

A More Perfect Union

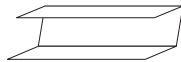
TOPIC SUMMARY

The leaders of the new United States worked to define the powers of government. The Articles of Confederation, America’s first constitution, provided for a new central government under which the states gave up little of their power. Territories seeking statehood, a collapse of the country’s finances, and disputes with Britain and Spain led to a draft of the new Constitution. The Constitution created a federal system in which the national government and the states shared power. It divided the federal government into three branches—legislative, executive, and judicial.

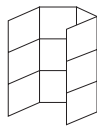


Organizing Information This Foldable will help students organize what they learn about the differences between the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution.

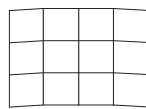
Step 1 Fold an 11" x 17" piece of paper lengthwise to create three equal sections.



Step 2 Then fold it into four equal columns.



Step 3 Label your Foldable as shown.



Chapter 7: A More Perfect Union	Purpose	Description	Effectiveness
Articles of Confederation			
Constitution			

Reading and Writing Describe each document by identifying its purpose and features, and evaluate how effective it was for governing.

TOPIC ACTIVITY IDEAS

Creating Visuals

Have students create the Study Foldable above and label it as shown. Then have them list details about each document’s purpose, description, and effectiveness in the appropriate boxes. On the reverse have them write questions that they have about each and then ask them to research the answers.

Once students have completed their Foldables, organize them into pairs or small groups. Have each pair or group create a poster using the information from the Foldable. Suggest that the students draw pictures, write captions, create titles, and so on. Have each pair or group present their poster to the class.

SUMMARIZING

Ask students to create a Foldable using the example to the right. Students should use the chapter text to complete the assignment. Have students record the plan name, names of people, and the Pros and Cons connected with each plan. On the back of the folder, ask students to explain the importance of compromise in government.

Plan	People	Pros	Cons
Virginia Plan			
New Jersey Plan			

What?	Who?	When?	Where?
wampum			
tobacco leaves			
Continental			
greenbacks			

SPECIFYING

Have students create a Foldable as modeled to the left. Students should use the Internet and the library to research the items in the left column and their use as money. Have students identify who used the different types of money, what they used it for, during what years the money was used, and where the money was used. On the back of the Foldable, ask students to explain the purposes of money in their own words.

Student Study Tip

As students are learning about the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution, suggest that they read the full text of the Constitution. It is helpful for students to have the document in front of them for reference when they are learning about it. Remind students that the Constitution has been the fundamental law of the United States for more than 200 years.