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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.

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