

Shays' Rebellion

Video Notes and Questions

Washington Retires

**America After the
Revolution**

Samuel Adams

Daniel Shays

A Nation in Chaos

Seeds of Rebellion

Taking Up Arms

The General's Response

**The Final Stages of the
Rebellion**

A Civil War Looms

Aftermath

Shays' Legacy

Constitutional Congress

September 17, 1787

Video Discussion Questions:

1. Daniel Shays felt that he had the right to be protected from debt and decline. Why did he believe the government was obligated to provide this protection? Do you think it was significant that Daniel Shays was a Revolutionary war veteran? Discuss.
2. How does Shays' Rebellion illustrate emerging class divisions in the United States?
3. What were the major complaints of Shays and his followers? What do you think they saw as the goals of the rebellion? Did these goals change over time?
4. Samuel Adams changed his views on revolution over time? Why? Explain your position
5. Do you think most Americans would have agreed with Shays' and his followers at the time of the rebellion? Do you think they would have approved of the way they addressed them?
6. What did Shays and think of Eastern businessmen, politicians and the judges in the courts?
7. Americans soon learned after the war that the Articles of Confederation were too weak. How did Shays' Rebellion reveal these weaknesses?
8. What provisions were included in the Articles for a federal government? Did limiting the powers of the federal government negatively impact the nation's development? Explain.
9. What could have been included in the Articles to help the emerging nation recover from war?
10. What role did Shays' Rebellion play in the creation of the Constitution? If Shays' Rebellion had been a peaceful protest, do you feel it would have had the same impact? Explain.