

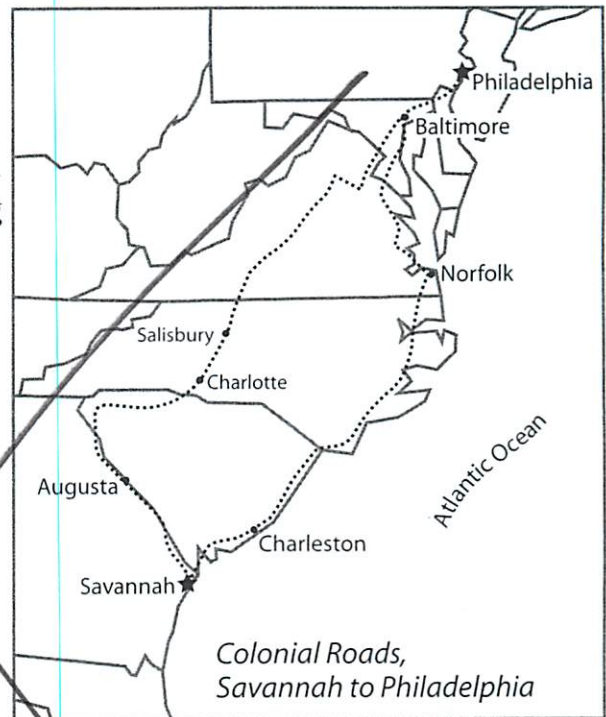


Road Trip!

Lyman Hall, George Walton, and Button Gwinnett traveled from Georgia to Philadelphia for the Second Continental Congress. As you can see from this map, that's a long way to travel in the 1770s!

Use the facts below to answer the questions about this trip.

• The distance from Savannah to Philadelphia is 633 miles.	• A man can travel 70 miles a day on horseback.	• A man can travel 110 miles a day in a horse-drawn carriage.
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1. How many days is the journey from Savannah to Philadelphia on horseback? _____
2. How many days is the journey from Savannah to Philadelphia in a horse-drawn carriage? _____
3. How many hours would it take you today to drive from Savannah to Philadelphia if you were traveling 60 miles per hour? _____

SS8H4 – Historical Understandings

Describe the impact of events that led to the ratification of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Chapter 9

SS8H4a: Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of both the Georgia Constitution of 1777 and the Articles of Confederation and explain how weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation led to a need to revise the Articles.

Georgia Constitution of 1777

Shortly after the Declaration of Independence was adopted, Georgia's provincial congress met to create a stable state government. A new state

constitution was adopted in 1777 that defined separate legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Other features of the constitution included:

- Most power was given to the unicameral (one-house) legislature.
- Legislature elected the governor, his 12-man executive council, and other state officials.
- Governor served a one-year term.
- A superior court was created for each county.
- Basic rights listed such as freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and trial by jury.



Strengths of the Constitution of 1777 included the separation of government branches and protection of basic rights. The document also had several weaknesses. First, it put too much power in the hands of the legislature by allowing it to elect the governor, his council, and all state officials. Second, the legislature only had one house, so there was no check on its power. Third, a one-year term limited the governor's effectiveness. Finally, the constitution was not ratified by a vote of the people so it did not fully represent their interests. (the peoples')



The Constitution of 1777 gave a lot of power to the legislature (which typically upholds the rights of the people), and not to the governor. Why do you think that was such an important issue in 1777?

Four horizontal lines for writing, with a large 'X' drawn across them, indicating that the space is not to be used for writing.

Articles of Confederation

Before the Revolutionary War ended, the Continental Congress began writing the Articles of Confederation as the foundation of a new national government. At first, the Articles were written with a strong central government in mind. Many states opposed this. They had finally won their independence, and didn't want to give it away to a controlling national government.

The Articles of Confederation went into effect on March 1, 1781. They set up a weak national government and gave individual states a lot of authority over their own affairs. The Articles specified that any power not expressly given to Congress belonged to the states.



Strengths of the Articles included setting up a republican form of government where citizens elect people to represent them, and establishing self-government for this new nation under a written document.

The Articles had many weaknesses, including:

- Congress could not levy taxes, leaving the country unable to pay debts or soldiers.
- Congress could not regulate trade, allowing tariff squabbles to paralyze interstate commerce.
- Congress could make laws, but not force states to comply with them.
- Articles only gave each state one vote, regardless of population.
- Articles provided for no executive or judicial branch, only a legislative branch. There was no court system to decide disputes.
- Congress could not raise an army without the states' permission, leaving the nation defenseless.



Match the Article of Confederation powers to their consequence.

Answers only

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. ___ Congress can make laws... | A. ...so people were not represented equally. |
| 2. ___ Articles only provided for a legislative branch... | B. ...but can't force states to obey them. |
| 3. ___ Congress could not levy taxes... | C. ...so there was no court system to decide disputes. |
| 4. ___ Each state only had one vote... | D. ...so interstate commerce was often at a standstill. |
| 5. ___ Congress could not regulate trade... | E. ...so it couldn't pay the country's bills. |



Question for Discussion

Many states had rivers as borders, but Congress could not regulate how they should share the river for trade. What kind of problems might come up as neighboring states used the river to transport goods?

“A Limping Government”

It soon became clear that the national government was just too weak under the Articles of Confederation. George Washington called it “a half-starved, limping government.” The states argued over things like borders and trade, and Congress had no power to stop them. Foreign governments did not know if they were dealing with one nation or 13 individual ones. Financial difficulties worsened. It became clear that the Articles had to be revised.

10/11 - STOP



Unscramble the word to find a synonym for “revise.”

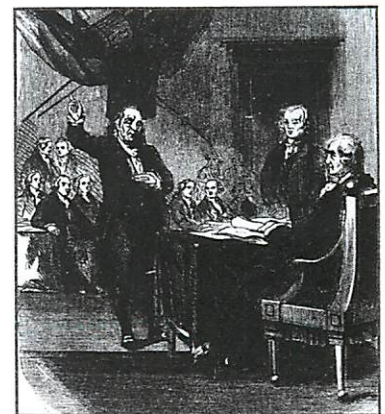
Y D F O M I _____

Chapter 10

SS8H4b: Describe the role of Georgia at the Constitutional Convention of 1787; include the role of Abraham Baldwin and William Few, and reasons why Georgia ratified the new constitution.

The Constitutional Convention

In September 1786, Alexander Hamilton of New York and James Madison of Virginia called a meeting of state representatives in Annapolis, Maryland to discuss the disagreements between states. Delegates only came from five states, so another meeting was proposed for May 1787 in Philadelphia.



Delegates to the Philadelphia convention intended to revise the Articles of Confederation. They ended up writing a completely new document—the Constitution of the United States. Their meeting became known as the Constitutional Convention.