



*A Closer Look at Local, State and
National Citizenship Activities
through an Ohio Lens*



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*Partnering With Teachers to
Bring Citizenship to Life*

For more than 30 years, the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education has been honored to partner with teachers to bring citizenship to life for Ohio students. OCLRE empowers teachers with high quality, inter-active resources that engage and energize your students and are aligned to the Ohio academic content standards.

This valuable resource is the result of a wish expressed by elementary teachers for a single source for citizenship content. The lessons and activities in MY OHIO are created by teachers for teachers and each unit has been reviewed and tweaked by an independent panel of educators. The lessons and activities offered here are easily adapted to other grade levels and learning styles. We hope you will use the information in MY OHIO and make it your own.

The book is divided by grade. Each section contains original lessons and supporting activities. At the front of each unit, you will find teacher background information. At the end of each unit, you will find assessment tools and links to extended resources. And don't forget to look for the colorful icons for each grade to find content unique to Ohio.

The Ohio Center for Law-Related Education pledges to ensure that this workbook remains current and relevant. Following election years, OCLRE will update the materials. As new leaders are elected and laws change, updated information and supporting materials will be available at www.oclre.org/programs_myohio!

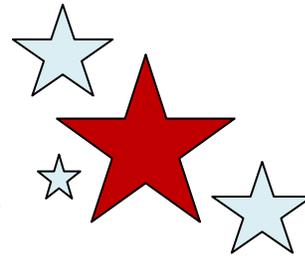
The Center is proud to present MY OHIO to teachers and students alike. We are confident your students will learn to become active citizens with these engaging, hands- on lessons!

Sincerely,

Kate Strickland
Executive

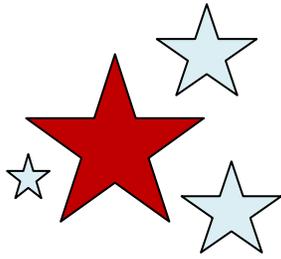
HOW TO USE *MY OHIO*

What makes *MY OHIO* unique is that all activities are taught through an Ohio lens. Even the activities that address United States government and citizenship teach the information with Ohio examples.



There are three sections to *MY OHIO*. The first two are grade specific, and are designed to teach the Ohio Academic Content Standards for the Social Studies in government and citizenship. The format used for these two sections is consistent, and contains the following information. **Please note, that due to changes in the state standards information and activities that are marked Grade Five are now suited and align with the Grade Four standards.**

- A Table of Contents for each section is first.
- The activities are organized by units to address the standards. Each unit begins with background, key concepts to be reinforced by the teacher, a list of the student worksheets included in the unit, an introductory activity, a synthesis and further discussion activity, and an evaluation for the unit. A list of vocabulary words and related Web sites are usually included in this unit introduction. The artwork for the introduction is specific to the topic.
- Student worksheets in the unit are identified by a buckeye leaf logo in the upper right hand corner of the worksheet.
- *To the Teacher* pages are included throughout the units. These may feature discussion questions, preparatory information, or activities that do not require a student worksheet. These colourful pages are coded to the grade level by the symbol used—a carnation for Grade Three, a white-tailed deer for Grade Four, and for the U.S. Government activities for Grade Four, a cardinal – a result from the change in standards.
- Some worksheets and activities include an Up-to-the-Minute logo. This logo is a clock on an Ohio outline. It indicates that the material is time-sensitive and will likely become dated. OCLRE is committed to keeping this book current. Updates will be available each year, as needed, following the November elections.
- A compact disc accompanies this book. It contains reference material for the activities, and three additional units that are not Ohio-specific but address some government and citizenship standards at the fourth grade level. The Table of Contents for each section provides this information. The third section is titled, *What Every Ohioan Should Know*. It contains additional activities that focus on Ohio, many of which are cross-curricular. These activities stand alone, and are not in a unit format. The introduction to this section provides more information.



OHIO CENTER FOR LAW-RELATED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Bring added life to *MY OHIO* lessons and activities

Youth for Justice

When given the opportunity, students can take appropriate action to solve problems of injustice in their schools and communities. Youth for Justice (YFJ) is a student-led program that allows students to research, examine, and find solutions to issues important to them. A Youth for Justice binder, which provides instructional guidelines and lessons, is available to YFJ advisors. A Youth Summit where students share their success stories is held each spring in Columbus. YFJ can be used with *MY OHIO* to reinforce the lessons that focus on government, community service, citizenship and citizenship rights and responsibilities.

