**Mending the Articles of Confederation**

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| **Weakness of the Articles of Confederation** | **Weaknesses Fixed Under the Constitution** |
| Congress could not levy or collect taxes, leaving the government starved for funds | Congress has the power to levy taxes to support the government |
| Congress could not regulate trade among the states or with other countries | Congress has the power to regulate interstate trade and trade with foreign countries |
| Congress had only one house, and each state had only one vote in Congress, regardless of population | Congress has two houses, and representation in the House of Representatives is based on population |
| Nine out of 13 states in Congress had to agree to pass a major law | Laws are passes by a simple majority of members of Congress |
| All 13 states had to agree to amend the Articles | Amendments can be ratified by three-fourths of the states |
| The government lacked an executive branch to enforce laws and a court system to settle legal disputes | The government has a legislative branch, an executive branch, and a judicial branch |
| Congress could not create a uniform currency. Money was issued by states | Congress has the sole power to issue money |
| The states could and did ignore laws passed by Congress | The Constitution and laws passed by Congress are the “supreme Law of the Land” |
| The states were loosely joined in a “league of friendship” | The states are bound together in a permanent union |

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