Claims to Statehood

Trace the decisions and conflicts that shaped Indiana.

IS.1.4 "Explain the importance of the Revolutionary War and other key events and people that influenced the development of Indiana as a state."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline events and people that changed Indiana's path to statehood, and circle words that explain how they made a difference. Number two places where the passage shows that a change affected groups differently.

How Indiana Became a State

1. In February 1779, George Rogers Clark and his troops crossed flooded ground to reach Vincennes. They captured Fort Sackville from British forces during the Revolutionary War, strengthening the United States' claim to land north of the Ohio River. The 1783 Treaty of Paris ended the war and recognized that claim, including the area that became Indiana. But Britain could not give away Native nations' rights to their homelands. The Miami, Shawnee, and other Native peoples remained there and defended their lands. Indiana's path toward statehood began with competing claims, not an empty frontier.

2. Congress then had to decide how this region could become states. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 created a territorial government and a process for admitting new states on equal footing with existing states. It also banned slavery in the Northwest Territory, though forms of coerced labor persisted. Indiana Territory was formed in 1800, separating it from the rest of the Northwest Territory. William Henry Harrison became its first governor. These steps gave settlers a government and a route to statehood, but they did not settle conflicts over Native land or guarantee that everyone living there had political power.

3. Harrison negotiated treaties that transferred large areas of Native land to the United States, often under intense pressure. Shawnee leader Tecumseh challenged these transfers, arguing that no single nation could sell land held in common by Native peoples. After fighting at Tippecanoe in 1811 and during the War of 1812, U.S. control of the territory grew. As the settler population increased, Congress authorized a constitutional convention in 1816. Delegates wrote a state constitution at Corydon, and Indiana became the nineteenth state on December 11. Statehood expanded self-government for settlers while Native communities faced continued loss of land.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Clark's victory and the Treaty of Paris help shape Indiana's future? What important issue did they leave unresolved?

2. How did the Northwest Ordinance and the creation of Indiana Territory each move the region toward statehood?

3. How did Harrison's treaties and Tecumseh's response shape the conflict over Indiana's development?

4. How did the events of 1816 change government in Indiana, and why did statehood affect settlers and Native communities differently?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum is choosing one event or person from the passage for a display called "How Indiana Became a State." Write a 75 to 95 word exhibit label explaining your choice's role, connecting it to a different event or person from the passage, and identifying one limit or unequal consequence of the change.

ANSWER KEY

Claims to Statehood

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline events and people that changed Indiana's path to statehood, and circle words that explain how they made a difference. Number two places where the passage shows that a change affected groups differently. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Clark's victory and the Treaty of Paris help shape Indiana's future? What important issue did they leave unresolved?	**Clark's victory strengthened the U.S. claim to the region, and the treaty recognized it. Neither ended Native nations' rights to their homelands.**
2	How did the Northwest Ordinance and the creation of Indiana Territory each move the region toward statehood?	**The ordinance established territorial government and a process for admitting states. The creation of Indiana Territory gave the region its own territorial government.**
3	How did Harrison's treaties and Tecumseh's response shape the conflict over Indiana's development?	**Harrison's treaties transferred large areas of Native land to the United States. Tecumseh challenged those transfers because he argued that one nation could not sell land held in common.**
4	How did the events of 1816 change government in Indiana, and why did statehood affect settlers and Native communities differently?	**A constitutional convention wrote Indiana's state constitution, and Indiana became a state. Settlers gained more self-government, while Native communities continued to lose land.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Northwest Ordinance deserves a place in this display because it turned the United States' claim to the region into a plan for creating states. Clark's capture of Fort Sackville during the Revolutionary War had strengthened that claim, but a military victory alone could not establish Indiana's government. The ordinance provided territorial government and a route to statehood, which Indiana followed when it became a state in 1816. That route did not resolve Native land rights, and the growing settler government gained power while Native communities faced continued land loss.

Accept other passage-based choices that explain a causal role, connect it to a distinct event or person, and identify a supported limit or unequal consequence. Do not accept claims that the Treaty of Paris ended Native land rights.