

Name _____

The Downfall of the Articles of Confederation: Why Did They Ultimately Fail?

Short Answer Key

1. The lack of a reliable source of revenue hindered the central government's ability to fund its operations, making it challenging to address the nation's financial needs and maintain stability.
2. Shays' Rebellion revealed the inability of the central government to respond effectively to domestic unrest and maintain order, highlighting the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.
3. The requirement for a unanimous vote of all 13 states made it nearly impossible to amend the Articles of Confederation, leading to inefficiency in decision-making and hindering progress and reform.
4. Disputes among the states over issues like territory and trade created ongoing tensions and strained relations, as the central government lacked the authority to resolve these conflicts.
5. Answers will vary. Some may consider the lack of taxation authority as the most significant factor, while others may emphasize the weakness of the central government or other shortcomings as more crucial.

