

Name _____

Cracks in the Foundation: Major Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

Short Answer Key

1. Answer: The central government's main weakness under the Articles of Confederation was its limited powers and inability to effectively govern the nation.
2. Answer: The lack of taxing authority meant that the central government could not raise sufficient funds to operate effectively. It led to financial instability, hindered government functions, and contributed to the nation's economic difficulties.
3. Answer: The Articles of Confederation did not establish an executive branch to avoid creating a strong central authority that could be perceived as oppressive, given the recent struggle for independence from British rule.
4. Answer: The inflexible amendment process required unanimous approval from all thirteen states, making it nearly impossible to adapt the government to changing needs. This inflexibility hindered the government's ability to address emerging issues effectively.
5. Answer: The absence of a unified currency system created economic chaos and difficulties in trade between states. With each state having its own currency, transactions were cumbersome, and the lack of a standardized currency system hindered economic stability and growth.

