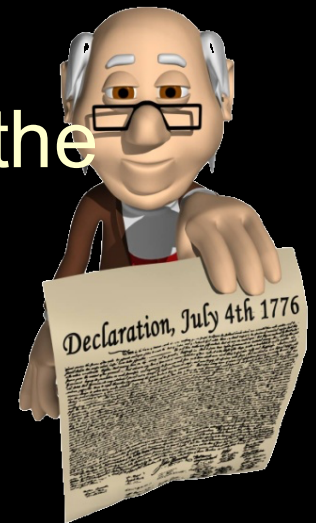


Articles of Confederation

- After the Revolutionary War the colonies did not want to give up power to a strong central government.
- Each colony wanted to make their own rules and laws, but they needed to work together.
- The plan they came up with was called the Articles of Confederation.



Problems with The Articles of Confederation

- The Articles created a weak national government that left most of the power with the states.
- Congress or the national government could declare war, make peace treaties, and print and borrow money.
- Only the states could form an army, control trade or create taxes.



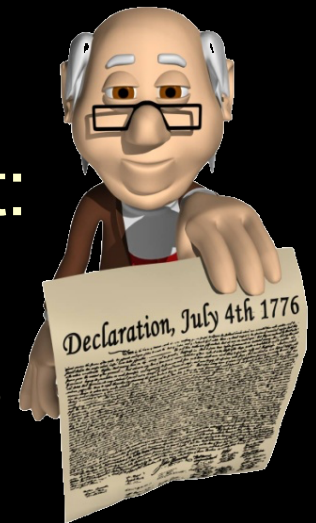
Weakness of the Articles of Confederation

- Each state had their own rules for trading this made trade among the states difficult.
 - This hurt America's economy.
- Congress could not pay its debt from the war because they were not allowed to tax the citizens of the states.
- Congress could not create an Army to protect the new nation.



Constitutional Convention

- A delegate or representation from each state met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to change the way American government worked.
- Benjamin Franklin was the delegate for Pennsylvania
- Another delegate was James Madison.
 - Proposed a new republic government: The Virginia Plan.
 - A government in which the citizens elect leaders to represent them.
 - 3 Branches of Government



Great Compromise

- Madison suggested that the number of representatives for each state should be based on population.
 - Small states thought this was unfair.
- Roger Sherman from Connecticut suggested a compromise.
 - Divide Congress into two houses
 - Each state would have equal number of representative in the Senate
 - The House of Representatives would be based on the population of each state.



Slavery

- Southern states wanted slaves to be counted as part of the population.
 - This would give southern states more representatives.
- Some delegates wanted to end the slave trade.
- Arguments led to the 3/5 rule.
 - This rule counted every 5 slaves as only 3 people.
- Slavery was allowed to continue so the southern states would support the Constitution.

