

Lesson Title

Time Needed: One Class Period

Materials Needed:

Student worksheets

Power Point and projector *-or-* overhead transparencies

Copy Instructions:

Guided notes worksheet (2 pages double-sided; class set)

Crossword worksheet (class set)

Learning Objectives. Students will be able to:

- Identify how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to the writing of the Constitution
- Compare different states' needs and interests
- Compare the Virginia plan with the New Jersey plan.
- Compare the Articles of Confederation with the Constitution

STEP BY STEP

- ANTICIPATE** with a quick poll of the class. Ask students, "Imagine we were going to have a class ice cream party and we could only have one kind of ice cream. How many people would want chocolate? Strawberry? Rocky Road?" After the poll, ask students whether they think it would be possible to get everyone to agree. What about if the class could have two flavors? Three? Would it be possible to at least satisfy everyone, even if they don't get their very favorite flavor? Tell students they are going to learn how the U.S. government was created, and that a lot of the process had to do with getting people to agree on things.
- DISTRIBUTE** one "Wanted: A Just Right Government" guided notes worksheet to each student
- READ** the introduction paragraph on the guided notes worksheet.
- WORK THROUGH** the guided notes worksheet using either the Power Point presentation or the overhead transparencies. If you are using overhead transparencies, keep them covered with a sheet of paper and uncover the parts you need as you go.
- DISTRIBUTE** one crossword worksheet to each student.
- ALLOW** time for students to complete the crossword.
- REVIEW** the answers with the class if you wish.
- CLOSE** by asking students to silently recall one problem with the Articles of Confederation that the Constitution solved. Conduct a check for understanding by having students write down or share their answers.

Wanted: A Just Right Government Name: _____

Starting From Scratch

After the American colonists declared independence from Great Britain, the first thing they had to decide was what kind of government to have. The colonists were tired of living under British control. The British government had treated them unfairly, and the colonists set out to make sure their new government would be much, much better!





The First Attempt:

The _____ of _____

A **confederation** is a _____ of individuals _____ together for a _____.


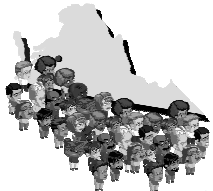

- Each state was _____ and had its own _____.
- Each state sent _____ to the "Congress of the Confederation."
- The Congress was the only _____ government. There was no _____.
- In Congress, each state got _____ vote.





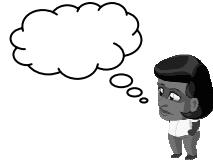
 Hey, this sounds great!	Wait! Not so fast... 
States get to keep their _____ and _____.	Congress had no way to _____ its laws!
No _____ telling states what to do.	Congress had no power to collect _____ to pay for the military!
Congress had the power to create a _____ to _____ all the states.	The Articles could only be _____ if _____ the states agreed!

Wanted: A Just Right Government Name: _____

No one could agree on what kind of government this new country needed! This was because...



- **States had different** _____. For example, some states depended on _____, while others mostly grew _____.
- **States had different** _____. Some states had _____ people and some had _____.
- **People had different** _____. Some people _____ a central government, while others thought a central government was _____.

A New Idea

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION	NEW IDEA
Government has _____ branch:	Government has _____ branches:
✓ Legislative: _____ laws	✓ Legislative: _____ laws ✓ Executive: _____ laws ✓ Judicial: _____ laws

BUT WAIT! How many _____ should each state get in the legislature?

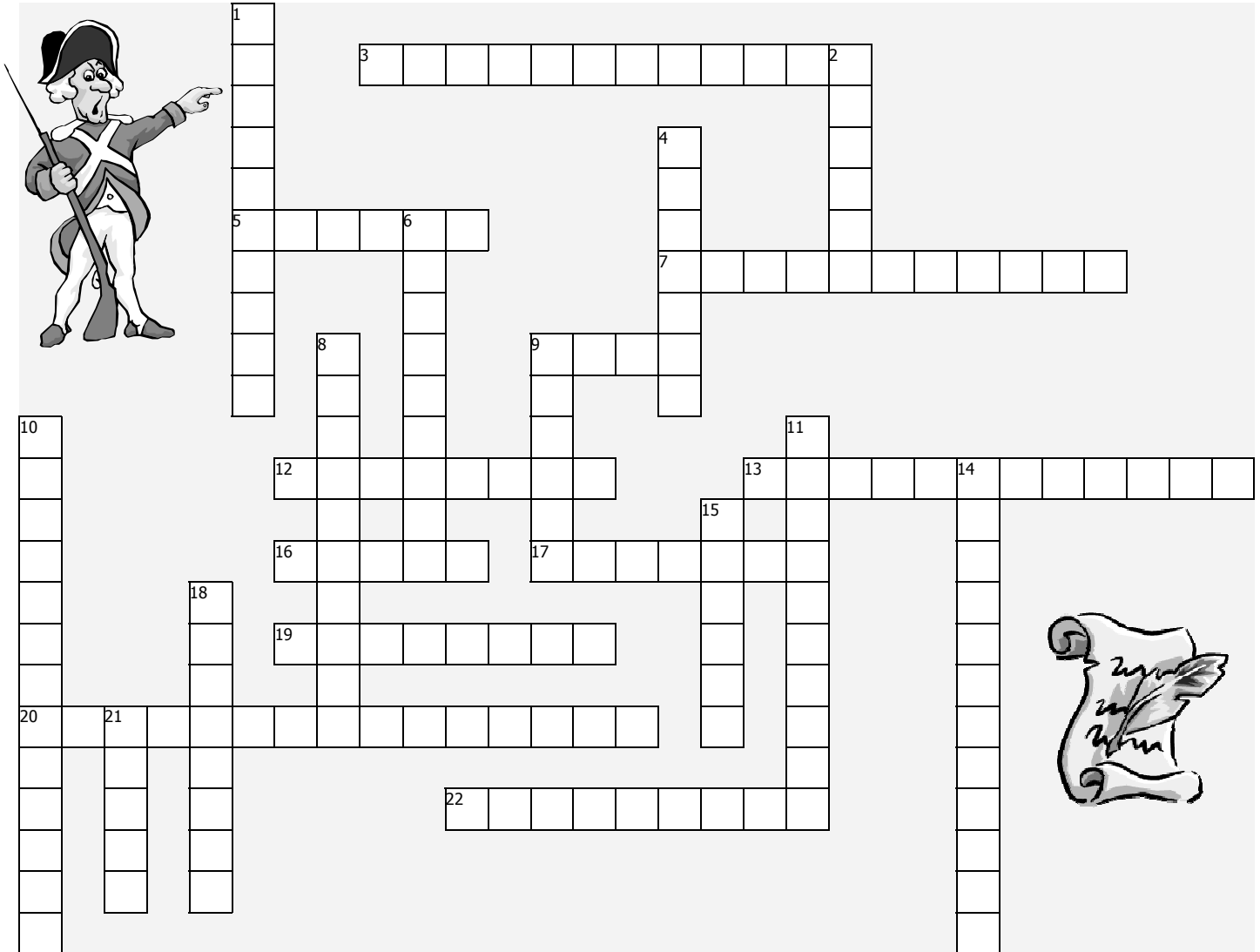
 <p><u>Virginia Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of votes depends on _____ • _____ states would have more power 	 <p><u>New Jersey Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each state gets _____ vote • _____ states would have more power
<p><u>The Constitution Solution!</u></p> <p>Divide the legislature into _____ houses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate: Each state gets _____ votes • House of Representatives: Number of votes depends on _____ 	

