

## Matrix: Examining the Articles of Confederation

Students will read about the Articles of Confederation then work in groups to identify problematic features of the Articles, why they were included, and possible problems caused by these features. When done, students will transfer their findings to the Matrix created on p.9 of their notebooks.

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Why this was included in the Articles of Confederation</b>	<b>Possible problems with this feature</b>
<b>No Chief Executive</b>	Did not want to have another powerful executive like King George III.	Lack of leadership from central government—no single leader
<b>Laws needed approval by 9 of 13 states</b>	Wanted to protect individual states' power. Fear of strong central government	Difficult to get 9 states to agree on a new law. Central government unable to do much
<b>Congress did not have the power to tax citizens</b>	Fear of being unfairly taxed by the central government, as they had been under British rule	States often chose not to pay taxes, and the federal government didn't have the funds to operate properly
<b>Congress did not have the power to raise an army</b>	Fear of a central government with a strong army that might take away citizen's rights	Left country vulnerable without a dependable military force—defenseless
<b>No national court System</b>	Fear of a court system that might be unfair to the rights of the states	Disputes between the states often could not be settled fairly
<b>Any amendments to the Articles must be approved by all 13 states</b>	Wanted to make sure the states had a strong say in shaping the government	Nearly impossible to make changes to the Articles
<b>Congress did not have power to collect state debts</b>	Fear of forcing states to pay for things they didn't want	Federal government often didn't have funds necessary
<b>Congress could not settle state disputes</b>	Wanted states to have final authority in solving disputes	Disputes among states could not be resolved—creating disunity