OHIO

THE BUCKEYE STATE *Became a state March 1, 1803 (17th)*

Ohio lies between Lake Erie and the Ohio River, with rich farmland and busy factory cities in between. Inventors, astronauts and seven presidents were born here.



A Snake Made of Earth

On a ridge above a creek in southern Ohio lies a giant snake made of earth. Serpent Mound is 1,348 feet long, longer than three football fields laid end to end, but only a few feet high. Native people shaped it long ago from soil and rocks. Scientists still disagree about who built it and when.



Two Brothers and a Bike Shop

Wilbur and Orville Wright ran a bicycle shop in Dayton. The money it earned paid for their experiments with flight. In 1901 they built a wind tunnel in the shop and tested about 200 small model wings to learn which shapes worked best. Their mechanic, Charlie Taylor, built the engine. The airplane they flew in North Carolina in 1903 was made in Ohio.



The Real Johnny Appleseed

Johnny Appleseed was a real man named John Chapman, born in 1774. He did not scatter seeds wherever he walked. He planted nurseries, small fenced plots of young apple trees, in Ohio and nearby states. A neighbor sold the trees, and Chapman came back every year or two to tend them. Most of the apples were sour and good mainly for cider.



We Have Met the Enemy

In the War of 1812, American and British ships fought for control of Lake Erie. On September 10, 1813, Oliver Hazard Perry's ship was badly battered near Put-in-Bay. His men rowed him half a mile through gunfire to another ship, and he won the battle. He reported, "We have met the enemy and they are ours."



A Better Tomato

Alexander Livingston of Reynoldsburg wanted a better tomato. Each year he picked plants with the best fruit, saved their seeds and planted them again. In 1870 he began selling the result, a tomato named the Paragon. Reynoldsburg calls itself the Birthplace of the Tomato and holds a festival every August. Tomato juice is Ohio's state drink.



Carved by Water

More than 330 million years ago, a shallow sea covered the Hocking Hills. Rivers washed layers of sand into it. The sand became sandstone. Over millions of years, streams wore the soft rock into cliffs, gorges, waterfalls and caves. Old Man's Cave is believed to be named for Richard Rowe, a hermit who lived there around 1800.

BY THE NUMBERS

Population	About 12 million (7th most)
Size	About 44,800 square miles (34th largest)
Highest point	Campbell Hill, 1,549 feet
Counties	88
Neighbors	Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Canada across Lake Erie

DID YOU KNOW?

- Ohio is named for its river. The name comes from a Seneca word meaning "good river."
- Ohio's flag is the only state flag that is not a rectangle. Its big round O also looks like a buckeye nut.
- John Glenn, the first American to orbit Earth, and Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the Moon, were both born in Ohio.
- Perry's Monument also honors the long peace between the United States, Britain and Canada. The Canadian border is only five miles away.

FIND IT ON THE MAP

1. Which Great Lake touches Ohio?
2. Which city is closest to the Birthplace of Aviation?
3. Which war does Perry's Monument remember?

Answers: 1. Lake Erie 2. Dayton 3. The War of 1812