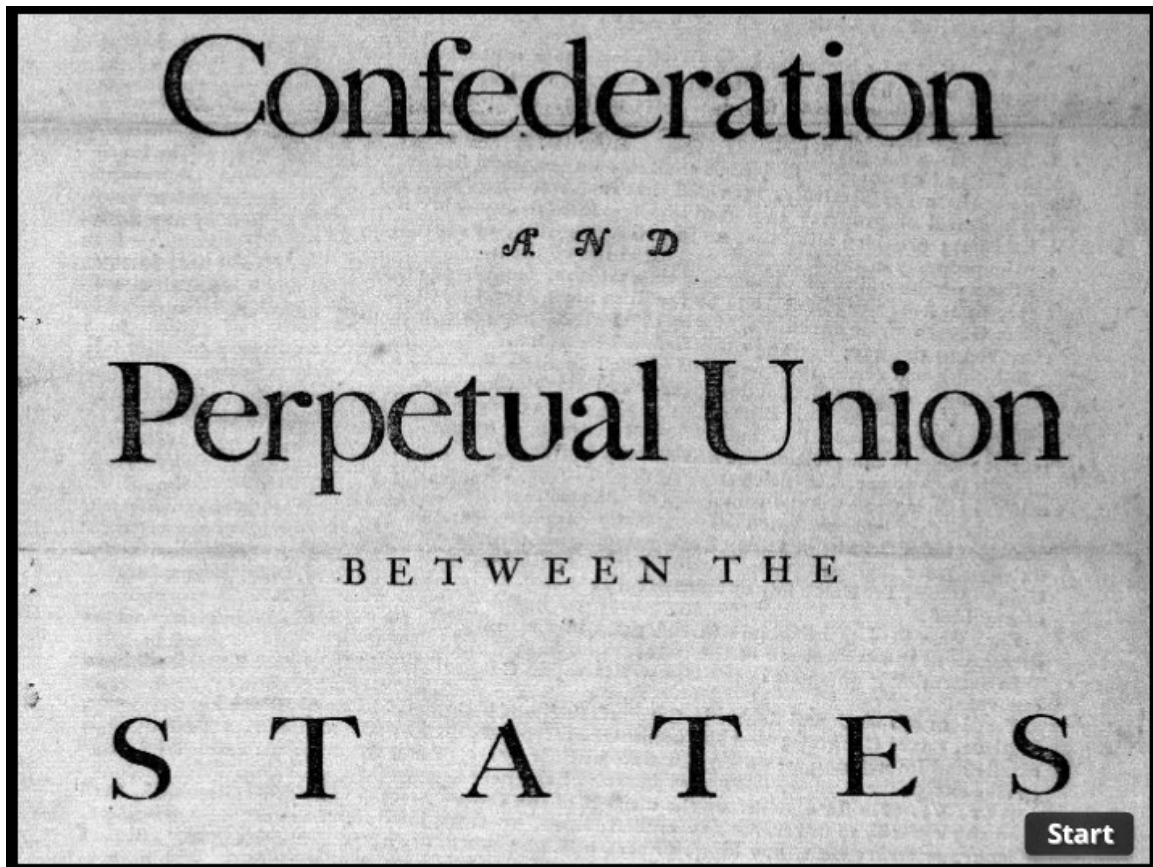


Module 3: Building a Government - The 1780s
Topic 1 Content: The Articles of Confederation Notes

Introduction



As the states were developing individual constitutions, the Continental Congress met at Independence Hall in Philadelphia to draft a constitution for all of the states. Click **START** to explore America's first attempt at developing a central government with the creation of the Articles of Confederation.

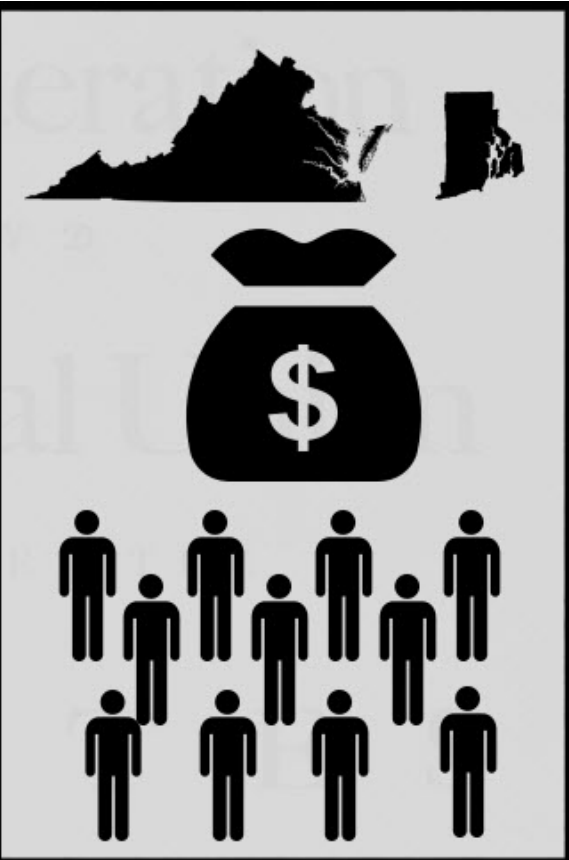
Module 3: Building a Government - The 1780s

Topic 1 Content: The Articles of Confederation Notes

Representation

Representation

- Even though all states varied in size, population, and wealth, they were viewed as political equals.
- The Continental Congress decided that each state was represented by one vote.



The Continental Congress debated how states would be represented in national government. States were viewed as equals in a political sense, but they were unequal in size, wealth, and population. At the time, the Continental Congress made the decision to allow each state to be represented by one vote.

