

History Happened Here!

GRADES:

K - 12 (refer to suggested modifications at the end of this document)

DURATION:

Varies depending on how many Ohio Historical Markers your children will do. This can be easily a whole week project (or more), but it can also be simplified to be completed in a couple of days.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Children will understand that history happened in their own community;
- Children will broaden their view on what can be an historical event or person;
- Children will develop their research skills.

MATERIALS:

- Internet connection for visiting necessary websites
- Note-Catcher Worksheet

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Ohio has a rich history stretching back thousands of years, and it is all in your backyard! Local history is the study of history in a specific geographic area (e.g. neighborhood, town, county). This is a very important, and sometimes overlooked, aspect of the historical record. Local history can tell us what regular people just like us were doing in times of celebration, war, peace or just their everyday lives. Local history also highlights people, stories and events that might never make it into your history textbook.

We can tell American history through a local lens. For example, if you are learning about the African American experience in the United States in the 20th century, you can do research to see what that experience was like in your own community. To get a better idea of connecting national stories to local stories, [watch Reita Smith](#) talk about the African American experience in west side of Columbus, Ohio, in the 1940s and 1950s.

Using the Ohio Historical Markers as a launching point, children will learn more about what was happening in their local community at a specific time. Since 1957 the [Ohio Historical Marker program](#) has worked with local communities to commemorate the unique stories of the people, places, things and events that helped shape individual communities as well as Ohio and the nation. There are approximately 1,800 markers around the state!



ACTIVITY OUTLINE:

1. Talk to your child about local history (refer to the Background Information above).
2. After the initial research or instruction, ask some questions to assess if the main concepts were understood.
3. Find the county you live in on the [county map](#) to help your child have a better understanding of where they live in the state of Ohio, and to help gather information for the next step.
4. Using the note-taker, visit [RemarkableOhio.org](#). Go to the left navigation bar to find “Markers.” Children find their county and click on the link to see a list of all the markers in their county. Have your child browse the markers and pick one that interests them. (You can also check adjacent counties for other topics.) Click on the marker of interest, and have your child use the note-catcher to capture information about their marker (pro tip: at the end of the marker text there are subject links to help you find more information on broader related topics!).
5. Children then visit [Ohio History Central](#) to conduct additional research on the subject and the main historical topics of their marker in order to get some more context on their marker. They can add their notes to the note-catcher.
6. Children then visit [Ohio Memory](#) to find primary sources that might provide more information about the subject and main historical topics of their marker. For a more successful search, particularly for younger students, you should click “Exclude full text sources” under the search bar. They can add their notes to the note-taker.
7. If you are up for it, set out on an adventure and try to find your marker! Snap a picture of your child in front of their marker. Make sure to tag the Ohio History Connection on social media! (Please note we are continually updating marker locations in Remarkable Ohio. It is possible that the marker is located around the corner or across the street from the stated location. It is also possible the marker has been damaged and is no longer there.) If you are going to travel a long distance, you may want to do a quick search on Google maps to see if you can see the marker in street view. If you can't find the marker [please let us know](#) so we can update our data!

ADAPTATION FOR EACH GRADE:

- The depth of the instruction and research can be intensified according to the grade level. Similarly, the depth research should also be defined accordingly. Kindergarten through 3rd graders might focus solely on reading marker text and identifying the main historical topics of the marker. 4th and 5th graders can conduct basic research on Ohio History Central and Ohio Memory, but their complexity should increase for other grades.
- 4th and 5th graders can begin making inferences, but by the time students are in high school they should be able to pull out a more nuanced view of the event or person described on their marker. Beyond just telling the facts, what else do they want to know about the person or event in their marker? What other research questions can they ask?
- Have your child search on Remarkable Ohio and see if there are other markers that talk about the subject or historical topics discussed in their marker. What are the differences and similarities?

EXTENSIONS:



Ohio History Connection – Learn at Home Resources

There are many extensions for this activity. Taking the history learned through this activity, your child could:

1. Write and perform a play or song depicting the person or event;
2. Write a poem or graphic novel;
3. Create text for another marker to add the additional information they learned;
4. Create text for a brand new marker for something they think is historic.

ONE MORE THING:

Let us know how it went! Tag us on social media or email us at education@ohiohistory.org.



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Note-Catcher

MY MARKER:

County:

Marker Name:

Main Historical Topics:

Marker Location and Address:

What did you learn from this marker?

INFORMATION FROM OHIO HISTORY CENTRAL:

1.

2.

3.

INFORMATION FROM OHIO MEMORY:

1.

2.

3.



ADDITIONAL NOTES:

