

Northwest Territory Activity Links:

Excerpts from the Northwest Ordinance:

Art. 2 Sec. 8. For the prevention of crimes and injuries, the laws to be adopted or made shall have force in all parts of the district, and for the execution of process, criminal and civil, the governor shall make proper divisions thereof; and he shall proceed from time to time as circumstances may require, to lay out the parts of the district in which the Indian titles shall have been extinguished, into counties and townships, subject, however, to such alterations as may thereafter be made by the legislature.

Art. 3. Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to 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 disturbed, 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.

Links to Library of Congress documents:

[Treaty with the Cherokee, 1785](#)

[Congressional Committee Report on Hostilities](#)

[Instructions to Superintendents of Indian Affairs](#)

[Letter from George Washington on the Cherokee](#)

[Congressional Report on Indian Affairs](#)

Essential Questions:

1. Based on the vocabulary they used and the policies they adopted, how did members of Congress view Native peoples?
2. What seemed to be the source of most of the conflicts between American Indians and whites? How did Congress react to these conflicts?
3. Congressional policy established that the Indigenous groups were sovereign nations and that relations between them and the U.S. should be undertaken by treaties. Why then did Congress place the responsibility for Indian Affairs under the Department of War instead of the Department of State which handled all other foreign nations?