



Use this guide to check your knowledge and ensure you haven't missed any great content!

In Cincinnati Museum Center's *Public Landing* you can explore the cobblestone streets of a bustling Riverwalk and wander through historic shops, including a dressmaker, printer, open-air market, photography studio and more. As you step aboard the Queen of the West you will learn why river travel was the heart and soul of Cincinnati's early economy.

The Ohio River:

Early European settlers made the land around the Ohio River their home when they arrived in present day Cincinnati. Fresh water, fertile soil, and access to trade made the riverbank the perfect place to start a new life. Although the river made life easier in many ways, when it flooded, businesses and homes were destroyed.

Immigrants and migrants relied on the river to reach their new home. Some travelled from the east coast, moving through canals and other waterways while freedom seekers from the south moved across the river in search of a better life.

Check your knowledge!

The Ohio River is one of Cincinnati's defining features. How did early Cincinnatians use the river to grow and improve the city?

From 1820-1920, the United States saw the largest wave of immigration in its history. What are some of the reasons people chose to leave their homes and move to the United States?

Mrs. Ruggles' Dress Shop:

In the mid-19th century, Cincinnati earned the nickname “Paris of the West”, thanks to the growing ready-made clothing industry. The Industrial Revolution changed the way that people shopped for clothes and Cincinnati began filling that need. Throughout the 1800s, women’s roles were very limited but by the late 1850s, more than 14,000 women were employed as seamstresses. The pay was low, and the hours were long, but there were few options for women to support themselves and their families. The ability to work out of the home and begin earning money for themselves was one of the many important factors that led to the start of women’s suffrage movements.

Check your knowledge!

How did women’s roles shift in the 1850s? What jobs were available to women at this time and who could work them?

Ball and Thomas Photography Studio:

James Presley Ball was a prominent African American daguerreotypist, entrepreneur and abolitionist. He used photography to further the abolitionist movement and to document the horrors of slavery, the Civil War, and the rise of segregation. Although discrimination was rampant at the time, J.P. Ball’s skill as a photographer broke through racial barriers, allowing him to photograph Union soldiers, famous Cincinnatians, and President Ulysses S. Grant’s mother, making him one of the greatest photographers of his generation.

Check your knowledge!

During his time in Cincinnati, J.P. Ball helped the abolitionist movement. What did life look like for Cincinnati’s residents who escaped from slavery and moved to Cincinnati?

Merrell’s Apothecary:

In the early 1800s, medicine was loosely regulated, and most doctors had limited medical knowledge. By the mid-1800s, doctors were beginning to question older medical practices, attend medical school, and develop science-based cures for disease and illness.

Merrell's Apothecary (cont.):

Check your knowledge!

How did the Pure Food and Drug Act change medicine in the United States?

In the mid-1800s there was a growing interest in herbal medicine. What are some of the plants that were used to make medicine?

Henry Boyd:

Henry Boyd was a prominent furniture maker of the mid-1800s. After moving to Cincinnati in the 1820s, he designed and produced the Boyd's Bedstead, a bed that used wooden screws and swelled railings instead of iron fastenings. He faced intense racial discrimination and his factory was burned down multiple times. Despite these challenges, Boyd was known for hiring white and Black Cincinnatians to work in his factory.

Check your knowledge!

Henry Boyd's bed design was so successful that other furniture manufacturers tried to steal his design. Boyd was unable to get a patent to protect his invention. Why couldn't he obtain a patent?

Check your knowledge!

Selika Williams and Sarah and Peter Fossett were a few of the prominent African American citizens living in Cincinnati during the mid-19th century. In what ways were they involved in the community?

Gibson Printers:

Printing and bookmaking became important industries in Cincinnati in the 1800s. By the 1850s, Cincinnati was the fourth largest publisher in the United States and the printing industry employed more than 1,000 people. The city's location on the Ohio River allowed it to easily export printed goods to the west. Cincinnati and its printers ended up playing a crucial role in the development of printed art throughout the Midwest and western United States.

Check your knowledge!

In the 19th century, Cincinnati was the fourth largest printing city in the United States. What were some of the earliest printed goods? What printed good had the biggest impact on printing in Cincinnati?

Scheuman's Beer Hall and Fifth St. Market:

As German immigrants made their way to Cincinnati, they brought their cultures and customs with them. One of these customs was the beerhall. Beerhalls were family friendly establishments where patrons could find food, drink, and community. The beerhall culture led to a rise in beer brewing in Cincinnati. By 1859, Cincinnati was brewing over 8,000,000 gallons of beer a year, with most of that going straight to the beerhalls.

As Ohio cities grew, so did small-scale market gardening. These garden plots allowed families to grow and sell crops to local markets or neighbors. By 1859, more than half of Ohio's market garden crops came from Hamilton County.

Check your knowledge!

How were beerhalls different than bars and taverns of the 1850s?

When studying the past, what is the best way to begin a research project?

Scheuman's Beer Hall and Fifth St. Market (cont.):

Check your knowledge!

What is a peddler? How did the role of a peddler evolve and change over time?

Political Stage:

Cincinnati residents were not strangers to social change in the mid-1800s. Abolition, women's rights, immigration, and prohibition were just some of the issues that brought people out of their homes and onto the political stage.

Check your knowledge!

Cincinnati residents participated in the major reform movements of the 19th century, especially abolition and temperance. What were women's roles in these movements?