

National History Day in Ohio 2009-2010 Innovation In History- Ohio Related Topics

Notes on using this list: The suggested topics a list have had numerous impacts on history. Students are encouraged to conduct preliminary research and determine what of an innovation he or she would like to focus on as a narrow History Day topic. Many of the suggested topics focus on one innovation or invention. Students should look at the impact and change that the innovation had on a larger scale. How did this innovation change the course of history, science, education, the arts? While recent topics may seem appealing, stay away from topics that are less than 20 years old. It takes time to understand the impact an innovation will have on history. Remember to talk to local librarians, historians, archivists and curators, they may be able to help identify local topics with great local resources. Be creative! A History Day project should be more than a report; it should look at how an innovation effects or impacts a part of history. The "years" column refers to the time period the innovation impacted history. "Preliminary Research Information" suggests a starting point for research.

Topic	Year(s)	Comments	Preliminary Research Information
Arts and Music		Innovation in the arts can take several different forms. The artist, author, or musician can create a new form that takes hold and influences subsequent works. Artists can also innovate something that has long last cultural or historical impact (see Superman entry). If a student selects an innovation in the arts, he or she must make a case that the artist did something new that made a change.	
Art Tatum	1909-	Born in Toledo in 1909, Art Tatum made his mark as a jazz pianist despite being blind in one eye and partially sighted in the other. He was an innovator in jazz music in the way he re-invented harmonies and the use of dissonance in jazz.	Ohio History Central
George Bellows	1882-1925	Artist George Bellows was born and raised in Columbus and kept close ties with the city throughout his life. He is known for his vivid portrayals of modern urban life, and became a leader among a group of artists nicknamed the "Ashcan School," which advocated the depiction of American society in all forms and all socio-economic contexts.	Ohio History Central
Milton Caniff	1930's-1950's	The impact Milton Caniff had on comics cannot be overestimated; he was the first cartoonist who brought realism, suspense and sensuality into comics and he inspired many artists with his beautiful drawings, earning him his nickname, "the Rembrandt of the comic strip."	Ohio History Central, Ohio State Cartoon Library
Roy Lichtenstein	1940's-	Roy Lichtenstein was a prominent twentieth-century American cubist artist. It was not until the early 1960s that Lichtenstein adopted the abstract impressionistic and pop art styles that made him famous. His early works reflect American comic strips and advertisements.	Ohio History Central
Alan Freed- Rock n' Roll	1950's-	Freed was a radio personality and creator of the term "Rock and Roll". In 1951, Freed began hosting a rhythm and blues program on WJW radio in Cleveland, using the nickname "Moondog." His program soon had a large popular following. It was during this period that Freed referred to the music he played as "rock & roll" for the first time. At first, much of his audience was African-American. Soon many other Americans began listening to this new style of music. Freed is credited with hosting the first live rock & roll concert in 1952. Freed moved to WINS radio in New York City in 1954, and "rock & roll" became a common term across the nation. Freed worked with a number of live "rock & roll" concerts which were broadcast by radio across the country. He also acted in a number of movies with musical themes. In 1957, Freed began hosting a live show on ABC television.	Ohio History Central
Zane Grey	1910-1939	From Zanesville, Zane Grey penned over 90 novels. He is best known for his stories about the west and is credited for creating the ideal "old west" that became prominent in other books and media, like the spaghetti westerns.	Ohio History Central, Zane Grey's West Society
Superman	1930's-	Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster are the creators of the Superman comic. Siegel developed the storylines, while Shuster drew the comic. The two creators initially developed Superman as a villain during the 1930s, but they later made him a superhero. In 1936, the partners unsuccessfully attempted to make Superman into a daily comic strip. After this failure, the two men found employment with DC-National Comics (present-day DC Comics). In 1939, DC Comics agreed to publish Superman as a storyline in <i>Action Comics</i> . Superman appeared in the very first issue of this comic. DC Comics developed a separate Superman comic and then made the creators sign away their rights to Superman in 1939, but created a lasting legacy with their iconic character.	Ohio History Central
Christy Girl	19th / early 20th cent.	Howard Chandler Christy was a prominent American artist in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Christy became famous for his artwork depicting a young woman. She became known as the "Christy girl," and Christy used her image in books, magazines, calendars, and even patriotic posters. Christy once stated that the "Christy girl" was "High-bred, aristocratic and dainty though not always silken-skirted; a woman with tremendous self-respect." One critic echoed these sentiments, proclaiming that the "Christy girl: ...represented the awakening female, no longer content to preside over the kitchen, to be forbidden the golf course or the vote. The way Christy drew her she was popular with the males because of her charm, while the young women liked her because she embodied their dreams of emancipation."	Ohio History Central
Government/Political Related Topics		Innovation in politics and government will include new ideas and actions both from within government, but also movements outside government trying to effect change. A student must show a political innovation is both new, but also has an impact that changes society or the way that government runs.	
Victoria Woodhull	1860's-1870's	Woodhull emerged as a prominent spokesperson for the women's rights movement during the 1870s. In 1872, Woodhull sought election as President of the United States. Her running mate was noted-abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Woodhull engaged in innovative tactics to help bring attention and support to the women's suffrage movement.	Ohio History Central
Northwest Ordinance	1787	On July 13, 1787, the Confederation Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance. The act created a system of government for the Northwest Territory. The Northwest Ordinance stipulated the creation of at least three but not more than five states out of the Northwest Territory. The Northwest Ordinance paved the way for Ohio to become the seventeenth state of the United States of America. The Northwest Ordinance was a new way of dividing land and transitioning territories into organized states.	Ohio History Central

