

## Common Core Lesson Plan

**Topic: Articles of Confederation vs. Constitution**

**Title: The Space Between**

**Overview:** After the Revolutionary War, the Colonists seek to employ their ideals into a newly freed country. This lesson explores the crafting of the Articles of Confederation and the subsequent aftermath. (~ 2 Days)

### Resources (primary resource documents, artifacts, material needs, etc.)

- Articles of Confederation: 3 Column Chart
- Articles of Confederation Document (modified original, and annotated versions)
- PowerPoint Presentation: "The Space Between"
- Anti-Federalists vs. Federalists Reading & RAFT Assessment

### Common Core Standards

- RH 1, 2, 4, 9
- WHST 1, 4, 5, 9

### Essential Standards

- 8.H.1.1, 8.H.1.2, 8.H.1.3, 8.H.1.5, 8.H.2.1
- 8.C&G.1.1, 8.C&G.1.2, 8.C&G.1.3

### Background Information

- Students will, during the course of the eighth grade curriculum, have an understanding as to why the Colonists fought the Revolutionary War, and subsequently, the results of the war.

### Instructional Sequence (before, during, and after instruction)

#### Step 1

Warm Up. The students are to contemplate and explain the following though through a written response and/or group discussion:

"Revolutionaries all agree that there must be change. Few agree on what kind."

#### Step 2

Students will use the three columns chart to engage in the following Think-Pair-Share:

- **Part 1** Individually, students are to list answer the following question on the left column of their paper, "Why did the colonists fight the Revolutionary War with the British?" The students will then confer with nearby partner(s) and then verify with the group.
- **Part 2** Individually, students will answer the following question on the middle column of their paper, "Pretend you are a well educated colonist, having just fought the Revolutionary War. Given the reasons for the war, how would you setup the new government? What features would it have in order to avoid the problems they faced with the British?" The students will then confer with nearby partner(s) and then verify with the group.

#### Step 3

Students will be presented with the appropriately modified copy of the Articles of Confederation. In groups, the students will read and analyze the Articles of Confederation. The students are to determine the key functions and, more importantly, limitations placed upon the new government. They will write their findings in bullet points in the right-most column of the chart.

**Step 4**

The students will use the completed chart to answer the connection questions, turning each into a well-supported paragraph.

**Step 5**

Students will receive direct instruction through a PowerPoint presentation on the events following the ratifying of the Articles of Confederation.

**Step 6**

Students will receive read “Anti-Federalists vs. Federalists.” This can be done individually or in pairs. The students will complete the given RAFT assessment.



*Articles of Confederation: 3 Column Chart*

Reasons for the Rev. War	How would you setup the new gov?	Key Points of the Articles of Conf.

**Connection Questions**

- 1) What effect did the Revolutionary War have on the creation of the Articles of Confederation?
- 2) In the Articles of Confederation, who ended up with the most power (States or Central Government)? Support your conclusion with facts from the chart.

## *Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union (Excerpts)*

**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 IV.** *The better to secure and perpetuate mutual friendship and intercourse among the people of the different states in this union, the free inhabitants of each of these states, paupers, vagabonds and fugitives from justice excepted, shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of free citizens in the several states; and the people of each state shall have free ingress and regress to and from any other state, and shall enjoy therein all the privileges of trade and commerce, subject to the same duties impositions and restrictions as the inhabitants thereof respectively,... If any Person guilty of, or charged with treason, felony, - or other high misdemeanor in any state, shall flee from Justice, and be found in any of the united states, he shall, upon demand of the Governor or executive power, of the state from which he fled, be delivered up and removed to the state having jurisdiction of his offence. Full faith and credit shall be given in each of these states to the records, acts and judicial proceedings of the courts and magistrates of every other state.*

**Article VI.** *No state, without the Consent of the united states in congress assembled, shall send any embassy to, or receive any embassy from, or enter into any conference agreement, alliance or treaty with any King prince or state...*

