

Paths to Statehood

Trace the rules that organized growth beyond the original states.

8.6.A "explain how the Northwest Ordinance established principles and procedures for orderly expansion of the United States;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each step that moved a territory toward statehood. Circle each principle that showed how new states and their people should be treated.

Rules for a Growing Nation

- ① In 1787, Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance to govern land north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi River. The law treated this area as a territory, not as property of individual states. Congress would appoint a governor, a secretary, and judges to lead each territory at first. The ordinance also promised important rights, including religious freedom, trial by jury, and benefits of habeas corpus. It said schools should be encouraged because knowledge mattered to good government.
- ② As population grew, the ordinance set steps toward self-government and statehood. At five thousand free adult male inhabitants, a territory could elect a legislature, although the governor remained important. At sixty thousand free inhabitants, the territory could seek admission as a state. Its people would write a constitution and form a republican government. Congress would then decide whether to admit it. These population rules gave settlers and national leaders a shared procedure instead of leaving each new area's political future uncertain.
- ③ The ordinance also shaped what the expanding nation would stand for. It banned slavery in the Northwest Territory, though slavery continued elsewhere in the United States. It stated that new states would enter the Union on an equal footing with the original states. This prevented older states from treating new ones as lesser partners. Ohio became the first state created from this territory in 1803. By pairing rights and equality with clear population steps, the ordinance made westward growth more organized for everyone involved.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Congress organize a territory before its residents could govern themselves more fully?

2 Explain how the five-thousand and sixty-thousand population requirements created steps toward statehood.

3 Identify two principles in the ordinance that guided how people or new states should be treated.

4 How did the Northwest Ordinance combine an orderly procedure with principles of fairness as the United States expanded?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining how the Northwest Ordinance could guide an imaginary new territory from early government to equal statehood. Include two steps in the process and one principle of fairness or rights.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each step that moved a territory toward statehood. Circle each principle that showed how new states and their people should be treated. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Congress organize a territory before its residents could govern themselves more fully?	Congress appointed a governor, secretary, and judges to lead the territory at first.
2	Explain how the five-thousand and sixty-thousand population requirements created steps toward statehood.	At 5,000 free adult male inhabitants, residents could elect a legislature. At 60,000 free inhabitants, the territory could seek statehood, write a constitution, and form a republican government.
3	Identify two principles in the ordinance that guided how people or new states should be treated.	Answers include protected rights such as religious freedom or trial by jury, encouragement of schools, a ban on slavery in the territory, and equal footing for new states.
4	How did the Northwest Ordinance combine an orderly procedure with principles of fairness as the United States expanded?	It set population-based steps from territorial government to statehood while protecting rights and requiring new states to enter the Union as equals.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

For a new territory, Congress could first appoint officials to keep order while settlers establish a government. When the population reached five thousand free adult men, residents could elect a legislature, and at sixty thousand free inhabitants, they could seek statehood. Admitting the new state as an equal partner would make expansion fair as well as organized.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect the ordinance's population-based process to orderly expansion. For the open response, require exactly three sentences, two accurate procedural steps, and one accurate principle involving rights, slavery, or equal statehood.