

Articles Detective Answer Key

Highlighted clues may include:

- States keep independence and most power (Excerpt 1)
- States can tax goods from other states, causing conflict (Excerpt 2)
- Major decisions need nine states to agree, which is difficult (Excerpt 3)
- States must collect money themselves; Congress cannot enforce payments (Excerpt 4)
- States control their own militias, making national defense unorganized (Excerpt 5)
- Every state must agree to change the Articles, slowing improvement (Excerpt 6)

Sample Question Responses:

A. Answers should reference limited national power or difficulty reaching agreement.

B. Answers should mention teamwork, solving problems, or national stability.

Teacher's Guide

- Pre-teach the term **sovereignty** and discuss why states wanted independence after the Revolution.
- Encourage students to annotate by circling confusing phrases and using context clues to interpret them.
- Discuss as a class how each excerpt represents a real-world problem the new nation faced.
- **Differentiation:**
 - Provide sentence starters for struggling writers (e.g., "This rule made coordination hard because...").
 - Ask advanced students to research a historical example linked to one excerpt, such as trade disputes or national defense issues.
- **Engagement idea:** Post the excerpts on the board and have students place sticky notes labeling each as a cooperation problem.
- **Extension activity:** Students explain how the weaknesses in the Articles influenced the creation of the U.S. Constitution at the 1787 Convention.