



Matt Lieber, Murlin Heights Elementary

Theme Unit source relate to **Northwest Territory**

Grade Level – **4**

Estimated duration of lesson- **One 45 minute class period**

Relevant content standard and grade level indicator- **History #4**

Primary source citation: Letters from Arthur St. Clair to William Henry Harrison Collection on December 14, 2010 at <http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm/ref/collection/p267401coll36/id/633>.

Summary of Activity- We will begin by passing out instructions to three different groups of students. The first group will be taking on the role of those who want Ohio to become a state. The second group will be taking on the role of those who do not want Ohio to become a state. The final group will be taking on the role of the Congress. The instructions will tell the first two groups that they will need to convince the third group to agree with them. The first group will try to convince Congress to allow Ohio to become a State. The second group will try to convince Congress to not allow Ohio to become a state. I will then tell the Congress that they will choose whether or not Ohio will become a state. They will have to listen to both sides and figure out what is best for the country. They will then come up with some key points or ideas that they will want to listen for. They will also need to come up with a question to ask each group. Each group will have 20 minutes to come up with their speech. I will give the letters from Arthur St. Clair to the group who does not want Ohio to become a state. They will use these letters and the information in them to come up with their argument. This will give a clear advantage to those who do not want to become a state. Then each group will have 5 minutes to present their idea. Finally, Congress will discuss the ideas that they heard. Then Congress will vote as to whether Ohio will become a state. Congress will hopefully vote against Ohio becoming a state since that group had the advantage. I will then show a video of me pretending to be President Thomas Jefferson. I will tell the students that I am going to pass the Enabling Act of 1803. I will say that I have heard about Governor St. Clair's plan to stop Ohio from becoming a state. The Enabling Act will allow Ohio to become a state even though they do not yet have enough people.

Post Assessment for students- I will ask the students the following questions.

- A. What are the requirements for a territory to become a state?
- B. Who was Arthur St. Clair?
- C. Why did he not want Ohio to become a state?
- D. Why should Ohio to have become a state? What requirement did they not pass?
- E. Why was Ohio allowed to become a state?

Outcomes- I believe that allowing the students to come up with their own arguments was very effective. Role playing seems to be very helpful to students in remembering what happened many years ago. I also think that using technology to videotape myself was very effective as well. The students really got into it and enjoyed it. I wish I would have a better way to let all the groups use the primary source. I did show the letter to all when we did the Spiral Questions at the end but I believe the group that really got the most out of the primary source was the group that was against Ohio becoming a state.

Spiral Question:

Level 1: Description

1. What kind of document does this look like?
2. Who wrote this? Who was it written to?
3. When was this written?

Level II: Interpretation

1. Why do you think he wrote this?
2. Do you think he wrote this hoping that more people would read it? Why or why not?

Level III: Analysis

1. What does this letter tell you about the person who wrote it?
2. How could this person have convinced more people to agree with him than just the person he wrote it to?
3. Would this letter have convinced you to not want Ohio to become a state? Why or why not?

L E T T E R

FROM

ARTHUR ST. CLAIR,

Governor of the North-western Territory,

ON THE

Subject of a Division of the said Territory;

AND THE

P E T I T I O N

OF

GEORGE TEVEBAUGH AND OTHERS,

Inhabitants of Knox county,

IN THE

NORTH-WESTERN TERRITORY.

Read the 14th. March 1800.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

Printed by order of the House of Representatives of the United States.

Philadelphia:

PRINTED BY ZACHARIAH POULSON, JUNIOR,

No. 106, Chestnut-street.

1800.

L E T T E R

FROM

ARTHUR ST. CLAIR,

Governor of the North-western Territory,

ON THE

Subject of a Division of the said Territory.

*To William Henry Harrison, Esquire, delegate in
Congress for the North-Western-Territory.*

Cincinnati, 17th. February 1800.

SIR,

The enclosed petition from the people of St. Vincennes was received by express a few days ago, and accompanied with a request, that I would forward it to Congress; I must beg you, Sir, to have the goodness to present it. The object of the petitioners is, that such a division of the territory may take place, as would throw them and those of the Illinois country back into the state from which the territory at large has just emerged, and that Congress would provide such a government for them, as was established at first throughout. This is more fully explained in the letters which came with the petition, than in the petition itself. It may possibly seem to Congress to be a strange request; but if their local situation is considered,—their great distance from, and little intercourse with, other parts

parts of the territory, and the difficulty of that intercourse, it will not seem an unreasonable one, especially if this circumstance, which is stated in one of the letters to me, be well founded. "It is found, upon an accurate estimate, that the territorial tax, which falls upon this county under the present revenue laws, will exceed the amount of the specie circulating in it, and as they are fully persuaded that, in the course of a year or two, they will fall back to the situation from which they have just moved, they conceive it would be an intolerable grievance to have their lands sold for the support of a government from which they expect to receive little or no advantage."

