

United, Yet Separate

How state interests shaped the early United States

7.4a "Throughout the American Revolution, the colonies struggled to address their differing social, political, and economic interests and to establish unity..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In paragraph 1, underline two different interests. In paragraph 2, circle one power of Congress and box one power kept by states.

A Loose Union

- ① During the American Revolution, the thirteen colonies fought a common enemy but had different interests. A coastal merchant might care about trade, while a frontier settler might seek protection from raids. Some leaders wanted a stronger shared government to guide the war. Others feared that a distant government could take away local control. These differences made unity difficult even while the colonies worked for independence.
- ② After independence, the Articles of Confederation gave the new nation a Congress, but most power remained with the states. Each state had one vote in Congress, whether it was large or small. Congress could make treaties, manage western lands, and ask states for money. However, it could not collect taxes directly from citizens or force states to follow its requests. States could print their own money, set trade rules, and keep control over many decisions. This arrangement protected state sovereignty, but it made national action slow and uncertain.
- ③ Problems after the war showed the limits of this loose union. When Congress asked states to send money to pay national debts, some states did not send enough. States sometimes placed taxes on goods from other states, hurting trade between them. In 1786 and 1787, Shays' Rebellion in Massachusetts also alarmed leaders, who saw that Congress could not quickly provide help to restore order. These economic and political troubles led many Americans to call for a meeting to revise the national government. The Constitutional Convention met in 1787.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two groups with different Revolutionary-era interests. State their interests and one postwar economic problem.

2 Give one way the Articles united states and one way they protected state sovereignty.

3 How did two limits on Congress slow national action?

4 How did these problems lead to the Constitutional Convention?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Complete the two-row chart to compare one difference in interests during the Revolution with one state power after independence. In the last column, explain how each example made unity or national action more difficult.

TIME AND DETAIL	DIFFERENT INTEREST OR STATE POWER	EFFECT ON UNITY OR NATIONAL ACTION

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In paragraph 1, underline two different interests. In paragraph 2, circle one power of Congress and box one power kept by states. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two groups with different Revolutionary-era interests. State their interests and one postwar economic problem.	A coastal merchant cared about trade, while a frontier settler wanted protection from raids. After the war, states placed taxes on goods from other states, which hurt trade.
2	Give one way the Articles united states and one way they protected state sovereignty.	Congress could make treaties for the states. States retained powers such as issuing money and setting trade rules.
3	How did two limits on Congress slow national action?	Congress could not tax citizens directly or enforce its requests. Some states sent too little money.
4	How did these problems lead to the Constitutional Convention?	Economic and political troubles prompted calls to revise the government at the 1787 Convention.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

TIME AND DETAIL	DIFFERENT INTEREST OR STATE POWER	EFFECT ON UNITY OR NATIONAL ACTION
Revolution	Merchants prioritized trade; frontier settlers wanted protection	Competing needs made agreement harder.
After independence	States set trade rules	Taxes on other states' goods hurt trade.

Accept accurate passage-based examples. The chart should include a Revolutionary-era interest difference, a later state power, and the effect of each on unity.