Ohio Constitution	1800-1803	The Ohio Constitution of 1803 was one of the most democratic state constitutions in America to that time. The 1803 constitution provided all white men with the right to vote, assuming that they paid taxes or that they helped build and maintain the state's roads. The governor's term was for two years and he did not have the power to veto acts of the legislature.	Ohio History Central
Dayton/ City Manager	19th cent./Progressive Era	During the Progressive Era of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Dayton became a center of political reform. Dayton became the first larger city in the nation to hire a city manager. A city manager was a professional who was hired by the city council. Since the city manager could be fired if he did not do his job, he had an incentive to avoid corruption.	Ohio History Central
Science and Medical Milestones			
Albert Sabin	1939-1969	Working at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Albert Sabin wanted to better understand the polio virus. In 1957, Sabin created a live vaccine that would be more effective than the Salk vaccination discovered a few years earlier. In 1960, Sabin's vaccine was distributed in the United States, eradicating polio.	Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Ohio History Central
Cleveland Clinic	1921-	Cleveland doctors George W. Crile, Frank E. Bunts, William E. Lower, and John Phillips founded the Cleveland Clinic Foundation on February 5, 1921. The four men wanted to create a hospital in which medical experts worked together as a team. In addition, the new hospital also invested in medical research and education. The Cleveland Clinic Foundation gained a reputation for its advancements in medical research and treatment in the decades following World War II.	Ohio History Central
John Harris	1827-	John Harris was a doctor in Bainbridge, Ohio, who specialized in dentistry. In 1827, Harris began to teach students the basics of medicine to prepare them for medical school. He emphasized dentistry in his lessons, a topic that most medical schools failed to cover in any detail. Modern dentists view Harris as the father of dental education in the United States. Several of his students established dental schools. These students included Chapin Harris, John's brother, who established the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1840, the first dental school in the United States. In 1845, John Allen founded the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in Cincinnati. Today, John Harris's home in Bainbridge is a dental museum.	Ohio History Central
Ohio Lunatic Asylum	1837-	In 1837, the Ohio legislature established the Ohio Lunatic Asylum in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. William Aul served as the director of this institution until 1850. Before creation of this institution, most mentally-ill Ohioans received no formal treatment for their illnesses. Their loved ones commonly had the ill person confined in a local jail or in the Ohio Penitentiary, hoping that their family members would not be able to harm themselves while under confinement. Aul believed that mental health problems were illnesses that physicians could treat, and in 1843, he even proclaimed that he had cured one hundred percent of his patients at the Ohio Lunatic Asylum.	Ohio History Central
Ernest H. Volwiler	19th cent.	Ernest H. Volwiler invented Pentothal, an anesthetic used in surgery. His greatest contribution to medicine was the development of Pentothal. Pentothal is also sometimes used in interrogations, because, when applied to a person, it tends to make the subject more truthful. Because of this discovery, Volwiler was eventually inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in Akron, Ohio.	Ohio History Central
Dow Chemical Company	1895-	Herbert H. Dow founded the Dow Chemical Company in 1895 in Cleveland, Ohio. Originally, the firm was known as the Dow Process Company. The company originally focused on extracting bromine from underground brine, a liquid substance leftover from no longer existent oceans. Dow realized that numerous chemicals existed in the brine, and he tried to develop a way to extract them. He was first successful in extracting bromine, a compound used in sleep medicines and in the photography industry. Dow quickly discovered ways to extract additional minerals from the brine, including chlorine, sodium, calcium, and magnesium.	Ohio History Central
James Preston Poindexter	1804-1859	James Poindexter was an abolitionist, pastor and politician. Poindexter served as pastor of Second Baptist Church; assisted escaping slaves to travel through Columbus; founded the Colored Soldiers Relief Society during the Civil War and served in political positions at the state and municipal level.	Ohio Pix
Aviation			
Innovations in aviation can vary from the Wright Brothers and their first flight, to innovations in jet engines, to space exploration.			
Neil Armstrong	1946-1975	Prior to becoming famous as an astronaut and the first man to walk on the moon; Neil Armstrong earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Purdue University in 1955. This background as well as some military experience prepared him to work for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), the predecessor to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). While with NACA, Armstrong worked at the Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. He contributed to NASA's flight research as a test pilot, flying a number of different aircraft including the high-speed X-15.	Ohio History Central, Ohio Memory
John Glenn	1921-	In 1958, Glenn became one of seven original astronauts chosen by the National Air and Space Administration for the first American space missions. Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth on February 20, 1962. The mission was known as Friendship 7. In just under five hours, Glenn orbited the Earth three times. The Friendship 7 mission made Glenn a household name, not only in the United States but also in many other parts of the world. John Glenn later became a U.S. Senator from Ohio and the oldest man to go into space.	John and Annie Glenn Historic Site
Wright Brothers	19th-20th cent.	Wilbur and Orville Wright were continually looking for new challenges. They began making bicycles in their own bicycle shop called Wright Flyers. The Wright brothers had an interest in flight that had been sparked by a toy shaped like a helicopter that their father had given them as children. As adults, the two men were interested in gliders like those built by Otto Lillenthal. Wilbur and his brother began experimenting with wing designs for an airplane. Their first successful flight of a powered airplane occurred at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17, 1903.	Ohio History Central

