**Achievements of the Articles of Confederation**

*“Every black cloud has a silver lining.”* Even though there were many weaknesses to the Articles of Confederation, two ordinances (laws), *The Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance* will outlast the Confederation. Both ordinances dealt with the settling and governing of newly acquired land in the west.

**Complete the following sentences:**

1. The United States government gained control of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lands when seven states gave up their claims.

2. The Land Ordinance of 1785 provided for the division and sale of lands in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Land was organized in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that measured 6 miles from north to south and 6 miles from east to west.

4. A township was made up of 36 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that were each one square mile in size.

5. Each \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_contained 640 acres.

6. A land company, or an individual purchaser, had to buy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ acres of land at one time from the government.

7. Although, land was sold at auction to the highest bidder, the smallest amount of money that could be paid for one section was \_\_\_\_\_\_dollar per acre or \_\_\_\_\_\_ dollars for each section.

8. Most settlers bought their land from land \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which had purchased sections and divided them into smaller and less expensive lots.

9. A quarter section consisted of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ acres.

10. One section in each township was sold to raise money for the support of

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ education. This showed that our country felt it was important for its citizens to be educated.

**Northwest Ordinance (1787)**

The most important achievement of the Congress under the Articles of Confederation was the passage of the Northwest Ordinance in 1787. This law set the guidelines for governing U.S. territories and admitting new states to the Union like Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois.

The Northwest Ordinance was first written to provide a plan of government for the Northwest Territory, but it extended to other territories as well. According to the Northwest Ordinance:

1. A “territory” --- land not yet a state --- would have a

temporary government chosen by Congress consisting of a governor

and three judges.

2. When 5,000 adult males had settled in the territory, the voters could

elect representatives to a legislature that would make laws for the

territory.

3. When 60,000 people lived in one part of the territory, that area could

ask Congress to become a state.

4. The Northwest Territory was to be eventually divided into three, four,

or five states.

5. Settlers were guaranteed freedom of religion, freedom of speech,

and other basic rights.

6. Slavery **was not** permitted in the territory.

7. Towns were encouraged to establish public schools.

Based on the information in the above section on the Northwest Ordinance, and information in the previous section on the Land Ordinance of 1785, decide whether the following statements are true or false.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The Northwest Ordinance established a democratic form of government.

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Slavery was forbidden in the Northwest Territory.

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ All government officials were elected by the people.

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The Northwest Ordinance gave settlers a bill of rights.

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The Northwest Ordinance was a major accomplishment of the Congress under

the Articles of Confederation.

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A territory could apply for statehood as soon as 5,000 adult males had settled

there.

7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Congress wanted to see public schools established in the Northwest Territory.

8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The Supreme Court decided whether a territory could become a state.

9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Three states were eventually made from the Northwest Territory.

10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The Northwest Ordinance established guidelines for admitting new states into

the Union.