

Name _____

The Articles of Confederation: A Weak Central Government

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Answers may vary but could include arguments about the need for a strong central government to ensure national defense, regulate trade, and address the economic challenges faced by the country.
2. Shays' Rebellion had a significant impact on the perception of the Articles of Confederation as it demonstrated the weakness of the central government in maintaining order and responding to domestic unrest.
3. Answers may vary, but some may argue that the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation were unintended consequences of a government designed to prevent tyranny, while others may argue that they were intentional compromises made during the formation of the new government.
4. Answers will vary, but proposed changes might include giving the central government the power to impose taxes, raise a standing army, and negotiate treaties more effectively.

