Articles of Confederation (Summaries)

1. Establishes the name of the confederation as "The United States of America" and says it is a "perpetual Union."

What does this mean?

2. The individual states are more powerful than the central government. i.e. "Each state retains its political authority, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly authorized."

What does this mean?

3. Establishes the United States as a league of states united "... for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all attacks made upon them ..."

What does this mean?

4. Establishes freedom of movement—anyone can pass freely between states, excluding "fugitives from justice." All people are entitled to the rights established by the state into which he travels. If a crime is committed in one state and the perpetrator flees to another state, he will be returned to and tried in the state in which the crime was committed.

What does this mean?

5. Gives one vote in the Congress of the Confederation (United States in Congress Assembled) to each state, which was entitled to a delegation of between two and seven members. Members of Congress were appointed by state legislatures; individuals could not serve more than three out of any six years.

What does this mean?

6. Only the central government is allowed to conduct foreign relations and to declare war. No states may have navies or standing armies, or engage in war, without permission of Congress (although the state militias are encouraged).

What does this mean?

7. When an army is raised for common defense, colonels and military ranks below colonel will be named by the state legislatures.

What does this mean?
8. Expenditures by the United States will be paid by funds raised by state legislatures.

*What does this mean?*

9. Defines the rights of the central government: to declare war, to set the value of money, and for Congress to serve as a final court for disputes between states.

*What does this mean?*

10. Defines a Committee of the States to be a government when Congress is not in session.

*What does this mean?*

11. Requires nine states to approve the admission of a new state into the confederacy; pre-approves Canada, if it applies for membership.

*What does this mean?*

12. Reaffirms that the Confederation accepts war debt incurred by Congress before the Articles.

*What does this mean?*

13. Declares that the Articles are perpetual, and can only be altered by approval of Congress with ratification by all the state legislatures.

*What does this mean?*

*Perpetual: Lasting forever or for a long time*
What Would Happen If...
(Articles of Confederation)

Name______________
Date______________
Period______________

Directions: For each of the following scenarios or stories, you need to explain what would happen in that situation and what article you used to come up with your answer.

Scenario #1: James "Badman" Curtis robs a bank in Arizona. He knows that the police are looking for him and so he gets in his car and drives to South Dakota where, as he is sitting in the drive-thru at McDonalds, people recognize his face, call the authorities, and he is arrested.

What would happen to him and explain what "article" would be used to decide the matter?

Scenario #2: An area of land called "Togo Togo" wants to become part of the confederation. The delegates from the colonies get together and after voting on this matter, 8 out of the 13 colonies decided that "Togo Togo" should be accepted.

What happens to "Togo Togo"? What "article" did you use to come up with your answer and why?
Scenario #3: Costa Rica decides that it does not like the way Americans act and so they decide to attack the United States. This makes us mad and so we decide that we need to start a war with them.

Who is responsible for declaring war on Costa Rica and explain what "article" is used to come up with this answer.

Scenario #4: The war with Costa Rica is over, the United States has won. But while fighting the war, the United States had to spend a lot of money and now it needs to pay for that war.

Where does the government of the United States get that money and what "article" did you use to find the answer? Explain the article.

Scenario #5: Pennsylvania and New York get in an argument over who has the best football team. The argument gets heated and the two states are close to getting into a fight.

Who would settle this argument and explain what "article" you used to find your answer.