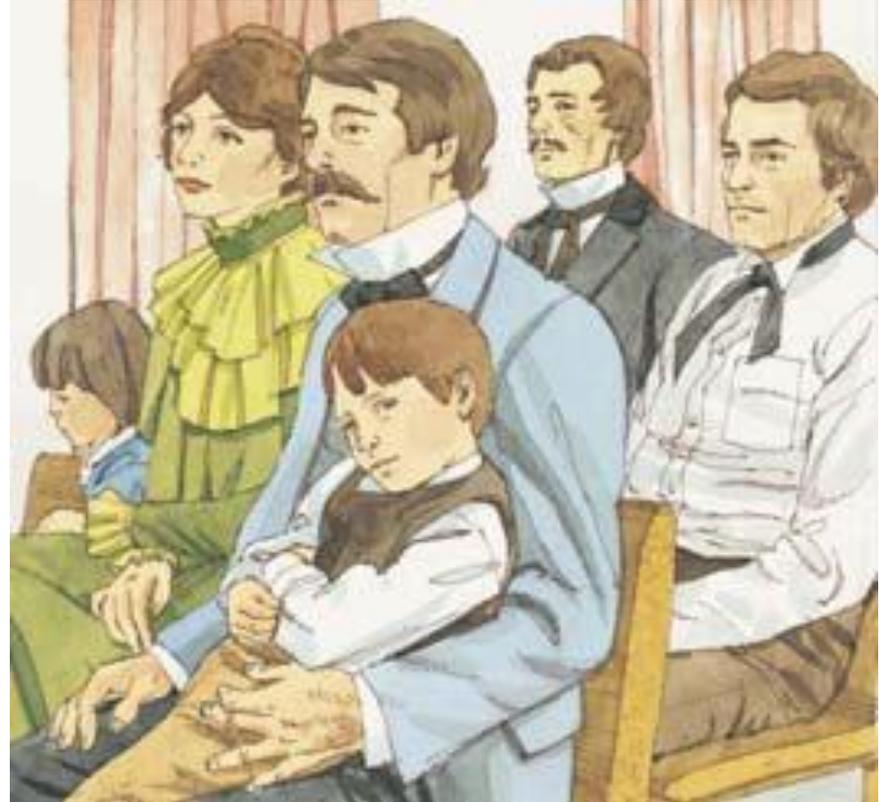


# Lesson 16: The Saints Gather to Kirtland, Ohio



# Purpose

To help the children desire to strengthen the feelings of unity and love within their families and within their Primary class.

**OUR OPENING PRAYER WILL BE GIVEN  
BY**



**(Enter Name Here)**

# Attention Activity

- If you had one piece of string, and you tried to break it, you think it will be difficult? If we were to put two pieces of string next to each other, and now you tried to break it, would it be harder than a single piece of string?
- Let's try it and see what happens

# Attention Activity

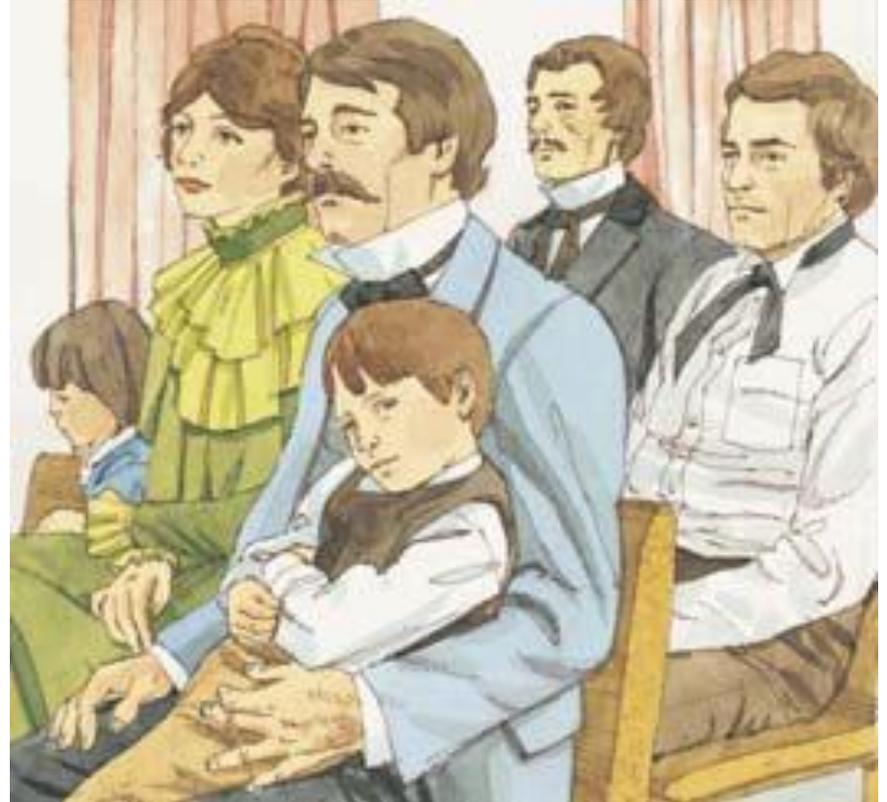
- Was it difficult to break one string?
- How strongly the string by itself?
- How can we strengthen the strings?
- If we were to take all of the unbroken string and put it into a bundle would like to see they can break the whole bundle?

# Attention Activity

- Just as the strings are stronger when there are many of them together, members of the Church are stronger when they are gathered together.
- For this reason the Lord instructed the early members of the Church to gather in one place.

This is what our lesson is about  
today.

# Lesson 16: The Saints Gather to Kirtland, Ohio



By the end of 1830, the year the Church was organized, several hundred people had become members of the Church.

Let's review the cities where the members of the church were living (and some of the events that happened at these locations) ....

# Palmyra, New York

- Joseph Smith's First Vision
- The Gold Plates were obtained
- Book of Mormon was published.

# Harmony, Pennsylvania

- Translation of gold plates begins
- Priesthood restored

# Fayette, New York

- Translation of gold plates completed
- Book of Mormon witnesses testified
- Church Organized