*No two or more states shall enter into any treaty, confederation or alliance whatever between them, without the consent of the united states in congress assembled, specifying accurately the purposes for which the same is to be entered into, and how long it shall continue.*

*No vessels of war shall be kept up in time of peace by any state, except such number only, as shall be deemed necessary by the united states in congress assembled, for the defence of such state, or its trade; nor shall any body of forces be kept up by any state, in time of peace, except such number only, as in the judgment of the united states, in congress assembled, shall be deemed requisite to garrison the forts necessary for the defence of such state; but every state shall always keep up a well regulated and disciplined militia, sufficiently armed and accoutered, and shall provide and constantly have ready for use, in public stores, a due number of field pieces and tents, and a proper quantity of arms, ammunition and camp equipage.*

*No state shall engage in any war without the consent of the united states in congress*

*assembled, unless such state be actually invaded by enemies, or shall have received certain advice of a resolution being formed by some nation of Indians to invade such state, and the danger is so imminent as not to admit of a delay till the united states in congress assembled can be consulted...*

**Article IX.** *The united states in congress assembled, shall have the sole and exclusive right and power of determining on peace and war, except in the cases mentioned in the sixth article--of sending and receiving ambassadors--entering into treaties and alliances...*

*The united states in congress assembled shall also be the last resort on appeal in all disputes and differences now subsisting or that hereafter may arise between two or more states concerning boundary, jurisdiction or any other cause whatever; which authority shall always be exercised in the manner following...*

*The united states in congress assembled shall never engage in a war, nor grant letters of marque and reprisal in time of peace, 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, or any of them, nor emit bills, nor borrow money on the credit of the united states, nor appropriate money, nor agree upon the number of vessels of war, to be built or purchased, or the number of land or sea forces to be raised, nor appoint a commander in chief of the army or navy, unless nine states assent to the same: nor shall a question on any other point, except for adjourning from day to day be determined, unless by the votes of a majority of the united states in congress assembled. The congress of the united states shall have power to adjourn to any time within the year, and to any place within the united states, so that no period of adjournment be for a longer duration than the space of six Months, and shall publish the Journal of their proceedings monthly, except such parts thereof relating to treaties, alliances or military operations, as in their judgment require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the delegates of each state on any question shall be entered on the Journal, when it is desired by any delegate; and the delegates of a state, or any of them, at his or their request shall be furnished with a transcript of the said Journal, except such parts as are above excepted, to lay before the legislatures of the several states.*

**Article XI.** *Canada acceding to this confederation, and joining in the measures of the united states, shall be admitted into, and entitled to all the advantages of this union: but no other colony shall be admitted into the same, unless such admission be agreed to by nine states.*

**Article XII.** *All bills of credit emitted, monies borrowed and debts contracted by, or under the authority of congress, before the assembling of the united states, in pursuance of the present confederation, shall be deemed and considered as a charge against the united states, for payment and satisfaction whereof the said united states, and the public faith are hereby solemnly pledged.*

**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 by every state, and 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.*

# *Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union (Excerpts)*

## **Vocabulary**

**Abide:** Accept or act in accordance with (a rule, decision)

**Ambassador:** An official representative from a foreign country.

**Confederation:** When States are united with some power given to a central government

**Embassy:** The official residence or offices of an ambassador.

**Ingress/Regress:** Going in/coming out.

**Intercourse:** Communication between people/groups

**Jurisdiction:** Power to make legal decisions/laws and pass judgment

**Liberties:** Being free from authorities putting restrictions on one's life

**Perpetual:** Never ending or changing

**Sovereignty:** Supreme power. The authority of a state to rule itself.

*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 IV. The better to secure and perpetuate mutual friendship and intercourse among the people of the different states in this union, the free inhabitants of each of these states, paupers, vagabonds and fugitives from justice excepted, shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of free citizens in the several states; and the people of each state shall have free ingress and regress to and from any other state, and shall enjoy therein all the privileges of trade and commerce, subject to the same duties impositions and restrictions as the inhabitants thereof respectively,... If any Person guilty of, or charged with treason, felony, - or other high misdemeanor in any state, shall flee from Justice, and be found in any of the united states, he shall, upon demand of the Governor or executive power, of the state from which he fled, be delivered up and removed to the state having jurisdiction of his offence. Full faith and credit shall be given in each of these states to the records, acts and judicial proceedings of the courts and magistrates of every other state.*

