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# OHIO INFORMATION

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## OHIO FACTS

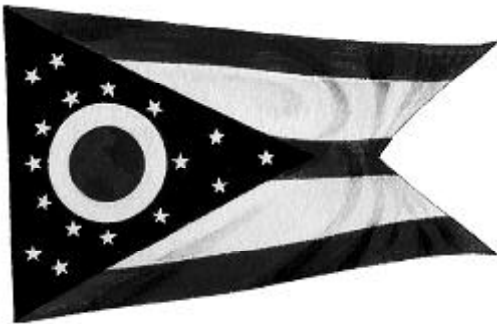
Ohio achieved statehood on March 1, 1803. Dr. Edward Tiffin of Chillicothe was Ohio's first governor and served two terms. His annual salary was \$900.00. The population at that time was approximately 45,000. Today, the state's population has grown to nearly 11.3 million.

The first capital was located in Chillicothe. It moved to Zanesville and back to Chillicothe in 1812 before finally settling in Columbus in December of 1817. The present State Capital, considered one of the purest examples of Doric architecture in the United States, was completed November 15, 1861 at a cost of \$1,359,121.

Marietta was Ohio's first permanent settlement. It was founded in 1788 by General Rufus Putnam and named in honor of Marie Antoinette, then queen of France. Ohio University, founded in 1804 in Athens, was the first university in Ohio and the Northwest Territory. Cleveland became the world's first city to be lighted electrically in 1879 when Charles Brush successfully demonstrated arc lights on the streets.

## STATE FLAG

The General Assembly of Ohio adopted the official flag in 1902. The swallow-tailed pennant has three red and two white stripes. A white circle with a red center suggest both an "O" for Ohio and a buckeye, the state tree.



## STATE SONG

On October 24, 1969, "Beautiful Ohio" officially became Ohio's state song. Written in 1918 by Ballard McDonald and Mary Earl, the song is about the Ohio River, not the state itself.

## STATE BIRD

The cardinal, strong-voiced songster of pronounced red plumage and high crest, was adopted as the official Ohio bird by the General Assembly in 1933. The adopting resolution reads in part: "The bird *cardinalis cardinalis* commonly known as the "cardinal" is designated and shall be known as the official state bird of the State of Ohio."



## THE GREAT SEAL OF OHIO

Provided for in the Ohio Constitution adopted in 1802, the state seal was adopted early in 1803. The story is that following the meeting at Belle View (later Adena) near Chillicothe, Governor Edward Tiffin, Secretary of State William Creighton, and their host, U.S. Senator Thomas Worthington beheld a morning sun over Mount Logan. The majesty of the spectacle became Creighton's inspiration for the seal: a sheaf of wheat in the foreground, a sheaf of 17 arrows (for the 17th state), and a range of mountains (originally one) in the background (first state west of the Alleghenies), over which appears a rising sun. After many revisions the original seal was readopted in 1868.



## STATE TREE

The buckeye tree, native to Ohio, gave the state its nickname “Buckeye State.” Native Americans called the tree’s seed the “Hetuck,” meaning the eye of the buck, because of its striking resemblance to a deer’s eye. Early settlers used the wood for building purposes. A 1953 law adopted the buckeye as Ohio’s official tree.



## STATE FLOWER

The Scarlet Carnation was adopted as the “State Flower” in 1904 because of President William McKinley’s love for it. The adoption originated during the McKinley-Lamborn debates in Alliance, proclaimed Carnation City. An excerpt from the resolution reads: “Be it resolved...that the scarlet carnation be adopted as the state flower of Ohio as a token of love and reverence for the memory of William McKinley.”



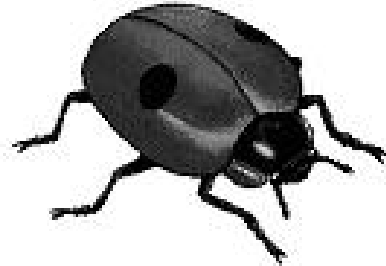
## STATE WILDFLOWER



With the support of Ohio Representative Robert Clark, the legislature declared *Trillium grandiflorum* the state wildflower, effective on March 5, 1987. The large-flowered, or white, trillium was chosen because it is a common wildflower found in all 88 counties of Ohio and is easy to identify.

## STATE INSECT

In 1975, Ohio’s legislature declared the common ladybug, officially named the Ladybird beetle, as the state insect. The ladybug is a harmless red and black spotted insect indigenous to Ohio. Its attractive markings and helpful eating habits have raised the ladybug to official status in Ohio. Its hardy under even adverse conditions, eats smaller insects, and has been introduced into many areas to control harmful insect pests.



