

Failures of the Articles of Confederation



Congress did not have the power to collect taxes.



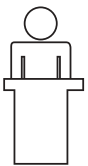
Congress did not have the power to regulate trade with other countries.



Congress could not force states to follow the Articles of Confederation.



9 out of 13 states needed to approve the passing of a new law.



The central government had no executive branch.



There was no national court system.

Sources on the Constitutional Convention



<https://teachingamericanhistory.org/resources/convention/christy/>

This painting shows men who attended the Constitutional Convention. The men came from all of the states except Rhode Island, which did not think there was anything wrong with the Articles of Confederation. At the meeting, men could stand up and explain their ideas about how to fix the Articles of Confederation. The meeting lasted for four months! One reason it lasted so long was because there were many different opinions about how the new government of the United States should be structured. For example, people argued about whether the new government should have an army.



<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution/how-did-it-happen>

In this painting, George Washington is standing up at the Constitutional Convention. George Washington was the president of the meeting and was in charge of making sure the meeting ran smoothly. He was chosen as the president of the Convention for two reasons. First, he had led the Continental Army to victory over Great Britain. Second, people trusted him because he had already held another meeting about problems with the Articles of Confederation.



https://vahistorical.wordpress.com/2015/02/24/fifty-shades-of-grey-at-the-vhs/sov_becsouth_vaconvention-1957-39/

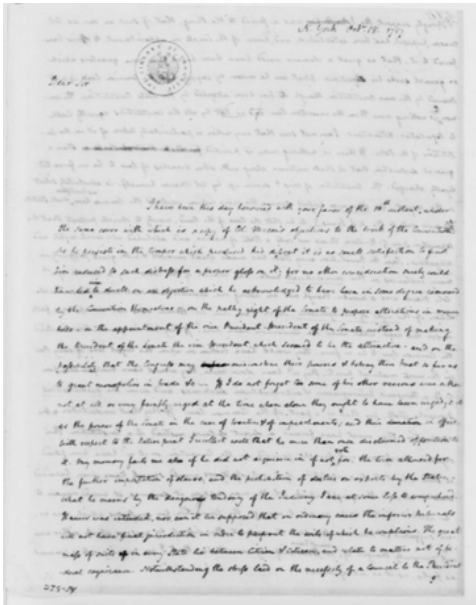
Take a look at this painting of people who attended the Constitutional Convention. There are only white men in the painting! This was because not all Americans were allowed to attend the meeting. For example, women did not have the right to participate in politics. As a result, they were not allowed to attend the meeting and help make decisions about the new government in the United States. In addition, there were two groups of African Americans in the country: slaves and free African Americans. Neither group had the same rights as white men. In fact, slaves had no rights at all. This means that only white men gave their opinions on how the new government should be formed.

Sources on the Constitutional Convention



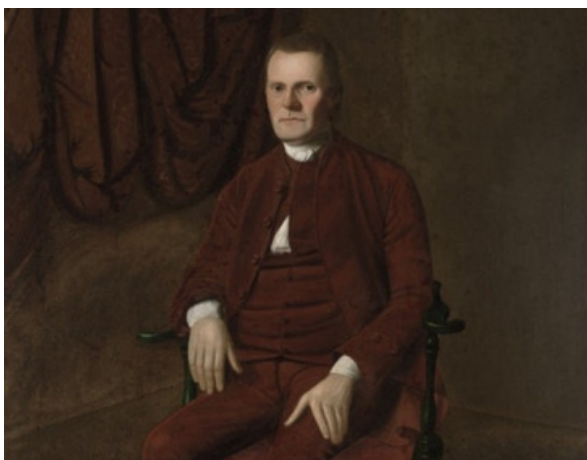
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Knox

This is a painting of Henry Knox. Knox was a general in the American army during the American Revolution. He did not attend the Constitutional Convention. However, he was very concerned about how the states would fix the government. For example, he was worried that a stronger central government would take power away from the states. Because he was worried, he decided to write a letter to George Washington right before the Constitutional Convention began. Knox wanted Washington to know that many Americans were worried that a strong central government might take power away from the states. A strong central government reminded people of when the British king controlled the colonies.



http://edu.lva.virginia.gov/online_classroom/shaping_the_constitution/doc/madison_letter

