

The Opening of the Northwest Territory



What is the Northwest Territory?



- Northwest Territory- a designated area of land that includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and parts of Minnesota.

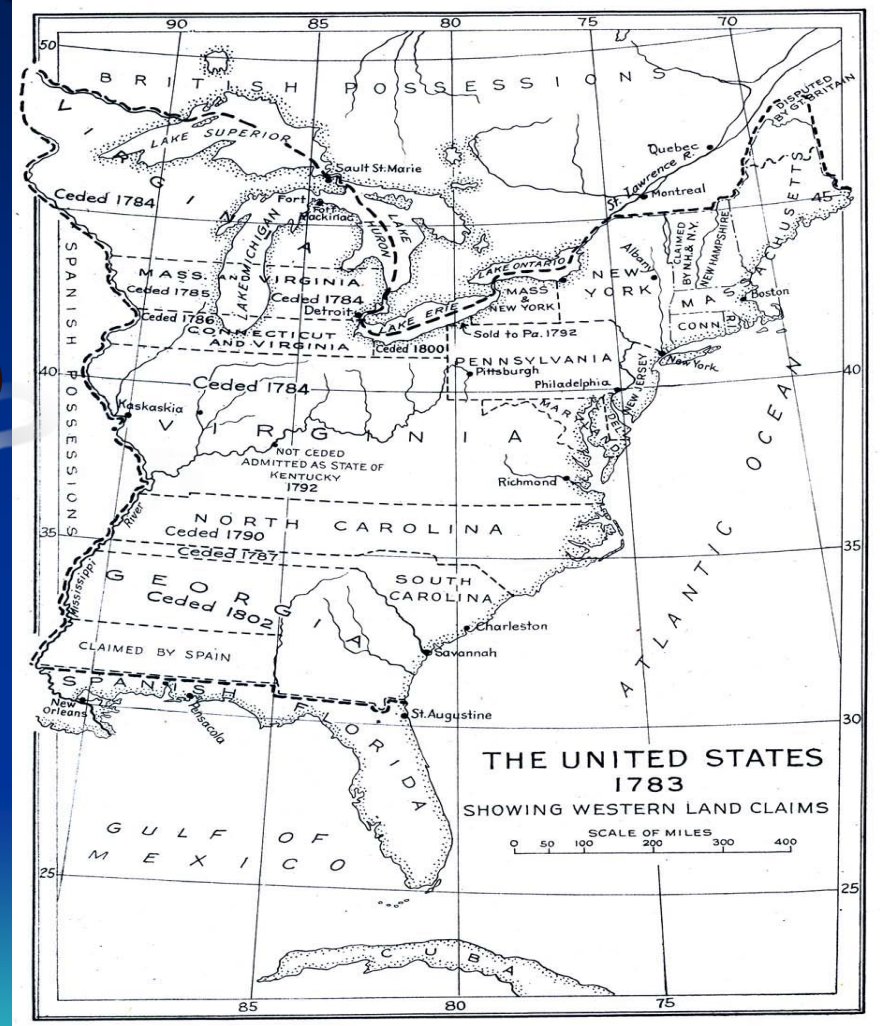
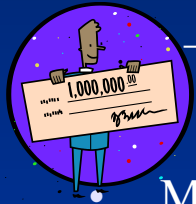
U.S. After Treaty of Paris (1783)

- The American Revolution is over! Great Britain has ceded (or given up) all lands extending to the Mississippi River.

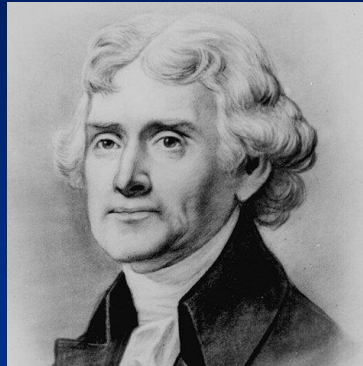
– The million dollar question in Congress is: WHAT TO DO WITH ALL OF THE LAND???

Many of the original thirteen states began making claims in the newly won territory extending to the Mississippi River.

- Which states made western land claims?
- What problem does this pose for the future of the United States government under the Articles of Confederation?



A Solution For The Time



- Thomas Jefferson wants to see the land become new, separate states (where slavery will not exist after 1800).
- Congress meets and passes...
- Land Ordinance of 1785- a law that established the Northwest Territory and formed a political system for the region; land would be sold at public auction.

What Was Solved?



- Since Congress could NOT tax the citizens, selling land at a public auction would help to benefit the new U.S. government and solve the greatest problem...
- Debt

“Not Worth a Continental”

- The U.S. government was unable to pay most veterans of the American Revolution.
- To repay the veterans, Congress offered them land in the Northwest Territory.



