

**UNIT:** Primary Source Documents

**LESSON:** Constitution of the United States  
Northwest Ordinance of 1787

**GRADE(S):** 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

**Strand 1: American Heritage**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to think about the relationship among events by:
  - Identifying sequence of events in history
  - Grouping events by broad historical era on a time line;
  - Identifying cause and effect relationships
2. Identify and use sources of information about a given topic in the history of Ohio and the United States.

**SPECIFIC STUDENT OUTCOMES:**

1. Students will be able to identify important aspects of the Northwest Ordinance such as provisions for government, abolition of slavery, provisions for education, protections for individual liberties.
2. Students will be able to identify elements of the Northwest Ordinance in the U.S. Constitution.

**STUDENT GROUPING:**

1. Individual and/or pairs

**METHODS:**

1. Collaborative Learning

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**ACTIVITIES:**

**Opening:**

1. The Ordinance of 1787 or the Northwest Ordinance gives ideas as to how people thought going into the Constitutional convention. By looking at both documents it can be seen what ideas were important at the time of the founding of the United States and Ohio.

**Main Activity:**

1. Students or pairs shall examine portions of both the Constitution and the Northwest Ordinance to find areas of agreement between both documents.  
2. Students will find two items discussed in the Northwest Ordinance that cannot be found in the Constitution.

**Questions to Ask:**

1. What are the important issues that were talked about in both documents?  
2. Which document came first?  
3. Why was the Constitution more general in nature?

**Closing:**

1. Now that you have examined both of these documents it should be clear that many ideas contained in the Northwest Ordinance were clearly valuable to the fathers of the Constitution.

**MATERIALS:**

1. The U.S. Constitution
2. Northwest Ordinance
3. Worksheet "Connections in the Past"

**EVALUATION:**

1. Completion of worksheet

**SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITY:**

1. Have students use completed worksheet to complete worksheet on the Steps to Statehood.

Note: You may wish to give students the topics and have them merely locate the passages and connect them to the blanks. Also the final two passages (8 & 9) dealing with education, American Indians, and slavery may require guidance to help younger students to find the answers.

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**WORKSHEET:** Connections with the Past

**Place topic in the blank** that covered of both the Ordinance of 1787 and the Constitution in the blank and then **underline** the section of each passage that describes the topic. Draw a line from the topic blank to the section of the Ordinance of 1787 and the Constitution, which you have underlined.

**Topics are:** Becoming a state, governing a territory, relations with other states, term of legislator, habeas corpus (protection of law), republican government (representative government), freedom of speech, relations with American Indians, slavery, and freedom of religion.

**1. Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Constitution, Article 4, Section 3.** New states may be admitted by Congress into this Union; but no new state shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other States; nor any state be formed by the junction of two or more States, or parts of States, without the consent of the legislature of the States concerned as well as the Congress.

The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States...

**Ordinance of 1787, Section 1.** Be it ordained by the United States of Congress assembled, that the said territory, for the purpose of temporary government, be one district, subject, however to be divided into tow districts, as future circumstances may, in the opinion of Congress make it expedient.

**2. Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Constitution, Article 4, Section 3.** New States may be admitted by Congress into this Union; but no new state shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other state; nor any state be formed by the junction of two or more States, or parts of States, without the consent of the legislature of the states concerned as well as of the Congress. The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States...

**Ordinance of 1787, Section 9.** So soon as there shall be five thousand free male inhabitants, or full age, in the district, upon giving proof thereof to the governor; they shall authority, with time and place, to elect representatives from their counties or townships, to represent them in the general assembly...

**3. Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 2.** The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislature.

**Ordinance of 1787, Section 10.** The representatives thus elected shall serve the term of two years; and, in case of the death of the representative, or removal from office, the governor shall issue a writ to the county or township, of which he was a member, to elect another in his stead, to serve for the residue of the term.

**4. Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Constitution, Article 4, Section 1.** Full faith and credit shall be given in each State to the public acts, records and judicial proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general laws prescribe the manner in which such acts, records, and proceedings shall be proved and the effect thereof.

**Ordinance of 1787, Section 13.** And for the extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, from which the basis where on these republics, their laws and constitutions, are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions, and governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in the said territory; to provide, also, for the establishment of State, and permanent government therein and for their admission to a share in Federal councils on an equal footing with the original States...

**5. Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**U. S. Constitution, Amendment 1.** Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble and to petition the Government for redress of grievances.

**Ordinance of 1787, Article 1.** No person, demeaning himself in peaceable and orderly manner shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship, or religious sentiments in the said territory.

**6. Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 9.** ...The privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it. No bill or attainder or *ex post facto* law shall be passed.

**Ordinance of 1787, Article 2.** The inhabitants of the said territory shall always be entitled to the benefits of the writs of *habeas corpus* and of trial by jury; of proportionate representation of the people in the legislature, and of judicial proceedings according to the course of the common law.

**7. Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Constitution, Article 4, Section 4.** ...The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion and on application of legislature or of the executive against domestic violence.

**Ordinance of 1787, Article 5.** ...The constitution and government, so to be formed, shall be republican, and in conformity to the principles contained in these articles, and, so far as it can be consistent with the general interest of the confederacy.

**8. Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8.** The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts, and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

To borrow money on the credit of the United States.

To regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.

**Ordinance of 1787, Article 3.** Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged. The utmost good faith shall always be observed

towards the Indians: their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent and in their property, rights, and liberty they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars authorized by Congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity shall, from time to time, be made, for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.

**9. Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 9.** The migration or importation of such persons as any States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

**Ordinance of 1787, Article 6.** There shall neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof of the party shall have been duly convicted: PROVIDED ALWAYS that any person escaping into the same, from labor or service is lawfully claimed in one of the original States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.

**10. What topics are dealt with in Articles 3 and 6 of the Northwest Ordinance that are not discussed in the U.S. Constitution?**

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**WORKSHEET:** Documents toward Statehood

After completing the exercise “Connections in the Past” connect each selected topic between the United States Constitution and the Northwest Ordinance. Use those topic clues to indicate which document and article, section, or amendment enabled each step to be taken.

**Step 6. Ohio could become a state.**

U.S. Constitution (part) \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance 1787 (part) \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 5. Ohio could elect a state legislature.**

U.S. Constitution (part) \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance 1787 (part) \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 4. Ohio could write a constitution.**

U.S. Constitution (part) \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance 1787 (part) \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 3. Congress passes an Enabling Act, okaying Ohio’s statehood.**

U.S. Constitution (part) \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance 1787 (part) \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2. Ohio could apply for statehood.**

U.S. Constitution (part) \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance 1787 (part) \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 1. Ohio could become a territory.**

U.S. Constitution (part) \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance 1787 (part) \_\_\_\_\_