

Exploring Our Heritage

The Ohio National Road



Learning Objectives

Students will be able to describe how the National Road and other transportation routes passing through Ohio helped contribute to the growth of the state and nation.

Lesson Overview

Students will

- ❖ Watch video on The Ohio National Road
- ❖ Analyze a primary source: a public notice from 1819
- ❖ Create a relocation brochure about moving west
- ❖ Write a personal travel journal for the National Road 1830-1850

Teacher Background

The Historic National Road was the nation's first federally funded interstate highway. Conceived during the administration of President Thomas Jefferson (1800-1807), the road opened the door west and contributed to the growth and development of the nation. The United States Congress authorized the National Road in 1806 with construction to begin in Cumberland, Maryland. One segment of this new National Road would eventually pass through Ohio, and, when it was finally completed thirty three years later, the route spanned six states and over 700 miles.

In 1811 Congress awarded the first contracts for construction to begin. The National Road was one of the first roads to benefit from the new macadam construction method which utilized three layers of stone for the road surface, as well as ditches for drainage, allowing for a smoother, less muddy journey. However, construction did not always go smoothly. The monumental undertaking was postponed until 1815, after the War of 1812 had ended. By 1817, the road was completed to Wheeling, W. Va. Congress later authorized extension of the road and the Ohio stretch was laid between 1825 to 1838. The road eventually stopped in Vandalia, Illinois when funds ran out in 1839.

The National Road, in many places, follows a previous route—Zane's Trace. Zane's Trace was a frontier trail blazed by Ebenezer Zane in the late 1790s and followed an even earlier Native American path that stretched from Wheeling, Virginia (West Virginia today) to Maysville, Kentucky. Prior to the road, people

living in the Northwest Territory had difficulty crossing east through the Appalachian Mountains and those living in the young state of Ohio were disconnected from the eastern states. Once completed, the National Road improved transportation, commerce, and communication between the frontier and the East, helping increase Ohio's population and providing access for farm and other trade goods. Hundreds moved west in conestoga wagons while goods were transported from east to west. New businesses that catered to travelers, like inns and taverns, sprang up along its corridor. Towns and villages grew along its perimeter, and the road became known as "the Main Street of America."

Despite the road's popularity, people continued to rely on the Ohio River, Lake Erie, and the canal system to transport their goods. Eventually, the National Road's importance declined with the coming of the railroads in the 1840s and 1850s. The road's popularity resurged in the 1920s with the automobile, and in 1926, the road became part of a highway connecting the east and west coasts. The road's popularity again declined with the construction of the modern interstate highway system. Interstate 70 bypassed the old route making way for faster, higher-volume traffic. Today, the Ohio National Road offers a nostalgic glimpse of the past, and in 2002 the road was designated the Historic National Road by the U.S. Department of Transportation. U.S. 40 still follows much of its original route, and all along its stretch, one can still see traces of the past through taverns, inns, mile markers, and the corridor towns themselves.

Exploring Our Heritage

The Ohio National Road



Ohio Academic Content Standards

GRADE

4

History

4. Explain how Ohio progressed from territory to statehood, including the terms of the Northwest Ordinance.

People in Societies

3. Explain the reasons people came to Ohio including:
 - a. Opportunities in agriculture, mining and manufacturing;

Geography

4. Use maps to identify the location of major physical and human features of Ohio including:
 - e. Bordering states;
 - f. The capital city

Social Studies Skills and Methods

1. Obtain information about state issues from a variety of print and electronic sources, and determine the relevance of information to a research topic:
 - b. Encyclopedias;
 - e. Multimedia/Electronic sources.
3. Use primary and secondary sources to answer questions about Ohio history.

GRADE

5

History

5. Explain the impact on settlement, industrialization and transportation on the expansion of the United States.

Social Studies Skills and Methods

3. Differentiate between primary and secondary sources.

GRADE

8

History

8. Describe and analyze the territorial expansion of the United States including:
 - a. Northwest Ordinance;

Geography

3. Explain how colonization, westward expansion, immigration and advances in transportation and communication changed geographic patterns in the United States.

