

Topic/Objective:

"The Critical Period" (1776-1789)

Name:

Class/Period:

Date:

Essential Question(s):

1. Explain how the Articles of Confederation was structured and why it ultimately failed?
2. How were conflicts between the states resolved at the Constitutional Convention? Explain with examples.
3. What were the major arguments for and against the Constitution during the ratification debates?

Organize your notes (headings, questions, big ideas, key words)

Notes:

What does the Declaration of Independence tell us about what government SHOULD look like?

How much power should govt. have over individual citizens?

Enough to protect their unalienable rights (life, liberty & pursuit of happiness)

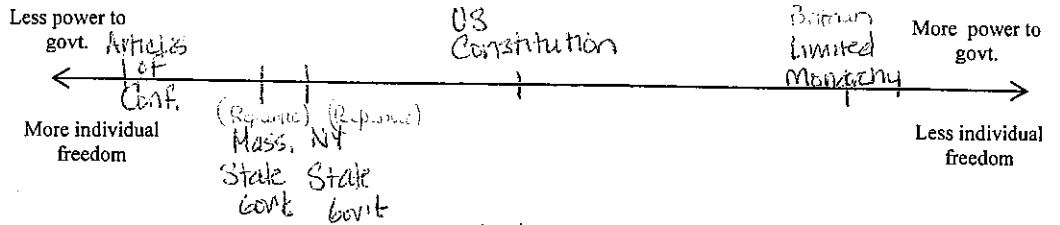
What type of govt. should be created? How should power be distributed?

?? (DofI does NOT answer this)

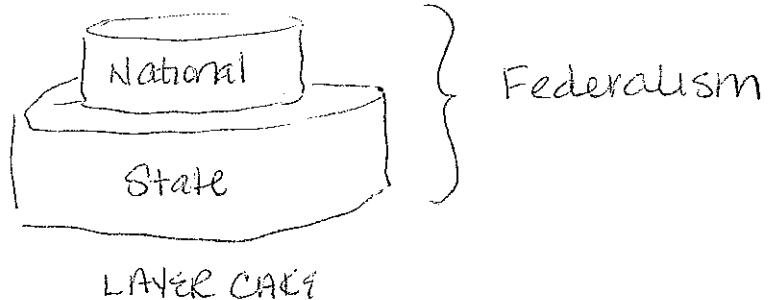
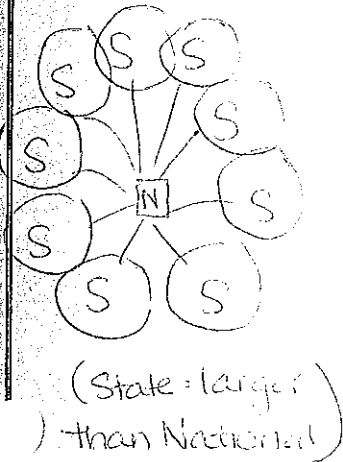
Who should be able to participate in government?

"the people"

The Articles of Confederation: America's first National Govt :



- Confederation: A group of states that join together to form a political unit (the national government) for certain purposes (like common defense) but keep most of their independence.



Involving up: ...
 Next Time: Made a weak govt

The Articles of Confederation v. the Constitution

How is power distributed between the AofC and Constitution?

Topic	Articles of Confederation (1776-1789)	Constitution (1789 - present)
Power to Tax	Individual States (Govt was Bankrupt)	Individual States AND National Govt
Power to Raise Army/Navy	Individual States (No Natl Military)	National Govt
Power to Coin Money	Individual States (13 different currency)	National Govt
Power to Regulate Trade	Individual States	National Govt
Legislative Branch and its powers	Unicameral - one vote per state	Bicameral: benefits lg states & sm. states
Executive Branch and its powers	None!	President - head of military & enforces laws
Judicial Branch and its powers	None!	Supreme Ct - interprets laws
National power	Very Weak	MUCH STRONGER!!

What is the primary difference between AofC & Constitution?

Why Did the Natl Govt have so little power?

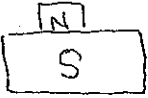
- A belief that natural rights are ~~best~~ best protected by NOT giving the govt power!
- Fear of creating another monarchy?

The Constitutional Convention

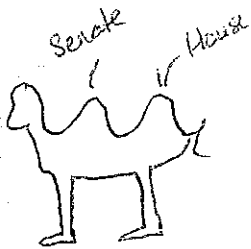
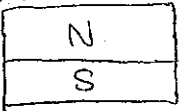
- Held in Philadelphia from May - September 1787
- Purpose: Delegates from 12 states met to discuss changes to the Articles of Confederation
- MANY differences of opinion!
- Representation ^{VA, NY, PA, MA RI, CT, DE}: Large states v. small states (population)
- Slavery: Free states v. slave states
- Chief Executive: What powers? Length of term? How elected?
- National Power: How much?

What issues or conflicts arose at the Convention?

AoFC



USC



- Issue #1: How will states be represented in the national government?
 - How much say does each state receive?
 - Equal votes or based on population?
 - What will the national Congress look like?
 - One house or two houses?
 - Who will elect the representatives to the national Congress?
 - People or the States?
 - Two Competing Plans
 - Virginia Plan (large state) 2 Houses
 - Bicameral legislature with # of votes in BOTH houses based on population
 - One house elected by people (Direct election)
 - One house elected by state legislature
 - New Jersey Plan (small state) 1 House (Indirect)
 - Unicameral legislature with EQUAL # of votes per states (one house)
 - One house elected by the state legislatures (people have no say)
 - This is how it was under the Articles of Confederation
 - The Great Compromise
 - Created a new legislative branch
 - Bicameral legislature ("Congress")
 - Senate (equal representation: two votes per state)
 - Elected by state legislatures
 - House of Representatives (based on population)
 - Elected by the people
 - A bill must BOTH houses before it has a change to become a law

- Issue #2: Should Slaves count toward population?
 - Two competing views:
 - Southern states: count them only for purposes of representation
 - Why? More population = more votes!
 - Northern states: count them only for purposes of taxation
 - Why? If South wants to get representatives out of slaves, they should have to pay tax on them!
 - Compromise: 3/5ths Compromise (only 60% of total slave population in a given state will count)
- Issue #3: Should slaves continue to be imported into the United States?
 - Two competing views:
 - Southern states: Yes!
 - Why? Increase southern population and power!
 - Northern states: No!
 - Why? Fear an increase in southern population and power!
 - Compromise: National government will allow slave trade to continue without limits until 1808, then it will be shut down
(20 years)

Ratification of the Constitution

- Most delegates at the Constitutional Convention believed in the need for a stronger national government but nationwide a great fear emerged that the Constitution gave the national government too much power
 - For the next two years, the nation engaged in the greatest political debate of all time: whether to approve or reject the Constitution.

Federalists: those in favor of the Constitution (supporters of a strong national govt.)	Anti-Federalists: those opposed to the Constitution (opponents of a strong national govt.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Constitution gives the national govt the power it needs to maintain law & order and protect natural rights - The Constitution has certain protections built in to limit Nat'l power - Bill of Rights is unnecessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Constitution threatens our natural rights because it gives the national govt too much power! - The Constitution lacks a Bill of Rights!

