

Teaching Suggestions

One of the accomplishments of the United States under the Articles of Confederation was the organization of the Northwest Territories. A new system of government and a method for territories to become states set the pattern for other newly acquired lands. Additionally, the Township and Range Survey System for apportioning and distributing land became the world's most widespread system of recording buildings and property boundaries. This map shows the land claims of eastern colonies in the Northwest Territories, as well as the states that eventually were created from this land.

1. Have students color the claims of the various eastern states, using stripes to indicate overlapping claims.
2. Ask which state claimed most of the Northwest Territory.
3. Which states overlapped this claim? Which New England state held undisputed claim to a piece of the Northwest Territory?
4. Have students label the states that were created from the Northwest Territory. Ask which was the first of these states to be admitted to the union and in what year it was admitted.
5. Ask students which was the last state to be admitted to the union and in what year. One piece of the Northwest Territory remained. Have students check a map in an atlas or textbook and name the state that eventually gained this land.



AMERICAN HISTORY OUTLINE MAPS

The Northwest Territories

