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History-Social Science Standard 8.4.1.

Teacher's Masters

California Education and the Environment Initiative

Land, Politics, and Expansion in the Early Republic

California Education and the Environment Initiative

Approved by the California State Board of Education, 2010

The Education and the Environment Curriculum is a cooperative endeavor of the following entities:

California Environmental Protection Agency
California Natural Resources Agency
Office of the Secretary of Education
California State Board of Education
California Department of Education
California Integrated Waste Management Board

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Key Partners:

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None required for this lesson.

Lesson 2 Land Use in the Early Republic

None required for this lesson.

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Quote Cards 2

Lesson 4 Congress Considers Expansion

None required for this lesson.

Lesson 5 The Land Ordinances of 1785 and 1787

None required for this lesson.

Lesson 6 The Land Ordinances Bring Change

None required for this lesson.

Assessments

A World Within Ourselves—
Traditional Unit Assessment Master 8

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Alternative Unit Assessment Master 12

"The water of this country is generally very good. The rivers are clear as crystal, and the springs are bold, good, and in considerable plenty."

—James Smith, *Tours into Kentucky and the Northwest Territory*, three books published 1783, 1795, and 1797.

"It is the most beautiful river in the universe, whether we consider it for its meandering [wandering] course through an immense region of forests, for its clean and elegant banks, which afford innumerable delightful situations for cities, villages, and improved farms."

—Zadok Kramer, *The Navigator,* a guidebook for navigating the Ohio River, 1801.

"This is a fine river, navigable about eighty miles, which will bring us within one hundred miles of the Virginia settlements."

—Captain F. Hart of Fort Harmer in the Northwest Territory, 20 December 1785.

"…the superior excellence of its navigation, through means of which, the various productions of the most extensive and fertile parts of the United States, must eventually be sent to market."

— Zadok Kramer, *The Navigator*, a guidebook for navigating the Ohio River, 1801.

"In short, the quality of the corn of this country is in all respects fully equal to that of New England. As for beans, turnips, pumpkins, squashes, cabbages, melons, cucumbers &c, [etc.], they are in flavor the finest I ever tasted, and the great production is truly surprising."

—General Putnum, a leader of the first Ohio settlement, 22 October 1788.

"Bordering on the rivers…the soil is amazingly rich…as level as a bowling plain, and vastly extensive."

—James Smith, *Tours into Kentucky and the Northwest Territory*, three books published 1783, 1795, and 1797.

"This country, for fertility of soil…not only exceeds my expectations, but exceeds any part of America, or Europe, I ever was in."

—A Settler of Marietta, Ohio, 2 July 1788.

"From the eastern boundary [of present-day Ohio] to the Muskingum [River], the distance of about five miles, the intervals, or what are called in the west, 'bottoms,' are from one-half to three-fourths of a mile wide, and of the richest quality of soil."

—A Settler of Marietta, Ohio, 1788.

"The corn has grown nine inches in twenty-four hours, for two or three days past."

—A Settler of Marietta, Ohio, 9 July 1788.

"The uplands afford a fertile, clayey soil, well adapted to the culture of wheat and all the small grains, grazing &c, [etc.]"

—A Settler of Marietta, Ohio, 1788.

"This country is more temperate and healthy than the other settled parts of America. In Summer it [does not have] the sandy heats which Virginia and Carolina experience, and receives a fine air from its rivers. In Winter, which at most only lasts three months, commonly two, and is but seldom severe… Snow seldom falls deep or lies long."

—John Filson, early historian of Kentucky, 1784.

"Back of the second bottoms the country rises into hills, clothed with a heavy growth of timber, principally oak. In many places the sides of the hills are covered with beech and sugar tree, and the tops with chestnut or some variety of oak."

—A Settler from Marietta, Ohio, 1788.

"The country is immensely rich, and covered with cane, ryegrass, and the native clover… No other milk or butter has such flavour and richness as that which is produced from cows which feed upon cane. Horses which feed upon it work nearly as well as if they were fed upon corn… The ryegrass, when it arrives to maturity, is from two feet and a half high to three and a half… The clover is in no respect different from the clover in Europe, but as it is more coarse and luxuriant."

—Gilbert Ilmay, in a letter to a "friend in England," 1792.

"All this has fine Land, wide extended Meadows, lofty Timber, Oak and Mulberry fitted for Shipbuilding Walnut, Chestnut, and Poplar ..."

—Thomas Pownall, author of a book on the Ohio Valley, 1776.

"[Ginseng] grew here in great abundance. Men accustomed to the work, could dig from forty to sixty pounds a day…From the fact of it being found the largest in open lands, I am led to think that cultivation would be friendly to it..."