Government

7. Explain how the Northwest Ordinance established principles and procedures for the orderly expansion of the United States.

Social Studies Skills and Methods

2. Construct a historical narrative using primary and secondary sources.

Exploring Our Heritage

The Ohio National Road



MATERIALS

U.S. Classroom Map
Plain white paper

Library and Internet Access
Colored pencils, markers (optional)

TEACHER VOCABULARY

Abolitionist
Appalachian Mountains
Macadam

Milestone
Northwest Ordinance

Northwest Territory
Underground Railroad

Instructional Procedure

The Ohio National Road: What I Learned

1. Start by asking students if they know when our modern interstate highway system first began (1956.) Ask students to name the modes of transportation we use today. Write these answers on the board. Then, ask students to think about how we would travel from state to state without this national system of roads.
2. Now, ask students to think about and name the modes of transportation people used in the early 1800s – before the invention of the railroad and the creation of the canal system. Write student responses on the board.
3. Next, based on the information in the **Teacher Background** section, describe how the construction of the road commenced.
4. Finally, let students know that they will be learning more about the National Road which passes through Ohio, by watching a short video that takes them on a visit to the National Road Museum in Zanesville, Ohio. Distribute the worksheet **The Ohio National Road: What I Learned** and have students complete the graphic organizer while watching the video.
5. After watching the video, review the worksheets together as a class.

Notice Is Hereby Given

1. Begin by reviewing primary and secondary sources with the class. Ask students to offer examples of primary sources and collect their answers on the board.
2. Let students know that they will be conducting a primary source analysis by examining excerpts taken from an early advertisement about the National Road.
3. Distribute the **Notice is Hereby Given** worksheet and have students complete individually or in groups. When all students have finished review the answers as a class.

Exploring Our Heritage

The Ohio National Road



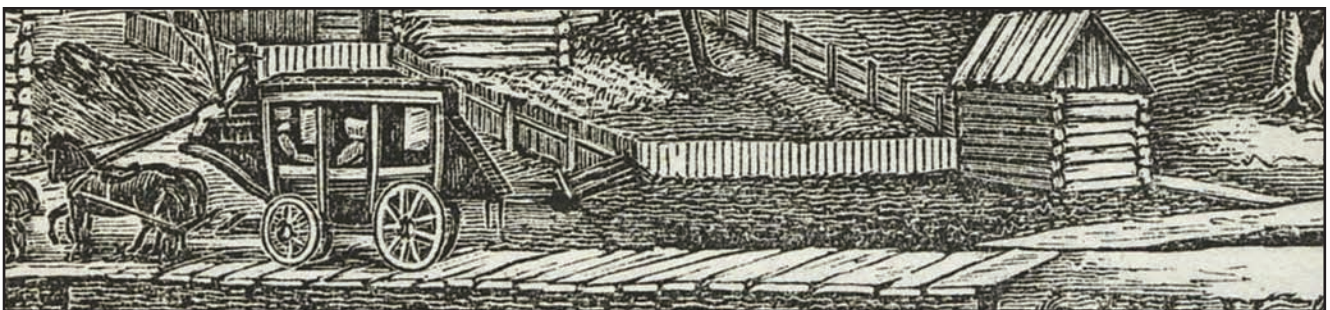
Moving West - Relocation Brochure

This activity is intended to be completed as part of a Westward Expansion unit.

1. Students should have watched the *Our Ohio* video segment the *The Ohio National Road* and completed the guided viewing exercise (**What I Learned**). Using a classroom map of the United States circa 1800-1850 begin to ask students why people might have wanted to move west. Discuss the ways people might have traveled during that time period and the risks involved with travel. Have students discuss the significance of the building of a National Road in the new United States.
2. Pass out the **Moving West – Relocation** Brochure. Review with students what the word *relocation* means and what a brochure is. Review the instructions, the requirements of the brochure and the rubric.
3. Ask students to use their own notebook paper to keep notes while they conduct research, finding the information needed to complete the brochure.
4. Once their research is complete, pass out the plain white paper. Demonstrate how to fold the paper brochure style and allow students to use crayons, colored pencils or markers to complete their brochure.

