

Name _____

Articles of Confederation vs. Constitution: Understanding the Differences

Short Answer Key

1. The Articles of Confederation had a weak central government with limited authority, while the Constitution established a stronger central government with the power to tax citizens.
2. Under the Articles of Confederation, each state had one vote in the Continental Congress, regardless of its population. In the Constitution, representation in the House of Representatives was based on population, and the Senate provided each state with equal representation.
3. Amending the Articles of Confederation required unanimous approval from all thirteen states, making it challenging to adapt to changing circumstances.
4. The Constitution granted the federal government the authority to tax citizens, allowing it to generate its own revenue, whereas the Articles of Confederation relied on voluntary state contributions.
5. The Articles of Confederation did not establish a federal court system, while the Constitution created a federal judicial branch, including the Supreme Court, to interpret and apply federal laws.

