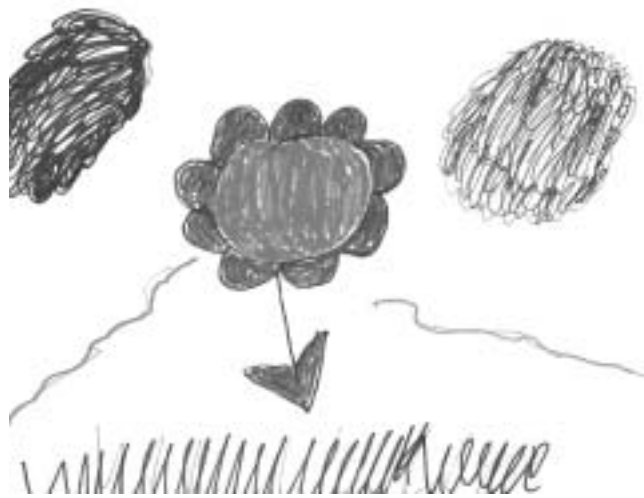


*Beautiful Ohio:
This Majestic Land*



Artwork created by Idell Kelly



SARAH'S OHIO ALPHABET

What did Sarah do at school today? I see worksheets in your Powerpuff Girls' folder in your bookbag. Um, I see you learned about Ohio State.

You did a good job to color the states that border Ohio. You colored red for Indiana, orange for Michigan, yellow for West Virginia, brown for Pennsylvania and green for Kentucky. It looks great with the blue crayon; Lake Erie and Ohio River that you traced underneath of Ohio, and you labeled both right!

Labeling the major cities in this Ohio map, Uh-Oh, you didn't write Cincinnati, Toledo and Dayton! But you correctly labeled Cleveland, Akron and Columbus with the symbol of the State capital. You know what? You have been to all three of these cities before. Akron is close to our home. We went to Cleveland for fun. And do you remember Columbus? We went to the big zoo. You ate your favorite noodle, soba, at a Japanese restaurant, and you bought a kid's magazine at the Japanese store in Columbus.

What else have you learned at school? How about you tell me it by alphabetical order?

Sarah's Ohio Alphabet

Guess what? The first word starts with the letter **A**. It could be Astronauts. Do you know any famous astronauts? Sailor Moon? That's not even close. Your hero, Sailor Moon, can go to space and live on the moon, but is she a real person from Ohio? Well, Neil Armstrong is the first person to walk on the moon.

How about **B**? Book? Do you know any writers from Ohio? Yes, Dav Pilkey. He wrote your favorite books, the blue Dragon Tales and Captain Underpants, books that make you giggle. He used to live in Kent, that neighbor city of ours.

C could be Cardinal, the red bird with the bright orange beak. It is our state bird. We sometimes see a Cardinal in our backyard.

D for Drink, Tomato Juice is our state drink. It's good for your health, and you need to try it. You can't just drink milk and Kool-Aid.

'E-Talk' begins with **E**, your augmentative and alternative communication. Did your classmates and teacher understand its electrical voice when you had to share your book report? It's nice of our city school district to get it for you, so you can communicate with others.

F is for State Flower, the scarlet carnation. Its flower looks just like your crinkled tissue paper that you are pleased to play with more than its undercover presents.

G is for State Gemstone, flint. Have you ever seen it? It's a smooth hard rock of sedimentary origin. A long, long time ago, Native Americans used it to make knives, spear points and arrowheads.

What word starts with **H**? It can be for Home. You're born and raised here in Ohio, in the city of Cuyahoga Falls, just like your daddy was. This community has a lot of nice services. Do you remember your dad and mom were so scared when you suddenly turned purple and started shaking? Emergency Medics arrived here only 5 minutes after our call, neighbors came to comfort us even in the pitch-black night. On a lighter note; you love to go to Parks and Rec. events,

such as the Goldfish Catch in summer, the Halloween Party and costume contest, and the Easter Egg Hunt.

