



Local History Topics: Turning Points in History

History happens every day and in your own backyard! In fact, Ohio played an essential role in both U.S. and World History. Below we've put together a list of Ohio topics for the 2024 NHD theme of *Turning Points in History*.

African American History

- Carl B. Stokes – First African American mayor of a major US city (Cleveland, 1967), later a judge and ambassador
- Ohio in the Underground Railroad
 - Levi Coffin
 - John P. Parker
 - John Rankin
 - Henry Boyd
 - AME Church (see Dr. Cheryl LaRoche)
- Wilberforce University—First Black owned and operated private HBCU
- Brigadier General Charles Young – First African American man to achieve the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army
- Charlene Mitchell – Civil rights activist and socialist. She was the first African American woman candidate to run for President of the United States
- W.C.A. No. 2—First African American branch of the YWCA in the nation

American Indian History

- American Indian Movement, 1960s/70s
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 1978
- American Indian Wars, 1789-1795
- French-Indian Wars 1754-1763
- Haudenosaunee Confederation
- Indian Removal Act, 1830
- Jim Thorpe, 1912-1922
- Lord Dunmore's War (1774)
- Michikinikwa, or Little Turtle, leader of the Myaamia

- Native American Cartography
- Native American Military Service- Navajo Code Talkers
- Native American Protection and Repatriation Act, 1990
- Proclamation of 1763
- Tecumseh- leader of the Shawnee
- Western Confederacy

Diplomatic History

- Constitutional Conventions, 1851, 1870, 1912
- Bouquet's Expedition
- The Dayton Accord
- King Philip's War, 1675-1678
- Toledo War & the Frostbitten Convention, 1835-1836
- Treaty of Greenville, 1795
- War of 1812

Economic History

- Baldemar Velasquez – American labor union activist and co-founder of Farm Labor Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO.
- Building of the Miami and Erie Canal
- Cleveland Strike at General Motors – Formation of the United Auto Workers
- Construction of the National Road in Ohio, 1825-1838
- Panic of 1907 & the founding of the Federal Reserve
- Youngstown "Little Steel" Strike – Led to the formation of the United Steels Workers Union



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Environmental History

- National Environment Policy Act, 1970
- Ohio Conservancy Law
- The Wilderness Act of 1964
- Cuyahoga Rive Fires

Political History

- *Brown v. the Board of Education*, 1954
- *Dred Scott v. Sandford*
- Equal Rights Amendment
- Florence Ellinwood Allen – First woman elected to the Ohio Supreme Court, and serve on the Supreme Court of any state
- Joshua R. Giddings – Abolitionist, one of the founders and member of the Republican Party
- Ohio Black Codes & Ohio Black Laws, 1804 & 1807 respectively
- Ohio Civil Rights Act of 1959
- Ohio Public Accommodations Law of 1884
- Ohio Statehood, 1803
- The Bing Act, 1921
- The Dawes Act, 1887
- The Northwest Ordinance, 1787

Science & Medicine

- Ella P. Stewart – First African American female pharmacist in the U.S.
- Garrett Morgan- African American inventor and businessman
- Granville Woods- African American inventor
- John W. Lambert- builder of the first gasoline powered single cylinder vehicle
- Medical advancements from doctors at the Cleveland Clinic
- Neil Armstrong & Apollo 11 mission

- Thomas Alva Edison – Inventor of the phonograph, motion picture camera, and the first long-lasting light bulb

Social & Cultural History

- Harry C. Smith – Journalist & Legislator who championed Civil Rights in Ohio
- Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster- creators of the “first superhero,” Superman
- Jesse Owens & 1936 Berlin Olympics
- Lane Seminary Debates
- Lockbourne Army Air Force Base (Columbus) – Tuskegee Airmen
- Natalie Clifford Barney – American playwright, poet and novelist
- Paul Laurence Dunbar– African American Poet and activist
- ‘Red Power’ – Pan Indian Identity, 1960s
- The Great Lakes Exposition
- United Freedom Movement

Women’s History

- 19th Amendment
- Betsy Mix Cowles – Prominent educator, activist & suffragist
- Gloria Steinem – Famed women’s advocate
- Lucy Stone – Abolitionist & Suffragist
- Oberlin College: First college to admit women and one of the first to admit African Americans
- Ohio Women’s Convention at Salem
- Victoria Woodhull – First women to be nominated for president in 1872 and member of the suffrage movement



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