

# Making Comparisons

Skills for  
**LIFE**

In 1789, the Constitution replaced the Articles of Confederation, which had been adopted in 1777. Although the goal of both of these documents was to set up a government for the United States, there were many differences among them. One key difference was in the nature of the legislature. Use the excerpts below to make comparisons between the legislative branch of the National Government under each. Read the excerpts and then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow. You may want to prepare your comparison as a chart.

## Articles of Confederation

V ...delegates shall be annually appointed in such manner as the legislatures of each State shall direct...with a power reserved to each State to recall its delegates, or any of them, at any time within the year, and to send others in their stead for the remainder of the year.

No State shall be represented in Congress by less than two, nor more than seven members...

In determining questions in the United States in Congress assembled, each State shall have one vote....

## U.S. Constitution

**Article I Section 1.** All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

**Section 2.** The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states....

Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this union, according to their respective numbers....

**Section 3.** The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.

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1. What is the basis of comparison for these two documents?
2. How is Congress different under these documents?
3. How is Congress the same under these documents?
4. Are the excerpts of these documents mostly the same or mostly different? Why?