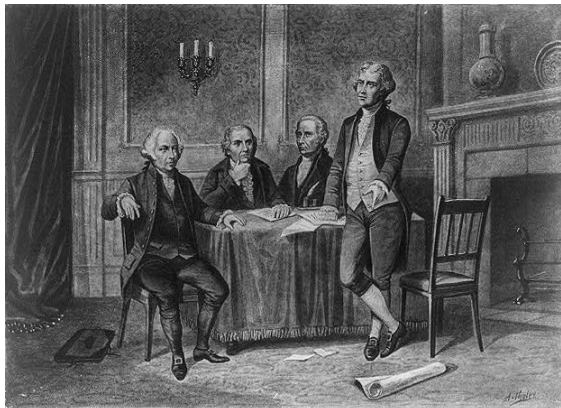


The Articles of Confederation

Our New Nation's First Constitution



The Articles of Confederation

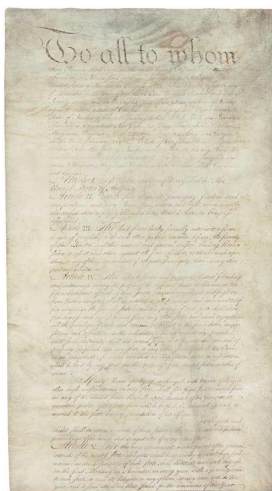
When the Second Continental Congress appointed a committee to write a Declaration of Independence in 1776, they knew that once they were independent

The new nation would need to design and install their own government, a constitution that would create a union of all the states.

constitution:

usually written down in a document that describes this system

The United States' first attempt at a constitution was called



*We have it in our power to begin the world over again.
A situation, similar to the present, hath not happened since the days of Noah until now.
The birthday of a new world is at hand.
~ Thomas Paine, February, 1776*

The Articles of Confederation: What it Said



Included:

a _____ branch
(to make laws)

_____ legislature
(one house)

each state had _____ vote

Had the power to:

borrow _____

establish _____

manage _____
affairs



Did NOT include:

an _____ branch
(to enforce the laws)

a _____ branch
(to interpret the laws)

Did NOT have the power to:

regulate _____
(some states taxed goods from other states!)

create a

_____ currency
(each state had a different currency!)

_____ the states or people directly
(no \$\$ to run the gov't!)

Why were the Articles of Confederation so weak?



What we didn't like about the British...

Taxation without representation

Large central government (monarchy)
had all the power

States always had to listen to the king

All power was in the King's hands - he
could change the rules/laws at any time

So the Articles of Confederation said...

Federal government _____

States didn't have to follow _____
laws and treaties.

States had their own laws and didn't have
to follow any other states' laws

There was no _____ branch or
national court system.

Any change (_____) in the
laws required approval from all 13 states

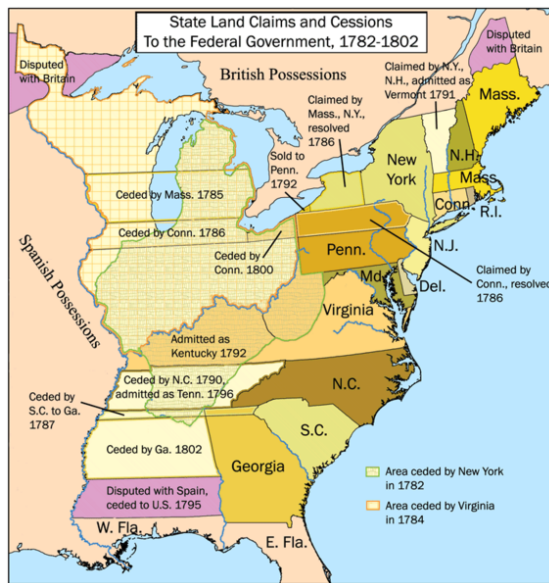
Ratification of the Articles of Confederation

The Articles required _____ ratification by the states.

Virginia was the first state to ratify the Articles on December 16, 1777, followed by nine others.

Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey refused to ratify the Articles until all the states gave up their _____.

New Jersey and Delaware eventually agreed to ratify the Articles, leaving Maryland as the last remaining holdout.



Only after Virginia agreed to give up its western land claims did Maryland agree to ratify the Articles.

The Articles of Confederation became the official constitution of the United States on March 1, 1781.