National Road RAFT (Role, Audience, Format, Topic)

1. Lead students in a classroom discussion about why people would want to settle in Ohio or other parts of the Northwest Territory. Ask students to identify characteristics that might be found in a person who is willing to move to sparsely settled land.
2. Ask students to identify characteristics of a travel journal, and then explain to students the broad definition of a historical narrative. Connect a historically accurate travel journal with a historical narrative, Lewis and Clark's journey west is a good example. Distribute the **National Road RAFT** worksheet and rubric to the class.
3. Students should begin to research the National Road in Ohio. Once they have researched the necessary information to complete the National Road RAFT (Role, Audience, Format, Topic) allow students to begin writing their travel journal.



Exploring Our Heritage

The Ohio National Road



Answer Key

The Ohio National Road: What I Learned

1. Through the middle or central part of the state
2. East to West
3. Congress approved construction in 1806
4. The road connected six states
5. The National Road was 700 miles long
6. The National Road contributed to the development of the state and country by providing access to eastern markets and opening the nation west; towns grew along its route.
7. Milestones are markers along the road spaced at one mile intervals. They tell the distance from cities east and west, and the distance to Cumberland, Md. where the road begins.
8. Inns, taverns and other businesses catering to travelers sprang up around the road.

Notice Is Hereby Given

1. Primary Source
2. The notice is requesting construction proposals for construction on the National Road.
3. The notice is dated May 19, 1819
4. For the areas between Union Town and Washington, Pennsylvania
5. The project must be complete by October 1, 1820



Moving West - Relocation Brochure

Use the rubric and instructions to identify lesson requirements and to guide grading.

National Road RAFT

Use the rubric and instructions to identify lesson requirements and to guide grading.



Exploring Our Heritage

The Ohio National Road



The Ohio National Road: What I Learned

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Instructions: Read all of the boxes in the **Find Out** column below. Fill in the correct answers in the **What I Learned** column while watching the video *The Ohio National Road*.

FIND OUT	WHAT I LEARNED
Through which part of the state does the road pass? (watch for the map in the video)	
Does the road run from North to South, or East to West?	
When did Congress approve the construction of the National Road?	
How many states did the road connect?	
How long was the National Road?	
The National Road contributed to the development of the state and country because:	
Milestones are:	
What new businesses sprang up around the National Road?	

Exploring Our Heritage The Ohio National Road



Notice Is Hereby Given

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Instructions: Read the document carefully then answer the questions that follow.

NOTICE

Is Hereby Given,

THAT the subscriber will attend at his office in Brownsville, in the state of Pennsylvania, on the second Monday in June next, for the purpose of receiving proposals, in writing, for constructing the whole or any part of the

United States' Road

Between Union-town and Washington, in the state of Pennsylvania. A Description of the location of the road has been deposited at Union-town, Brownsville and Washington. Proposals must embrace the entire expense of completing the road in the same manner that the road has been made between Cumberland and Union-town, with the addition of four feet width.* Contractors are to furnish the materials, and finish the work they respectively undertake, before the first day of October, 1820; but in all cases where the owners of the land upon which the road is located, have granted to the Superintendent the right of taking materials, such grant shall endure to the benefit of the Contractor. The proposals will state the price of the work, payable in drafts upon the bank of Steubenville, and also payable at the Treasury of the United States; or they may state the price, one half payable at the Treasury, and the remainder at Steubenville. In neither case will the drafts of the Superintendent be paid in the commercial cities to the east of the city of Washington.

* This addition is not to affect the width of the pavement, nor the cuttings; but to increase the width of all the filling; when but one side road is made by filling, two feet will only be required.

DAVID SHRIVER,

Superintendent of the U.S. Road, east of Washington, Pennsylvania.

