The Northwest Territory

Congress established the method for admitting new states to the Union in the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. The ordinance also established the Northwest Territory, which included the area that is now Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Study the map and chart below. Then complete the activity and answer the questions that follow.

MAP ACTIVITY

1. Number the states that make up what was the Northwest Territory in the order in which the states were admitted to the Union. Start with 1 for the first state.

2. The Northwest Territory also included part of a present-day state not labeled on the map or listed above. Write the name of that state on the portion of it included in the Northwest Territory.

3. Use a bright color to outline the area of the Northwest Territory.
4. Label the Great Lakes in and around the Northwest Territory.

5. Use a dark color to trace the two major rivers that were part of the western and southern boundaries of the Northwest Territory.

ANALYZING MAPS

1. Location Which two major rivers formed the western and southern boundaries of the Northwest Territory?

2. Describe When was a territory eligible for statehood?

3. Identify Under the Northwest Ordinance, who or what approves a territory’s proposed constitution before the territory becomes a state?

4. Location Look at the map and find the first territory to become a state. Why do you think this part of the Northwest Territory was the first to reach statehood?

5. Contrast How was the process in which the Northwest Territories became states different from how the thirteen colonies became states?
Forming a Government

Literature

MARGINAL ANSWERS
“I have unfolded to you a complication of dangers to which you would be exposed should you permit that sacred knot which binds the people of America together to be severed or dissolved by ambition or by avarice, by jealousy or by misrepresentation.”

ANALYZING LITERATURE
1. In the previous papers, he tried to convince people that the importance of the Union was for “political safety and happiness.” No. 15 explains why the present confederation cannot preserve the union.
2. They convinced the public to endorse the Constitution and eliminated the fears that the Constitution would give the central government too much power.
3. Students’ answers will vary.

Primary Source—Iroquois

Great Law of Peace

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
1. Chiefs must be people who are dedicated to peace and who have the good of the people as their primary consideration. They should be both strong and kind.
2. On any serious matters affecting the survival of the tribe, the people's decision guides the decision of the Council. In addition, men and women in each clan may meet together to discuss issues affecting the people and may bring their concerns to the Council.
3. Sometimes laws need to change or new laws need to be created to meet the needs of changing communities. Law 16 tells how to change laws or make new laws.

Primary Source—Franklin Addresses the Constitutional Convention

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
1. In Franklin's view, people think that they are always right and that those who disagree with them are wrong. This attitude makes it hard for people to give up some of their ideas.
2. The Constitution had been written by a group of humans who always have both strengths, such as wisdom, and weaknesses, such as selfishness and incorrect opinions.
3. Franklin thought that a new government was needed and he believed that the Constitution had created a government that was as close to perfect as any group of people could create.

History and Geography

The Northwest Territory

MAP ACTIVITY ANSWERS
2. Minnesota
3. Students should use a bright color to shade the entire area of land that made up the Northwest Territory.
4. Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie
5. western boundary—the Mississippi River; southern boundary—the Ohio River

ANALYZING MAPS ANSWERS
1. Location Mississippi River and Ohio River, respectively
2. Describe When the population of the territory increases to 60,000 free inhabitants, it becomes eligible for statehood and can draft a state constitution.
3. Identify Congress
4. Location Ohio; Ohio is the closest to the other states.
5. Contrast Possible response: The thirteen colonies became states automatically upon the formation of the United States, while those in the Northwest Territory had to apply for statehood.
Forming a Government

Ratifying the Constitution

MAP ACTIVITY ANSWERS
1. 1: Delaware, December 7, 1787
2. Circle Rhode Island, May 29, 1790
4. D in Kentucky District, Tennessee District and Maine District

ANALYZING MAPS ANSWERS
1. Movement About 94 miles
2. Place South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire
3. Analyze These areas may not have been inhabited
4. Compare and Contrast These areas are primarily coastal. Those engaged in commerce (lawyers, merchants, craftspeople, poor workers) would have lived in big cities there and would have seen the Constitution as a good balance of power with a strong central government.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY
Students’ answers will vary.

Focus on Writing
Students’ editorials will vary.

Chapter Review

REVIEWING VOCABULARY, TERMS, AND PEOPLE
1. tariff
2. Federalists
3. Depression
4. executive
5. debtors
6. Daniel Shays
7. Constitution
8. ratification

COMPREHENSION AND CRITICAL THINKING
1. Northwest Ordinance of 1787
2. legislature
3. amendments

Social Studies Skills

LEARN, PRACTICE, OR APPLY THE SKILL
Students’ answers will vary but should show understanding of the topic.