I is for Inventors. One of Ohio's nicknames is "Mother of Inventors." Thomas Edison (the electric light bulb, the phonograph and the movie camera), the Wright Brothers (the world's first airplane flight), John Lambert (America's first automobile) are a few of the many Ohioan Inventors.

Jacobs Field starts with **J**. It is the Home of the Cleveland Indians. I heard you enjoyed visiting this baseball stadium on your school field trip.

K can be Killer Whales. We don't have to go to Florida or Alaska to see them. They are at Six Flags, only a 40-minute drive away and your favorite place to go.

L stands for Ladybug, a state insect. One of your favorite books was The Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle, and you love to watch Francine, the ladybug in the Disney movie, "A Bug's Life."

M is for Museum. There are many museums in Ohio. You had a school field trip to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History with mom. You enjoyed exploring its exhibitions.

N can be for Ohio's Nicknames. The main nickname is "Buckeye State," and the other is "Mother of Presidents." Do you know what a Buckeye is? Chocolate? Yes, there are Buckeyes which are chocolate-covered peanut butter cracker balls, because they look like a Buckeye nut (which looks like a buck deer's eye). Your friend, Matt's mom, makes the best buckeye chocolate, Umm, yam, yam. Buckeye is actually the state tree.

Have you learned the names of the Presidents from Ohio? Mom didn't even know there were eight presidents from the United States until I came here from Japan. But I guess if you grew up here, you should know those Presidents. Let's check it out. The first president from Ohio was our 9th president, William Henry Harrison, then Ulysses S. Grant (the 18th president), James A. Garfield (the 20th) who was assassinated four months after taking office. Benjamin Harrison (the 23rd) was the grandson of William Henry Harrison. A carnation-clad William McKinley (the 25th), who always wore a red carnation for good luck, was assassinated during his second term. And William Howard Taft (the 27th) was elected in 1908, and Warren G. Harding (the 29th) became president in 1921.

O is, of course, the name of our state, OHIO. What does its shape look like? -- A waving flag. Ohio became the 17th state in the USA on March 1, 1803. Ohio means "good river" or "large river" from the Iroquois Indian word. Indians lived in Ohio for hundreds of years before French and English came to settle here. Remember how the holiday of Thanksgiving started? The people of Ohio are called Ohioans, and sometimes called Buckeyes.

Oh, do you get enough to go through all the alphabet? Why, we could jump to the finish with Z.

Why not **Z** for Zoo? You love to go to the Akron Zoo with your friends. You enjoy not only watching animals but also playing in its playground. On the day of Zoobilation in summer, Rosie the Cow (stuffed person) comes and we eat free ice cream. Rosie is a stranger to you, but she is OK to hug because I am with you.

Do you remember the manatees, the gorillas and the aquarium at the Columbus Zoo? Where else have you been? Remember the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo? It was a freezing

evening, but we enjoyed seeing the Christmas lights and a cup of hot chocolate.

Well, that's all for today. "The End of Sarah's Ohio Alphabet: A to O & Z."

Fumiko Adair

A VISIT TO THE WITCHES' GRAVEYARD

Once upon a time, on Halloween we went out to the witches' graveyard at West Branch Reservoir to see where this one nasty witch was buried. A big bunch of us sat around the place that they called the witch's grave and the only light we had came from lanterns.

Suddenly, the wind started to blow. We heard weird noises. I thought it was my friend, Tubs, but he said it wasn't him.

Just as suddenly as the wind had started to blow, it stopped! We all looked at the witch's grave and saw a shadow coming up out of the grave! Everyone jumped up and ran toward their cars. As we ran, we heard a voice calling, "Leave this place now if you value your lives!" I looked back as I ran to my car and saw the shadow that was around the grave disappear back into the grave.

We went back the next day, in broad daylight, and there was nothing at all. The only thing we saw were the spots where we had been sitting. But some people still say that this will happen every Halloween when there is a full moon.

Candy Childs

WHAT OHIO MEANS TO ME

Ohio means family. What I like about Ohio is the fact that my family has been here for many generations. My grandfather, Oscar McKee, was a World War Two veteran who was injured in the war. He had a farm in Nelsonville, Ohio, where he raised crops. He had five children, four daughters and one son. His son was my dad.

