



Name _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

US HISTORY #8-THE CONSTITUTION, THE ARTICLES, AND FEDERALISM

Directions: While watching the video, fill in the blanks.

confederation	compromise	federalism	debt	Federalists
rebellion	Constitution	taxes	treaties	slaves

- 1. The first government set up by the Continental Congress was called the Articles of _____ and it was, in a word, bad.
- 2. It could coin money, but it couldn't collect _____; that was left to states.
- 3. Getting control of the land meant taking it from the Indians who were living there, and the Articles government was empowered to make _____, which it did.
- 4. Both the national government and the individual states had racked up massive _____ to pay for the war.
- 5. But to most elites, Shays' _____ showed that too much democratic liberty among the lower classes could threaten private property.
- 6. Rather than make tweaks to the articles, they wrote a new charter of government, the _____.
- 7. Instead we got the Great _____, which gave us two houses, a House of Representatives with representation proportional to each state's population, and a Senate with two members from each state.
- 8. Slaveholding states wanted _____ to count toward their population, even though of course they could not vote, because they were property.
- 9. To avoid tyranny of the government, the Constitution embraced two principles: Separation of powers and _____.
- 10. And while ultimately the _____ won out and the Constitution was ratified, the issue of how large government should be did not go away.



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Directions: Write one thing you think you know about the topic.

1. _____

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Answer Key

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- 1. The first government set up by the Continental Congress was called the Articles of **Confederation** and it was, in a word, bad.
- 2. It could coin money, but it couldn't collect **taxes**; that was left to states.
- 3. Getting control of the land meant taking it from the Indians who were living there, and the Articles government was empowered to make **treaties**, which it did.
- 4. Both the national government and the individual states had racked up massive **debt** to pay for the war.
- 5. But to most elites, Shays' **Rebellion** showed that too much democratic liberty among the lower classes could threaten private property.
- 6. Rather than make tweaks to the articles, they wrote a new charter of government, the **Constitution**.
- 7. Instead we got the Great **Compromises**, which gave us two houses, a House of Representatives with representation proportional to each state's population, and a Senate with two members from each state.
- 8. Slaveholding states wanted **slaves** to count toward their population, even though of course they could not vote, because they were property.
- 9. To avoid tyranny of the government, the Constitution embraced two principles: Separation of powers and **federalism**.
- 10. And while ultimately the **Federalists** won out and the Constitution was ratified, the issue of how large government should be did not go away.