

Melissa Siegal  
Norton High School

## **The Constitutional Convention: Creating the United States Constitution**

This lesson promotes higher order thinking skills and historical habits of mind. Students will act as delegates to the Constitutional Convention and each student will need to embody the frame of mind of a statesman. In addition to the simulation, students will analyze primary source documents, which include the Articles of Confederation and the Northwest Ordinance.

### **Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks Standards**

USI.6 Explain the reasons for the adoption of the Articles of Confederation in 1781, including why its drafters created a weak central government; analyze the shortcomings of the national government under the Articles; and describe the crucial events (e.g., Shays' rebellion) leading to the Constitutional Convention. (H, C)

*Seminal Primary Documents to Read:* the Northwest Ordinance (1787)

USI.7 Explain the roles of various founders at the Constitutional Convention. Describe the major debates that occurred at the Convention and the "Great Compromise" that was reached. (H, C)

#### *Major Debates*

- A. the distribution of political power
- B. the rights of individuals
- C. the rights of states
- D. slavery

#### *Founders*

- A. Benjamin Franklin
- B. Alexander Hamilton
- C. James Madison
- D. George Washington

### **Objectives**

1. To examine the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation and the impact of Shays' Rebellion, which led to formation of the Constitutional Convention and thus the United States Constitution
2. To create and compose a government for the United States that resolves the issues of the Articles of Confederation
3. To collect and analyze information concerning the Framers of the Constitution

## **Time Frame**

Two 90-minute class periods

## **Background**

Through the analysis of primary sources and a simulation activity, students will be able to understand how the Framers of the Constitution sought to establish a stronger national government to provide order and stability for the new nation. The Articles of Confederation created issues for the new nation, including a weak, single-branched central government that could not tax, regulate commerce, nor support a war effort. States retained considerable power and there was no common currency among the states.

The issue of taxes and currency influenced Shays' Rebellion in Massachusetts. Loans were being recalled so taxes were to be raised in order to repay those loans. Taxes were required to be paid in specie, not paper money. In western Massachusetts, Shays led a rebellion in which citizens drove off tax collectors and protested with petitions and public meetings. State courts rejected the petitions so rebels forced the courts to close. Shays and a small army marched to the arsenal in Springfield. Congress was unable to intervene since they lacked the funds to raise an army. The state government of Massachusetts gathered an army and quieted the rebellion. The country now realized a solution to the issue of a weak central government was necessary.

## **Procedures**

Part 1: Establish historical context for the class.

- A. Prior to beginning the simulation, students will read the Articles of Confederation for homework and complete questions dealing with the issues. Students should be familiarized with the issues concerning the Articles of Confederation
- B. Shays' Rebellion
  - a. Repayment of taxes simulation using fake paper money and gold
  - b. wealthy purchased paper money in exchange for gold at a highly discounted rate
- C. Northwest Ordinance (1787)
  - a. Important legislation passed by Congress (national government)
  - b. Requirements for territories gaining statehood
  - c. Establish civil rights in territories
  - d. Banned slavery

Part 2: Creating a Government

- A. On the previous day, each student will be assigned a Constitutional Convention delegate. Students will be grouped based on states. They will place themselves in 1787 in Philadelphia. For homework they should have researched their delegate and compiled information on his contributions, views on Articles of Confederation, whether or not he signed the Constitution, why he did not, if he wrote any major document at the Convention, and other useful research and biographical information

