

SS.7.C.1.5

Identify how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to the writing of the Constitution.

1781: Articles of Confederation = first Constitution for the USA

it was a "League of Friendship" between the states

Each state had one vote in the Confederation Congress

but it was difficult to get anything done

required nine of the 13 votes to pass any law

required all 13 to amend the articles (never happened)

Federal (national) Government was very weak

no power to levy taxes

no power to enforce laws

legislative branch only – no executive, no judicial

States could tax each other

Each state printed its own money

Shay's Rebellion demonstrated the problems

1787 - Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia

12 of the 13 states participated (Rhode Island did not)

Intended to suggest revisions to the Articles of Confederation

The delegates quickly decided to write a whole new

Constitution instead