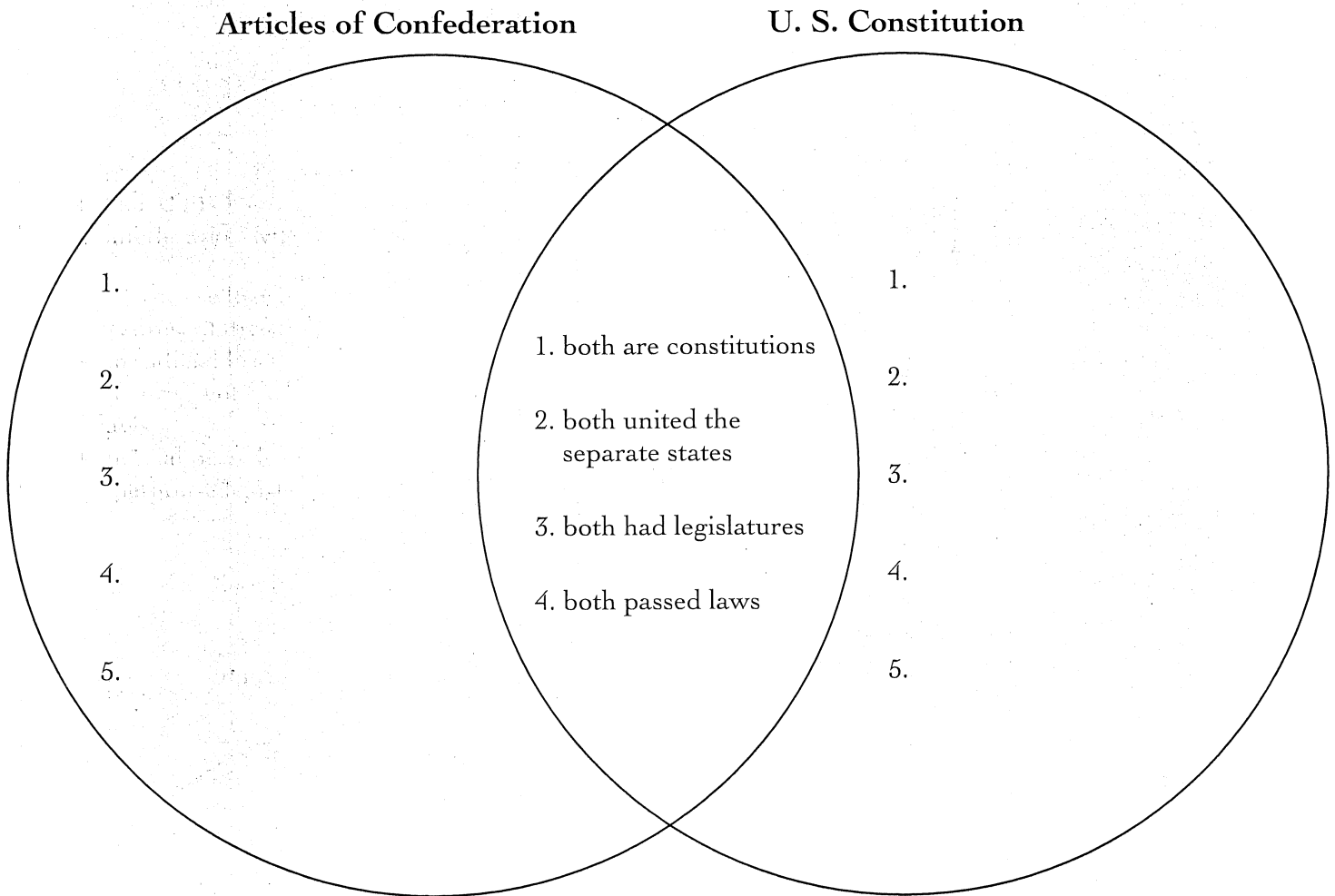


ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION VS. U. S. CONSTITUTION VENN DIAGRAM

DIRECTIONS: Consider the structure of our national government as you contrast the Articles of Confederation with the U. S. Constitution. Complete the Venn diagram using the following phrases:

- two-house legislature (Senate and House of Representatives)
- no judicial branch
- majority vote in both houses required to pass laws
- judicial branch with a Supreme Court
- one-house legislature (Congress)
- unanimous vote required to pass laws
- two votes for each state in Senate; proportional representation in the House
- each state has one vote, regardless of population
- no executive branch
- executive branch with a president and vice president



ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION GRAPHIC ORGANIZER— TEACHER ANSWER KEY

CONFEDERATION: a group of states united under a weak central government.

State Government Powers	National Government Powers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taxation • create a state court system • enforce laws passed by Congress • all powers not delegated to the national government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited powers • declare war and wage war • make treaties • settle disputes between states • petition, or request, money from the states (but no power to collect) • direct the operations of land and naval forces
Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • national government cannot impose or collect taxes • no national currency • no national court system • no executive branch • no power to regulate trade among the states • one vote per state regardless of population • two-thirds majority (nine of thirteen states) needed to pass laws • unanimous consent (thirteen states) needed to amend the Articles of Confederation 	

SUMMARY OF THE U. S. CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure peace in our nation, provide for our defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and all future generations, do authorize and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I

Congress is divided into two bodies—the Senate and the House of Representatives. Each state has two senators. The number of representatives is determined by the population of each state, with each slave counting as three-fifths of a person. Congress will be given the power to:

- borrow money
- regulate trade among the states and with foreign nations and Native American nations
- coin money and regulate its value
- create a postal system
- declare war
- raise and support an army and provide a navy
- confirm appointments to the U. S. Supreme Court
- ratify treaties
- make all laws “necessary and proper” for Congress to use its powers

Article II

The executive branch, limited to four-year terms, is headed by the president and the vice president.

The president has the power to:

- act as commander in chief of the American armed forces
- negotiate treaties and alliances with foreign governments
- nominate U. S. Supreme Court justices
- approve or veto bills passed by Congress
- pardon criminals convicted of federal crimes
- address Congress regarding the state of the union
- assemble a cabinet of advisors

Article III

The judicial system will be led by the U. S. Supreme Court of nine justices. Each justice will be appointed by the president and confirmed by the senate. The federal court has the power to:

- settle disagreements between people in different states or settle disputes between the states themselves
- hear cases involving government officials such as ambassadors and legislators
- create additional lower courts

Article IV

States must recognize the rights and responsibilities of other states. Specifically:

- citizens in one state are entitled to the same “privileges and immunities” as citizens in all other states
- criminals who flee a state must be returned to the original state to face trial
- slaves who escape to a non-slave state are not considered free and are returned to their original owners

New states are allowed to join the Union, and Congress will control all land not controlled by the states.

Article V

The Constitution was made to be amended by approval of:

- two-thirds of both the House of Representatives and the Senate or
- two-thirds of the states

Three-fourths of the states must agree on the changes in state conventions.

Article VI

All debts owed by the previous government will be assumed by the Republic. Also, other provisions had to be made to ensure the responsible operation of the governing bodies:

- any laws made at the national level are more important than all others, and all of the state governments must obey the U. S. Constitution
- all government officials must take an oath of office, but there will be no religious test to hold office

Article VII

For the Constitution to take effect, at least nine of the thirteen states must ratify. States must hold ratification conventions to determine whether or not they will accept the new federal government.