



# Ohio

## State History

~ In a Nutshell ~

Written & designed by  
Cyndi Kinney & Judy Trout



NS\_SOH

Ohio State History In a Nutshell  
by Cyndi Kinney & Judy Trout  
Copyright © 2012 Knowledge Box Central  
[www.KnowledgeBoxCentral.com](http://www.KnowledgeBoxCentral.com)

ISBN

Ebook: 978-1-61625-779-8

Publisher: Knowledge Box Central  
<http://www.knowledgeboxcentral.com>

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher, except as provided by USA copyright law.

This electronic product is intended to be used ONLY by the purchaser. It is not to be transferred, sold, or duplicated.

This state history information can also be found in the Lapbook and Lapbook Journal for this specific state, as published by Knowledge Box Central. Please see publisher's website for information on these other products.

All information and graphics within this product are originals or have been used with permission from its owners, and credit has been given when appropriate. These include, but are not limited to the following: [www.iclipart.com](http://www.iclipart.com), and Art Explosion Clipart. Additional credits are given at the end of this ebook.

### **What is the "In a Nutshell" series?**

This is a series of concise, easy to understand information on many popular topics. You will find that many of products in this series can also be found as part of larger publications and/or curriculum on the publisher's website. At the end of each book, you will find a list of questions that may be used to help you review the material.

# Ohio State History Lapbook Journal Study Guide



The Great Seal of Ohio

The state of Ohio is named after the Ohio River. Ohio is the name that the Iroquois Indians used when referring to the river and means "large" or "beautiful river."

People who live in Ohio or who come from Ohio are called Ohioans and sometimes they are referred to as Buckeyes.



Map of Ohio – Capital, Major Lakes and Rivers

## STATEHOOD

The story of Ohio's statehood dates back to the Ordinance of 1787 and the creation of the Northwest Territory--a large body of unsettled land that encompassed what is now Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota.

The territory was ruled by a governor, a secretary, and three judges, who were all appointed by Congress. These five officials performed the executive, legislative and judicial functions of government. It wasn't until 1798--after the male adult population of the territory reached 5,000--that the settlers were given the right to elect a house of representatives. The first meeting of the legislature convened in Cincinnati in 1799. The body elected Edward Tiffin as Speaker of the House and William Henry Harrison as the territory's representative to Congress.

Though the territorial government was just getting on its feet in 1799, Ohio settlers were already clamoring for statehood. And just a few years later, in 1802, Congress passed an enabling bill that authorized the formation of a state government in Ohio. Ohio's first constitutional convention convened in Chillicothe in November of that same year. Ohio was admitted to the Union on March 1, 1803.

## STATE CONSTITUTION

With numerous later amendments, the 1851 Constitution remains the basic law of the state of Ohio to this day. It has one of the shortest preambles of any state constitution.

*PREAMBLE: People of the State of Ohio, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, to secure its blessings and promote our general welfare, do establish this Constitution.*

## STATE GOVERNMENT

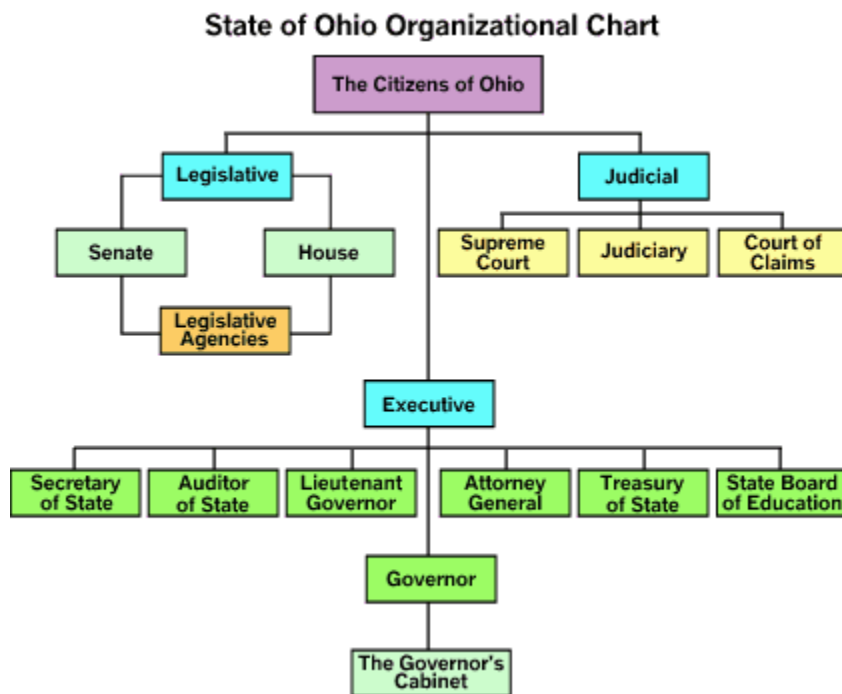
### *Organizational Chart of Ohio's State Government*