# Colesville, New York

- First branch organized
- Mobbing occurred
- Joseph Smith Tried and Set Free

# Kirtland, Ohio

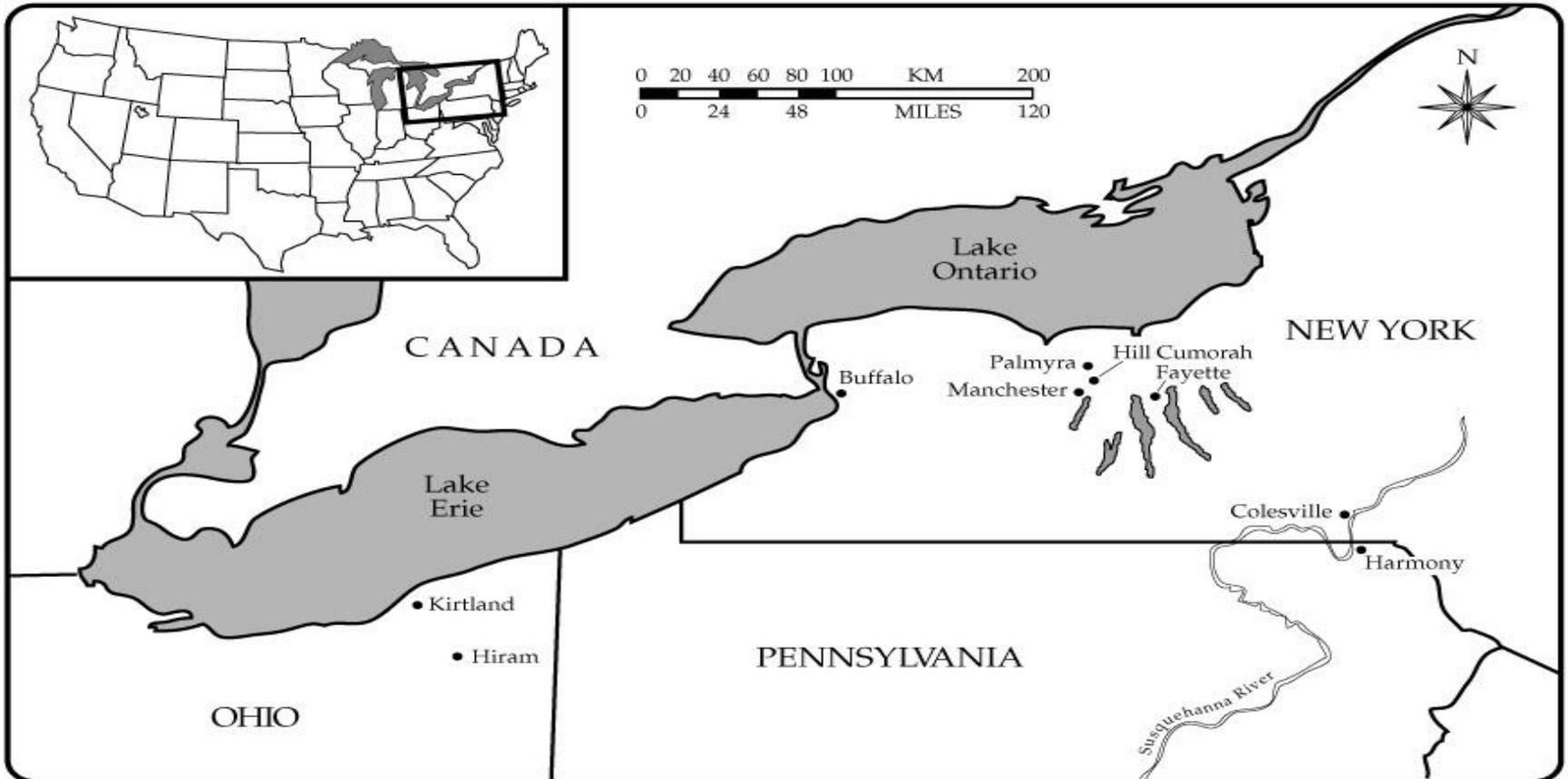
- Missionaries converted many people to the Church

On a following slide, we're going to show a map with the locations of some of the places that we have talked about this year.

Can you locate them on the Map.

