

OHIO

HISTORY

Mound builders, Native nations, soldiers and settlers each shaped Ohio. Later, its canals, factories and inventors helped build the whole country.

The First Peoples

People have lived in Ohio for at least 12,000 years. About 2,000 years ago, people of the Hopewell culture carried soil by the basketful to build huge **earthworks**. Some are circles and squares bigger than many football fields. You can still visit them near Newark and Chillicothe. By the 1700s, the Shawnee, Delaware, Wyandot and Miami lived in Ohio. They grew corn, hunted and traded furs.



Traders and a Mission Town

French and British traders both wanted Ohio's furs. Britain won the land from France in 1763. In 1772, a missionary named David Zeisberger and a group of Christian Delaware built the town of Schoenbrunn. It had a church and a school. During the American Revolution, Native war parties and American militia raided each other's towns.

The Northwest Territory

After the Revolution, Ohio became part of the Northwest Territory. A 1787 law banned slavery there. In 1788, settlers from New England built Marietta on the Ohio River. It was the first lasting American town in the territory. Cincinnati began the same year.

Wars for the Land

The Native nations joined in a **confederacy** to keep settlers south of the Ohio River. Led by Little Turtle of the Miami and Blue Jacket of the Shawnee, their

warriors defeated two American armies, in 1790 and 1791. In 1794, an American army under Anthony Wayne beat them at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, near where Toledo is now. In the **Treaty** of Greenville in 1795, the nations gave up most of Ohio.

The Seventeenth State

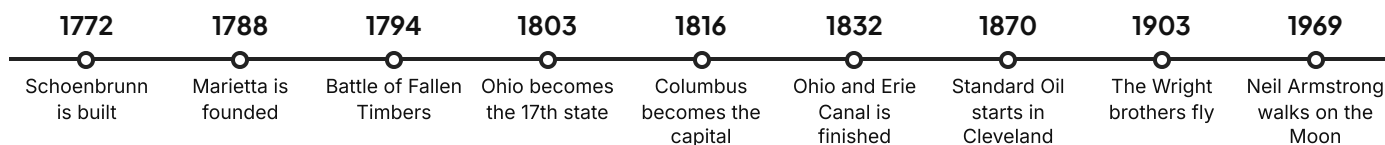
Ohio became the 17th state on March 1, 1803. Chillicothe was the first capital, and Columbus took over in 1816. In the War of 1812, British soldiers and Tecumseh's warriors twice surrounded Fort Meigs, and the Americans held it both times. In later treaties the tribes sold the rest of their Ohio land. The Shawnee, Ottawa and Seneca moved west in the 1830s, and the Wyandot left for Kansas in 1843. Native people live in Ohio today. Ohio was a free state. Many Ohioans hid people escaping slavery and helped them reach Canada.



Building Ohio

Settlers cleared forests for farms and built towns, schools and mills. Workers dug the Ohio and Erie **Canal** by hand. Finished in 1832, it joined Lake Erie at Cleveland to the Ohio River, so farmers could ship crops by boat. Railroads came next. In the Civil War, more than 300,000 Ohioans served in the Union army. Afterward, Cleveland refined oil and made steel, Akron made tires, and Dayton built cash registers and airplanes.

OHIO THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Tecumseh	Shawnee leader born in Ohio. Joined many nations together.
Ulysses S. Grant	Born in Point Pleasant. Union general and 18th president.
Thomas Edison	Inventor born in Milan, Ohio, in 1847.
Jesse Owens	Grew up in Cleveland. Won four gold medals in 1936.
Neil Armstrong	Born in Wapakoneta. First person to walk on the Moon.

WORDS TO KNOW

earthworks	walls and mounds that people build out of soil
confederacy	a group of nations that join together
treaty	a written agreement between nations
canal	a waterway dug by people for boats