

## 7.1 The Articles of Confederation (1787-1791)

**READING CHECKS:** Answer each question as you read the text.

- Why did some states choose a bicameral legislature?
- What powers did the Confederation government have?
- What was the purpose of the Northwest Ordinance?
- Why did Spain close the lower Mississippi River to American trade?

**KEY TERMS:** Define each term's meaning or significance in terms of the text.

- constitution
- bicameral
- republic
- petition
- ordinance
- depreciate