

The Buckeye State

Established 1803
17th state

EXTREMES

Highest: At 1,550 feet (472 m), Campbell Hill is the state's highest point.

Lowest: The state's lowest point is on the Ohio River at 433 feet (132 m).

Coldest: The temperature sunk to -39°F (-39°C) in Milligan on 10 February 1899.

Hottest: The state's highest temperature was 113°F (45°C) in Gallipolis on 21 July 1934.

Climate

Ohio lies in the middle of two different weather fronts. Cold, dry air comes down from Canada in the north. Warm, moist air travels up from the Gulf of Mexico in the south. When these two fronts meet in Ohio, it can cause severe rainstorms or destructive tornadoes. Ohio's coast with Lake Erie is known as a *snowbelt*, because heavy snowstorms and blizzards strike in winter. During most of the year, however, Ohio's mild climate makes it a pleasant place to live.

Geography

Ohio is a state of hills, valleys, forests, and farmland. Glaciers covered Ohio thousands of years ago. These powerful glaciers flattened out the terrain and left behind rich soil. Because of glaciers, most of Ohio today is made up of flat plains and rolling hills. The rich soil makes Ohio part of the fertile area of farmland known as the Corn Belt. The glaciers never reached the western part of Ohio, leaving a beautiful region of hills and valleys. This is known as the Allegheny Plateau, and forests cover most of this area today. Ohio's total area is 44,828 square miles (116,104 sq km), making it the 34th largest state.



Resources and Economy

Ohio is a huge manufacturing center. Ohio factories make many different things, including machinery, plastics, chemical products, and transportation equipment like cars and airplanes. Many of the raw materials that make up these products are found in Ohio itself. Not only can Ohio make many products, it can easily transport them to the people who want them. More than half of the U.S. population lives within 500 miles (800 km) of Ohio. Two bodies of water, the Ohio River and Lake Erie, allow Ohio's goods to reach other states and different parts of the world. The Ohio River stretches for 450 miles (724 km) along Ohio's southern border. Ships can travel on the Ohio River to the Mississippi River and then down to the Gulf of Mexico. Many ports and harbors line Ohio's 312 miles (502 km) of shoreline with Lake Erie—one of the Great Lakes—giving ships access to other Great Lake states and the Atlantic Ocean.

History

Original Ohioans

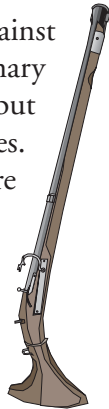
For hundreds of years, people known as the Mound Builders had a complex civilization in present-day Ohio. They disappeared long ago, but you can still visit their large ceremonial mounds today. By the time the Europeans arrived, Native American tribes like the Shawnee, Delaware, Miami, and Huron were living in Ohio.

Newcomers in America

The French explorer René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, was the first European to reach Ohio. In 1670, he claimed the land for France. Then in 1754, war broke out in America between France and Britain. When the French were finally defeated nine years later, Britain took much of France's territory, including Ohio.

Fight for Independence

The American colonists revolted against British rule in 1775. The Revolutionary War was fought mostly in the east, but Ohio was the site of some key struggles. George Rogers Clark won victories there over the Shawnee tribe, which was allied with the British. When the Americans won their independence from the British in 1783, Ohio belonged to the new United States.



Native American Wars

As American colonists started moving into Native American lands, the tribes fought back. Ottawa chief

