**Directions:** *As you read, answer the questions. You must write the question and the answer to receive credit.*

**Reading page 1, Section 1:**

1. What was the name of the first government that followed the Declaration of Independence?
2. What is a confederation?
3. What did the states retain under the Articles of Confederation?
4. Why couldn’t Congress put together an army or navy?
5. What did criminals do because there was not a national court system?
6. What does refuge mean?
7. Because the 13 states were functioning as 13 individual countries and not as one nation, who were they fearful of being attacked by (3 groups)?
8. What is a constitutional convention?
9. What was the outcome of that meeting?

**Reading page 1, Section 2:**

1. What was the citizen rebellion that began in 1786 called?
2. Why did 2,000 Massachusetts farmers march on country courthouses to prevent land foreclosures?
3. Why did Congress not respond?
4. What did Congress say was the only purpose for calling for a constitutional convention after Shays’s rebellion?

**Reading page 1, Section 3:**

1. What are the Articles of Confederation?
2. What is a confederation?
3. What is a constitutional convention?
4. What does debt mean?
5. What was the proper definition of Shays’s Rebellion?

**Reading page 2, Section 3:**

1. Why did the newly formed U.S. create the Articles of Confederation?
2. What year was the Declaration of Independence signed?
3. What year did the Revolutionary War end?
4. What year did the Revolutionary War start?
5. Who was the Revolutionary War between?

**Reading page 2, Section 4:**

1. What does ratified mean?
2. What was the first government of the newly formed United States?
3. What is a confederation?
4. Why did the colonists want to create this system of government?
5. Who had most of the power under the Articles of Confederation?
6. What were the seven weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?
7. Why do you think these seven things considered weaknesses?
8. What rebellion made it clear that the Articles of Confederation was not working?
9. What two things that the freedom of the American Revolution led to could the Articles of Confederation not keep?

**Understanding the Articles of Confederation**

Directions: While you read, mark text that helps you answer the following guiding questions. After reading, cite the specific text-based evidence that helps you answer each question. Then, write you answers in complete sentences and in your own words.

**What is the Articles of Confederation?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Evidence from Text** |  |

**What is a confederation?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Evidence from Text** |  |

**What were the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Evidence from Text** |  |

**What does the term debt mean? What does debt have to do with Shays’s Rebellion?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Evidence from Text** |  |

**How did Shays’s Rebellion lead to the Constitutional Convention?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Evidence from Text** |  |

**What happened at the Constitutional Convention?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Evidence from Text** |  |

**Excerpts of the U.S. Constitution**

**Directions:** *Below are six excerpts from the U.S. Constitution. Compare the excerpt to the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and determine which weakness is related to the excerpt.*

|  |
| --- |
| Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the Unites States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. |
|  |
| Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power… To regulate Commerce foreign Nations, and among the several States |
|  |
| Article II, Section 3:…he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed… |
|  |
| Article III, Section 1: The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. |
|  |
| Article II, Section 1: The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. |
|  |
| Article V: The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution**…** |
|  |