My dad had health problems. When he was ten years old, Granddad sold the farm and moved his family to Columbus so my dad could get treatment at Children's Hospital. My dad stayed in or around the Columbus area the rest of his life. He bought a ranch in Blacklick on Havens Corner Road in 1965. He raised fifteen children of his own and then some grandchildren. He stayed in Blacklick until he passed away in October 1994.

My brothers and sisters and I were all born in Columbus. I was born on November 20, 1961, at St. Ann's Hospital, the old one on Briden Road. That building is no longer there. I lived in Hilliard my first four years, then we moved to Blacklick. I went to Gahanna Schools from Kindergarten until 1978 when I quit. I have lived in Ohio all my life except two years. One year was spent in southern California and another in central Florida. Most of my family still lives in Ohio, so that is why it's home to me.

Ohio means wildlife. I'm a lover of outdoors. I love fields, woods, and the animals that live in and around them. I see deer on a regular basis. I have a nest of squirrels in the tree in the front yard. I even see a raccoon occasionally running around the neighborhood. There are many different kinds of birds in Ohio, also. I see robins, blue jays, cardinals, doves, and many other beautiful types of birds.

I feed the critters on a regular basis so they will keep coming back. They make me feel free, and it relaxes me to watch them. I have always had the privilege of having animals around me. I feel I am blessed for it is the small things like watching the squirrels play or the birds eat that make me forget the harder points in life.

Ohio means changes. The seasons are wonderful. My favorite is probably a toss up between spring and autumn. The summer is nice, but sometimes a little too hot. Winter is absolutely wonderful if you can sit inside by a warm fire watching it snow. Spring and autumn are perfect. In spring, the flowers are blooming and everything seems new. It is peaceful to watch the flowers grow and blossom. Autumn brings the colors above. The trees seem to come alive with their bright colors.

Ohio has been good to me. Ohio means happiness.

Clint McKee

THE OHIO RIVER

From relaxing on the side of the river, to water skiing in the big, deep river,

From living dangerously swimming in the river with no life jacket, to being safe in a boat,

From a slow, gentle ride on the Ohio River, to a faster, risky speed racing boat ride,

From a calm river ride on a clear day, to a rapid fierce river on a stormy day,

From a hot, dry ride on a sunny day, to a cold, wet ride on a rainy day,

From fishing on the side of the river, to fishing in a boat on the river,

From canoeing on the river, and doing all the work to move along, to riding a motorboat that does all the work for you,

From a big expensive house boat with all the amenities, to a small and simple little boat,

From a quiet, peaceful ride in the daylight hours on the Ohio River, to a noisy ride at night, with the sound of fireworks ringing in your ears,

From land to water, if you ever visit Ohio, or if you live in Ohio, and you like the water, then you should visit the Ohio River.

Karen Smith

A SNOW DAY IN OHIO

The snowfall,
very little at first,
but sometimes piled on unexpectedly.
The rain,
pouring down covering the road with the ice
that prevents the kids from going to school.
The smiles,
plastered on their faces after the news.
The snowballs,
chucked across the yard after a long day of fort building
and finally,
the call by their parents telling the kids to make their
entrance into the house
only to be greeted with a hot cup of soup.

Marie Davis

SMALL TOWN

I would rather live in a small town than a big city. People are friendlier in a small town than in a big city. In a small town everybody knows everybody else. In a small town it's not as busy as a big city.

In a small town everybody knows each other's business. When you walk into a restaurant, people greet you by name. They also know where you want to sit, and whether you want smoking or non-smoking. They know what you like to drink with your meals and what kind of meals you like to eat. For example, when I walk into Waffle House in Snellville, they know that I want a sweet tea, a coffee and a triple order of hash browns with cheese, onions and ham. Another example is when I walk into the corner store they have ready for me a 20 oz. Pepsi, a pack of Marlboros, and a pack of Juicy Fruit chewing gum.

I have found that small town people are friendlier than big city people. People in small towns seem to smile more and say hi when they see you walking down the street or in a store. Small town people like to sit around at the local corner store and shoot the wind. This helps make them more laid back.

