

CHAPTER
2
DECLARATION**READING COMPREHENSION****Declaration of Independence****3**

As you read the Declaration of Independence, note the four main sections of the document, and write a brief description of the content of each section in the chart below.

Section of the Declaration of Independence	Description of Content
Preamble	
Declaration of Natural Rights	
List of Grievances	
The Resolution of Independence	

CHAPTER
2
DECLARATION

READING COMPREHENSION

Declaration of Independence

2

Directions: Read the Declaration of Independence in the appendix of this book (p. 674), and answer the questions below.

Preamble (first paragraph):

1. What is the purpose of the Declaration of Independence?

Declaration of Natural Rights (second paragraph):

2. a. What are the rights of men?

- b. What is the purpose of government?

3. a. How do governments get their just or rightful powers?

- b. When do the people have a right to change the government?

List of Grievances:

4. What complaints does the Continental Congress have about the following?

- a. Trade:

- b. Taxes:

Resolution of Independence (final paragraph):

5. What kind of states are the new "United Colonies"?

CHAPTER 2 DECLARATION

CORE WORKSHEET

Declaration of Independence

3

Part 1 Think about the different parts of the Declaration of Independence. Then rate the effectiveness of the document on a scale of 1 to 10 as (1) an idealistic statement of human rights; (2) a statement of grievances; (3) propaganda. State your reasons for each evaluation.

1. an idealistic statement of human rights

1 (not at all effective) 10 (very effective)

Reasons:

-

2. a statement of grievances

1 (not at all effective) 10 (very effective)

Reasons:

-

- ### 3. propaganda

1 (not at all effective) 10 (very effective)

Reasons:

-

CORE WORKSHEET (continued)

Declaration of Independence

3

Part 2 Consider the audience that the signers of the Declaration of Independence hoped to reach.

A. What reaction might the document have elicited from undecided colonists, the British people, other Europeans, and British royalty? Write your responses on the lines below.

1. Undecided colonists: _____

2. British citizens: _____

3. Other Europeans: _____

4. British royalty: _____

B. Why was the reaction of each group significant?

C. What effect did the signers hope the Declaration of Independence would have on colonists already disposed toward the patriot cause?

CHAPTER
2
SECTION 3
READING COMPREHENSION**The Critical Period****3**

Complete the chart below by filling in the problem or problems created by each weakness of the Articles of Confederation and by each State action.

Weaknesses of Articles of Confederation	Problem(s)
1. One vote per State, regardless of population or wealth	
2. No power to tax	
3. No power to regulate trade	
4. No national court system.	
5. Lack of power to enforce Articles	
6. A 9/13 majority needed to pass laws	
Actions by States	
7. Refused to meet financial requests of Congress	
8. Made agreements with foreign governments without congressional approval	
9. Organized their own military forces	
10. Taxed or banned goods from other States	
11. Printed their own money, without backing	

CHAPTER
2
SECTION 3

READING COMPREHENSION

The Critical Period

2

Directions: Write an answer to each question in the space provided.
Use complete sentences.

