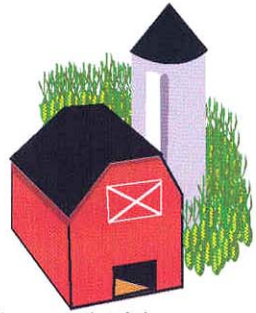


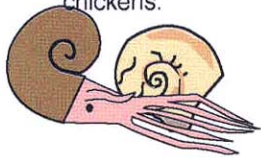
An educational map of

The Ohio River

IL

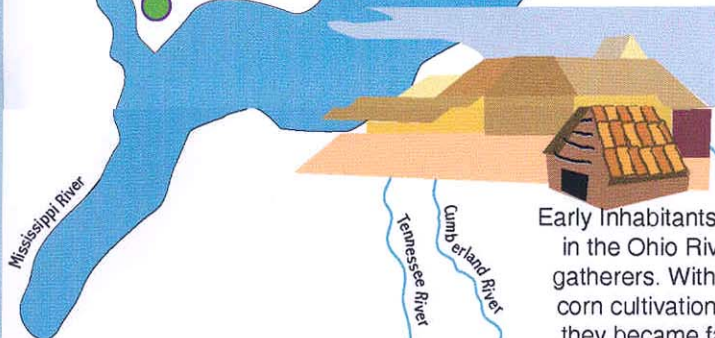


Agriculture: Today, much of the Ohio River Valley is still farmland. Crops like corn, soybeans and grains grown in the valley are distributed around the country to provide food for people and livestock. Many farms also raise livestock like cattle, hogs and chickens.



Fossil Beds: Fossils are the remains or imprints of plants or animals that have been preserved in the earth's crust from past geologic times. During the Devonian Period of the Paleozoic Era, approximately 410 to 360 million years ago, much of the Ohio River Valley was a shallow tropical sea. Many marine fossils remain today in the sedimentary rock around the valley as evidence of the past.

Cairo



Early Inhabitants: Originally, American Indians in the Ohio River Valley were hunters and gatherers. With the introduction of corn and corn cultivation as a steady supply of food, they became farmers. Around 1,000 A.D., some American Indians, as part of the larger Mississippian culture, settled in southern Illinois near the present day city of Metropolis. Over the course of 300 years, they constructed 19 earthen mounds that are now known as the Kincaid Mounds.

Early Explorers: In 1670, the French explorer René-Robert Cavelier, sieur de La Salle was the first European to see the Ohio River. He called it "La Belle Rivière" or "The Beautiful River." In 1803, Merriwether Lewis and William Clark met at the Falls of the Ohio, near Clarksville, Indiana. There they solidified their partnership, planned their mission to explore the American West, and recruited their first volunteers.

Evansville

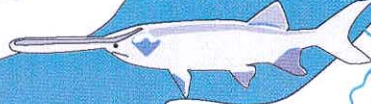
Louisville

KY

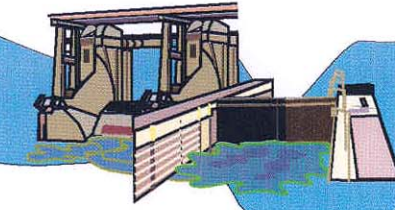
Point and Nonpoint Source Pollution: Pollutants are a threat to the health and quality of the Ohio River. Point sources of pollution to the Ohio are relatively easy to find because the pollutants come from a specific place, like pipes that flow directly into the river. Nonpoint source pollution is very difficult to track because it can come from many places, including runoff from streets, parking lots, farms, and mines. Rainfall carries pollutants from these places into waterways. Nonpoint sources of pollution are the biggest threat to the Ohio River.



Aquatic Life: Since 1957, nearly 160 species of fish have been documented in the Ohio River. The paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*), a native to the Ohio River, is extremely sensitive to pollution and other environmental disturbances. In the recent past, paddlefish were difficult to find in the Ohio, but since the late 1990s, large schools of these fish have been spotted feeding near the surface of the water.



Cincinnati



Industry and Transportation: Industries rely on the Ohio River to supply water for manufacturing processes and to transport supplies and commodities. Barges regularly travel the river, connecting cities and towns in the Ohio River Valley to the rest of the country. Over 200 million tons of goods are carried by barge on the Ohio each year.

ORSANCO: The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission was established in 1948 as an interstate water pollution control agency for the Ohio River and its tributaries. ORSANCO represents the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the federal government. ORSANCO operates programs in water quality monitoring and assessment, spill detection and notification, pollution control, and public participation.



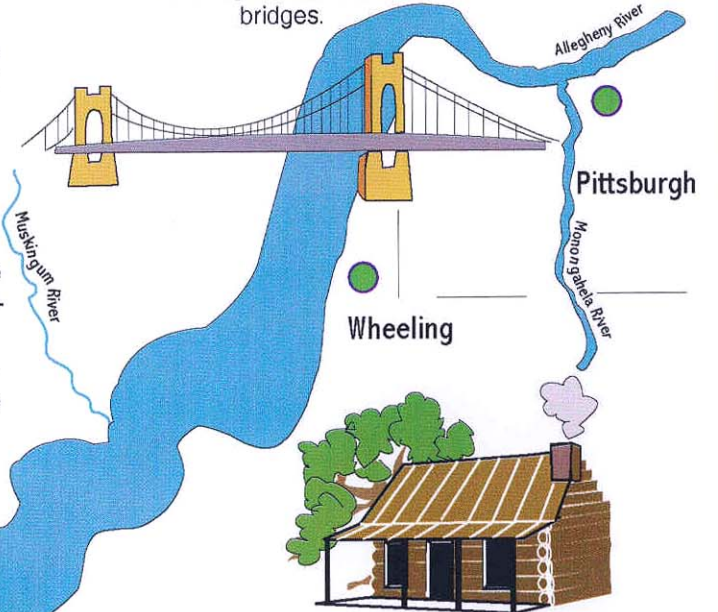
5735 Kellogg Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45228
513-231-7719
www.orsanco.org

OH

Locks and Dams: Early explorers and settlers found that navigation of the Ohio River was difficult because of shifting sand bars, snags and rocks, and seasonal variations in river depth. Throughout the 1900s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed locks and dams to improve navigation of the Ohio and maintain a nine-foot minimum depth. Today, 20 modern locks and dams operate on the Ohio River.

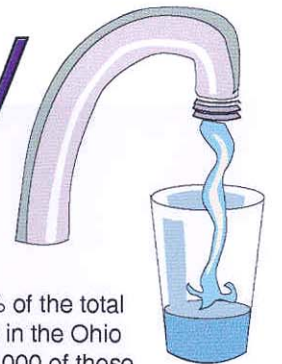
Bridges: The city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is located where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers meet to form the Ohio River. The city is marked by steeply sloping hillsides and numerous waterways, making bridges a necessity for easy travel. Pittsburgh is home to 720 bridges.

PA



Early Europeans: Westward expansion of the colonies followed the English victory in the French and Indian War (1756-1763). Settlers traveled with all of their livestock and possessions on large wooden rafts called flatboats. Flatboats often were used to navigate downstream on the Ohio because they could be taken apart easily and used to construct log cabins.

WV



Drinking Water: Nearly 10% of the total population of the U.S. lives in the Ohio River Valley and over 3,000,000 of these people obtain drinking water from the Ohio River. Many water supply facilities and sewage treatment plants operate on the Ohio River to ensure that drinking water is clean and safe.