

Northwest Ordinance

Unit 2: Constitution

Objective: We will enumerate the parts of the Northwest Ordinance

What is the Northwest Ordinance?

- Background: Territories to the west of the new United States government posed a serious challenge
- Settlers were eager to farm the new land, against the wishes of the Indians
- The Northwest Ordinance created a temporary government for the Northwest Territory

Main Points of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787

- Provided a way for new states to be created in the Northwest Territory. "Not less than three nor more than five states"
- A method for admitting a new state to the nation
- A bill of rights
- Impact of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787

Method to become a state

- A three-stage method for admitting a new state to the nation
- Stage One: Congress appointed a governor, secretary, and three judges
- Stage Two: Election of an assembly and one non-voting representative to Congress; once 5000 free men live in the territory
- Stage Three: Draft a state constitution and request for admission to the nation when the population reaches 60,000 people

Bill of Rights

- The bill of rights protected religious freedom, trial by jury, due process and property rights
- A policy dealing fairly with the American Indians with regards to their land, property, and maintaining the peace
- A policy encouraging education
- A policy outlawing slavery in the territory. This clause is important, it marked the United States first attempt to stop the spread of slavery

Impact of the Northwest Ordinance

- Land ownership became a requirement of voting and serving in the government
- Played a huge role on American expansion and development

States Added Under the Northwest Ordinance

- Ohio was the first state admitted in 1803
- Other states were present-day Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin