

# Welcome To Ohio

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

I live in Ohio. It is a state in the Midwest. Ohio is famous for business, sports, buckeye trees, roller coasters, presidents, and colleges. It is the 34<sup>th</sup> largest state. That makes it a little below average in size, but it is 7<sup>th</sup> in population, which is pretty high! You might know some of the major cities, like Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Akron, and Toledo. The state capital is Columbus. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Ohio, let me tell you a little more about my state.

Ohio was named for an Iroquois word meaning “great river.” The Ohio River Valley is one of the most important tributaries of the Mississippi River. Fed by water from the Appalachian Mountains, the Ohio River is a wide river that brings water through Ohio and neighboring Indiana and Illinois on the way to the Mississippi and then to the Gulf of Mexico. Ohio has lowlands in the north and west and mountains in the east. It is also situated on Lake Erie, along with Michigan. This gives it access to The Great Lakes and the important shipping lanes there.

Ohio has a lot of sports teams. They have two NFL teams, 2 MLB teams, and one team in the NBA, MLS, and NHL. If you don't know sports, that means football, baseball, basketball, soccer, and hockey! That doesn't even mention all of the college sports. Ohio State is very famous for college football, but there are also several other colleges that participate in college level sports. It's a great place to watch a game of whatever sport you prefer.

Ohio has a lot of manufacturing and industry. It's not as known for agriculture as it is for business. It was nicely located between the east and what used to be the west, but it now the central U.S. Many things have to go through Ohio to get to either side of the country. Still, there is some farming, and Ohio is very well known for its Buckeye Trees, from which it gets its nickname as *The Buckeye State*.

Ohio is a great place to live, and it's the birthplace of several presidents. Those presidents were: Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, William Howard Taft and Warren G. Harding. Ohio was the 17<sup>th</sup> state, so it has been around for awhile. It has some history.

Another cool thing about Ohio is that it has Cedar Point. Cedar Point is the largest roller coaster theme park in the world. It has broken several world records for having the fastest and tallest roller coasters, as well as the longest drops and things that thrill-seekers can enjoy. It's different from Disney and Universal, which focus more on kids or cute stuff. It's all about the rides!

Now that you know a little more about Ohio, are you thinking about visiting? There are quite a few sports games to catch here when you visit. Hope to see you soon!



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Ohio's population ranking?
  - A. 7<sup>th</sup>
  - B. 4<sup>th</sup>
  - C. 5<sup>th</sup>
  - D. 6<sup>th</sup>
  
2. True or False: Ohio is mostly known for farming.
  - A. True
  - B. False
  
3. Which of these presidents was not born in Ohio?
  - A. Warren Harding
  - B. Benjamin Harrison
  - C. William McKinley
  - D. Ronald Reagan
  
4. Which of these is one of Ohio's nicknames?
  - A. The Big O State
  - B. Oh, Hi State
  - C. Big River State
  - D. The Buckeye State
  
5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Ohio? Why or Why Not?  

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