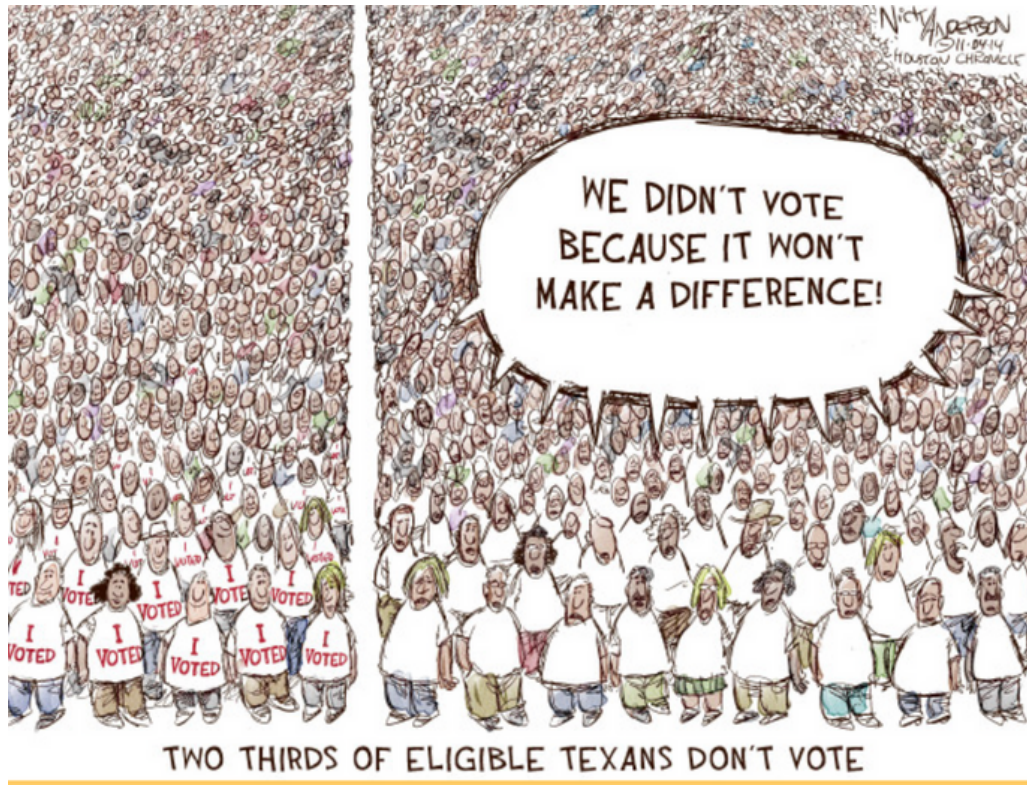
This is a letter that James Madison wrote to George Washington. Madison and Washington were both chosen by Virginia to represent their state at the Constitutional Convention. The other representatives at the Convention saw them as leaders who had great ideas about making a new government. For example, Madison said that a Bill of Rights should be added to the Constitution. The Bill of Rights explained that people had rights the government could not take away, such as freedom of speech.



<https://connecticuthistory.org/the-connecticut-compromise/>

This is a painting of Roger Sherman. Sherman was another delegate at the Constitutional Convention. Sherman was known for helping other delegates compromise on what to include in the new Constitution. A lot of times, delegates would argue about whether big states or small states should have power. For example, a big state was Virginia. This state was big because it had a lot of people and land. A small state was Connecticut. It didn't have as many people or as much land. Delegates argued about whether big and small states should have the same amount of power.

Examples of Political Cartoons



Mike Keefe THE DENVER POST 05/12/07



Steps to Make a Political Cartoon

Step 1: Read Requirements

You will create a 3-panel cartoon that makes a claim about the failures of the Articles of Confederation or the Constitutional Convention. Your cartoon must include the following:

- A claim about the failures of the Articles of Confederation or the Constitutional Convention.
- At least 5 people who are talking and 5 speech bubbles across the 3 panels.
- A specific tone. The tone could be funny, serious, or even sassy!
- A specific time period. The political cartoon could be occurring at the time of the Constitutional Convention or be occurring in the present.

Step 2: Make a Claim

You will make a claim about the Articles of Confederation or the Constitutional Convention. A claim is an argument that some people may agree or disagree with. Choose which topic you want to make a claim about:

- Why the Constitutional Convention happened.
- The people at the Constitutional Convention.
- The importance of the Constitutional Convention.
- Why the Articles of Confederation failed.

Next, look at the handouts your teacher gave you on the Articles of Confederation and the Constitutional Convention. Pick at least two sources you want to use to back your claim up.

Write your claim here:

What sources will you use? Write at least two below:

Step 3: Brainstorm and Sketch Ideas

Brainstorm and sketch ideas for your cartoon below. Use the handouts called "Failures of Articles of Confederation" and "Sources on the Constitutional Convention" as inspiration for your cartoon. If you need more room to sketch your ideas, use another piece of paper.

Lesson: Failures of the Articles of Confederation

Step 4: Create a 3-Panel Cartoon

Create your 3-panel cartoon below.