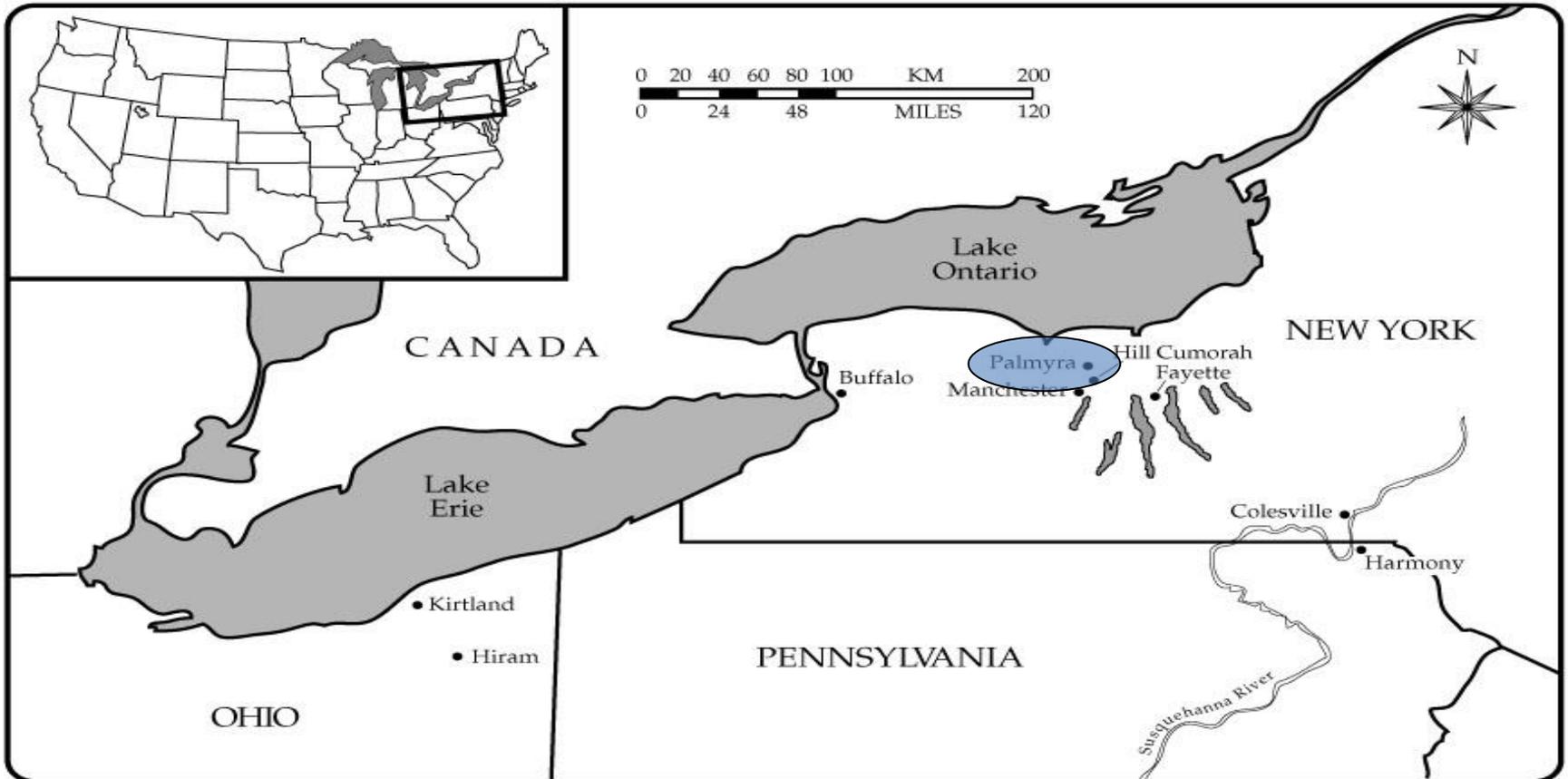
# Palmyra, New York

The New York–Ohio Area



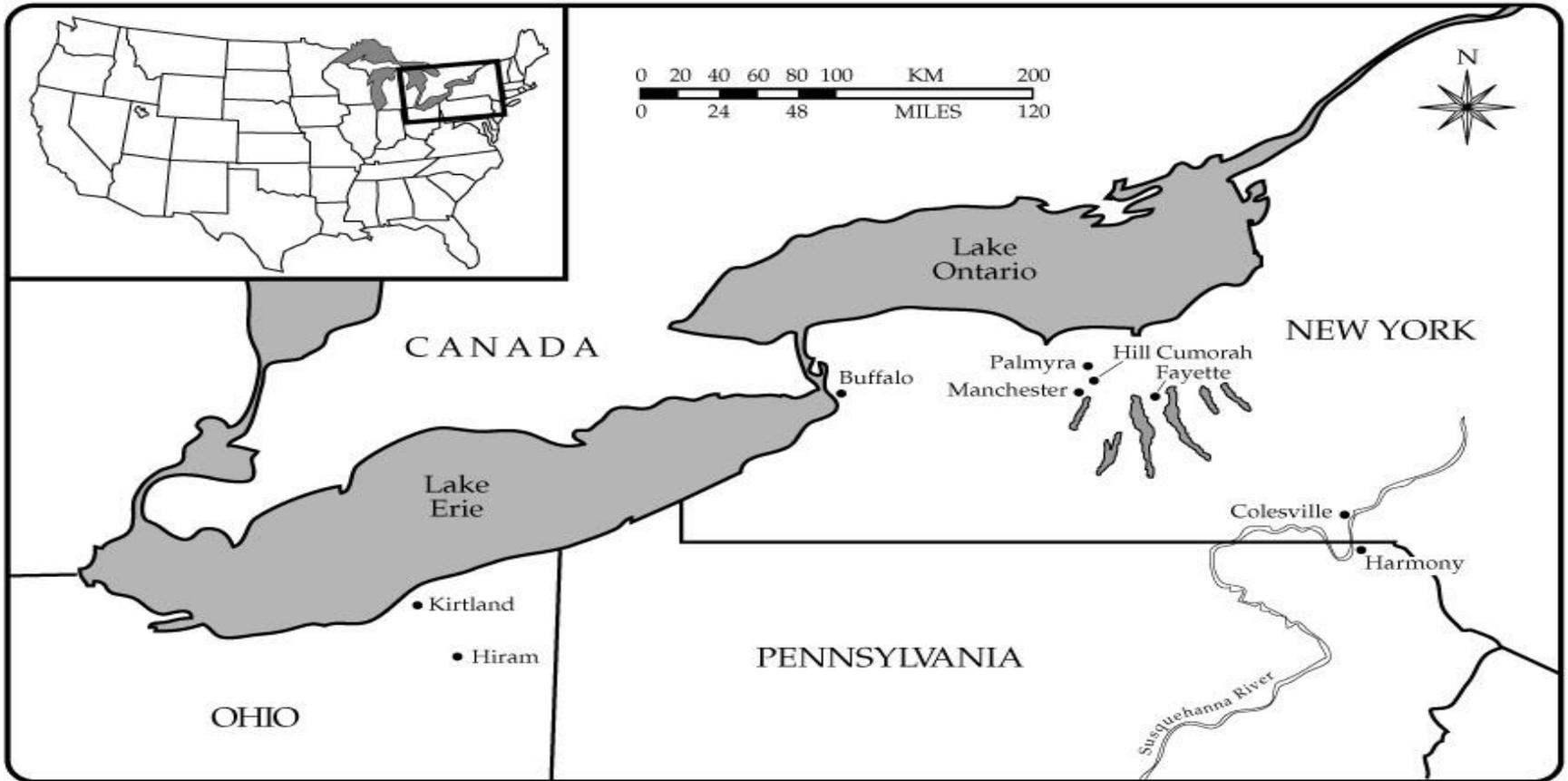
# Palmyra, New York

The New York–Ohio Area



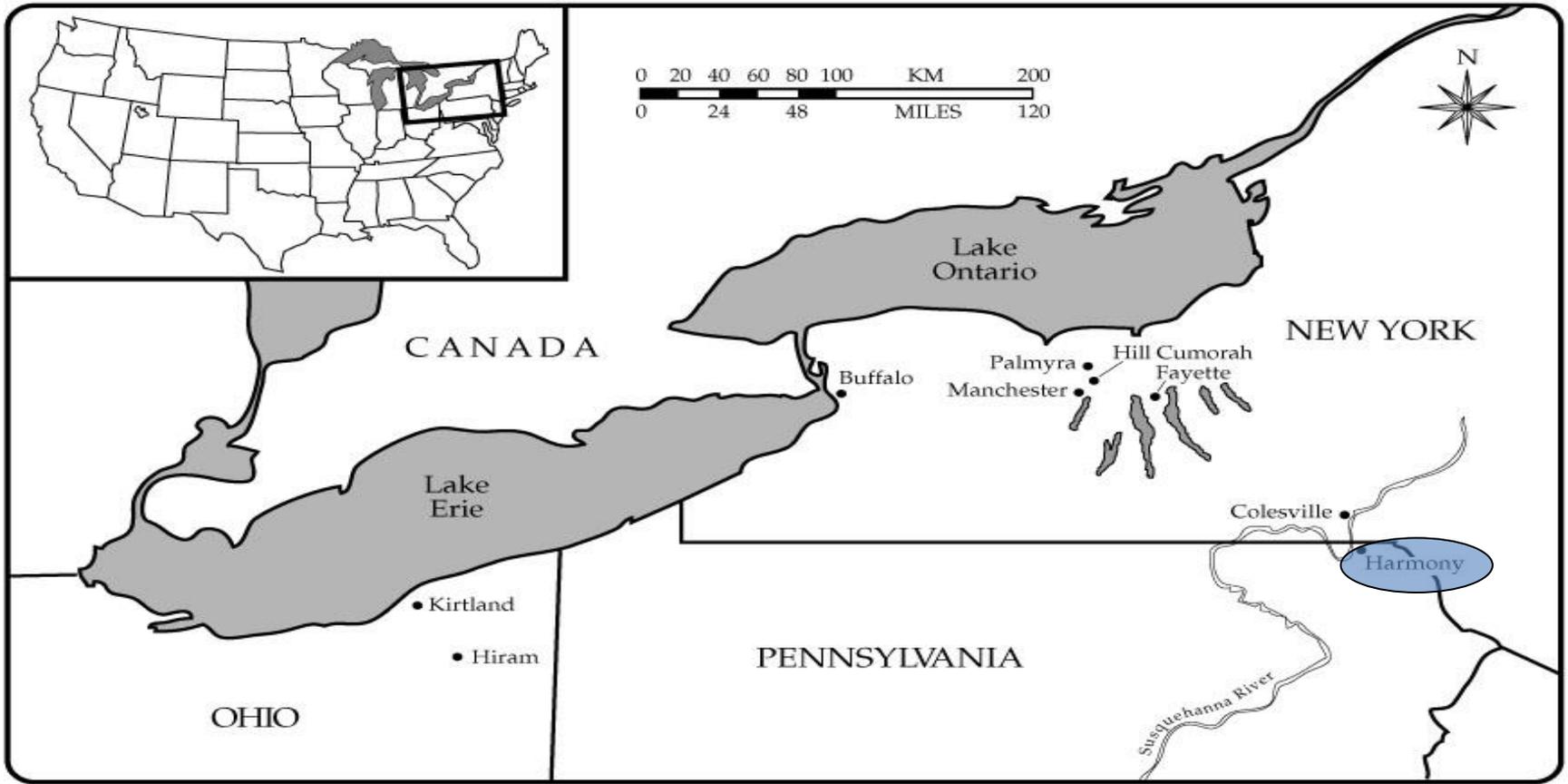
# Harmony, Pennsylvania

## The New York–Ohio Area



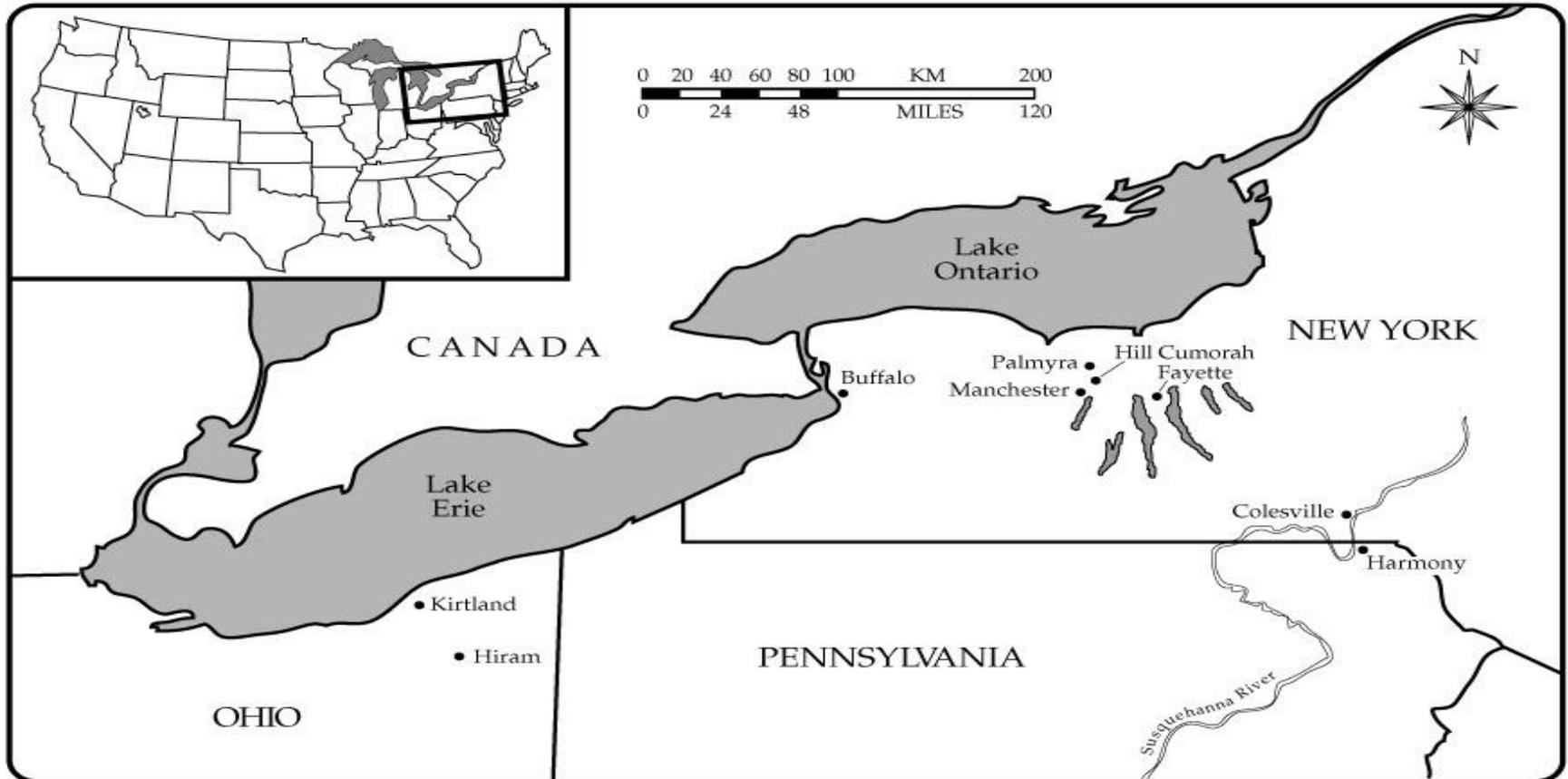
# Harmony, Pennsylvania

The New York–Ohio Area



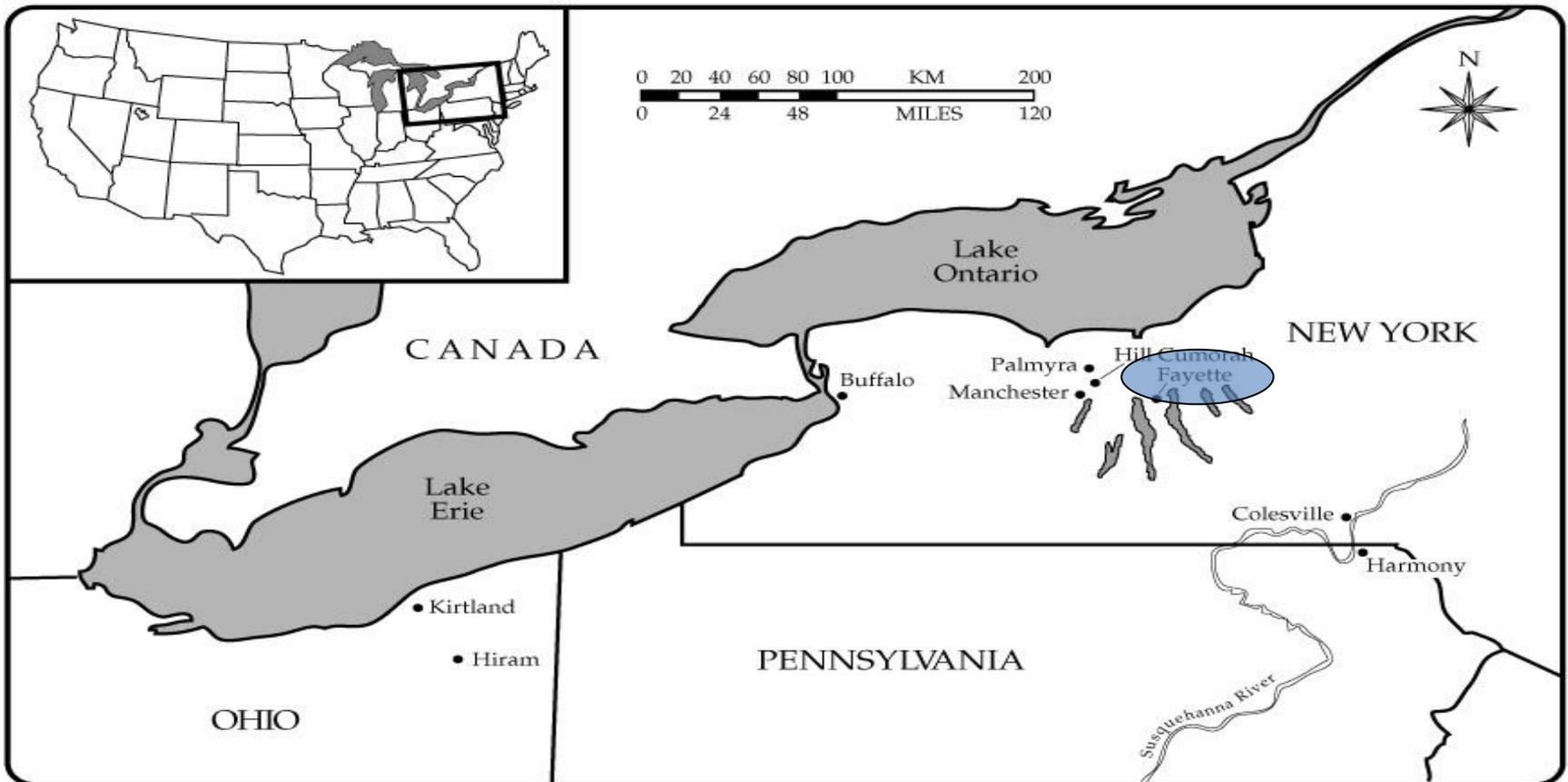
# Fayette, New York

The New York–Ohio Area



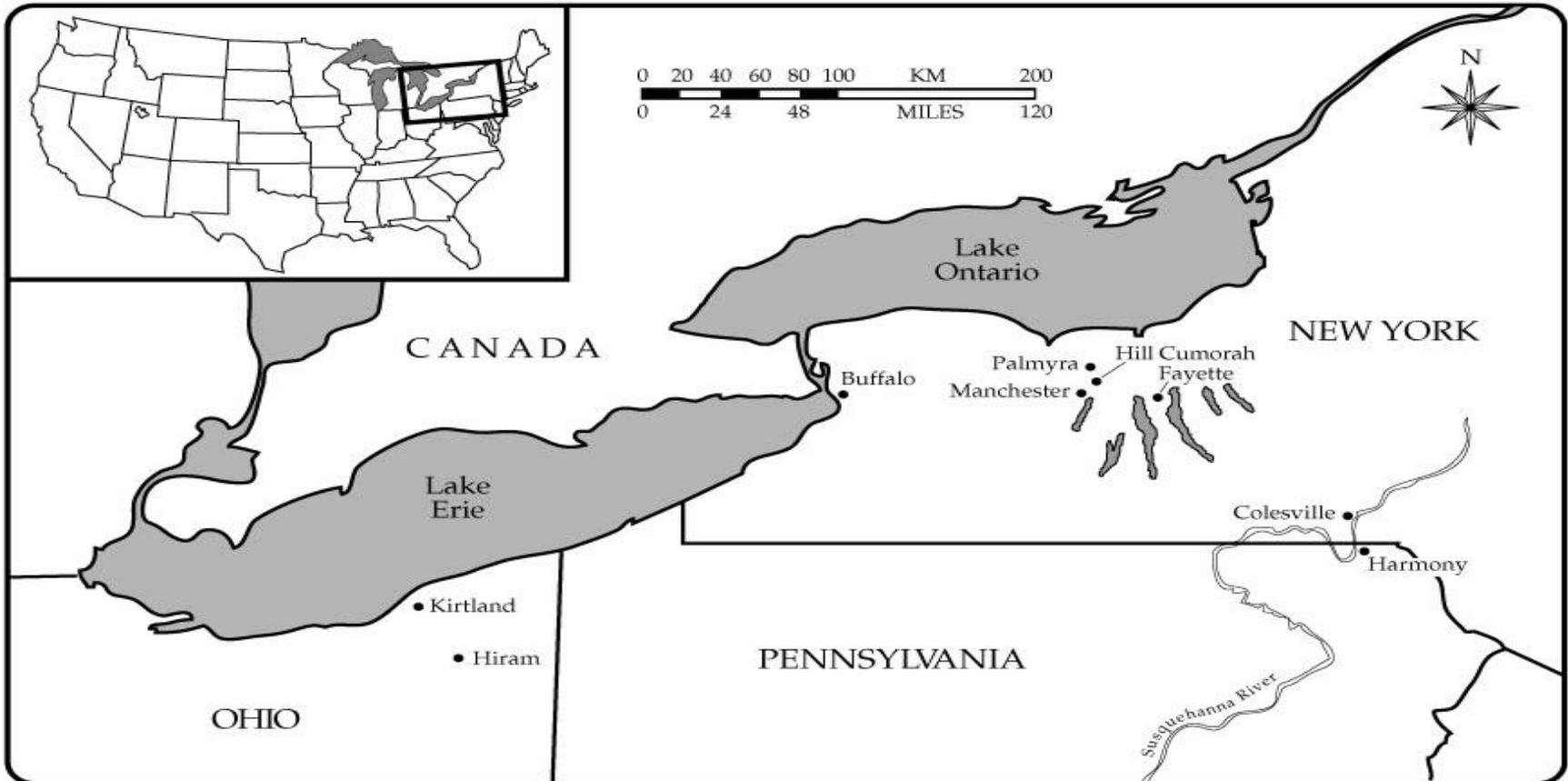
# Fayette, New York

The New York–Ohio Area



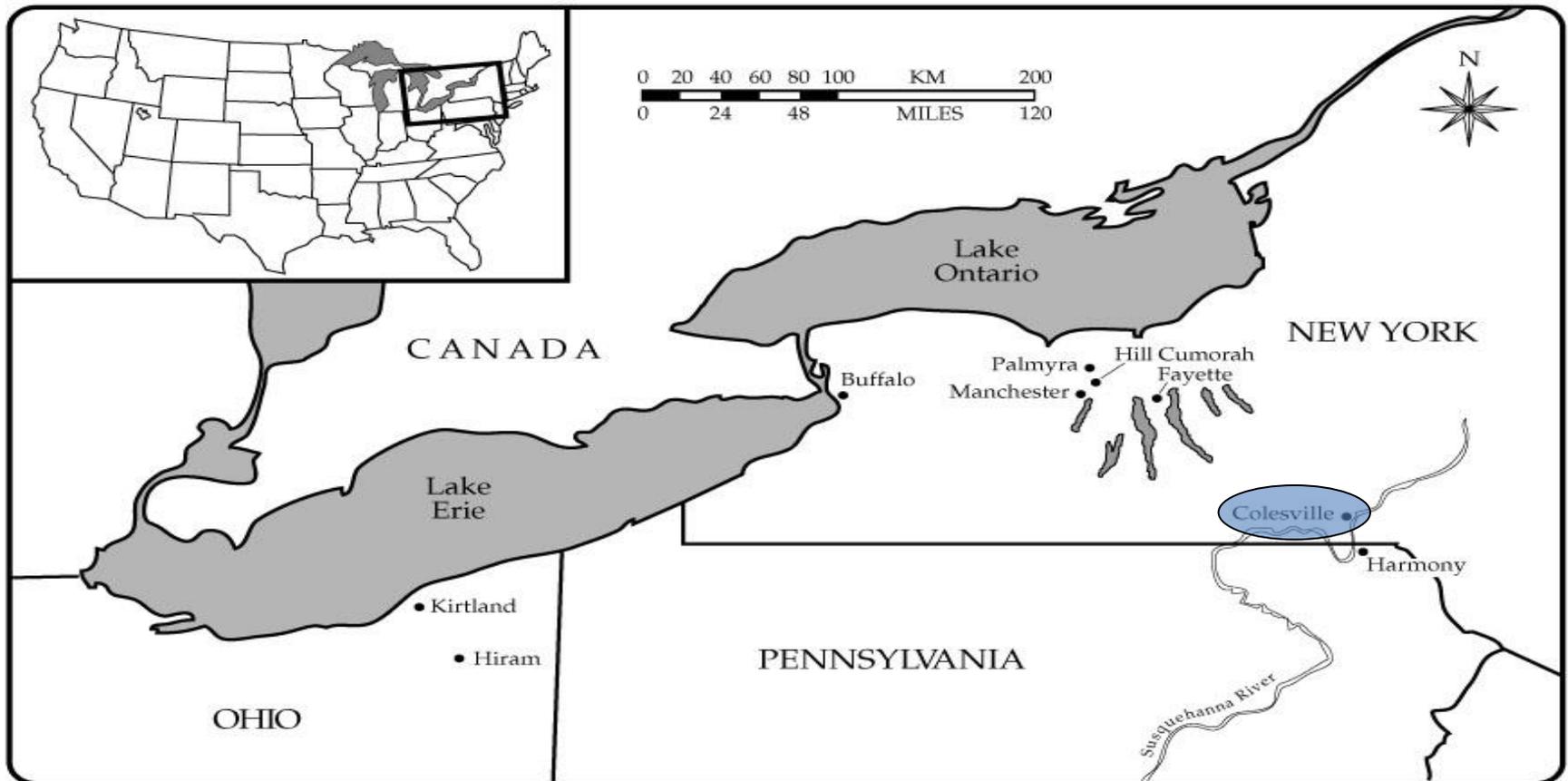
# Colesville, New York

The New York–Ohio Area



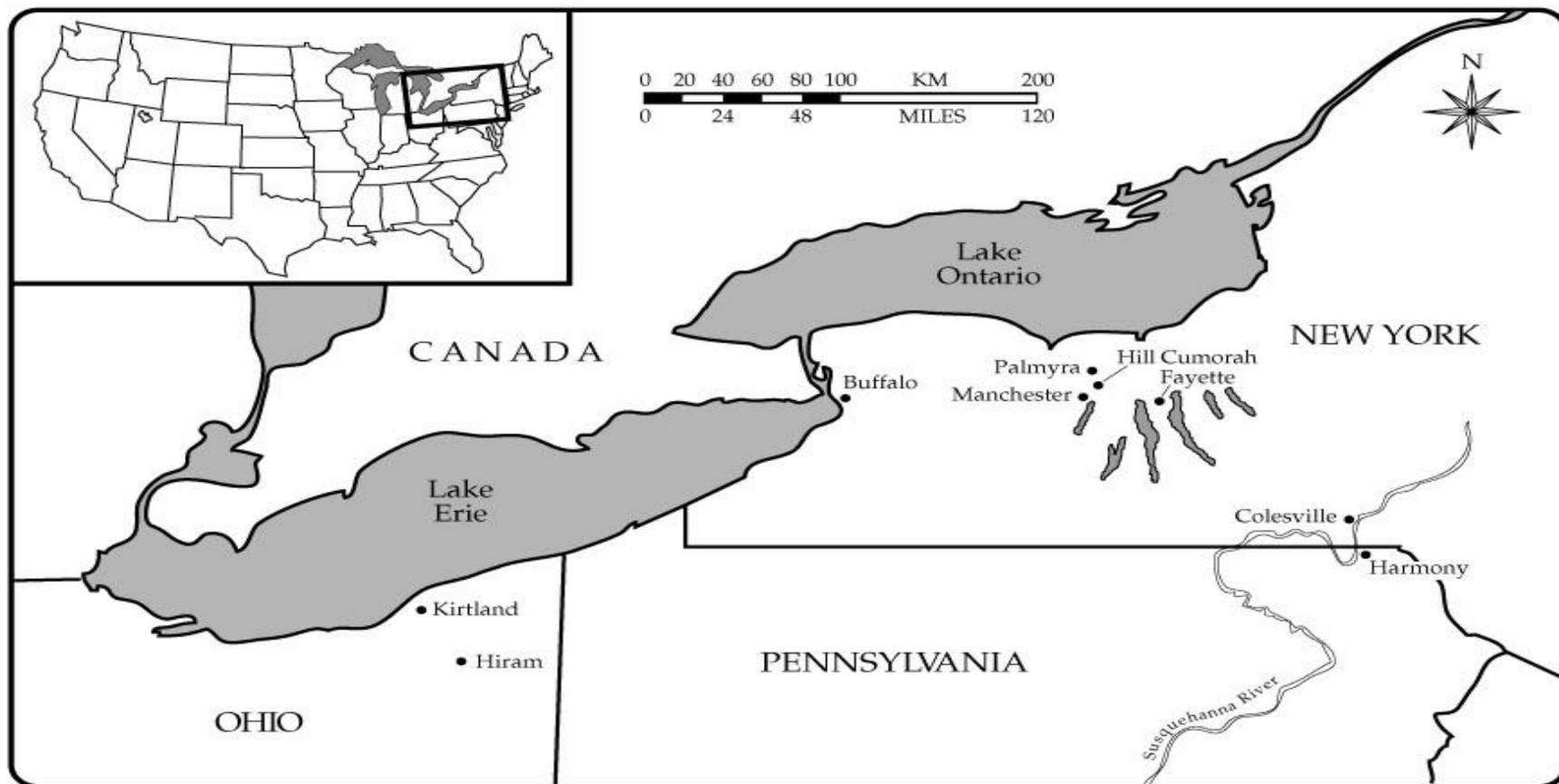
# Colesville, New York

The New York–Ohio Area



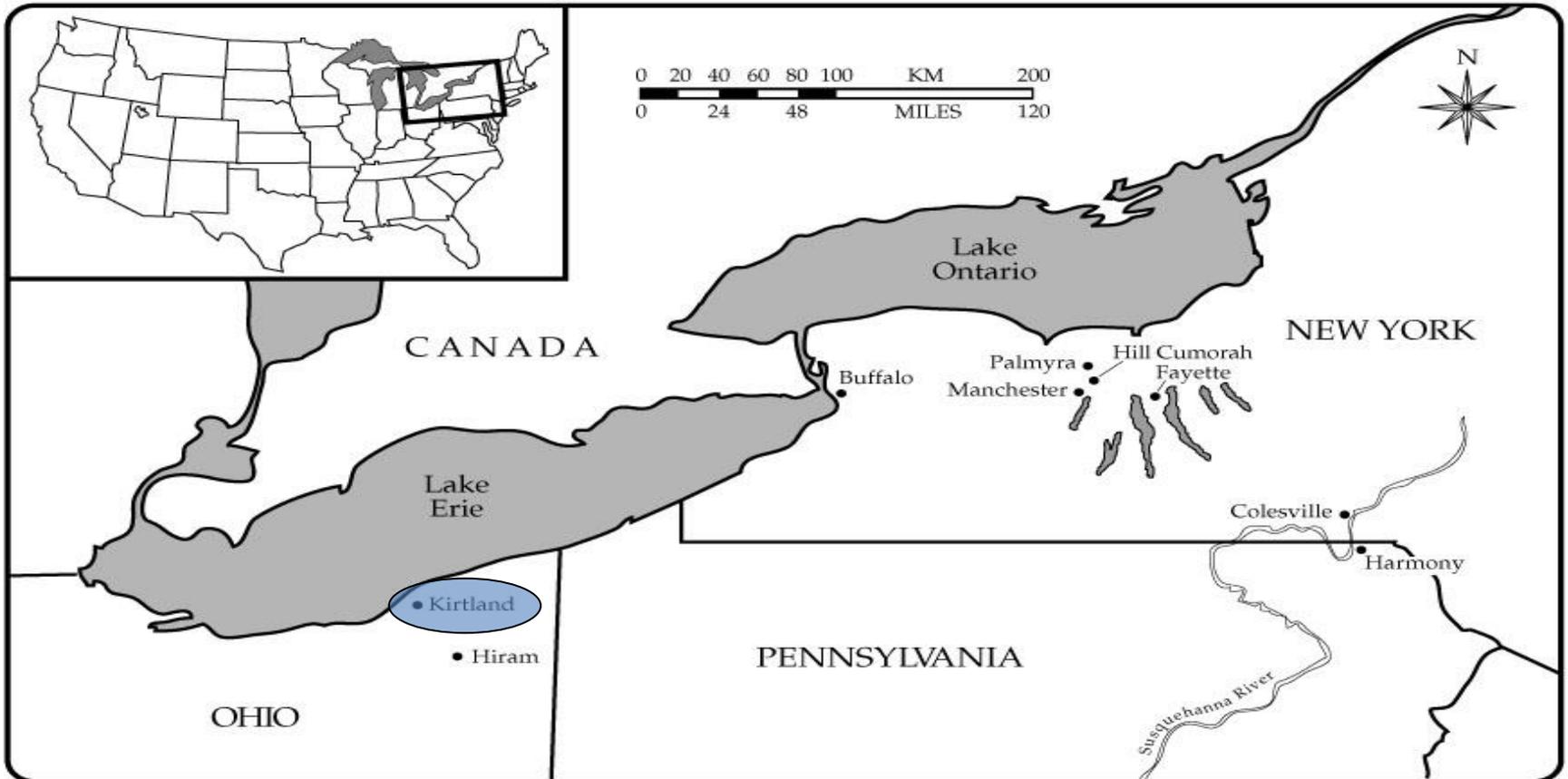
# Kirtland, Ohio

The New York–Ohio Area

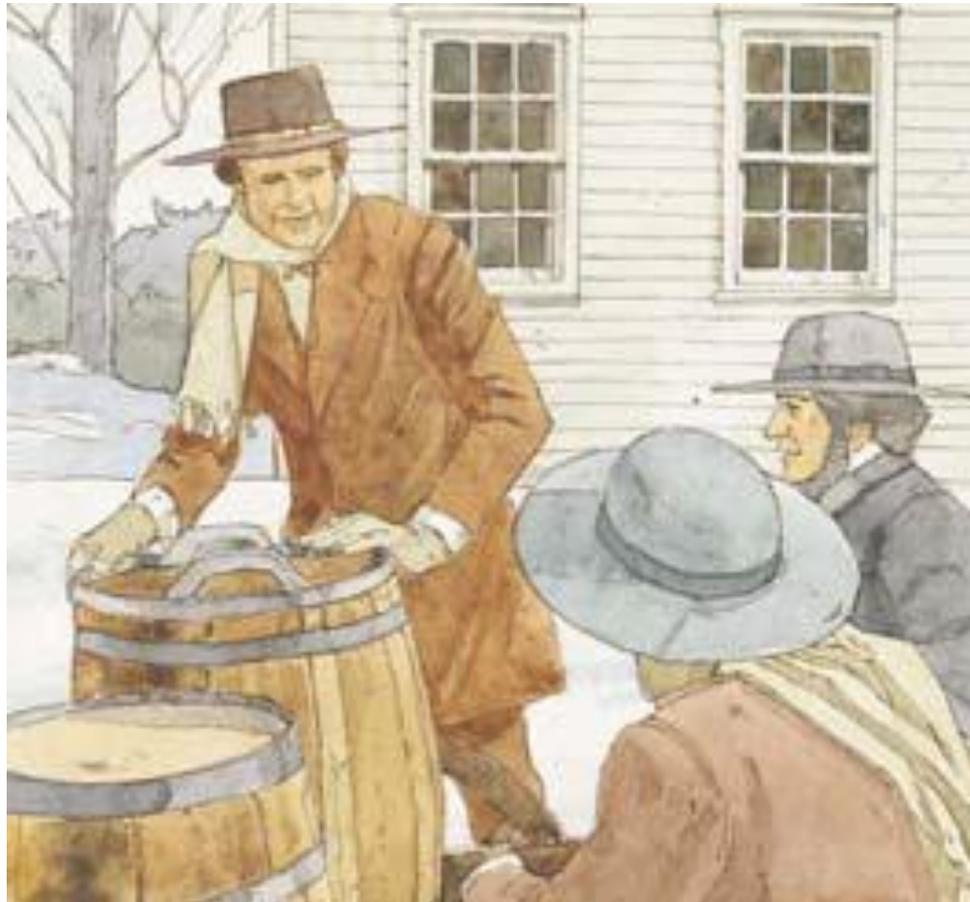


# Kirtland, Ohio

The New York–Ohio Area

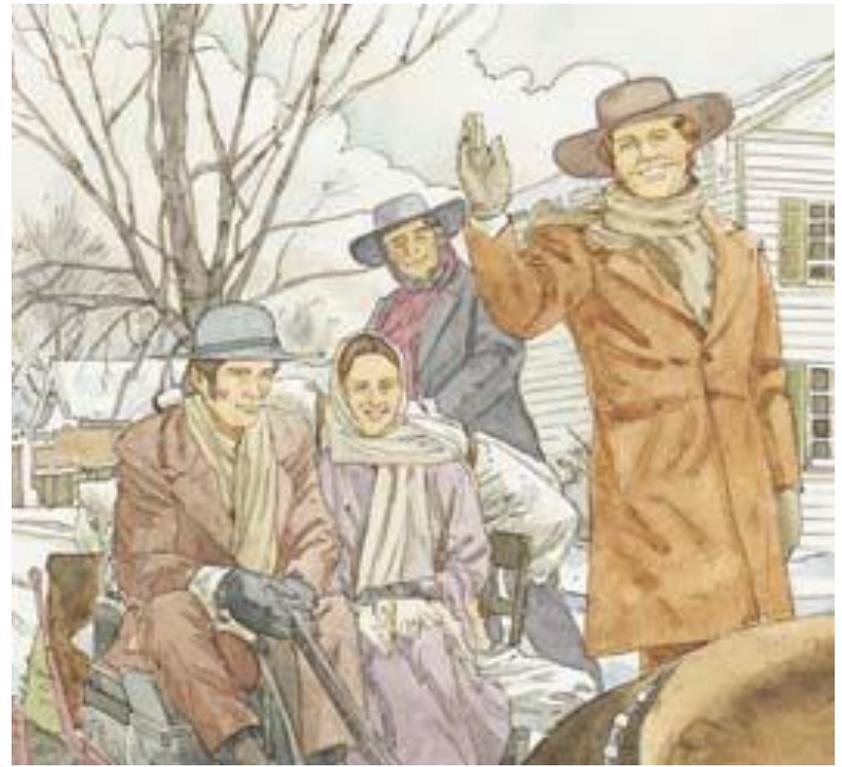