Project Citizen

Project Citizen takes students through the step-by-step process needed to make effective change in their communities by influencing public policy. Ohio students have actually had new laws made and old ones changed by using the *Project Citizen* program. *Project Citizen* workbooks are available to teachers. *Project Citizen* compliments *MY OHIO* units that focus on government, citizenship in the community and citizenship rights and responsibilities.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution

Help your students to better understand and discuss their constitutional rights. *We the People*, a nationally-acclaimed program, brings to life the history and principles of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Simulated Congressional hearings are part of the *We the People* program. Classroom sets of *We the People* texts are available to teachers for a fee. *We the People* can be used hand in hand with *MY OHIO* units that focus on government and citizenship rights and responsibilities, particularly at the fourth grade level.

For more information on these programs and a complete list of OCLRE programs, go to the OCLRE Web site at www.oclre.org,

All OCLRE programs are aligned to the Ohio Academic Content Standards for the Social Studies and the Ohio Academic Content Standards for English/Language Arts.



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Blue indicates units that are Ohio-related and in the notebook

Red indicates activities contained in accompanying *support materials for a unit (in italics)*

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Blue indicates units that are Ohio-related and in the notebook

Red indicates activities are *support materials for a unit (in italics)*

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*A Study of the Declaration of
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A Study of the US Constitution
Articles of the US Constitution
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Blue indicates units that are Ohio-related and in the notebook

Red indicates activities contained in the *support materials for a unit (in italics)* or a complete unit that is not Ohio-specific.

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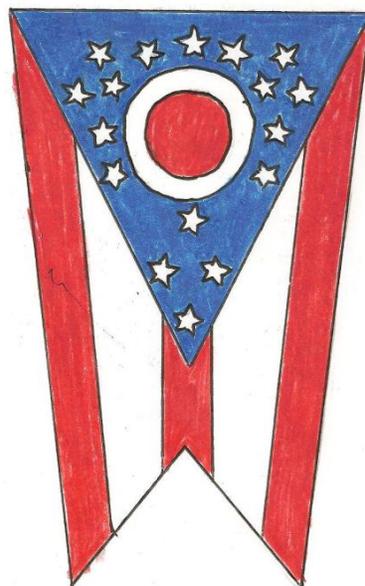
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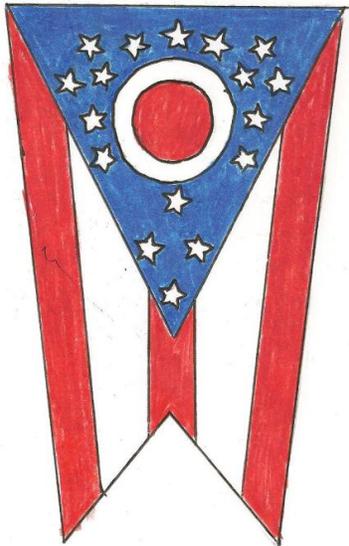
[Ohio PL8S](#) (Art correlation) page 362

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Blue indicates units that are Ohio-related and in the notebook

Red indicates activities contained on an accompanying CD that are *support materials for an activity*





AROUND THE BLOCK AND AROUND TOWN IN OHIO

BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

Ohio's Constitution designates power and authority to cities, villages, and townships to determine which kind of government structure works best for them. Throughout Ohio there are different ways of governing and different

types of local leaders. Regardless of structure, local governments perform the same functions: to promote order and security, make laws, settle disputes, provide public services, and protect the rights of individuals.

Local government in Ohio is provided through 88 counties, 942 cities and villages, and 1,308 townships (2002).

Each **county** is administered by a **board of commissioners**, elected to four-year terms, whose authority is limited by state law. The county government is run by officials also elected to four-year terms: auditor or financial officer, clerk of courts, coroner, engineer, prosecuting attorney, recorder, sheriff, and treasurer. There are more activities on county government in the last section of this book.

