



Name _____

Nation's First Plan

Directions: Read the passage below about the early United States. Fill in each blank with the correct word that makes sense in the sentence.

taxes

freedom

power

Confederation

nation

stronger

Britain

weak

After winning independence from (1)_____, the thirteen states needed a plan to work together. They wanted to form a strong (2)_____ while still keeping the freedom of each state. In 1777, leaders wrote the Articles of (3)_____ as the first plan for the American government. The document said the states would be united in a "firm league of friendship" to protect (4)_____ and solve problems.

However, the new government was too (5)_____. It could not collect (6)_____ or control trade between states. Because the states kept most of the (7)_____, the national Congress had trouble making important decisions. Even though it had many challenges, the Articles of Confederation helped the young nation learn what it needed in a (8)_____ government.