

Division of Outdoor Experiences

The Ohio & Erie Canal

Grade Level: 4

Length of Program: 3 - 10 minute sessions

Setting: Setting: Asynchronous Remote Learning

State Standards:

- 4.HTS.1 The order of significant events in Ohio and the United States can be shown on a timeline.
- 4.HTS.2 Primary and secondary sources can be used to create historical narratives
- 4.H.3 Various groups of people have lived in Ohio over time including American Indians, migrating settlers and immigrants. Interactions among these groups have resulted in cooperation, conflict and compromise.
- 4.PR.10 The economic development of the United States continues to influence and be influenced by agriculture, industry and natural resources in Ohio.
- 4.PR.11 The regions of the United States known as the North, South and West developed in the early 1800s largely based on their physical environments and economies.
- 4.HS.12 People have modified the environment throughout history resulting in both positive and negative consequences in Ohio and the United States.
- 4.HS.13 The population of the United States has changed over time, becoming more diverse (e.g., racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious). Ohio's population has become increasingly reflective of the multicultural diversity of the United States.
- 4.HS.14 Ohio's location and its transportation systems continue to influence the movement of people, products and ideas in the United States.

Theme: The Ohio & Erie Canal was a human-made transportation route through the state that helped Ohio grow in the 1800's.

Objectives: *At the end of the program students will be able to:*

- Understand changes in transportation in Ohio over time
- Understand how the canal was built and how it worked
- Find out what life was like for those living and working on the canal.
- Understand the importance of the Ohio & Erie canal in the growth of Ohio
- Find out why the canal was abandoned and what happened to it.

Vocabulary:

- Canal - a human-made waterway used to transport goods and people
- Towpath - path on the side of the canal where animals walked when pulling canal boats
- Mule - hardy animals used to tow canal boats
- Lock - a device used for raising and lowering boats between stretches of water of different levels.

Materials needed: paper and writing utensil, measuring tape & masking tape

Program Outline:

Watch Video A

Discuss changes in transportation in Ohio using a timeline.

Enrichment: Create a timeline starting in 1803 (statehood) and have the students label when the various forms of transportation were used – horses and wagons, canal boats, trains, cars and airplanes.

Enrichment: Read books about settlement in the 1800's in the United States such as *The Little House on the Prairie* Series by Laura Ingalls Wilder or *The Oregon Trail* books by Jesse Wiley

Watch Video B

Discuss building the canal, canal boats, locks and how it worked.

Enrichment: Have the students measure out the size of a canal boat (9'X12') cabin with a measuring tape and mark it on the floor. Discuss living in that small space with your crew or family. What would you need to have to be comfortable? What sacrifices would you make?

Enrichment: Visit the website for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park to learn more about the canal. <https://www.nps.gov/cuva/index.htm>

Watch Video C

Discuss changes brought by the canal, the growth of Ohio and Cleveland and the end of the canal era.

Enrichment: Ask each student to draw a picture of at least one material or product that was transported on the canal. (Instead of crops ask for specific crops such as corn, instead of goods ask for specific finished goods such as barrels, etc.)

Enrichment: Explore the Cleveland History Center website for additional learning materials about the settlement of Cleveland. <https://www.wrhs.org/cleveland-starts-here/>

Conclusion/Takeaway: For about 50 years, the Ohio & Erie Canal was the best way to get large amounts of goods and people from place to place in Ohio. Cleveland was a small village of 600 people when the canal was built. By 1920 it was the 5th largest city in the US because of growth started by the Ohio & Erie Canal.