A division of the territory is a subject on which I have thought a great deal, and have long wished to take place; and you well know that, from the vast extent of it, it is almost impossible to keep even the executive part of the government in order. The great and growing importance of this country, in many and some very interesting points of view, seems never to have been much attended to. In truth there were few persons in Congress who knew much about it, and the concerns of the states they represented, and the great business of union kept it in a great measure out of sight. We may now hope that it will be attended to, and it is with pleasure that I have seen that you are appointed the Chairman of the committee, for taking its concerns into consideration. How necessary soever a division may be, and how much soever it may be wished, there are difficulties in the way. The increase of expense will form one, but it is a bad calculation to let a little money outweigh the welfare and happiness of a multitude of people. To render the territory manageable, it would require to be divided into three districts,
and

and there it may be thought, that the ordinance stands in the way, that having provided for two only, and it is generally supposed that the ordinance cannot be altered, in any respect, but by common consent. That I believe is a mistake, a part of it indeed, where the fundamental principles of the future states are laid, and which is declared to be a compact between the United States and the inhabitants of the territory, cannot be altered but by common consent, but every other part of it is as much in the power of Congress, as a law they may have enacted yesterday. But suppose these difficulties got over, how are the districts to be bounded? The object with some is that the eastern district should extend from the line of Pennsylvania to the great Miami; the middle district to comprehend the country between that and the Wabash, and the western district the country between that and the Mississippi. On that proposition it is to be observed that the eastern district would be still too large to be manageable and that in the middle district there would be too few people to admit of the representative government, and that the Indian title to a great part of the land has not been extinguished. The manner of dividing it, which appears to me the most eligible, would be that the Scioto and a line drawn north from some part of it above Chillicothe, say the forks, should form the western limit of the eastern district; the Indian boundary line, opposite to the mouth of Kentucky, the western limit of the middle district; and the western district to comprehend all the country between that line and the Mississippi. The natural advantages would, in this manner, remain to every part; the two first have a population sufficient for the representative government, and the third would have the kind of government they wish for, and are alone
fit

fit for. Marietta would form a convenient capital for the eastern division, not too far distant from any part of it; Cincinnati, with equal convenience, would be the seat of the middle government, and St. Vincennes of the western one. There are many other advantages which would flow from this measure which I will not trouble you with; I will only observe that almost any division into two parts must ruin Cincinnati.

I beg leave to put you in mind of the donations to the heads of families in the Illinois country. Their petitions on the subject are no doubt on the files, for they have been very often presented. Their situation is this. Certain spaces near to the villages were ordered to be laid out in squares and parallelograms sufficient for all the donations which were to be given within them by lot. It was found that the whole of those spaces, supposed by Congress to be vacant, were covered by old French and English grants, or by grants from the commandants for Virginia, and the courts of the country, to which the act of the third of March 1791 gave validity. They pray that they may be allowed to take them on the Kaskaskia river and near to Tahokia, and they may be laid in those places without injury, and in such a manner as to give consistence to the settlements; that they have not been hitherto laid off has been an irreparable injury to individuals, and to that part of the country.

I have troubled you with a letter of unreasonable length, and will not add to it now, though I have more to say.

I am, Sir, with great regard,

Your obedient servant

ARTHUR St. CLAIR.

H. HARRISON, Esquire.



P E T I T I O N
OF
GEORGE TEVEBAUGH AND OTHERS,
Inhabitants of Knox county,
IN THE
NORTH-WESTERN TERRITORY.

To the honorable the House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled,

The Petition of the Inhabitants of the County of Knox in the Territory of the United States, North-West of the River Ohio,

Respectfully Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioners experience all the hardships resulting from an enormous territorial tax, to the discharge of which, they are perfectly inadequate, and all the inconveniences to which the inhabitants of a county are liable, where there is not land granted sufficient to admit a population adequate to the support of an ordinary county establishment; that without the timely and beneficent interposition of the sovereign power of the United

United States, your petitioners must continue to endure all those disadvantages, the painful enumeration whereof they forbear, fully persuaded that they will occur to you with more force than could be conveyed in the choicest words of your petitioners. Your petitioners, therefore pray, that you will take their situation under your consideration, and in conformity to the ordinance of Congress for the government of the Territory, make such division of the same as may to you appear most judicious; which, if done the present Session of Congress, will not only relieve your petitioners from the heavy territorial taxes, with which they are at present burthened, but bring justice almost to each man's door. Your petitioners also conceiving the present furnishes a favourable opportunity to extinguish the Indian claim to a Tract of country circumjacent to the possessions now composing the county, most respectfully pray, that you will use such means as may be within your power, to extinguish the Indian claim, if any such exists, to the lands lying between the Wabash and Ohio rivers, and a line to be run from the northern corner of the Illinois grant, to strike the Wabash at the Terrehaute, about twenty-five miles above post Vincennes, whereon your petitioners are happy to inform the General Government, the Indians have desisted hunting for some time past, which acquisition, when made and disposed of by the General Government, will not only connect this with the settlement of the Illinois grant, but admit a population sufficient for the purposes of defence in case of hostilities with the Indians, and revenues adequate to the exigencies of the county.

*And your Petitioners, as in duty bound,
will ever pray, &c.*

January 1st. 1800.

Signed by 200 inhabitants.