—John Matthews, member of the first United States surveying team in the Ohio Valley, 22 September 1786.

"The rivers produce an infinite number of fish."

—James Smith, *Tours into Kentucky and the Northwest Territory*, three books published 1783, 1795, and 1797.

"The fish of the Ohio are numerous and of various kinds: the black and yellow cat, weighing from 3 to 100 pounds; the buffalo, from 5 to 30 pounds; the pike from 4 to 15 pounds; the sturgeon from 4 to 40; the perch from 3 to 12 pounds; the sucker from 1 to 6 pounds."

—Zadok Kramer, *The Navigator*, a guidebook for navigating the Ohio River, 1801.

"We have started twenty buffaloes in a drove. Deer are…plenty. Beaver and otter are abundant. I have known one man to catch twenty or thirty of them in two or three nights. Turkeys are innumerable."

—A Settler of Marietta, Ohio, 2 July 1788.

"I began to mark with my pencil, making a dot for every flock [of pigeons] that passed. In a short time…I rose, and counting the dots, found that 163 had been made in twenty-one minutes… The air was literally filled with Pigeons…"

—John James Audubon, founder of the Audubon Society, 1813.

"Here buffaloes, bears, turkeys, with all kind of wild game are plenty. A good hunter, without much fatigue to himself could here supply daily 100 men with meat."

—George Croghan, a traveler through the Northwest Territory, 1765.

"[Fish] ascend the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, and their principal branches, and are caught… Turkeys, pheasant and partridges, are numerous on its banks; these, with the opportunity of sometimes shooting bears and deer swimming across the river, afford much pleasure to the navigator, and…meals to the boat's crew."

—Zadok Kramer, *The Navigator*, a guidebook for navigating the Ohio River, 1801.

"The flesh of the Wild Pigeon is of a dark color, but affords tolerable eating. That of young birds from the nest is much esteemed."

—John James Audubon, founder of the Audubon Society.

"The amazing herds of buffaloes…by their size and number, fill the traveler with amazement and terror."

—John Filson, early historian of Kentucky, 1784.

"In 1748 a Coal Mine…took Fire, and kept burning above a Twelve-month, where great Quantities are still left. Near the same Place is excellent Whetstone; and about Eight Miles higher up the River is Plenty of white and blue Clay for Glass Works and Pottery."

—Thomas Pownall, author of a book on the Ohio Valley, 1776.

Name: _____

Part 1

Instructions: Choose a term from the Word Bank to complete each sentence below. Write the correct term in the blank. Not all words will be used. (2 points each)

Word Bank

conservation easement	natural resources	ordinances
debt	natural systems	profit

1. After the Revolutionary War, the United States was in _____ to several groups, including veterans who fought in the war.

2. Farmers hoped to _____ from their lands by growing crops and selling the surplus to consumers in the East.

3. The _____ of the Ohio River Valley provided fertile land, abundant game, and an extensive system of rivers that inspired settlers to migrate there.

4. After Congress decided on policies for distributing the land in the Ohio River Valley, they created _____ to turn the policies into law.

5. A _____ like the ones used at the Cosumnes River Preserve is an incentive sometimes used by landowners to protect natural resources on their property with tax incentives provided by the government.

Part 2

Instructions: Select the best answer and circle the correct letter. (2 points each)

6. Which group had the least to gain from the territorial expansion of the United States?

a. Shawnee
b. land speculators and surveyors
c. farmers
d. the U.S. Congress

Name: _____

7. Which group practiced shared ownership of land?
- a. Shawnee
- b. land speculators and surveyors
- c. farmers
- d. all three groups

8. Which group directly changed the land by preparing it for farming?
- a. Shawnee
- b. land speculators and surveyors
- c. farmers
- d. all three groups

9. Which of the following is not an example of the natural resources typically found in the Ohio River Valley?
- a. navigable waterways
- b. plentiful silver and gold
- c. fertile soil for farming
- d. abundant trees

10. The Land Ordinance of 1785 established laws to _____.
- a. clear the land for farming
- b. sell the land to the highest bidder
- c. measure and map the land
- d. share the land with French settlers

Name: _____

Part 3

Instructions: Match each policy with the problem it was created to address. (2 points each)

Policies

a. Congress should take advantage of America's abundant natural resources, especially land.

b. The U.S. government would take steps to improve relations with American Indians and encourage them to be part of "civilization."

c. The process of western settlement should be fair and accessible to all eligible citizens (free white males).

d. Establish "civilization" on the frontier.

e. Survey (measure and map) the western lands.

