



Cincinnati
Museum
Center

Teacher's Pre- and Post-Program Visit Guide

Program	Life on the Ohio River
Grade Level	Grades 3-5
Time	50 minutes
Location	Cincinnati History Museum floor

Program Objectives

- Students will make choices on an imaginary journey down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Students will explore what the Ohio River has meant to Native Americans and early settlers.
- Students will observe and identify how lifestyles and transportation have changed along the Ohio River.

Program Description

Take a ride down the Ohio River and learn what life was like for Native Americans and early settlers. Explore how the river has affected, and been affected by, changes in lifestyle and travel throughout history. This program includes a guided experience in the Cincinnati History Museum's *Cincinnati: Settlement to 1860's* galleries.

Major Vocabulary and concepts

Ohio River	steamboats	Native Americans
keelboats	early settlers	flatboats

Suggested things to do in your classroom before the program

- Find the Ohio River on a map of the United States. How many states does the Ohio River flow through? What states are they?
- Make a timeline for your state. In what years did Native Americans live in your area? When did European settlers first begin to live in your state? What significance did the Ohio River make in their decision to settle there?

- Read a story or personal account of someone living sometime around the 1830s. Compare and contrast their daily life with your daily activities.

Suggested things to do after the program

- Visit the Cincinnati History Museum, especially the *Settlement to 1860s*, the *Flatboat Gallery* and the *Public Landing* exhibits.
- Visit the Museum of Natural History & Science, especially the *Pathways to Change* exhibit.
- Have students research and write a story, journal or diary from the perspective of either a Native American or early settler living in the Ohio River region.
- Study the Ohio River. Create a model of a section of the Ohio River system that includes models of dams and locks. How do the dams change the river?

Curriculum and Standards Addressed

Ohio Social Studies - History, People in Societies, Geography, Economics, Social Studies Skills & Methods

Kentucky - Culture and Society, Geography, Economics, Historical Perspective

Indiana - History, Geography, Economics, Individuals, Society and Culture

Related Exhibits and Features

Cincinnati History Museum's *Settlement to 1860s* exhibit, *Flatboat Gallery*, and *Public Landing*

Museum of Natural History & Science's *Pathways to Change* exhibit, *Earthworks* exhibit and the stream table in *Cincinnati's Ice Age* exhibit

Resources

For teachers: [The Ohio](#) by R.E. Banta.

For students: [Danger Along the Ohio](#) by Patricia Willis

Read a "Choose your Own Adventure" Book together and make group decisions about choices along the way.