AR Path To Statehood

AR Becomes A Territory - March 2, 1819
• Arkansas Post became the first capital of the new Arkansas Territory

Arkansas now had its own:
• Capital
• Governor
• Secretary (2nd person in charge)
• Three judges
• Delegate to the U.S. Congress

Arkansas Gazette
• William Woodruff was the creator of the first newspaper in Arkansas.
• William Woodruff created the “Arkansas Gazette” Newspaper
• Included stories about territorial issues – drinking, dueling, political debates

Moving the Capital
• Crittenden decides to move the capital to Little Rock.
• Little Rock was more centrally located and healthier than Arkansas Post.
• Crittenden also had lots of influence in Little Rock

“The Family”
• Group of men related by birth or marriage(Conway, Sevier, Rector, and Johnson families)
• Had different personal viewpoints and ambition than Crittenden
  • The “Family” - Democratic Party. They supported President Andrew Jackson.
  • The “Family” was very powerful in early Territorial Arkansas politics.
• Eventually “the Family” would force Crittenden out of Arkansas politics.
• “The Family”—or “The Dynasty”—was the name given to a powerful group of Democrats who dominated Arkansas politics in the years between statehood and the Civil War.
• Conway, Sevier, Rector, Johnson

Dueling
• Dueling was a popular means of settling disputes among the well-bred, higher-class population on the Arkansas frontier, and though it was considered part of the code of honor for a Southern gentleman, its popularity added to Arkansas’s reputation for violence that remained until well after the Civil War.
• An insult, real or imagined, likely would bring a challenge from the injured party.
• Duels traditionally took place at dawn to avoid interruptions, and the two parties usually met somewhere just outside the territory to get around the laws against dueling that were passed as early as the 1820s.

Population Growth - Travel in Arkansas
• In 1820 the population in Arkansas was 14,273
• In 1830 the population increased to 30,388
• Most settlers came to Arkansas from areas like Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama
• The National government built roads and bridges to make travel through Arkansas much easier
• As growth continued, the idea of Statehood for Arkansas became a very real possibility
Arkansas Becomes a State - June 15th, 1836

Becoming the 25th State
- In 1835 the majority of people living in Arkansas territory voted in favor of becoming a state.
- Territorial Governor Robert Fulton felt Arkansas would lose too much federal money if we became a State.
- Arkansas delegates met early in 1836 to write a proposed state constitution.
- The U.S. Congress approved Arkansas’ statehood.
- Some Northern politicians were against AR statehood because more Democrats would be able to vote for Andrew Jackson.
- Some were against statehood because AR would be a slave state.
- After heated debate, Congress admitted Arkansas as slave and Michigan as free state (Missouri Compromise).
- President Jackson officially declared AR the 25th state on June 15, 1836.

Steps to Statehood
1. AR became a territory in 1819.
2. AR population began to grow.
3. Delegates called a state convention to vote on possible statehood.
4. The convention wrote a constitution and submitted it to Congress for approval.
5. After debate, Congress approved AR Constitution and allowed AR to become a state in which slavery was allowed.
6. Under Missouri Compromise, Congress would also approve a free state’s admission to the Union – Michigan became the 26th state.
7. President official declared AR a state.

Responsibilities of Statehood
- States elect their own officials.
- States tax themselves to pay for many of their needs.

The New State Government
- The first State Governor- James Sevier Conway.
- “The Family” still dominated politics.
- Only white males over 21 that had lived in the state for 6 months were allowed to vote.
- State banks were established.

A Developing State
- After the Indian Removal, AR continued to develop as a state gaining many settlers.
- The population doubled every 10 years.
- New roads and railroads were built to make travel easier.
- Because of the location and natural resources, agriculture began to grow and Arkansas developed economically.