



Use this guide to check your knowledge and ensure you haven't missed any great content!

In Cincinnati Museum Center's Shaping Our City exhibit, venture through time to explore the Cincinnati region from before the 1700s to 1920. From canoes and flatboats, to steamboats and trains, to inclines and streetcars, discover how Cincinnati's transportation story has changed and is still being written.

First Settlement to 1810

The Ohio River and its tributaries played an essential role in transportation. Native Americans used canoes to navigate the rivers, and eventually this method of transport was adopted by fur traders. Eventually, canoes were replaced by flatboats as products moved down the Ohio River to the Mississippi River.

Check your knowledge!

What features attracted people to live in the Cincinnati region?

What are some products that were carried on flatboats?

You've been given several acres of land and can choose a location on the Ohio River or farther inland. Which location would you choose and why?

1810 to 1860

As technology advanced, so did transportation methods. Industry grew in Cincinnati and the transportation that supported it had to adapt, as people and goods went farther and faster. The landscape was changed as canals were built to connect waterways, and steam engines were strong enough to move upstream against currents.

Check your knowledge!

What were the benefits and challenges to using canals to ship people and freight?

How did steam engines change production and travel?

What job would you want to have if you worked on a steamboat?

1860 to 1920

By the mid-19th century, Cincinnati grew to be the seventh largest city in the United States. With the surrounding hills confining the city to its founding footprint, the demand for resources and methods to travel out of the basin grew. Inclines helped connect new hilltop neighborhoods to the basin below. Streetcars also made travel up and out of the basin easier.

Check your knowledge!

How did streetcars and inclines make it easier for Cincinnati to expand?

Which neighborhoods on the Annexations map do you recognize? When were they annexed?

How did Sarah Fossett help remove restrictions on the movement and employment of African American women?