

Name _____

The Backbone of the Nation: How the Articles of Confederation Shaped the United States Government

Short Answer Key

1. Answer: The Articles of Confederation served as the United States' first constitution and provided a blueprint for the early U.S. government.
2. Answer: The central government under the Articles of Confederation had a unicameral legislature called the Continental Congress. Each state had one vote in Congress, regardless of its size or population.
3. Answer: Deliberate limitations included the central government's inability to levy taxes, raise a standing army, or regulate commerce.
4. Answer: Weaknesses included the inability to raise revenue, financial instability, the lack of an executive branch, and an inflexible amendment process.
5. Answer: The shortcomings, such as financial instability and the inability to raise revenue, highlighted the need for a more effective government structure, ultimately leading to the Constitutional Convention and the adoption of the United States Constitution.