May 19, 1819.

PRINTED BY JOSEPH SMITH, CUMBERLAND, (md.)

Exploring Our Heritage

The Ohio National Road

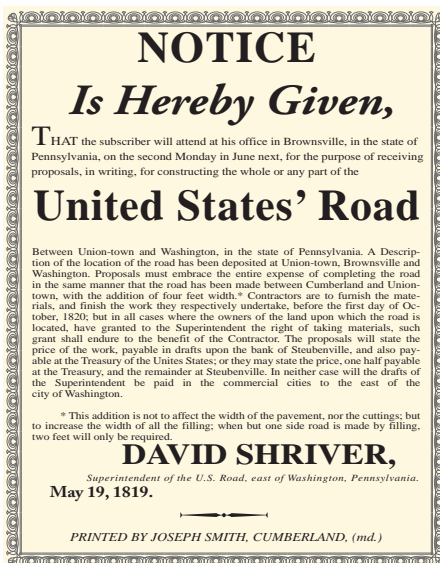


Notice Is Hereby Given

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Instructions: Read the document on page 7 to answer the questions below.



1. Is this a primary or secondary source document?

2. What is the notice for?

3. When is the notice dated?

4. For which part of the National Road are the proposals for?

5. By when must the project be complete according to the notice?

Exploring Our Heritage

The Ohio National Road



Moving West - Relocation Brochure

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Create a relocation brochure convincing Americans to move from the East Coast to Ohio circa 1830-1850. The brochure will highlight the use of the National Road as the primary travel route. Your brochure will use historical secondary sources and your imagination to create an informative and visually appealing brochure. Use the Moving West - Relocation Brochure Rubric to guide the completion of your brochure.

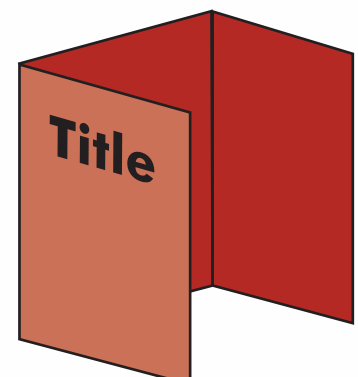
BROCHURE REQUIREMENTS

Cover

- Title of your brochure
- One visual that shows the route of the National Road in Ohio

Brochure Pages

- Descriptive paragraphs that must include information about the following topics:
 1. Why and how the National Road was built
 2. What opportunities awaited settlers in Ohio
 3. The National Road connection to the Northwest Territory and Northwest Ordinance
 4. Taverns or inns that existed along the National Road
 5. Traveling conditions on the National Road and/or information about specific pike towns, s-bridges, tolls and markers.
- Three visuals (pictures or drawings) that help further explain information in your descriptive paragraphs. Examples include the following suggestions:
 1. An outline of the Northwest Territory
 2. S-bridges
 3. National Road conditions
 4. A tavern or inn
 5. Mile markers
 6. Toll houses



