



Ohio History Fun Facts

- Half (four out of eight) U.S. presidents from Ohio died while in office.
 - William Henry Harrison served the shortest term out of any U.S. president – less than one year!
- A mastodon could provide up to 2,500 lbs of meat to the Ice Age Paleoindian peoples of Ohio.
- Cheez-its were invented in Dayton, Ohio.
- 19 baseball Hall of Famers were born in Ohio.
- Ohio astronaut and Senator John Glenn and Boston Red Sox player Ted Williams served in the same Marine fighter squadron in the Korean War.
- Wendy's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Arby's, and Bob Evans were all founded in Ohio.
- Judy Garland was initiated as a sweetheart of Ohio State's Alpha Gamma chapter of the fraternity Sigma Chi in 1938. Ohio History Connection has photos of her at the fraternity!
- Ohio University was founded in 1804 in Athens and is recognized as the first land-grant college in the Northwest Territory.
- Elephants used to live in Ohio! Mammoths, which are closely related to today's Asian Elephant, and mastodons, distant cousins of the mammoths, both roamed throughout Ohio from about 14,000 – 10,000 years ago, near the end of the most recent Ice Age.
- Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Ottawa and Lucas counties is home to the Biggest Week in American Birding, which takes place around Mother's Day in May each spring. Migrating warblers and other songbirds congregate in great numbers along the shores of Lake Erie on their way to northern breeding grounds. This event attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists from all over the world to see the birds up close.
- Patsy Cline's song "I Fall to Pieces" had its initial breakthrough after being played on a Columbus radio station – it went on to become her first #1 hit!

- Ohio has had three cities serve as the state capital since its founding: Chillicothe, Zanesville, and Columbus!
- Ohio has earned the nickname "The Birthplace of Aviation", as Wilbur and Orville Wright who invented and flew the first aircraft hailed from the city of Dayton.
- Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio was one of the first American institutions of higher learning to admit both women and African American people.
- Famous markswoman and sharpshooter Annie Oakley was born in Darke County, Ohio. Her impeccable abilities led her to achieve international success!
- The 1983 Christmas comedy film, *A Christmas Story*, was filmed at various locations around Cleveland, including the historic Higbee's Department Store (now home to the JACK Cleveland Casino) downtown.
- The well-known Christmas song *Up on the House Top* was written by Ohioan composer Benjamin Hanby! His house is now a museum in Westerville and is an Ohio History Connection site.
- Ohio-born U.S. President Benjamin Harrison was the first president known to put up a Christmas tree in the White House!
- American Civil War cavalry commander George Armstrong Custer, known from the famous Battle of the Little Bighorn, was born in New Rumley, Ohio on December 5, 1839.
- The Great Blizzard of 1978 was a devastating winter storm that struck the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes region with wind gusts of up to 70 miles per hour and wind chills of 50-60 degrees below zero!
- Maya Lin, the designer of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. is from Athens, Ohio! Her parents were professors at Ohio University.