- B. Each group/state will complete “Creating a Government” worksheet based on what state they represent
- C. Class discussion
  - a. Use “Creating a Government” worksheet
  - b. Present Virginia Plan
    - i. 2-house (bicameral) national legislature
    - ii. Representation based on population
    - iii. Legislature would have powers including right to tax and regulate foreign and interstate commerce
    - iv. National legislature could veto act of state legislature
    - v. Legislative, executive, and judicial branches
    - vi. Delegates should reject this plan
  - c. Present New Jersey Plan
    - i. 1-house (unicameral) national legislature
    - ii. Representation equal
    - iii. Congress has power to tax and regulate foreign and interstate commerce
    - iv. Aimed to keep state governments more powerful than national governments
    - v. Legislative, executive, and judicial branches
    - vi. Delegates should reject this plan
  - d. Issues to address: representation and slavery
  - e. Key questions during class discussion
    - i. Should we have a president?
    - ii. What if the president gets too power-hungry, like the king?
    - iii. Who decides who the president is going to be? Even the uneducated?
    - iv. Who will make the laws?
    - v. How many representatives should each state get? An equal number? But what if a state has more people? Shouldn't they have more of a say about a law affecting the nation?
    - vi. Should slaves and free African Americans be considered?
  - f. Present Great Compromise
    - i. Bicameral legislature
    - ii. Senate: each state would have same number of representatives
    - iii. House of Representatives: number of seats allowed per state would be based on each state's population
  - g. Present Three-Fifths Compromise
    - i. Three-fifths of each state's slave population would be counted when determining representation
    - ii. Prevent southern state from being weak in House

### Part 3: Assessment

Students will complete an essay responding to the following writing prompt:

If you had been a founding father of this country, how would you structure your government? Be sure to address representation, branches of government, and slavery and also remember that you live in 1787.

### **Bibliography**

Constitutional Convention: < <http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/preview.cgi?LPid=661>>

The Founding Fathers: < <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/marryff.html>>

The National Archives: <<http://www.archives.gov>>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **The Articles of Confederation (1777)**

**Directions: Use your textbook (5-1) and the primary source to answer the questions.**

*In 1777 with war raging between Britain and the United States, the Continental Congress agreed to the Articles of Confederation, a frame of government outlining the relationship between the thirteen states. The Articles were ratified by each state individually. They formally went into effect in 1781 after being ratified by all thirteen states of the United States. As you read the document think about how you might characterize the power of the central government created by the Articles. Also think about the relationship the Articles create between the central government and the several states.*

We the undersigned Delegates of the States... agree to certain articles of Confederation and perpetual Union....

Article I. The Stile of this confederacy shall be "The United States of America."

Article II. Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence and every Power, Jurisdiction and right which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.

Article III. The said states hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defence, the security of their Liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade or any other pretence whatever.

Article V. For the more convenient management of the general interests of the united states, delegates shall be annually appointed in such manner as the legislature of each state shall direct, to meet in Congress... with a power reserved to each state to recall its delegates, or any of them, at any time within the year, and to send others in their stead, for the remainder of the year...

In determining questions in the united states, in Congress assembled, each state shall have one vote.

Article VIII. All charges of war, and all other expenses that shall be incurred for the common defence or general welfare, and allowed by the united states in congress assembled, shall be defrayed out of a common treasury, which shall be supplied by the several states... The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid an levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the several states...

Article IX. The united states in congress assembled shall never engage in war... nor enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money, nor regulate the value thereof, nor ascertain the sums and expences necessary for the defence and welfare of the united states, nor any of them, emit bills, nor borrow money on the credit of the united states, nor appropriate money, nor agree upon the vessels of war, to be built or purchased, or the number of land and sea forces to be raised, unless nine states ascent to the same...

Article XIII. Every state shall abide by the determinations of the united states in congress assembled, on all questions which by this confederation are submitted to them. And the articles of this confederation shall be inviolably observed in every state, an the union shall be perpetual; nor shall any alteration at any time hereafter be made in any of them; unless such alteration be agreed to in a congress of the united states, and be afterwards confirmed by the legislatures of every state.