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*No two or more states shall enter into any treaty, confederation or alliance whatever between them, without the consent of the united states in congress assembled, specifying accurately the purposes for which the same is to be entered into, and how long it shall continue.*

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**Jurisdiction:** Power to make legal decisions/laws and pass judgment

**Liberties:** Being free from authorities putting restrictions on one's life

**Militia:** Citizens who help supplement the army in a crisis.

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## *Anti-Federalists vs. Federalists*

It is the year 1787. After twenty years of existence the USA was facing a severe economic depression, an economy out of control, property rights issues, diplomatic relation difficulties with France and Spain, and a brewing rebellion. The colonists found themselves in an eerily similar situation: everyone agreeing that change was needed... but few agreeing as to what kind.

The states had called a Constitutional Congress to convene in Philadelphia, PA to discuss what the path forward should look like. The delegates were sent to “tweak” the Articles of Confederation, but instead decided to wipe the slate clean and start over. The document that was created from this event is the United States Constitution.

The creation of the Constitution entailed hours of debate and compromise, and even when it was completed, some delegates were unhappy with it. The task of fixing the ailing Confederate government was not complete yet; each state had to ratify, or approve, the Constitution. Basically, people divided into two groups, the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists. Each of their viewpoints is worth examining, as they both have sound reasoning.

The Anti-Federalists did not want to ratify the Constitution. Basically, they argue that:

- It gave too much power to the national government at the expense of the state governments.
- There was no bill of rights.
- The national government could maintain an army in peacetime.
- Congress, because of the ‘necessary and proper clause,’ wielded too much power.
- The executive branch held too much power.

Of these complaints, the lack of a bill of rights was the most effective. The American people had just fought a war to defend their rights, and they did not want an intimidating national government taking those rights away again. The lack of a bill of rights was the focus of the Anti-Federalist campaign against ratification.

The Federalists, on the other hand, tried to answer all of the Anti-Federalist complaints:

- The separation of powers into three independent branches protected the rights of the people. Each branch represents a different aspect of the people, and because all three branches are equal, no one group can assume control over another.
- A listing of rights can be a dangerous thing. If the national government were to protect specific listed rights, what would stop it from violating rights other than the listed ones? Since we can't list all the rights, the Federalists argued that it's better to list none at all.

### Anti-Federalist Quotes

	<p>“We are come hither to preserve the poor Commonwealth of Virginia, if it can possibly be done: Something must be done to preserve your liberty and mine: The Confederation; this same despised government merits, in my opinion, the highest encomium: It carried us through a long and dangerous war: It rendered us victorious in that bloody conflict with a powerful nation: It has secured us a territory greater than any European Monarch possesses: And shall a government which has been thus strong and vigorous, be accused of imbecility and abandoned for want of energy?” ~ Patrick Henry</p>
	<p>“If your American Chief (President) be a man of ambition and abilities, how easy is it or him to render himself absolute: The army is in his hands, and if he be a man of address, it will be attached to him; and it will be the subject of long mediation with him to seize the first auspicious moment to accomplish his design; and, Sir, will the American spirit solely relieve you when this happens? I would rather infinitely, and I am sure most of this Convention are of the same opinion, have a King, Lords, and Commons, than a Government so replete with such insupportable evils.” ~ Patrick Henry</p>
	<p>“Congress will ever exercise their powers to levy as much money as the people can pay. They will not be restrained from direct taxes by the consideration that necessity does not require them.” - Melancton Smith</p>