Ohio's state government contains three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. The Executive branch includes the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of State, Attorney General, Treasurer of State, State Board of Education and the Governor's Cabinet. The Cabinet members serve as directors for the many state agencies and are appointed by the Governor.

The Legislative branch consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Together, these bodies are referred to as "The General Assembly." Ohio's House of Representatives has 99 members; the Senate has 33. The Legislative Service Commission, a staff of trained legal experts and personnel, drafts proposals for new laws and law changes, is one of several legislative agencies that are also part of the Legislative branch of Ohio's state government.

The Judicial branch comprises the Ohio Supreme Court; numerous judiciary bodies--including 12 courts of appeals, courts of common pleas in each county, municipal courts, and many county courts; and the Court of Claims.

(Numbers are based on "current" statistics. )



Creating new laws and changing old ones is one of the most important functions of state government. Any proposal for a new law or for changing an existing law must begin as a bill in Ohio's General Assembly.

Most bills require a majority vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives to pass. Emergency measures require a two-thirds majority; constitutional amendments must receive a three-fifths majority to be placed before the voters. If a bill passes in both chambers, it is then presented to the Governor to be signed.

The Governor has 10 days to sign or veto a bill. If signed, the bill becomes law. If vetoed, the bill is sent back to the General Assembly. At this point the bill can only become law if at least three-fifths of the legislators vote to override the Governor's veto. A bill can also become law if the Governor fails to take any action on it within 10 days.

## U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

The legislative branch of the United States government makes laws for our nation and raises and distributes money to run the United States government. The most evident part of the legislative branch is the United States Congress. Congress is divided into two parts, called houses. The two parts are the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress is referred to as a bicameral body because it is made up of two houses. The Latin roots of the word bicameral, "bi" and "cameral," mean two chambers or rooms. Members of the Senate are called Senators and members of the House of Representatives are called Representatives. Senators and representatives serving in these two bodies are sometimes referred to as congressmen, or women, and sometimes as legislators because their business is to legislate or make laws. The role of the legislative branch is defined in the United States Constitution.

Each state elects people to represent them in the United States Congress in Washington, DC. The citizens of each state elect two senators to represent them in the Senate. They also elect representatives to represent them in the House of Representatives. The number of representatives each state sends to the House of Representatives is not a specific number like the Senate, but is based on the population of the state. The people, that are elected to represent the state's citizens in the United States Congress, are referred to as the congressional delegation.

There are 100 senators in the U.S. Senate. Each is elected to a term, in the Senate, of six years. There are 435 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each is elected to a term, in the "House," of two years.

The citizens of Ohio elect 2 people, like every other state, to represent them in the Senate and 18 people, based on Ohio's current population, to represent them in the House of Representatives.

## STATE SEAL

The Great Seal of the State of Ohio has undergone several design changes throughout its history. The rotunda of the Statehouse, for example, has a magnificent skylight with a hand painted version of a Seal that was designed in 1847. This version is similar to Ohio's present seal, but features a canal boat that is totally missing from today's seal.



