

Earthworks Self-Guided Walking Tour Description and Curriculum Resources

- Location:** Great Circle and, Wright Earthworks, Newark (Licking), Ohio
- Self-Guided Tour:** Great Circle and Wright Earthworks walking tour
- Availability:** Daylight hours
- Time Allowance:** 1½ hours
- Grades:** Adaptable for all grades
- Cost:** Donations to the Ohio Historical Society are accepted

Description:

Located at along State Route 79 in Heath, near the intersection of Parkview Drive or South 21st Street, the **Great Circle Earthworks** of the Newark Earthworks is available as a self guided tour. Built by an ancient pre-historic American culture approximately 2000 years ago, it is a magnificent earthwork that embodies 26 acres and is approximately 1,200 feet in diameter. In its center is an effigy mound commonly known as the "Eagle Mound" that points towards the eastern opening in the circle enclosure. The effigy mound and the sun align every May 10th. The Circle's earthen walls that range in height from 8 to 14 feet add to the mystery and timelessness of this site.

A second remnant of the Newark Earthworks is a 50-foot segment known as **Wright Earthworks**. It is located less than a city block west of the State Route 79 intersection with Grant Street in Newark. From Grant Street turn north onto James Street and proceed less than a city block. Originally this earthwork was connected to a square enclosure that embodied 20 acres. Located a few city blocks from the Great Circle, the visitor can gain an insight into how extensive the Newark Earthworks originally were. It is widely credited to be the largest geometric earthworks ever built covering four square miles.

The **Octagon Earthworks** is yet a third remnant of the Newark Earthworks that is located at the intersection of North 33rd Street and Parkview Drive in Newark. The Octagon is also the site of the Moundbuilders Country Club Golf Course. Guided tours of the Octagon are available through scheduling with the Newark Earthworks staff. Please call 740-344-1919 or 800-600-7178. This earthwork has received much attention for its geometric meticulous design that has been theorized to align with the northern rise of the moon every 18.6 years. Tours will focus on the significance of the earthwork's careful design and construction as well as the significance of the ancient pre-historic culture, who built it. Students will examine the settlement and cultural practices of various groups who settled in Ohio over time.

Ohio Social Studies Academic Content Standards Addressed:

History (Settlement)

4th. Describe the earliest settlements in Ohio including those of prehistoric peoples.

History (Early Civilization)

6th. Describe the early cultural development of humankind for the Paleolithic Era to the revolution of agriculture including: hunting and gathering; tool making; use of fire; domestication of plants and animals; organizing societies; governance.

People in Societies (Cultures)

4th. Describe the cultural practices and products of various groups who have settled in Ohio over time [including]: the Paleoindians, Archaic, Woodland (Adena and Hopewell) and Late Prehistoric (Fort Ancient) cultures; historic Indians of Ohio (Ottawa, Wyandot, Mingo, Miami, Shawnee and Delaware)

5th. Compare the cultural practices and products of diverse groups In North America including: artistic expressions; religion; language; food; clothing; shelter.

Economics (Scarcity and Resource Allocation)

2nd. Explain how resources can be used in various ways.

4th. Explain how the availability of productive resources in Ohio promotes specialization in the production of goods and services and leads to trade.

Social Studies Skills and Methods (Obtaining Information)

4th. Describe how archaeologist and historians study and interpret the past.

Social Studies Skills and Methods (Thinking and Organizing)

4th. Describe between fact and opinion.

Newark Earthworks are operated by the Ohio Historical Society, a nonprofit organization that serves as the state's partner in preserving and interpreting Ohio's history, archaeology, and natural history.