### Federalist Quotes

	<p>“If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself. A dependence on the people is, no doubt, the primary control on the government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions.” ~ Alexander Hamilton</p>
	<p>“On the other hand, it will be equally forgotten that the vigor of government is essential to the security of liberty; that, in the contemplation of a sound and well-informed judgment, their interest can never be separated; and that a dangerous ambition more often lurks behind the specious mask of zeal for the rights of the people than under the forbidden appearance of zeal for the firmness and efficiency of government. History will teach us that the former has been found a much more certain road to the introduction of despotism than the latter, and that of those men who have overturned the liberties of republics, the greatest number have begun their career by paying an obsequious court to the people; commencing demagogues, and ending tyrants.” ~ Alexander Hamilton</p>

### Anti-Federalist Quotes

<p><b>Merits:</b> worthy of praise  <b>Encomium:</b>          Speech/Writing that praises someone highly  <b>Imbecility:</b> Stupidity</p>	<p>“We are come hither to preserve the poor Commonwealth of Virginia, if it can possibly be done: Something must be done to preserve your liberty and mine: The Confederation; this same despised government merits, in my opinion, the highest encomium: It carried us through a long and dangerous war: It rendered us victorious in that bloody conflict with a powerful nation: It has secured us a territory greater than any European Monarch possesses: And shall a government which has been thus strong and vigorous, be accused of imbecility and abandoned for want of energy?” ~ Patrick Henry</p>
<p><b>Render:</b> Provide, Give  <b>Mediation:</b> Dispute to resolve a problem  <b>Auspicious:</b> likely for success</p>	<p>“If your American Chief (President) be a man of ambition and abilities, how easy is it or him to render himself absolute: The army is in his hands, and if he be a man of address, it will be attached to him; and it will be the subject of long mediation with him to seize the first auspicious moment to accomplish his design; and, Sir, will the American spirit solely relieve you when this happens? I would rather infinitely, and I am sure most of this Convention are of the same opinion, have a King, Lords, and Commons, than a Government so replete with such insupportable evils.” ~ Patrick Henry</p>
<p><b>Levy:</b> To impose or force</p>	<p>“Congress will ever exercise their powers to levy as much money as the people can pay. They will not be restrained from direct taxes by the consideration that necessity does not require them.”          - Melancton Smith</p>

### Federalist Quotes

<p><b>Oblige:</b> legally bound  <b>Auxiliary:</b> In addition to, or in reserve</p>	<p>“If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself. A dependence on the people is, no doubt, the primary control on the government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions.” ~ Alexander Hamilton</p>
<p><b>Vigor:</b> Strength  <b>Despotism:</b> Having absolute power  <b>Obsequious:</b> Very attentive  <b>Demagogues:</b> Political leader who plays to peoples desires/prejudices, instead of using reason.</p>	<p>“On the other hand, it will be equally forgotten that the vigor of government is essential to the security of liberty; that, in the contemplation of a sound and well-informed judgment, their interest can never be separated; and that a dangerous ambition more often lurks behind the specious mask of zeal for the rights of the people than under the forbidden appearance of zeal for the firmness and efficiency of government. History will teach us that the former has been found a much more certain road to the introduction of despotism than the latter, and that of those men who have overturned the liberties of republics, the greatest number have begun their career by paying an obsequious court to the people; commencing demagogues, and ending tyrants.” ~ Alexander Hamilton</p>

## **RAFT Assignment**

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It is the year 1787. You are an editorial writer for your local newspaper in Philadelphia, PA. You have been asked to write an opinion article on the topic of the role of the Central Government and how much power they should have. Using the 3-Column chart, notes and the reading above, write an article about whether you support the Federalist or Anti-federalist. Discuss: How much power the government should have? Should the Articles of Confederation have been tweaked or tossed aside for the Constitution? Specifically respond to the concerns stated in the quotations of the opposing view point (Anti-federalists will be responding to Alexander Hamilton. Federalists will be responding to Patrick Henry and/or Melancton Smith.)