

This is Ohio

The “Buckeye State” was admitted to the Union on March 1, 1803 as the 17th state. Indiana borders it on the west, Michigan and Canada on the north, Pennsylvania and West Virginia on the east and Kentucky and West Virginia on the south.

Ohio ranks 34th in land area of the 50 states, with 44,825 square miles. A 2010 demographic profile by the U.S. Census Bureau placed its population at 11,536,504, making it the seventh most populous state in the country. Ohio’s central location puts it within a 600-mile radius of 60 percent of the U.S. population, and 50 percent of Canada’s population.

A temperate climate and adequate rainfall are suitable for growing a wide range of agricultural products. Lake Erie, the Ohio River, and numerous other inland lakes and rivers provide an abundant water supply.

The Industrial Revolution played a major role in Ohio’s development. Manufacturing is the largest of Ohio’s major economic sectors based on gross domestic product. Ohio’s educational institutions and private research facilities have core strengths in advanced manufacturing, biosciences, instruments and controls, power and propulsion, and information technology. In recent years, Ohio’s economy has become more service oriented (the service sector is expected to account for virtually all job growth between 2012 and 2022, according to the Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information). The state also plays a major role in emerging technologies.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau count, Ohio’s largest cities are Columbus (850,106), Cleveland (388,072), Cincinnati (296,943), and Toledo (279,789). Of these, only Columbus showed growth in the period 2002-2010.

State Flower

The red carnation was adopted in 1904 as a posthumous tribute to President William McKinley, who was born in Niles, Ohio. The red carnation had been McKinley’s favorite lapel decoration.

Brief Look into Ohio’s Early History

The area that is Ohio today has a rich history that predates statehood. Archaeological studies show that Hopewell and Adena cultural groups lived in the region

approximately 5,000 years ago. They built more than a thousand ceremonial mounds around the state. The Serpent Mound in southwestern Ohio and the Newark Earthworks in eastern Ohio are the most famous.

The first permanent settlement of Europeans was established at Marietta in 1788. In 1795, representatives of the Wyandot, Delaware, Shawnee, Ottawa, Miami, Chippewa, Potawatomi, Kickapoo and other tribes signed the Treaty of Greenville with the United States government. According to the Treaty, Native American communities were relegated to live in north central and northeastern Ohio. Both European settlers and many Native Americans refused to honor the agreement, resulting in violent conflicts between the two groups. Most Native Americans who lived in Ohio during this time were gone by 1850.

Members of the Lakota and Dakota tribes began moving here in the 20th Century, because Cleveland was a relocation city when the U.S. Government relocated Native Americans from reservations in South and North Dakota.

Under the Articles of Confederation, the U.S. Congress in 1784 enacted an ordinance for governing the western lands ceded by New York, Virginia, Massachusetts and Connecticut. It was superseded by the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which became the basis for the formation of six states in the territory, including Ohio. The ordinance is at: <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=8&page=transcript>. The legislation created a three-stage process for turning the territory into states, listing rights for inhabitants, banning slavery and encouraging but not requiring education.

State Economy

According to a 2018 Ohio Development Services Agency report, if Ohio were its own nation, it would have the 35th largest economy in the world. The estimate is based on gross domestic product, which is the total value of goods produced and services provided annually.

State Flag

Architect John Eisemann designed Ohio's flag in 1901. The Ohio flag is the only pennant-shaped state flag in the United States. The swallow-tailed shape symbolizes Ohio's hills and valleys; the red and white stripes represent roadways and waterways; the initial "O" and the buckeye are represented by the white circle with its red center; the stars grouped around the circle represent the original 13 states of the Union; and the four extra stars represent Ohio's status as the 17th state.

In the first stage, the U.S. Congress appointed a governor, a secretary, and three judges who were large landholders and residents to govern the new territory. The second stage could begin when 5,000 free men lived in the territory. The settlers were allowed to elect a General Assembly, or legislative body, to represent them. The first General Assembly met in Cincinnati in 1799 and consisted of the governor, the Legislative Council, and the House of Representatives.

Representatives, who were elected by men who owned at least 50 acres in the territory, had to be men and “be possessed of 200 acres of land.” The U.S. Congress selected the five members of the Legislative Council from ten nominees submitted by the U.S. House of Representatives. The Legislative Council members were required to own 500 acres of land. All Ohio public officials had to fulfill certain residency requirements as well. Edward Tiffin was elected the first speaker of the House, and William Henry Harrison was elected the territory’s representative to Congress.

The third stage required that 60,000 people live in the territory before it could apply for statehood and draft a constitution, which had to contain many of the basic rights in the U.S. Constitution. The second General Assembly met in Chillicothe from November 1801 to January 1802, and though the census showed 45,000 inhabitants, it applied for statehood, arguing the population would soon reach 60,000. Congress agreed and authorized the formation of a government for Ohio on April 30, 1802. That November the first Constitutional Convention convened in Chillicothe. With Edward Tiffin as president, the delegates drafted and adopted Ohio’s first Constitution.

The first election for governor, General Assembly, and officials of the nine newly created counties was held in January 1803. Edward Tiffin became the first governor of Ohio.

The capital was located in Chillicothe until 1810, moved briefly to Zanesville, and then returned to Chillicothe until 1816, when Columbus became the permanent capital.

Statehood . . . 150 Years Later

On August 7, 1953, Ohio was formally admitted to the Union by a joint resolution of Congress. Just as Ohio prepared to celebrate its 150th anniversary in 1953, researchers discovered that a joint session of Congress had never declared Ohio a state. No state before Ohio had been formally admitted through a joint resolution, as the practice began in 1812. Therefore, in 1953, Congress formally declared Ohio a state—retroactive to 1803. President Eisenhower signed the joint resolution on August 7, 1953.