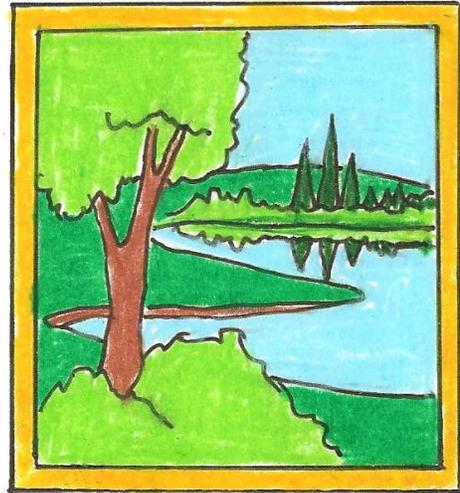
Within each county are incorporated areas with limited authority to govern their own affairs. Thirty voters in an area may ask for the community to be incorporated as a **village**. When the village reaches a population of 5,000 it automatically becomes a **city**. By law, a city must have executive and legislative bodies (usually a **mayor or city manager** and **city council or commissioners**).



Ohio also has **townships** which are sub-divisions of a county. Originally, townships were created to establish land ownership. Most townships are no more than 36 miles square. Civil townships in Ohio are overseen by a **board of trustees**. Townships are often responsible for cemetery maintenance, trash collection, road upkeep, and snow removal. There are approximately 1300 townships in Ohio. Often townships are annexed by a village or city, so the number is decreasing.

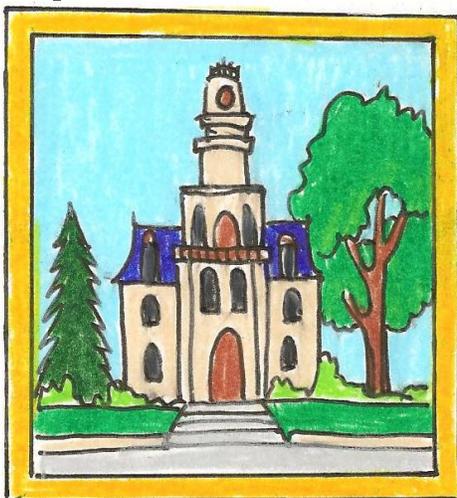
KEY CONCEPTS TO BE REINFORCED BY THE TEACHER

- While government functions are the guiding principles of a community's local government, the structure varies by the make-up of the community, whether it is a city, village, or township.
- Be certain students are aware of the type of local government and community in which they live (i.e. city, village, or township). Remind them of this periodically throughout this unit.
- Local government is the starting point for participation in community: students can be involved in their community's direction and future by attending local events and meetings. Local government is accessible, visible and more concrete than state or federal government.



INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Introduce the five functions of government to the students. Then, ask students to talk with their parents/guardians about the five functions of government as they relate to how their homes are structured. Ask students to brainstorm with their parents/guardians how order and security are established at home; who makes the laws (rules); how disputes are settled; what public services are provided (transportation, laundry), and how rights of individuals are protected (personal space, individual toys, "off-limits" items like a grown-up's purse or older sibling's journal or room).



STUDENT ACTIVITIES INCLUDED

- Take a Walk with the Work of Local Government
- In the Middle of Things: The Mediation Process
- Silly Laws, Serious Government
- Search for Stardom

SYNTHESIS AND FURTHER DISCUSSION

“Headline” shadow a local leader at work by collecting newspaper articles from the local paper or Web site entries that demonstrate his/her job responsibilities. Categorize the leader’s work by functions of government. Students should choose various leaders to create a ‘big picture’ of how each worker contributes to running the local government and community.

EVALUATION

Student projects serve as evaluations of each activity. A unit evaluation is included.

Vocabulary

Mediation – to try to reach peaceful settlement between people who don’t agree by asking someone else to listen and help

Mediator - a person who fairly helps people who disagree to reach a peaceful settlement.

Quality of life – happiness with everyday life

City – municipality in Ohio with at least 5000 citizens, and executive and legislative branches of government

Village – municipality in Ohio with from 30-5000 citizens

Township – a small sub-division of a county, usually overseen by a board of trustees and a clerk

Related Web Sites

- The comprehensive Web site <http://www.city-data.com/states/Ohio-Local-government.html> is **excellent**. It includes data regarding local government structures in all communities in Ohio. Additional tabs that categorize cities by size give in-depth information per city such as population, satellite images, occupations, demographics, businesses, and so on.
- The Web site <http://www.statelocalgov.net/state-oh.cfm> also provides government structure information. The site categorizes communities into cities, townships and villages. **The list (Categories of Communities in Ohio) is also included as a document on the accompanying CD.**