





Ohio Studies Weekly 4

The Beauty in Variety

“Hey, Natalia, wait up!” Steven shouts. He begins running to catch up with his friend before she leaves the schoolyard.

“What’s up, Steven?” Natalia says.

“I was just wondering if you wanted to catch my soccer game later tonight? We’re playing our arch nemesis, the Eastend Dragons!” He nudges his friend’s shoulder. “I know you’re usually a baseball fan. But I promise you’ll find soccer just as exciting.”

Natalia laughs and replies, “Ah, Steven, you know I’m always going to support you! I’ll definitely drop by, especially since the field isn’t too far.”

The two friends begin walking. Natalia muses out loud, “Isn’t it interesting that soccer is becoming popular these days? It’s quite fun that we’re playing more sports besides the regular ones, you know?”

“You mean like baseball and football?”

Natalia nods. “Yeah, I’ve seen basketball games before, and I’ve always enjoyed watching baseball. Soccer’s always been around in the U.S., but it’s much more popular in other countries, right?”

“Well, America has so many more people from so many parts of the world now. So, there’s more variety in the sports we’re playing, right? We’re just getting more variety in our lives ... and that’s pretty cool

to think about. Just think about how many types of food we can try at the grocery store now!”

“Yeah, last week we picked up the ingredients for this amazing curry recipe. It was something totally new for our family, and we’ve now decided to—” Natalia’s eyes bug open. “Oh no, I just realized I can’t make your soccer game tonight!”

Steven frowns. “Why’s that?”

“Our dentist and his family have invited us over to try Ghanaian food for the first time. The whole family was invited—and I can’t back out. Sorry.”

“Oh buddy, no worries at all. I would definitely choose Ghanaian food over a soccer game any day!”

Natalia laughs and shakes her head. “I mean, who’d have thought I’d be trying Ghanaian food in Ohio, right?”

Just then, Ms. Johnson walks by. She stops when she overhears her students chatting. “Oh, are you trying some new food this evening, Natalia?”

Natalia nods excitedly, explaining her neighbor’s invitation.

Ms. Johnson smiles. “Yes, the population of Ohio has changed quite a bit over the last few decades. And, it’s not just Ohio that’s seen change. The makeup of America’s population has changed, too. More people are migrating here from other countries. This is a very exciting time to be in the United States!”

Connections



Understanding Creates Tolerance

What is tolerance? It’s an ability to see and understand that everyone has a different way of living their life. Not everyone does things the way we do. It’s important to respect the different ways everyone lives!

Ohio is home to many people. We live in a diverse state. Some people in the state come from a different country. And, many others have ancestors who migrated to Ohio long ago. They came to America to build a new

life. They also brought with them their culture and customs from their previous homes. A person’s culture is a vital piece of their identity. It affects how they view the world. A person’s culture covers everything from the food they eat to the religion they practice.

We all have different ways of living our lives. We must respect and appreciate those differences. Because, at the end of the day, we are all Ohioans!



Different Faces, One Ohio

Ohio has a large population. The state is home to over 11 million people. However, Ohioans have changed over the years.

Ohio was a homeland to American Indians. This was long before it became a state. Sadly, American Indians are now a very small part of the population living in the state.

Since 1880, large numbers of immigrants came from Europe. They came from the eastern and southern parts. They included groups of Italians and Russians. People from Poland and Hungary also came to Ohio. White Europeans made up a large portion of Ohioans at the time. The white population of Ohio is still quite large. They make up about 82 percent of Ohioans.

However, this is starting to change. Minority populations have increased since 2000. "Minority" refers to anyone other than non-Hispanic white persons. In 1990, minorities totaled 12.9 percent of Ohioans. Now, they make up almost 20 percent of all Ohioans! This is a large increase.

You can see some of the biggest changes from 2000 onward. The Hispanic population in Ohio increased by 63 percent. The biggest increase was in people coming from Mexico. This group increased by 90 percent! Other Hispanic groups include people from Cuba and Puerto Rico.

The Asian group in Ohio increased by 45 percent. This group includes people from all over Asia. Asia is made up of 48 countries. There are a few places that more people have come from in Asia, though. The greatest numbers have come from the country India over the last decades. This group has increased in size by 69 percent!

Around 12 percent of Ohioans are African

Americans. After the Civil War, more African Americans came north. Some settled in Ohio. Most settled in the southern part of the state.

