



Ideas That Unite Us as Americans

Each person in the United States is different and special. What connects Americans are shared ideals. Ideals are ideas that seem very good and worth trying to achieve.

Our country is based on ideas about freedom and equality for everyone. These ideals were shaped by our early leaders and written down so no one would forget them. The ideas of freedom and equality are still important today for all Americans.



Civics



Economics



Geography



History

The Declaration of Independence: Creating a New Country

Although people have lived in our land for thousands of years, the United States is less than 250 years old. It was founded in 1776.

At that time, our country was a group of 13 colonies. The colonies belonged to a country called Great Britain, which was ruled by the British king.

Many colonists grew unhappy with British rule. They felt the British did not treat them fairly and they had little say in their own government.

In 1775, colonial leaders met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This group was called the Second Continental Congress. For over a year, they discussed what to do about the conflict with Great Britain. In July 1776, they decided the colonies should form their own country. They declared independence from Great Britain.

This was a huge step. It was a crime to be disloyal to the British king, but the colonists believed in something more powerful than British law. They believed that they had basic rights and that no government or king could take these rights away.

A man named Thomas Jefferson explained this thinking. He did so in the Declaration of Independence.

Colonial leaders vote for independence from Great Britain.

From the Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.



American Ideals

The Declaration of Independence describes the ideals of the new country.

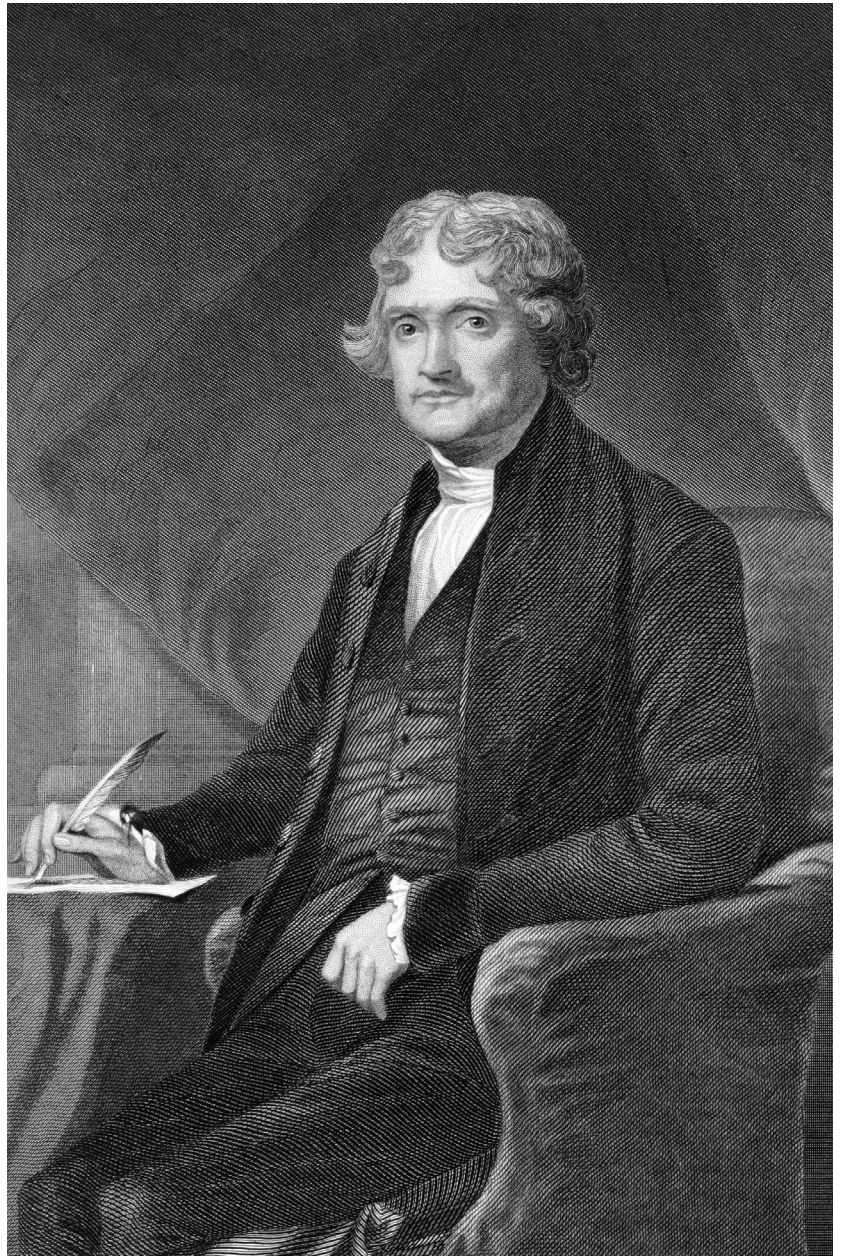
Thomas Jefferson wrote, "All men are created equal." This was a new idea in 1776. In most countries, people were not born equal. But the United States was founded on the ideal of equality.

It has taken time to live up to this promise. Until 1865, most African Americans lived in slavery, and women could not vote until 1920.

Jefferson also wrote that all people have basic rights. These rights are "unalienable." This means they cannot be taken away.

Our basic rights include the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Liberty is another word for freedom. We believe in the freedom to make choices. We decide what we will do for a living, and we choose how we will worship. We make other basic choices. We are free to pursue happiness.

Jefferson believed that government should get its power "from the consent of the governed." In other words, power belongs to the people. They can choose to let the government use it. The United States is a republic. We choose our leaders. We give them the power to make laws. Over time, our republic has grown. More and more people have been invited to take part. Today, nearly all citizens aged 18 or older can vote.



Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

The Constitution of the United States: Creating a Government

The Declaration of Independence listed the ideals that would guide the nation. But it did not create a government.

In 1787, a group of leaders again met in Philadelphia to create a plan for the new government. The plan they wrote is called the Constitution of the United States of America.

The Constitution begins with a special paragraph. We call this the Preamble. The words make clear that “we the people” are forming the government. It exists to serve us. The words also tell the purposes of our government. These are to:

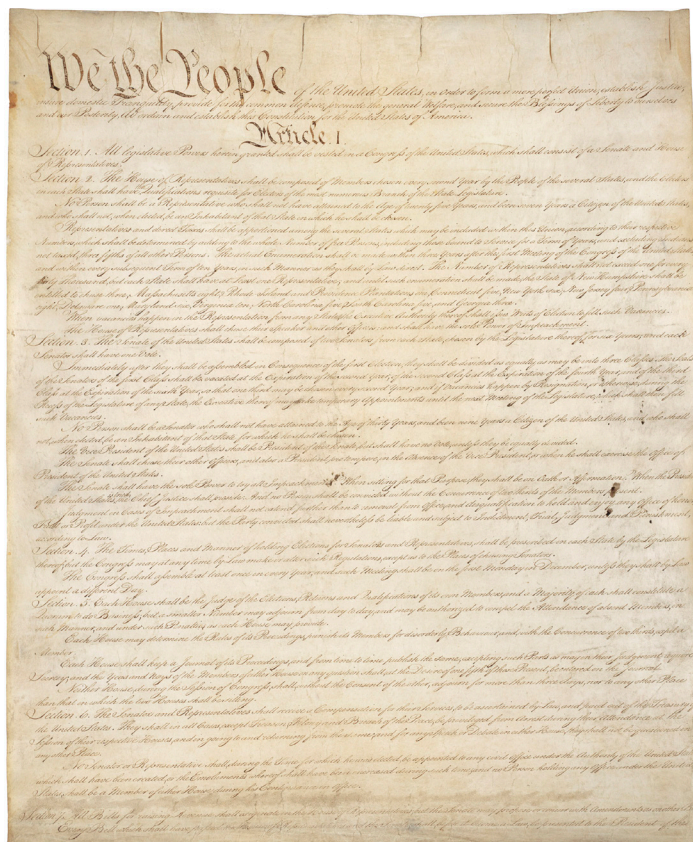
- create a more perfect union
- establish justice
- insure domestic tranquility—peace among the people
- provide for the common defense
- secure the blessings of liberty.

In 1789, the states adopted the plan.

The Preamble of the Constitution tells the purposes of government.

Preamble to the United States Constitution

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America.



How Government Achieves Its Purposes

The Preamble tells us the purposes of the government. But how does the Constitution achieve them?

One way is by giving government power. The Constitution gives the federal government power to create an army. The army helps defend us and keep us safe.

The Constitution allows the federal government to coin money. With this power, government helps people do business. It helps them build better lives.

The Constitution gives the federal government the power to tax. Taxes are how government raises money. Money allows government to offer important services. For example, government helps give people medicine. It helps the needy. Government helps keep our air and water clean. Such services promote our welfare.

The Constitution meets the purposes of the Preamble by putting limits on government power, too. One way it does this is with elections. The people can change leaders if they do not like the ones they have. This gives the people great power.

The Constitution also gives power to the states. For example, states make their own laws. They run schools and build roads. The states and federal governments both have power, but neither has too much.

The Constitution gives and limits powers to the government, states, and citizens.



The Bill of Rights guarantees certain freedoms and rights.



The Bill of Rights: Protecting the Rights of Individuals

The Constitution achieves the purposes of the Preamble in another way. It promises to protect people's rights. It does so in the first ten amendments to the Constitution. Together, these amendments are called the Bill of Rights.

What rights does the Bill of Rights guarantee? They include:

- *The freedom of speech and freedom of the press*
Government cannot stop us from sharing our ideas and views. We can even criticize the government.
- *The freedom of religion*
This means we can worship in any way we want.
- *The right to bear arms*
People are allowed to own guns.
- *The right not to be searched or arrested without good reason*
Government must follow certain rules.
- *The right to a speedy public trial in front of a jury*
Everyone who is arrested has the right to a trial.

However, rights have limits. For example, we do not have the freedom to say things that might create danger. We cannot shout out "Fire!" in a crowded place and cause a panic. We cannot put hurtful lies about a person in a newspaper.

With our rights come responsibilities. We hear the ideas of different candidates in an election. We must choose wisely when we vote. We are free to practice any religion we like. We are responsible for respecting other people's choices.

Four Freedoms

Americans believe in freedom. We also believe in helping others enjoy freedom and equality. Sometimes, this is not easy. Sometimes, we must fight for freedom. We must resist those who would take freedom away.

The United States faced this kind of challenge in 1940. The country was about to go to war—World War II. Our enemies were dictators. In a dictatorship, people have no freedom.

Our president was Franklin Roosevelt. He gave a speech called the Four Freedoms speech to help prepare the country for the challenge ahead.

Roosevelt reminded Americans of their own freedom. He challenged them to spread American ideals. “In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.”

These four freedoms included the freedoms of speech and religion. Roosevelt also named two other freedoms. One he called the “freedom from want.” People should be free to work and earn a good living.

The fourth freedom was “freedom from fear.” This was the fear of one country taking away the freedom of another.

Roosevelt’s ideas still ring true today. Americans want their freedom. They want freedom for the people of the world.



Franklin D. Roosevelt reminded Americans of their freedoms in his Four Freedoms speech.



Fourth graders recite the pledge each morning.

Respect for the Flag

The flag should never be displayed with the union (the blue portion) down, except as a signal of dire distress.

The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground.

The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but aloft and free.

The flag should not be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery.

The flag should never be fastened, used, displayed, or stored in a way that would allow for easy tearing, soiling, or damage.

The flag should never be used to cover the ceiling.

The flag should never have placed upon it any mark, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

The flag should never be used as a container for receiving, holding, or carrying anything.

The flag should never be used for advertising or printed on anything designed to be thrown away.

No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform.

When a flag is in such condition that it is no longer fit for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, such as by burning.

The Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America,
and to the Republic
for which it stands,
one nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.


Symbols of the United States of America

France gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States in the 1800s as a sign of friendship. The world has come to see the statue as a symbol of freedom and democracy. It has welcomed millions of people to the United States.

The bald eagle became a national symbol in 1782. The powerful bird was chosen because it was found only in North America. To our early leaders, the bird stood for strength, courage, and freedom.

The Great Seal of the United States shows the main ideas of the nation's founding. The colors come from the American flag. The eagle represents strength, freedom, and courage. The 13 arrows and the olive branch show the power of war and peace. The cluster of stars in the sky stand for a new nation taking its place among the other nations. The motto *E Pluribus Unum* means "from many, one." It means that we are one people made up of many different types.

The pyramid stands for strength. The eye over the pyramid stands for a greater power watching over people. Latin words celebrate the start of a new time in history. The letters on the pyramid's base are Roman numerals for 1776, the year of the nation's founding.

American Symbols	
	
Statue of Liberty	Bald Eagle
	
Great Seal (front)	Great Seal (back)

These symbols represent different ideals of the United States. They are symbols of freedom, courage, and our country's history.

Some National Holidays in the United States

Presidents' Day

In February, the country notes the birthdays of two of our greatest presidents: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Americans today honor both of these great leaders with the celebration of President's Day. It takes place on the third Monday in February.

Memorial Day

Americans remember the men and women who died in the service of our country on Memorial Day. The holiday began in the years following the Civil War. It was called Decoration Day, after the practice of placing flowers on the graves of the war dead. Today, it is celebrated on the last Monday in May.

Flag Day

The first Flag Day was in 1877. It honored the adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress. That took place 100 years earlier, on June 14. Now, each year on that date, we honor the great symbol of our nation.

