

Chapter 7 – Section 1 - Part A
A Confederation of States
Pages 188-189

Setting the Scene

1. The new nation was made up of how many states?
2. These former colonies had little experience working together. Who made all of the decisions in the past?
3. Besides establishing 13 state governments what else did they hope to create?

State Governments

4. What did most states write?
5. Define: constitution
6. Name two reasons states created a written constitution.
7. The states divided power between an executive branch and legislative branch.
 - a. What did the legislative branch do?
 - b. What did the executive branch do? (Think governors)
 - c. Which state did not have a governor?
8. What did Virginia include in its constitution?
9. What did the Virginia bill of rights list and what did it protect?
10. What did the Virginia bill of rights guarantee its citizens?
11. Following Virginia's example, what did other states include in its constitution?
12. Explain who was able to vote and who was not able to vote at all.

A Weak Confederation

13. In 1776 what were citizens forming?
14. In order to win independence delegates believed the colonies needed to be united by what?
15. Why was it difficult to write a constitution all states would approve?
16. After much debate, what did the Continental Congress complete in 1777?

17. Define: confederation

Government under the Articles

18. How many votes did each state get?

19. Explain the powers Congress held.

20. Who held the most power, Congress or the states?

21. Name the limitations placed on Congress. (the things Congress could not do)

22. How was the new confederation government weak?

23. Dispute over western lands

24. Why did Maryland refuse to ratify the Articles?

25. Why did Maryland want these lands?

26. What did each state eventually give up and Virginia not?

27. What did Thomas Jefferson and other leading Virginians see a great need for?

28. After Virginia gave up its claims what did Maryland finally ratify?

Geography Skills

*Using the map and the information in the section "Dispute over western lands" on **page 189**, answer the following two questions.*

1. Which states had no claim to western lands?

2. Why did Thomas Jefferson, a Virginian, persuade Virginia to give up its claims to western lands?