

Creativity is on display in all corners of the Ohio History Center!



Where to start:

- *Creative Ohio* is a rotating gallery dedicated to showcasing Ohio art and artists. It currently features works by Archibald Willard, Thomas Schiff, and Paul-Henri Bourguignon
- Decorative arts abound in *Made by Hand* (Gallery 2)
- Head upstairs to see kid-created poems, maps and more in *Hide and Seek* (3rd floor)

Find additional icons here:

- Paintings by Lilly Martin Spencer and Howard Chandler Christy (1st Floor)
- Hall China Company ceramics (Gallery 1)
- Open art storage area (Gallery 3)
- David Zimmer's silver sequined sneakers (Gallery 3)



Keep exploring!

Follow the Creativity Trail to more Ohio History Connection Sites:

- Harriet Beecher Stowe House
- Museum of Ceramics
- National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center
- National Road & Zane Grey Museum
- Paul Laurence Dunbar House
- Zoar Village

Life on the Water



Nature of Ohio introduces many modern and ancient animals that have made their homes in Ohio's waterways. In Gallery 1, you'll also encounter artifacts from Ohio's canal system and steamboat era.

Look for these in *Nature of Ohio*:

- Glacial grooves in bedrock
- Sedimentary rocks
- "Changing Waterways"
- Beavers
- Mollusks
- Trilobites

Look for these in Gallery 1:

- Canal lever
- Ferry boat wheel
- Steamboat lantern
- Boat whistles



An Enormously Eager Beaver

Today, beavers are North America's largest rodents but during the Ice Age, they weren't even the largest rodents living in Ohio. That distinction belonged to the now-extinct giant beaver, known to scientists as *Castoroides ohioensis*. It was named for the state where it was first identified—we hope you can guess which one!

The species was discovered in 1837 when workers digging the Ohio Canal uncovered fossil remains near Nashport, northwest of Zanesville. At the end of the Ice Age, Ohio's wetlands were home to both giant beavers and the smaller beavers we know today.

There are several giant beaver skulls on exhibit at the Ohio History Center. How many do you see?



Spot the Trilobite



Modern Ohio's lakes, rivers, and streams are great examples of freshwater ecosystems, but did you know that in the distant past Ohio was covered by saltwater? During much of the Paleozoic Era this area was a rich marine habitat.

Trilobites are a group of long-extinct invertebrates that once called Ohio home. One famous type of trilobite, called *Isotelus*, became the state invertebrate fossil of Ohio in 1985 after middle school students from the Dayton area lobbied their state representatives.

Can you find an *Isotelus* trilobite in the *Nature of Ohio* exhibit?



Keep exploring!

Continue along the Lake Erie to Ohio River Trail to more Ohio History Connection Sites:

- Campus Martius Museum
- Fort Ancient Earthworks & Nature Preserve
- Fort Meigs
- Johnston Farm and Indian Agency
- Museum of Ceramics
- John Rankin House

And if you love historical maps, be sure to browse the digitized plat maps from Ohio canals on Ohio Memory, our statewide digital library!

<https://ohiomemory.org>

You'll find inventions, enhancements, and business ventures throughout the museum.



Where to start:

- Lustron home (1950s exhibit)
- Cookstoves (Gallery 1)
- “Made in Ohio” (Gallery 1)
- Ohio Art Company products (Gallery 3)
- Edison phonograph (Gallery 3)
- H. & F. Blandy Company steam engine (Gallery 3)

Check it Out: Cookstoves

Before air fryers and microwaves filled Ohio kitchens, another innovation transformed how families prepared food at home.

Humans had cooked over open fires for hundreds of thousands of years, but during the 1800s, manufacturers introduced the American public to cast-iron cookstoves. By containing and controlling the flame, these stoves made cooking more efficient, and much safer.

This stove was made by R. P. Myers in Cleveland around 1860. Doors on the front enclose the firebox, where chopped wood was loaded to fuel the fire. The stovetop features four burners, or "stove eyes," while the oven is at the back. You can view this item and several other Ohio-made cookstoves in Gallery 1.



Check it Out: The Ohio Art Company



In 1908, Henry Winzeler made a bold choice and left his dental practice behind. He saw a business opportunity in creating decorative picture frames, calling his venture the Ohio Art Company.

During World War I, the decline in imports from Germany opened the door for Winzeler to expand his offerings to American consumers. Ohio Art branched out to sell tea sets, globes, sand pails, and other toys.

That innovative spirit continued throughout the 20th century. In the 1930s, Ohio Art became one of the first companies to license Walt Disney characters, and in 1960, it introduced the iconic Etch A Sketch.

Check out the cabinet of Ohio Art Company wares on display in Gallery 3. And if you feel like trying out an Etch A Sketch, you'll find some in our *Hide and Seek* exhibit up on the 3rd floor!



Keep Exploring!

Follow the Innovation Trail to more
Ohio History Connection Sites:

- Armstrong Air & Space Museum
- Buckeye Furnace
- Campus Martius Museum
- Indian Mill
- National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center
- National Road & Zane Grey Museum
- Newark Earthworks
- Youngstown Historical Center of Industry & Labor

We've got planes, trains and automobiles— trolleys, bikes and carriages, too.



See how many other modes of transportation you can find. Don't forget a trip upstairs!

1st Floor

- Crosley station wagon (Building entrance)
- Chevrolet Bel Air and Airstream trailer (Red carpet area)
- Ohio Bell Telephone repair truck (Red carpet area)
- Borden's Milk delivery wagon (Red carpet area)
- Ahrens-Fox Company fire engine (Gallery 3)
- Trolley car (Gallery 3)
- Paul F. Thomas ferry boat pilot wheel (Gallery 1)

2nd Floor (Plaza Level)

- Aeronca C-2 "Flying Bathtub" airplane
- Alliance A-1 Argo biplane
- Lola T 8700 race car
- Seneca Motor Car Company H model auto
- Singer & Co. ordinary bicycle
- Winton Motor Carriage Company automobile

3rd Floor

- Little Tikes Cozy Coupe toy car

Ohio Village

- Baltimore & Ohio train caboose

Don't make me turn this car around!



Really—please don't. Together, this Chevrolet Bel Air and its Airstream trailer are nearly 36 feet long. You'll find them between the Lustron home and Gallery 4.

The '57 Chevy was built at Norwood Assembly Plant near Cincinnati, where more than eight million cars were produced between 1923 and 1987.

Airstream started in California, where this “new lightweight go-anywhere” trailer was made. When the company expanded in the early 1950s, they chose Jackson Center, Ohio as the location for a new factory. By 1978, Airstream had consolidated its operations in northwest Ohio, where they remain today.



Keep Exploring!

Follow the Transportation Trail to more Ohio History Connection Sites:

- Campus Martius Museum
- Johnston Farm & Indian Agency
- National Road & Zane Grey Museum
- Schoenbrunn Village