Treaty of Paris Terms

In 1782, the newly elected British Prime Minister Lord Shelburne saw American independence as an opportunity to build a lucrative trade alliance with the new nation – without the administrative and military costs of running and defending the colonies.

As a result, Treaty of Paris terms were very favorable to the United States with Great Britain making major concessions.

The treaty, signed by Ben Franklin, John Adams and John Jay at the Hotel d’York in Paris, was finalized on September 3, 1783, and ratified by the Continental Congress in early 1784.

In it, Great Britain finally gave formal recognition to its former colonies as a new and independent nation: the United States of America.

The treaty also:

* Secured fishing rights to the Grand Banks and other waters off the British-Canadian coastline for American boats
* Opened up the Mississippi River to navigation by citizens of both the United States and Great Britain
* Resolved issues with American debts owed to British creditors
* Provided for fair treatment of American citizens who had remained loyal to Great Britain during the war

Northwest Territory

Perhaps as important as U.S. independence, the Treaty of Paris also established generous boundaries for the new nation. As part of the agreement, the British ceded a vast area known as the Northwest Territory to the United States.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Answer the following questions:

1. In your own words, what is a “lucrative trade alliance”?
2. Why would this be important to Britain?
3. In your own words, what does making “major concessions” mean?
4. Who signed the Treaty of Paris?
5. When did the Treaty become valid?
6. Why was access to the Mississippi River important to both countries?
7. Why was it important that Loyalists were treated fairly after the war?
8. What are the boundaries of the “Northwest Territory”? Why was this significant? (You will have to do further research on this).