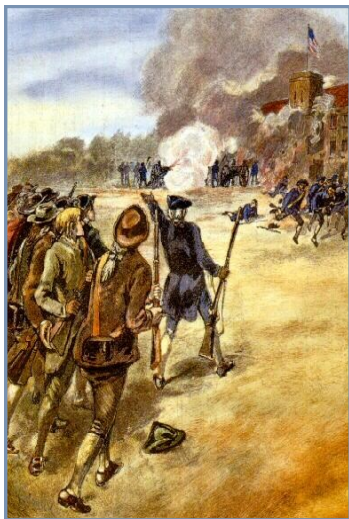
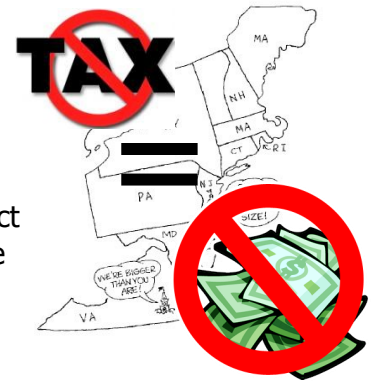


Early Rebellions

Name: _____

New Government, Big Money Problems

After the Revolutionary War, the new United States government was deep in debt. It had cost a lot of money to fight the British for independence. But the first government the Americans created was very weak. It was based on a document called the Articles of Confederation, which did not give the national government much power. In particular, the national government could not collect taxes. Instead, each state collected taxes from its citizens to pay its share of the war debt. But times were tough, and collecting taxes wasn't so easy.



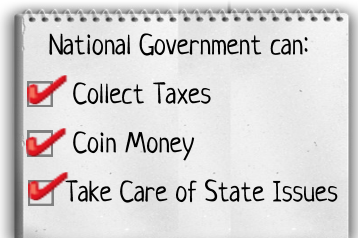
Shay's Rebellion: Citizens Turn Violent

Things were especially desperate in Massachusetts. Soldiers had returned home after the war expecting wages, but the government could not afford to pay. The economy was slow, and many people were having trouble making ends meet. Even so, the state demanded that citizens pay taxes with gold and silver, which was in short supply. Desperate people filed lawsuits to collect money they had lent to others. But few people had the money, so courts ordered them to pay their debts with the only thing they had left – their land. This fueled outrage that turned into rebellion.

In 1786, Daniel Shays led an armed uprising of Massachusetts farm owners. The men burned courthouses and attacked tax collectors, demanding that the state take action to help people in debt. At one point Shay led over a thousand men, vowing to keep the courthouses closed. The state militia broke up the rebellion, but the state eventually gave in to some of the demands.

A Stronger National Government

Shay's Rebellion made it clear that the national government needed to be stronger so it could help states in a crisis. In 1787, a new government was created. The new United States Constitution gave the national government the power to collect taxes, coin money, and take care of other business related to the states. But this caused more rebellion.



Grain farmers were so angry, they tarred and feathered tax collectors!

Whiskey Rebellion: Farmers Against Taxes

In 1791, the federal government decided to pay off the national debt by taxing the manufacture of whiskey. This outraged farmers who grew the main ingredient in whiskey: grain. In one area of Pennsylvania, things got out of control. Not only did those farmers earn their living from whiskey, but most people paid for things by trading goods. Whiskey was exchanged like money. The farmers refused to pay the tax and attacked the tax collectors. Acting under the new, stronger Constitution, President George Washington sent 15,000 troops to stop the rebellion. Word spread quickly, and the rebels disbanded before the troops arrived. Through this action, Washington proved that the national government had the strength to keep order in the country.

Fries's Rebellion: Tax Assessors, Go Home!

A final rebellion occurred in 1799 when the national government decided to collect property taxes in order to pay for a war against France. Some German-speaking citizens in Pennsylvania were not aware of the new law. When government tax assessors showed up asking questions about how much their property was worth, the citizens rebelled. They were quickly arrested and put on trial. The national government no longer had to struggle to establish its authority.