At the end of 1830 the Lord revealed to Joseph Smith in New York that members of the Church should “assemble together at the Ohio” ([D&C 37:3](#)).



By gathering in Ohio, the members of the Church could:

- escape persecution from enemies in New York,
- be taught by Joseph Smith and other Church leaders,
- ▶ **receive further instructions from the Lord,**
- ▶ **prepare together to send missionaries to all nations,**
- ▶ **and support and help each other as they worked to become righteous people.**



- Joseph Smith instructed the members of the Church to sell or rent their farms and homes and move to Ohio.
- The Saints found it difficult to sell their farms, sheep, and cattle during the winter months.



► **Some members did not believe this commandment came from the Lord and would not follow the Prophet's instruction.**

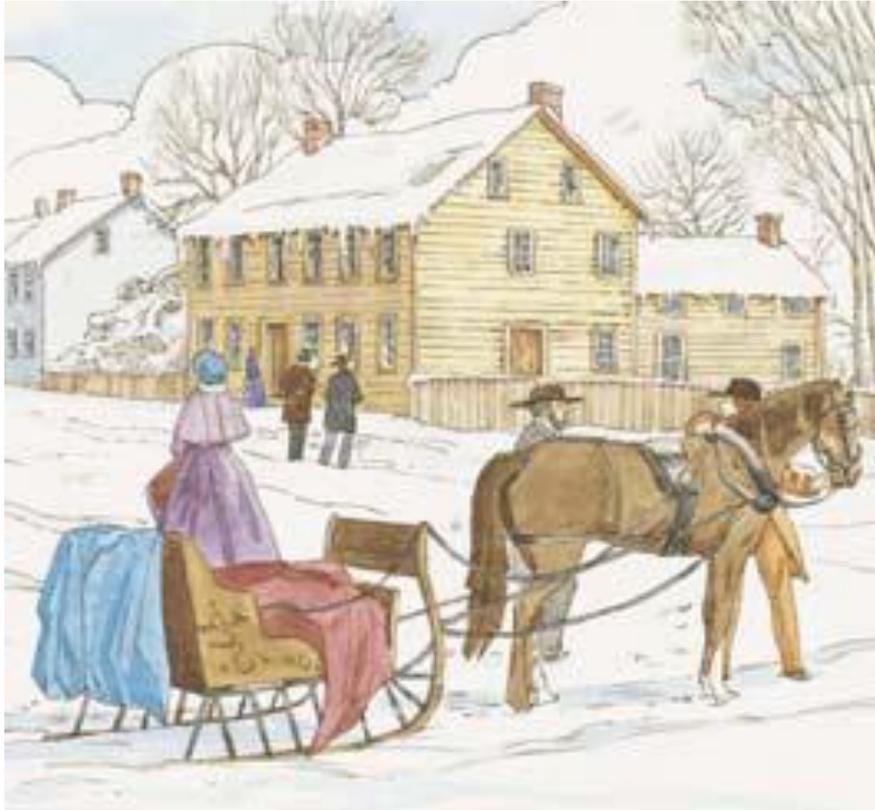
- ▶ **Most of the Saints, however, were willing to join the Prophet in Ohio.**