In an attempt to reign in the design of the seal, the Legislature officially adopted Ohio's modern version in 1967, modifying it in 1996. The Scioto River flows across the center of the seal, separating cultivated fields from Mount Logan. Thirteen rays of a rising sun radiate over the mountain, symbolizing the 13 original colonies. In the foreground stands a sheaf of wheat, representing agriculture and bounty. Mimicking the sheaf of wheat is a bundle of 17 arrows, symbolizing Ohio as the 17th state to join the Union.

## STATE CAPITAL



The Ohio Statehouse, located in Columbus, Ohio, is the house of government for the state of Ohio. The Greek Revival building houses the Ohio General Assembly and the ceremonial offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, and Auditor.



The Ohio Statehouse is located on Capitol Square, a 10 acre (40,000 m<sup>2</sup>) plot of land donated by four prominent Columbus landowners. The Statehouse stands upon foundations 18 feet (5 m) deep, built in part by prisoners sentenced to hard labor.

The Statehouse features a central recessed porch with a colonnade of a forthright and primitive Greek Doric mode, built of Columbus limestone that was quarried on the west banks of the Scioto River. A broad and low central pediment supports the windowed astylar drum, referred to as a Cupola, which contains an oculus that lights the interior rotunda.

Unlike many U.S. state capitol buildings, the Ohio Statehouse owes little to the architecture of the United States Capitol. It was designed and built before the U.S. Capitol was enlarged to its present form, with the large white dome that would become ubiquitous on government buildings in America.

The Ohio Statehouse has been termed a supreme example of Greek Revival style. It is not patterned on one single building, but is a combination of stylistic elements from Greek sources, melded with contemporary needs and functions. The cupola shows direct influence by the Tholos of Delphi, a circular temple built about 360 BC. The Parthenon of Athens is also an influence. No ancient Greek building would have contained windows, but they were a major part of Greek Revival for a more practical reason: before electric light, sunlight was the major source of illumination.

The ceremonial offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, and Auditor are located on the first floor of the building. The relocation of the Governor's working office to the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts, located across High Street from the Statehouse, was originally a temporary action taken while the historic building was undergoing an extensive restoration and upgrading. At the completion of the project the Governor, George Voinovich preferred the larger, more modern space and did not return to the Statehouse office except for occasional ceremonial use. Voinovich's successor Bob Taft used the historical Governor's Office in a similar way. Former Governor Ted Strickland, however, stated during his 2006 election campaign his intention to use the Statehouse office on a regular basis. Strickland considered the presence of the Governor in a building where the Legislature also works as both symbolic and practical examples of how the parts of government relate to each other.

The Ohio General Assembly chambers are on the second floor. Although in general its appearance is similar to its original appearance, it has been modernized in many ways. Modern information and communication capabilities have been added.

The Atrium, which connects the Statehouse with the Senate Building, is a large open space which hosts government functions and ceremonies as well as various meetings and events. It is constructed of the same limestone as the two adjoining buildings.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio\\_Statehouse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio_Statehouse)

Former capitals cities prior to Columbus, Ohio: Chillicothe, 1803 – 1809; Zanesville, 1809 – 1812; Chillicothe 1812 – 1816; Columbus, 1816 – present.

## STATE MOTTO

*With God, All Things Are Possible*

"With God All Things Are Possible" became Ohio's state motto on October 1, 1959. A twelve-year-old boy named James Mastronardo recommended this quotation from the bible during a contest sponsored by the Ohio legislature in the early 1950's to select a state motto.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a suit against Ohio and its state motto in 1997, claiming the biblical quotation violated the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution which guarantees religious freedom separation of church and state. Federal courts allowed Ohio to retain its motto, ruling that the state motto does not endorse a specific God, and therefore was not a violation of the first amendment. Four other states contain the word "God" in their mottos.

## STATE FLAG

Unique among the state flags of the union, the Ohio State Flag was designed by John Eisemann. Described as a pennant, the Ohio burgee is properly a swallowtail design. It was adopted in 1902.