America can feel like a large country. But we also live in a very large world! And there are many different faces in the world. More and more, the U.S. is becoming home to families from near and far. Minority groups will soon make up more than 50 percent of people in the U.S. This will likely happen before 2050! Right now, the U.S. population of people of color is around 30 percent. Change is ahead for our country. And it's a change Ohio embraces.

It's vital to grow our knowledge about other cultures. When we welcome new people to our state, we welcome their cultures, too. This means accepting everyone who comes to our state. Someone new to our state might be from Texas. But they could also be from China. Or, they might come from Mexico. We should be equally welcoming no matter where they are from. America is a country where you can start a new life. Everyone is welcome. Remember, there's always something you can learn from new friends!

Now, it's your turn! We've talked about how the makeup of Ohio has changed over the years. Explain what this unit says about changes in Ohio's population. Write a one-sentence summary of those changes.



Sweet Sounds of Different Tongues

When you walk around your city, you might hear people speaking in languages other than English. Our state is becoming more diverse. This means you will hear languages you may not understand. These languages could be new to our state! People come to Ohio from all over the world. And, they bring with them new customs, new foods and new languages.

You might hear multiple languages spoken right in your own neighborhood. This is a benefit of being a welcoming state. When people feel welcome, they feel comfortable speaking the language they know best. English is not everyone's native language. Some people speak two languages, or even more. We must respect that sometimes people will want to speak to others in their native tongue. It is good to hear people speaking in their native tongue. It means they feel at home in Ohio.

For example, there is an area in Cleveland called Little Italy. In Little Italy, people feel free to speak in Italian, their native tongue. English shouldn't be the only language we hear in Ohio! Someone might feel they can express themselves better in their native tongue. They often feel it is important to hold on to their language as a part of their identity. And, they should feel welcome to do so. Ohio is home to many people. It is also home to many languages. Next time you're out and about, open up your ears. Listen to the languages people are speaking around you. You may hear people speaking languages like Spanish, Arabic or Chinese. Or a combination of their own and English! Listen to the different tones and rhythms. You might even learn a few new words.



Diverse Flavors in English

There are over 7,000 languages spoken around the world. That's quite a few! English is the most spoken language in the U.S. However, did you know that the most spoken language in the world is Mandarin Chinese? Over a billion people speak it.

Most people have a "native" language. This is the language they learned first. They can speak this language fluently. However, some people also have a second or even third language that they learned in addition to their native language. Learning another language is tricky. You have to learn new grammar rules and new kinds of syllables and sounds. Every language has a different vocabulary. It can take a long time to learn a second language.

Many immigrants to the U.S. have to learn English. This can be a challenge. Sometimes the words of their native language can't be exactly translated into words from a different language. Most people learning a new language will have an accent. If you hear someone speaking English with an accent, it doesn't mean they're not smart. It just means they speak a different "flavor" of English. It also means they speak more than one language. Speaking more than one language requires bravery and intelligence.



How is diversity our strength?

What does diversity mean? When we are talking about a population, it means there are many different types of people. The state of Ohio has a lot of diversity. There are people here from all around the world! This means many different cultures are represented here. Immigrants to our state bring with them items from their culture. They bring new styles and types of food from their home country. They bring new languages and new customs. They often have different ways of living. This is why there is strength in diversity.

Meeting people from around the world is one way to open our eyes to different ways of living. We can try their foods. We can see what kinds of celebrations they have in their culture. We have even started to celebrate some of their holidays, like Cinco de Mayo and Chinese New Year. By getting to know other people we can also begin to learn their languages. That will help some day when we travel to their country. What would we do without that diversity?

Every person is unique. Sometimes it's easy to focus on what makes us different from each other. But learning to accept our differences makes us a stronger state. Someone may look different from you. They may eat food that's not common in your house. They may also speak a different language. You might not be able to understand their accent. But these challenges become easier over time. The benefits we all get from diversity will always outweigh the challenges. Once we get past the challenges, we can see that all people are actually pretty similar. Everyone has loved ones. Everyone has food they like to eat. Everyone has a favorite sport to play or watch. We always have more similarities than differences. When we accept each other, we can work as a team. This is how we create a united state. And a united state is a strong state!



