

Northwest Ordinance 1787 - Origin of the Territories

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 addressed the provision of government in the new territories. Congress realized that this was necessary when a number of Revolutionary soldiers formed the Ohio Land Company, and sent an agent to New York, where Congress was in session, and offered to buy 5,000,000 acres on the Ohio River: 1,500,000 acres were for the Ohio Land Company and 3,500,000 for the Scioto Company. Congress were pleased to sell so much land but as the purchasers were going to send out settlers, it became necessary to establish some kind of government for them. On the 13th of July, 1787 Congress therefore passed the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which ordered that:

- Northwest Ordinance 1787: The whole region from the Lakes to the Ohio, and from Pennsylvania to the Mississippi, should be called "The Territory of the United States northwest of the river Ohio."
- Northwest Ordinance 1787: The territory should be cut up into not less than three nor more than five states, each of which might be admitted into the Union when it had 60,000 free inhabitants
- Northwest Ordinance 1787: Within the territory there was to be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude except in punishment for crime
- Northwest Ordinance 1787: Until such time as there were 5000 free male inhabitants aged over 21 years old in the territory, it was to be governed by a governor and three judges. They could not make laws, but might adopt existing laws in the states.
 - Northwest Ordinance 1787: After there were 5000 free male inhabitants in the territory the people were to elect a house of representatives, which in its turn was to elect 10 men from whom Congress was to select 5 to form a council
 - Northwest Ordinance 1787: The house of representatives and the council were then to elect a territorial delegate to sit in Congress with the right of debating, not of voting
 - Northwest Ordinance 1787: The governor, the judges, and the secretary were to be elected by Congress
 - Northwest Ordinance 1787: The council and house of representatives could make laws, but must send them to Congress for approval

OHIO'S PATH TO STATEHOOD CASE HISTORY

Description and Resource Materials

WORKSHEET 7: NW: PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENT STUDY (1)

Name: _____

Directions: Neatly fill out the worksheet with the correct answers. You will share these answers with the class in the future. Think about how the Northwest Ordinance moved Ohio toward statehood and guaranteed basic rights.

ARTICLE	THE TEXT STATES	MY IDEAS AND QUESTIONS ARE	IMPACT OF THE PEOPLE OF OHIO AND THEIR'S
1	No person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments in the said territory.		
2	The inhabitants of the said territory shall always be entitled to the benefits of the writ of Habeas corpus, and of the trial by jury; of a proportionate representation of the people in the legislature; and of judicial proceedings according to the courts of the common law.		
3	Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.		
5	And, whenever any of the said States shall have 60,000 free inhabitants therein, such State shall be admitted, by its delegates, into the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, and shall be at liberty to form a permanent constitution and State government.		
6	There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted:		