Exploring Our Heritage

The Ohio National Road



Moving West - Relocation Brochure

Category	4	3	2	1
Cover Page	The cover contains a creative title for your brochure. There is at least one visual on the cover that highlights the National Road route in Ohio. The cover is appealing.	The cover contains a title for your brochure. There is at least one visual on the cover that highlights the National Road route in Ohio.	The cover contains a title for your brochure.	The cover has one visual that highlights the National Road route in Ohio.
Descriptive Paragraph One	The descriptive paragraph explains in 5-7 sentences why and how the National Road was built.	The descriptive paragraph explains in 3-4 sentences why and how the National Road was built.	The descriptive paragraph explains in 1-2 sentences why and how the National Road was built.	The descriptive paragraph does not explain why and how the National Road was built.
Descriptive Paragraph Two	The descriptive paragraph explains in 5-7 sentences what opportunities awaited settlers in Ohio.	The descriptive paragraph explains in 3-4 sentences what opportunities awaited settlers in Ohio.	The descriptive paragraph explains in 1-2 sentences what opportunities awaited settlers in Ohio.	The descriptive paragraph does not explain what opportunities awaited settlers in Ohio.
Descriptive Paragraph Three	The descriptive paragraph explains in 5-7 sentences the connection between the Northwest Territory/ Ordinance and the National Road.	The descriptive paragraph explains in 3-4 sentences the connection between the Northwest Territory/Ordinance and the National Road.	The descriptive paragraph explains in 1-2 sentences the connection between the Northwest Territory/ Ordinance and the National Road.	The descriptive paragraph does not explain the connection between the Northwest Territory/ Ordinance and the National Road.
Descriptive Paragraph Four	The descriptive paragraph examines in 5-7 sentences the taverns or inns that existed along the National Road.	The descriptive paragraph examines in 3-4 sentences the taverns or inns that existed along the National Road.	The descriptive paragraph examines in 1-2 sentences the taverns or inns that existed along the National Road.	The descriptive paragraph does not examine the taverns or inns that existed along the National Road.
Descriptive Paragraph Five	The descriptive paragraph examines in 5-7 sentences traveling conditions on the National Road and/ or information about characteristics specific to the National Road.	The descriptive paragraph examines in 3-4 sentences traveling conditions on the National Road and/ or information about characteristics specific to the National Road.	The descriptive paragraph examines in 1-2 sentences traveling conditions on the National Road and/ or information about characteristics specific to the National Road.	The descriptive paragraph does not examine traveling conditions on the National Road and/ or information about characteristics specific to the National Road.
Visuals	The brochure contains three relevant pictures or drawings that help further explain the information in the brochure.	The brochure contains two relevant pictures or drawings that help further explain the information in the brochure.	The brochure contains one relevant picture or drawing that help further explain the information in the brochure.	The brochure does not contain any relevant pictures or drawings that help further explain the information in the brochure.
Attractiveness, Organization and Spelling	The brochure is exceptionally attractive and is well organized. There are minimal spelling mistakes.	The brochure is attractive and is well organized. There are minimal spelling mistakes.	The brochure is well organized. There are several spelling mistakes.	The brochure lacks organization. There are many spelling mistakes.

Exploring Our Heritage

The Ohio National Road



National Road RAFT (Role, Audience, Format, Topic)

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Role: Ohio National Road traveler circa 1830-1850

Audience: Personal travel log (self and others)

Format: Travel Journal

Topic: The Ohio National Road

After conducting research about the National Road in Ohio, create a personal travel journal as if you were traveling the National Road between 1830-1850. Weaving fact with fiction, create a realistic travel journal with the following requirements:

- 5 dated entries
- Introduction of self and purpose on the road
- Starting point and an ending point
- People you have met on the road
- Connection of the National Road to the Northwest Territory
- Description of one out of the four National Road characteristics
 1. tavern/inn
 2. pike town
 3. road conditions
 4. s-bridges

You may add your own creative touches to your journal with sketches, doodles and “artifacts” from the National Road.



Exploring Our Heritage

The Ohio National Road



National Road RAFT Rubric

Category	4	3	2	1
Travel Entries	Five travel entries were attempted with 5-7 sentences per paragraph.	Four travel entries were attempted with 3-4 sentences per paragraph.	Three travel entries were attempted with 3-4 sentences per paragraph.	Two travel entries were attempted with 3-4 sentences per paragraph.
Historical Content	Five National Road historical facts were examined in the journal.	Four National Road historical facts were examined in the journal.	Three National Road historical facts were examined in the journal.	Two National Road historical facts were examined in the journal.
Grammar and Spelling	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar and spelling.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar and spelling.	Writer makes 5-6 errors in grammar and spelling.	Writer makes 7+ errors in grammar and spelling.
Neatness and Creativity	Travel journal is legible and uniquely personalized.	Travel journal is legible and exhibits some personalization.	Travel journal is legible.	Travel journal is partially legible.