

The Buckeye State

By: Deborah Lynn



Can you guess where I am? I am in the Buckeye State. That is our nickname because we have so many Buckeye trees here. It is called a Buckeye because the nuts from the tree have the same shape and color as that of a deer's eye. A buck is a male deer, so that is why they say Buckeye. We have a State Flower, it is a Scarlet Carnation, and our State Motto is, "With God, all things are possible." Our State Bird is the Cardinal, which is a beautiful red bird.

This state joined the United States on March 1, 1803 and it was the 17th state to join the Union. Our Capital is Columbus, which is also our largest city. Some of our other large cities are Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Akron and Dayton. To the north is Michigan and Lake Erie. Kentucky and West Virginia are to our south. A river also runs along the southern border of our state and the river has the same name as the state. If you guess the river, you will know what state I'm in. To the east is Pennsylvania and to the west is Indiana.

Many famous people are from this state including many U.S. Presidents. John Glen and Neil Armstrong, two very famous astronauts are from here as well, and even the Wright Brothers, who invented the airplane. Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb came from here, too. The world's first city to be lit up with electric lights was in this state and would you believe that the first Hot Dog came from here also? The Hot Dog was invented in 1900.

Have you guessed where I am yet? I'll give you one more clue. The name of this state is from an Iroquois Indian word meaning "Good River." Have you guessed it yet? That's right! It's Ohio.

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is the nickname of this state?
 - A. The Lone Star State
 - B. The Buckeye State
 - C. The Show Me State
 - D. There is no nickname

2. What is the State bird?
 - A. The Eagle
 - B. The Turkey
 - C. The Blue Jay
 - D. The Cardinal

3. What is the Capital of this state?
 - A. Columbus
 - B. Dayton
 - C. Austin
 - D. Cleveland

4. This state joined the United States on what date?
 - A. March 10, 1900
 - B. May 1, 1803
 - C. April 1, 1900
 - D. March 1, 1803

5. What does Ohio mean?
 - A. It is an Indian word that means “Good River.”
 - B. It is the name of a fish
 - C. It means, “With God, all things are possible.”
 - D. It means, “We stand united.”

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ANSWER KEY

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