

OHIO STATEHOUSE HISTORY

A Government Lesson

Meets These 4th Grade Social Studies Content Standards:

History

Chronology

Construct time lines with evenly spaced intervals for years, decades, and centuries to show the order of significant events in Ohio history.

Growth

Explain how Ohio progressed from territory to statehood, including the terms of the Northwest Ordinance

Government

Role of Government

Explain major responsibilities of each of the three branches of government in Ohio.

- a. The legislative branch, headed by the General Assembly, makes state laws.
- b. The executive branch, headed by the governor, carries out and enforces laws made by the General Assembly.
- c. The judicial branch, headed by the Ohio Supreme Court, interprets and applies the law.

Explain why elections are used to select leaders and decide issues.

Explain the purpose of a democratic constitution:

- a. To provide a framework for a government;
- b. To limit the power of government;
- c. To define authority of elected officials.

Explain that the Ohio Constitution tells how the state government should be organized and guarantees the rights of individuals.

Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities

Participation

Describe the ways in which citizens can promote the common good and influence their government including:

- a. Voting;
- b. Communicating with officials;
- c. Participating in civic and service organizations;
- d. Performing voluntary service.

Rights and Responsibilities

Explain why personal responsibilities (e.g., taking advantage of the opportunity to be educated) and civic responsibilities (e.g., obeying the law and respecting the rights of others) are important.

Explain the importance of leadership and public service.

Explain why characteristics such as respect for the rights of others, fairness, reliability, honesty, wisdom, and courage are desirable quality in the people citizens select as their leaders.

Social Studies Skills and Methods

Obtaining Information

Obtain information about state issues from a variety of print and electronic sources, and determine the relevance of information to a research topic:

- a. Atlases;
- b. Encyclopedias;

- c. Dictionaries;
- d. Newspapers;
- e. Multimedia/Electronic sources.

Use a glossary and index to locate information.

Use primary and secondary sources to answer questions about Ohio History.

Thinking and Organizing

Identify main ideas and supporting details from factual information

Distinguish between fact and opinion.

Formulate a question to focus research.

Problem Solving

Use a problem-solving/decision-making process which includes:

- a. Identifying a problem;
- b. Gathering information;
- c. Listing and considering options;
- d. Considering advantages and disadvantages of options;
- e. Choosing and implementing a solution.
- f. Developing criteria for judging its effectiveness.

GLOSSARY

act – A bill that has passed through both houses and is awaiting the decision of the governor to make it a law or not.

amendment – A change to a constitution.

bicameral – A term that defines a legislature as having two houses.

bill – A proposal for a law that must be approved by the House and Senate before it can become an act then a law.

campaign – A series of activities that move toward a result. To run for office.

capital – The name of the center of government for a state. In Ohio, capital cities were Chillicothe, Zanesville, then Columbus.

capitol – The building in which state government work is done. The statehouse.

citizen.— A person who by birth or choice is a member of a state or nation.

Coat of Arms – A symbol of a state; another name for a state seal.

constitution – A document of fundamental principles that govern the way a state of nation is to be run.

cornerstone – A ceremonial stone placed in the exterior wall of a building. It is inscribed with a date and sometimes contains objects in its hollow center.

district – A portion of a country, state, or city that is set aside for electing its own officials, maintaining laws, providing schools, etc.

election – Choosing by vote.

General Assembly – The legislature or legislative branch of state government that makes the laws.

government – A rule of authority over a city, district, state, nation.

governor – The executive head of a state of the United States.

Great Seal of Ohio – An authentic emblem that officially represents a government; a Coat of Arms. If embossed or stamped onto a paper, it makes the document official.

House of Representatives – The lower branch of the law-making body of a state or the national government.

Imperium in Imperio – A state motto that once appeared on the state seal 1866-1868; it means “An Empire within an Empire.”

Justice – A judge on the Ohio Supreme Court

law – A bill that has passed through the legislature and has become a rule [law] through action or inaction of the governor.

legislature – A group of persons who have the duty and power to make laws; the General Assembly.

majority party – The political party that has the most members.

minority party – The political party that has the fewest members.

oral history – The telling of a historical time by a person who experienced the events.

political party – An organized group of citizens who agree on certain issues. President; today the most common political parties are the democrat, independent, and republican parties.