The Ohio flag, unique in shape but uncomplicated in design, is filled with symbolism. The union of the flag, a large blue triangle is populated with seventeen white stars. Those that are grouped around the circle represent the thirteen original colonies. The four stars found at the apex of the triangle combine with the stars of the thirteen original colonies to total seventeen. Ohio was the seventeenth state to enter the union.

Three red and two white horizontal stripes and the blue field copy the red, white and blue of the Stars and Stripes. The blue field represents Ohio's hills and valleys. The stripes represent the roads and waterways of the state.

The white circle with its red center forms the "O" in Ohio and can also be related to the state's nickname, the "Buckeye State."

## STATE NICKNAMES

*The Buckeye State (Official)*

A buck's eye; this is what the fruit, or nut, of the buckeye tree is said to resemble. The buckeye's association with Ohio dates back to 1788, but may have been fixed forever in Ohio history during the election of William Henry Harrison as President of the United States in 1840. Certainly, the abundant presence of buckeye trees in Ohio gave root to the term but it's thought that the first use of "Buckeye" to refer to an Ohioan was back in 1788 in Marietta at Campus Martius. Campus Martius was a fort that served as home for early settlers. Located at the fort



was the first court conducted by those early settlers. The story goes, that on September 2, 1788, a certain Colonel Sproat lead a procession of judges to the court. His posture was erect and he stood six feet, four inches tall. As he lead the procession, glittering sword in hand, onlooking Indians shouted out "Hetuck, hetuck, hetuck" meaning "Big Buckeye."

William Henry Harrison was born in Virginia, but he settled along the Ohio River west of Cincinnati. He entered the race for President as a candidate of the Whig party. An opposition newspaper said Mr. Harrison "...was better fitted to sit in a log cabin and drink hard cider than rule in the White House." Harrison capitalized on this image by issuing an engraving of himself seated in a rustic buckeye wood cabin with a barrel of cider and rows of buckeyes hanging from pegs. Buckeye cabins and buckeye canes carried by Harrison supporters ensured that the buckeye would be forever associated with the state of Ohio.

The Ohio State Flag, adopted in 1902, displays a white circle with a red center, representing the "O" in Ohio and the Ohio "Buckeye." In 1953, the Ohio Buckeye ,(Aesculus globra), was made the official State Tree of Ohio, and "The Buckeye State" was made the official State Nickname.

### *Mother of Modern Presidents*

or "Mother of Presidents" is sometimes used to refer to Ohio. Seven United States Presidents were born in Ohio. They are Ulysses Simpson Grant (Point Pleasant), Rutherford Bichard Hayes (Delaware, OH), James Abram Garfield (near Orange), Benjamin Harrison (North Bend), William McKinley (Niles), William Howard Taft (Cincinnati), and Warren Gamaliel Harding (Corsica, now Blooming Grove). William Henry Harrison, born in Virginia but settled in Ohio, is also claimed as one of Ohio's own.

### *The Yankee State*

"The Yankee State" was an early nickname applied to Ohio, probably by Kentuckians and Virginians because of its free institutions. It may also have been in reference to the many New Englanders who migrated to Ohio in the early 1800s.

## **STATE BIRD**



The cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) was approved by the General Assembly and adopted as the official state bird of Ohio on March 2, 1933.

**Below, you will find 15 general questions to help review what you have learned. Use the following page(s) for documenting your answers. Older students may choose to write a State Report as well.**

**Review Questions:**

1. List the states and/or bodies of water that border this state.
2. What was the date of statehood?
3. What is the state capital?
4. What is the state motto?
5. Name at least one state nickname.
6. Describe the state flag.
7. What is the state bird?
8. What is the state flower?
9. List at least 5 other state symbols.
10. Describe this state's government.
11. Name the major imports and exports for this state.
12. Describe the weather and climate in this state.
13. List at least 5 famous people from this state.
14. Describe at least 5 significant events in this state's history.
15. What other interesting information have you learned about this state?

## **Answers to Review Questions:**

