general assembly.
- When the population of the territory reached 60,000, it would be admitted by Congress into the Union on equal footing with the original states, and could adopt a state constitution based on republican principles

Guarantees of religious freedom and trial by jury, and outlawing of slavery



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### Incident Report – Case Study # 3

Summary of Important Events

Who:

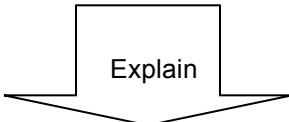
What:

When:

Where:

How:

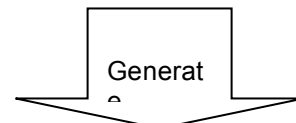
Sketch a picture, diagram, or visual metaphor to represent this situation



What was the cause?	What was the effect?
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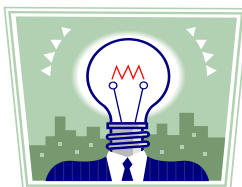
Whose interests were pitted against each other?

vs.



Was the national government able to solve the problem effectively? Why or why not?

How would you change the Articles to help the government respond?





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**Articles of Confederation Analysis  
EXIT TICKET**

\_\_\_\_\_/5 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

1. The first plan of government in the United States of America was the
  - a. Declaration of Independence
  - b. Articles of Confederation
  - c. Proclamation of 1763
  - d. Constitution
  
2. One limitation of the Articles of Confederation was that it did not allow the national government to
  - a. Raise an army or a navy
  - b. Print money
  - c. Make war and peace
  - d. Impose taxes
  
3. The Northwest Ordinance settled a debate over
  - a. Slavery
  - b. Taxes
  - c. Land
  - d. War
  
4. Shay's Rebellion was an example of
  - a. The national government not having enough power in the Articles of Confederation
  - b. The decreasing patriotism in the Americans
  - c. The ability of the United States to raise an army and wage war
  - d. The need to impose taxes

Include at least 2 bullets each

<i><b>Strengths</b></i>	<i><b>Weaknesses</b></i>