### **Questions**

1. How many branches of government did the Articles of Confederation establish?
2. How does the traditional fear of tyranny make the Articles of Confederation a “weak” attempt to construct a national government? Whom does a weak central government help? Whom does it hurt?
3. What sort of relationship did the Articles of Confederation create between the central government and the state governments? What powers did the Articles of Confederation give to the central government?
4. In what ways did the Articles of Confederation limit the power of the central government? Under the Articles, what important powers did the central government lack?
5. What economic problems could later arise?
6. Why would Nationalists not support the Articles?
7. Why did some Americans come to believe that the Articles of Confederation needed to be replaced?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the document and then answer the questions.

### The Northwest Ordinance (1787)



Be it ordained by the United States in Congress assembled, That the said territory, for the purposes of temporary government, be one district, subject, however, to be divided into two districts, as future circumstances may, in the opinion of Congress, make it expedient.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the estates, both of resident and nonresident proprietors in the said territory, dying intestate, shall descent to, and be distributed among their children, and the descendants of a deceased child, in equal parts; the descendants of a deceased child or grandchild to take the share of their deceased parent in equal parts among them: And where there shall be no children or descendants, then in equal parts to the next of kin in equal degree; and among collaterals, the children of a deceased brother or sister of the intestate shall have, in equal parts among them, their deceased parents' share; and there shall in no case be a distinction between kindred of the whole and half blood; saving, in all cases, to the widow of the intestate her third part of the real estate for life, and one third part of the personal estate; and this law relative to descents and dower, shall remain in full force until altered by the legislature of the district. And until the governor and judges shall adopt laws as hereinafter mentioned, estates in the said territory may be devised or bequeathed by wills in writing, signed and sealed by him or her in whom the estate may be (being of full age), and attested by three witnesses; and real estates may be conveyed by lease and release, or bargain and sale, signed, sealed and delivered by the person being of full age, in whom the estate may be, and attested by two witnesses, provided such wills be duly proved, and such conveyances be acknowledged, or the execution thereof duly proved, and be recorded within one year after proper magistrates, courts, and registers shall be appointed for that purpose; and personal property may be transferred by delivery; saving, however to the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other settlers of the Kaskaskies, St. Vincents and the neighboring villages who have heretofore professed themselves citizens of Virginia, their laws and customs now in force among them, relative to the descent and conveyance, of property.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That there shall be appointed from time to time by Congress, a governor, whose commission shall continue in force for the term of three years, unless sooner revoked by Congress; he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein in 1,000 acres of land, while in the exercise of his office.

There shall be appointed from time to time by Congress, a secretary, whose commission shall continue in force for four years unless sooner revoked; he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein in 500 acres of land, while in the exercise of his office. It shall be his duty to keep and preserve the acts and laws passed by the legislature, and the public records of the district, and the proceedings of the governor in his executive department, and transmit authentic copies of such acts and proceedings, every six months, to the Secretary of Congress: There shall also be appointed a court to consist of three judges, any two of whom to form a court, who shall have a common law jurisdiction, and reside in the district, and have each therein a freehold estate in 500 acres of land while in the exercise of their offices; and their commissions shall continue in force during good behavior.

The governor and judges, or a majority of them, shall adopt and publish in the district such laws of the original States, criminal and civil, as may be necessary and best suited to the circumstances of the district, and report them to Congress from time to time: which laws shall be in force in the district until the organization of the General Assembly therein, unless disapproved of by Congress; but afterwards the Legislature shall have authority to alter them as they shall think fit.

The governor, for the time being, shall be commander in chief of the militia, appoint and commission all officers in the same below the rank of general officers; all general officers shall be appointed and commissioned by Congress.

Previous to the organization of the general assembly, the governor shall appoint such magistrates and other civil officers in each county or township, as he shall find necessary for the preservation of the peace and good order in the same: After the general assembly shall be organized, the powers and duties of the magistrates and other civil officers shall be regulated and defined by the said assembly; but all magistrates and other civil officers not herein otherwise directed, shall during the continuance of this temporary government, be appointed by the governor.