The Land Ordinance of 1785

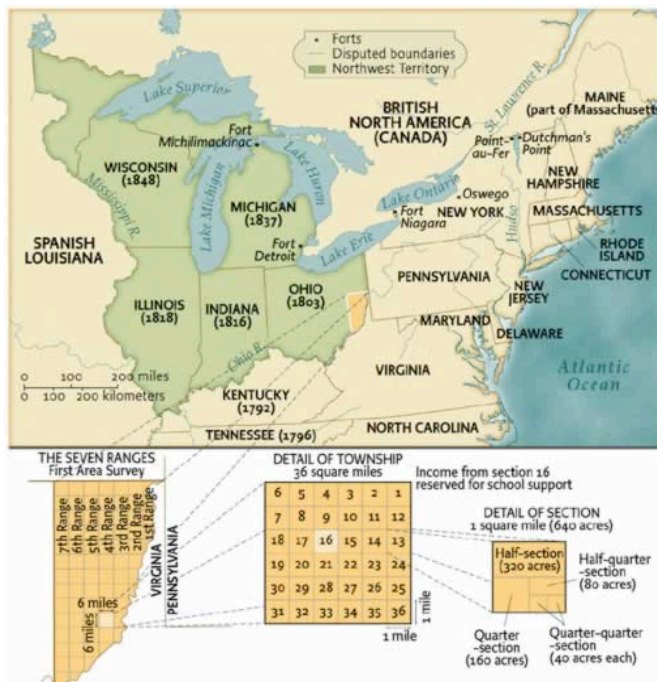
created by the government operating under the Articles of Confederation

provided _____

land would be _____

each parcel was _____ one mi square sections (640 acres)

land sold for \$ _____ /acre



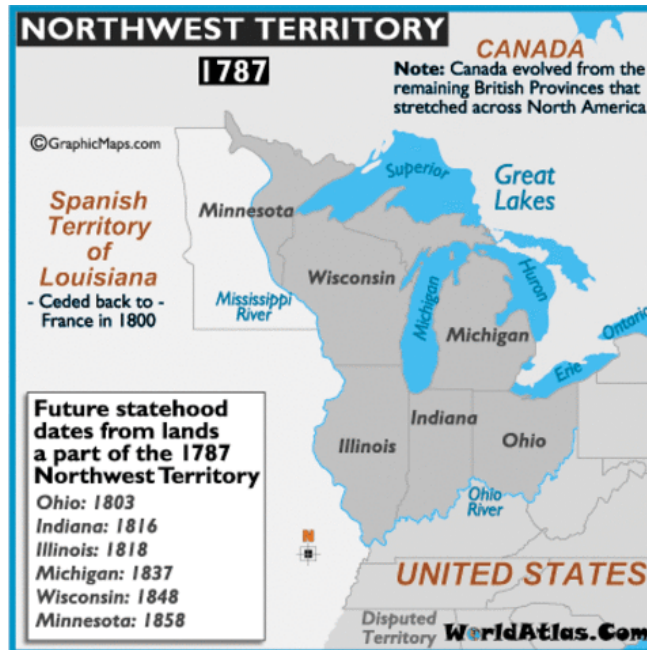
The Northwest Ordinance of 1787

also created by the government operating under the Articles of Confederation

land in the Northwest Territory would be _____

could set up a territorial gov't (elected legislature) once

once pop reached _____, could apply for statehood



Shays' Rebellion

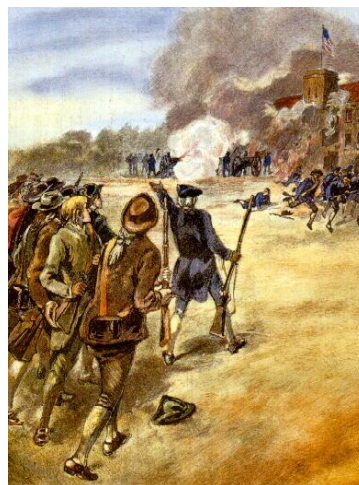
farmers in _____, unable to pay their _____, lost their property or were jailed

in late 1786 - early 1787, local militias closed courts, stopped land _____



highlighted a _____ of the AOC: the national government had to ask states to put down rebellions - could not force them to!

only stopped by militia _____



The Philadelphia/Constitutional Convention

George Washington held a meeting at _____
(his home) to discuss fishing rights

while they were chatting, many of the attendees of this meeting _____
_____ and suggested changing it

a meeting to discuss changing the
AOC was held in _____,
Maryland in 1786, but only _____
states sent delegates

_____ delegates from 12 of the 13
states met in _____ in
May of 1787.
(Rhode Island didn't show up)



Their goal was only to _____ (change) the AOC, not to start over
(which is what they wound up doing!)

The results were our _____!

The Preamble to the US Constitution



We the people of the United States,
in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice,
insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense,
promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty
to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this
Constitution for the United States of America.