Transportation		Innovations in transportation can vary from inventions that made transport easier to new ideas in governing and overseeing the different types of transportation. During the nineteenth century, new transportation systems formed, granting Ohioans easier access to all parts of the United States of America. In the first decades of the 1800s, turnpikes originated. Water travel became easier with the advent of steamboats. Beginning in the 1820s, canals provided Ohioans with a cheaper and faster form of travel. In the 1840s and 1850s, railroads emerged, allowing Ohio residents to ship their products to market much more easily and quickly. With the start of the twentieth century, several new transportation systems, including automobiles, trucks, and airplanes, emerged. From Zane's Trace, to the Ohio and Erie Canal, to the Wright brothers, Ohioans were at the forefront of all of these transportation innovations.	
National Road	1802-	The National Road was the nation's first federally funded highway. In 1802, the federal government promised to provide Ohioans with a road that connected the soon-to-be state with points east of the Appalachian Mountains. The National Road helped fulfill that pledge. From 1825 to 1838, the National Road was extended across Ohio. The federal government authorized individual states, including Ohio, to maintain the National Road. To cover the associated maintenance costs, Ohio turned the National Road into a toll road. The National Road did improve transportation and communication between the frontier and the East Coast, helping increase Ohio's population.	Ohio History Central
Canal System	1810-	During the late 1810s, Governor Thomas Worthington and Governor Ethan Allen Brown both supported internal improvements, especially canals. Both men believed that Ohioans needed quick and easy access to the Ohio River and to Lake Erie if they were to profit financially.	Ohio History Central
Mandatory Safety Belt Usage Law	1980's	In the early 1980s, a movement arose in Ohio to make seatbelt usage mandatory in the state. To pressure the Ohio General Assembly to enact such a measure, a coalition of several organizations, known as the Ohio Safety Belt Coalition, formed. Due to pressure from the coalition, the Ohio legislature approved the Mandatory Safety Belt Usage Law, which went into effect on May 4, 1986. This legislation required motorists, with the exception of motorcyclists, and their passengers to use safety belts while traveling in a vehicle.	Ohio History Central
Electric Trolleys			
Turnpikes/Toll Roads	19th-20th cent.	The State of Ohio and local governments recognized the need for more roads in the state of Ohio however, the process of building and maintaining roads was very expensive. In order to finance roads without raising taxes, the state legislature began granting charters to private turnpike companies. Turnpike companies sold shares of stock in order to raise the funds to build the road. Once the turnpike was completed, the company charged tolls to those who traveled the road in order to make a profit and repay its investors. As a result, turnpikes were also known as toll roads.	Ohio History Central
Agriculture			
4-H Club	1902-	The 4-H Club originated in 1902, in Clark County, Ohio. That year, Albert Belmont Graham began a program for local farming youths to better prepare them for their lives as farmers. In 1914, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) established its Cooperative Extension Service, which incorporated clubs, like the one that Graham created.	Ohio History Central, Ohio Memory
Naturalists & Environment			
Dr. Jared Kirtland	1793-1877	A state legislator, Dr. Kirtland was interested in natural science and helped found the Cleveland Academy of Natural Sciences. He participated in the U.S. Geological survey and was part of several other biological discoveries.	Ohio History (The Scholarly Journal of the Ohio Historical Society)
Industrialization & Invention			
Firestone Tires and Rubber Company	1900-1932	With the idea to replace steel-rimmed buggy wheels with rubber tires, Harvey Firestone started the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in 1900 in Akron. Five years later, Henry Ford was ordered tires for automobiles.	Ohio History Central
Vacuum Cleaner	1908-1932	While William Hoover did not invent the upright vacuum cleaner, he bought the patent from a cousin and went on to create a revolutionary sales and marketing plan. Individual stores would sell the sweepers on commission as licensed dealers and allowed the customers a 10 day trial period. The Hoover company went on to become the largest vacuum cleaner manufacturer in the world.	Ohio History Central
Charles Kettering	1909-1947	Charles Kettering and Edward Deeds founded Delco (the Dayton Engineering Laboratories Company) in 1909. Kettering was credited with many innovations for automobiles like the electric ignition system, which eliminated the need for cranking a car before starting. When Delco was bought by General Motors, Kettering was hired as head of the research division and eventually became Vice President at GM.	Ohio History Central
Standard Oil	1862-1910	In 1862, John D. Rockefeller bought his first stake in an oil company in Cleveland. He joined several companies together in north east Ohio in order to fix prices creating Standard Oil in 1870. By 1878, Standard Oil controlled 90% of the oil refineries in the United States. John Sherman, Ohio Senator, proposed anti-trust legislation because of Standard Oil. After the state of Ohio filed suit and finally won in 1911, Standard Oil broke up in many smaller companies.	Ohio History Central
Garrett Morgan	1910's-1920's	Garrett Morgan started as a sewing machine repairman. He later owned a sewing machine repair company. He witnessed a car and carriage crash and eventually invented the first traffic signal. He was able to sell his invention to General Electric. He later patented a gas mask used by U.S. troops.	Ohio History Central