For the prevention of crimes and injuries, the laws to be adopted or made shall have force in all parts of the district, and for the execution of process, criminal and civil, the governor shall make proper divisions thereof; and he shall proceed from time to time as circumstances may require, to lay out the parts of the district in which the Indian titles shall have been extinguished, into counties and townships, subject, however, to such alterations as may thereafter be made by the legislature.

So soon as there shall be five thousand free male inhabitants of full age in the district, upon giving proof thereof to the governor, they shall receive authority, with time and place, to elect a representative from their counties or townships to represent them in the general assembly: Provided, That, for every five hundred free male inhabitants, there shall be one representative, and so on progressively with the number of free male inhabitants shall the right of representation increase, until the number of representatives shall amount to twenty five; after which, the number and proportion of representatives shall be regulated by the legislature: Provided, That no person be eligible or qualified to act as a representative unless he shall have been a citizen of one of the United States three years, and be a resident in the district, or unless he shall have resided in the district three years; and, in either case, shall likewise hold in his own right, in fee simple, two hundred acres of land within the same; Provided, also, That a freehold in fifty acres of land in the district, having been a citizen of one of the states, and being resident in the district, or the like freehold and two years residence in the district, shall be necessary to qualify a man as an elector of a representative.

The representatives thus elected, shall serve for the term of two years; and, in case of the death of a representative, or removal from office, the governor shall issue a writ to the county or township for which he was a member, to elect another in his stead, to serve for the residue of the term.

The general assembly or legislature shall consist of the governor, legislative council, and a house of representatives. The Legislative Council shall consist of five members, to continue in office five years, unless sooner removed by Congress; any three of whom to be a quorum: and the members of the Council shall be nominated and appointed in the following manner, to wit: As soon as representatives shall be elected, the Governor shall appoint a time and place for them to meet together; and, when met, they shall nominate ten persons, residents in the district, and each possessed of a freehold in five hundred acres of land, and return their names to Congress; five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as aforesaid; and, whenever a vacancy shall happen in the council, by death or removal from office, the house of representatives shall nominate two persons, qualified as aforesaid, for each vacancy, and return their names to Congress; one of whom congress shall appoint and commission for the residue of the term. And every five years, four months at least before the expiration of the time of service of the members of council, the said house shall nominate ten persons, qualified as aforesaid, and return their names to Congress; five of whom Congress shall appoint and commission to serve as members of the council five years, unless sooner removed. And the governor, legislative council, and house of representatives, shall have authority to make laws in all cases, for the good government of the district, not repugnant to the principles and articles in this ordinance established and declared. And all bills, having passed by a majority in the house, and by a majority in the council, shall be referred to the governor for his assent; but no bill, or legislative act



whatever, shall be of any force without his assent. The governor shall have power to convene, prorogue, and dissolve the general assembly, when, in his opinion, it shall be expedient.

The governor, judges, legislative council, secretary, and such other officers as Congress shall appoint in the district, shall take an oath or affirmation of fidelity and of office; the governor before the president of congress, and all other officers before the Governor. As soon as a legislature shall be formed in the district, the council and house assembled in one room, shall have authority, by joint ballot, to elect a delegate to Congress, who shall have a seat in Congress, with a right of debating but not voting during this temporary government.

And, for extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the basis whereon these republics, their laws and constitutions are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions, and governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in the said territory: to provide also for the establishment of States, and permanent government therein, and for their admission to a share in the federal councils on an equal footing with the original States, at as early periods as may be consistent with the general interest:

It is hereby ordained and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the following articles shall be considered as articles of compact between the original States and the people and States in the said territory and forever remain unalterable, unless by common consent, to wit:

**Art. 1.** No person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments, in the said territory.

**Art. 2.** The inhabitants of the said territory shall always be entitled to the benefits of the writ of habeas corpus, and of the trial by jury; of a proportionate representation of the people in the legislature; and of judicial proceedings according to the course of the common law. All persons shall be bailable, unless for capital offenses, where the proof shall be evident or the presumption great. All fines shall be moderate; and no cruel or unusual punishments shall be inflicted. No man shall be deprived of his liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land; and, should the public exigencies make it necessary, for the common preservation, to take any person's property, or to demand his particular services, full compensation shall be made for the same. And, in the just preservation of rights and property, it is understood and declared, that no law ought ever to be made, or have force in the said territory, that shall, in any manner whatever, interfere with or affect private contracts or engagements, bona fide, and without fraud, previously formed.

