**Northwest Ordinance 1787**

**Description:** July 13, 1787: U.S. Congress adopts the Northwest Ordinance

"Officially titled *An Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States North-West of the River Ohio*, the Northwest Ordinance chartered a government for the Northwest Territory and provided a method for admitting new states from that territory into the Union. It also listed a bill of rights guaranteed in the territory. Using principles first set forth by Thomas Jefferson in the Ordinance of 1784, the Northwest Ordinance detailed a plan that the government continued to use as the United States expanded toward the Pacific."

Organized a government for the land between the Ohio River and the Great Lake.  
These region was acquired in Treaty of Paris 1783.

**Activity:** Read the NORTHWEST ORDINANCE 1787 and answer questions 1-3. Place your responses in chart

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|  | **Similarities** | **Liberties** | **Immigrants -** NW Ordinance |
| **Northwest Ordinance** |  |  |  |
| **US Constitution** |  |  |

**Comparisons of Northwest Ordinance to Constitution:**  
The Constitution and the Northwest Ordinance were both written in the summer of 1787. The Bill of Rights to the Constitution was ratified in 1791. Excerpts from both documents appear below. Do the following:

1. Identify 3 **similarities** between the two documents (highlight in **purple**) then explain the shared meaning in the chart.
2. Identify 3 **civil liberties** (highlight in **red**) enjoyed by residents in the Northwest Territory in advance of the residents in the original states.
3. Identify features in the Northwest Ordinance (highlight in **blue**) that would have been most attractive to late- eighteenth-century **immigrants**. Explain in your own words in the chart.

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| **U. S. Constitution**  **First Amendment**  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 peaceably to assemble, and to petition to government for a redress of grievances.  **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.  **Amendment 7**  In suits at common law... the right of trial by jury shall be preserved.  **Amendment 8**  Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive finds imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.  **Amendment 5**  (N)o person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation. | **Northwest Ordinance**  **Article 1** No person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments, in the said territory.  **Article 2**  The inhabitants of the said territory shall always be entitled to the benefits of the writ of habeas corpus, and of the trial by jury.  **Article 2**  All persons shall be bailable, unless for capital offenses ... All fines shall be moderate; no cruel or unusual punishments shall be inflicted.  **Article 2**  No man shall be deprived of his liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land; should the public exigencies make it necessary for the common preservation, to take any person's property or to demand his particular services, full compensation shall be made for the same.  **Article 3**  Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary for 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 distrubed 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. |
| Article 6  This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof... shall be the supreme law of the land.  Article 4, Section 1  No person held to service or labor in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due. | Northwest Ordinance  Article 4  The said territory, and the States which may be formed therein, shall forever remain a part of this Confederacy of the United States of America, subject to the Articles of Confederation.  Article 5  There shall be formed in the said territory not less than three nor more than five states; and boundaries of the states as soon as Virginia shall alter her act cession and consent to the same, shall become fixed and established ... And whenever any of the said states shall have 60,000 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, and, so far as it can be consistent with the general interests of the Confederacy, such admission shall be allowed at an earlier period, and when there may be a less number of free inhabitants in the state than 60,000.  Article 6  That any person escaping into the same (territory), from whom labor or 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. |