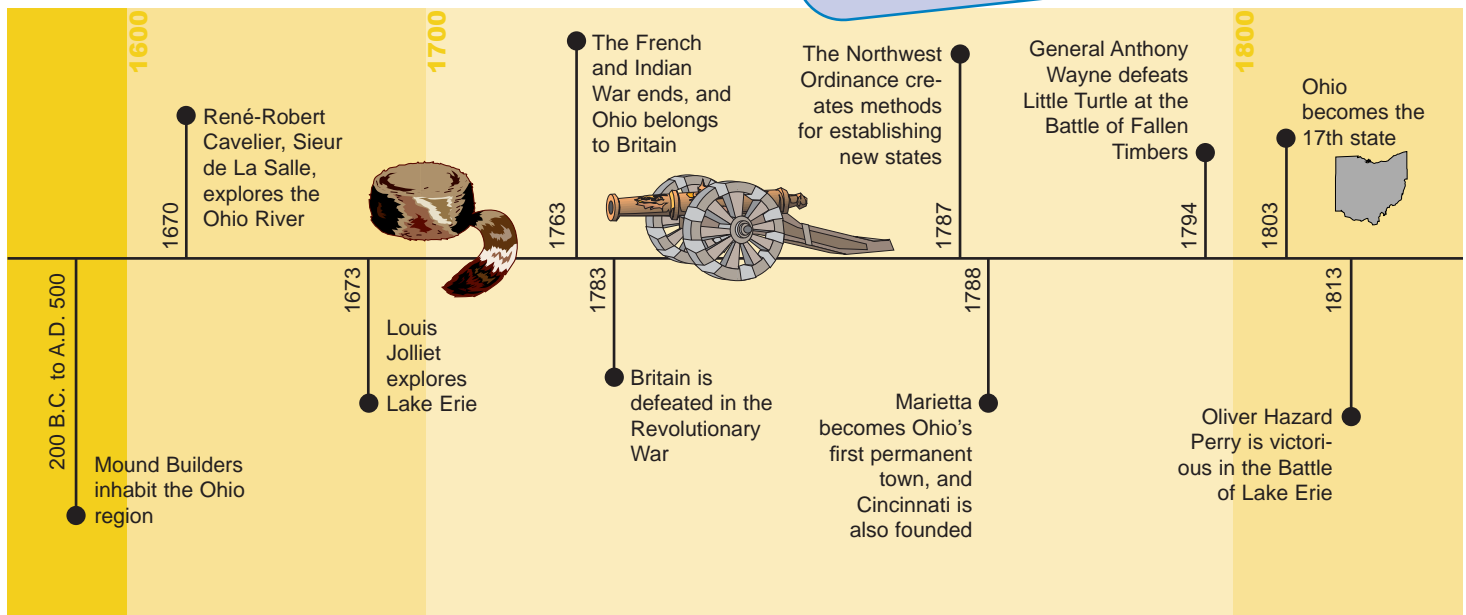
Pontiac and Shawnee chief Cornstalk each led their warriors against the colonists. Both conflicts involved bloody fighting and ended with the Native Americans' defeat. Chief Little Turtle of the Miami tribe later led successful attacks on army posts, but he was defeated at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794. Little Turtle's defeat was the last time Native Americans fought in Ohio. By the early 1800s, most Native Americans had been forced out of the state.

Statehood and Sea Battles

With the end of the Native American conflicts, thousands of new settlers flooded into Ohio. Towns like Cleveland and Cincinnati were established. In 1803, Ohio had 70,000 people. This was enough people for the U.S. government to grant Ohio statehood. Statehood did not bring peace, however. Britain and the United States were at war *(cont. next page)*

Cultural Note

Many people consider Toni Morrison to be one of the country's greatest modern novelists. Born in Lorain, Morrison has drawn on her Ohio background to write several of her novels. Most of her books describe the challenges that African-American women have faced. *Beloved* is her most famous novel. It takes place in Ohio after the Civil War. The book's characters are African-Americans struggling with their memories of slavery.



again in the War of 1812. Ohio played an important role in the American victory. Commodore Oliver H. Perry helped the U.S. cause when he captured six British ships in the Battle of Lake Erie.

Ohio Boom

Improvements in transportation helped further Ohio's rapid growth. The Erie Canal allowed settlers to reach Ohio by steamboat from the east coast. The state's population had reached nearly two million by 1850. The railroad reached the state in the 1830s, and Ohio had more miles of railroad than any other state by the time of the Civil War. Trade with other states became easier. Ohio developed into the nation's leading producer of crops like wheat and corn. Its cities became industry and trade centers. Rubber, glass, oil, coal, gas, and steel flowed out of Ohio factories.