Automatic glass blowing machines	1883-1930	In 1883, Edward Drummond Libbey inherited the New England Glass Works from his father. Within a few years, Libbey recognized that the Massachusetts factory could not survive unless it relocated. Libbey looked at several sites in the Midwest, but Toledo's location and resources gave it an edge over the other towns. The New England Glass Works broke ground for its new Toledo location in March 1888. In 1895 Libbey established the Toledo Glass Company with Michael J. Owens (1859-1923). The company produced the first semi-automatic glass-blowing machine, which Owens invented. In 1930, the company merged with the Edward Ford Plate Glass Company to form Libbey-Owens-Ford.	Ohio Memory
John P. Parker	1827-1900	In 1850 John Parker purchased his own freedom and settled in Ripley, Ohio, along the Ohio River where he opened his own iron foundry business. In 1884, Parker obtained a patent for a screw for tobacco presses and a year later patented a type of harrow called the Parker Pulverizer. Both items were produced in his foundry. These patents were issued at a time when patents were rarely awarded to black inventors. Parker's foundry remained in operation until 1918, well after his death.	Ohio History Central, Ohio Memory
Refrigerated Truck	1935-1961	Frederick McKinley Jones was an inventor who held several patents. In 1935, he invented the refrigerated truck, which dramatically changed the ability to move fresh goods long distances. This technology was quickly altered for use on ships and railroads. Jones also invented a projector for movies with sound.	Ohio History Central; U.S. Patent Office
Thomas Edison	19th cent.	Edison's inventions forever changed people's lives. Electric lights allowed people to remain active at night, whether it be reading, dancing, or listening to Edison's phonograph. His improvements to the telegraph and telephone also helped make communication easier around the entire world.	Ohio History Central
Goodyear Tire	19th-20th cent.	In 1898, Frank Seiberling established the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio. The company was named for Charles Goodyear, the man who developed vulcanized rubber. The firm quickly emerged as a leader in the production of rubber items, including bicycle tires, pneumatic carriage and automobile tires, horseshoes, and hoses. By 1926, Goodyear was the largest rubber company in the world.	Ohio History Central
Play-Doh	1949-	In 1949, Irma McVicker hired her son, Joseph McVicker, and her son-in-law, Bill Rhodenbaugh, to head Kutol Products Company, a Cincinnati, Ohio, firm that produced soap and wallpaper cleaner. Joseph McVicker soon realized that Kutol Products' wallpaper cleaner also could be used as a pliable modeling clay. In 1955, he tested the product in Cincinnati-area schools and daycares. The following year, the Woodward & Lothrop Department Store in Washington, DC, began to sell the clay, which McVicker had named Play-Doh. Noah and Joseph McVicker applied for a patent for Play-Doh in 1958, but the United States Patent Office did not officially patent the clay until January 26, 1965.	Ohio History Central
Marbles/Automated Glass Marble Machine	1902-	In 1902, a resident of Akron, Ohio, Martin F. Christensen, invented an automated machine that could manufacture glass marbles. Traditionally, workers made marbles by hand from clay or stone, including marble. By the 1800s, manufacturers began to use glass to make marbles. Glass marbles became easier to produce once marble scissors, which helped workers shape molten glass into a marble shape, were invented in 1846, yet marble manufacturing was still done primarily by hand and remained a time-consuming process. Christensen's invention made glass-marble production an entirely automated process.	Ohio History Central