Senate – The upper branch of the law-making body of a state or nation.

statehouse – The building that is the center of government for the state; the capitol.

Supreme Court – The judicial branch of government. It interprets the laws.

time capsule – A hollow case or area in which objects of a date in time are placed for the future. A cornerstone is sometimes a time capsule.

vote – A formal means of choosing when combined with other votes, selects an outcome.

OHIO STATEHOUSE HISTORY

In 1783 Ohio, not yet a state, was a vast wilderness. This wilderness was known as the Northwest Territory. It also included the land that became Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota. Colonists from what was then the United States were settling this area of frontier. As more colonists came to the Ohio Valley, the need for rules became necessary. Congress recognized the need and established the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 which created a territorial government for the area "...northwest of the river Ohio..."

Soon thereafter, the territory was divided into smaller areas with the intention of becoming states. The Enabling Act of 1802 set the guidelines for future statehood in the Northwest Territory.

With approximately 5,000 free males of full age (21) living within the boundaries of the Ohio territory in 1802, it was eligible to become a state. Chillicothe was capital of the eastern half of the Northwest Territory. A Constitutional Convention was held in Chillicothe, and Ohio's first constitution was written.

Ohio's statehood began on March 1, 1803, when the legislature met for the first time in Chillicothe, now the capital of Ohio. For political reasons, the capital was moved to Zanesville in 1810. In 1812, the capital returned to Chillicothe where it remained until 1816. The capital was moved for the last time when it was placed in the new town of Columbus, located on the east side of the Scioto River, opposite Franklinton.

A brick structure had been built on lands donated by several prominent citizens of Franklinton. It served as the statehouse or capitol building. However, it became apparent to the legislators that the building was not big enough for the growing government of Ohio. On January 26, 1838, The Ohio General Assembly passed an act calling for the construction of a new Statehouse.

Construction began in the spring of 1839. Prison labor was used to do much of the masonry. The cornerstone was dedicated on July 4, 1839 by Governor Jeremiah Morrow. A great celebration in honor of the event was held in the streets of Columbus.

However, problems soon arose. In 1840, the General Assembly repealed the Statehouse Act and construction came to a halt. The foundation, which had been laid, was covered over with dirt. For the next eight years the General Assembly deliberated over the continuation of the construction of the new statehouse.

In 1848, the legislators appropriated money for the statehouse project. Work was restarted with over 100 convicts and 30 masons working on the project.

By 1852, the legislators believed that a constitution was needed to readdress several issues. The new constitution was adopted. That same year, the functioning statehouse burned to the ground and government had to use temporary quarters.

In 1854, \$1,000,000 was appropriated to finish and furnish the interior rooms of the new statehouse. A copper roof was also completed.

By 1857, the statehouse had reached completion enough to hold its first legislative session. More than 5,000 Ohioans celebrated at a Grand Jubilee.

The statehouse was not considered completely finished until 1861. It had taken over 22 years and nine architects to complete at a cost of \$1,358,121.45. At the time of its completion, it was the largest of all state capitols and second in size only to the capitol in Washington, D.C.

1. Review the information in the above story about the Ohio statehouse and date the following events.

- _____ Chillicothe is capital for the first time.
- _____ General Assembly meets in new statehouse.
- _____ Ohio becomes a state.
- _____ Chillicothe is capital for the second time.
- _____ Statehouse Act is repealed, construction stopped.
- _____ Congress passes the Enabling Act
- _____ Ohio writes a new constitution
- _____ The Northwest Ordinance is enacted by Congress

- _____ Zanesville became state capital.
- _____ Columbus' original statehouse burned down.
- _____ Capital is moved to high bank of Scioto River.
- _____ Ohio statehouse is officially completed.
- _____ First Act is passed to build new statehouse.

2. Now that you have identified the dates of the events, make a time line that places the events in chronological order.