It seems fewer accidents happen in small towns due to people not being in as much of a hurry to get places, like big city people always seem to be.

That is why I would rather live in a small town than in a big city.

Aaron Highley

YEATMAN'S COVE

The name of Yeatman's Cove came from a man named Griffin Yeatman and his father Thomas Yeatman. These men were pioneers who had a tavern near the public landing known now as the Levee. This tavern was a popular gathering place to drink beer and socialize. Griffin Yeatman died in 1849 leaving this place in Ohio along the river a historical landmark. Today Yeatman's Cove is a beautiful park along the Cincinnati river front.

As a child my mother used to take me to Yeatman's Cove. We would pack a lunch, take the big towels and wear our swimsuits so we could stand under the waterfalls in the central fountain swim area alongside the river. I could never understand how the water could fall off of, what seemed to me as a little girl, a towering building.

Every Saturday morning in the summer I would be down on the river picnicking with my sisters and my mother at Yeatman's Cove. We would bring our roller skates to skate along the huge steps of the levee, picnic on the grass and swim in the pool that my mother called "the Fountain of Youth" because she was too big to swim in it.

Yeatman's Cove has changed. It has been expanded to include a skating rink and a playground, but you can still swim in the fountain and picnic on the grass. The name has been changed to Sawyer's Point, but I still keep the tradition on Saturdays at Yeatman's Cove in the summer time with my sisters and their children. And when I have children of my own, I want them to know about the old Yeatman's Cove, and I will call it the "Fountain of Youth" because I will be too big to swim in it.

Reshaunda Beal

I AM A BUCKEYE

I am a Buckeye.
I live in Ohio.
I grow everywhere in Ohio.
I am very strong and beautiful.
I am the state tree.
It symbolizes Ohio.
All people like me.
I give people shelter and comfort.
I let people know what season will be coming.
I have beautiful colors from green to red and yellow.
I am the proud tree of Ohio.

Wan-he Zhang

THE CITY BIRDS AND THE COUNTRY BIRDS

My parents' home on the southeast side of Columbus where I lived in my teens had fruit trees in the front yard. Blue jays, cardinals, sparrows, and pigeons came to eat in the yard because of the trees. After I got married and moved to the country, I noticed all kinds of other birds. I've seen crows, red-headed woodpeckers, pheasants, red-tail hawks, an owl, wild turkeys, and hummingbirds.

The woodpeckers have really caught my attention; here in Mount Perry we have large and small. I have seen some that are very little with black, red, and white spots. Some are medium with gray spots, black wings, and red necks. One day I even saw a large woodpecker land in my front yard. It had a red head and black wings with a spotted chest. It was so pretty I got out my camera and snapped a picture of it. I was so amazed because they said they are not supposed to be down here. But I have proof of it. How about that! It was out in my flowers and was pecking on an old tree trunk. That old thing didn't last long, and soon there was only a small piece left.

I can see why there are so many bird watchers in Ohio. Many different kinds of beautiful birds are every place I have been, not only in Columbus and Mt. Perry, but also at parks and lakes like Wyandot Lake, Hoover Reservoir, Wayne National Forest, and Griggs Dam. Check out a bird book at the library, take a walk, and see how many different birds you can identify.

Ella Lowe

WHAT OHIO MEANS TO ME

I have mentioned many times to both family and friends that Ohio was a refuge for me when I traveled here with the carnival in 1986. I met a few people here during my abbreviated stay before having to travel to the next state.

After leaving from Ohio I traveled to a few more states with the carnival.

I had been content with traveling from state to state prior to visiting here.

There appeared to be a longing in my heart for this state. I was unable to get Ohio out of my mind.

On one hot sunny day I asked myself what does Ohio mean to me and why had it left an impact upon me. My answer readily came; Ohio was a place of peace, joy, entertainment, and opportunity. It was my sanctuary.

And even today, it still remains my sanctuary. Wow, what a name -- "Ohio, The Heart of It All." Now that it is my home, there are many opportunities for me.