Fourth of July—Independence Day

This holiday celebrates the day that the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence. It is celebrated across the United States with picnics, parades—and, of course—fireworks.

Labor Day

On the first Monday in September, Americans celebrate the contributions of the American worker.

Constitution Day

Constitution Day falls on September 17. It celebrates the signing of the United States Constitution on that day in 1787.

Thanksgiving

In 1621, the Pilgrims of the Plymouth colony and local American Indians celebrated the harvest. Presidents Washington and Lincoln later called for national days of thanksgiving. Today, we hold this celebration on the fourth Thursday in November.

Thanksgiving dinners often feature roast turkey.





Martin Luther King Jr.'s
"I Have a Dream" speech
inspired a nation.

I Have a Dream

Martin Luther King Jr. fought hard for equality for all Americans. On August 28, 1963, he spoke before a huge crowd in Washington, D.C., about his dream for our country. This speech is remembered today as the "I Have a Dream" speech. Here are some parts of that speech.

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day . . . little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today.

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true . . . Let freedom ring . . . from every mountainside, let freedom ring.

World Political Map





World Physical Map







United States Political Map

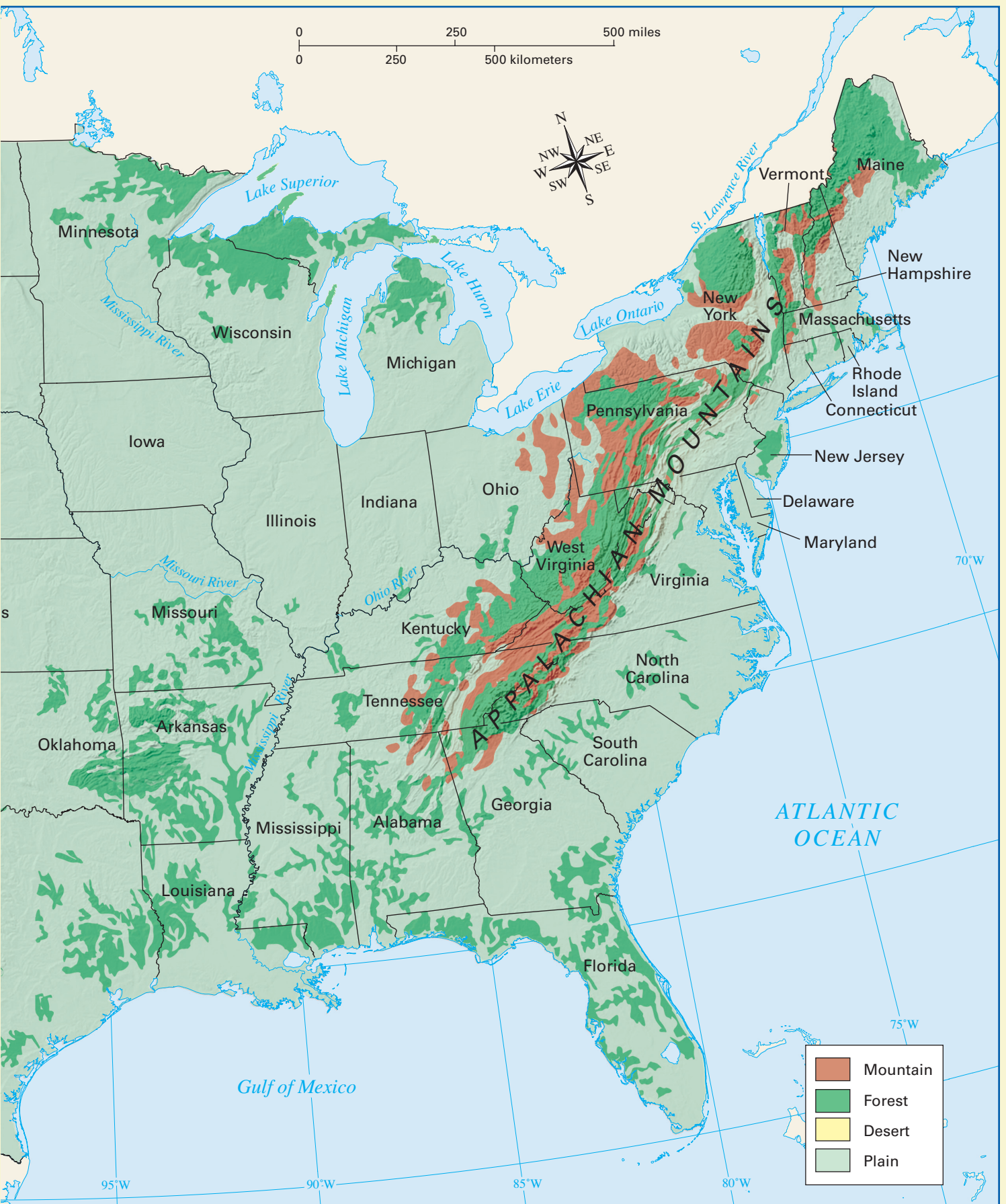




 U.S. capital
 State capital

United States Physical Map



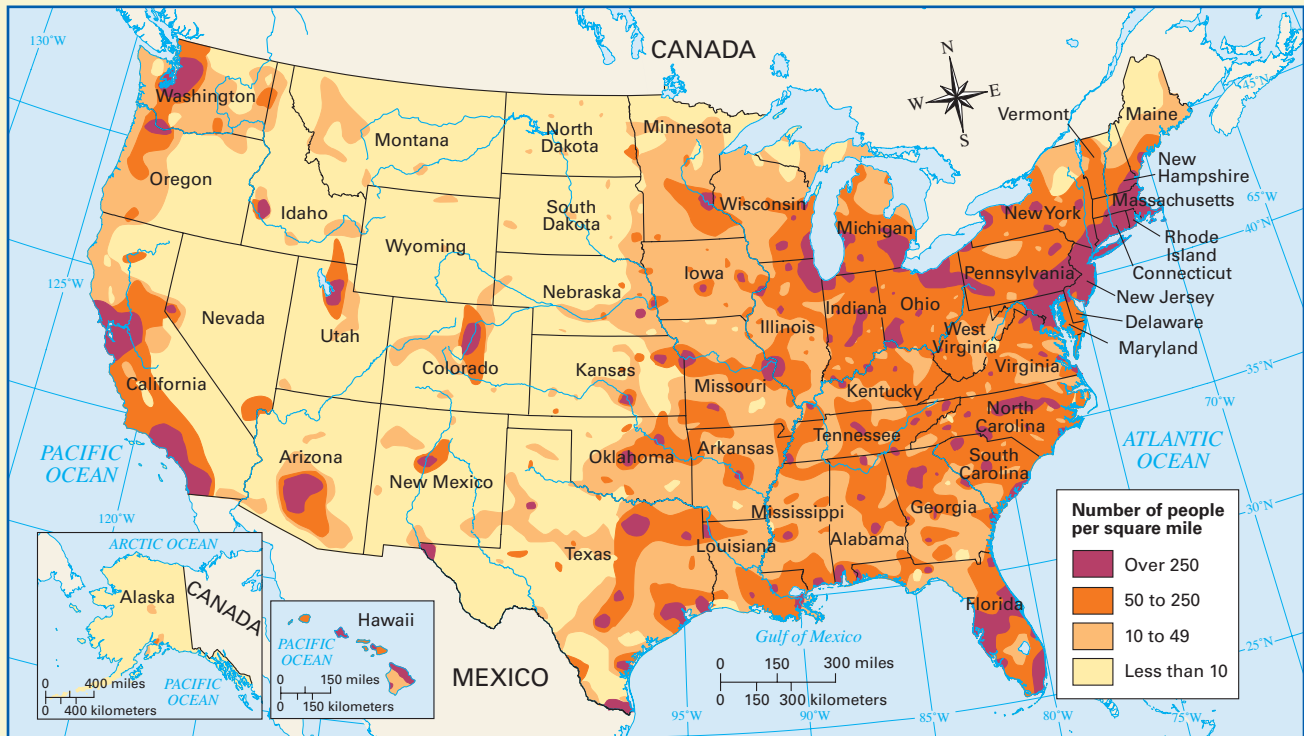


	Mountain
	Forest
	Desert
	Plain

Regional Map of the United States



Population Density Map of the United States



Elevation Map of the United States



Annual Rainfall Map of the United States



Solving Problems in Your State

Asking Compelling Questions

Good citizens ask questions. They talk about their questions on television, in newspapers, and online. You can be a good citizen by asking questions, too!

compelling question

a question you just need to know the answer to

Compelling questions are the questions you just need to know the answers to. They make you want to find answers. You can ask compelling questions about problems in your state. For example, you may notice that the highways and roads around you have cracks and potholes. One question you might ask is, “How do we fix the roads?”

Compelling questions do not have easy answers, so it helps to ask supporting questions to help answer them. Here are some supporting questions. “How many roads are in my state?” “Who pays to maintain roads?” “How many cars drive on roads every day?” “Are there ways to reduce damage to the roads?” “How often are roads repaired?”

Compelling questions are interesting questions. Thinking of supporting questions will help you answer them.





Finding Helpful Sources

You answer questions by using sources. Think about your supporting questions. A Web site for your state’s transportation department might be a helpful source. An expert, such as a road worker, could also be helpful. A library book about building roads might help.

A primary source of an event is an object created by someone who was there. Photos, notebooks, and letters can be primary sources. You might find a news article written about a highway that was built long ago. This could be a helpful primary source.

Knowing who wrote or made a source helps you decide if it is helpful. A person who is an expert on highways or roads is likely to have good information.

Facts and Opinions

Some sources only give **facts**. A fact is a true piece of information. A map of highways in your state contains facts. Others may mix facts with opinions. An **opinion** is what someone thinks or believes. What is your opinion about how often highways should be fixed? When you use sources, understand whether they give facts, opinions, or both.

A librarian can help you find sources of information.

fact a true piece of information

opinion what someone thinks or believes



You can communicate claims and evidence in many ways. One way is by giving a talk to your class.

evidence the facts you use to back up your claim

Making Claims and Using Evidence

By now you have collected some facts. You have answered your supporting questions. Now you are ready to come up with an answer to your compelling question, “How do we fix the roads?”

Your answer will be a claim supported with facts. Your claim might be, “The state needs to repave our highways so we have smoother roads.” The facts you use to back up your claim are called **evidence**. One fact could be that driving is safer on smoother roads. Another could be that smoother roads last longer.

Communicating Conclusions

There are many ways to present your claims and evidence. You might give a talk to your class. You can also contact your state representative. You can write a letter or e-mail with evidence supporting your claim.

You can also communicate with writing, drawings, and photos. They can be presented on a poster or a class Web page.

Taking Informed Action

Good citizens take action to help solve problems. Citizens can volunteer to help their community. They can write letters to the editor of a newspaper. They can write a petition. People who agree will sign the petition. The petition can be presented to community leaders.

Even students can make a difference. What if you wanted to find ways to fix highways in your state? You can use what you learned from helpful sources. You can share your ideas in school and outside school. What actions could you take alone? What action could you take with others?

You can take action by sharing your conclusions about a problem. How would you take action to help repair highways in your state?



State Facts

Alabama



Capital

The capital changed three times before finally becoming present-day **Montgomery** in 1847.

Famous Citizen

A group of famous Alabamans, the **Tuskegee Airmen**, were the first African Americans allowed to become military pilots and fight and fly in World War II.

Economy

Farming leads the economy with products like cotton, poultry, peanuts, and paper and other wood products. **Oil, gas, and coal** resources add to the economy.

Geography

Most of the state is either forested or good for farming. Rolling plains cover much of the state with mountains in the north. Beaches are popular along the coast of the **Gulf of Mexico**. Mobile is a big port city on **Mobile Bay**.

Climate: Alabama is mostly warm and sunny with a year-round temperature averaging in the 60s. Temperatures tend to be warmer near the Gulf of Mexico. It rains throughout the year. The state is prone to tropical storms.

History

During the American Revolution, parts of the South, like Alabama, were part of two British colonies that stayed loyal to the king.

Fun Facts

State Date: December 14, 1819

Motto: We Dare Maintain Our Rights

Flower: Camellia

Bird: Yellowhammer

Tree: Southern longleaf pine

Song: "Alabama"

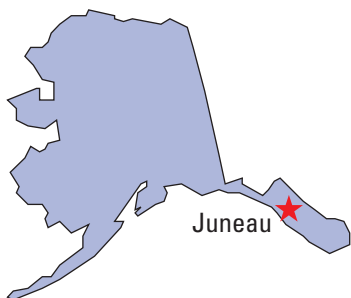
Nicknames: Yellowhammer State (unofficial)

Web Site: www.alabama.gov



Camellia

Alaska



Capital

Joseph Juneau was one of two people who found gold in Gold Creek in August of 1880. **Juneau** started as a "boomtown" along the creek beach and was named the capital of the territory in 1906.

Famous Citizen

Pop singer, **Jewel**, grew up in Homer. She attended a performing arts school, and then left the state to begin her music career.

Economy

The largest part of the state's economy is **oil and gas** production. **Tourism** and **fishing** are also main economic forces. Over a million tourists visit Alaska annually.

Geography

Alaska, the largest state, is bordered by the **Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, and the Arctic Ocean**. It has mountains, including North America's tallest mountain (Mt. McKinley or Denali), glaciers, three million lakes, and the **Aleutian Island** chain.

Climate: The weather inside the state can be very different from the weather along the coasts. The southern coast is especially warmer.