Early Rebellions

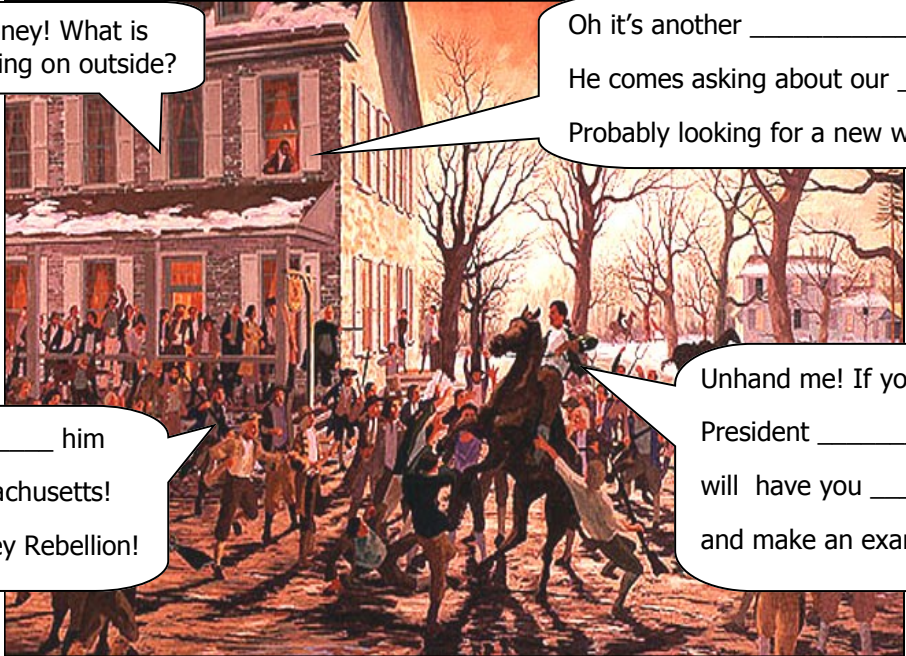
Name: _____

One Rebellion Too Many! By the time Fries's Rebellion started, citizens had become wary of tax collectors. They had heard of rebellions in other parts of the country and responded in a similar way. Use the word bank to fill in the missing words from the talk bubbles. See how this scene played out!

- arrested
- Washington
- land
- tax collector
- attack

Honey! What is going on outside?

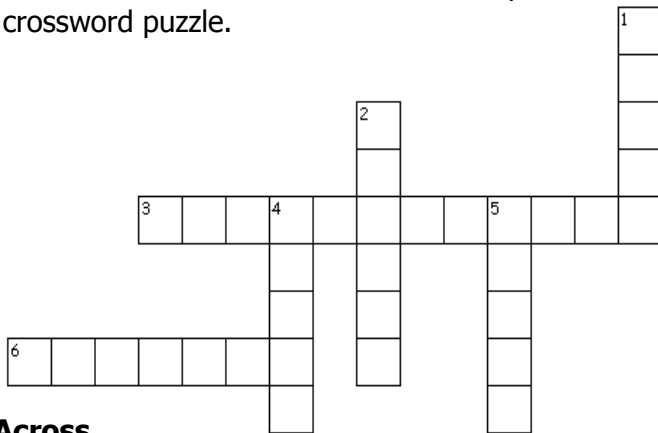
Oh it's another _____.
He comes asking about our _____.
Probably looking for a new way to tax us.



Let's _____ him
like they did in Massachusetts!
Or during the Whiskey Rebellion!

Unhand me! If you dare hurt me
President _____
will have you _____
and make an example of you all!

Puzzle Me This. Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.



Across

3. Gave power to the national government to collect taxes, coin money, and take care of some state issues.
6. Rebellion made up of grain farmers in Pennsylvania against a tax.

Down

1. The main ingredient in whiskey.
2. Pennsylvania rebellion against a property tax to pay for a war against France.
4. Rebellion made up of Massachusetts farm owners against unfair debt collection.
5. Helps pay for the expenses of the government, like funding a war.

