

5.7 Teacher Key

Grade Standard Teacher Key to Student Handout 5.7

Specific weakness: Copy the main idea presented.	Summary for the teacher	Explain why this weakness would make it difficult for a government to rule effectively.	What questions do you have about the listed weakness?
1 The states didn't act immediately.	Not all the states approved of the Articles of Confederation. It took two years for the document to be approved.	Not all the states were entirely supportive of the agreement.	Students generate their own questions. I I V
2 The central government was designed to be very weak.	The agreement created a group, or confederation, of states. There was no real central power.	Without an executive or judicial branch, there was no one group or person enforcing the laws and making sure that states and individuals abided by the decisions.	
3 The Articles Congress only had one chamber and each state had one vote.	Each state participated in the Continental Congress equally.	All of the states were equal and had their own priorities. There was no idea that they represented more than their state's constituents.	
4 Congress needed 9 of 13 states to pass any laws.	The Continental Congress needed more than a majority, a supermajority, to pass any legislation.	States had different interests, so to pass legislation by a supermajority, they had to get good at compromising and/or also had to create laws that would get approval of most states.	
5 The document was practically impossible to amend.	All states had to approve of any changes to the Articles of Confederation.	This agreement among all the states made change very difficult because they had different, and possibly competing, interests.	
6 The central government couldn't collect taxes to fund its operations.	The states voluntarily sent funds to the government. States needed their own tax revenues.	Without money, the government could not fund the expenses of the war effort.	
7 States were able to conduct their own foreign policies.	States were able to develop their own relationships with foreign governments.	During wartime, the ability of states to have different policies with foreign governments could create many competing interests.	

8 States had their own money systems.	Each state minted their own coins and money.	Not having one currency would make trade difficult across state lines.	
9 The Confederation government couldn't help settle Revolutionary War-era debts.	The government was in debt and could not pay debts because they could not raise taxes or have a single currency.	Having a single economic policy was necessary for the US to engage with foreign countries.	
10 Shays' rebellion – the final straw.	Shays' rebellion showed that the US government did not have the power to protect its people.	The role of the state is to provide security to its people. With no military and no money to raise a military the government could not protect its interests or that of its citizens.	