Name ______________________________

The First American Government: Exploring the Articles of Confederation

Short Answer Key

1. The Articles of Confederation officially went into effect on March 1, 1781, when Maryland became the thirteenth and final state to ratify them.
2. The Articles of Confederation did not grant the federal government the authority to directly tax citizens. Instead, the states were responsible for raising revenue and funding the federal government.
3. The biggest obstacle to amending the Articles of Confederation was the requirement for unanimous approval from all thirteen states.
4. The lack of a strong executive branch meant there was no single leader to enforce laws and decisions made by Congress, making it challenging to maintain order and consistency.
5. The Philadelphia Convention in 1787 was prompted by the recognition of the need for a stronger central government and the desire to draft a new constitution to replace the Articles of Confederation.