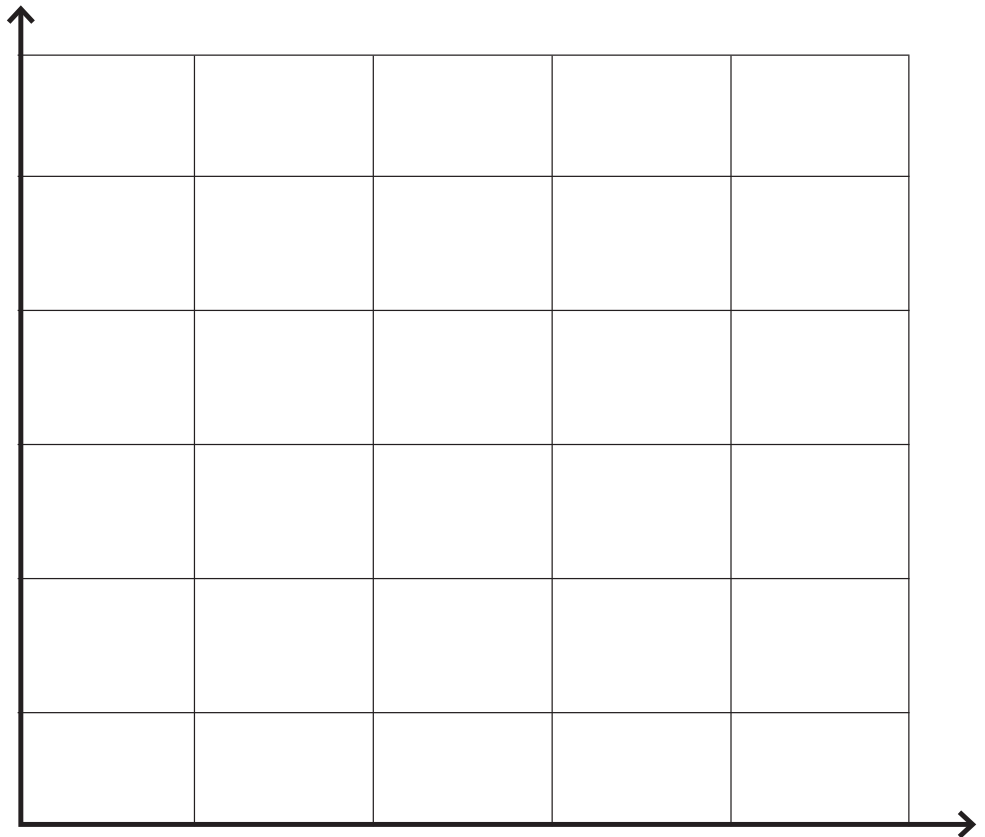
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Graphing the Changes in Ohio

Mapping and Charting

Follow the directions below to graph the changes in Ohio.

1. Use a computer at home or at your local library to start your research. Ask your teacher or librarian for help if you need assistance!
2. Research how many people from certain groups lived in Ohio from the early 1900s to now. Include the following groups in your research:
 - White
 - African American
 - American Indian
 - Asian
 - Hispanic
3. Draw a grouped bar chart that shows the increases or decreases in the group sizes from the early 1900s to now.
4. What big changes do you notice? Do any of the numbers surprise you? Write down your answers under your bar chart.



Diversity on My Mind

Activity

The United States and Ohio have changed a lot over the last hundred years and will continue to change. What comes to mind for you when you think of diversity?

Think of what you've learned about the strengths of diversity. Also, think of your hometown. How has diversity

helped your hometown grow stronger as a community?

Draw an image of what you see when you think of how the United States and Ohio have changed. Consider: What images can you draw that celebrate the changing diversity of our state and country?

If you were able to learn another language, what would it be?

Let's Write

If you speak only the English language, consider what it might be like to speak a second language. If you already speak a second language, what language might open new doors or complement the languages you already speak? Please be sure to provide a language along with a valid reason.

1. When Natalia can't make Steven's soccer game, neither of them seems very disappointed. Why are they both still excited?
2. Discuss why it's important for people of different religious faiths to be tolerant of one another, no matter how much they disagree.
3. Why is it important to learn foreign languages?

Think & Review

4. What advantages does learning a second language give you?
5. Learning languages is fun, and it's even easier for children. How long do you think it would take you to learn another language, and how would you do it?