More Constitution Solutions

- The Constitution requires each state to treat _____ of other states the _____ as it treats its own citizens.
- The Constitution can be changed if _____ of the members of Congress and _____ of the states agree.
- The Constitution says that the laws passed by Congress are _____ to laws passed by the _____.

Wanted: A Just Right Government

Name: _____



Across



3. Fraction of states that must agree to change the Constitution
5. Under the Virginia Plan, these states would have more power
7. The branch that makes laws
9. States must treat their own citizens and other states' citizens this way
12. The branch that interprets laws
13. The document that replaced the Articles of Confederation
16. One problem was that states charged these on goods from other states
17. Under the Articles of Confederation, congress could not do this to its laws, so states could just ignore laws
19. The Articles let Congress create this but not pay for it
20. States send these to Congress
22. Under the Articles, America did not have one of these

Down

1. Early Americans had something in common with this fictional character!
2. These were the "individuals" in the "confederation" created by the Articles
4. Under the New Jersey plan, these states would have more power
6. the branch that carries out laws
8. In the House of Representatives, the number of votes a state gets depends on this
9. The chamber of Congress where each state gets two votes
10. A group of individuals united together for a purpose
11. The Articles of Confederation was America's first plan for _____.
14. One of two things people were afraid states might lose
15. The Articles of Confederation created a government that had only one of these
18. The Constitution says laws passed by Congress are ___ to state laws.
21. One of two things people were afraid states might lose

Wanted: A Just Right Government

Name: **** Teacher Key ****

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- Across:
 - 3. FRACTION OF STATES THAT MUST AGREE TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION
 - 5. UNDER THE VIRGINIA PLAN, THESE STATES WOULD HAVE MORE POWER
 - 6. THE BRANCH THAT MAKES LAWS
 - 9. STATES MUST TREAT THEIR OWN CITIZENS AND OTHER STATES' CITIZENS THIS WAY
 - 12. THE BRANCH THAT INTERPRETS LAWS
 - 13. THE DOCUMENT THAT REPLACED THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION
 - 16. ONE PROBLEM WAS THAT STATES CHARGED THESE ON GOODS FROM OTHER STATES
 - 17. UNDER THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION, CONGRESS COULD NOT DO THIS TO ITS LAWS, SO STATES COULD JUST IGNORE LAWS
 - 19. THE ARTICLES LET CONGRESS CREATE THIS BUT NOT PAY FOR IT
 - 20. STATES SEND THESE TO CONGRESS
 - 22. UNDER THE ARTICLES, AMERICA DID NOT HAVE ONE OF THESE
- Down:
 - 1. EARLY AMERICANS HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH THIS FICTIONAL CHARACTER!
 - 2. THESE WERE THE "INDIVIDUALS" IN THE "CONFEDERATION" CREATED BY THE ARTICLES
 - 4. UNDER THE NEW JERSEY PLAN, THESE STATES WOULD HAVE MORE POWER
 - 6. THE BRANCH THAT CARRIES OUT LAWS
 - 8. IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE NUMBER OF VOTES A STATE GETS DEPENDS ON THIS
 - 9. THE CHAMBER OF CONGRESS WHERE EACH STATE GETS TWO VOTES
 - 10. A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS UNITED TOGETHER FOR A PURPOSE
 - 11. THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION WAS AMERICA'S FIRST PLAN FOR _____.
 - 14. ONE OF TWO THINGS PEOPLE WERE AFRAID STATES MIGHT LOSE
 - 15. THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION CREATED A GOVERNMENT THAT HAD ONLY ONE OF THESE
 - 18. THE CONSTITUTION SAYS LAWS PASSED BY CONGRESS ARE ___ TO STATE LAWS.
 - 21. ONE OF TWO THINGS PEOPLE WERE AFRAID STATES MIGHT LOSE

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