

Northwest Ordinance (1787)

The most important achievement of the Congress under the Articles of Confederation was the passage of the Northwest Ordinance in 1787. This law set the guidelines for governing U.S. territories and admitting new states to the Union. The Northwest Ordinance was first written to provide a plan of government for the Northwest Territory but it extended to other territories as well. According to the Northwest ordinance:

1. A "territory"- land not yet a state- would have a temporary government chosen by Congress consisting of a governor and three judges.
2. When 5,000 adult males had settled in the territory, the voters could elect representatives to a legislature that would make laws for the territory.
3. When 60,000 people lived in one part of the territory, that area could ask Congress to become a state.
4. The Northwest Territory was to be eventually divided into three, four or five states.
5. Settlers were guaranteed freedom of religion, freedom of speech and other basic rights.
6. **Slavery was not permitted in the territory.**
7. Towns were encouraged to establish public schools.

* * * * *

Based on the information in this section on the Northwest Ordinance and information on the Land Ordinance of 1785, decide whether the following statements are **True** or **False**.

1. _____ The Northwest Ordinance established a democratic form of government.
2. _____ Slavery was forbidden in the Northwest Territory.
3. _____ All government officials were elected by the people.
4. _____ The Northwest Ordinance gave settlers a Bill of Rights.
5. _____ The Northwest Ordinance was a major accomplishment of the Congress under the Articles of Confederation.
6. _____ A territory could apply for statehood as soon as 5,000 adult males had settled there.
7. _____ Congress wanted to see public schools established in the Northwest Territory.
8. _____ The Supreme Court decided whether a territory could become a state
9. _____ Ten states were eventually made from the Northwest Territory.
10. _____ The Northwest Ordinance established guidelines for admitting new states into the Union.