## STATE FOSSIL

An extinct form of marine crustacean, the *Isotelus* genus of fossil trilobite, lived in the inland seas that covered much of North America in the Ordovician period of the Paleozoic era 500 million years ago. In recognition of the outstanding examples of *Isotelus trilobites* found on the surface of southwestern Ohio, particularly in the Ordovician limestone and shale beds around Cincinnati, the trilobite was adopted as Ohio’s official state fossil in 1985.



## STATE MOTTO

Ohio’s state motto, “With God All Things Are Possible,” was adopted by the General Assembly upon the urging of the 12-year old Cincinnati boy, and became effective October 1, 1959. It is a citation from the Bible, Matthew 19:26. Ohio’s first motto, “Imperium in Imperio [An Empire within an Empire],” was adopted in 1865 but was repealed two years later on the ground that it was too “royal.”

## GEM STONE

Ohio flint is described in a 1965 law adopting it as the state's official gem stone as a "crypto-crystalline" variety of quartz because of its reflective qualities of beautiful rays and hues when polished. In Ohio's history it is best known through collections of arrow-heads and other implements fashioned from flint by the Indians. Farmers often plowed up these "darts" along with some of the polished Ohio flint gems.



## STATE ANIMAL

In February of 1988, Governor Richard F. Celeste signed House Bill 312 making the white-tailed deer Ohio's state animal. The bill was introduced by State Representative E.J. Thomas at the request of Cheryl Phillips' fourth grade students from Worthington Estates Elementary School. Among a number of reasons given supporting the white-tailed deer, the students said the term "buck" used for male deer would fit in with another state symbol, the buckeye tree, and Ohio's nickname, "the Buckeye State."



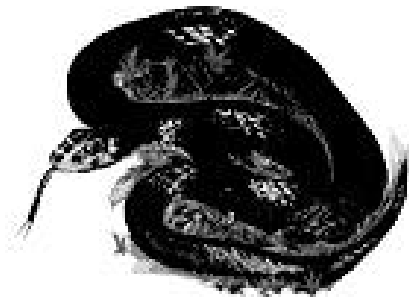
## STATE DRINK

The movement to make tomato juice the state drink began in jest. When Governor James Rhodes took office for the first time in 1963, he began a campaign for the consumption of Ohio grown products. Since tomatoes were a leading crop, he began to encourage people to drink tomato juice. In the next Ohio General Assembly, a bill was introduced to make tomato juice the state drink. When it was realized that Ohio led the country in the production of the juice and was second only to California in tomato growing, the suddenly popular bill became law in 1965.



## STATE REPTILE

In 1995, the Ohio General Assembly named the black racer snake as the state's official reptile. The black racer snake was adopted because it is native to all 88 Ohio counties and is referred to as the "farmer's friend," because it eats disease-carrying rodents.



# OHIO'S 88 COUNTIES



County	2000 Population	County	2000 Population	County	2000 Population	County	2000 Population
Adams	28,800	Fairfield	128,400	Licking	136,200	Portage	153,700
Allen	107,000	Fayette	28,400	Logan	47,100	Preble	43,700
Ashland	52,200	Franklin	1,032,700	Lorain	284,000	Putnam	35,200
Ashtabula	103,400	Fulton	42,400	Lucas	445,200	Richland	128,900
Athens	63,200	Gallia	33,500	Madison	41,300	Ross	77,300
Auglaize	47,200	Geauga	90,100	Mahoning	250,700	Sandusky	61,700
Belmont	70,800	Greene	150,000	Marion	66,400	Scioto	79,200
Brown	42,000	Guernsey	40,900	Medina	149,000	Seneca	59,900
Butler	335,300	Hamilton	837,500	Megis	24,000	Shelby	48,000
Carroll	29,400	Hancock	70,300	Mercer	41,000	Stark	373,400
Champaign	38,700	Hardin	31,900	Miami	99,000	Summit	537,900
Clark	145,300	Harrison	16,100	Monroe	15,500	Trumbull	224,000
Clermont	180,200	Henry	29,700	Montgomery	565,600	Tuscarawas	88,900
Clinton	40,900	Highland	41,400	Morgan	14,500	Union	40,900
Columbiana	111,300	Hocking	29,200	Morrow	32,500	Van Wert	30,100
Coshocton	36,300	Holmes	38,600	Muskingum	85,300	Vinton	12,500
Crawford	46,900	Huron	60,700	Noble	12,500	Warren	157,800
Cuyahoga	1,367,100	Jackson	32,700	Ottawa	41,400	Washington	62,900
Darke	54,100	Jefferson	73,300	Paulding	20,100	Wayne	111,700
Defiance	39,400	Knox	54,600	Perry	34,300	Williams	37,700
Delaware	106,600	Lake	227,300	Pickaway	54,600	Wood	121,200
Erie	77,800	Lawrence	64,300	Pike	28,100	Wyandot	23,000