History

Natives have lived in the state for about 10,000 years. The United States bought Alaska from Russia in 1867.

Fun Facts

State Date: January 3, 1959

Motto: North to the Future

Flower: Forget-me-not

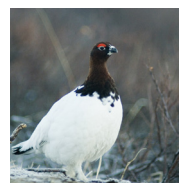
Bird: Willow ptarmigan

Tree: Sitka spruce

Song: "Alaska's Flag"

Nickname: The Last Frontier

Web Site: www.alaska.gov



Willow ptarmigan

Arizona



Capital

Ancient Hohokam people built irrigation canals in the **Phoenix** area. Settlers in the mid-1800s rebuilt the canals. They named the area "Phoenix" because it was built from the ruins of another.

Famous Citizen

Cochise, a Chiricahua Apache, fought with other Apaches to keep their land free of settlers. He became a chief in 1863.

Economy

The major parts of the economy are **manufacturing, mining,** and **tourism**. Tourism and the supporting services are one of the state's largest industries. People come from all over the world to see the Grand Canyon.

Geography

The state has deserts, plateaus, buttes, rushing rivers, dry washes, mountain ranges, and the amazing **Grand Canyon**. There are also **Monument Valley, Petrified Forest**, the **Sonoran Desert**, and **Kartchner Caverns**.

Climate: Because there are both mountains and deserts, the climate can have extremes. Temperatures can be very hot in the summer in the desert and very cold in the mountains in the winter.

History

Arizona's history is shown in its many old **American Indian** and **Spanish explorers'** sites.

Fun Facts

State Date: February 14, 1912

Motto: God Enriches

Flower: Saguaro cactus blossom

Bird: Cactus wren

Tree: Palo verde

Songs: "Arizona"; "Arizona March Song"

Nickname: Grand Canyon State

Web Site: www.az.gov



Saguaro blossom

Arkansas



Capital

Rock outcroppings along the Arkansas River gave the city its name of **Little Rock**.

Famous Citizen

William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton, the 42nd President of the United States, was born in Hope and grew up in Hot Springs. He served two terms in office from 1992–2000. His presidential library is in Little Rock.

Economy

While Arkansas is mostly **agricultural**, the mining of petroleum, natural gas, and bromine are also important. Bromine is a chemical found as a mineral salt in rock. Mining of precious and semi-precious stones has helped give the state its nickname "the gem state."

Geography

The **Missouri River** is in the north, and to the east is the **Mississippi River**. The rivers provide the state with fertile plains and lowlands, while highlands and the **Ozark plateau** cover the rest. Lakes, rivers, springs, and some low mountains also dot the state.

Climate: The climate is mild with generous rainfall.

History

The first European to visit Arkansas was Hernando **de Soto** in 1541. The first permanent settlement was built in 1686. Settlers came because of good land and precious gems.

Fun Facts

State Date: June 15, 1836

Motto: The People Rule

Flower: Apple blossom

Bird: Mockingbird

Tree: Pine

Songs: "Arkansas"

Nicknames: Land of Opportunity; Wonder State

Web Site: www.arkansas.gov



Mockingbird

California



Capital

Sacramento became the capital in 1854 but had to pay the state one million dollars for that honor!

Famous Citizen

Cesar Chavez was born in Arizona, but he spent much of his adult life living and working in California. He worked to improve the civil rights of farm workers.

Economy

California has millions of acres of **farmland**, and it leads the United States in agricultural production. Top products include **dairy, nursery products, almonds, and grapes**.

Geography

California has many different landforms. Its **Pacific Ocean coastline** is 800 miles long. The highest and lowest points in the lower 48 states are located within 100 miles of each other. **Mt. Whitney** is 14,505 feet, and **Badwater Basin** in Death Valley is 282 feet below sea level.

Climate: Southern California has a warm and often hot and dry climate. The north has more rain along the coast and snow in the mountains.

History

California became a state due to the gold rush of 1848. **Hollywood** became famous around the world in the 1920s for its movie studios.

Fun Facts

State Date: September 9, 1850

Motto: I Have Found It

Flower: Golden poppy

Bird: California Valley quail

Tree: California redwood

Song: "I Love You, California"

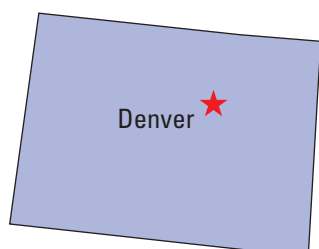
Nickname: The Golden State

Web Site: www.ca.gov



California Valley quail

Colorado



Capital

Denver is known as the "Mile High City" because the 13th step on the west side of the capitol building is exactly one mile, or 5,280 feet, above sea level.

Famous Citizen

Condoleezza Rice attended high school and college in Denver. She was the first African American woman to be Secretary of State of the United States.

Economy

Colorado generates most of its money through **service industries**, although **agriculture** is in the eastern part of the state. The western half, covered by the Rocky Mountains, has many recreation areas as well as **oil and gas deposits**.

Geography

Colorado is a land-locked state that is flat in the east, where it is part of the **Great Plains**. Further west, it is covered with the **Rocky Mountains** and the **Colorado Plateau**.

Climate: The climate is mild but varies because of the plains and the mountains. There is often snow and colder temperatures in the mountains, while the plains are drier and warmer.

History

When **gold** was discovered in 1858, many new settlers arrived.

Fun Facts

State Date: August 1, 1876

Motto: Nothing Without Providence

Flower: Rocky Mountain columbine

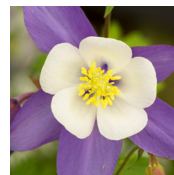
Bird: Lark bunting

Tree: Colorado blue spruce

Songs: "Where the Columbines Grow"; "Rocky Mountain High"

Nickname: Centennial State

Web Site: www.colorado.gov



Rocky Mountain columbine

Connecticut



Capital

The first Boys and Girls Club was started in **Hartford** in 1860. It was a place for children to go instead of hanging around the streets.

Famous Citizen

Noah Webster was born in West Hartford. He published the first American English dictionary in 1783. He helped make the spelling of words the same, or standard, everywhere.

Economy

Industry is the main basis for the economy. The manufacture of textiles, electronics, computer equipment, helicopters, and submarines are important. The service industries of tourism and insurance are also important parts of the economy.

Geography

The southerly flow of the Connecticut River roughly divides the state into the **eastern** and **western highlands**. About two thirds of the state is open land. There is also a **coastal plain** in the south along **Long Island Sound**, a popular summer resort area.

Climate: The coast has warmer winters and cooler summers than the inner parts of the state.

History

The state was settled by **English Puritans** in 1633.

Fun Facts

State Date: January 9, 1788

Motto: He Who Transplanted Still Sustains

Flower: Mountain laurel

Bird: American robin

Tree: White oak

Song: "Yankee Doodle"

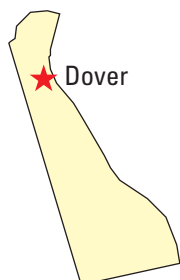
Nicknames: Constitution State; Nutmeg State

Web Site: www.ct.gov



American robin

Delaware



Capital

Every year, two NASCAR races in **Dover** bring so many tourists the population of the city grows from 30,000 people to more than 200,000 the weeks of the races.

Famous Citizen

Henry Heimlich, surgeon, was born in Wilmington. In 1974, he told about a new way to stop people from choking, now known as the "Heimlich maneuver."

Economy

Most of Delaware's economy counts on service industries like **finance**, **insurance**, and **real estate**. **Industrial chemicals**, **drugs**, and **plastics** are important products made in the state.

Geography

Delaware is nearly surrounded by water with the **Atlantic Ocean** on the east and **Delaware Bay** on the west. The majority of the state is in the **Atlantic Coastal Plain**, which means that the state is low and flat. The southern part of Delaware is 30,000 acres of swampland!

Climate: The climate on the coast is milder, with winters being 10 degrees warmer and summers being 10 degrees cooler than the inland areas of the state.

History

Henry Hudson discovered Delaware Bay, opening the area for European settlement in 1609.

Fun Facts

State Date: December 7, 1787

Motto: Liberty and Independence

Flower: Peach blossom

Bird: Blue hen chicken

Tree: American holly

Song: "Our Delaware"

Nicknames: First State; Diamond State

Web Site: www.de.gov



American holly

Florida



Capital

South of **Tallahassee** are huge underground sinkholes, many filled with water. Miles of underground passageways lead from the sinkholes to a famous tourist spot, Wakulla Springs.

Famous Citizen

Sidney Poitier was born in 1927 in Miami. He was the first African American to receive an Academy Award for Best Actor in 1964.

Economy

With over 87 million visitors annually, Florida is the top travel destination in the world. The **service industry**, which supports **tourism**, is a multi-billion dollar addition to the state's economy. The **space industry** and **farming**, especially of oranges, are also important to the state's economy.

Geography

With the **Atlantic Ocean** on the east and the **Gulf of Mexico** on the west, most of Florida's **peninsula** is coastal plain. **Big Cypress Swamp** and the **Everglades** are unique swamp areas in the state.

Climate: Florida is known for its warm, mild winters and very hot and humid summers with thunderstorms.

History

In the mid-1500s, Florida stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River.

Fun Facts

State Date: March 3, 1845

Motto: In God We Trust

Flower: Orange blossom

Bird: Mockingbird

Tree: Sabal palm

Song: "Old Folks at Home"

Nickname: Sunshine State

Web Site: myflorida.com



Orange blossom

Georgia



Capital

While **Atlanta** has been the capital since 1868, it was not the first capital. In fact, there have been five capitals of Georgia!

Famous Citizen

Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta in 1929. He was a Baptist minister and an important Civil Rights activist and leader. He promoted non-violent activism as a way to get change.

Economy

Georgia leads the country in the farming of **pecans**, **peanuts**, and **peaches**. However, most of Georgia's money comes from the manufacture of **petroleum products** and **transportation equipment**.

Geography

Georgia is the largest state east of the Mississippi River. It has some of the **Blue Ridge Mountains** in the north and gets flatter closer to the **Atlantic Ocean**. The land is good for agriculture and forestry.

Climate: The climate in Georgia varies because of the geography. The summers in the east are warm, but in the middle of the

state, it is even hotter. It hardly ever snows in any part of Georgia.

History

Georgia was named for **King George II**.

Fun Facts

State Date: January 2, 1788

Motto: Wisdom, Justice, Moderation

Flower: Cherokee rose

Bird: Brown thrasher

Tree: Live oak

Song: "Georgia on My Mind"

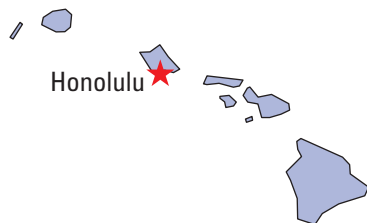
Nicknames: Empire State of the South; The Peach State

Web Site: www.georgia.gov



Pecans

Hawaii



Capital

Honolulu was first named Kou, but the name was later changed to Honolulu. In the Hawaiian language it means "sheltered harbor."

Famous Citizen

Liliuokalani was the first woman to sit on the Hawaiian throne. She became queen in 1891. She was asked to give up her throne and did in 1895.

Economy

Tourism and service industries like **health care, restaurants,** and **law offices** provide the most money for the state. Hawaii is also a leading state for growing pineapples and sugar cane.

Geography

Hawaii is the **southernmost** state in the United States. It is the only state that is made up of just **islands**. The Hawaiian Islands are the world's longest island chain. **Coral** and **volcanoes** formed the islands. They continue to shape and reshape them today.

Climate: The state's climate is warm all year round. It is usually warm and sunny, although there is snow at the top of some of the mountains. **Trade winds** blow year round.

History

Hawaii was an important harbor and base for the United States in World War II.

Fun Facts

State Date: August 21, 1959

Motto: The Life of the Land Is Perpetuated in Righteousness

Flower: Yellow hibiscus

Bird: Hawaiian goose

Tree: Candlenut

Song: "Hawaii Pono'i"

Nickname: The Aloha State

Web Site: www.hawaii.gov



Yellow hibiscus

Idaho



Capital

The capitol building in **Boise** is the only U.S. capitol to be heated by geothermal water from 3,000 feet below the surface.

Famous Citizen

Sacajawea was born in what is now eastern Idaho around 1790. She was the Shoshone guide and interpreter for explorers Lewis and Clark starting in 1804.

Economy

Major industries include **manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, timber,** and **mining**. Idaho leads the country in production of **potatoes, trout, Austrian winter peas,** and **lentils**. **Mining** includes 72 types of precious and semi-precious stones, some found only in the state.

Geography

Idaho is home to **Hells Canyon**, a **river gorge** that is deeper even than the Grand Canyon. The state is **landlocked** and is bordered by six other states and Canada.

Climate: Despite being in the north, Idaho has a moderate climate, especially in the plains, which are quite dry. The mountains have plenty of snow and cold winters.

History

The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 included the Idaho territory. The discovery of gold in 1852 brought new settlers.

Fun Facts

State Date: July 3, 1890

Motto: Let It Be Perpetual

Flower: Syringa

Bird: Mountain bluebird

Tree: Western white pine

Song: "Here We Have Idaho"

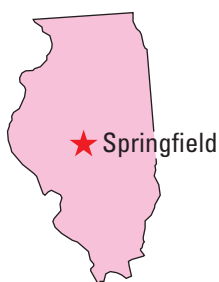
Nickname: Gem State

Web Site: www.idaho.gov



Potatoes

Illinois



Capital

The first European settler to arrive at the prairie site that is now **Springfield** was Elisha Kelly who came in 1819.

Famous Citizen

Illinois's most famous citizen is probably **Abraham Lincoln**. He lived and worked in both New Salem and Springfield prior to becoming president and leading the country through the Civil War.

Economy

Much of the northern part of the state around Chicago is urban and a leader in **manufacturing** and **service industry** jobs. Chicago is considered the financial capital of the Midwest. The central part of the state has farming. The southern part of the state has important **coal** deposits.

Geography

Illinois is located in the center of the Midwest. It is on **Lake Michigan** and is bordered by the **Mississippi, Wabash, and Ohio rivers**. The **Fox, Rock, and Illinois rivers** run through the state. The land has **fertile, rich soil**, common in the plains states.

Climate: Illinois has four distinct seasons with hot summers and cold winters.

History

Congress purposefully drew the state's border to include **Chicago**.

Fun Facts

State Date: December 3, 1818

Motto: State Sovereignty, National Union

Flower: Violet

Bird: Cardinal

Tree: White oak

Song: "Illinois"

Nicknames: The Prairie State; The Land of Lincoln

Web Site: www.illinois.gov



Violet

Indiana



Capital

Indianapolis is referred to as "Indy" by the local residents.

The city is the home of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, which was built in 1909.

Famous Citizen

Macon Bolling Allen (1925–2005) was the first African American to be licensed to practice law in the United States. He was born in Indiana.

Economy

The northern part of the state, close to Chicago and Lake Michigan, used to be famous for its steel production. However, many of those jobs are now gone, and most of Indiana's jobs and income comes from service industries such as **wholesale and retail trade, health care, and financial services**. Indiana is also a leading **agricultural state**. It grows corn, soybeans, and dairy products.

Geography

Indiana is almost all **fertile plains**. The state's borders include **Lake Michigan** in the northwest and the **Ohio and Wabash rivers** in the south and southwest.

Climate: The climate is typical for the Midwest with hot summers and cold winters. The area just

south of Lake Michigan receives a lot more snow in the winter because of the lake.

History

Built in the center of the state, Indianapolis became a crossroads for roads and trains.

Fun Facts

State Date: December 11, 1816

Motto: The Crossroads of America

Flower: Peony

Bird: Cardinal

Tree: Yellow tulip poplar

Song: "On the Banks of the Wabash"

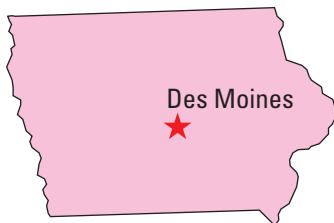
Nickname: Hoosier State

Web Site: www.in.gov



Peony

Iowa



Capital

Originally a military outpost, the name **Des Moines** comes from an American Indian word for the Indian burial mounds that were near the cities' rivers.

Famous Citizen

Johnny Carson, (1925–2005) late night TV host, was born in Corning, Iowa. He is best known as the host of "The Tonight Show" for 30 years.

Economy

Primarily an agricultural state, Iowa is the U.S. leader in **hog** and **corn production**. Farms also produce **milk, eggs,** and **soybeans**. The leading manufacturing industry is **food processing**.

Geography

Iowa is a "bridge" state, joining the forests of the East and the plains of the West. The **Mississippi** and **Missouri rivers** border the state on the east and the west, providing very **fertile land** in between. Ideal for farming, this land is mostly rolling plains.

Climate: Iowa has four distinct seasons with very cold winters and warm and humid summers. Rain can fall heavily in the summer causing floods.

History

Iowa played an important role in the **Underground Railroad** during the **Civil War**.

Fun Facts

State Date: December 28, 1846

Motto: Our Liberties We Prize, and Our Rights We Will Maintain

Flower: Wild prairie rose

Bird: Eastern goldfinch

Tree: Oak

Song: "The Song of Iowa"

Nickname: Hawkeye State

Web Site: www.iowa.gov



Oak

Kansas



Capital

Three French Canadians settled in the **Topeka** area and set up a ferry service over the Kansas (Kaw) River in 1842. The Oregon Trail crossed the river at Topeka. The site became the capital in 1861.

Famous Citizen

Amelia Earhart was born in 1897 in Atchison. She was the first woman to fly over the Atlantic Ocean in 1928.

Economy

Kansas has expanded from an **agriculture** economy to a diverse mix of industries. While agriculture is still important (Kansas ranks first in the United States for wheat production), **aviation** in the Wichita area, **wind energy**, and **food processing**, provide important revenue for the state.

Geography

Kansas is a Midwestern state almost entirely made up of **plains**. The eastern half of the state has some **hills** and **forests**, but the western portion is flat. The soil is fertile and ideal for farming.

Climate: Kansas generally has a moderate climate, but there are large extremes in temperatures between winter and summer.

History

After many bloody battles, Kansas chose to enter the Union as a free state in 1861.

Fun Facts

State Date: January 29, 1861

Motto: To the Stars Through Difficulties

Flower: Wild native sunflower

Bird: Western meadowlark

Tree: Cottonwood

Song: "Home on the Range"

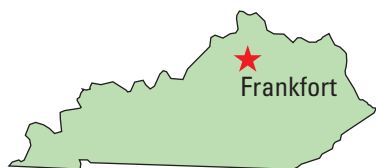
Nickname: Sunflower State

Web Site: www.kansas.gov



Wild native sunflower

Kentucky



Capital

Originally known as Frank's Ford, **Frankfort** was one of several fords, or places to cross, on the Kentucky River. It was named for Stephen Frank, a settler who died at or near the site in 1780.

Famous Citizen

Helen Thomas (1920–2013) was born in Winchester. She was a journalist known for her coverage of the White House. She broke barriers for women reporters.

Economy

Kentucky's economy includes **manufacturing, service industries, mining, real estate, farming, forestry, and fisheries**. **Horses** are the leading source of farm income with famous thoroughbred farms.

Geography

Lying just west of the Appalachian Mountains, Kentucky has more running water than any other state except Alaska. It is bordered by the **Ohio River** to the north and west. Other important rivers include the **Mississippi, Cumberland, Green, and Kentucky**.

Climate: It is generally mild to moderate with warm summers, somewhat cold winters, and plenty of rainfall.

History

The electric light bulb was first introduced by **Thomas Edison** in 1883 in Louisville.

Fun Facts

State Date: June 1, 1792

Motto: United We Stand, Divided We Fall

Flower: Goldenrod

Bird: Cardinal

Tree: Tulip poplar

Song: "My Old Kentucky Home"

Nickname: Bluegrass State

Web Site: www.kentucky.gov



Horse

Louisiana



Capital

Baton Rouge is the farthest inland deep water port on the Mississippi. Because ocean-going vessels can get to Baton Rouge, it has become a major center for commerce and industry.

Famous Citizen

Noted jazz musician, **Louis Armstrong**, was born in 1901 in New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz.

Economy

Coastal **oil and gas production**, as well as **mining of sulfur, lime, and salt** are the mainstays of the economy. **Tourism** is the second most important industry, especially in New Orleans, the state's largest city. **Forestry, agriculture, and commercial fishing** also play large roles.

Geography

Much of southern Louisiana is **lowland or swamps**, home to rice fields and alligators. Two large rivers, the Mississippi and Sabine, form the eastern and western borders. The interior is **forest and agricultural land**.

Climate: The state's climate is almost tropical. It has hot, humid summers and mild winters. Rain is frequent throughout the year.

History

The state was governed by Spain, France, and Great Britain before it became part of the United States.

Fun Facts

State Date: April 30, 1812

Motto: Union, Justice, Confidence

Flower: Magnolia

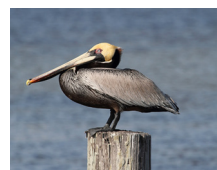
Bird: Eastern brown pelican

Tree: Bald cypress

Songs: "Give Me Louisiana"; "You Are My Sunshine"

Nickname: Pelican State

Web Site: www.louisiana.gov



Brown pelican

Maine



Capital

Old Western Fort was the first building on the site of what would become the city of **Augusta**. This 1754 fort is the oldest surviving wooden fort in New England.

Famous Citizen

E.B. White (1899–1985) lived most of his adult life in North Brooklin, Maine. He is best known for his children’s books, *Stuart Little* and *Charlotte’s Web*.

Economy

Maine’s economy is strong in **timber, boat building, tourism, and agriculture**. Blueberries, maple syrup, and apples are the state’s best known agricultural products. The seafood industry is important, with lobster catchers catching millions of pounds of lobster each year for visitors and locals alike.

Geography

Glaciers helped create more than 2,000 **lakes** in Maine’s heavily forested interior. The state also has a **rocky coast** along the Atlantic Ocean.

Climate: Maine has a northern climate of warm summers and cold, snowy winters. Temperatures along the Atlantic coast are a bit warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

History

The first Veterans’ Hospital in the United States was built in Togus, Maine.

Fun Facts

State Date: March 15, 1820

Motto: I Lead

Flower: White pine cone and tassel

Bird: Chickadee

Tree: Eastern white pine

Song: “State of Maine Song”

Nickname: Pine Tree State

Web Site: www.maine.gov



Chickadee

Maryland



Capital

As a colonial city, **Annapolis** was known as the “Athens of America” because of its many cultural activities.

Famous Citizen

Thurgood Marshall was born in Baltimore in 1908. He studied law at Howard University. He was the first African American to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court, serving from 1967–1991.

Economy

Information technology, telecommunications, aerospace, and defense industries lead the state’s economic growth. Because of Chesapeake Bay, ocean-going ships are able to **export** its goods to other countries.

Geography

Maryland is partially bordered by the **Atlantic Ocean** and is divided by **Chesapeake Bay**, with the two sections referred to as the **East Shore** and the **West Shore**. Maryland also has the **Atlantic Coastal Plain**, the **Blue Ridge region**, and the **Appalachian ridge and plateau**.

Climate: The East Shore has a warm, moist climate. The West Shore has cold winters and hot summers.

History

George Calvert received a royal charter for a colony from English king **Charles I**, so he named it Maryland in honor of the queen.

Fun Facts

State Date: April 28, 1788

Motto: Manly Deeds, Womanly Words

Flower: Black-eyed Susan

Bird: Baltimore oriole

Tree: White oak

Song: “Maryland, My Maryland”

Nicknames: Old Line State; Free State

Web Site: www.maryland.gov



Baltimore oriole

Massachusetts



Capital

Firsts for **Boston** include the first subway system in the United States built in 1897. The Boston Common became the first U.S. public park in 1634.

Famous Citizen

Squanto, an American Indian of the Patuxet tribe, acted as interpreter and guide for the Pilgrims at Plymouth during their first winter.

Economy

Besides agricultural income found in **dairy, nursery products, cranberries,** and **fruit**, the state has considerable industry. **Defense technology, biotechnology, financial services,** a growing **film industry,** and **manufacturing** are important economic contributors.

Geography

Once totally forested except for the **Atlantic Coast** and **Cape Cod**, Massachusetts now has farms in the fertile **Connecticut River Valley**. The coastal areas are a mix of **rocky shores, sandy beaches,** and **salt marshes**.

Climate: The climate is moderate, with cold and snowy weather inland in the winter and hot summers. The coast is milder.

History

Pilgrims arrived in Massachusetts in 1620.

Fun Facts

State Date: February 6, 1788

Motto: By the Sword We Seek Peace, but Peace Only Under Liberty

Flower: Mayflower

Bird: Black-capped chickadee

Tree: American elm

Song: "All Hail to Massachusetts"

Nicknames: Bay State; Old Colony State

Web Site: www.mass.gov



American elm

Michigan



Capital

The area of **Lansing** was wilderness when two brothers from Lansing, New York, settled the area in 1835 and called it "Biddle Town."

Famous Citizen

Henry Ford was born near Dearborn, Michigan, in 1863. He introduced the Model A in 1908. He is best known for developing the moving assembly line.

Economy

Mining is a big part of Michigan's economy. The world's largest limestone quarries are in the state. Michigan ranks second in the production of iron ore. Surrounded by four of the Great Lakes, **fishing** is also important. The state is also famous for its **production of transportation parts** and **vehicles**.

Geography

Michigan is unique because it is made up of two separate **peninsulas** (land that sticks out into water on three sides): the Upper and Lower.

Climate: The Great Lakes help to give Michigan a more moderate climate than other northern states. The Upper Peninsula is cooler than the Lower Peninsula.

History

All of the car plants made military equipment during **World War II**.

Fun Facts

State Date: January 26, 1837

Motto: If You Seek a Pleasant Peninsula, Look About You

Flower: Apple blossom

Bird: American robin

Tree: White pine

Song: "My Michigan"

Nicknames: Great Lakes State; Wolverine State

Web Site: www.michigan.gov



Apple blossom

Minnesota



Capital

St. Paul, the capital, and its neighbor, Minneapolis, are known as the “Twin Cities.” The Twin Cities, with their suburbs, hold over half the state’s population!

Famous Citizen

Charles M. Schulz, creator of the *Peanuts* cartoons and characters, was born in Minneapolis in 1922. He launched the *Peanuts* comic strip in 1950.

Economy

Minnesota has a strong economy with much of it centered in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. This urban area is home to major **national and international corporations**. **Agriculture** adds to the economy with livestock, dairy products, corn, and soybeans.

Geography

Most of Minnesota is gently rolling **plains** well suited for agriculture. There are more than 10,000 **lakes** dotting the landscape. Major bodies of water include **Lake Superior**, the **St. Croix River**, **Mississippi River**, and the **Red River of the North**.

Climate: The climate has four distinct seasons with warm to hot summers and very cold and snowy winters.

History

Between 1830 and 1900, large numbers of **German and Scandinavian immigrants** settled in the state.

Fun Facts

State Date: May 11, 1858

Motto: The Star of the North
Flower: Pink and white lady’s slipper

Bird: Common loon

Tree: Red pine

Song: “Hail! Minnesota”

Nicknames: North Star State

Web Site: www.mn.gov



Common loon

Mississippi



Capital

Originally known as LeFleur’s Bluff, **Jackson** was renamed honoring Major General Andrew Jackson who later became the 7th President of the United States.

Famous Citizen

Oprah Winfrey, actress and talk show host, was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi, in 1954. She has donated millions of dollars to educational causes.

Economy

Lumbering, wood products, manufacturing, farming, oil production, and tourism are common in Mississippi’s economy. Cotton, soybeans, and farm-raised catfish are important agricultural products. Tourists are especially drawn to Civil War sites and to the Gulf Coast.

Geography

The **Mississippi River** forms the western boundary of the state and gave it its name. The **Gulf of Mexico** is to the south. Much of the state is coastal plain. The state has lots of southern pine forests and farmland.

Climate: The warm, humid climate is good for growing crops. The summers are long and hot, and the winters are short and mild.

History

While hunting in 1902, President Teddy Roosevelt refused to shoot a captured bear. This kindness inspired the “Teddy Bear” toy.

Fun Facts

State Date: December 10, 1817

Motto: By Valor and Arms

Flower: Magnolia

Bird: Mockingbird

Tree: Magnolia

Song: “Go, Mississippi”

Nickname: Magnolia State

Web Site: www.ms.gov



Magnolia

Missouri



Capital

Jefferson City was created in 1821 specifically to serve as the state's capital. It was named for Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of the United States.

Famous Citizen

Mark Twain was born as Samuel Langhorne Clemens in 1835 in Florida, Missouri. He is best known for his novels, including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

Economy

Missouri has a mixed economy and is a leader in the **manufacture of transportation equipment**.

Service industries are also important, and the cities of St. Louis and Kansas City are among the Midwest's leading financial cities.

Geography

Much of the state is covered by **plains**. The northern and western plains are fertile and particularly good for growing crops. The area near the **Mississippi River** was once swampy, but is now drained. It has rich soil good for growing crops as well.

Climate: The state has a "continental" climate, which means there are four distinct seasons.

History

So many settlers began their treks west from Missouri, it earned the name "**Gateway to the West**."

Fun Facts

State Date: August 10, 1821

Motto: The Welfare of the People Shall Be the Supreme Law

Flower: White hawthorn blossom

Bird: Eastern bluebird

Tree: Flowering dogwood

Song: "Missouri Waltz"

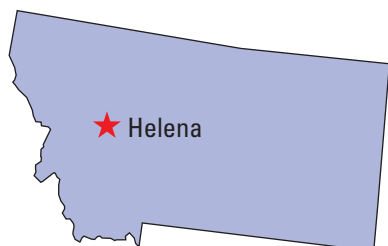
Nickname: Show Me State

Web Site: www.mo.gov



Eastern bluebird

Montana



Capital

Helena started as a boomtown after gold was discovered in the nearby creek, Last Chance Gulch.

Famous Citizen

Evel Knievel was born in 1938 in Butte, Montana. He was a stunt motorcycle rider. He drove through firewalls, and jumped over buses and a canyon. During his career, he broke almost 40 bones.

Economy

The wide open spaces of Montana are good for raising **livestock**. In fact, some of the country's biggest cattle ranches are in the state. Montana's largest industries are agriculture (almost half just in livestock), tourism, timber, and mining (copper, gold, and silver).

Geography

The land can be roughly divided into two regions. The eastern part of Montana is part of the **Great Plains**. The western portion of the state includes the **Rocky Mountain** region.

Climate: This eastern half of the state has a harsh climate with hot summers and very cold winters. The climate of the western part

is milder with warm summers and cool winters.

History

The discovery of **gold** at Grasshopper Creek in 1862 brought prospectors to the state.

Fun Facts

State Date: November 8, 1889

Motto: Gold and Silver

Flower: Bitterroot

Bird: Western meadowlark

Tree: Ponderosa pine

Song: "Montana"

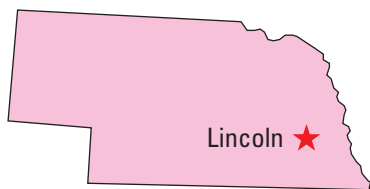
Nicknames: Treasure State; Big Sky Country

Web Site: www.mt.gov



Ponderosa pine

Nebraska



Capital

The state's first capital was in Omaha, the most populous city. It was moved to Lancaster and renamed "**Lincoln**" to honor the former president.

Famous Citizen

Warren Buffett, born in Omaha in 1930, is one of the wealthiest and most respected businessmen in the world. He has donated billions to worthy causes.

Economy

Agriculture is the main economic force in Nebraska with **cattle**, **hogs**, **corn**, and **wheat** being raised. Nebraska has always been a major food-producing state. In fact, food processing is an important manufacturing industry.

Geography

Nebraska is part of the **Great Plains** with fertile farmland crisscrossed by numerous **rivers**. The western part of the state contains the bottom of the **Rocky Mountains** and is considered to be semiarid, or desert-like.

Climate: All of the state can have major changes in temperatures, with very hot summers and cold winters. Snow and rain amounts, especially in the eastern half of the state can be heavy.

History

American Indians hunted bison, an abundant animal in Nebraska's early history.

Fun Facts

State Date: March 1, 1867

Motto: Equality Before the Law

Flower: Goldenrod

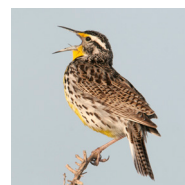
Bird: Western meadowlark

Tree: Cottonwood

Song: "Beautiful Nebraska"

Nicknames: Cornhusker State; Beef State

Web Site: www.nebraska.gov



Western meadowlark

Nevada



Capital

Carson City was named for Kit Carson, the famous frontiersman and scout, who explored much of the American West.

Famous Citizen

Velma Bronn Johnston (1912–1977) was a rancher, wild horse advocate, and activist. Her work to protect wild horses and set up refuges earned her the nickname "Wild Horse Annie."

Economy

Nevada's economy relies heavily on **agriculture**, **mining**, and **tourism**, especially in the largest city, Las Vegas. Its agriculture industry includes cattle, hay, and dairy products.

Geography

Most of Nevada is within the **Great Basin** of the United States. This area has no drainage to any sea or ocean. The basin is surrounded by hills and mountains. Nevada has many mesas, buttes, and deserts.

Climate: Nevada is the driest state in the country. The climate is a mix. Much of the state is desert with wide temperature ranges (both daily and seasonally) and very little precipitation. Forests grow in the mountain ranges.

History

In 1859, the largest silver deposit in the United States was discovered: the **Comstock Lode**.

Fun Facts

State Date: October 31, 1864

Motto: All for Our Country

Flower: Sagebrush

Bird: Mountain bluebird

Trees: Single-leaf piñon; bristlecone pine

Song: "Home Means Nevada"

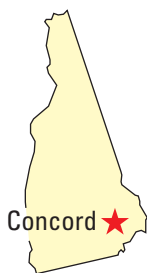
Nicknames: Battle-Born State; Sagebrush State; Silver State

Web Site: www.nv.gov



Bristlecone pine

New Hampshire



Capital

Concord has large amounts of granite rock near the city. Workers cut out, or quarry, the granite for use in buildings, such as those in Washington, D.C.

Famous Citizen

Alan Shepard, the first American to travel in space, was born in 1923 in Derry. He commanded *Apollo 14* in 1971 when it landed on the moon.

Economy

Mining of **granite, sand, and gravel** for roads and **concrete** are New Hampshire's leading mining products. Within manufacturing, **computer, electronics, and telephone equipment** industries take the lead. Agricultural crops include **hay** for livestock and **maple syrup**.

Geography

New Hampshire is part of the **New England** region. **Mt. Washington** of the **White Mountains** is the highest peak in the northeastern United States.

Climate: The climate in the state is changeable. Each of the four seasons vary greatly in temperature. Summers are usually warm and pleasant, and winters are snowy, cold, and long.

History

The first **American public library** was in Peterborough.

Fun Facts

State Date: June 21, 1788

Motto: Live Free or Die

Flower: Purple lilac

Bird: Purple finch

Tree: White birch

Song: "Old New Hampshire"

Nicknames: Granite State; Mother of Rivers; White Mountain State; Switzerland of America

Web Site: www.nh.gov



Purple finch

New Jersey



Capital

Trenton was named for William Trent, one of its early landowners. The city was the national capital for a short time in 1784.

Famous Citizen

Judy Blume, author of numerous children's books, was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, in 1938. *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* was the first of her "Fudge" books.

Economy

New Jersey's economy is concentrated in the **finance** and **insurance** areas as well as manufacturing items such as **industrial chemicals, paints, and plastics**. The state is a leader in harvesting **clams**.

Geography

New Jersey's **Atlantic Coastal Plain** covers the southern coast of the state and includes **rolling hills, pine forests, and salt marshes**. Further inland lie the **Piedmont** and the **New England Upland**.

Climate: Being close to the Atlantic Ocean, New Jersey has a fairly moderate climate. There are cold winters and warm, humid summers. Snowfall and rainfall are considered moderate.

History

During the **American war for independence**, Americans and British fought **100 battles** in the state.

Fun Facts

State Date: December 18, 1787

Motto: Liberty and Prosperity

Flower: Violet

Bird: Eastern goldfinch

Tree: Red oak

Song: (None)

Nickname: Garden State

Web Site: www.nj.gov



Eastern goldfinch

New Mexico



Capital

Spanish explorer Don Pedro de Peralta laid out a plan for **Santa Fe** in 1609 at the site of an ancient Pueblo ruin. The city's history attracts tourists each year.

Famous Citizen

In war, secret communication is important. During World War II, **Navaho marines** created a code in their Dine language. Their code saved thousands of lives.

Economy

New Mexico is a leading state in **mined oil, coal, and gas** products. The land is very dry so crops need irrigation. The largest agricultural products are **dairy, livestock, hay, and pecans**. **Tourism** is also important to the economy.

Geography

Eastern New Mexico is part of the **Great Plains**. This area is good for sheep and cattle. The central part of the state contains an extension of the **Rocky Mountains**. The **Sangre de Cristo, Nacimiento, and Jemez mountains** lie further to the west.

Climate: The state has a partly dry to dry climate with much sunshine and low humidity. The days in summer are usually hot, but the nights are always cool.

History

Ancient civilizations in New Mexico include the Clovis, Folsom, and Anasazi.

Fun Facts

State Date: January 6, 1912

Motto: It Grows as It Goes

Flower: Yucca

Bird: Greater roadrunner

Tree: Piñon pine

Song: "O Fair New Mexico"

Nicknames: Land of Enchantment; Sunshine State

Web Site: www.newmexico.gov



Yucca

New York



Capital

Albany became well known when, in 1807, Robert Fulton built a steamboat *Clermont* and traveled up the Hudson River from New York City to Albany. This was the start of regular, faster transportation by steamboat.

Famous Citizen

Sonia Sotomayor was born in the Bronx, New York, in 1954. She became the first Latina U.S. Supreme Court Justice in 2009.

Economy

Much of New York's economy is driven by New York City, the country's leading **financial center**, home to the New York Stock Exchange. Other finance, insurance, and real estate companies also have their headquarters in New York City.

Geography

New York's important water borders include the **Atlantic Ocean, Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and Lake Champlain**. Its many landforms include **lowlands, the Appalachian highlands, and the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains**.

Climate: New York generally has a moderate climate. Summers can be hot and humid. Winters are often snowy and cold.

History

New York City was the first capital of the new United States after the ratification of the Constitution in 1789–1790.

Fun Facts

State Date: July 26, 1788

Motto: Ever Upward

Flower: Rose

Bird: Eastern bluebird

Tree: Sugar maple

Song: "I Love New York"

Nickname: Empire State

Web Site: www.ny.gov



Sugar maple

North Carolina



Capital

Raleigh is known as the City of Oaks because of its many oak trees. A large acorn sculpture is used to count down the new year in Moore Square.

Famous Citizen

Virginia Dare, born August 18, 1587, at Roanoke Island, was the first child born in the Americas to English-speaking parents. The area was part of Virginia, providing the little girl's name.

Economy

Being on the Atlantic Ocean makes services related to **tourism** a major contributor to the economy. People flock to the ocean beaches but also visit the state's western mountains.

Geography

The **Atlantic Ocean** lies to the east of the state, and the **Blue Ridge** and **Great Smoky Mountains** are on the west, along the border with Tennessee. The landforms include the **Atlantic Coastal Plain**, foothills, and the **mountains**.

Climate: The state has a warm temperate climate, but the mountains and the coastal plains can vary in temperature. The state receives moderate rainfall and a little snow.

History

The **Wright Brothers** flew their first airplane at **Kitty Hawk**.

