

• USING **OHIOCHECKBOOK.com** IN THE CLASSROOM •

Connections to Ohio Model Curriculum | K-8 Social Studies

GRADE LEVEL	CONTENT STATEMENT
8 th	Geography #15
8 th	Government #19
8 th	Economics #22, #24

Skills

Analyzing government policy through spending, using media and communication technology to become an informed citizen.

Vocabulary

Infrastructure, public opinion, government policy, communication technology

Educator Note

Presents a historical perspective of state government spending and how it relates to current issues in Ohio (e.g. Buckeye Lake Dam).

STRATEGY #1: OHIO'S INFRASTRUCTURE | PAST AND PRESENT

STEP 1 - INTRODUCE

Introduce: infrastructure, use both historical and contemporary examples.

STEP 2 - DISCUSS

Discuss the concepts of federal, state and local roads and highways.

STEP 3 - VISIT

Have students visit the Ohio History Central website and read the excerpt regarding the Ohio and Erie Canal:
http://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Ohio_and_Erie_Canal.

STEP 4 - EXPLORE

Have students explore Ohio's Online Checkbook:
OhioCheckbook.gov.

- Individually or in groups, have students work through the Scavenger Hunt worksheet (included).
- On the OhioCheckbook.gov homepage, use the "Popular Searches" button (right-hand side) to have students examine Ohio's spending for "Roads & Highways."

STEP 5 - WRITE

In small groups (or independently) have students write one paragraph comparing Ohio's spending on canals (circa 1830) and spending on roads (present day).

Questions to consider:

- Did the benefits justify the cost of the Ohio Canals?
- Should Ohio spend more or less on infrastructure today? Ask students to report the cost vs. benefit using specific data from OhioCheckbook.gov.

STEP 6 - RESEARCH

Buckeye Lake Dam Rehabilitation Study

- Have students research the history of Buckeye Lake.
- Have students refer to OhioCheckbook.gov for "Buckeye Lake Dam Rehabilitation Fund" expenditures.
- Have students research the issues and future of Buckeye Lake.
- What are the costs and benefits to the State of Ohio?

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR EXAMPLE EVALUATION, EXTENSION ACTIVITIES & WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY



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STRATEGY #1: OHIO'S INFRASTRUCTURE | PAST AND PRESENT

EXAMPLE EVALUATION

What was the estimated cost and actual cost to build the Ohio Canals?

Answer: Estimated Cost: \$5.2 Million
Actual Cost: \$41 Million

What was the reduction in cost per ton of shipping goods once the Ohio Canals were completed?

Answer: Cost reduction of \$100 per ton of shipping goods.

What transportation innovation made the Ohio Canal system obsolete?

Answer: Railroads

From Ohio's Online Checkbook, what was the cost of the expenditure in 2014 to the Army Corps of Engineers for Buckeye Lake?

Answer: \$126,000

What lake in Ohio was constructed as a feeder reservoir for the Ohio Canals? (Hint: for many years it was recognized as the largest man made reservoir in the world.)

Answer: Grand Lake St. Marys

NEXT STEPS ... EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

1. The National Park Service, Teaching With Historic Places: The Ohio and Erie Canal: <http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/41ohio/41ohio.htm>
2. Research current issues surrounding the Buckeye Lake Dam rehabilitation project.
3. See Strategy #3, The Budget Game.
4. See Strategy #4, Students as Citizen Auditors.

ANSWER KEY TO SCAVENGER HUNT

ANSWERS TO THE STUDENT WORKSHEET ON NEXT PAGES

1. \$57,639,983,213.44
2. \$1,580,946,163.95
3. Appropriation Line Item: multiple
Program: multiple
Vendor: multiple
4. \$610,000
5. Department of Natural Resources
6. Mondhawk LTD
Thomas.johnston@dnr.state.oh.gov
7. \$4,478.18
8. Dispatch Printing Company and DLZ Ohio Inc
9. In 2010, there were 111 transactions with the company vs. 494 in 2014.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR STUDENT WORKSHEET: SCAVENGER HUNT

