Indiana's Paper Path

Read how three documents helped Indiana become a state.

4.H.4 "Summarize and explain the significance of key documents in Indiana's development from a United States territory to statehood."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one thing each named document did. Then number the Northwest Ordinance, the Enabling Act, and the 1816 Indiana Constitution in the order they helped Indiana reach statehood.

From Territory to State

1. Imagine living in a place that is not yet a state. In 1787, Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance for a large area that included the land now called Indiana. This document set rules for governing the area and a path for new states to join the United States. It also banned slavery there. The ordinance gave people a way to work toward statehood.

2. In 1800, a law made Indiana Territory, giving the area its own territorial government. Years later, people in the territory wanted a state government instead. Congress passed the Enabling Act in 1816. It gave Indiana permission to choose delegates, people picked to speak for others, to write a state constitution. The act mattered because Indiana could now take a key step along the path set by the Northwest Ordinance.

3. The delegates met in Corydon and wrote the 1816 Indiana Constitution. It set up a governor, a lawmaking group, and courts for the new state. The constitution also banned slavery in Indiana. It mattered because it showed how the state would govern itself, rather than remain under a territorial government. Congress admitted Indiana to the United States on December 11, 1816. Indiana became the nineteenth state that day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did the Northwest Ordinance do that helped Indiana move toward statehood?

2. Why was the Enabling Act an important step for Indiana?

3. How did the 1816 Indiana Constitution show that Indiana was ready for a state government?

4. How were the jobs of the Enabling Act and the 1816 Indiana Constitution different?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum visitor says, "Indiana became a state as soon as it wrote a constitution." Write four sentences correcting this idea. Explain how the Northwest Ordinance, the Enabling Act, and the 1816 Indiana Constitution each moved Indiana closer to statehood, then tell what happened on December 11, 1816.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · 4.H.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one thing each named document did. Then number the Northwest Ordinance, the Enabling Act, and the 1816 Indiana Constitution in the order they helped Indiana reach statehood. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did the Northwest Ordinance do that helped Indiana move toward statehood?	**It set a path for areas that included Indiana to become states.**
2	Why was the Enabling Act an important step for Indiana?	**It gave Indiana permission to choose delegates to write a state constitution.**
3	How did the 1816 Indiana Constitution show that Indiana was ready for a state government?	**It set up a governor, a lawmaking group, and courts to govern the state.**
4	How were the jobs of the Enabling Act and the 1816 Indiana Constitution different?	**The Enabling Act gave Indiana permission to write a constitution. The constitution explained how the state would govern itself.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Northwest Ordinance gave the area that included Indiana a path to statehood. The Enabling Act let Indiana choose delegates to write a constitution. The 1816 Indiana Constitution set up a state government, but writing it did not make Indiana a state. Congress admitted Indiana on December 11, 1816.

Accept answers that explain each document's role, even if students use different words. For the museum label, look for the distinction between writing a constitution and being admitted as a state.