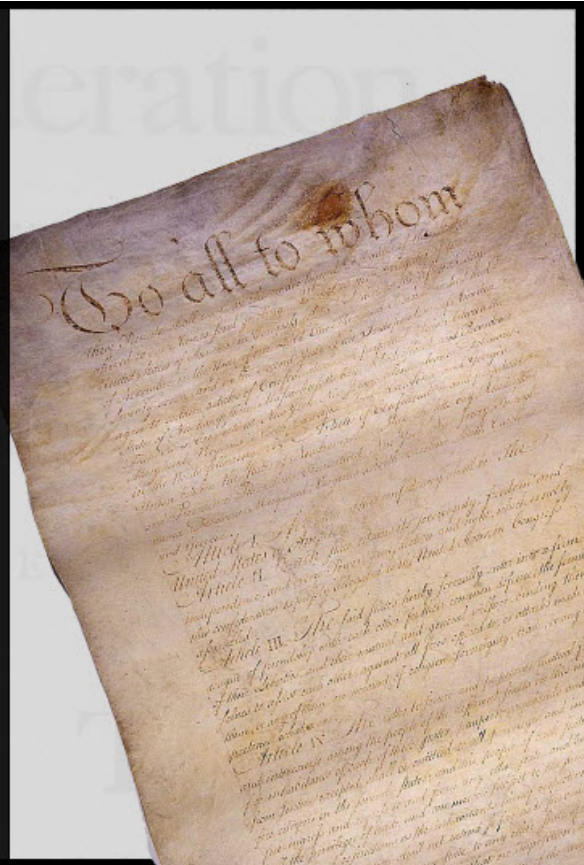
Module 3: Building a Government - The 1780s

Topic 1 Content: The Articles of Confederation Notes

Power of Government

Power of Government

- The people were not in favor of the national government having supreme power.
- Under the Articles of Confederation, the powers of the government were shared between two levels.
- The new type of government was called a confederation, meaning alliance.



Congress also had to deal with the issue regarding the power of the individual states. The idea of the national government being a supreme power was unfavorable to the people. Congress established the Articles of Confederation to distribute the powers of the national government. In the Articles of Confederation, state governments were responsible for some issues and the national government was responsible for other issues. This new type of government was called a confederation, meaning alliance.

Module 3: Building a Government - The 1780s

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Power of Government



The screenshot shows a digital learning interface. On the left, a dark grey sidebar contains the title 'Power of Government' in large green font. Below the title is a list of seven powers, each preceded by a green checkmark icon: 'Declare war', 'Make peace', 'Sign treaties', 'Borrow money', 'Print money', 'Develop a postal service', and 'Oversee relations with Native Americans'. To the right of the sidebar is a light grey main area. At the top of this area, the word 'Confederation' is faintly visible. In the center, a black rectangular box contains the text: 'Click each of the boxes to learn about the powers that were granted to Congress by the Articles of Confederation.' Below this box, the words 'UNIT 1' and 'TEST' are faintly visible in the background.

The new government was given many powers but it lacked the ability to enforce and interpret the laws created by the Congress. Click each of the boxes to learn about the powers that were granted to Congress by the Articles of Confederation.

Module 3: Building a Government - The 1780s

Topic 1 Content: The Articles of Confederation Notes

Ratification



The screenshot shows a presentation slide with a dark background. At the top left, the word "Ratification" is written in a large, light green font. In the top right corner, there is a small grey button with the word "Exit" in white. Below the title is a table with a light green background and a white border. The table has three columns: "Order of Ratification", "State", and "Date". The rows are numbered 1 through 13. The first row (1) is Virginia, December 16, 1777. The second row (2) is South Carolina, February 5, 1778. The third row (3) is New York, February 6, 1778. The fourth row (4) is Rhode Island, February 9, 1778. The fifth row (5) is Connecticut, February 12, 1778. The sixth row (6) is Georgia, February 26, 1778. The seventh row (7) is New Hampshire, March 4, 1778. The eighth row (8) is Pennsylvania, March 5, 1778. The ninth row (9) is Massachusetts, March 10, 1778. The tenth row (10) is North Carolina, April 5, 1778. The eleventh row (11) is New Jersey, November 19, 1778. The twelfth row (12) is Delaware, February 1, 1779. The thirteenth row (13) is Maryland, February 2, 1781. Below the table, there is a paragraph of text in white font.

Order of Ratification	State	Date
1	Virginia	December 16, 1777
2	South Carolina	February 5, 1778
3	New York	February 6, 1778
4	Rhode Island	February 9, 1778
5	Connecticut	February 12, 1778
6	Georgia	February 26, 1778
7	New Hampshire	March 4, 1778
8	Pennsylvania	March 5, 1778
9	Massachusetts	March 10, 1778
10	North Carolina	April 5, 1778
11	New Jersey	November 19, 1778
12	Delaware	February 1, 1779
13	Maryland	February 2, 1781

Slowly the Articles of Confederation was ratified by each state, beginning in 1777 and ending in 1781.

For the Articles to take effect, all states needed to ratify the document. Ratification started with Virginia in December of 1777. After Virginia, South Carolina, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Georgia, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, and Delaware all ratified the Articles. Maryland, however, continued to withhold its approval.

Maryland refused to ratify the Articles of Confederation until the lands west of the Appalachian Mountains were controlled by the central government. Maryland feared that each state with land claims west of the Appalachian Mountains would expand and gain too much power. It was not until late January 1781, that each state agreed to relinquish its western land claims to the national government. Maryland ratified the Articles of Confederation and the document officially took effect on March 1, 1781.