I had gone to a local church in the community. This is where I met my wife of my dreams. After knowing each other for a year in the church we did not date, but just said hello. After we dated for some time and were involved in the church, we got married. I have been blessed with my one and only true love. So the next step was to build our first home, which was constructed right here in Columbus, Ohio. Things are really taking off in Ohio; we have a home and now a family car.

Additionally, look at all the attractions here in the actual heart of it all -- downtown Columbus. Where you can find once a year the one and only rib fest! WOW! Look at the Ohio Theater where there are plays and musicals.

Well, you asked me what Ohio means to me. It's a family settling down atmosphere where everyone can live and be a proud Ohioan.

Oh, don't forget the OSU football team. They have just won their first national championship game in a while against Miami. GO BUCKS!

So with all this fun in Columbus, Ohio, I'll be right here in the heart of it all to complete my happiness. I love Ohio.

Cyrus Henry

OLD MAN'S CAVE

A place to visit during Ohio's Bicentennial

A lot of people take nature for granted, but once people see Old Man's Cave they change their perspective. One of many special places to go in Ohio would be Old Man's Cave. People go there because it's very beautiful, peaceful, and fun. People also go to learn more about nature and its history. Old Man's Cave has a variety of things to do. Some examples are camping, hiking, picnics, and playing games like Frisbee. Old Man's Cave is also a very nice place to take pictures. All kinds of people go for different reasons. Places like this bring people closer together.

Old Man's Cave is located on State Route 664 in Hocking County. The Old Man's Cave area can be divided into five principal sections, which are found along the valley of Old Man's Creek. The five sections are Upper Falls, Upper Gorge, Middle Falls, Lower Falls, and Lower Gorge. At the Upper Falls, the Grandma Gatewood trail begins its six-mile course connecting three park areas. The three park areas are Old Man's Cave, Cedar Falls, and Ash Cave.

After the Civil War the entire gorge was called Old Man's Cave. This happened because of a guy named Richard Rowe. Richard made his home in the cave until his death. He is buried beneath the ledge of the main cave. Richard moved from the mountains of Tennessee to the Ohio River. He moved to the Ohio River around the year of 1796. He established a trading post. He also traveled through Ohio along the Scioto River. Richard Rowe found the Hocking Region. So we now have the history of Old Man's Cave thanks to him.

Old Man's Cave has beautiful waterfalls, unique rocks, species, and beautiful trees. It has a pothole that is in sand by

the breath-taking stream. This is known as the devil's bathtub. There is a building that shows people the importance of plants, rocks, fossils, and teaches them history. Old Man's Cave has a store that sells unique items. So I hope that during the Bicentennial year, many will include a trip to Old Man's Cave to enjoy its natural beauty.

Michele Devore

WHY COLUMBUS, OHIO, IS SPECIAL TO ME

As children, my sister, Dorothy, and I grew up in a part of Columbus called Franklinton. It is a wonderful community. When a person is in need, somebody is always willing to lend a hand. They help by giving spiritual guidance, a shoulder to cry on, or many other ways.

The people of Franklinton were there when our Mom died and also at Christmas to make sure us children had a good Christmas. A man dressed as Santa came with a bag of gifts for my sister and me, and the church brought food and gifts. They made it a special Christmas because we weren't expecting to have a Christmas. This was over 15 years ago.

Recently I have had a run of hardships. It all started when a friend of mine had a heart attack at Thanksgiving. Then on December 16, my stepmother had a heart attack. Then on December 30, we had a house fire. People helped with furniture, clothes, food, money, and spiritual guidance because they know how devastating it is to lose so much.

On January 12, 2003, tragedy struck again. This time I lost my younger sister, Dorothy. She was only 27 years old. She died from carbon monoxide poisoning. In this tragic time, the community is once again helping me with love and compassion. They help me to stay strong. Without my family and the community I was raised in, I would not be strong enough to deal with these tough times. If I could give an award to any community, it would be to the people of Franklinton, for the care and compassion they show in times of need.

This is dedicated to my sister and best friend Dorothy
Tierney, 1973-2003

Tamara Smith