**Art. 3.** Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged. The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians; their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and, in their property, rights, and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars authorized by Congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity, shall from time to time be made for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.

**Art. 4.** The said territory, and the States which may be formed therein, shall forever remain a part of this Confederacy of the United States of America, subject to the Articles of Confederation, and to such alterations therein as shall be constitutionally made; and to all the acts and ordinances of the United States in Congress assembled, conformable thereto. The inhabitants and settlers in the said territory shall be subject to pay a part of the federal debts contracted or to be contracted, and a proportional part of the expenses of government, to be apportioned on them by Congress according to the same common rule and measure by which apportionments thereof shall be made on the other States; and the taxes for paying their proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the district or districts, or new States, as in the original States, within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled. The legislatures of those districts or new States, shall never interfere with the primary disposal of the soil by the United States in Congress assembled, nor with any regulations Congress may find necessary for securing the title in such soil to the bona fide purchasers. No tax shall be imposed on lands the property of the United States; and, in no case, shall nonresident proprietors be taxed higher than

residents. The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, shall be common highways and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the said territory as to the citizens of the United States, and those of any other States that may be admitted into the confederacy, without any tax, impost, or duty therefor.

**Art. 5.** There shall be formed in the said territory, not less than three nor more than five States; and the boundaries of the States, as soon as Virginia shall alter her act of cession, and consent to the same, shall become fixed and established as follows, to wit: The western State in the said territory, shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio, and Wabash Rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincents, due North, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and, by the said territorial line, to the Lake of the Woods and Mississippi. The middle State shall be bounded by the said direct line, the Wabash from Post Vincents to the Ohio, by the Ohio, by a direct line, drawn due north from the mouth of the Great Miami, to the said territorial line, and by the said territorial line. The eastern State shall be bounded by the last mentioned direct line, the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the said territorial line: Provided, however, and it is further understood and declared, that the boundaries of these three States shall be subject so far to be altered, that, if Congress shall hereafter find it expedient, they shall have authority to form one or two States in that part of the said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan. And, whenever any of the said States shall have sixty thousand free inhabitants therein, such State shall be admitted, by its delegates, into the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, and shall be at liberty to form a permanent constitution and State government: Provided, the constitution and government so to be formed, shall be republican, and in conformity to the principles contained in these articles; and, so far as it can be consistent with the general interest of the confederacy, such admission shall be allowed at an earlier period, and when there may be a less number of free inhabitants in the State than sixty thousand.

**Art. 6.** There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided, always, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the resolutions of the 23rd of April, 1784, relative to the subject of this ordinance, be, and the same are hereby repealed and declared null and void.

## Questions

1. In sections 5 through 7, what are some of the jobs of the appointed officials?
2. How is representation determined?
3. What civil rights are granted?
4. In Article III, what conclusion can you draw about the treatment of Native Americans **before** this document went into effect? Why do you draw this conclusion? Do you think this document will maintain a peaceful relationship between settlers and Native Americans? Why or why not?
5. What are the requirements for a territory becoming a state and entering the Union?
6. How is slavery addressed?
7. What future problems may arise based on what is written about slavery?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the document excerpts and then answer the questions.

### The Northwest Ordinance (1787)



Be it ordained by the United States in Congress assembled, That the said territory, for the purposes of temporary government, be one district, subject, however, to be divided into two districts, as future circumstances may, in the opinion of Congress, make it expedient...

