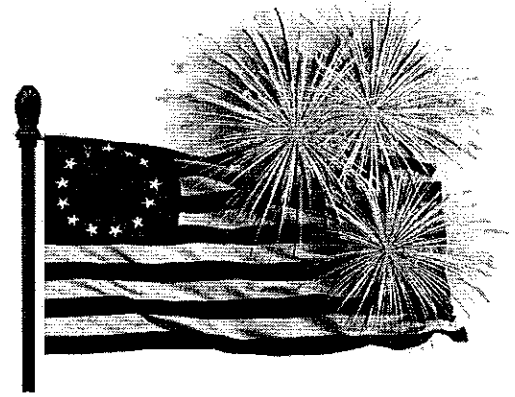


## Party Like It's 1783

When the Revolutionary War ended, Americans had won their liberty from Great Britain—and that wasn't all! The America that emerged victorious from the war in 1783 was *twice* the size of the America that declared independence in 1776. As part of the agreement to end the war, the British gave the United States control of all the land between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mississippi River. Included was a huge section of land that had been part of Britain's province of Quebec. This was a major score for the Americans. Party time!



## New Country in a New Country

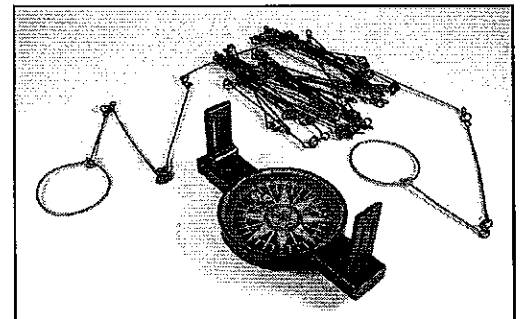
In the first few years after the Revolutionary War, the **Confederation Congress** was America's only central government. Congress had to decide what to do with this vast area the U.S. had just acquired. The decision was easy: Sell it! War is expensive, and the United States had borrowed a lot of money it needed to pay back. The U.S. government wasn't allowed to collect taxes from citizens, so selling parcels of land seemed like a great way to raise money. But opening the doors to the new territory wasn't as easy as putting up a "For Sale" sign. For one thing, the U.S. government didn't actually *own* the land. Several states claimed the territory as their own. The first few years were spent making deals with states to **cede** (pronounced "seed") ownership of the land to the United States.



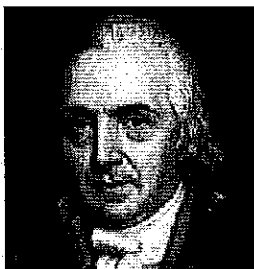
## So... How Do We Do This?

With the land free and clear, what next? No new land had ever been **incorporated** into the United States before. How should it be done? The area would need to be divided into smaller pieces. But how many pieces? And would those pieces actually become new states?

These questions and more sparked a hot debate. But to get started, Congress passed the **Land Ordinance of 1785**. This law directed the new territory to be divided into square townships measuring six miles on each side. Each township would be divided into sections measuring one mile on each side. As the surveyors began measuring and Congress debated the rest of the details, another piece of business was taking place—clearing unwanted residents from the area.



*Surveyors would have used a compass and chain like these to measure the sections.*



*Gen. Josiah Harmar was the first man sent to talk with squatters and Native Americans.*

## Operation Get Out

The Northwest Territory was not empty land. It was inhabited by **Native Americans** who had lived there for centuries. There were also unauthorized American **squatters** living in the territory on land they hadn't paid for. Congress needed these people out. After all, nobody wanted to buy land someone was already living on. In addition to not being able to collect taxes, the early government also wasn't allowed to keep an army standing by. So they put together a small militia of military volunteers from a few states and sent the men to the Northwest Territory to get rid of the squatters and negotiate with the Native Americans. It didn't go very well.

# We're Free — Let's Grow!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## This Land is Our Land

The squatters complained and resisted. They'd built homes, planted crops... Where were they supposed to go? Native Americans resisted, too—sometimes violently. The American government considered possibilities for getting the Native Americans to leave. War? Too expensive. Not only that, many believed it would be wrong to attack the Native Americans. So the United States decided to negotiate a **treaty** with each tribe, paying the tribe for its rights to the land. The tribes would move, and the land would be open. Easy, right?



*Little Turtle, chief of the Miami people, led successful battles against U.S. troops.*



*The U.S. Constitution was written in the summer of 1787. George Washington led the meeting, then was elected president. In office, he faced challenges with the Northwest Territory.*

## Meanwhile, Back in the States...

For a government with few resources, confronting people in the huge new territory wasn't so easy. But Americans were afraid to give their new government too much money or power because they had just won their freedom from an abusive government. However, the weak-government approach was causing a lot of problems. So in May 1787, a group of men met in Philadelphia to work on a solution. The raging debate that summer was how much power individual states should give up to a central government. While they argued, it was business as usual for the Confederation Congress. Miles away in New York, Congress passed a law for the Northwest Territory that would give the United States government power over all of America's future growth.