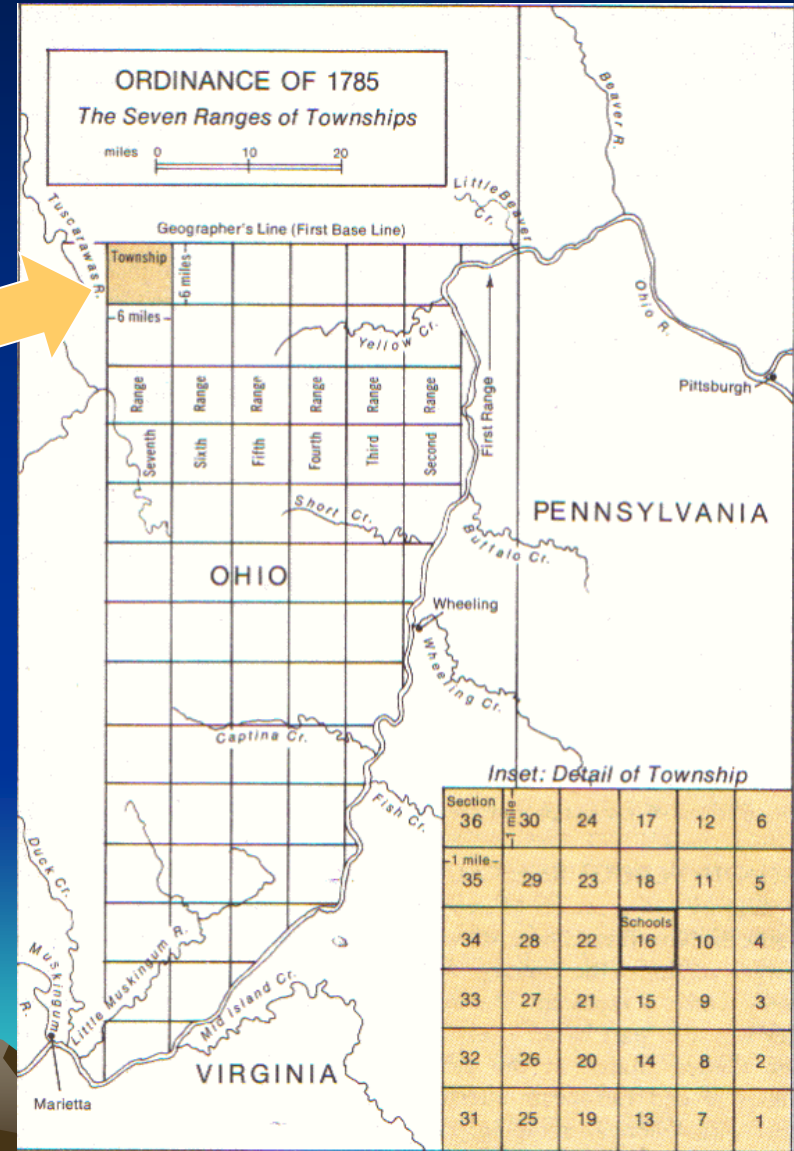
The Northwest Ordinance of 1787



- **Northwest Ordinance of 1787**- a law that established the Northwest Territory and formed a political system for the region.
 - When the territory reaches 5,000 free, adult males they can elect a state legislature.
 - When the territory reaches 60,000 they can draft a state constitution and apply to Congress to become a state.

How it was Divided

- The Northwest Territory lands were to be surveyed and divided up into
- **Townships**- the largest division of land that was typically 36 square miles and divided into 36 one-square mile sections.
- Each 1-mile section was 640 acres. To put it in perspective...



I Want It!






36	30	24	18	12	6
35	29	23	17	11	5
34	28	22	16	10	4
33	27	21	15	9	3
32	26	20	14	8	2
31	25	19	13	7	1

- Because of the vast amount of land available, the Confederation Congress prepared the surveyed townships for public auctions.
- 31 of the 36 sections in each township would be made available to the general public in a land auction.
- Land was available for \$1 per acre! Talk about cheap land!
- All money raised from the initial auctions to the public would be given to Congress to help the new U.S. government get its footing.

Off Limits Land

- Because congress was unable to pay veterans of the American Revolution, they reserved four sections in each township for veterans as payment. (Sections 8, 11, 26, and 29)
- Section 16 was reserved for something special...
- A SCHOOL!!!
- *Why do you suppose this was done?*

Township Section Number Layout

6	5	4	3	2	1
7		9	10		12
18	17		15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30		28	27		25
31	32	33	34	35	36

So what is the main purpose of the Northwest Ordinance???

- The Northwest Ordinance provided the basis for temporary governance as a territory and eventual entry into the United States as states.
- The Northwest Ordinance also set some precedents that influenced how the United States would be governed in later years.
- New states were to be admitted “into the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original States.” ...meaning there would be no colonization of the lands as there had been under Great Britain.
- “Schools and the means of education” were to be encouraged.

