

Vocabulary

Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.

- ally** a sovereign or state united with another sovereign or state in a common cause
- arsenal** government building where arms and other war supplies are manufactured or stored; war supplies
- Articles of Confederation** the first constitution or written plan of government for the United States
- assess** to set the value of property for taxation; to charge or tax
- bicameral** made up of two legislative bodies consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives
- boycott**..... to refuse to buy or use as a means of protest
- compromise** a settlement in which each side gives up some of its demands in order to reach an agreement
- confederation** a system of government with strong state governments and a limited national government
- Constitution** the second constitution or written plan of government for the United States that explains the powers and duties of the government

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Constitutional Convention the meeting in 1787 at which the United States Constitution was written

Continental Congress meetings of colonial representatives in 1774 (First Continental Congress) to address unfair treatment of the colonies by England, and again in 1775 (Second Continental Congress) to approve the Declaration of Independence and plan for possible war

Declaration of Independence the document that lists the reasons Americans wanted to be free of English rule

executive branch the body of government that carries out laws

federal union a system of government with strong central powers making decisions for the country as a whole, with state governments making decisions that affect only their state

judicial branch the body of government (the courts) that interprets laws

legislative branch the body of government that makes laws

minutemen an informal military composed of civilian colonial soldiers who could answer the call to arms in a minute

negotiate work out or settle upon agreements or compromises in meetings

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- Parliament** Great Britain's legislative body, with an upper house, the House of Lords, and a lower house, the House of Commons
- petition** a formal request made to an individual or group in power
- repeal** to officially do away with an act or law so that it no longer exists
- seize** to take control of
- smuggled goods** things illegally taken in or out of a country without paying taxes
- Sons of Liberty** secret resistance group of Boston shopkeepers, artisans, and laborers
- sovereign** having independent or self-governing power
- Treaty of Paris of 1783** agreement to end the Revolutionary War and recognize the United States as an independent nation
- unanimous** total agreement
- unitary system** a system of government with a strong national government and weak or nonexistent state governments