Fun Facts

State Date: November 21, 1789

Motto: To Be Rather Than to Seem

Flower: Dogwood

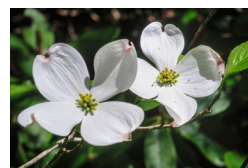
Bird: Cardinal

Tree: Pine

Song: "The Old North State"

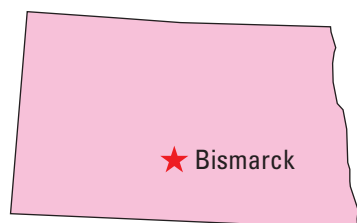
Nickname: The Old North State; The Tar Heel State

Web Site: www.nc.gov



Dogwood

North Dakota



Capital

When gold was discovered in the Black Hills, **Bismarck** became a center for prospectors. The town grew from this and the railroad that arrived shortly after. The town burned down in 1898 but was quickly rebuilt.

Famous Citizen

Louis L'Amour, born in North Dakota in 1908, became famous for the popular westerns he wrote.

Economy

North Dakota has a large **agricultural economy** including livestock, wheat, barley, sugar beets, soybeans, and sunflower seeds. **Oil production** is also important to the state's economy.

Geography

The northernmost state of the **Great Plains** has very **fertile soil**. Farms cover most of the state's land area. The **Garrison Dam** on the **Missouri River** provides much needed water for crop irrigation. The western section of the state contains the **North Dakota Badlands** and **Theodore Roosevelt National Park**.

Climate: The climate of the state is moderate with hot summers and cold winters. It is often dry but does get some rain and snow.

History

Lewis and Clark wintered with the Mandan Indians in 1804–05.

Fun Facts

State Date: November 2, 1889

Motto: Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable

Flower: Wild prairie rose

Bird: Western meadowlark

Tree: American elm

Song: "North Dakota Hymn"

Nicknames: Peace Garden State; Flickertail State; Roughrider State; Dakota, Sioux State

Web Site: www.nd.gov



Wild prairie rose

Ohio



Capital

In 1964, Ohio native Geraldine F. Mock became the first woman to fly solo around the world. She left from **Columbus** flying the *Spirit of Columbus*.

Famous Citizen

Tecumseh, born in 1768 near Chillicothe, was a Shawnee chief. He fought with the American Indian Federation to keep settlers off American Indian lands.

Economy

Manufacturing is the most important economic activity in the state. The assembly of cars and trucks leads the sector. The largest bar **soap factory** in the country is in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Geography

To the north of the state is **Lake Erie**, and to the south lies the **Ohio River**. Both waterways are important for barge traffic and the economy. The interior contains the **Allegheny Plateau**, the **central plains**, and the **Erie lakeshore**. The plains area contains some of the most fertile farmland in the country.

Climate: Ohio has a temperate climate with cold winters and warm summers. There is moderate rain and snow during the year.

History

In 1953, President Eisenhower actually signed, and back dated, the papers to make Ohio a state.

Fun Facts

State Date: March 1, 1803

Motto: With God All Things Are Possible

Flower: Red carnation

Bird: Cardinal

Tree: Ohio buckeye

Song: "Beautiful Ohio"

Nickname: Buckeye State

Web Site: www.ohio.gov



Ohio buckeye

Oklahoma



Capital

Oklahoma City is nearly the same distance between New York City and Los Angeles. It has more than 130 miles of highways.

Famous Citizen

Maria Tallchief (1925–2013) was born in Fairfax. She was the first American Indian to break into ballet, and the first prima ballerina of the New York City Ballet.

Economy

Agriculture is important to Oklahoma's economy, especially the farming of cattle, wheat, and hogs. The **mining of petroleum** and **natural gas** as well as the manufacture of **oil field machinery** are also major aspects of Oklahoma's economy.

Geography

Flat, fertile plains and **low hills** are most common in Oklahoma. **Low mountains** exist in south central and southwestern parts of the state. Fertile soil is concentrated in the **Red River valley**.

Climate: The state has a continental, or moderate, climate with cold winters and hot summers. Oklahoma is likely to have many tornadoes.

History

In the 1800s, the U.S. government relocated more than 30 **American Indian tribes** to the area, then known as the Indian Territory.

Fun Facts

State Date: November 16, 1907

Motto: Labor Conquers All Things

Flower: Oklahoma rose

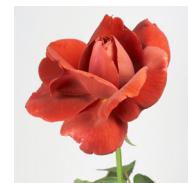
Bird: Scissor-tailed flycatcher

Tree: Redbud

Song: "Oklahoma!"

Nickname: Sooner State

Web Site: www.ok.gov



Oklahoma rose

Oregon



Capital

In 1840, missionaries came to the site where **Salem** is now located. A school, the Oregon Institute, was started there for local American Indians.

Famous Citizen

Linus Pauling was the only person to have won two unshared Nobel Prizes. He won his first in chemistry, the second for peace. He was born in Portland in 1901.

Economy

Oregon is a leading producer in the United States of **Christmas trees** and **hazelnuts**. Because of the mild climate in the Willamette River Valley, Oregon is a top producer of **berries, pears, plums, and cherries**.

Geography

Oregon is known for its **forests**, most of which can be found on the low level **coastal mountains** near the Pacific Ocean or on either the **Klamath** or the **Cascade Mountains**. Eastern Oregon is a **plateau** and contains wheat fields.

Climate: West of the Cascades there is heavy rainfall and moderate temperatures. East of the Cascades there is little precipitation and more extreme temperatures.

History

Pioneers came to Oregon across the plains on Conestoga wagons, or prairie schooners.

Fun Facts

State Date: February 14, 1859

Motto: She Flies with Her Own Wings

Flower: Oregon grape

Bird: Western meadowlark

Tree: Douglas fir

Song: "Oregon, My Oregon"

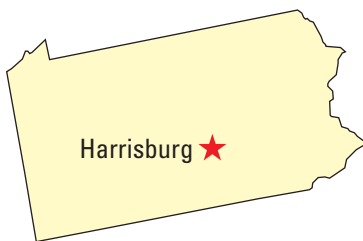
Nickname: Beaver State

Web Site: www.oregon.gov



Pears

Pennsylvania



Capital

Harrisburg is the host each year for the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the United States. This immense farm show first started in 1916.

Famous Citizen

Louisa May Alcott (1832–1888) was born in Germantown. She was a best-selling author in her time. *Little Women* is a story based on herself and her sisters.

Economy

Pennsylvania has long been a leading **coal, petroleum, and natural gas-producing** state. The type of coal found in the state is harder and burns better than other types of coal, making it sell well since the early 1800s.

Geography

Pennsylvania has a small border on **Lake Erie**. Major rivers include the **Delaware, Susquehanna, Allegheny, and Ohio**. The **Allegheny Mountains** run diagonally across the state with **plateau, piedmont, and coastal plains** on the sides.

Climate: Pennsylvania has warm summers, while winters are usually freezing. Erie, Pennsylvania, is one of the snowiest cities in the country.

History

One of the 13 original colonies, Pennsylvania was founded by **William Penn**.

Fun Facts

State Date: December 12, 1787

Motto: Virtue, Liberty, and Independence

Flower: Mountain laurel

Bird: Ruffed grouse

Tree: Hemlock

Song: "Pennsylvania"

Nickname: Keystone State

Web Site: www.pa.gov



Mountain laurel

Rhode Island



Capital

During the 1800s, the eastside of **Providence** was mostly railroads, bridges, and industry. In the 1990s, rivers and railroads were moved to create Waterplace Park.

Famous Citizen

Matthew C. Perry was born in South Kingston in 1794. He led an expedition to Japan in 1853–54 that opened Japan to trade with the West.

Economy

Service industries, especially **finance**, are important to Rhode Island's economy. **Fishing** for cod, flounder, and a variety of shellfish is also important.

Geography

The southern edge of the smallest state is the **Atlantic Ocean**, and **Narragansett Bay** cuts deep into the state. Besides the lowland of **sandy beaches** and **salt marshes** along the bay and the ocean, the rest of Rhode Island is part of the **Appalachian Highlands**, a hilly plateau of forests and lakes.

Climate: The state has a humid climate with cold winters and warm summers. There have been quite a few damaging storms, floods, hurricanes, and blizzards that have affected the state.

History

Rhode Island signed the U.S. Constitution only after the **Bill of Rights** was added.

Fun Facts

State Date: May 29, 1790

Motto: Hope

Flower: Violet

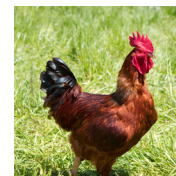
Bird: Rhode Island red

Tree: Red maple

Song: "Rhode Island It's For Me!"

Nicknames: Ocean State; Little Rhody

Web Site: www.ri.gov



Rhode Island red

South Carolina



Capital

Columbia was a planned city. All of its streets and areas for the capitol and other buildings were laid out before they were built.

Famous Citizen

Mary McLeod Bethune (1875–1955), a civil rights activist, was born in Mayesville. She believed that education was the key to improving race relations. She started a school in Florida.

Economy

Trade, services, manufacturing, and **government sectors** define South Carolina's economy. **Travel** and **tourism** and **agriculture**, especially tobacco and peaches, are also important to the state's economy.

Geography

Much of eastern South Carolina is part of the **Atlantic Coastal Plain** with many rivers, rolling hills, and fertile soil. Traveling west and northwest is the **Piedmont** and the **Blue Ridge**—land that is more hilly and forested.

Climate: The state has a humid climate with warmer temperatures along the coast and cooler ones in the mountains. Summers are hot, and winters are mild with very little snow or sleet.

History

South Carolina was **one of the original 13 colonies**.

Fun Facts

State Date: May 23, 1788

Motto: Prepared in Mind and Resources; While I Breathe, I Hope

Flower: Yellow jessamine

Bird: Carolina wren

Tree: Palmetto

Songs: "Carolina"; "South Carolina on My Mind"

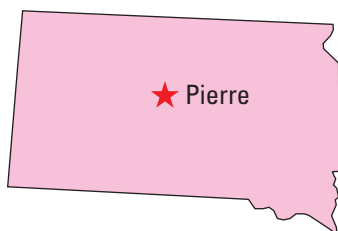
Nickname: Palmetto State

Web Site: www.sc.gov



Palmetto

South Dakota



Capital

Pierre was selected as the state capital in 1889 when Congress divided Great Sioux Reservation into North and South Dakota.

Famous Citizen

L. Frank Baum moved to South Dakota in 1888 and lived there for three years. The description of Kansas in *The Wizard of Oz* is probably based on his time in the Dakota Territory.

Economy

The state is a leading producer of **beef, wheat, flaxseed, hay, oats, rye,** and **sunflower seeds**. Several large financial companies and a large computer company are located in the state.

Geography

Other than the corner of the state that contains the **Black Hills**, the balance of South Dakota is either **prairie** or **plains**, with the greatest portion being part of the **Great Plains**. The **Missouri River** runs through the center of the state providing fertile farmland to the east of the river.

Climate: The state has hot summers and very cold winters. The state also gets high winds because there are not many trees to stop the wind.

History

South Dakota is well known as the home of **Mt. Rushmore** and the **Crazy Horse Memorial**.

Fun Facts

State Date: November 2, 1889

Motto: Under God, the People Rule

Flower: Pasque

Bird: Ring-necked pheasant

Tree: Black Hills spruce

Song: "Hail, South Dakota"

Nickname: Mount Rushmore State

Web Site: www.sd.gov



Ring-necked pheasant

Tennessee



Capital

Nashville has the nickname "Music City." It is famous for country music, a style of music based on songs brought by settlers.

Famous Citizen

Sequoyah was a member of the Cherokee tribe and was born about 1775 in Monroe County. He invented a written alphabet for the Cherokee language in 1821.

Economy

Farmland covers almost half of Tennessee. **Beef, chickens, dairy products, soybeans,** and **cotton** are the main farm products. But service industries such as **health care** and **business services** contribute more dollars overall.

Geography

Tennessee is a long state that allows it to have varied landforms. The **Great Smoky Mountains** lie in the east. The land flattens when moving west from **mountains** to **plateau** to a fertile **river basin** that has rich farmland. The **Tennessee, Cumberland,** and **Mississippi rivers** are important waterways.

Climate: Tennessee has warm summers, cool winters, with about 51 inches of rain each year.

History

Tennessee became popular for the push for **westward expansion** across the Appalachians.

Fun Facts

State Date: June 1, 1796

Motto: Agriculture and Commerce

Flower: Iris

Bird: Mockingbird

Tree: Tulip poplar

Songs: There are ten official state songs. Two are "My Homeland, Tennessee" and "When It's Iris Time in Tennessee."

Nickname: Volunteer State

Web Site: www.tn.gov



Iris

Texas



Capital

Austin is known as the "Live Music Capital of the World." Live music can be heard in grocery stores, the airport, clubs, restaurants, and at festivals, city council meetings, and countless other places throughout the city!

Famous Citizen

Buddy Holly, born in Lubbock, Texas, was an important rock singer and songwriter.

Economy

There is a big **livestock industry** as well as crops such as **cotton, rice, sugar cane, and fruits. Oil, gas, mining, manufacturing, and service industries** play a big part in the Texas economy.

Geography

Texas is so large that it has a **varied physical geography**. There are high plains, rolling prairies, pine-covered hills and swamps, dry areas, multiple fertile river valleys, and the coastal plains of the Gulf Coast.

Climate: The climate is varied. Generally, the summers are hot and the winters are short and mild. Rainfall in the eastern part of the state is around 56 inches per year, but in the western part, it is less than eight inches per year.

History

In 1836, after war with Mexico, Texas became a republic, or separate nation. Ten years later, it became part of the United States.