Ohio Art/ Etch-A-Sketch	1959-	H.W. Winzeler encountered what would become the company's flagship product at a European toy fair in 1959. That was when France's Arthur Granjean pitched his "L'Ecran Magique" ("magic writer") to the chief executive officer. Winzeler was reluctant to pay the apparently steep price Granjean demanded to license the product but bought the rights after a second presentation later that year. Renamed the Etch A Sketch, the toy featured a glass "window" enclosed in a red plastic frame. A combination of aluminum powder and plastic pellets inside the window made it look like a flat gray screen. Young sketchers could create line images by turning the white knobs on the left and right of the screen, which, by a series of internal strings and pulleys, controlled the horizontal and vertical movement of a stylus that scraped the aluminum powder from the back of the glass, leaving a thin black line. To erase a drawing and start over, the sketcher simply turned the toy on its face and shook, coating the glass with a new film of aluminum powder. Ohio Art launched the toy in time for the 1960 holiday season and supported Etch A Sketch (which itself resembled a television) with its first televised advertisement.	Ohio Art
National Cash Register Company	19th cent.	With hopes of reducing accounting errors in his business, John Patterson purchased the patent rights to the mechanical cash register from James Ritty in 1884. Located in Dayton, Ohio, the National Cash Register Company made cash registers. The company grew slowly, producing only sixteen thousand registers in its first decade in operation. Through aggressive marketing and advertising, by 1914, the National Cash Register Company was producing 110,000 cash registers per year. In 1906, the company manufactured the first electric cash register. John Patterson, the owner of the National Cash Register Company, was well known for his compassion for his employees. He provided women workers with coffee and soup for lunch. Machine operators sat on actual chairs with backs for support rather than on stools. He provided his workers with indoor bathrooms. Patterson implemented a ventilation system to provide clean air to his workers. He also maintained a doctor's office in his factory to assist injured workers as quickly as possible.	Ohio History Central
Silver Bridge Design	1967-	The bridge was dubbed the 'Silver Bridge' because it was the country's first aluminum painted bridge. It was designed with a twenty-two foot roadway and one five-foot sidewalk. Some unique engineering techniques were featured on the Silver Bridge such as 'High Tension' eye-bar chains, a unique anchorage system, and 'Rocker' towers. The Silver Bridge was the first eye-bar suspension bridge of its type to be constructed in the United States. The bridge's eye-bars were linked together in pairs like a chain.	http://corrosion-doctors.org/Bridges/Silver-Bridge.htm
Microwave Oven	1955-	In 1955, the Tappan Stove Company, which was located in Mansfield, Ohio, manufactured the first microwave oven for home use. The Raytheon Company had introduced microwave ovens in 1947, but these ovens were as large as a refrigerator and were too expensive for home use. At Raytheon's request, the Tappan Stove Company sought to reduce the size and cost of microwave ovens in 1952.	Ohio History Central

