

Unit: Westward Expansion  
**Lesson #2 US 1<sup>st</sup> Taste of Expansion**

Essential Questions:

- How did the United States attempt expansion after the Revolutionary War?
- What part of the country did they embark on this endeavor and why?

**Sourcing--**

Have a student on the overhead display the following:

- Circle who wrote the ordinance...
- Underline twice when the document was written
- Put a box around the area that gives a general purpose for why the document was written

**Contextualization--**

Look at the map:  
- United States in 1873  
(other reference : Indian Nation Map)

Use discussion of the "Ideas" questions to set the scene in 1878

**Comprehension--**

Have the students complete the newspaper interview with Arthur St. Clair (the leader of the US and 1<sup>st</sup> governor of the NW Territory) about the goals that the United States set forth by creating this document.

See attached document...

**Corroboration--**

Articles of Confederation

Map of Northwest Ordinance Territories

Map of Indian Nations

## The Northwest Ordinance of 1787

*The beginning half of this document outlines that the land (outlined in Article 6) will be temporarily set up as areas that will eventually be brought into the United States after they have qualified to become states...they will have a government, they will hold population counts and they will set up laws and rules that they must abide by for the time being...below are the articles that shape what the people who live there must take into consideration when setting up this system...*

Be it officially stated by the Congress of the United States, that the territory outlined will be held for the purposes of temporary government; after this point the opinion of Congress will divide the land as they see appropriate for the land dwellers that occupy...

**Art. 1.** No person shall be persecuted for their beliefs, including religion and choice of worship, in the area that they are choosing to live.

**Art. 2.** Anyone living in one of the territories will still be allowed to their rights of trial by jury, search and seizure and all other measures that are allowed under the bill of rights to defending themselves.

**Art. 3.** Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the 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.

**Art. 4.** This territory, and the States which may be formed, shall forever remain a part of the United States of America. The inhabitants and settlers in the territory shall be subject to pay a part of the federal debts contracted (or to be contracted), and a proportional part of the expenses of government. No tax shall be imposed on lands the property of the United States; and, in no case, shall nonresident proprietors be taxed higher than residents. The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same; shall be common highways and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the territory as to the citizens of the United States.

**Art. 5.** There shall be formed in the said territory, not less than three nor more than five States; and the boundaries of the States: The western State in the territory has the boundaries of the Mississippi, the Ohio, and Wabash Rivers. The middle state will have the boundaries of Wabash and the Ohio River to the mouth of the Great Miami. The eastern State has the boundaries of the Ohio River and Pennsylvania (with the already formed US colony line): If necessary, Congress has the ability to form one or two States in that part of the said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan.

**Art. 6.** There shall be no slavery in the territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been convicted.

Full Document At:

<http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/milestones/ordinance/text.html>

## The United States in 1783...



<http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/maps/peace/enlargement.html>

## Ideas to think about...

1. How many colonies/land territories did the United States possess at this time?
2. What was the war that had just ended that allowed the United States to call the 13 colonies land their own?
3. In 1787, who "owned" the areas of the North American continent that were not part of the 13 colonies and that are now (in 2010) part of the United States?
4. Were there other people besides, Spanish, British and American living on the land?
5. What were the United States' relationships with these groups of people?
6. During this time, the United States had already begun plans for expansion--where do you think they set their sites on first? Why?

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## We Want More!

*As if winning the war against the British wasn't enough, America is moving on...literally! Recent reports have surfaced about the new **Northwest Ordinance of 1878** that describes the United States' plans for getting more land in the west. Recently, we sat down with Arthur St. Clair. He helped pen the document and is reported to be taking the first governor position of the territory. This newspaper conducted the following interview with Mr. St. Clair:*

Mr. St. Clair, the first half of this document outlines your general plan for this land, in your own words. Would you please describe how this land will be used after this ordinance is put into effect?

St. Clair: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Later in the document, you outline 6 things (articles) that the people who choose to inhabit the land must take into consideration while living there. Why did you put these in place?

St. Clair: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In articles 1 & 2, you lay out some basic human rights for those that will live in this area. Why do you feel that was an important first step in the rule-making process?

St. Clair: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In article 3, you talk about the Native Americans that already live in this area. How are you expecting those that move on to the land to treat the people who already live there?

St. Clair: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In article 4 you approach the topic of taxes, please describe how you will tax the American inhabitants and the Native Americans?

St. Clair: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/maps/northwest/enlargement.html>



To the left is a map that outlines the area you set forth in article 5. Briefly describe where this country is and why you chose to expand in that particular area?

St Clair: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

You finished the articles with the subject of slavery in the area. Why did you choose to include this? Do you see this as a potential problem with both parties that will be living there?

St. Clair: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Overall, you say that this is just a temporary government ordinance. You say you hope this territory will eventually become states with their own governments. How well do you think this plan will work? Do you see any problems on the horizon between the people who are moving to the area and those who already live there?

St. Clair: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is your overall goal for this first official U.S. expansion endeavor?

St. Clair: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_