# Joseph and Emma Smith Go to Ohio

- The Lord told Joseph to leave immediately for Ohio so he could escape his enemies and because he was needed in Kirtland.
- But Joseph was worried that the trip from New York to Ohio in winter would be hard on Emma.





- They had moved seven times in the four years they had been married, and Emma was expecting another baby.
- Joseph used a sleigh to make the trip easier for Emma.
- They left for Ohio at the end of January, and it took several days to travel the three hundred miles to Kirtland.

- When the sleigh reached the Gilbert and Whitney store in Kirtland, Ohio, Joseph jumped off and went into the store.
- He extended his hand to the man he never met before and said, "Newel K Whitney! Thou art the man! "

- ▶ **Newel Whitney was very surprised, for he did not know the Prophet.**
- ▶ **"You have the advantage of me," he said.**



The Whitney Store

- “I could not call you by name as you have me.”
- The Prophet answered, “I am Joseph the Prophet.
- ▶ **You’ve prayed me here, now what do you want of me.**



The Whitney Store

- Newel Whitney and his family had heard the gospel preached by the missionaries and had joined the Church.
  - They prayed to receive the word of the Lord
- ▶ **While in New York, the Prophet had seen in a vision the Whitneys praying for him to come to Kirtland.**



- The Whitneys provided a home for Joseph and Emma for several weeks.



The Whitney Home

- A few months after their arrival at Kirtland, Emma gave birth to twins, but the babies lived only a few hours.



- **Emma and Joseph's first baby had died in Pennsylvania, so none of their first three children had lived very long.**

- The day after the twins were born, Julia Murdock also gave birth to twins, a boy and a girl.



- **When Sister Murdock died, her husband John allowed Joseph and Emma to adopt his twin babies.**

The New York Saints Make  
the Journey to Ohio

- ▶ **The Saints from New York traveled to Ohio in several different groups.**
- ▶ **The weather was cold and the journey was difficult.**



- ▶ **One group was led by the Prophet's mother, Lucy Mack Smith.**
- ▶ **Lucy reminded the Saints that they were following the commandment of the Lord and if they were faithful, they would be blessed.**

- ▶ She encouraged them to sing and pray during the journey.
- ▶ Lucy's group traveled to Buffalo, New York, and planned to travel on Lake Erie, which would take them close to Kirtland, Ohio.



- ▶ When the group arrived in Buffalo, they found that ships were unable to move on the lake because large pieces of ice jammed the harbor.



- ▶ Lucy had faith that the Lord would help them.
- ▶ When the Saints got on board a ship the next morning, she persuaded the group to unite together in faith and pray to the Lord to break the pieces of ice.

- ▶ She explained, “A noise was heard, like bursting thunder.
- ▶ The captain cried, ‘Every man to his post.’