Problems

11. The United States had new land that needed to be accounted for and then sold. Boundary disputes and lawsuits needed to be avoided. _____

12. Law and order needed to be maintained in the new lands. _____

13. There was conflict with the American Indians living in the new lands. More conflict needed to be avoided. _____

14. If power were not balanced between eastern and western lands, the country would not be unified.

15. The country was in debt to other countries and to its own citizens.

Name: _____

Part 4

Instructions: Write a complete answer to the following question. Be specific and provide at least five examples. (10 points)

16. Describe how the land ordinances of 1785 and 1787 changed settlement patterns and how the use of natural resources influenced the natural systems in the Ohio River Valley.

Name: _____

Instructions: Write a five-paragraph essay in response to the following prompt:

> Congress passed the Land Ordinances of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 to manage the expansion of the United States. Explain why the land ordinances were needed and what Congress had to think about when it created them. Next, explain how they helped the United States expand. Finally, explain what effect they had on natural systems.

Use the following outline to write your essay. You may use any of your notes and completed assignments as references. (25 points)

Paragraph 1: Introduce your essay with a thesis statement and mention the main points to be covered in the next three paragraphs.

Paragraph 2: Explain why the land ordinances were needed. Discuss how the natural systems in the lands of the Ohio River Valley influenced expansion. Provide and discuss at least two examples.

Paragraph 3: Discuss at least three factors that Congress considered as it developed policies that led to the passage of the land ordinances.

Paragraph 4: Give two examples of what the ordinances provided and how that helped the United States expand.

Paragraph 5: Analyze how settlement under the ordinances influenced the natural systems in the Ohio River Valley. Provide and discuss at least two examples.

Date due: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

The scoring tool below will be used to score your essay.

Land, Politics, and Expansion in the Early Republic Scoring Tool

	5 points	3 points	1 point
Paragraph 1: Introduce the essay with a thesis statement and mention the main points to be covered in the next three paragraphs.	Contains clear and concise thesis statement relating to the purpose of the essay—to analyze how settlement under the land ordinances influenced the natural systems in the Ohio River Valley. Clearly presents main points to follow.	Introduces the purpose of the essay; thesis statement loosely relates to purpose; presents some overview of main points.	Purpose of the essay not introduced or unclear; thesis statement vague or unrelated to parts of the essay; main points to follow not clearly presented.
Paragraph 2: Explain why the land ordinances were needed. Discuss how the natural systems in the lands of the Ohio River Valley influenced expansion. Provide and discuss at least two examples.	Explains that the land ordinances were needed to help distribute western lands in a way that benefited the country and allowed people to settle there. Provides and discusses two examples of why people wanted to settle in the Ohio River Valley. Examples may include: many rivers for transportation, fertile soil for farming, many trees for building homes and fences, abundant fish and wildlife, and mild climate.	Explains that the land ordinances were needed to help distribute western lands because people wanted to settle there. Provides two examples of why people wanted to settle in the Ohio River Valley, but limited details.	Explains that the land ordinances were needed because people wanted to settle in western lands. Provides one example of why people wanted to settle in the Ohio River Valley.
Paragraph 3: Discuss at least three factors that Congress considered as it developed policies that led to the passage of the land ordinances.	Correctly identifies and discusses three factors Congress considered when developing the ordinances. Possible factors include debt relief, avoiding boundary disputes and lawsuits, maintaining law and order, avoiding conflict with American Indians, and maintaining unity.	Correctly identifies and discusses two factors Congress considered when developing the ordinances, but limited details.	Correctly identifies and discusses one factor Congress considered when developing the ordinances.

Name: _____

Land, Politics, and Expansion in the Early Republic Scoring Tool

	5 points	3 points	1 point
Paragraph 4: **Give two examples of what the ordinances provided and how that helped the United States expand.**	Provides at least two examples of what the ordinances did and how that helped the United States expand.Possibilities include: ■ Provided a way to map and divide land, which would help the United States use its resources and make it easier to sell land to the people. ■ Provided a system of government and education on the frontier so that the republic would be maintained as it grew. ■ Provided access to frontier lands to all eligible citizens, encouraging people from all parts of the country to settle in the West.	Provides one example of what the ordinances did and how that helped the United States expand, or provides two examples, but limited details.	Provides one example of what the ordinances did but no explanation of how that helped the United States expand.
Paragraph 5: **Analyze how settlement under the land ordinances influenced natural systems in the Ohio River Valley. Provide at least two examples.**	Explains that the land ordinances resulted in population growth, which affected natural systems. Provides and discusses at least two examples of the effects. Examples could include: ■ conversion of land to farms ■ deforestation ■ introduction of new plants and changes in wildlife populations ■ increased water use and pollution	Explains that the land ordinances affected natural systems. Provides two examples of the effects, but limited details.	Provides one or two examples of the effects, but no details.

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