

Name _____

Unlocking the Frontier: The Significance of the Northwest Ordinance

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Answers may vary but could include descriptions of the orderly governance, protection of rights, and opportunities for education provided by the Northwest Ordinance, which would have a positive impact on daily life and hopes for the future as a settler in the Northwest Territory.
2. The Northwest Ordinance promoted democratic values by guaranteeing certain rights and freedoms, setting a process for the orderly expansion of states, and prohibiting slavery, all of which reflected principles of liberty, equality, and self-governance.
3. Answers may vary but could include arguments about the moral and ethical reasons for prohibiting slavery, the influence of Enlightenment ideas, and the desire to establish a just and free society in the Northwest Territory.
4. The Northwest Ordinance and the United States Constitution both played significant roles in shaping the future of the United States, with the former focusing on the organization of territories and the expansion of the country, while the latter established the framework for the national government and its operations. Both documents contributed to the nation's development and values.