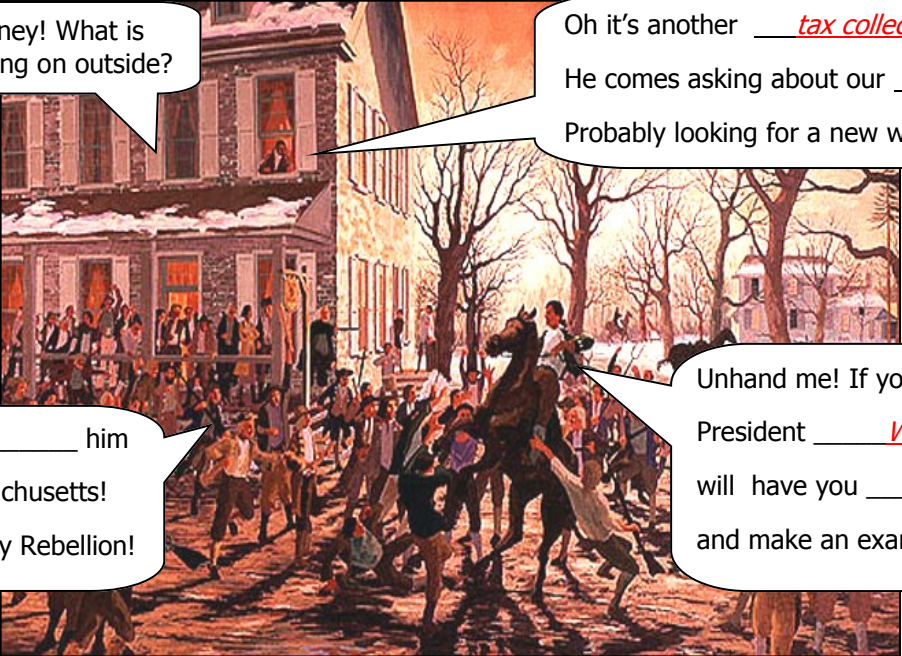
Debt Calculator: How did the farmers in end up with so much debt after the war? Take a look at all the farmer's expenses, then the income he brought in. Circle which number is larger.

This Week's Expenses		Weekly Income
1 cow	\$10	Sale of 5 bushels of corn
1 sack flour	\$4	\$1.65
1 lbs. coffee	\$0.25	Sale of 100 lbs. of beef
Property taxes	\$2	\$2.73
		Wages for serving in Continental Army (hasn't arrived)
		\$20,000
Total:		Total:

If income is less than your expenses, this leads to debt. What can happen when you fall into debt?

Early Rebellions

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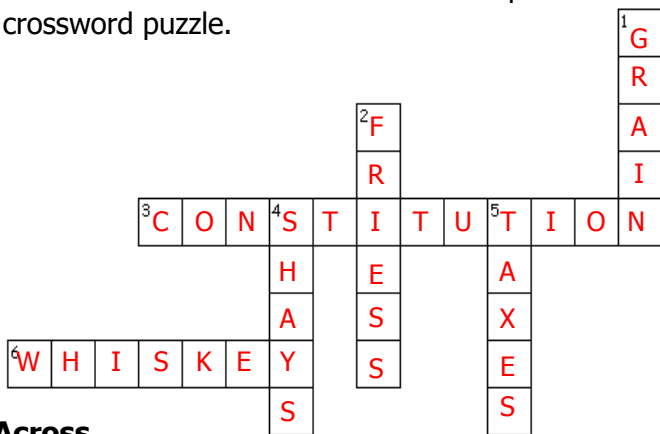
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Debt Calculator: How did the farmers in end up with so much debt after the war? Take a look at all the farmer's expenses, then the income he brought in. Circle which number is larger.

This Week's Expenses		Weekly Income	
1 cow	\$11	Sale of 5 bushels of corn	
1 sack flour	\$4		\$1.65
1 lbs. coffee	\$0.25	Sale of 100 lbs. of beef	
Property taxes	\$2		\$2.73
		Wages for serving in Continental Army (hasn't arrived)	\$20,000
Total:	\$17.25	Total:	\$4.38

If income is less than your expenses, this leads to debt. What can happen when you fall into debt?

Answers will vary.

People can get:

- frustrated
- angry
- Etc.