

Lesson 3: The Beginnings of Westward Expansion

Getting Started

Almost as soon as America became a nation, it began to expand its geographical boundaries. The Eastern Seaboard of the United States had become densely populated in places, and some Americans were eager to move farther west in search of fertile farmland, natural resources, and the possibility of financial gain. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 defined the conditions under which new states could be added to the Union as settlement moved west, and Americans wasted no time in moving into these new lands and building new communities. Of course, as they did so, they often encountered Native Americans whose communities had existed in those areas for centuries, often creating conflicts.

In this lesson, you'll learn about the importance of the Northwest Ordinance, the American Indians who lived in the areas affected by the Northwest Ordinance, and Daniel Boone, who explored and helped settle Kentucky.

Stuff You Need

- ✓ blank paper* (Activity 2 - Option 2)
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils* (Activity 2 - Option 2)

Ideas to Think About

- What factors can influence the expansion of a society into new territory?
- What are the consequences of geographical expansion?
- When one community expands into a region occupied by another, is conflict inevitable?
- Why are some people drawn to newly acquired territories after expansion, and what kinds of ideas can thrive in these newly created "frontier" communities?

Things to Know

- The Northwest Territory covered the land that is now occupied by the modern states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.
- The Northwest Ordinance was passed in 1787, and it defined the process for new states to be created in the Northwest Territory and admitted to the Union.
- Daniel Boone explored and settled the area that is presently the state of Kentucky, opening up that territory for further settlement.

Northwest Ordinance

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/1874/

First read this short webpage, which provides background information about the Northwest Ordinance.

Northwest Ordinance of 1787

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/9290/

Next, watch this short video.

This Day in History

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/9291/

Read this brief summary of the ordinance's history.

Effects on Native Americans

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/9292/

Finally, read this paragraph about how the ordinance affected Native Americans.

Optional: Northwest Ordinance Text

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/1875/

Optionally, you can also visit the Avalon Project at Yale to read the complete text of the Northwest Ordinance.

Reading and Questions

Visit the web resources provided above and then answer the following questions.

1. What was the official title of the Northwest Ordinance and when did it pass?

2. What was required for a settled area to become a new territory? What was required for a territory to become a new state?

3. Which 5 new states resulted from the Northwest Ordinance?

4. What did the Northwest Ordinance allow in the new territories and what did it not allow?

5. How did American Indians living on the lands respond to the settlement of these new territories and what resulted from their response?

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? Big Ideas

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Facts and Definitions

- The Northwest Territory covered the land that is now occupied by the modern states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.
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⦿ Skills

- Describe the country's physical landscapes, political divisions, and territorial expansion during the terms of the first four presidents. (SS)
- Understand westward expansion and its effects on the political, economic, and social development of the nation. (SS)
- Explain how the Northwest Ordinance established principles and procedures for orderly expansion of the United States; evaluate the impact of reform and expansion in specific locations and nationwide during the first half of the 19th century. (SS)

Introducing the Lesson

In this lesson, your child will learn about the importance of the Northwest Ordinance, the Native Americans who lived in the areas affected by the Northwest Ordinance, and Daniel Boone, who explored and helped settle Kentucky.

Reading and Questions (Answers)

1. What was the official title of the Northwest Ordinance and when did it pass?
 - An Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States North West of the River Ohio; July 13, 1787
2. What was required for a settled area to become a new territory? What was required for a territory to become a new state?
 - A population of 5,000 was required for a settled area to become a new territory, and a population of 60,000 was required for a territory to become a new state.
3. Which 5 new states resulted from the Northwest Ordinance?
 - Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin
4. What did the Northwest Ordinance allow in the new territories and what did it not allow?
 - It allowed civil liberties and didn't allow slavery
5. How did American Indians living on the lands respond to the settlement of these new territories and what resulted from their response?
 - They tried to stop it with a confederation of tribes in a battle known as the Northwest Indian War. As a result, President Washington created a new army to battle them, and the army eventually defeated the Native Americans.