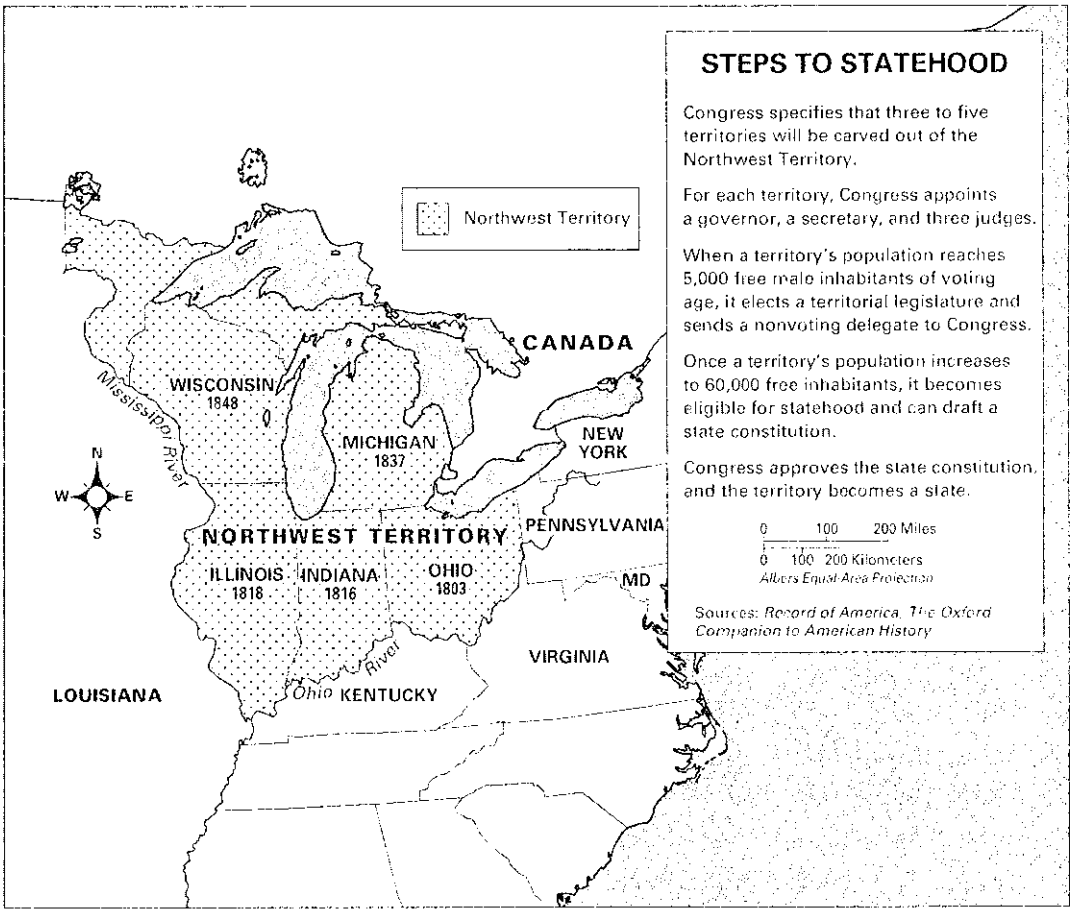
The Northwest Territory

Congress established the method for admitting new states to the Union in the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. The ordinance also established the Northwest Territory, which included the area that is now Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Study the map and chart below. Then complete the activity and answer the questions that follow.



MAP ACTIVITY

1. Number the states that make up what was the Northwest Territory in the order in which the states were admitted to the Union. Start with *1* for the first state.

2. The Northwest Territory also included part of a present-day state not labeled on the map or listed above. Write the name of that state on the portion of it included in the Northwest Territory.

3. Use a bright color to outline the area of the Northwest Territory.

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4. Label the Great Lakes in and around the Northwest Territory.

5. Use a dark color to trace the two major rivers that were part of the western and southern boundaries of the Northwest Territory.

ANALYZING MAPS

1. **Location** Which two major rivers formed the western and southern boundaries of the Northwest Territory?

2. **Describe** When was a territory eligible for statehood?

3. **Identify** Under the Northwest Ordinance, who or what approves a territory's proposed constitution before the territory becomes a state?

4. **Location** Look at the map and find the first territory to become a state. Why do you think this part of the Northwest Territory was the first to reach statehood?

5. **Contrast** How was the process in which the Northwest Territories became states different from how the thirteen colonies became states?

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