

Documents: Northwest Ordinance

Name: _____

Time: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Analyze the document and answer the questions.

Background: Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress passed in 1787 an ordinance that created the Northwest Territory for the purpose of selling land to settlers moving west. It also created a system of admission for new states into the Union and placed restrictions on slavery.

**An Ordinance for the government of
the Territory of the United States
northwest of the River Ohio**

Article 5:

And, whenever any of the said States shall have sixty thousand free inhabitants therein, such State shall be admitted, by its delegates, into the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, and shall be at liberty to form a permanent constitution and State government: Provided, the constitution and government so to be formed, shall be republican, and in conformity to the principles contained in these articles....

Article 6:

There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided, always, That

any service is lawfully claimed in any 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.

Done by the United States, in Congress assembled, the 13th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1787....

Central Ideas. A central idea is the overall topic of the entire piece. Main ideas are important topics that support the central idea.

1. What is the main idea of Article 5?
 - E. Congress is setting the conditions of the creation of new states.
 - H. Congress is banning slavery in the Northwest territories.
 - O. A state must have at least 60,000 people before it can become a state.
 - Y. States must have a republican form of government.
2. What is the main idea of Article 6?
 - E. Congress makes the decisions for creating new states in the Northwest territories.
 - H. A new state is equal in all respects to other states.
 - O. Congress is banning slavery in the Northwest territories.
 - Y. Congress approves this document on July 13, 1787.

Words in Context. Define words based upon how they are used in the writing.

“[new states] shall be at liberty to form a permanent constitution and State government: Provided, the constitution and government so to be formed, shall be republican”

3. What does the word “republican” mean as it is used in the quote above?

- D. control by the Republican Party
- I. government with a congress
- R. anti-British
- W a government in which people vote for their representatives

“such State shall be admitted, by its delegates, into the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, and shall be at liberty to form a permanent constitution and State government”

4. What does the word “constitution” mean as it is used in the quote above?

- D. a government without a monarchy
- I. the health and overall strength of a person
- R. a written plan to form a government
- W a court system

Textual Evidence.

5. How many people must live in a territory before it can become a state?

- E. 10,000
- H. 60,000
- O. 100,000
- Y. 600,000

6. What does the document state about “involuntary servitude”? Circle all statements that are true.

- E. Slavery will not be allowed in the territory.
- H. People can be forced into labor if convicted of a crime.
- O. Fugitives (escaped slaves) found in the territory will be freed.
- Y. Fugitives (escaped slaves) may be returned to those who claim them.

7. What is the status of new states when they enter the United States?

- E. new states are equal to the original states
- H. new states are like colonies to the original states
- O. new states do not have delegates to Congress
- Y. new states do not have the same rights as the original states