**Articles of Confederation WebQuest**

**Directions:** Once the Americans kicked out the British and gained independence, there was more work to do. Now was the time to set up some laws for the 13 United States. In this WebQuest, you are going to learn about the first constitution of the United States, the **Articles of Confederation**. You are going to look at primary source documents and examine the successes and failures of the **Articles of Confederation**. Use the weblinks provided to answer the questions below.

**To answer 1-3:**  
<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=3>

1. What were The Articles of Confederation?
2. When were they adopted?
3. What conflicts caused the ratification (approval) of the Articles of Confederation to be delayed in Maryland?

**To answer 4-7:**  
<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3225>

1. Under the Articles of Confederation, which government had more power: the national government or the state government?
2. Why do you think the colonists had concerns about a strong central government?
3. What were the responsibilities of Congress under the Articles of Confederation?
4. What powers were denied Congress under the Articles of Confederation?

**To answer 8 & 9:**  
<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=8>

1. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 was one of the successes of the Articles of Confederation. What did it do?
2. What was forbidden in the Northwest states because of the Northwest Ordinance?

**To** **answer 10-14 watch the cartoon below:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5Hny0dKvAk>

1. Although the colonies are now free from the rule of England, who in America is still not free?
2. Why are many farmers from Massachusetts in debt after the war?
3. How has New York changed 3 years after the war?
4. What happened to slaves who were promised freedom if they fought with the British Army?
5. What is Daniel Shays’s plan to get the government to respect the farmers and to stop taking their land? What happens?

**To answer 15:**

<http://americanhistory.about.com/od/governmentandpolitics/f/articles_of_confederation_fails.htm>

1. Make a “T chart” showing the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.

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| --- | --- |
| Strengths | Weakness |
|  |  |