Fun Facts

State Date: December 29, 1845

Motto: Friendship

Flower: Bluebonnet

Bird: Mockingbird

Tree: Pecan

Song: "Texas, Our Texas"

Nickname: Lone Star State

Web Site: www.texas.gov



Livestock

Utah



Capital

Salt Lake City is the world headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons).

Famous Citizen

Jim Bridger, American frontiersman, trapper, and trader, established an important supply fort in Utah territory. Many travelers to the West relied on supplies bought at Fort Bridger.

Economy

Mining is one of the most important parts of Utah's economy. In fact, the world's largest open pit copper mine lies just outside of Salt Lake City. The **Bingham Canyon Mine** is almost one mile deep!

Geography

From south to north, the state has a varied geography including **canyons, pastures, forests, and mountains**. The **Great Salt Lake** is the largest inland salt sea in the United States.

Climate: Utah's climate is very dry. Summers are usually hot and winters are mild. The mountains get about 40 inches of precipitation, but the western part of the state receives less than 5 inches.

History

The first **transcontinental railroad**, built from both east and west of the United States, met at **Promontory Summit** in 1869.

Fun Facts

State Date: January 4, 1896

Motto: Industry

Flower: Segoe lily

Bird: California gull

Tree: Quaking aspen

Song: "Utah, This Is the Place"

Nickname: Beehive State

Web Site: www.utah.gov



California gull

Vermont



Capital

Montpelier was selected as the state's capital in 1805 because of its central location.

Famous Citizen

Ethan Allen was born in 1738 in Connecticut. He bought land in the New Hampshire grants. Allen and other farmers started the Green Mountain Boys to protect their land. This land eventually became Vermont.

Economy

Service, electronics, and computer components industries contribute to Vermont's economy. **Granite, marble, and limestone** are all mined in the state. Vermont has the largest granite quarries in the United States. Maple products also sweeten the economy.

Geography

Lake Champlain runs along Vermont's western border. The **Green Mountains** run through the middle of the state and are primarily low and **forested**. Below the mountains are **rolling hills** and **fertile valleys** that support agriculture.

Climate: Vermont's climate has four distinct seasons and the precipitation is moderate throughout the year.

History

Vermont was an **independent republic**, or separate country, between 1777 and 1791 before it became the 14th state.

Fun Facts

State Date: March 4, 1791

Motto: Freedom and Unity

Flower: Red clover

Bird: Hermit thrush

Tree: Sugar maple

Song: "These Green Mountains"

Nickname: Green Mountain State

Web Site: www.vermont.gov



Red clover

Virginia



Capital

In March of 1775, Patrick Henry delivered his famous speech, "Give me liberty or give me death," in St. John's Church in **Richmond**.

Famous Citizen

George Washington was a farmer, surveyor, commander-in-chief, and founding father. He was the first president of the United States, serving from 1789 to 1797.

Economy

Virginia's economy is a mix from the **service, mining, manufacturing, fishing, and agricultural** industries. **Crab and oyster** lead the fishing sector. Virginia is a leading employer of **technology** workers.

Geography

Virginia's eastern border is the **Atlantic Ocean**. Moving west, landforms include the Atlantic Coastal Plain, the piedmont, **Blue Ridge Mountains**, and the Appalachian ridge, valley, and plateau.

Climate: Virginia has a mild, humid coastal climate. Temperatures become cooler moving from the coast westward into the mountains. Yearly precipitation is about 44 inches.

History

During the **Civil War**, more than half of the battles were fought in Virginia.

Fun Facts

State Date: June 25, 1788

Motto: Thus Always to Tyrants

Flower: Dogwood

Bird: Cardinal

Tree: Dogwood

Song: "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia"

Nickname: Old Dominion

Web Site: www.virginia.gov



Crab

Washington



Capital

The state's first fire engine company was established in **Olympia**. Known as Columbia Number 1, it was formed in 1865.

Famous Citizen

Born in Seattle in 1955, **Bill Gates** built one of the largest software businesses in the world, Microsoft. In the process, he became one of the world's richest people.

Economy

Washington is the leading **apple-producing** state. It produces 64% of the nation's apples. Besides agriculture, the state is a leader in the production of **aircraft, space,** and **communications equipment**.

Geography

The high mountains of the **Cascade Range** run north-south dividing the state. The western third is rainy and includes the **Olympic Peninsula** with its conifer forests and **temperate rainforest**. In contrast, the eastern two-thirds of the state has large areas of dry grassland plains.

Climate: Some areas of the coast receive more than 200 inches of rain each year! Areas in the eastern sections of the state are nearly as dry as a desert.

History

The 605-foot tall **Space Needle** is an observation tower that was built for the 1962 **World's Fair** in Seattle.

Fun Facts

State Date: November 11, 1889

Motto: Bye and Bye

Flower: Coast rhododendron

Bird: Willow goldfinch

Tree: Western hemlock

Song: "Washington, My Home"

Nickname: The Evergreen State

Web Site: www.access.wa.gov



Apple

West Virginia



Capital

When West Virginia became a state, the legislature moved the capital a few times before settling on **Charleston** in 1885.

Famous Citizen

Pearl S. Buck, Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize winning author, was born in Hillsboro in 1892. She was the first American woman to receive both these awards.

Economy

Once a railroad was built in 1883, the coal in West Virginia could be shipped to other parts of the country. Many people came to work in the mines, but the jobs were dangerous because of accidents and explosions. Safety improvements eventually came to the mines, and West Virginia is still a leader in **coal production**.

Geography

The state is known for its **mountains, underground caverns,** and **sinkholes**. Parts of the **Appalachian Mountains** and the **Blue Ridge Mountains** run through the state.

Climate: It has a humid climate, with hot summers and cool to cold winters. Precipitation is about 44 inches per year.

History

President Lincoln issued a proclamation creating West Virginia from Virginia in 1863.

Fun Facts

State Date: June 20, 1863

Motto: Mountaineers Are Always Free

Flower: Rhododendron

Bird: Cardinal

Tree: Sugar maple

Songs: "The West Virginia Hills"; "This Is My West Virginia"; "West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home"; "Take Me Home, Country Roads"

Nickname: Mountain State

Web Site: www.wv.gov



Cardinal

Wisconsin



Capital

Madison, the "City of Lakes," has four lakes within its boundaries.

Famous Citizen

Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867–1957) was the author of what are known as the *Little House* books. She was born in a log cabin near Pepin, Wisconsin. Her memories of her first home are the basis for her first book in the series, *Little House in the Big Woods*.

Economy

Dairy farming leads agricultural activity in the state nicknamed the "Dairy State." Wisconsin is also the leading producer of **cranberries** and **paper** in the United States.

Geography

Most of Wisconsin was carved by **glaciers** thousands of years ago. They left **rich soil deposits** and more than 15,000 lakes. Important waterways include **Lake Superior**, **Lake Michigan**, **Lake Winnebago**, and the **Mississippi**, **Chippewa**, and **Wisconsin rivers**.

Climate: The state has four distinct seasons, with warm summers and very cold winters. Yearly precipitation is about 31 inches.

History

New miners to the state in the early 1800s lived in caves referred to as **badger dens**. This is the meaning of one state nickname.

Fun Facts

State Date: May 29, 1848

Motto: Forward

Flower: Wood violet

Bird: American robin

Tree: Sugar maple

Song: "On Wisconsin!"

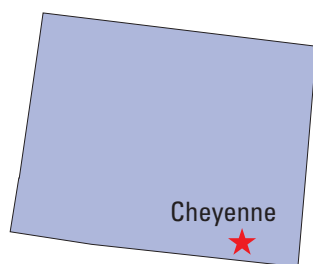
Nicknames: America's Dairyland; Badger State

Web Site: www.wisconsin.gov



Dairy cow

Wyoming



Capital

Cheyenne was named for a local American Indian tribe. Settlement was so rapid that the city became known as the "Magic City of the Plains."

Famous Citizen

Nellie Tayloe Ross was the first elected woman governor to take office in the United States in 1925. She later became the first woman director of the U.S. Mint.

Economy

Wyoming is **cattle country**, resulting in strong income from livestock products. It is also a leading producer of **sheep** and **wool**. The other main portion of Wyoming's economy is from **coal**, **oil**, and **natural gas production**.

Geography

Wyoming is a "bridge" state where the **Great Plains** meet the **Rocky Mountains**. It is a plateau broken by mountain ranges. The **Continental Divide** runs through the state. The state is also home to **Yellowstone National Park**.

Climate: The state has a dry climate, with cold winters and warm summers. Temperatures can vary quite a bit between the mountains and the plains.

History

Wyoming is home to the world's first national park, **Yellowstone**, established in 1872.

Fun Facts

State Date: July 10, 1890

Motto: Equal Rights

Flower: Indian paintbrush

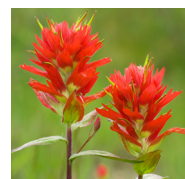
Bird: Western meadowlark

Tree: Plains cottonwood

Song: "Wyoming"

Nicknames: Big Wyoming; Equality State; Cowboy State

Web Site: www.wyo.gov



Indian paintbrush

A

abstract making use of shapes and patterns, rather than showing people or things as they actually are

adapt to change in order to survive

agribusiness farming on a large scale by big companies

agriculture the business of growing crops and raising animals

American Revolution the war in which the American colonies won independence from Great Britain

the Americas the landmasses and islands of North America and South America

aqueduct a pipe or canal for carrying water over a long distance

archaeologist a social scientist who studies the past by looking at artifacts people have left behind

archives a collection of historical documents and records

assembly line a process in which each worker assembles one part of a product before passing it on to the next worker down the line

B

basin a bowl-shaped landform that is lower than the surrounding land

bayou a stream that flows through a swamp

bill a proposal for a new law

border a boundary line that separates two places

budget a plan for how you will spend the money you expect to have

C

canal a ditch dug across land that often connects two waterways

canning preserving food by cooking and sealing it in cans or jars

canyon a deep, narrow valley with steep sides

capital a city where the government of a country or state is located

cavern a large cave

citizen a person who is born in a country or who chooses to become a member of that country by law

coastal plain low, flat land that runs along a coast

colony a settlement that is ruled by another country

combine a machine for cutting and threshing grain

compelling question a question you just need to know the answer to

conservation the careful use of a resource

culture a way of life shared by a group of people

D

dairy a farm that produces milk and milk products

dam a wall built across a river to stop the flow of water

Declaration of Independence the document that declared the United States to be free from Great Britain

delta a triangle-shaped area of land at the end of a river

democracy a form of government in which people vote for their leaders

demographics the facts you can study about a certain group of people, such as their ages, genders, or jobs

desert an area of land that receives very little rain

diverse made up of different groups of people

drought a long period of time when little or no rain falls

E

economy the way people in a community use resources to meet their needs and wants

evidence the facts you use to back up your claim

expedition a journey with a purpose

F

fact a true piece of information

factors of production the resources, including land, capital, and workers, used to create a good or service

fall line an imaginary line, marked by rapids and waterfalls, where rivers start to drop from higher land to lower land

federal government our national government that deals with issues that affect the entire country

feedlot an area or a building where livestock are kept while being fattened for slaughter

fertile able to produce good crops

fertilizer a substance added to the soil to improve plant growth

floodplain the low, flat land along a river that may be underwater during a flood

foothills a hilly region at the base of a mountain range

frontier the beginning of unexplored land

G

geographic inquiry process a five-step process that helps answer geographic questions

geography the study of the natural and human features of Earth's surface, and its climate and life-forms

geyser a spring that throws jets of heated water and steam into the air

global grid the grid formed by crisscrossing lines of latitude and longitude on a map

gorge a deep, narrow valley

H

habitat the place where a type of animal typically lives in nature

history the study of the past

hurricane a storm, with heavy rains and high winds, that develops over the ocean and often moves toward land

I

immigrant someone who comes from another place to live in a country

inland not bordering an ocean or a large body of water by an ocean

industry an organized economic activity connected with the production, manufacture, or construction of a particular product or range of products

irrigation a way to bring water to dry land, using water from another location

L

legislator a member of the branch of government that makes laws

levee a wall typically made of dirt, built along a river to keep it from flooding

line of latitude an imaginary line that runs east and west around the globe; also called a parallel

line of longitude an imaginary line that runs between the North and South Poles; also called a meridian

livestock animals that are raised on farms, such as cattle, hogs, and chickens

local government city, town, and county governments

lock a water elevator used to raise and lower boats

M

map key an explanation of what the symbols on a map stand for

market a place where economic activity occurs

mass production a way of making large quantities of products

meatpacking the preparing of meat for sale

megalopolis a “great city” consisting of a string of towns and cities where many people live

mesa a flat-topped hill

mill a factory in which people make products out of raw materials

mineral a natural material found in rock

mint a factory where the government makes coins

mission a Spanish settlement built to teach Christianity in North America

Mormon a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

municipality an elected agency, or business, that performs a service for the state or city

N

natural resource a material found in nature that is useful to people

navigable deep enough and wide enough for ships to use

O

oasis a place in the desert that has water and trees

opinion what someone thinks or believes

P

pass a route across the mountains

peak the top of a mountain

pesticide a substance used on crops to kill insects and other pests

petroleum a thick, black liquid found underground

plantation a large farm, usually worked by many laborers

plateau a high, flat landform that rises steeply from the land around it

political science the study of governments and how they work

pollution any substance that makes air, water, or soil dirty or unsafe to use

population density a measure of the average number of people living in one unit of area

prairie flat or gently rolling land that is covered with tall grasses and wildflowers

primary source a source created by someone who has seen or taken part in the events described

R

reaper a machine for cutting grain

rebellion an armed fight against a government

region an area that shares similar features

republic a type of government in which people choose leaders to act for them

reservation public land set aside by the government for use by American Indians

reservoir an area where water is stored for people's use

right of free petition the right of the people to give legislators ideas for new laws

river basin the area around a river and its tributaries

S

savanna a flat grassland

scale a diagram that shows the relationship between distances on a map and real distances on Earth

scarcity the idea that the things and the resources people want are limited

secondary source a source created by someone who has not seen or taken part in the events described

segregation the separation of people because of race, religion, or gender

self-sufficient doing everything necessary to take care of yourself on your own

skyscraper a very tall building

sod a mixture of dirt and roots of grass

special-purpose map a map that shows just one kind of information such as rainfall or elevation

state constitution a written statement of a plan for a state government

state government the government of an individual state that deals with issues that affect that state

strip mine a place where minerals are scraped from the ground

swamp a low area of land that is covered by water at least part of the year

system of checks and balances a system set up in the U.S. Constitution to allow each branch of government ways to limit the power of the other two branches

T

tax the money that people and businesses pay to the government to support its functions

technology the use of tools and ideas to meet people's needs

tenement a four- to six-story building with many small apartments

tornado a violent and powerful windstorm that is shaped like a funnel

transportation hub a city that serves as a center for moving goods and people

U

United States Constitution the plan of government for the United States

W

wage a payment of money for work

wastewater water that has been used

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15: Carver Mostardi/age fotostock/
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15: Carver Mostardi/age fotostock/
Superstock

Lesson 2

16: iStockphoto **20-21:** Harun/
Dreamstime **25:** Thinkstock

26 T: Thinkstock **27 B:** Thinkstock

28 T: Thinkstock **29 B:** Thinkstock

31: Thinkstock **33:** Phil Degginger/
Alamy **34 R:** Library of Congress

34 L: Stapleton Collection/
Corbis **35:** Library of Congress

36 T: Minnesota Historical Society/
Corbis **36 B:** Library of Congress

37: Jupiter Images

37: Jupiter Images

37: Jupiter Images

37: Jupiter Images

37: Jupiter Images

37: Jupiter Images

37: Jupiter Images

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37: Jupiter Images

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37: Jupiter Images

37: Jupiter Images

37: Jupiter Images

37: Jupiter Images

37: Jupiter Images

71 B: Ken Cole/Dreamstime

72: Thinkstock **73:** trekandshoot/
Alamy **75 T:** Shutterstock

75 B: iStockphoto **76:** Library
of Congress **78 T:** Library of
Congress **78 B:** Library of Congress

79: Library of Congress **80:** The
Granger Collection, New York

81: The Granger Collection, New
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Lesson 5

82: NASA **84 L:** Blvdone/Dreamstime

84 R: Thinkstock **86 L:** Thinkstock

86 R: Stuart Monk/Alamy

87 L: Danita Delimont/Alamy

87 R: PRILL Mediendesign/Alamy

88 L: Thinkstock **88 R:** Shutterstock

89 L: Thinkstock **89 R:** Shutterstock

90 L: Thinkstock **90 R:** Thinkstock

91 L: Sonya Etchison/Dreamstime

91 R: Thinkstock **94:** Popperfoto/
Getty Images **95:** Library of
Congress **96 T:** Thinkstock

96 B: Library of Congress **97:** The
Granger Collection, New York

97: The Granger Collection, New
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Lesson 6

98: Thinkstock **102:** Thinkstock

103: NASA **104:** Nik Wheeler/
Corbis **105:** Thinkstock

106 T: Thinkstock **106 B:** Thinkstock

107: iStockphoto **108:** Thinkstock

109: Thinkstock **110:** Raymond
Gehman/Corbis **111:** Bettmann/
Corbis **113:** Thinkstock **114:** United
States Postal Service **115 T:** Library
of Congress **116:** Associated Press
117: Associated Press

115 T: Library of Congress **116:** Associated Press
117: Associated Press

115 T: Library of Congress **116:** Associated Press
117: Associated Press

115 T: Library of Congress **116:** Associated Press
117: Associated Press

115 T: Library of Congress **116:** Associated Press
117: Associated Press

115 T: Library of Congress **116:** Associated Press
117: Associated Press

115 T: Library of Congress **116:** Associated Press
117: Associated Press

115 T: Library of Congress **116:** Associated Press
117: Associated Press

115 T: Library of Congress **116:** Associated Press
117: Associated Press

115 T: Library of Congress **116:** Associated Press
117: Associated Press

115 T: Library of Congress **116:** Associated Press
117: Associated Press

115 T: Library of Congress **116:** Associated Press
117: Associated Press

115 T: Library of Congress **116:** Associated Press
117: Associated Press

Lesson 7

118: Robert Harding
Picture Library/Superstock
120 T: Thinkstock
120 B: Thinkstock **122:** Thinkstock
123: Thinkstock **124 L:** iStockphoto
124 R: Shutterstock **125 L:** Thinkstock
125 R: Thinkstock **126:** Shutterstock
127: Thinkstock **128:** iStockphoto
129: iStockphoto **130:** NASA/NOAA
131: Shutterstock **132 T:** Corbis/
Superstock **133 T:** Corbis/
Superstock **133 B:** Steve Starr/
Corbis

Lesson 8

134: Thinkstock **138:** Thinkstock
139: Thinkstock **140 L:** Shutterstock
140 R: Andre Jenny/Alamy
141 T: Thinkstock **141 B:** Cindy
J. Daly/Dreamstime **142 T:** age
fotostock/Superstock **143:** Library
of Congress **144:** Shutterstock
145: iStockphoto **146:** Jeff Coleman/
Dreamstime **147:** Yanmingzhang/
Dreamstime **149:** Thinkstock
150: Library of Congress
151: Bettmann/Corbis **152:** Library
of Congress **153:** Bettmann/Corbis

Lesson 9

154: Kentannenbaum/Dreamstime
156: Vladislav Gajic/Dreamstime
157: North Wind Picture Archives/
Alamy **158:** North Wind Picture
Archives/Alamy **159:** Bettmann/
Corbis **160:** Shutterstock
161: Shutterstock **162:** Thinkstock
163 L: Ilene MacDonald/Alamy
163 R: Shutterstock **165:** Corbis

166: Purestock/Alamy **167:** Map
courtesy of Virginia Agriculture
in the Classroom. An online
interactive version of the map
as well as other resources can
be found at www.AgInTheClass.org. **168:** iStockphoto
169 TR: Shutterstock
169 TL: Shutterstock
169 B: Wikimedia Commons
171: Roger Ressmeyer/Corbis

Lesson 10

172: Thinkstock **176:** Shutterstock
177: Barry Howe/Corbis
178: iStockphoto **180:** iStockphoto
182: iStockphoto **183:** iStockphoto
184: Library of Congress
185: Justin Brotton/Dreamstime
187: Thinkstock **188:** Bettmann/
Corbis **189:** Bettmann/Corbis
190: Shutterstock **191:** Danwatt417/
Dreamstime

Lesson 11

192: Slower1/Dreamstime
194: Kaye Eileen Oberstar/
Dreamstime **195:** Corbis **196:** Jim
West/Alamy **197:** Herbert Hoover
Presidential Library **198 R:** 167/
David Edwards/Ocean/Corbis
199 L: Verabutr Piriyanontana/
Dreamstime **199 R:** Tokyo Space
Club/Corbis **200:** Thinkstock
201: National Geographic Image
Collection/Alamy **202:** Thinkstock
203: AgStock Images/Corbis
204: Thinkstock **205:** Thinkstock
206: Thinkstock **207 T:** Ted Spiegel/
Corbis **207 B:** iStockphoto

208: National Geographic/
SuperStock **209:** Danny Magee/
Dreamstime **210:** Library of
Congress **211:** Thinkstock

Lesson 12

212: Oksanaphoto/Dreamstime
216: Macduff Everton/
Corbis **217:** iStockphoto
218: Americanspirit/Dreamstime
219: Radekdrewek/Dreamstime
220: Danita Delimont/
Alamy **221 T:** iStockphoto
222: George Kroll/Dreamstime
223: Jeanninebryan/Dreamstime
224 T: Andre Jenny/Alamy
224 B: Thinkstock **225:** iStockphoto
226: Thinkstock **227 TL:** Thinkstock
227TR: Thinkstock **227BL:** Thinkstock
227 BR: Thinkstock **229:** Robert
Findlay/Dreamstime **230:** Troy
Farr/Dreamstime **231 T:** Library of
Congress **231 B:** Wyatt Shudlick/
Alamy

Lesson 13

232: Thinkstock **234:** iStockphoto
235 B: Shutterstock **236:** iStockphoto
237 B: Erik Isakson/Tetra
Images/Corbis **238:** iStockphoto
239 B: Ben Blankenburg/Corbis
240: Thinkstock **241 B:** iStockphoto
242: Thinkstock **243 B:** Thinkstock
244: Thinkstock **245 B:** Luchschen/
Dreamstime **246:** Welcomia/
Dreamstime **247 B:** Wojciech
Kimborowicz/Dreamstime
248 L: Ambientideas/Dreamstime

248 R: Teri Virbickis/Dreamstime
251 T: Thinkstock **251 B:** Thinkstock
252: Photodisc/Alamy **253:** George
Ostertag/Alamy **254:** Thinkstock

Lesson 14

256: Rick Moulton/Dreamstime
259: iStockphoto **260:** iStockphoto
261: iStockphoto **262:** Thinkstock
263: F11photo/Dreamstime
264: Gary718/Dreamstime
265: Thinkstock **266 R:** Thinkstock
267: Thinkstock **268 B:** iStockphoto
268 T: Library of Congress
269: WorldFoto/Alamy

Lesson 15

270: Julia Freeman-woolpert/
Dreamstime **272 L:** Shutterstock
272 R: The Granger Collection,
New York **273:** Shutterstock
274: Larry Gevert/Dreamstime
276 B: Shutterstock **276 T:** Library
of Congress **277:** Gavril Margittai/
Dreamstime **279:** Library of
Congress **280 L:** Shutterstock
280 R: Alexandre Fagundes
De Fagundes/Dreamstime
281: Aviahuismanphotography/
Dreamtime **282:** The Granger
Collection, New York
283 T: Wikimedia Commons
283 B: Aviahuismanphotography/
Dreamtime

Lesson 16

284: Thinkstock **286:** Thinkstock
287 L: Thinkstock **287 R:** Thinkstock
288: Thinkstock **290 L:** Thinkstock
290 R: Thinkstock **291:** Thinkstock
293: Thinkstock **294:** Thinkstock
295: iStockphoto **296:** Thinkstock
297: Thinkstock

Lesson 17

298: Thinkstock **300:** Thinkstock
302: Thinkstock **303:** iStockphoto
305: Thinkstock **306:** Seth Perlman/
AP/Corbis **307:** Thinkstock
308 K: Thinkstock **308 C:** iStockphoto
308 R: Lukas Blazek/Dreamstime
309: Thinkstock

Back Matter

310–311: Thinkstock
312: Shutterstock **314:** ClassicStock/
Alamy **315:** Thinkstock
316: National Archives
317 T: Thinkstock **317 C:** Hill Street
Studios/Blend Images/Corbis
317 B: iStockphoto **318:** Fotosearch
319: Library of Congress **319:**
Library of Congress **320:** 68/
Ocean/Corbis **321 TL:** iStockphoto
321 TR: Shutterstock **321 BL:** United
States Department of State
321 BR: United States Department
of State **322:** Thinkstock **323:** Bob
Adelman/Corbis **334:** Monkey
Business Images/Dreamstime
335: Hero Images Inc./Alamy
336: Thinkstock **337:** Modfos/
Dreamstime **338 T:** iStockphoto
338 B: Roman Krochuk/
Dreamstime **339 T:** Steven Love/

Dreamstime **339 B:** Thinkstock
340 T: Shutterstock **340 B:** Thinkstock
341 T: Thinkstock
341 B: Marianne Campolongo/
Dreamstime **342 T:** iStockphoto
342 B: iStockphoto
343 T: Shutterstock
343 B: Xuanmai2009/
Dreamstime **344 T:** Thinkstock
344 B: iStockphoto **345 T:** Thinkstock
345 B: Shutterstock
346 T: Shutterstock
346 B: Steve Byland/Dreamstime
347 T: Thinkstock **347 B:** iStockphoto
348 T: Thinkstock **348 B:** Le-thuy
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349 B: iStockphoto
350 T: iStockphoto
350 B: Thinkstock **351 T:** iStockphoto
351 B: Thinkstock **352 T:** iStockphoto
352 B: Shutterstock **353 T:** Thinkstock
353 B: Thinkstock **354 T:** iStockphoto
354 B: Shutterstock **355 T:** Maria
Janicki/Alamy **355 B:** Shutterstock
356 T: Thinkstock **356 B:** iStockphoto
357 T: Steven Frame/
Dreamstime **357 B:** Scottnodine/
Dreamstime **358 T:** Shutterstock
358 B: Shutterstock
359 T: iStockphoto
359 B: iStockphoto
360 T: iStockphoto **360 B:** Feng Yu/
Dreamstime **361 T:** Shutterstock
361 B: iStockphoto
362 T: iStockphoto
362 B: Shutterstock