States Working Together

War, diplomacy, and the Articles of Confederation

5.C.4.3 "Examine the first United States of America centralized system of government under the Continental Congress and established by the Articles of Confederation. Identify the Articles of Confederation as a loose alliance of states..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle two details that show states kept power. Then underline one action Congress took in war and one action it took in diplomacy to compare what states and Congress could do.

A Government for Thirteen States

1. Picture a messenger riding from one state to another with news of a British attack. During the Revolutionary War, the states needed a way to make decisions together. Their delegates met in the Continental Congress, which acted as a central government for the new United States. Congress could organize the war effort, but it depended on the states for soldiers and money.

2. Congress approved the Articles of Confederation in 1777, and all thirteen states had agreed to them by 1781. The Articles set up a national government led by Congress, but it was a loose alliance of states. Each state kept many powers and ran its own affairs. Congress could ask states for money and troops, but it could not make them provide what it requested.

3. Even with those limits, working together mattered. Congress directed a shared army during the war. It also handled diplomacy, or talks and agreements with other countries. In 1778, before the Articles took effect, Congress approved an alliance with France. French money, troops, and ships helped the Americans fight Britain. After 1781, the Articles kept Congress responsible for war decisions and treaties with other countries.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two details show that the Articles made the states a loose alliance?

2. How did Congress help the states fight Britain together?

3. How did Congress seek help from another country before the Articles took effect, and how did that help the war effort?

4. After 1781, what job did the Articles give Congress in diplomacy, and why was that useful to the states?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a foreign army threatens all thirteen states. Write a three-sentence note to your state's lawmakers explaining why your state should work with the others through Congress. Include how the Articles limited Congress, one way Congress could help in a war, and one way it could work with another country.

ANSWER KEY

States Working Together

GRADE 5 · 5.C.4.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle two details that show states kept power. Then underline one action Congress took in war and one action it took in diplomacy to compare what states and Congress could do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details show that the Articles made the states a loose alliance?	**States kept many powers and ran their own affairs. Congress could ask for money and troops but could not make states provide them.**
2	How did Congress help the states fight Britain together?	**Congress directed a shared army and asked states for soldiers and money.**
3	How did Congress seek help from another country before the Articles took effect, and how did that help the war effort?	**Congress approved an alliance with France. French money, troops, and ships helped the Americans fight Britain.**
4	After 1781, what job did the Articles give Congress in diplomacy, and why was that useful to the states?	**Congress handled treaties with other countries, giving the states a way to make agreements together.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Under the Articles, our state keeps many powers, and Congress cannot force us to send money or troops. Still, Congress can direct a shared army so the states can fight the threat together. Congress can also make a treaty with another country to seek help, so our state should work with the others.

Accept other passage-supported examples of state power, shared war efforts, and diplomacy. For the open task, look for three sentences that connect all three required ideas to the new threat.