

Who Needs a Constitution?

Read the passage.

The colonists wanted their rights. They had won a war for their freedom. They were ready to have their own country. During the war, the colonies worked together. After the war, they did not. Each colony was like its own country. Each one had its own laws. Each had its own money. Each one also had its own way to tax the people who lived there.

This caused problems. There was no strong central government. A person in one colony could not buy goods from a person in another. They didn't use the same money. Although the war was over, the British soldiers would not leave. There were no government troops to make them leave. The colonies could not agree about what to do about the Native American tribes. The colonies needed one voice.

In 1787, delegates headed to Philadelphia. They were told that they would fix the Articles of Confederation. They were going to make a plan for a strong central government for the colonies.



Draw a line from each cause statement to the matching effect statement.

Cause

The colonists wanted to be free from England's rule. •

Each colony had its own money. •

The colonies needed a strong central government. •

Effect

• People didn't want to buy crops and goods from people in other colonies.

• Colonies sent delegates to Philadelphia to work on a plan for a new government.

• They fought a war with England.