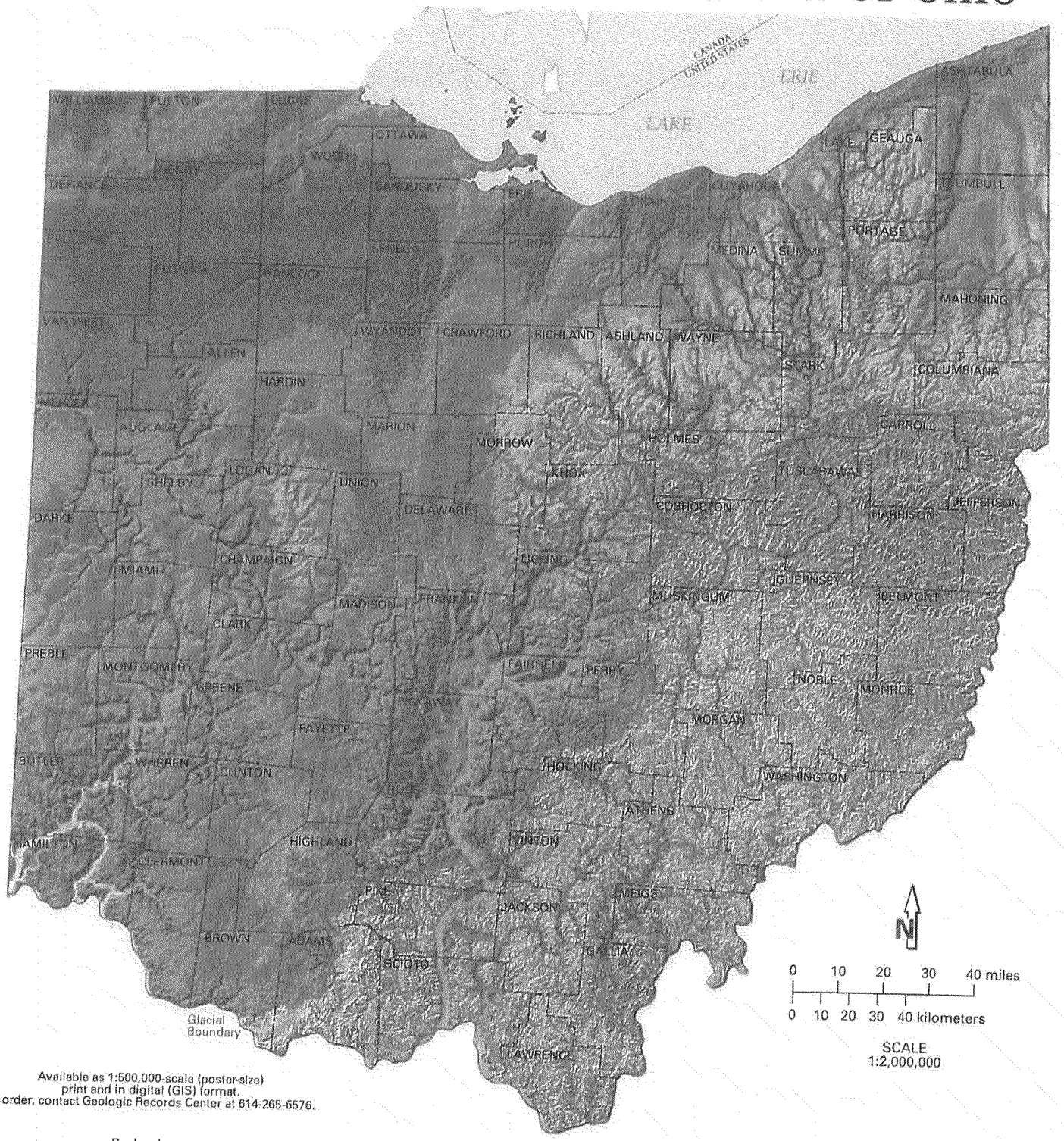
STATE OF OHIO • DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES • DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SHADED BEDROCK-TOPOGRAPHY MAP OF OHIO



Available as 1:500,000-scale (poster-size) print and in digital (GIS) format.
To order, contact Geologic Records Center at 614-265-6576.

