

From Colonies to States

Trace how state and federal governments developed during and after the Revolution.

4.4a "After the Revolution, the United States of America established a federal government; colonies established state governments."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that tells how former colonies established state governments.
Circle each sentence that tells how the United States established a federal government.
If a sentence tells about both, mark it both ways.

Building New Governments

- ① Before the American Revolution, thirteen British colonies had their own local assemblies, but Britain's king and Parliament made many important decisions for them. During the Revolution, the colonies declared independence and organized state governments. Most states wrote new constitutions; some adapted existing charters as their plans for government. The former colonies became the states of the new United States.
- ② The states also decided to work together as one country. The Articles of Confederation created a weak national government and took effect in 1781. In 1787, delegates wrote the Constitution, a plan for a stronger federal government. The new government began operating in 1789. It could handle issues affecting all the states, such as national defense and trade between states.
- ③ The Constitution divides the federal government into three branches. The president leads the executive branch, Congress is the legislative branch that makes federal laws, and federal courts make up the judicial branch and decide cases about federal laws. State governments continued to make decisions for their own states. Both federal and state governments protect people's rights and promote the common good.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What kind of government did each former colony organize during the Revolution?

2 What did the former colonies become in the new United States?

3 What document did delegates write in 1787 to plan a stronger federal government?

4 According to the passage, how were the jobs of the federal and state governments different?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that two former colonies have just become independent. Write three sentences explaining how they could establish their own state governments and then join a federal government. Include one job for each level of government.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that tells how former colonies established state governments. Circle each sentence that tells how the United States established a federal government. If a sentence tells about both, mark it both ways. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What kind of government did each former colony organize during the Revolution?	Each former colony formed a state government.
2	What did the former colonies become in the new United States?	They became states.
3	What document did delegates write in 1787 to plan a stronger federal government?	The Constitution.
4	According to the passage, how were the jobs of the federal and state governments different?	The federal government handled issues that affected all the states, such as defense and trade between states. State governments made decisions for their own states.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After independence, Pine State and River State formed their own state governments. Their leaders joined other states to establish a federal government. The federal government handled defense for all the states, while each state made decisions for its own people.

Accept wording that distinguishes state governments formed by former colonies from the federal government established for the United States. For the open response, accept reasonable invented state names and accurate examples of state-level and federal-level jobs.