

Creating the Constitution

Reading a Chart

The Articles of Confederation and the Constitution

The chart below lists features of government under the Articles of Confederation and under the Constitution.

Directions: Study the chart. Then answer the questions that follow.

Articles of Confederation	Constitution
Only a loose agreement among the states; power was in each state.	A formal union; power was centered in the national government.
A one-house Congress, with one vote per state, no matter what its population.	A two-house Congress; the House of Representatives based on population and the Senate based on equal representation—two votes per state.
Congress had no power to tax.	Congress could tax.
Congress could not regulate foreign or interstate trade.	Congress could regulate foreign and interstate trade.
No executive to enforce laws made by Congress.	An executive branch led by the President could carry out and enforce national laws.
No national system of courts.	A judicial branch, with a supreme court, to review laws and settle interstate conflicts.

1. How was the change in Congress under the Constitution an improvement?

2. What were two changes in the powers of Congress?

3. **Draw Inferences** Why was it important to have a judicial branch at the national level?