Bedrock-topography	Elevation	Land surface
	1401-1500	
	1301-1400	
	1201-1300	
	1101-1200	

Bedrock-topography	Elevation	Land surface
	1001-1100	
	901-1000	
	801-900	
	701-800	

Bedrock-topography	Elevation	Land surface
	601-700	
	501-600	
	401-500	
	301-400	

Elevation in feet above sea level

Recommended citation: Ohio Division of Geological Survey, 2003, Shaded bedrock-topography map of Ohio: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey Map BG-3, generalized page-size version with text, 2 p., scale 1:2,000,000.

SHADED BEDROCK-TOPOGRAPHY MAP OF OHIO

The shaded bedrock-topography map of Ohio depicts the configuration and elevation of the bedrock surface. In southeastern Ohio, the bedrock surface coincides with present-day land-surface topography and is depicted by earth-tone hues to represent elevation intervals. In glaciated western and northern Ohio, the bedrock surface is buried under mainly glacial sediments that can be several-hundred-feet thick. The land surface in this region was smoothed by glaciation (figure 1) and masks a complexly dissected, underlying bedrock surface. This dissected bedrock surface is the result of erosion before, during, and after glaciation. Spectral hues depict elevation intervals on the buried-bedrock surface and show the bedrock surface as if the overlying glacial sediment were removed.

Prior to and during glaciation, the north-flowing Teays River system dominated surface-water drainage patterns in western and southern Ohio (figure 2). Water flow direction in the main Teays valley was north from Wheelersburg (Scioto County) to Circleville (Pickaway County) and then northwest to Mercer County where the Teays Valley exited the state. Remnants of the Teays Valley are distinct on the present land surface in southern Ohio and form a continuous valley on the buried-bedrock surface across western Ohio. Modern rivers and streams still occupy portions of this valley system. Water flow in the Teays River system was disrupted by early glaciations as southward-advancing glaciers blocked outlets of the north-flowing river system. Drainageways, both large and small, were abandoned or filled with sediment as ice advanced and retreated.

In northwestern Ohio, the generally smooth buried-bedrock surface is the result of repeated scouring by glacial ice advancing westward out of the Lake Erie basin. Another distinctly scoured bedrock surface is in the Grand River Lobe (figure 2) in northeastern Ohio where smooth north-south trending valleys mirror ice-flow direction. South of the scour-dominated surface of northern Ohio, the bedrock surface has been sculpted by water to create a distinct drainage pattern (figure 2). Large volumes of glacial meltwater eroded the bedrock surface, widening and deepening existing valleys of the Teays system and creating new valleys. Some modern rivers and creeks flow in unusually wide valleys; evidence that far greater volumes of water generated from melting glaciers once flowed in these valleys. Flow direction in other valleys has been reversed as glacial ice or glacial sediments blocked formerly northward and westward flowing streams.

Southeastern Ohio is unglaciated and devoid of ice-deposited sediment (glacial till). However, many river valleys in southeast Ohio did carry glacial meltwater away from the ice front and toward the Ohio River. In the process, many of these valleys were at times made deeper by the erosive force of fast-flowing meltwater streams, and at other times partially filled with sediment. Some valleys in unglaciated Ohio contain thick deposits of clay and silt that accumulated on the bottoms of lakes that formed when glacial ice blocked the flow of rivers or when rapidly accumulating meltwater sediments blocked the mouths of rivers.

This map is one of the results of a 7-year effort by the ODNR, Division of Geological Survey to map the bedrock geology of Ohio. Bedrock-topography maps are essential to producing accurate bedrock-geology maps of glaciated Ohio and of partially buried valleys beyond the glacial limit. Bedrock-topography maps were created for all 788 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles in the state and are available from the Division's Geologic Records Center. Some pre-existing county bedrock-topography maps (1:62,500 scale) and data were photographically enlarged to 1:24,000 scale, revised, and utilized in the compilation of 1:24,000-scale, bedrock-topography maps. Data concentration and contour intervals on the original maps vary widely across the state in response to changing geologic and topographic conditions. Data consists mainly of water-well logs on file at the ODNR, Division of Water, supplemented by outcrop data, Ohio Department of Transportation bridge-boring data, and oil-and-gas-well data.

Elevation contours and over 158,000 data points from the 788 bedrock-topography maps were digitized and compiled for the glaciated portions of the state and for the major valleys beyond the glacial boundary containing significant accumulations of sediment deposited during and after glaciation. The bedrock-topography contours were digitally converted in the ARC GIS environment into a continuous grid model (60 meter grid spacing). This surface was shaded from the northwest slightly above the horizon to produce the appearance of a three-dimensional surface.

