The Critical Period
(1781-1787)
The Articles of Confederation

- Unicameral Congress
- Each state has one vote
- Two-thirds vote required to pass legislation
- No power to tax, no national judiciary
- No navy or separate executive authority
Major Dilemmas

- How to pay war debts?
- Prevent foreign economic, military intervention
- Spain closes Mississippi River to American trade
- English remain in western forts
- How to settle competing western land claims of the new states?
Land Ordinance of 1785

- Northwest lands sold as 640 acre blocks
- Sections sold as 40 acre subunits
- Four sections reserved for the U.S
- Revenue from one sale to create public school
The Northwest Ordinance (1787)

- Ohio lands divided into 3 to 5 territories
- Statehood application with 60,000 population
- Territories become WI, OH, IN, MI, IL
Shays Rebellion (1786)

- Shays agenda (prohibit debt imprisonment, stop foreclosures, tax relief, state capitol relocation)
- Shays arrested and pardoned
Annapolis Convention (1786)

- 5 state delegations meet to discuss amending Articles
- Adjourn after calling for all states to meet in 1787