Steel Industry in Ohio	1860's-	After the American Civil War, iron manufacturers in Ohio began to introduce new processes to refine iron ore. The resulting product was steel, which was much stronger and more versatile than iron. Because Ohio companies, such as the Otis Steel Company, were quick to adopt new technology, Ohio became the second largest producer of steel in the nation by the 1890s. Ohio's history with the steel industry stretches to the present and is full of innovative ideas and technologies.	Ohio History Central
Lazarus Department Store		The Columbus based department store (which later became Federated Department Stores) was innovative in its use of set prices, use of escalators, and air conditioning.	Ohio History Central
Procter and Gamble	1837-	In 1837, William Procter, a candle maker, and James Gamble, a soap maker, formed the company known as Procter & Gamble. The two men, immigrants from England and Ireland respectively, had settled earlier in Cincinnati and had married sisters. They decided to pool their resources to form their own company. The company prospered during the nineteenth century. In the 1878, Procter & Gamble began to market a new soap product. This new soap was inexpensive but of a high quality. Originally James Gamble wanted to call the soap "P&G White Soap," but eventually the company chose the name "Ivory." In the decades that followed Ivory's development, Procter & Gamble continued to develop new products, but Ivory Soap remains in production today and is, perhaps, the company's most well-known product.	Ohio History Central
Military			
American Veterans of Foreign Service	1899	In 1899, some veterans from the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection met in Columbus, Ohio, and formed the American Veterans of Foreign Service. This organization united together several other veteran groups to create the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1913. The American Veterans of Foreign Service was the first national organization within the United States to represent veterans of all foreign wars.	Ohio History Central
Battelle Memorial Institute	20th cent.	Battelle became best known for its nuclear research because of its role in the Manhattan Project during the war, the program to build the first atomic bomb. The institute also provided the U.S. military with improved armor for tanks and other military vehicles. Battelle scientists were also involved in research on xerography, used by the Xerox Corporation and other companies in the development of copy machines. This technology became especially prominent during the 1950s and 1960s. Today, Battelle Memorial Institute has an important role in many types of research, from commercial to military applications.	Ohio History Central
Sports			
Branch Rickey	1910's-1960's	A baseball player himself, Wesley Branch Rickey worked for decades as a coach and administrator for baseball. He is credited with creating the farm system of minor league baseball. Most notably, in 1947, Rickey signed Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in Major League Baseball.	National Baseball Hall of Fame, Ohio History Central
Founding of the NFL	1910-	During the 1910s, American football became an increasingly popular sport. Professional teams arose. Private businesses or individual communities usually sponsored the teams. They became a source of pride for the businesses and towns. The first major attempt to unify the various professional football teams into a national league occurred in 1920, with the formation of the American Professional Football Association. The league was founded in Canton, Ohio. Illustrating Ohio's important role in early professional football, five of this leagues first teams were from the state.	Ohio History Central
Education			
William H McGuffey	1836-1890	A professor at Miami University, William McGuffey is most known for the development of textbooks that became standardized reading for school children. Between 1836 and 1890, McGuffey's publisher printed and sold more than one hundred million copies of McGuffey's Reader. Practically every American who attended public schools during the second half of the nineteenth century learned moral and ethical lessons from McGuffey's Reader.	Ohio History Central
Oberlin College	1832-	Founded in 1832, Oberlin was the one of the first institutions of higher education to admit both women and African American students.	Ohio History Central
Ohio School for the Blind	1837-	In 1837, the Ohio government established the Ohio Institution for the Education of the Blind, the first public school for the blind in the United States. Students could receive their entire education, kindergarten through high school at the institution. In addition, the Ohio State School for the Blind offered vocational training for its students.	Ohio History Central
Western Reserve/ Adelbert College	1830s	One of the first colleges in Ohio to admit African-American students, Western Reserve College became an important center for anti-slavery sentiment in Ohio. During the early 1830s, abolitionist Theodore Dwight Weld visited the school and recruited several faculty members to the anti-slavery cause. In 1833, Western Reserve College organized the first abolitionist society in the former Connecticut Western Reserve. The school's anti-slavery activities upset many white residents of northeast Ohio. Some of these people believed slavery was wrong but feared that large numbers of African Americans would move to the North, including Ohio, if slavery ended.	Ohio History Central
Akron School Law	19th cent.	Under the Akron School Law, there was to be one school district encompassing the entire city. Within that district would be a number of elementary schools, with students divided into separate "grades" based on achievement. When enough demand existed, the school board would establish a high school as well. A school board, elected by the community, would make decisions about the system's management and hire the necessary professionals to run each school. The Akron School Law proved to be the example for other communities to follow. In 1849, the Ohio legislature passed the Ohio School Law, modeled after Akron's law.	Ohio History Central

Bing Act of 1921	1921	In 1921, the Ohio legislature enacted the Bing Act. This law required all children between six and eighteen years of age in the state of Ohio to attend school. The legislature made two exceptions. First, children who had already graduated from high school did not have to remain enrolled in school. Second, once a child reached the age of sixteen years and had passed the seventh grade, the student could work as a farmer rather than attend school. In addition to these stipulations, the Bing Act also established sixteen years as the minimum age for employment in most industries.	Ohio History Central
Boys Industrial School	1857	In 1857, the Ohio government established the Ohio Reform School, the predecessor to the Boys' Industrial School. The Ohio Reform School was a reformatory for boys between eight and eighteen years of age. Before the creation of this institution, the State of Ohio imprisoned male juvenile offenders in the Ohio Penitentiary with adult criminals. The Ohio Reform School was not like a traditional prison. Walls and fencing did not surround the inmates. Rather, the Ohio Reform School utilized the "open system." The boys could traverse the grounds freely. They lived in cottages -- not prison cells -- with forty boys to a cottage. The cottages were named after rivers in Ohio. Guards, cottage matrons, and other workers supervised the boys, but the intent was to create an institution that would educate and instill good and productive values in the boys. Because of the Ohio Reform School's success, by 1901, twenty-eight states adopted the "open system" for their juvenile prisons.	Ohio History Central
Collinwood School Fire	1908	The Collinwood School Fire took place on March 4, 1908. A fire began in the school's basement and because the school was built of wood, the entire building was quickly engulfed in flames. All of the exits were blocked by fire and smoke. The result was one of the worst tragedies in Ohio history. In all, 173 children, two teachers, and one rescuer died in the fire. The Collinwood School Fire inspired local, state, and national governments to pass new building codes to prevent future disasters of this magnitude. The community of Collinwood raised funds to rebuild the school, making the new building a model for safety standards in that era.	Ohio History Central
Alan R. Foote	1907	During the late nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries, Ohioan Allen Ripley Foote sought to educate others about public finance issues. Like many other reformers during the Progressive Era, Foote opposed monopolies and firmly believed that the federal government and state governments should encourage competition among businesses. He also believed that corporate taxes hindered business growth and the economy. Foote's most noteworthy contribution was the creation of the National Tax Association in 1907. The National Tax Association continues to exist today and is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating government officials, the public, and tax professionals about taxation issues. This group has become the largest organization of tax professionals dedicated to educating people about taxes in the United States of America.	Ohio History Central
Indianola Junior High School	1909	In 1909, the Columbus, Ohio, Board of Education authorized the creation of the first junior high school in the United States. Previously, students in Columbus remained in elementary school through the eighth grade, when they then attended high school. Unfortunately, fifty-two percent of Columbus's students dropped out of school before entering the tenth grade. Columbus school officials hoped that new schools, consisting of the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades, might better prepare students for the rigors of high school and keep a larger percentage of students enrolled in school. On July 6, 1909, the Columbus Board of Education formally approved the creation of junior high schools in Columbus. The first junior high school was Indianola Junior High School at 140 East 16th Avenue in Columbus. The building still stands.	Ohio History Central
Ohio Education Association	1847	In 1847, a group of teachers met at the Summit County, Ohio, courthouse and established the Ohio State Teachers' Association. The first members of this organization were from the northern portion of Ohio, but the Ohio State Teachers' Association quickly recruited teachers from across the state. The group's main goal was to improve public education in Ohio by lobbying local, state, and federal government officials.	Ohio History Central
Oberlin College	1833-	The first college to admit women and one of the first to admit African Americans, innovative in its approach to educate all people	Ohio History Central
Ohio Female Medical Education Society	19th cent.	The Ohio Female Medical Education Society was one of the first organizations in Ohio to encourage women to join the medical profession. Throughout most of the nineteenth century, it was very difficult for a woman to train to be a medical doctor. Most Americans believed that women were not suited to be doctors. The common belief at the time was that women were too frail physically to handle the demands of the medical profession and that they might have mental breakdowns if they faced too much stress. Many male physicians also feared additional competition and financial loss if women became doctors. As a result of these factors, medical schools would usually not admit women.	Ohio History Central

Amusement and Entertainment

Cedar Point	19th cent-	Cedar Point opened in 1870 and is America's 2nd oldest operating amusement park. The Lake Erie peninsula beach resort offered concerts and camping facilities. Unlike trolley parks, most of Cedar Point's visitors arrived by boat. Cedar Point's first ride was a water ride which opened in 1880 in the lake. Cedar Point constructed its first roller coaster, the Switchback Railway, in 1892. By the 1890s, more and more people traveled to Cedar Point. In the years that followed, more and more improvements were made at Cedar Point. New rides and attractions opened each year, and hotels offered overnight accommodations. In addition to tourists traveling by railroad, Cedar Point also welcomed visitors traveling by steamship from Detroit and Cleveland. Automobiles also brought greater numbers. Since then, Cedar Point has become recognized as the mother of all amusement parks and pioneered many of the standards for world class amusement resort areas. It is consistently rated the world's number one amusement park by amusement park enthusiasts.	Ohio History Central/ http://amusementparks.homestead.com/
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Dealing with Disasters

Sometimes out of disaster comes new ideas and innovation as a necessity.

Collinwood School Fire	1908-	The Collinwood School Fire took place on March 4, 1908. A fire began in the school's basement and because the school was built of wood, the entire building was quickly engulfed in flames. All of the exits were blocked by fire and smoke. The result was one of the worst tragedies in Ohio history. In all 173 children, two teachers, and one rescuer died in the fire. The Collinwood School Fire inspired local, state, and national governments to pass new building codes to prevent future disasters of this magnitude. The community of Collinwood raised funds to rebuild the school, making the new building a model for safety standards in that era.	Ohio History Central
1913 Ohio /Dayton Flood	1913-	After the flood waters receded, John Patterson and other Dayton residents were determined to prevent a future disaster of this magnitude. They hired hydrological engineer Arthur Morgan to come up with an extensive plan to protect Dayton from floods. Morgan recommended the construction of a series of earthen dams on the Great Miami River, as well as modifications to the river channel in Dayton. Governor James M. Cox supported the plan, helping to gain passage of the Vonderheide Act, which is also known as the Ohio Conservancy Law, in 1914. The law gave the state the authority to establish watershed districts and to raise funds for improvements through taxes.	Ohio History Central
East Ohio Gas Explosion	1944-	On October 20, 1944, a natural gas storage tank at the East Ohio Gas Co. plant in Cleveland, Ohio, exploded. This was one of the worst disasters in Cleveland's history, with 131 people killed. Twenty-one of the victims were never identified. The liquid gas seeped into the city's sewer system, causing manhole covers to explode into the air and creating a fireball underground that ignited numerous homes and businesses. As a result of the explosions, the East Ohio Gas Co. began to store its natural gas underground. The company also helped rebuild the community by paying more than three million dollars to neighborhood residents and an additional one-half million dollars to the families of the fifty-five company workers who lost their lives.	Ohio History Central
Silver Bridge Collapse	1967-	On December 15, 1967 at approximately 5 p.m., the U.S. Highway 35 bridge connecting Point Pleasant, West Virginia and Kanauga, Ohio suddenly collapsed into the Ohio River. At the time of failure, thirty- seven vehicles were crossing the bridge span, and thirty-one of those automobiles fell with the bridge. Forty-six individuals perished with the buckling of the bridge and nine were seriously injured. As a result of the disaster, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a nation-wide inspection of the nation's bridges. Since the collapse of the Silver Bridge, engineers have become more educated about fatigue, stress and corrosion of building materials and bridge safety inspections have become more routine and mandatory .	http://www.wvculture.org/HiStory/wvhs1504.html

Native American's in Ohio

Innovations can be seen in the history of Native people in Ohio including the mound builder's culture, the building of such landmarks as Newark Earthworks and Fort Ancient and the work to unite different tribes under Tecumseh.

List of Ohio Inventions	Inventions made in Ohio or by Ohio inventors
	alkaline battery
	automobile self-starter
	chewing gum
	disposable diapers
	Etch-a-Sketch
	gas mask
	golf ball
	marbles
	microwave oven
	milk carton
	motion picture projector
	parachute
	phonograph
	pull-top tab
	space suit
	steering wheel
	step ladder
	stethoscope
	traffic signal
	vacuum cleaner