The land surface represents the topography of the bedrock surface in southeastern Ohio (excluding valleys beyond the glacial boundary) and in some glaciated areas near the glacial limit where meltwater sediments are thin or absent. Land-surface topography is based largely on data derived from the U.S. Geological Survey's National Elevation Dataset (30 meter grid spacing).

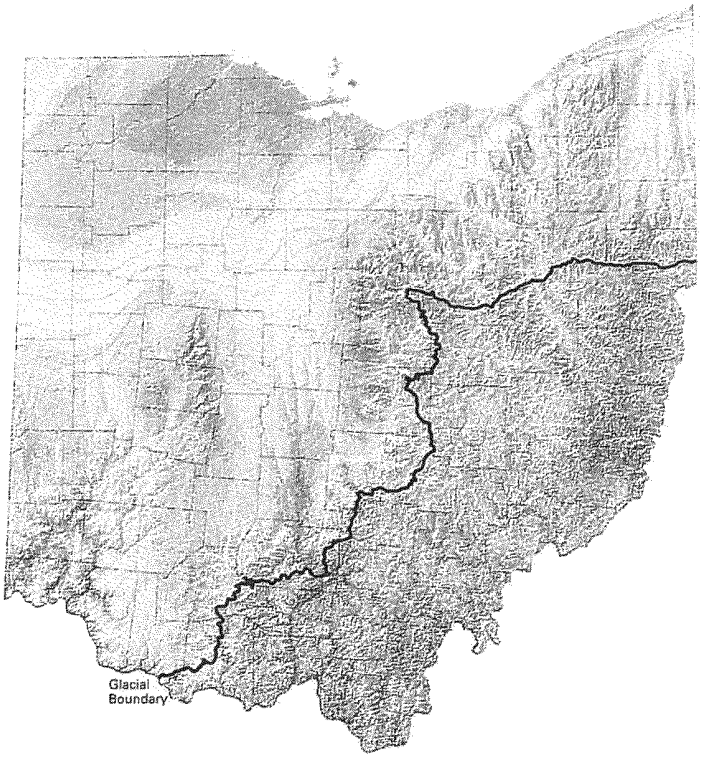


FIGURE 1.—Shaded elevation map of Ohio with the glacial boundary. Note the smooth landscape of glaciated northern and western Ohio compared to the high-relief landscape of unglaciated southeastern Ohio.

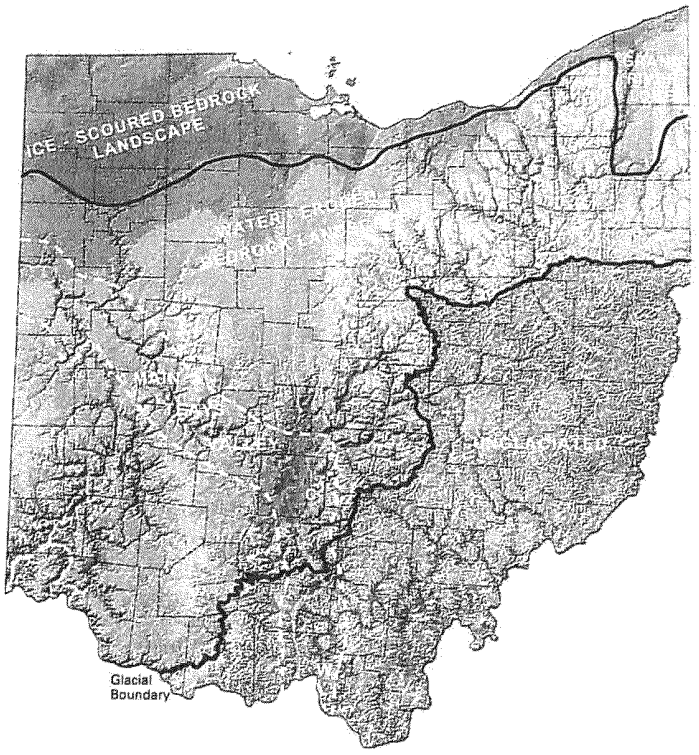


FIGURE 2.—Bedrock-topography map of Ohio showing the extent of the main Teays valley, the unglaciated portion of the state, and the ice-scoured and water-eroded portions of glaciated Ohio (C = Circleville, W = Wheelersburg).