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## Ohio

Ohio is the easternmost of the twelve states that together are called the American Midwest. Ohio is bordered by five other states: Pennsylvania to the east; West Virginia and Kentucky to the south; Indiana to the west; and Michigan to the north. While Michigan is north of the western edge of Ohio, Lake Erie, one of the Great Lakes, also forms most of the northern boundary of Ohio. The Ohio River forms the entire southern border of Ohio between Kentucky and West Virginia.

### Early History

Around 800 BCE, the Adena people were living in present-day Ohio. These early farmers planted squash, pumpkins and sunflowers and made clay vessels which were used for cooking and storing food. The Adena were the earliest mound builders, constructing earthen burial mounds. While most mounds weren't very high, just two or three feet, large mounds that continue to survive are about 300 feet in diameter and seventy feet high.

Meanwhile the Hopewell culture developed in the Ohio River valley and extended as far west as present-day Illinois. This culture is named for the farmer on whose land artifacts of the Hopewell people were found. Artifacts from the Hopewell include sea shells from the Gulf of Mexico, copper from the area north of Lake Superior and obsidian from the Rocky Mountains. The Hopewell people built mounds and huge earth walls that are preserved in historic sites in Ohio. The time period of the Adena and Hopewell peoples extends from 800 BCE to 1200 CE; historians refer to this time as the Woodland Period.

An unusual mound was built some 2,000 years ago and was called Fort Ancient by an archaeologist who explored it in the late 1800s. This mound extends for 3.5 miles in a large snake-like set of curves. Obviously the archaeologist believed that this was a fortification, but modern archaeologists believe that the mound was a celestial clock. Like other ancient monuments around the world, a particular spot along Fort Ancient is illuminated on the morning of the summer solstice.

Mississippian tribes, also Mound Builders, arrived in Ohio after the Woodland Period, but these groups disappeared by the mid-1600s. At the time of the

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European exploration of Ohio, the area was home to many tribes who had recently migrated there including Delaware, Huron, Shawnee, Miami, and Iroquois.

### **Towards Statehood**

The fur trade caused strangers to come to Ohio; beaver pelts were in great demand for hats in Europe. Both European and Native American trappers came to harvest beavers in Ohio after they had overhunted the eastern forests. Meanwhile both Great Britain and France wanted to control the area around the Great Lakes, including Ohio, and this conflict resulted in the French and Indian war. This war, which lasted from 1754 until 1763, pitted the British against an alliance of French soldiers and Native American warriors. After the British won the war, Ohio officially belonged to Great Britain.

Even though Ohio belonged to Great Britain, it was not a colony and not affected by the Revolutionary War which lasted from 1775 until 1783. After the United States became an independent country, it claimed Ohio and other lands that had belonged to the British. In 1787, the U.S. government officially claimed the lands west of the Appalachian Mountains including Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota. The Northwest Ordinance enacted by the U.S. Congress created the Northwest Territory and defined how a territory could eventually become a state. This ordinance also prohibited slavery in the territory. The first permanent white settlement in Ohio was Marietta, founded in 1788.

However, Native American warriors under Miami leader Little Turtle and Shawnee leader Blue Jacket clashed with U.S. troops in Ohio and Michigan. General Anthony Wayne was in charge of defeating this Native American military initiative. Even though the Treaty of Greenville was signed in 1795 in Greenville, Ohio, conflicts between settlers and Native Americans continued for another 20 years.

In 1803, the same year as the Louisiana Purchase, Ohio qualified for statehood and became the seventeenth state. In 1812 Great Britain and the United States clashed again, this time because Britain continued to claim land in the Northwest Territory and also captured American sailors on the high seas of the Atlantic Ocean. After the war ended, even more settlers flocked to Ohio to clear farmland. In 1801 the population of Ohio was just 45,000, but by 1820 it was 581,000 and nearly a million ten years later.

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Circle True or False after analyzing each of the following statements.

1. True False The Ohio River forms the boundary between Ohio and Pennsylvania.
2. True False The Adena, Hopewell and Mississippian cultures all built mounds in Ohio.
3. True False Modern archaeologists believe that Fort Ancient is a large celestial clock.
4. True False At the time of European exploration of Ohio the area was home to many tribes including Delaware, Huron, Shawnee, Miami, and Iroquois.
5. True False Both European and Native American trappers came to Ohio in search of mink for coats in Europe.
6. True False One reason for the French and Indian War was conflict over ownership of land around the Great Lakes. After this war present-day Ohio belonged to the British.
7. True False Ohio played a key strategic role in the Revolutionary War between Britain and its North American colonies.
8. True False The land in present-day Ohio and Indiana was included when Congress established the Northcentral Territory.
9. True False When the Treaty of Greenville was signed, all Native Americans moved further west and Ohio was a peaceful area for settlers.
10. True False In the early 1800s the population of Ohio expanded explosively and rapidly.

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### Answers

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. False
6. True
7. False
8. False
9. False
10. True