1. The Articles of Confederation set up a national Congress. List three things the national Congress could do.

a. _____
b. _____
c. _____

2. How many delegates did the Articles of Confederation give Congress?

3. What was Shays' Rebellion?

4. List three weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

5. Why was the Constitutional Convention called?

CHAPTER

2

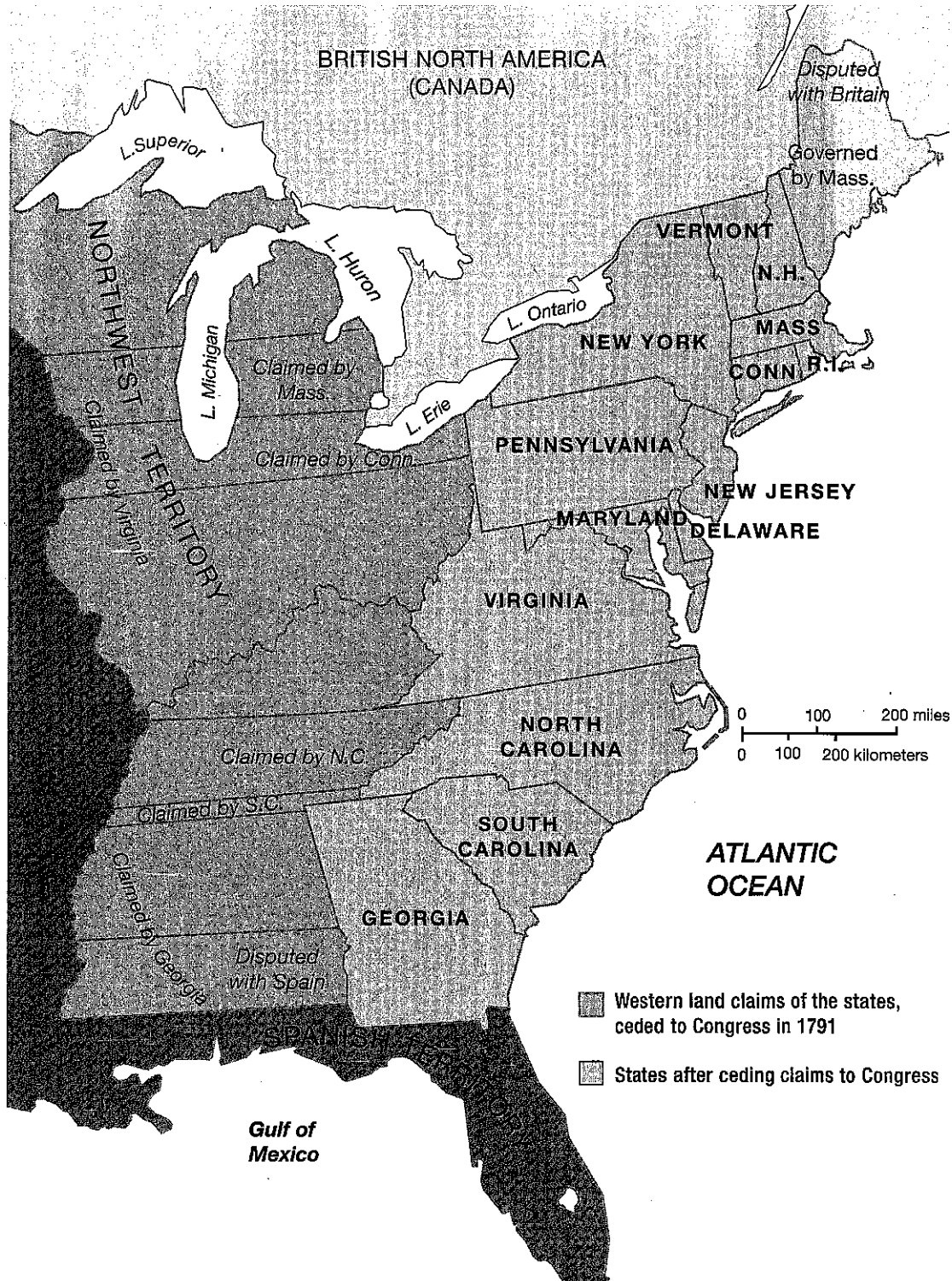
SECTION 3

CORE WORKSHEET

The Critical Period

3

Part 1 Study the map to answer the following questions.



CORE WORKSHEET (continued)

The Critical Period

3

1. Which States had claims to Western lands in the years before ratification of the Constitution?

2. Which State claimed the most Western territory at one time?

3. As it turned out, the States compromised to settle the issue of Western land claims. Though it was a highly charged and difficult issue, States with land claims eventually ceded their claims, and the new government gained sovereignty over all Western lands. Why might the States have taken such a dramatic step?

4. Which countries claimed lands bordering the new nation?

5. What issues might these foreign claims create for the new nation?

Part 2 What if the Articles of Confederation had remained America's constitution? Could the government have faced the big issues that lay ahead? Use what you have learned about the Articles to make predictions about what would have happened in each scenario below under the Articles of Confederation.

1. Many States had enormous debts. The National Government owed money to foreign nations and American credit was terrible. How would these debts have been paid under the Articles?

PREDICTION: _____

REASON: _____

CORE WORKSHEET (continued)

The Critical Period

3

2. The United States had no national capital. How would the States have chosen a location under the Articles?

PREDICTION: _____

REASON: _____

3. The United States could not raise taxes to pay the army. How would the States have faced European threats under the Articles?

PREDICTION: _____

REASON: _____

4. Settlers began moving westward after the Revolutionary War. How would the States have dealt with Native American land claims and conflicts with Native Americans under the Articles?

PREDICTION: _____

REASON: _____

5. Spain, France, and England still claimed territory in North America in the decades after the Revolutionary War. How would the States have dealt with these land claims under the Articles?

PREDICTION: _____

REASON: _____