The World Wars

During World War I, Ohio's crops and industrial products supported the troops overseas. When the economic crisis of the Great Depression hit in the 1930s, Ohio's factories ground to a halt. Half of Ohioans were without work. When World War II began, Ohio industry roared to life again as the state produced equipment like airplanes for the war effort.



Kent State Killings

The 1960s and '70s were a time of protest against America's involvement in the Vietnam War. Many of these protests took place at universities. During one antiwar demonstration at Akron's Kent State University, National Guardsmen fired into a crowd of unarmed protestors. Four students died in the tragic event. The shooting became a symbol for the unrest of that era.

Oakley



Stowe



Owens

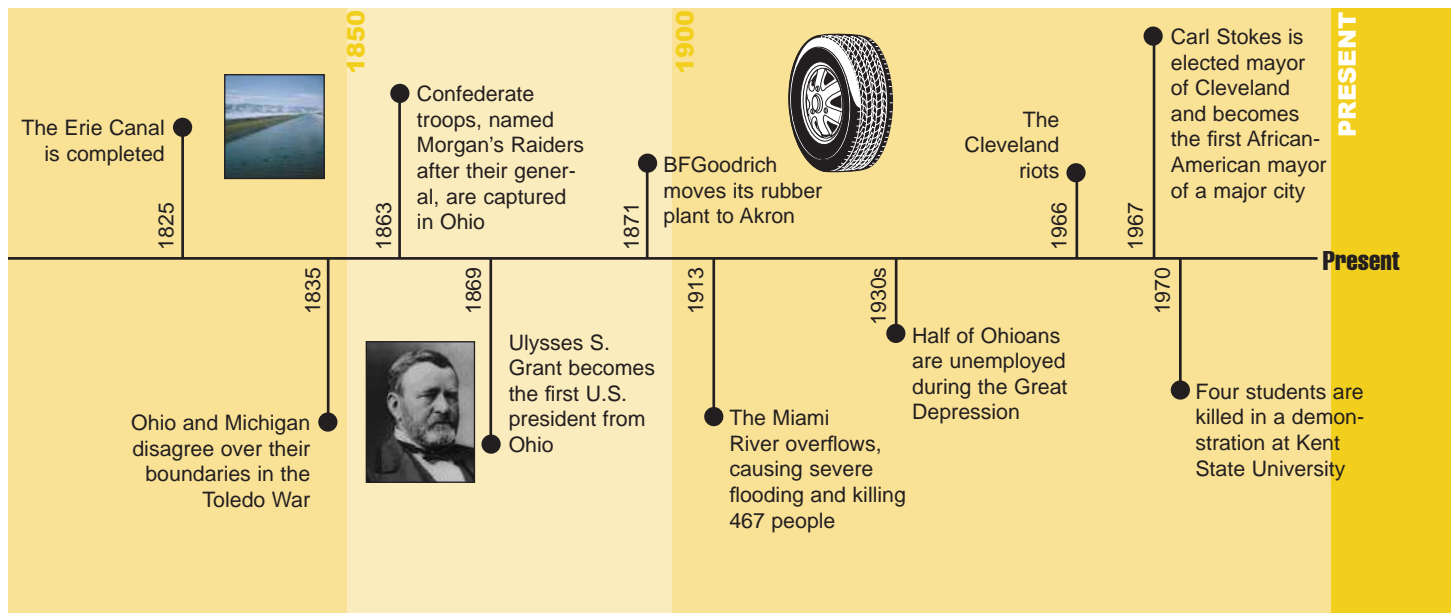


Armstrong



Famous People

- Neil Armstrong:** First person to walk on the moon
- Paul Laurence Dunbar:** 19th century African-American poet
- Pete Rose:** Baseball star and record holder for career hits
- John Glenn:** Senator and the first American to orbit the earth
- Harriet Beecher Stowe:** Author of the antislavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- Jesse Owens:** Ohio State University track star and four-time gold medalist at the 1936 Olympics
- Annie Oakley:** Wild West sharpshooter
- Cy Young:** Baseball pitcher and record holder for career wins
- Steven Spielberg:** Director of movies, like *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *E.T.*