It is hereby ordained and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the following articles shall be considered as articles of compact between the original States and the people and States in the said territory and forever remain unalterable, unless by common consent, to wit:

**Art. 1.** No person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments, in the said territory.

**Art. 2.** The inhabitants of the said territory shall always be entitled to the benefits of the writ of habeas corpus, and of the trial by jury; of a proportionate representation of the people in the legislature; and of judicial proceedings according to the course of the common law. All persons shall be bailable, unless for capital offenses, where the proof shall be evident or the presumption great. All fines shall be moderate; and no cruel or unusual punishments shall be inflicted. No man shall be deprived of his liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land; and, should the public exigencies make it necessary, for the common preservation, to take any person's property, or to demand his particular services, full compensation shall be made for the same. And, in the just preservation of rights and property, it is understood and declared, that no law ought ever to be made, or have force in the said territory, that shall, in any manner whatever, interfere with or affect private contracts or engagements, bona fide, and without fraud, previously formed.

**Art. 3.** Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged. The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians; their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and, in their property, rights, and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars authorized by Congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity, shall from time to time be made for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.

**Art. 4.** The said territory, and the States which may be formed therein, shall forever remain a part of this Confederacy of the United States of America, subject to the Articles of Confederation, and to such alterations therein as shall be constitutionally made; and to all the acts and ordinances of the United States in Congress assembled, conformable thereto. The inhabitants and settlers in the said territory shall be subject to pay a part of the federal debts contracted or to be contracted, and a proportional part of the expenses of government, to be apportioned on them by Congress according to the same common rule and measure by which apportionments thereof shall be made on the other States; and the taxes for paying their proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the district or districts,

or new States, as in the original States, within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled. The legislatures of those districts or new States, shall never interfere with the primary disposal of the soil by the United States in Congress assembled, nor with any regulations Congress may find necessary for securing the title in such soil to the bona fide purchasers. No tax shall be imposed on lands the property of the United States; and, in no case, shall nonresident proprietors be taxed higher than residents. The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, shall be common highways and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the said territory as to the citizens of the United States, and those of any other States that may be admitted into the confederacy, without any tax, impost, or duty therefor.

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**Art. 6.** There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided, always, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the resolutions of the 23rd of April, 1784, relative to the subject of this ordinance, be, and the same are hereby repealed and declared null and void.

## Questions

1. What civil rights are granted?
2. In Article III, what conclusion can you draw about the treatment of Native Americans **before** this document went into effect? Why do you draw this conclusion? Do you think this document will maintain a peaceful relationship between settlers and Native Americans? Why or why not?
3. What are the requirements for a territory becoming a state and entering the Union?
4. How is slavery addressed?
5. What future problems may arise based on what is written about slavery?

## CREATING A GOVERNMENT

Instructions: As a state, you need to decide the needs of your people and what you'd like to see in a national government. Keep in mind the information you know about your state as you answer these questions—size, economy, reasons for establishment, cultural differences, etc.

A. Do we want to keep the Articles of Confederation? Why or why not? Do we want to revise or throw them out entirely and start again? Why?

B. Do we want a strong central government? Why? What powers will the central government have?

C. Do we want a leader? Should we call him a king? Why or why not? What should we call him if it's not a king? What if the leader gets too powerful? What should we allow the leader to be able to do? How will we make sure he doesn't get tyrannical?

D. What about a group to make laws? Should it be the leader? A Congress—a group of representatives from each state? How many people should make up Congress? How will that number be determined? By size of state? Or same representatives for each state, no matter the size?

E. If you decided to create a Congress based on the population of the states, answer this question: if not, go on. Should children and women count as population even though they probably won't be allowed to vote? What about slaves? Are slaves considered population?

F. Who will choose Congress? Who should we let vote? Everyone? Even people who cannot read or write and may know nothing of politics? What if the people vote for an evil leader?