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Subject: Social Studies

Grade Level: Grade 4

Unit of Study: Building a New Nation Lesson Topic: Articles of Confederation vs. U.S. Constitution

**INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

**Standard 4-4:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the beginnings of America as a nation and the establishment of the new government.

**Indicator 4-4.1:** Compare the ideas in the Articles of Confederation with those in the United States Constitution, including how powers are now shared between state and national government and how individuals and states are represented in the national congress.

**SET INDUCTION/INTRODUCTION:** (How will you introduce today's lesson? Focus, prepare, stimulate learners?)

Time: 10 minutes

Review key points of the Articles of Confederation. Have student copy onto chart previously handed out.

<b>Articles of Confederation</b>	
<b>Levying taxes</b>	Congress could request states to pay taxes
<b>Federal courts</b>	No system of federal courts
<b>Regulation of trade</b>	No provision to regulate interstate trade
<b>Executive</b>	No executive with power. President of U.S. merely presided over Congress
<b>Amending document</b>	13/13 needed to amend Articles
<b>Representation of states</b>	Each state received 1 vote regardless of size
<b>Raising an army</b>	Congress could not draft troops, dependent on states to contribute forces
<b>Interstate commerce</b>	No control of trade between states
<b>Disputes between states</b>	Complicated system of arbitration
<b>Sovereignty</b>	Sovereignty resides in states
<b>Passing laws</b>	9/13 needed to approve legislation

**INSTRUCTION:** (Procedure)

Time: 50 minutes

1. Explain that the Constitution of the United States of America established a federal system of government based on power shared between the national and state governments.
2. Explain that the federal system of government is a system that divides governmental powers between national government and the governments of the states.