## A Plan for All Time

The July 1787 **Northwest Ordinance** made the rules for how the new territory would be incorporated into the United States:

- The new land would come under control of the United States government. It would not become part of any existing states.
- The land would eventually be divided up and become brand new states—at least three, but no more than five.
- Congress would appoint a temporary government for each territory formed in the region.

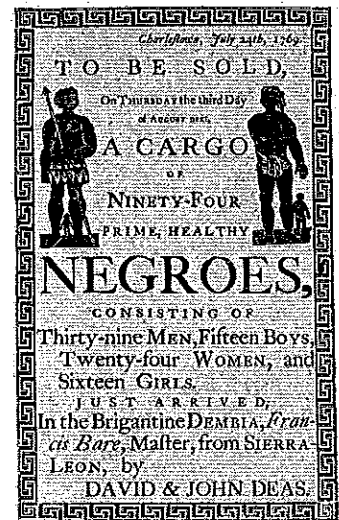
For a nation debating whether to give the central government more power, this was a big deal! For the first time, the United States government would actually control and govern territory all by itself. Although Congress didn't say it was making a plan for all time, that's what ended up happening.



*The Road to Fallen Timbers, by H. Charles McBarron. The U.S. overcame most Native American resistance at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794.*

## Move or Be Moved

With a plan in place, **settlers** flooded into the new territory. Negotiations were underway with the Native American tribes, but they weren't too excited about being restricted to small areas of land. Treaties were signed—sometimes under threat of war from America—and treaties fell apart. Violence increased as the tribes realized the bad deal they were getting and fought to keep their land. The white settlers fought to protect their new homes, and American soldiers fought to assert American control of the land. One thing was clear: The United States wasn't going away. Native Americans in United States territory would move or be moved.

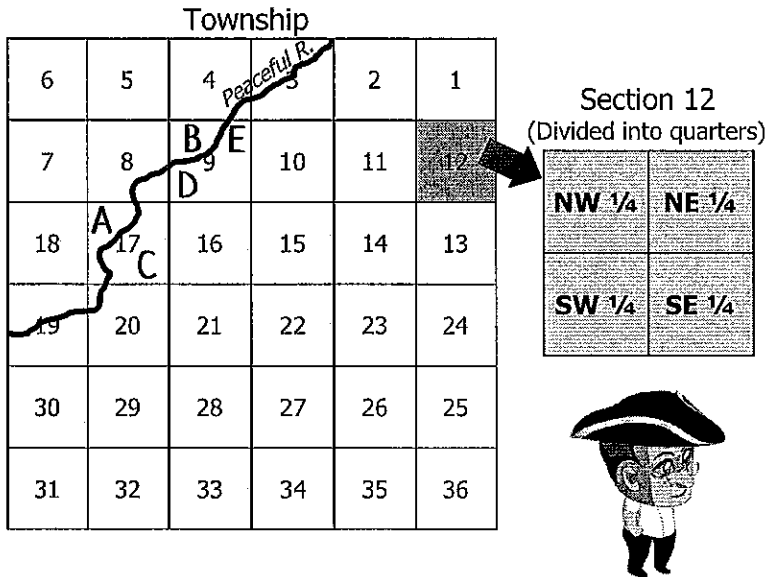


*Slavery existed in many states but was prohibited in the new territory.*

# We're Free — Let's Grow!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Survey the Settlers.** The surveying directed by the Land Ordinance of 1785 led to the Public Land Survey System still used by the United States today! A group of settlers decided to build near each other on the banks of the Peaceful River. Use the reading and the diagrams to answer the questions.



1.	How many sections are in the township?	
2.	How long is one side of a township, in miles?	
3.	How long is one side of a section, in miles?	
4.	Which settler lives in the southeast quarter of Section 17?	
5.	Which settler lives in the northwest quarter of section 9?	
6.	Settler F just built a place in the northeast quarter of Section 19. Add Settler F to the map.	

**B. Identify the Issues.** Adding new territory raised a lot of issues for the U.S. government. Match each situation with the issue it relates to. But watch out... Only 8 are real situations and issues! Cross out the two fake situations and issues.

## SITUATIONS

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Some people believed only states had the power to own and govern land.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. States argued about who had the right to sell seeds to settlers in the new territory.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The U.S. government asked states to cede their claims to the new land.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Northwest Ordinance made rules for how the new territory could become states.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The Northwest Ordinance made rules for territorial government.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Americans were angry because the U.S. only got part of Quebec, not all of it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Existing states were afraid of losing influence in Congress because of too many new states.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Congress decided to have the land surveyed and divided into townships six miles square.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The U.S. pressured Native Americans to leave their lands and move into restricted areas.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. There was tension between people who thought slavery was wrong and those who relied on slave labor.

## ISSUES

- A. How should territory be governed before it is a state?
- B. What should be done about Native Americans living on land the U.S. wants to settle?
- C. How many states should the new territory be allowed to become?
- D. Where should settlers in the new territory get their farming supplies?
- E. Is it okay for the federal government to own and govern territory?
- F. How will new territory be divided into parcels for sale?
- G. Should slavery be allowed in the new territory?
- H. Should the U.S. should go to war against Great Britain again?
- I. How should new states be added to the United States?
- J. What do we do about land states have claimed since before the U.S. was created?