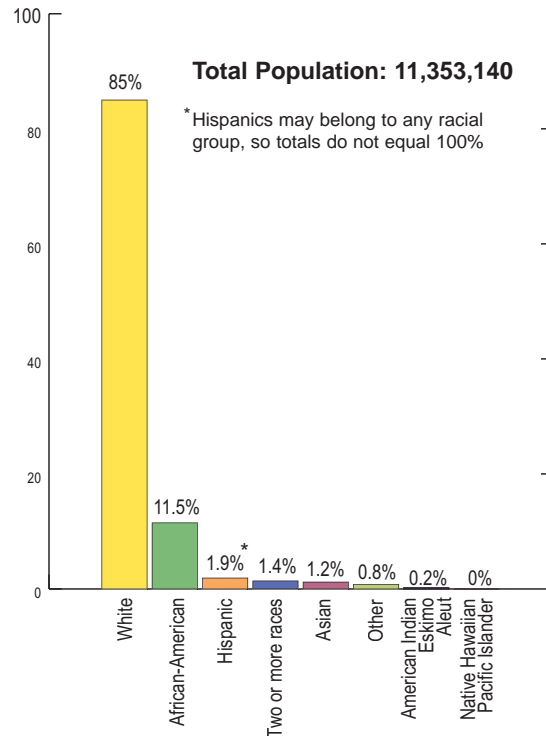
Did You Know?

- *Ohio* is the Iroquois word for the Ohio River and means “good river.”
- Ohio is also called the Mother of Modern Presidents because seven U.S. presidents were born there: Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, McKinley, Taft, and Harding.
- Ohio’s official state beverage is tomato juice.
- Shaped like a snake, the Mound Builders’ Great Serpent Mound is 1,300 feet (400 m) long and more than two thousand years old.
- The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland has exhibits on rock stars, displaying their clothing and instruments.
- The Football Hall of Fame is in Canton.
- Cleveland is home to the world’s largest rubber stamp. It is 28 feet (9 m) tall and 48 feet (15 m) long.
- Sandusky’s Cedar Point amusement park holds the world record for the most roller coasters.
- The world’s oldest traffic light is kept in Ashville’s town museum. It is only brought out for use on the 4th of July.



Population

Ohio is a very *urban* state, which means that most of its people live in cities. About 75 percent of Ohioans live in the state’s cities like Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati. Many Ohioans today are descendants of German and Irish immigrants who came to the state in the 19th century. Other immigrant groups like Poles and Italians came later. African-Americans migrated to Ohio’s cities after the Civil War and during the 20th century. Ohio is home to Amish people who practice a simple lifestyle without electricity and modern technology.



State Symbols



State Animal
White-tailed deer—This is Ohio’s largest game animal and can be found all over the state.



State Flower
Scarlet carnation—This flower was adopted to remember President William McKinley.



State Tree
Buckeye—Native Americans gave this tree its name. They thought the seed looked like the eye of a buck deer.



State Bird
Cardinal—This beautiful, red-feathered bird is known for its strong voice.

Government

Capital: Columbus

U.S. Senators: 2

U.S. Representatives: 18

Counties: 88

- The 33 state senators and the 99 state representatives make new laws and decide how the state’s money is spent.
- Members of the state supreme court are called justices and serve six-year terms. They decide what laws mean.

State Motto: With God, All Things Are Possible—Adopted in 1959, the motto comes from a verse in the Bible’s New Testament.

For more information: See www.state.oh.us or contact the Ohio Division of Travel and Tourism, PO Box 4001, Columbus, OH 43216; phone (800) BUCKEYE; Web site www.ohiotourism.com.