

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Rebellion Revealed

**Directions:** Read the eyewitness-style account below. Underline sentences or phrases that show the national government's weakness under the Articles of Confederation.

I stood among the farmers in western Massachusetts, many of whom had just returned from fighting for independence. They were angry - the state courts demanded high taxes that few of them could afford to pay. Some men feared they would lose their farms because they could not pay their debts. Led by Daniel Shays, the farmers marched toward the courthouse to stop the trials.

People in town looked to the national government for help, but none came. Congress had no money to pay soldiers, and it could not force states to provide troops. Townspeople worried the farmers might grow violent, yet the national government could not step in quickly. State officials had to gather their own militia to stop the uprising. Many wondered how a new nation could survive if its government could not protect order during a crisis.