

Before the pioneers found their way to Ohio's Western Reserve, a group of surveyors visited Ohio lands and took note of everything they found there. They looked at the way the land rose in hills and descended into valleys. They tracked the winding paths of creeks and rivers, from Lake Erie into the Cuyahoga Valley and beyond. Did they see rough roads and trails by others who have traveled there? Did they find shelters of people who had only stayed awhile? The surveyors created the map of everything that would be important to the people they hoped would make a new home in Ohio.

What did people learn from the first maps of Ohio? They learned about transportation and the way they would travel from place to place, whether by road or river. They learned where the best place to live might be, from plenty of timber to build a home, level lands on which to build it, and rich farmland for growing food.

More than 80 years later, James Hale thought back to his early years in the Western Reserve and how much the land had changed. He shared his memories with Albert Ruger who created a picture of James Hale's pioneer childhood. The Ruger Lithograph shows a cabin near the woods, log barns, fenced pastures, garden plots, ox and cart, and grazing animals. Both the map and the memories are important to understanding how people lived. Maps, letters, diaries, drawings, and memories are all ways we learn about life long ago. The drawings we make and the letters and stories we write today may someday tell the story of our world today.

Your turn:

First, make a map of your neighborhood. What features are important to include?

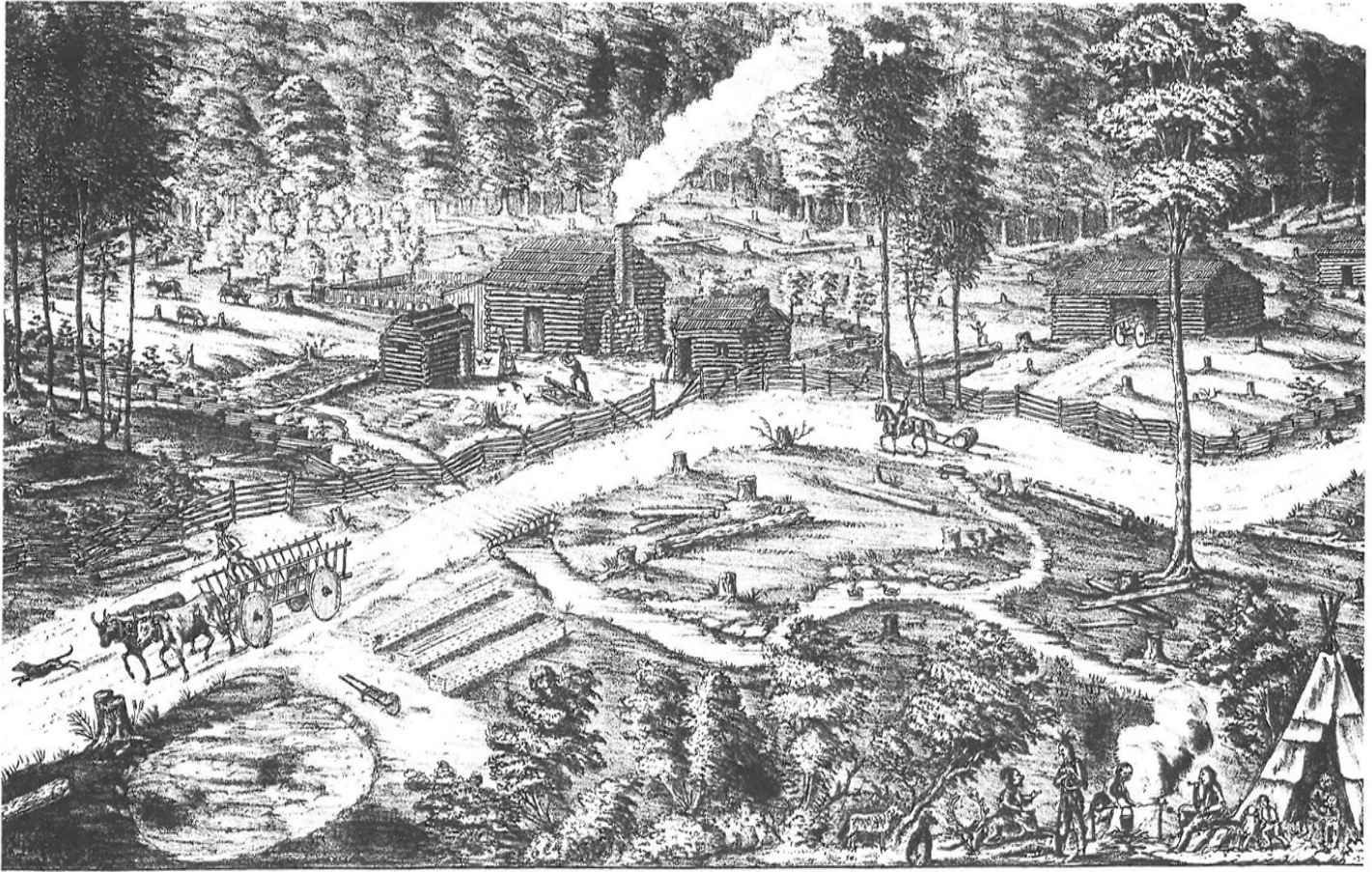
- Instead of rivers, trails and paths, include the streets.
- Instead of cabins, draw the building where you live, then add your neighbors.

Draw in other things that might be important to know for people visiting your neighborhood for the first time:

- Is there a park nearby?
- Where do people shop?

Are there other places that are important to your community? Add those to your map, too. Now add details like those we see in the lithograph of James Hale's cabin: trees, animals, and people working or playing.

Share your map with others, and invite others to make their own. Be sure to include the date you made the drawing!



First Settlement in BATH, Summit Co. Ohio, by JONATHAN HALE of Glastonbury, Conn. 1810.

Lithograph, ca 1880, by Albert Ruger, based on the recollections of James Hale, son of Jonathan Hale. Shown is the squatters cabin in which the Hales lived until

the present brick house was built about 1825. (Reproduction by the Western Reserve Historical Society.)

Above: The Albert Ruger Lithograph was drawn in 1880, a memory of James Hale's childhood in Bath, Ohio.

Below: The Heckewelder Map was drawn in 1797. Lake Erie is at the top of the map.

