

✧ THE ARTICLES of CONFEDERATION ✧

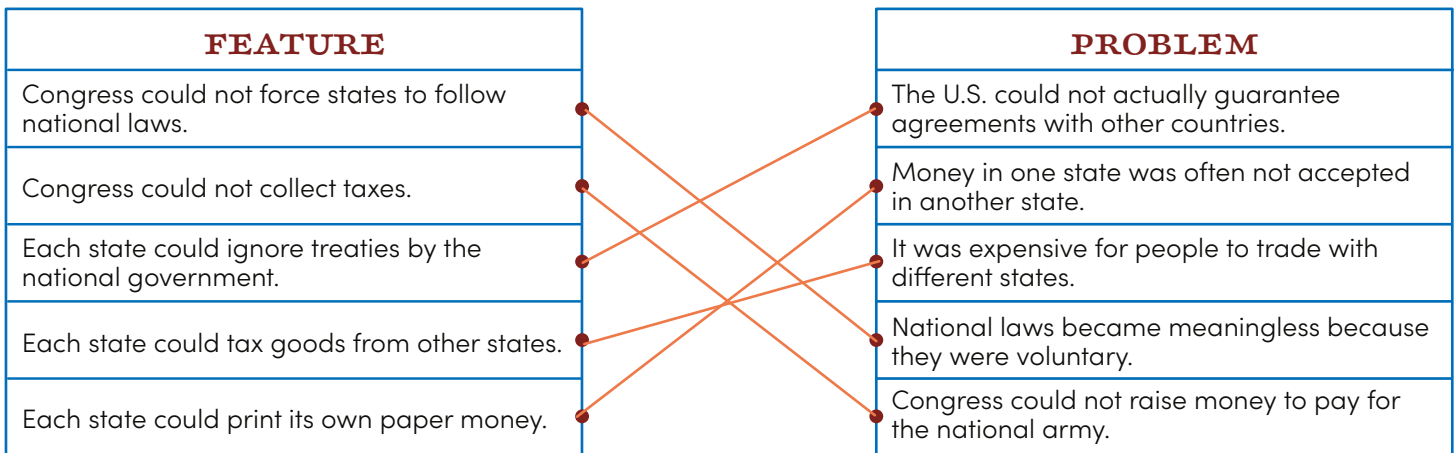
PART I Answer the questions below.

1. Why were Americans afraid of creating a powerful government after gaining independence?
Americans felt that the British government had treated them unfairly. They worried that if they created their own powerful government, it would mistreat them just like the British had.

2. What were the Articles of Confederation? The Articles of Confederation were America's first constitution. A constitution is a written set of rules for how a government will work.

3. Under the Articles of Confederation, which had more power, the national government or state governments? The Articles of Confederation gave most power to the 13 state governments. The national government was very weak.

PART II The features of the Articles of Confederation caused some problems for the United States. Draw a line to connect the dots between each feature and the problem it created.



PART III Answer the questions below.

1. How did Shay's Rebellion affect people's view of the Articles of Confederation? People worried that Americans were already fighting each other only ten years after gaining independence. So, people thought that the Articles of Confederation were too weak to keep the country together.

2. What was the plan for the Constitutional Convention? What actually happened? American leaders agreed to meet for a Constitutional Convention to strengthen the national government under the Articles of Confederation. But when they met in 1787, they decided to write a totally new constitution.

3. How was the U.S. Constitution different from the Articles of Confederation? Under the new constitution, the national government—called the federal government—was more powerful. For example, the federal government was able to force state governments to follow national laws.