The ice parted, leaving barely a passage for the boat, and so narrow that as the boat passed through the buckets of the waterwheel were torn off with a crash. ...

- ▶ **We had barely passed through the avenue when the ice closed together again”**



- All the groups finally arrived in Kirtland.
- As other people joined the Church in Canada and other parts of the United States, they too came to Kirtland.
- Church members were thankful to live near each other and have the Prophet instruct and lead them.





***Discussion Time***

- ▶ Why did the Lord command the Saints to go to Ohio? ([D&C 38:31–33.](#))
- ▶ What were the Saints promised if they did so? ([D&C 38:32; 39:15.](#))
- ▶ The Saints were promised that they would receive additional laws and blessings when they gathered to Kirtland and built a temple.





- ▶ **What sacrifices did the Saints make in order to move to Ohio?**
- ▶ **What sacrifices do people make today to help the Church and its members?**

- Why do you think the Saints were willing to go through hardships to move to Ohio?
- How could these early Saints strengthen each other better if they were gathered together?



- Why don't Church leaders encourage all members of the Church to move to the headquarters of the Church today?
- Help the children understand that the early members were commanded to gather to one place in order to establish the Church and form a strong center for the Saints.



► **Now we are to establish the Church where we are and work to strengthen our own wards, branches, and stakes.**



- When do we gather or meet together as a Church?
- What blessings do we receive when we meet together?
- How do we strengthen each other when we meet together?

- Let's read [Doctrine and Covenants 38:24](#).
- 24 And let every man esteem his brother as himself, and practice virtue and holiness before me.



- What do you think it means to “let every man esteem his brother as himself”?
- How can we do this?
- How will this make the Church and its members stronger?

- What does it mean to “be one”? ([D&C 38:27.](#))
- Why is it important to be united?
- What can we do to help create more unity and love in our families?
- in our Primary class?
- Why is it difficult to be united if we do not love and care for each other?



# ***Enrichment Activities***

# Enrichment Activity 1

- We need to work together to help everyone feel comfortable at church.
- Can you suggest ways to develop unity within our class.
- Try to suggest one or two ideas to work on during this coming week.

# Enrichment Activity 1

- Here are some possible ideas:
  - Take care of the church building.
  - Treat others kindly.
  - Listen to the speakers.
  - Pray for one another.
  - Speak kind words.
  - Listen and participate in Primary class.
  - Attend ward (branch) activities.

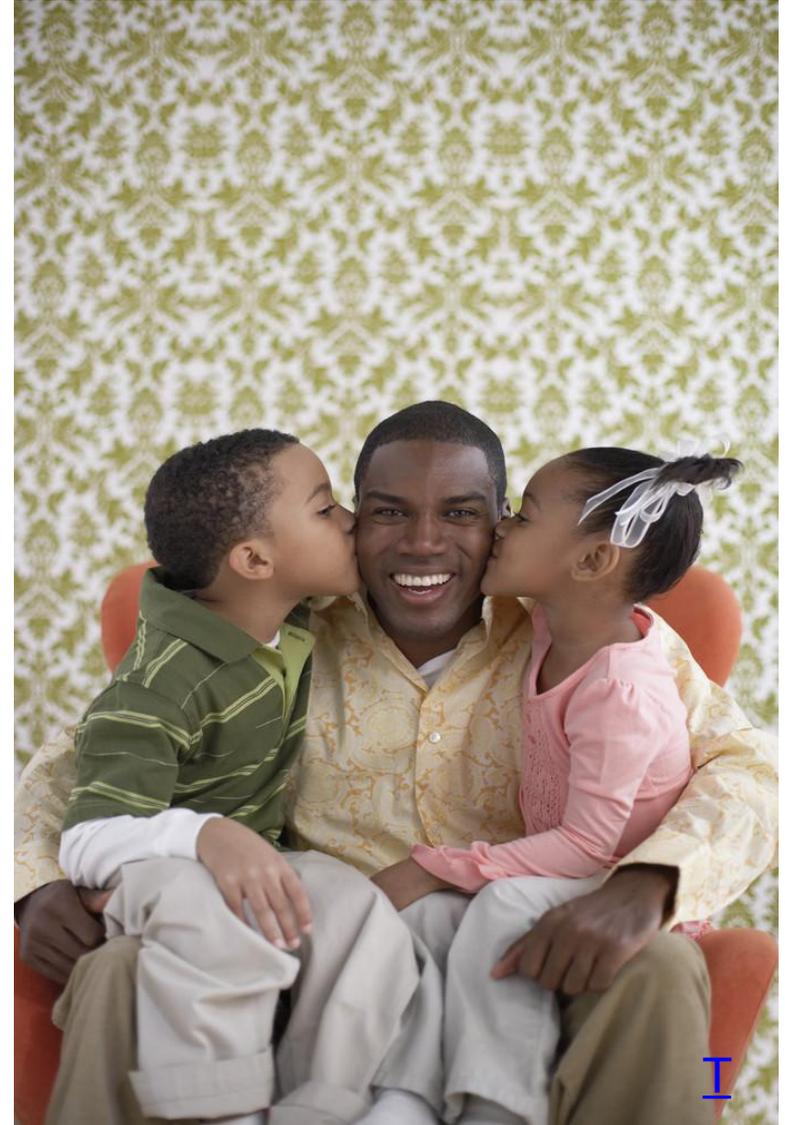
# Enrichment Activity 1

- Help everyone feel welcome at Church meetings and activities.
- Be cheerful.
- Express gratitude for Church leaders and teachers.
- Participate willingly when asked to give a talk, pray, or sing.

# Enrichment Activity 2

**What does unity mean?**

**How unity can be  
developed within a family**



# Enrichment Activity 3



- Do you have an experience when you have felt love and support from your family or from ward or branch members that you wouldn't mind sharing with us?
- How do you feel when they receive this kind of support?

# Enrichment Activity 4

- How hard would it be to do one of these activities without any instructions?



# Enrichment Activity 4

How is this activity like the newly organized Church in 1830?

# Enrichment Activity 5

Let's read the following quotation from Sister Patricia P. Pinegar, ninth General president of the Primary, about how Church Members need and help each other.

“The giant redwood trees that grow in northern California ... have a very shallow root system.

But when they are surrounded by other redwood trees, the strongest, fiercest wind cannot blow them over.



The roots of the giant redwood trees intertwine and strengthen each other.

When a storm comes, they actually hold each other up”

(in Conference Report, Oct. 1994, p. 103; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, p. 78).



Enrichment activity 5

Let's work hard to try to increase the love and unity within our families and within our Primary class.



# Testimony

- I am grateful for the example and faith of the early Saints who strengthened the Church and each other as they gathered to Kirtland, Ohio.
- I want to encourage you to try to increase the love and unity within your families and within our Primary Class.

**OUR CLOSING PRAYER WILL BE GIVEN  
BY**



**(Enter Name Here)**

***THE END***

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Teachers should refer to the manual, scriptures and other resources when preparing and conducting the lesson.

## D&C 37:3

- 3 And again, a commandment I give unto the church, that it is expedient in me that they should assemble together at the Ohio, against the time that my servant Oliver Cowdery shall return unto them.

## D&C 38:31–33

- 31 And that ye might escape the power of the enemy, and be gathered unto me a righteous people, without spot and blameless—
- 32 Wherefore, for this cause I gave unto you the commandment that ye should go to the Ohio; and there I will give unto you my law; and there you shall be endowed with power from on high;

## D&C 38:31–33

- 33 And from thence, whosoever I will shall go forth among all nations, and it shall be told them what they shall do; for I have a great work laid up in store, for Israel shall be saved, and I will lead them whithersoever I will, and no power shall stay my hand.

## D&C 38:32; 39:15

- 32 Wherefore, for this cause I gave unto you the commandment that ye should go to the Ohio; and there I will give unto you my law; and there you shall be endowed with power from on high;
- 15 And inasmuch as my people shall assemble themselves at the Ohio, I have kept in store a blessing such as is not known among the children of men, and it shall be poured forth upon their heads. And from thence men shall go forth into all nations.

## D&C 38:27

- 27 Behold, this I have given unto you as a parable, and it is even as I am. I say unto you, be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine.