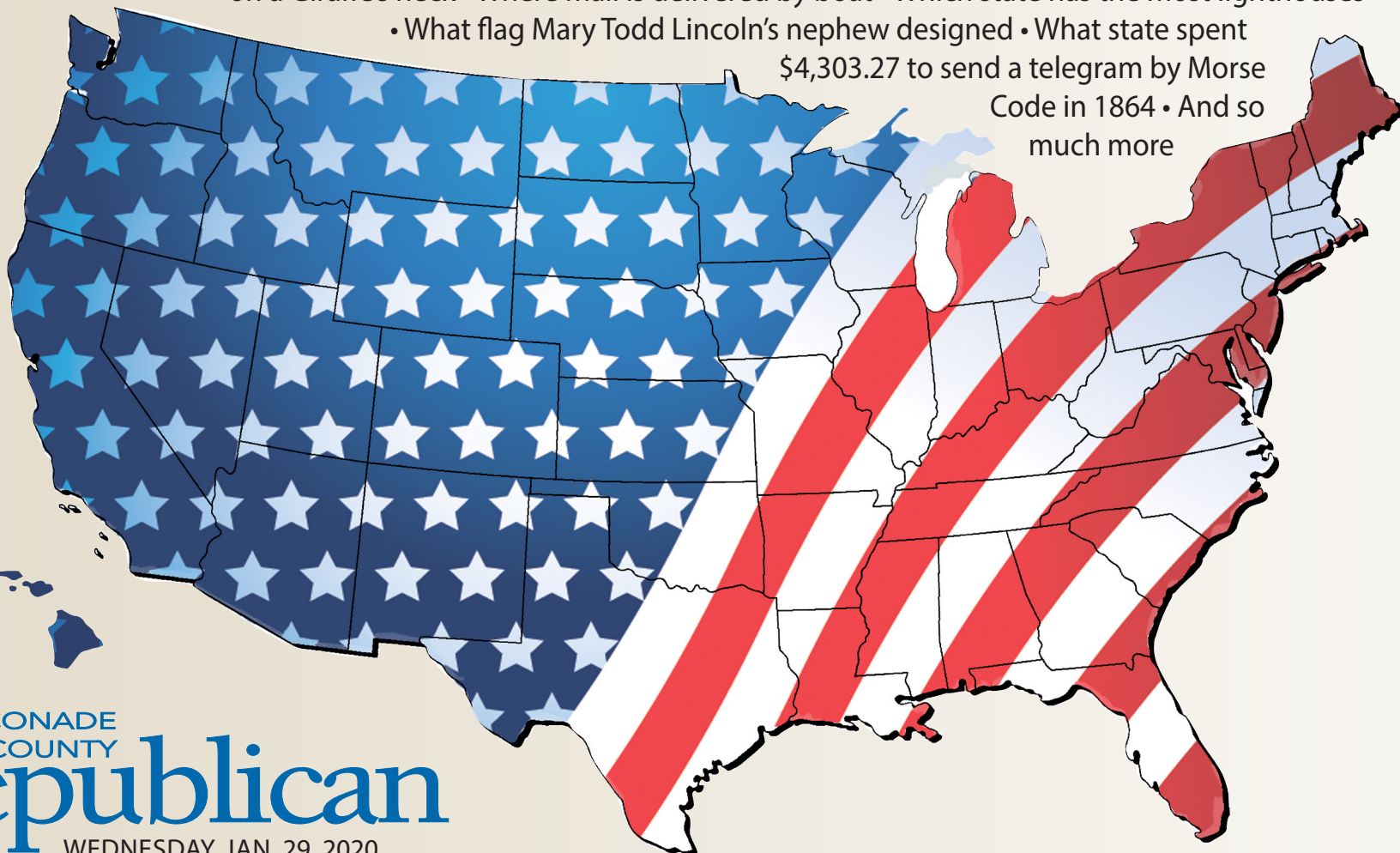




U.S. States & Territories

FIND OUT: Where it's lawful to hold a dual to the death, as long as the governor is present
 • Which state has a different design on the back of its state flag • What Missouri means
 • What town had a 24-hour temperature swing of 103° • Where it's forbidden to fish while sitting on a Giraffe's neck • Where mail is delivered by boat • Which state has the most lighthouses
 • What flag Mary Todd Lincoln's nephew designed • What state spent \$4,303.27 to send a telegram by Morse Code in 1864 • And so much more

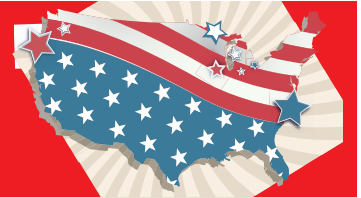


GASCONADE COUNTY
Republican
 WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29, 2020

We know you will enjoy learning about the states, our nations capital and the five territories of the United States as much as we did putting this informative section together. They are organized in the order they were admitted to the union.

#1: Delaware page 2	#15: Kentucky page 7	#29: Iowa..... page 12	#41: Montana page 16
#2: Pennsylvania page 2	#16: Tennessee page 7	#30: Wisconsin page 12	#42: Washington page 17
#3: New Jersey page 2	#17: Ohio page 7	#31: California page 12	#43: Idaho page 17
#4: Georgia page 3	#18: Louisiana..... page 8	#32: Minnesota page 13	#44: Wyoming..... page 17
#5: Connecticut page 3	#19: Indiana page 8	#33: Oregon page 13	#45: Utah..... page 18
#6: Massachusetts page 3	#20: Mississippi page 8	#34: Kansas page 13	#46: Oklahoma..... page 18
#7: Maryland page 4	#21: Illinois..... page 9	#35: West Virginia page 14	#47: New Mexico page 18
#8: South Carolina page 4	#22: Alabama..... page 9	#36: Nevada..... page 14	#48: Arizona..... page 19
#9: New Hampshire page 4	#23: Maine..... page 9	#37: Nebraska page 14	Terr.: U.S. Virgin Islands ... page 19
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#14: Vermont..... page 6			

U.S. States & Territories



Delaware

#1: Dec. 7, 1987



DECEMBER 7, 1787

First State

- Population:** 967,171 (2018)
- State Capital:** Dover
- Governor:** John Carney
- Bird:** Blue Hen Chicken
- Fish:** Weakfish
- Flower:** Peach Blossom
- Insect:** Ladybug
- Herb:** Sweet Golden Rod
- Tree:** American Holly
- Motto:** Liberty and Independence
- Fun Facts:**



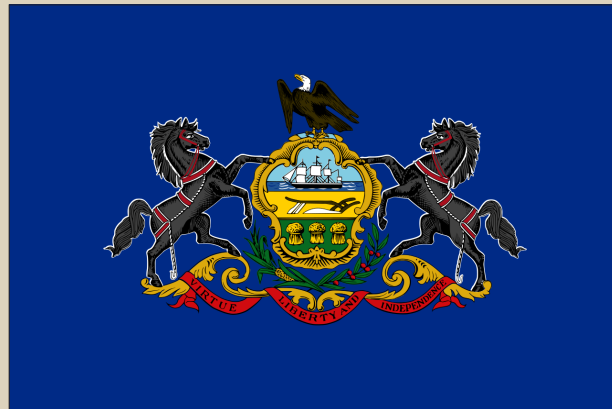
- With an average elevation of only 60 feet, Delaware is the lowest state in the U.S.
- Delaware is the only state without any National Park System units.
- Delaware is one of two states with an official State Herb.
- At its widest point, Delaware is only 35 miles in width.
- Strange Laws:**
- "R" rated movies shall not be shown at drive-in theaters.
- No person shall change clothes in their vehicle while the vehicle is in a public place.
- One may not whisper in church.
- Changing into or out of a bathing suit in a public restroom is prohibited.
- No pawnbroker shall take or receive as a pledge or pawn any artificial limb or wheelchair.



THE RYVES Holt House in Lewes is the oldest standing house in Delaware, originally built in 1665. Today it is the Lewes Historical Society Visitor Center and Museum Gift Shop. More at historiclewes.org.

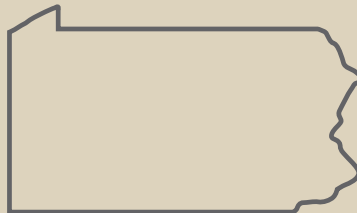
Pennsylvania

#2: Dec. 12, 1787



Keystone State

- Population:** 12.8 million (2018)
- State Capital:** Harrisburg
- Governor:** Tom Wolf
- Bird:** Ruffed Grouse
- Fish:** Brook Trout
- Flower:** Mountain Laurel
- Insect:** Pennsylvania Firefly
- Tree:** Hemlock
- Motto:** Virtue, Liberty, and Independence
- Fun Facts:**



- Pennsylvania is named after William Penn's father, Admiral William Penn, who was granted the land by British King Charles II. The word "Sylvania" means "land that is full of trees."
- Of the original 13 colonies, Pennsylvania is the only one that does not border the Atlantic Ocean.
- Gulf Refining Co. opened America's first gas station in Pittsburgh in 1913.
- The Moravian Book Shop in Bethlehem opened in 1745 and is the oldest continuously operating bookstore in the U.S.
- The first stock exchange in the U.S. was founded in Philadelphia in 1790.
- Strange Laws:**
- No trading, bartering, buying, selling or dealing infant children.
- A child's bedroom may not be more than 200 feet away from the bathtub, shower or toilet.
- It is illegal to hunt in a cemetery.

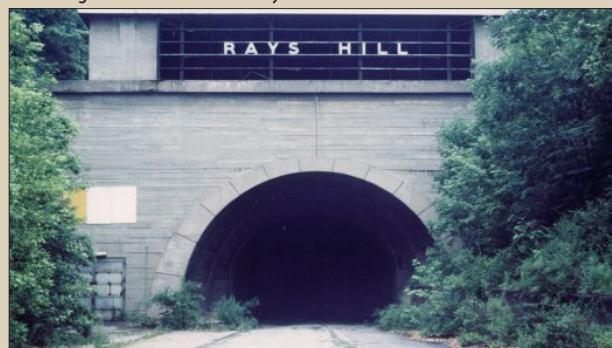
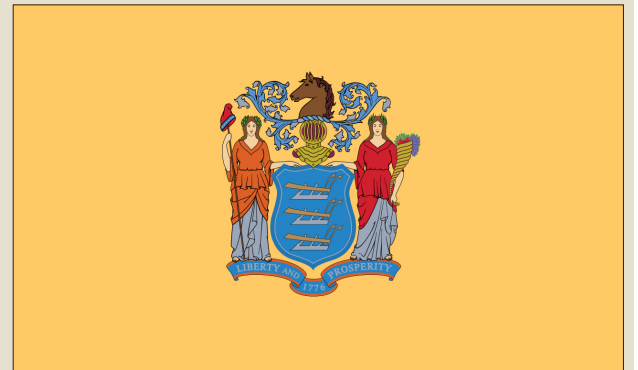


PHOTO BY M. DAKELMAN

RAY'S HILL Tunnel is part of a 13-mile stretch of abandoned turnpike bypassed in the 1960's. The photo above is of the western portal to the tunnel in 1980. More at www.rays-hill.com.

New Jersey

#3: Dec. 18, 1787



Garden State

- Population:** 8.909 million (2018)
- State Capital:** Trenton
- Governor:** Phil Murphy
- Bird:** Eastern Goldfinch
- Fish:** Brook Trout
- Flower:** Purple Violet
- Insect:** Honeybee
- Tree:** Red Oak
- Motto:** Liberty and Prosperity
- Fun Facts:**



- New Jersey was named after the Isle of Jersey, an island in the English Channel.
- The world's largest statue of a tooth is located in Trenton.
- The properties in the U.S. version of the board game Monopoly are named after the streets of Atlantic City.
- In an attempt to foster kindness in New Jersey, the month of May is designated "Kindness Awareness Month."
- Strange Laws:**
- New Jersey is one of two states where self-service filling of gasoline is prohibited.
- One may not "slurp" their soup.
- It is illegal to delay or detain a homing pigeon.
- In Trenton, pickles are not to be consumed on Sundays.
- Also in Trenton, one may not throw a bad pickle in the street.



THE GEORGE Washington Bridge is a double-decked suspension bridge spanning the Hudson River, that connects the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan in New York City with the borough of Fort Lee in New Jersey. The bridge is named after George Washington, the first president of the U.S..



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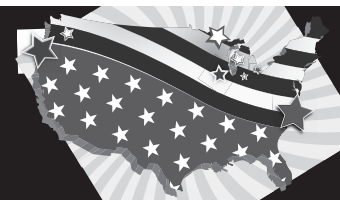
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U.S. States & Territories



Georgia

#4: Jan. 2, 1788



Peach State

Population: 10.52 million (2018)

State Capital: Atlanta

Governor: Brian Kemp

Bird: Brown Thrasher

Fish: Largemouth Bass

Flower: Cherokee Rose

Insect: Honeybee

Crop: Peanut

Tree: Live Oak

Motto: Wisdom, Justice, and Moderation.

Fun Facts:

- Georgia was named for King George II of England.
- Georgia is the largest state east of the Mississippi.
- Georgia is the only state with an official State Crop... the peanut.
- Wesleyan College in Macon was the first college established as a full college for women. It started in 1836 as Georgia Female College.
- Coca-Cola was invented in May 1886 by John Pemberton in Atlanta.

Strange Laws:

- In Quitman, chickens are not permitted to cross the road.
- No one may carry an ice cream cone in their back pocket if it is Sunday.
- In Gainesville, there is an ordinance that requires people to eat fried chicken with their fingers. Eating fried chicken with a knife, fork, spoon or any other utensil is strictly forbidden and illegal.

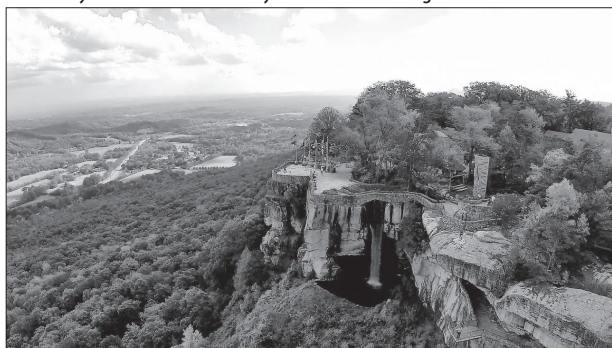


PHOTO BY ROBERT ZINN

ROCK CITY is a tourist attraction on Lookout Mountain in Lookout, Ga., which opened in 1932. More at seerockcity.com. This aerial view of Rock City and more can be viewed at [youtube.com/watch?v=SDPiqPnM-U0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDPiqPnM-U0)

Connecticut

#5: Jan. 9, 1788



Constitution State

Population: 3.573 million (2018)

State Capital: Hartford

Governor: Ned Lamont

Bird: Robin

Fish: American Shad

Flower: Mountain Laurel

Insect: Praying Mantis

Tree: White Oak

Motto: Qui transtulit sustinet (He who transplanted sustains)

Fun Facts:

- The state of Connecticut is named after the River Connecticut, the largest river in New England.
- The first telephone book was published in New Haven in 1878. It consisted of a single piece of cardboard and included 50 names.
- The Hartford Courant is the oldest U.S. newspaper still being published.
- Connecticut is the only state with an official State Composer (Charles Edward Ives), State Hero (Nathan Hale) and State Heroine (Prudence Crandall).

Strange Laws:

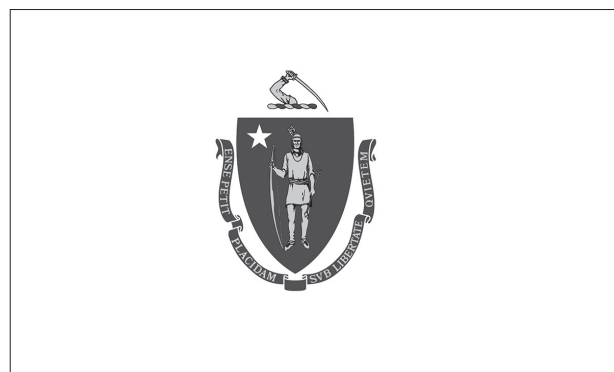
- It is illegal to keep town records where liquor is sold.
- One may not bike at a speed of 65 miles per hour.
- In order for a pickle to officially be considered a pickle, it must bounce.
- In certain Connecticut towns, one is not allowed to walk backwards after sunset.



GILLETTE CASTLE is the 1919 home of William Hooker Gillette, the actor who played the original Sherlock Holmes. More at ct.gov/deep.

Massachusetts

#6: Feb. 6, 1788



Bay State

Population: 6.902 million (2018)

State Capital: Boston

Governor: Henry McMaster

Bird: Chickadee

Fish: Cod

Flower: Mayflower

Insect: Ladybug

Rock: Roxbury Puddingstone (Roxbury Conglomerate)

Tree: American Elm

Motto: Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem (By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty)

Fun Facts:

- British colonist John Smith named Massachusetts for the Massachusetts tribe. The name "Massachusetts" meant "near the great hill."
- Basketball and volleyball were both invented in Massachusetts.
- The first telephone call in history was made between inventor Alexander Graham Bell and his assistant Thomas Watson in Boston.
- The first printed book in the U.S. was the Bay Psalm Book, printed in Cambridge.
- The first lighthouse in the U.S. was built on Little Brewster Island.

Strange Laws:

- Duels can be carried out to death on Sunday in Boston as long as the governor is present.
- It is illegal to take a lion to the movies.
- Gorillas are not allowed in the back seat of vehicles.



THE OLD State House in Boston is where the Declaration of Independence was first read publicly. More at rolleytours.com/boston/old-state-house.

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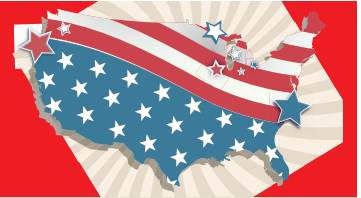


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U.S. States & Territories



Maryland

#7: April 28, 1788



Old Line State

Population: 6.043 million (2018)

State Capital: Annapolis

Governor: Larry Hogan

Bird: Baltimore oriole

Fish: Rock fish

Flower: Black-eyed Susan

Insect: Baltimore checkerspot

Tree: White oak

Motto: Fatti maschi (Many deeds); parole femmine (Womanly words)

Fun Facts:

- The state of Maryland was named after Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of England King Charles I.
- The Court of Appeals of Maryland is the only court in the U.S. whose judges wear red robes.
- The Maryland State House in Annapolis is the oldest state capitol still in continuous legislative use.
- Maryland gave up some of its land to form Washington D.C.
- The longest escalator in the U.S. is in the Wheaton Station of the Washington Metro in Montgomery County. It is 230 feet long.

Strange Laws:

- It is illegal for a woman to go through a man's pockets while he's sleeping.
- Eating while swimming in the ocean is prohibited.
- It is illegal to mistreat oysters.



CONCORD POINT Lighthouse is one of the oldest lighthouses in continuous operation on the East Coast. More at concordpointlighthouse.org.

South Carolina

#8: May 23, 1788



Palmetto State

Population: 5.15 mil. (2019)

State Capital: Columbia

Governor: Henry McMaster

Bird: Great Carolina Wren

Fish: Striped Bass

Flower: Carolina Yellow Jessamine

Insect: Carolina Mantid (praying mantis)

Stone: Blue Granite

Tree: Sabal Palmetto (cabbage palm tree)

Motto: Dum Spiro Spero (While I breathe, I hope); Animis opibusque parati (Ready in Soul and Resource)

Fun Facts:

- Duncan Park Baseball Stadium in Spartanburg is the oldest minor league stadium in the nation.
- The Charleston Museum is the first museum in America. It was founded in 1773 and opened to public in 1824.
- The first battle of the Civil War took place in Fort Sumter.

Strange Laws:

- Persons must be at least 18 years old to play a pinball machine.
- If a man promises to marry an unmarried woman, the marriage must take place.
- Horses are to wear pants at all times.



FRED W. Symmes Chapel (also known as Pretty Place) is a chapel located in YMCA Camp Greenville. The chapel overlooks Jones Gap Valley and beyond. It is open to the public and available for weddings and memorial services. More at campgreenville.org/pretty-place.

New Hampshire

#9: June 21, 1788



Granite State

Population: 1.356 million (2018)

State Capital: Concord

Governor: Chris Sununu

Bird: Purple finch

Fish: Brook trout, Striped bass

Flower: Purple lilac

Insect: Ladybug

Tree: White birch

Motto: Live Free or Die

Fun Facts:

- New Hampshire was after the southern English county of Hampshire.
- The first free public library supported by taxation in the U.S. was founded on April 9, 1833 in Peterborough, New Hampshire.
- The record for the highest wind speed over land in the U.S. was recorded on Mt. Washington on April 12, 1934 at 231 miles per hour. This is also the second highest wind speed over land recorded in the world.
- Levi Hutchins of Concord, invented the first alarm clock in 1787. It only rang at 4 a.m., the time he needed to wake up for his job.

Strange Laws:

- It is illegal to operate machinery on Sunday.
- It is a crime to remove seaweed from the beach.
- One is not allowed to tap their toes while listening to music in a tavern, restaurant or café.



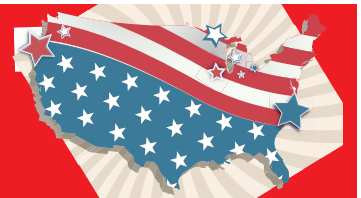
AMERICA'S STONEHENGE is a maze of man-made chambers, walls and ceremonial meeting places. At over 4,000 years old, America's Stonehenge is likely the oldest man-made construction in the U.S.. More at stonehengeusa.com.

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U.S. States & Territories



Virginia

#10: June 25, 1788



Old Dominion

Population: 8.518 million (2018)
State Capital: Richmond
Governor: Ralph Northam
Bird: Cardinal
Fish: Brook trout, striped bass
Flower: Flowering Dogwood
Insect: Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly
Tree: Flowering Dogwood
Motto: Sic semper tyrannis (Thus always to tyrants)



Fun Facts:

- Virginia was named for England's "Virgin Queen," Elizabeth I.
- The Pentagon in Arlington is the largest office building in the world.
- The first theater in America was built at Williamsburg in 1716.
- Virginia is the first state in the U.S. to elect a black governor: Douglas Wilder was elected as governor in 1990.
- The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg is the second oldest in the U.S., it was founded in 1693.

Strange Laws:

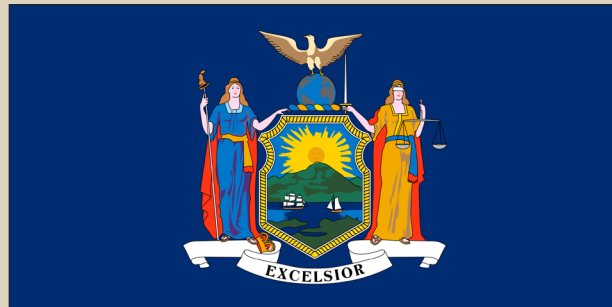
- It is illegal to tickle women.
- In Virginia Beach, it is illegal to ride on the handlebars of a bike in the city.
- In Norfolk, it is unlawful to spit on a seagull.
- In Richmond, it is illegal to flip a coin in a restaurant or café to determine who will pay for coffee.



MONTICELLO was the primary plantation of Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the U.S. Its likeness is featured on the back of the nickel, beginning in 1938. More at monticello.org.

New York

#11: July 26, 1788



Empire State

Population: 19.54 million (2018)
State Capital: Albany
Governor: Andrew Cuomo
Bird: Eastern bluebird
Fish: Brook trout, Striped bass
Flower: Rose
Insect: Nine-spotted ladybug
Tree: Sugar maple
Motto: Excelsior! (Ever Upward!)



Fun Facts:

- New York was named for the Duke of York, who later became King James II
- On April 25, 1901, New York became the first state to require license plates on automobiles.
- New York City has more people than 39 of 50 states in the U.S..
- One World Trade Center in New York City is the tallest building in the U.S. at 1,776 feet.
- The first documented American chess tournament was held in New York in 1843.

Strange Laws:

- It is against the law to throw a ball at someone's face for fun.
- It is illegal to sell cat or dog hair.
- Taking "selfies" with tigers is prohibited.
- It is illegal for two or more mask-wearing people to congregate in public.



ELLIS ISLAND was the port of entry to the U.S. from the late 19th century until the 1950s. Now the museum houses the immigration information from before 1892 and after 1954.

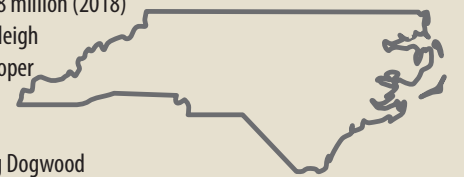
North Carolina

#12: Nov. 21, 1789



Tar Heel State

Population: 10.38 million (2018)
State Capital: Raleigh
Governor: Roy Cooper
Bird: Cardinal
Fish: Red Drum
Flower: Flowering Dogwood
Insect: Western honeybee
Tree: Longleaf Pine



Motto: Esse quam videri (To be, rather than to seem)

Fun Facts:

- Carolina was split in 1729 into North and South Carolina as it was deemed to big to govern effectively. Carolina is named after King Charles I of England. Carolus is Latin for Charles.
- Pepsi was developed in 1893 by Caleb Bradham and introduced as "Brad's Drink" in New Bern. It was renamed Pepsi in 1898, after the digestive enzyme pepsin and kola nuts used in the recipe.
- Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is the tallest lighthouse in the U.S. at 193 feet.
- North Carolina is the largest producer of sweet potatoes
- Krispy Kreme Doughnut was founded in Winston-Salem, on July 13, 1937.

Strange Laws:

- Elephants may not be used to plow cotton fields.
- It is against the law to sing off key.
- Bingo games may not last more than five hours.



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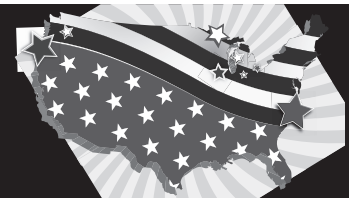
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U.S. States & Territories



Rhode Island

#13: May 29, 1790



Ocean State

Population: 1,057 (2018)
State Capital: Providence
Governor: Gina Raimondo
Bird: Rhode Island Red chicken
Fish: Striped bass
Flower: Violet
Insect: American burying beetle
Tree: Red Maple
Motto: Hope



- Fun Facts:**
- Rhode Island was the first to declare its independence from Great Britain
 - Judge Darius Baker imposed the first jail sentence for speeding in a car on Aug. 27, 1904, in Newport.
 - Rhode Island has five counties, but no county government. Local governance is provided by the eight cities and 31 towns.
 - The start of the Industrial Revolution is attributed to the development and construction in 1790 of Samuel Slater's water-powered cotton mill
 - Roger Williams founded the first Baptist Church in Providence in 1638.
- Strange Laws:**
- Throwing pickle juice on a trolley is an offense.
 - It is illegal to intentionally bite off someone's limb.
 - Riding a horse on a highway for the purpose of testing its speed is not allowed.



SLATER MILL is a historic textile mill complex on the banks of the Blackstone River in Pawtucket. It has been dubbed the birthplace of American Industry. More at visitrhodeisland.com.

Washington D.C.

Founded: July 16, 1790



District of Columbia

Population: 711,571 (2019)
Bird: Wood Thrush
Dinosaur: Capitosaursaurus
Flower: American Beauty rose
Rock: Potomac Bluestone
Tree: Scarlet Oak
Motto: Justitia omnibus (Justice to all)



- Fun Facts:**
- The name Washington is in honor of the first president of the U.S., George Washington; the name Columbia honors Christopher Columbus.
 - There are around 1,000-1,200 items lost on the Metro every month.
 - There is an empty crypt beneath the Capitol building.
 - There is also a nuclear fall out shelter underneath the Capitol Building.
 - Three alligators have lived in the White House.
 - Residents of DC could not vote for the President until 1961.
 - DC was built on a mosquito-infested swamp.
 - Baseball's seventh inning stretch originated in Washington DC.
 - DC averages 39 inches of rain every year, which is more than Seattle.
 - The Library of Congress is the biggest library in the world.

- Strange Laws:**
- Citizens are not permitted to dance, sing or whistle in public.
 - An establishment may not allow more than one accordion to be played for entertainment.
 - Taking photographs for more than five minutes in a public location is prohibited.



THE KOREAN War Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1995. Its Wall of Remembrance and 19 stainless steel statues commemorate the sacrifices of the millions of Americans and allied partners who fought during the Korean War. More at nps.gov.

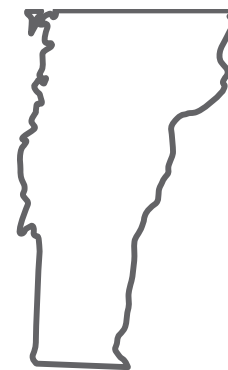
Vermont

#14: March 4, 1791



Green Mountain State

Population: 626,299 (2018)
State Capital: Montpelier
Governor: Phill Scott
Bird: Hermit thrush
Fish: Brook trout and Walleye
Flower: Red clover
Insect: Western honey bee
Tree: Sugar maple
Motto: Freedom and Unity;
 Stella quarta decima fulgeat
 (May the 14th star shine bright)



- Fun Facts:**
- Vermont's name is derived from two French words—vert ("green") and mont ("mountain").
 - Vermont is the largest producer of maple syrup in the U.S..
 - Montpelier is the only state capital without a McDonald's.
 - Vermont is one of four states that were once independent nations (Texas, California, and Hawaii are the other three).
 - On May 5, 1978, Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield opened their first Ben & Jerry's shop in an old gas station in Burlington.

- Strange Laws:**
- It is against the law to whistle underwater.
 - It is illegal to paint a horse.
 - A woman must ask her husband for permission to get false teeth.



NAULAKHA, also known as the Rudyard Kipling House, is a historic shingle style house on Kipling Road in Dummerston, a few miles outside Brattleboro. In this house Kipling wrote Captains Courageous, The Jungle Book, The Day's Work and The Seven Seas.

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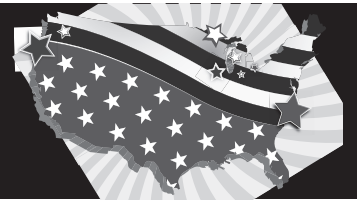
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U.S. States & Territories



Kentucky

#15: June 1, 1792



Bluegrass State

Population: 4.468 million (2018)

State Capital: Frankfort

Governor: Andy Beshear

Bird: Cardinal

Fish: Kentucky spotted bass

Flower: Goldenrod

Insect: Western honeybee **Tree:** Tulip poplar

Motto: United we stand, divided we fall; Deo gratiam habemus (Let us be grateful to God)

Fun Facts:

- The Mohawks called it "Kentucke," meaning "Among the Meadows."
- Held every year since 1875, the Kentucky Derby is the oldest continuously held horse race in the country.
- Cumberland Falls is only place in Western Hemisphere to spot a moonbow on a regular basis
- Kentucky is the only state to have a continuous border of rivers running along three of its sides
- The song "Happy Birthday to You" was the creation of two Louisville sisters, Patty Hill and Mildred J. Hill, in 1893.

Strange Laws:

- It is illegal to fish with a bow and arrow.
- It is illegal to force a person into a store in order to make a sale.
- No one shall dye blue and sell baby ducks, chicks or rabbits, unless doing so in groups of six or more.



ARKENCOUNTER features a full-size Noah's Ark replica, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. More at arkencounter.com.

Tennessee

#16: June 1, 1796



Volunteer State

Population: 6.77 million (2018)

State Capital: Nashville

Governor: Bill Lee

Bird: Mockingbird, Bobwhite quail

Fish: Channel catfish, Smallmouth bass

Flower: Iris, Passion flower

Insect: Firefly, Lady beetle, Honey bee

Tree: Tulip poplar

Motto: Agriculture and commerce

Fun Facts:

- The state of Tennessee was named after a Cherokee town named "Tanasi"
- Tennessee borders with eight other states. This makes Tennessee, along with Missouri, the state with the most neighboring states.
- The Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, is the longest continuously running live radio program in the world. It has been live since Nov. 28, 1925.
- The Manhattan Project was based in Oak Ridge.
- Memphis is home to Graceland, Elvis Presley's former estate.
- Moses and Ally Hartman developed Mountain Dew in 1940.

Strange Laws:

- It is against the law to carry a skunk over state borders.
- In Memphis, women aren't allowed to drive a car unless a man walks in front of them waving a red flag.
- It is against the law to lasso a fish.
- Driving while asleep is prohibited.

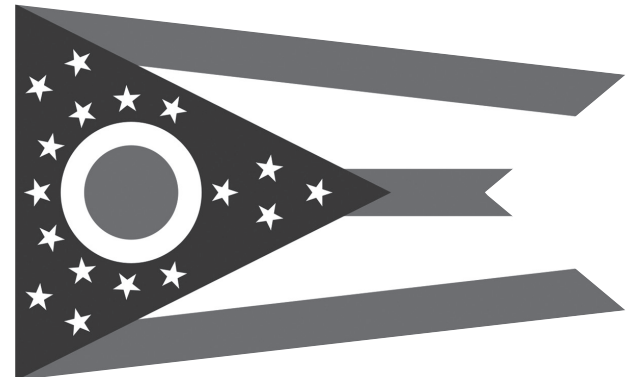


PHOTO BY JACOB WARDEN

THE COUNTRY Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tenn., features walls of platinum records on display. More at countrymusichalloffame.org.

Ohio

#17: March 1, 1803



Buckeye State

Population: 11.69 million (2018)

State Capital: Columbus

Governor: Mike DeWine

Bird: Cardinal

Fish: Walleye

Flower: Red carnation

Insect: Ladybug

Tree: Buckeye

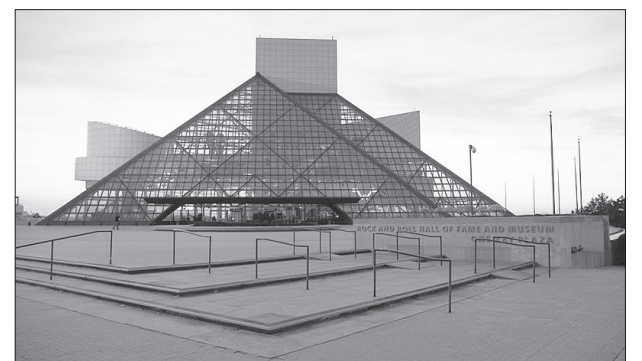
Motto: With God, all things are possible

Fun Facts:

- Ohio was named after the river 'Ohio', which was named for the Iroquois word ohi-yo', meaning "great river."
- Ohio's swallowtail flag is the only non-rectangular U.S. state flag.
- Founded in 1869, Cincinnati Red Stockings was the first pro baseball team
- On August 5, 1914, the American Traffic Signal Company installed the first traffic signal system in the U.S. in Cleveland.
- The Pro Football Hall of Fame is located in Canton.

Strange Laws:

- In Cleveland, it's illegal to catch mice without a hunting license.
- In Toledo, throwing snakes at people is prohibited.
- Columbus archives say it's illegal for stores to sell cornflakes on Sunday.
- It is illegal to kill a housefly within 160 feet of a church without a license
- It is illegal to get a fish drunk.



THE ROCK and Roll Hall of Fame is located in downtown Cleveland on the shore of Lake Erie. More at rockhall.com.

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U.S. States & Territories



Louisiana

#18: April 30, 1812



Pelican State

Population: 4.66 million (2018)
State Capital: Baton Rouge
Governor: John Bel Edwards
Bird: Brown pelican
Fish: White perch
Flower: Magnolia
Insect: Honeybee
Tree: Bald cypress
Motto: Union, justice, and confidence



Fun Facts:

- Louisiana was named in honor of King Louis XIV of France.
 - Louisiana has the tallest state capitol building in the U.S. It is 450 feet tall
 - Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in Louisiana is the longest continuous bridge over water in the world. It is 23.87 miles long.
 - The Saint Charles streetcar line in New Orleans is one of only two mobile national monuments in the U.S. San Francisco cable cars are the other.
 - The first documented Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans occurred in 1837.
- Strange Laws:**
- Stealing an alligator (or crawfish) could earn up to ten years in jail.
 - It is illegal to dare someone to go onto railroad tracks owned by someone else
 - In New Orleans, it is illegal to throw a bottle of Coke at a parade float.



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

THE ATCHAFALAYA Basin is the nation's largest river swamp, containing almost one million acres of America's most significant bottomland hardwoods, swamps, bayous and backwater lakes. More at atchafalaya.org.

Indiana

#19: Dec. 11, 1816



Crossroads of America

Population: 6.692 million (2018)
State Capital: Indianapolis
Governor: Eric Holcomb
Bird: Cardinal
Fish: Largemouth Bass
Flower: Peony **Insect:** Say's Firefly
Tree: Tulip tree
Motto: The crossroads of America



Fun Facts:

- Indiana means "Indian Land."
- Indianapolis Motor Speedway, with a permanent seating capacity of 235,000, is the highest-capacity sports venue in the world. The first professional baseball game was played in Fort Wayne on May 4, 1871. Fort Wayne Kekiongas beat Cleveland Forest Cities, 2-0.
- Indiana is the first state to have a chapel inside the state capitol.
- The Town of Santa Claus, receives hundreds of thousands of letters addressed to the Christmas legend every year—each is responded to.

Strange Laws:

- Receiving payment for performing a puppet show, wire act or tumbling is a fineable offense.
- One must wait four hours after eating garlic before attending the movies, seeing a show or getting on public transportation.
- Catching fish with bare hands is prohibited.



THE INDIANAPOLIS Motor Speedway is the site of the Indy 500. More at indianapolis motorspeedway.com.

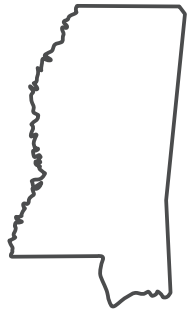
Mississippi

#20: Dec. 10, 1817



Magnolia State

Population: 2.987 million (2018)
State Capital: Jackson
Governor: Tate Reeves
Bird: Northern mockingbird
Fish: Largemouth bass **Flower:** Magnolia
Insect: Western honey bee
Tree: Southern magnolia
Motto: Virtute et armis (By valor and arms)



Fun Facts:

- The state of Mississippi was named for the Mississippi River, whose name comes from the Ojibwa Indian word "misi-ziibi," meaning "great river."
- On April 25, 1866, women in Columbus decorated the graves of both the Confederate and Union soldiers in Friendship Cemetery. This gesture became known as Decoration Day, what we observe today as Memorial Day.
- A Brooklyn candy shop owner created a stuffed "Teddy's Bear." Teddy bears soon became a favorite toy all over the world.
- In 1894, Coca-Cola was first bottled by Joseph A. Biedenharn in Vicksburg.

Strange Laws:

- It is illegal to cheer without reason in Oxford.
- One cannot shave in the middle of Main Street in Tylertown.
- In Temperance, one may not walk a dog unless it is wearing a diaper.
- In Brandon, hindering a pedestrian's progress by placing a truck in their way is prohibited.



THE ELVIS Presley Birthplace is a historic museum in Tupelo, Miss., dedicated to the preservation of the birthplace of American musician Elvis Presley. It is listed on the Mississippi Blues Trail. More at elvispresleybirthplace.com.

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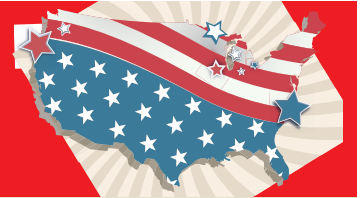
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U.S. States & Territories



Illinois

#21: Dec. 3, 1818



ILLINOIS

Prairie State

Population: 12.74 million (2018)
State Capital: Springfield
Governor: J. B. Pritzker
Bird: Northern cardinal
Fish: Bluegill
Flower: Violet
Insect: Monarch Butterfly
Tree: White oak
Motto: State sovereignty, national union
Fun Facts:



- "Illinois" comes from a Native American word meaning "tribe of superior men."
 - The world's first skyscraper, the ten-story Home Insurance Building, was built in Chicago in 1885.
 - The first all-color TV station, debuted in Chicago on April 15, 1956.
 - Illinois is home to the world's largest bottle of catsup, a 170-foot tall water tower located south of downtown Collinsville.
 - Carol Moseley Braun became the first female African-American Senator
- Strange Laws:**
- It is forbidden to fish while sitting on a giraffe's neck in Chicago.
 - Also in Chicago, the law forbids eating in a place that is on fire.
 - In Horner, it is against the law for someone to use a slingshot – with the exception of police officers.
 - In Normal, it is against the law to make faces at dogs.



SUPER MUSEUM, located in Metropolis, Ill., features over 70,000 items from Jim Hambrick's collection of Superman memorabilia. More at supermuseum.com.

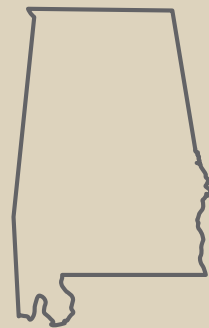
Alabama

#22: Dec. 14, 1819



Yellowhammer State

Population: 4.888 million (2018)
State Capital: Montgomery
Governor: Kay Ivey
Bird: Yellowhammer, wild turkey
Fish: Largemouth bass, fighting tarpon
Flower: Camellia, oak-leaf hydrangea
Insect: Monarch butterfly
Tree: Longleaf pine
Motto: Audemus jura nostra defendere
 (We dare to defend our rights)



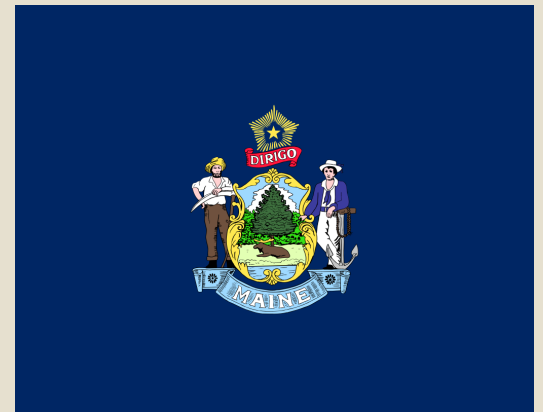
- Fun Facts:**
- Birmingham is home to Vulcan, the world's largest cast iron statue.
 - On Feb. 16, 1968, the first 911 call in the U.S. was made in Haleyville.
 - In Magnolia Springs, mail is delivered by boat.
 - In 1703, Mobile became the first city in the American Continent to celebrate Mardi Gras, 15 years before New Orleans did so.
 - In 1836 Alabama became the first state in the U.S. to declare Christmas a legal holiday.
- Strange Laws:**
- Bear wrestling is prohibited.
 - It is illegal to wear a fake mustache that causes laughter in church.
 - Throwing salt on railroad tracks is prohibited.
 - It is illegal for a driver to be blindfolded while driving a vehicle.



THE U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville is a museum operated by the government of Alabama, showcasing rockets, achievements and artifacts of the U.S. space program. More at rocketcenter.com.

Maine

#23: March 15, 1820



Pine Tree State

Population: 1.338 million (2018)
State Capital: Augusta
Governor: Janet Mills
Bird: Chickadee
Fish: Landlocked Atlantic salmon
Flower: White pine cone
Insect: Honey bee
Tree: Eastern white pine
Motto: Dirigo (I direct)
Fun Facts:



- Maine is the only state in the U.S. with one syllable.
 - Maine is the only state with just one other state on its border
 - Eastport, Maine, is the eastern most city in the U.S..
 - Maine is the biggest harvester of lobsters in the U.S..
 - In 1641, York became America's first chartered city.
 - The nation's first sawmill was established near York in 1623.
 - You can be charged a fine in Maine for leaving your Christmas decorations up after January 14.
 - Retailer L. L. Bean was founded in Freeport, Maine, in 1912.
- Strange Laws:**
- It's illegal to tickle under a woman's chin with a feather duster in Portland.
 - Leashes longer than eight feet are not allowed in Waterboro.
 - In Augusta, it is illegal to walk down the street while playing the violin.

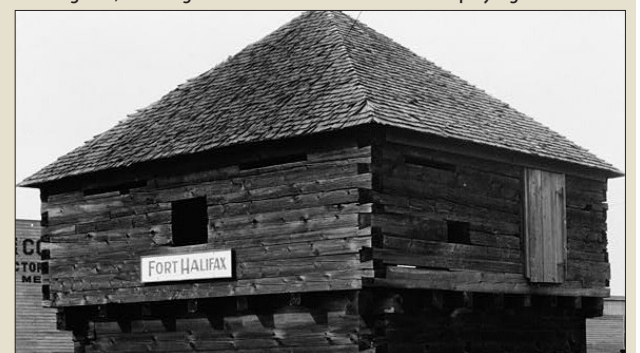


PHOTO COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS & PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION, ME, 6-WINLO, 1-2

PART OF 1750s colonial Fort Halifax, this surviving structure is the oldest blockhouse in the U.S.. The photo above was taken in 1936.



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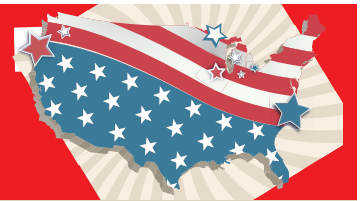


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U.S. States & Territories



Missouri

#24: Aug. 10, 1821



The Show-Me State

Population: 6.14 mil.
Size: 69,704 sq. miles
Counties: 114
State Capital: Jefferson City
Governor: Michael Parson



- Amphibian:** American Bullfrog
- Animal:** Missouri Mule
- Aquatic Animal:** Paddlefish
- Bird:** Bluebird
- Dessert:** Ice Cream Cone
- Dinosaur:** Hypsibema Missouriense
- Fish:** Channel Catfish
- Flower:** Hawthorn
- Folk Dance:** Square Dance
- Fossil:** Crinoid
- Game Bird:** Bobwhite Quail
- Grape:** Norton/Cynthiana Grape
- Grass:** Big Bluestem
- Horse:** Missouri Fox Trotting Horse
- Insect:** Honeybee
- Invertebrate:** Crayfish
- Mineral:** Galena
- Musical Instrument:** Fiddle
- Reptile:** Three-toed Box Turtle
- Rock:** Mozarkite
- Song:** Missouri Day
- Tree:** Flowering Dogwood
- Tree Nut:** Eastern Black Walnut
- Motto:** Salus populi suprema lex esto (Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law of the land)

Fun Facts:

- The state of Missouri was named after a tribe of Sioux Indians of the state called the Missouris. The word "Missouri" means "wooden canoe people" or "he of the big canoe."
- Missouri got its "Show-Me-State" nickname in 1899 when Congressman Willard Duncan Vandiver said "I'm from Missouri and you've got to show me!"
- The only city in the U.S. that has a cave restaurant is Richland
- St. Joseph was the starting point of the Pony Express.
- Kansas City is known as the City of Fountains because it has more fountains than any city in the world except Rome.
- Eight different states border Missouri, making it the state with the highest number of neighboring states. Tennessee also has eight bordering states.
- In 1873, Susan Elizabeth Blow opened the first public kindergarten in the U.S. in St. Louis.
- Missouri is one of two states to have a state grape.
- Missouri has more than 6,000 known caves.
- The lowest point in Missouri is the Saint Francis River at 230 feet.
- The highest point in Missouri is Taum Sauk Mountain at 1,772 feet.
- In 1904, the World's State Fair in St. Louis introduced treats including cotton candy, iced tea, Dr. Pepper and the waffle cone.
- Four of the largest earthquakes in North American history occurred in New Madrid, Mo., between December of 1811 and February of 1812.
- During Abraham Lincoln's presidential campaign, Valentine Tapley from Pike County swore he would never shave again if Lincoln were elected. He grew his beard to 12 feet and six inches before his death in 1910.

Strange Laws:

- A milk-man may not run while on duty in St. Louis.
- Climbing into another person's vehicle or sounding their horn without their permission is prohibited in University City.
- In University City, it is illegal for a person to have a yard sale on their front yard.

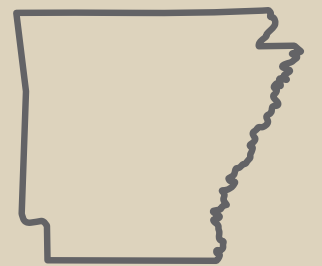
Arkansas

#25: June 15, 1836



Natural State

Population: 3.014 million (2018)
State Capital: Little Rock
Governor: Asa Hutchinson
Bird: Mockingbird
Butterfly: Diana fritillary
Flower: Apple blossom
Insect: Western honeybee
Tree: Pine tree
Motto: Regnat populus (The people rule)



Fun Facts:

- Arkansas is one of five states in the nation without a state fish.
 - The World's Championship Duck Calling Contest is held yearly in Stuttgart.
 - In 1932, Hattie Caraway was elected senator becoming the first woman in the U.S. Senate.
 - On July 2, 1962, Sam Walton opened the first Wal-Mart store in Rogers.
 - 47 hot springs flow from the slope of Hot Springs Mountain. About 1,000,000 gallons of 143°F flow from the springs every day.
- Strange Laws:**
- It's illegal to honk a horn at a sandwich shop after 9 p.m.
 - Arkansas has a legal pronunciation: "Ar-kan-saw"
 - It is illegal for the Arkansas River to rise above the Main Street Bridge in Little Rock. It is unclear how this law can be enforced.



PHOTO BY SAM VALADI

THE GATEWAY Arch, also known as the gateway to the west, is a 630-foot monument in St. Louis. It is the world's tallest arch and was built as a monument to the expansion of the U.S. *More at gatewayarch.com.*



THE NATIONAL World War I Museum and Memorial of the U.S. was designated by Congress as America's official museum dedicated to WWI. *More at visitkc.com.*



CLINTON LIBRARY and Museum, located in Little Rock, Ark., is the presidential library of Bill Clinton, the 42nd president of the U.S. It is the thirteenth completed presidential library in the U.S. *More at clintonfoundation.org.*

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"The magic of America is that we're a free and open society with a mixed population. Part of our security is our freedom." — Madeleine Albright

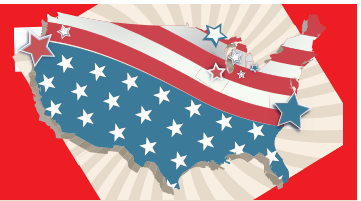
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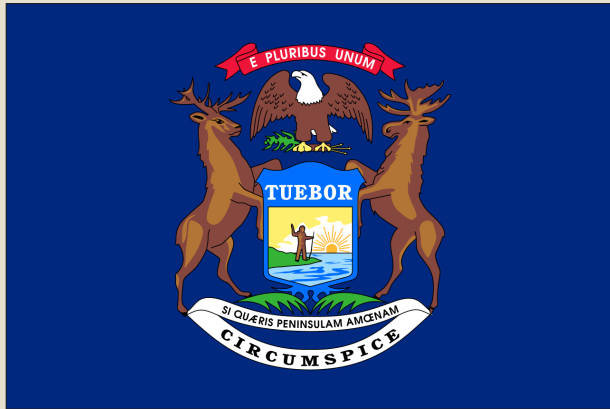
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U.S. States & Territories



Michigan

#26: Jan. 26, 1837



Great Lakes State

Population: 9.996 million (2018)

State Capital: Lansing

Governor: Gretchen Whitmer

Bird: American robin

Fish: Brook trout

Flower: Apple blossom

Insect: Monarch Butterfly

Tree: Eastern white pine

Motto: Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam
circumspice (If you seek a pleasant peninsula,
look about you); Tuebor (I will defend)

Fun Facts:

- Michigan, made up of two peninsulas, is derived from the Ojibwa Indian word "meicigama," meaning "large lake" or "large water."
 - Michigan is the only state in the U.S. that touches four of the five Great Lakes (Huron, Michigan, Erie, and Superior).
 - Michigan has world's only floating post office
 - Michigan has about 150 lighthouses, more than any other state
 - Home to Kellogg's, Battle Creek is called the Cereal Capital of the world.
- Strange Laws:**
- The last Sunday of June in each year shall be known as "log cabin day."
 - It is unlawful to sell, trade or exchange vehicles on Sunday.
 - In Detroit, it is illegal to willfully destroy a radio.



PICTURED ROCKS National Lakeshore in Munising is known for Pictured Rocks cliffs. Unusual sandstone formations define the area. More at npca.org.

Florida

#27: March 3, 1845



The Sunshine State

Population: 21.3 million (2018)

State Capital: Tallahassee

Governor: Ron DeSantis

Bird: Northern mockingbird

Fish: Florida largemouth bass, Atlantic sailfish

Flower: Orange blossom

Insect: Zebra longwing

Tree: Sabal palmetto

Motto: In God We Trust

Fun Facts:

- St. Augustine is the oldest European settlement in North America.
- Florida has the longest coastline in the contiguous U.S.
- Florida is the only state in the nation whose Constitution is reviewed every 20 years.
- Florida is the only state that has two rivers with the same name. There is a Withlacoochee River in both north central and central regions.

Strange Laws:

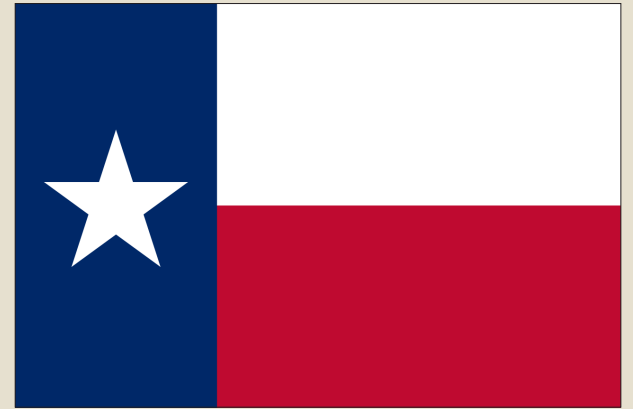
- Unmarried women are prohibited from parachuting on Sunday.
- It is illegal to sing in a public place while attired in a swimsuit.
- In Cape Coral, a person can be fined \$50 for keeping a couch underneath their outdoor carport.
- In Pensacola, rolling a barrel down the street is considered illegal.



CORAL CASTLE was built between 1923 to 1951 single-handedly by Edward Leedskalnin, who carved over 1,100 tons of coral rock in an unknown process. More at coralcastle.com.

Texas

#28: Dec. 29, 1845



Lone Star State

Population: 28.7 million (2018)

State Capital: Austin

Governor: Greg Abbott

Bird: Northern mockingbird

Fish: Guadalupe bass

Flower: Bluebonnet

Insect: Monarch butterfly **Tree:** Pecan

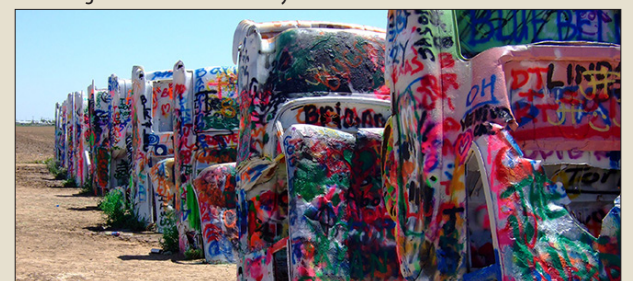
Motto: Friendship

Fun Facts:

- Texas comes from the Caddo Indian word tejas, meaning "friends" or "allies"
- Texas has highest speed limit in the U.S.. A stretch of toll road between Austin and San Antonio permits drivers to go 85 miles per hour.
- Bracken Cave in Comal County, is the summer home to the largest colony of bats in the world with an estimated 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats
- Dr. Pepper was invented in Waco, by Charles Alderton in 1885.
- Astrodome in 1965 was first multi-purpose domed stadium in the world.
- Texas was an independent nation from 1836 to 1845.

Strange Laws:


- Milking another person's cow was prohibited.
- Individuals seeking to modify the weather must first contact a local newspaper and notice of intent must be published.
- Prior to 1973, it was illegal to plant Johnson grass on another person's property.
- It is illegal for one to sell their eyeball.



CADILLAC RANCH is the home of ten half-buried Cadillacs nose-first into the ground. It was created in 1974 by Chip Lord, Hudson, Marquez and Doug Michels, who were a part of the art group Ant Farm. More at drivingroute66.com/cadillac-ranch.

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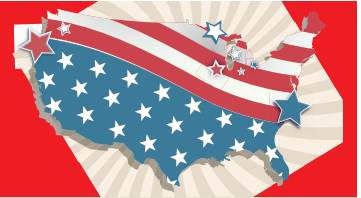
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U.S. States & Territories



Iowa

#29: Dec. 28, 1846



Hawkeye State

Population: 3.156 million (2018)
State Capital: Des Moines
Governor: Kim Reynolds
Bird: Eastern goldfinch
Flower: Prairie rose
Fish: Channel Catfish
Insect: Honeybee
Tree: Bur oak



Motto: Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain

Fun Facts:

- Iowa derives its name from the loway people, one of the Native American tribes that made the region their home.
- Iowa is the only state whose eastern and western borders are formed by rivers
- Iowa is called "The Hawkeye State" to honor Indian Chief Black Hawk.
- Iowan Arabella Mansfield was the first female lawyer in the U.S.
- The novel and movie "The Bridges of Madison County" was set in Madison County.

Strange Laws:

- A one-armed piano player must perform for free.
- In Cedar Rapids, it is illegal to read palms in the city limits.
- In Mount Vernon, one must obtain written permission from the City Council before throwing bricks onto a highway.
- The "ice cream man" and his truck are banned in Indianola.



MADISON COUNTY is the covered bridge capital of Iowa, with the largest group of covered bridges that exists in one area in the western half of the Mississippi Valley, according to madisoncounty.com.

Wisconsin

#30: May 29, 1848



Badger State

Population: 5.814 million (2018)
State Capital: Madison
Governor: Tony Evers
Bird: American robin
Fish: Muskellunge
Flower: Wood violet
Insect: Western honey bee
Tree: Sugar maple
Motto: Forward



Fun Facts:

- Wisconsin originates from the Miami Indian word Meskonsing, meaning "this stream meanders through something red."
- Harley-Davidson was founded in Milwaukee, in 1903 by William Harley, Arthur Davidson, and Walter Davidson.
- The Ringling Brothers gave their first circus show in Baraboo in 1884.
- Seymour, is home to the Hamburger Hall of Fame.
- In 1919, Stephen J. Poplawski of Racine, invented the blender.

Strange Laws:

- Wisconsin banned the sale and use of margarine from 1895 to 1967.
- In Sheboygan, no person is allowed to water their lawn in a manner that distresses or annoys others.
- In Wausau, snowball fights are strictly forbidden.
- In Sun Prairie, no bicyclist shall practice any trick or fancy riding in any



PHOTO BY JONATHAN D. THORESON

THE LITTLE White Schoolhouse in Ripon is considered the birthplace of the Republican Party.

California

#31: Sept. 9, 1850



Golden State

Population: 39.56 million (2018)
State Capital: Sacramento
Governor: Gavin Newsom
Bird: California quail
Fish: Golden trout, Garibaldi
Flower: California poppy
Insect: California dogface butterfly
Tree: Coast redwood & giant sequoia
Motto: Eureka (I have found it)



Fun Facts:

- California was the name given to a mythical island in the popular early 16th century Spanish novel Las Sergas de Esplandián.
- The first McDonald's restaurant opened in San Bernardino in 1940.
- San Bernardino is the largest county in the U.S., totaling 20,105 square miles
- California has more national parks than any other state in USA.
- William Todd designed the original California flag. He was the nephew of Mary Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's wife.

Strange Laws:

- In Walnut, one cannot fly a kite higher than 10 feet off the ground.
- Also in Walnut, children may not wear a Halloween mask without a permit
- In Baldwin Park, it is illegal to ride a bicycle in a swimming pool.
- In Glendale, cars are prohibited from driving in reverse.
- In San Francisco, one may not hunt moths under a street lamp.

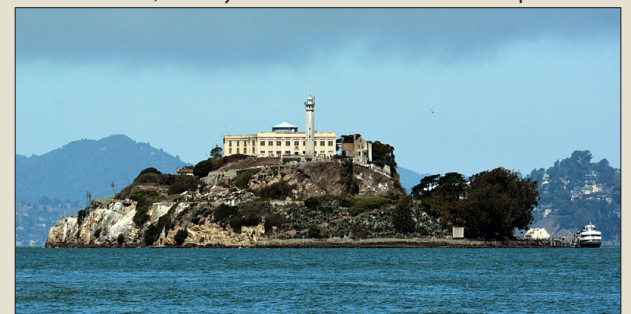


PHOTO BY D. RAMEY LOGAN
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ALCATRAZ ISLAND, located in San Francisco Bay, was developed with facilities for a lighthouse, a military fortification, a military prison and a federal prison from 1934 until 1963. More at nps.gov/alca.

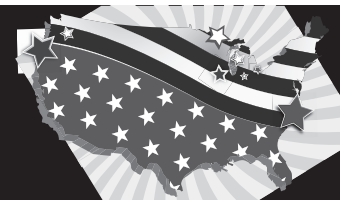


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U.S. States & Territories



Minnesota

#32: May 11, 1858



North Star State

Population: 5.611 million (2018)

State Capital: Saint Paul

Governor: Tim Walz

Bird: Common loon

Fish: Walleye

Flower: Pink-and-white lady's slipper

Insect: Milkweed Butterfly

Tree: Norway pine

Motto: L'étoile du Nord (The star of the north); Quae sursum volo videre (I long to see what is beyond)

Fun Facts:

- Though Minnesota is called "The Land of 10,000 Lakes," it actually has 11,842 lakes that are at least 10 acres or more in area.
- The first Target store opened in Roseville on May 1, 1962.
- Minnesota is the only state with an official State Photograph: *Grace* by Eric Enstrom.
- The Mall of America in Bloomington is the largest shopping mall in the U.S..

Strange Laws:

- Standing in the road looking for business or a ride is prohibited.
- Areas where mosquitoes incubate or hatch are declared to be public nuisances.



GOOSEBURY FALLS, a North Shore park, features waterfalls, scenic overlooks and a visitor center. It reputedly has superb trout fishing. More at exploreminnesota.com.

Oregon

#33: Feb. 14, 1859



Back of flag

Beaver State

Population: 4.191 million (2018)

State Capital: Salem

Governor: Kate Brown

Bird: Western meadowlark

Fish: Chinook salmon

Flower: Oregon grape

Insect: Oregon swallowtail

Tree: Douglas-fir

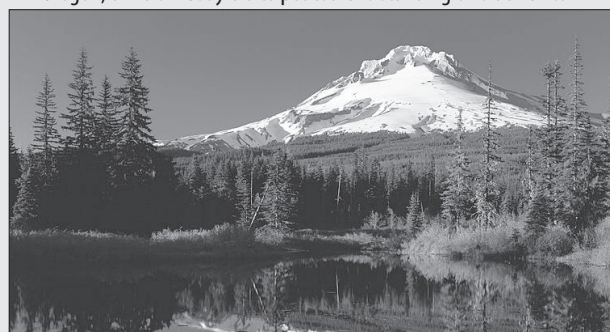
Motto: The Union; Alis volat propriis (She flies with her own wings)

Fun Facts:

- Crater Lake of Oregon is the deepest lake in the U.S. with a maximum depth of 1,943 feet.
- Boring and its sister city in Scotland named Dull hold "Boring and Dull Day" annually on Aug. 9.

Strange Laws:

- One must have a license to juggle in the Hood River.
- It is unlawful for two or more people to occupy a public restroom, unless they are helping a child or elderly person.
- It is illegal to leave a car door open in the way of traffic or pedestrians longer than necessary.
- In Oregon, drivers must yield to pedestrians standing on sidewalks.



MOUNT HOOD is a potentially active stratovolcano in the Cascade Volcanic Arc. It was formed by a subduction zone on the Pacific coast and rests in the Pacific Northwest region of the U.S.. More at traveloregon.com.

Kansas

#34: Jan. 29, 1861



Sunflower State

Population: 2.912 million (2018)

State Capital: Topeka

Governor: Laura Kelly

Bird: Western meadowlark

Flower: Wild sunflower

Grass: Little bluestem

Insect: Western honey bee

Tree: Plains cottonwood

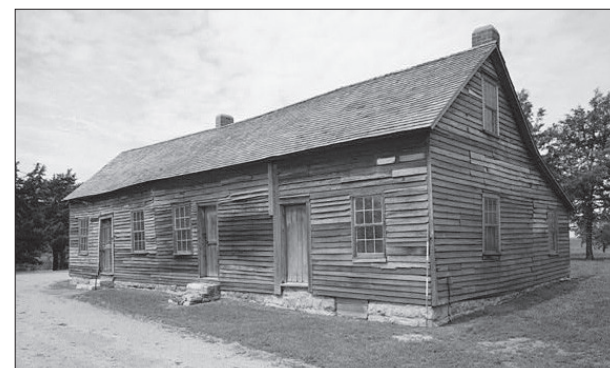
Motto: Ad astra per aspera (To the stars through difficulties)

Fun Facts:

- The state of Kansas was named after Kansa, an Indian tribe that lived in the region about 12,000 years ago. The Kansa people were called Kansas and that became the name of the state.
- Because of its importance in the aircraft industry, Wichita is known as "the Air Capital of the World."
- The first Pizza Hut was opened in Wichita in 1958.

Strange Laws:

- In Topeka, annoyingly whistling or singing on the public streets is unlawful.
- Riding a dog sleigh down any road is strictly prohibited in Derby.
- Tire screeching is unlawful.
- Kansas State Game rules prohibits the use of mules to hunt ducks.



THE HOLLENBERG Pony Express Station, also known as Cottonwood Pony Express Station, in Washington County, is the most intact surviving station of the Pony Express in the U.S.. More at ksks.org.

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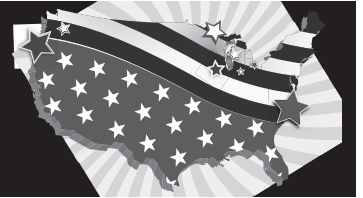
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U.S. States & Territories



West Virginia

#35: June 20, 1863



Mountain State

Population: 1.806 million (2018)

State Capital: Charleston

Governor: Jim Justice

Bird: Northern cardinal

Fish: Brook trout

Flower: Rhododendron

Insect: Western honey bee

Tree: Sugar maple

Motto: Montani semper liberi (Mountaineers are always free)

Fun Facts:

- West Virginia was part of Virginia until 1861 until Virginia seceded from the Union.
- The New River Gorge Bridge in Fayetteville, is the longest steel-arch bridge in the U.S., spanning 1,699 feet across the New River Canyon.
- Weirton is the only city in the U.S. that extends from one state border to another. The eastern portion of the city borders Pennsylvania, and the western portion of the city borders on Ohio.
- The first official Mother's Day celebration took in 1908 at a Methodist Church in Grafton, and was organized by Anna Jarvis.

Strange Laws:

- No children may attend school with their breath smelling of "wild onions."
- A person may be placed in jail for making fun of someone who does not accept a challenge.
- In Alderson, one may not walk a lion, tiger or leopard – even on a leash.



PHOTO BY M. HIGHSMITH – LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOG
THE PHILLIPI Covered Bridge was the site historians consider the first organized land battle of the Civil War. More at wvtourism.com.

Nevada

#36: Oct. 31, 1864



Silver State

Population: 3.034 million (2018)

State Capital: Carson City

Governor: Steve Sisolak

Bird: Mountain bluebird

Fish: Lahontan cutthroat trout

Flower: Sagebrush

Insect: Vivid Dancer Damsel fly

Tree: Bristlecone pine

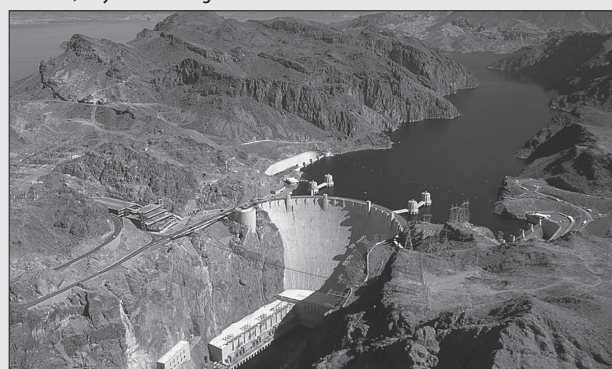
Motto: All for our country

Fun Facts:

- The name Nevada comes from Sierra Nevada, a Spanish term meaning snow-covered mountain range.
- Las Vegas has more hotel rooms than any other city on earth.
- Lake Tahoe is the largest alpine lake and the second deepest lake in the U.S.
- Nevada is the driest state in the nation with an average annual rainfall of 9.5 inches.
- The longest Morse Code telegram ever sent was the Nevada state constitution. Sent in 1864, it was sent over two days and cost \$4,303.27.

Strange Laws:

- It is still considered illegal to drive an automobile in Las Vegas, as the noise would frighten horses.
- It is illegal to hunt for camels in the Nevada desert.
- In Elko, anyone walking on the street must wear some sort of mask.



HOOVER DAM is a concrete arch-gravity dam in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River between Nevada and Arizona. Constructed between 1931 and 1936 during the Great Depression, it provides irrigation and electricity. More at usbr.gov.

Nebraska

#37: March 1, 1867



Cornhusker State

Population: 1.929 million (2018)

State Capital: Lincoln

Governor: Pete Ricketts

Bird: Western meadowlark

Fish: Channel catfish

Flower: Goldenrod

Insect: Western honey bee

Tree: Eastern Cottonwood

Motto: Equality before the law

Fun Facts:

- Nebraska is the only state in the U.S. with a unicameral legislature (meaning a single legislative chamber).
- Omaha has been the home of the College World Series since 1950.
- Kool-Aid was invented in 1927 by Edwin Perkins of Hastings.
- The Bessey Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest is the largest hand-planted forest in the world and covers more than 90,000 acres.
- The Lied Jungle in Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium is the largest indoor rainforest in the U.S.

Strange Laws:

- It is illegal for a mother to give her daughter a perm without a license.
- Barbers are forbidden from eating onions between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Doughnut holes may not be sold.



PHOTO BY MIKE TIGAS, CC-BY-2.0

CHIMNEY ROCK in Morill County served as a landmark along the Oregon, California and Mormon trails during the mid-19th century. The peak is 4,228 feet above sea level.

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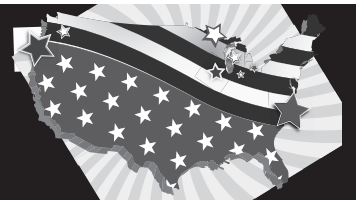
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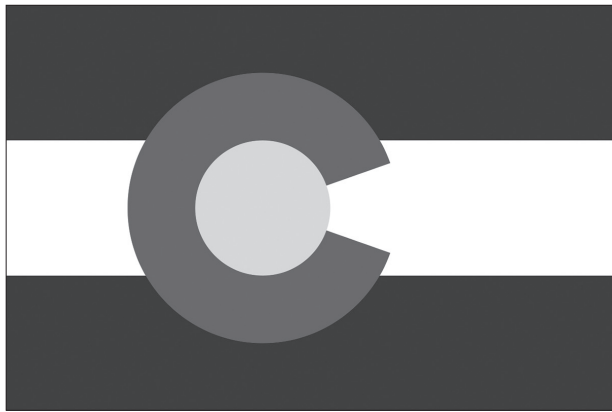
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U.S. States & Territories



Colorado

#38: Aug. 1, 1876



Centennial State

Population: 5.696 million (2018)

State Capital: Denver

Governor: Jared Polis

Bird: Lark bunting

Fish: Greenback cutthroat trout

Flower: Rocky Mountain columbine

Insect: Colorado Hairstreak

Tree: Colorado blue spruce

Motto: Nil sine numine (Nothing without Providence)

Fun Facts:

- In Colorado, it is unlawful to mutilate a rock in a state park.
- Royal Gorge Bridge in Canon City is the highest bridge in the U.S.
- Colorado is the only state with an official State Cactus: Claret cup cactus.
- The 13th step of the state capital building in Denver is exactly one mile above sea level.

Strange Laws:

- In Boulder, it is illegal to roll a boulder onto city property.
- In Vail, "junk" may not be kept in close proximity to buildings, parks and homes.
- In Alamosa, it is illegal to throw missiles at cars.
- In Colorado, dealerships cannot sell cars on Sundays.
- Using catapults to attack one's enemies is forbidden in Aspen.

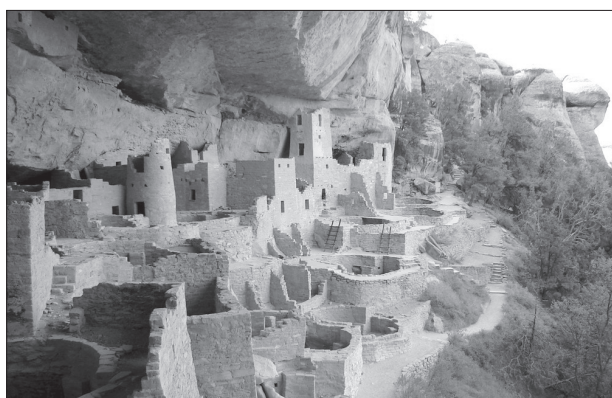
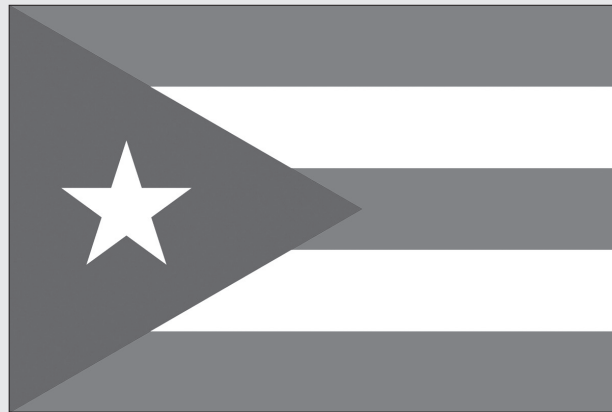


PHOTO COURTESY OF NPS

CLIFF PALACE, located in Mesa Verde National Park and built by the Ancestral Puebloans, is the largest cliff dwelling in North America.

Puerto Rico

Oct. 18, 1898



Island of Enchantment

Population: 3.195 million (2018)

Capital: San Juan

Governor: Wanda Vazquez Garced

Amphibian: Common coqui (a type of frog)

Bird: Puerto Rican Spindalis

Flower: Maga

Tree: Silk-Cotton Tree

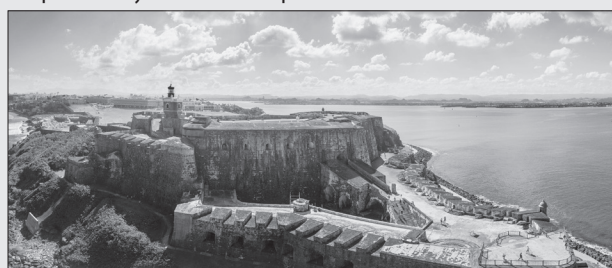
Motto: Joannes est nomen eius (John is his name)

Fun Facts:

- Christopher Columbus named the island San Juan Bautista after John the Baptist. The first settlement was named Puerto Rico, meaning rich port, because of the plentiful natural resources, the location and the gold nuggets in the river.
- A passport is not required to go to Puerto Rico, as it is a commonwealth – not a foreign country.

Strange Laws:

- Motorcycles must be driven with boots and gloves on.
- Law 53 of 1948 (known as the Gag Law) made it a crime to own or display a Puerto Rican flag, to sing a patriotic tune, to speak or write of independence, or to meet with anyone or hold an assembly in favor of Puerto Rican independence. The law remained in force until 1957, when it was repealed on the basis that it was unconstitutional as protected by the freedom of speech.



CASTILLO SAN Felipe del Morro, also known as El Morro, is a citadel built between 16th and 18th centuries in San Juan. More at discoverpuertorico.com.

Guam

Dec. 10, 1898



Hub of the Pacific

Population: 164,229

Capital: Hagåtña (formerly Agana)

Governor: Lou Leon Guerrero

Bird: Guam Rail

Flower: Great Bougainvillea

Tree: Johnstone River Teak

Motto: Where America's day begins

Fun Facts:

- Guam has multiple nicknames. Besides "Hub of the Pacific," its nicknames are Tano y Chamorro (Land of the Chamorro) and Gateway to Micronesia.
- Guam's motto refers to its geographic location. It is on the other side of the International Dateline from Hawaii, and therefore is a day ahead of the rest of the U.S..
- The brown tree snake is responsible for causing over 1,200 power outages, dating back to 1978.
- Talofofo Bay is one of only four green sand beaches in the world. The other three green sand beaches are Papakolea Beach on the Island of Hawaii, Punta Cormorant on Floreana Island in the Galapagos Islands and Hornindalysvatnet, Norway.



DULCE NOMBRE de Maria Cathedral Basilica is a Roman Catholic cathedral in Guam. It is located on the site where the island's first Catholic church was constructed in 1669. More at aganacathedral.org.

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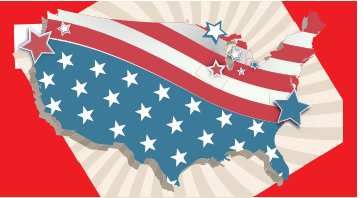


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U.S. States & Territories



North Dakota

#39: Nov. 2, 1889



Peace Garden State

Population: 760,077 (2018)
State Capital: Bismark
Governor: Doug Burgum
Bird: Western meadowlark
Fish: Northern pike
Flower: Wild prairie rose
Insect: Western honeybee
Tree: American Elm



Motto: Liberty and union, now and forever, one and inseparable; Strength from the soil

Fun Facts:

- Dakota is the Sioux word for "friend" or "ally."
- North Dakota holds the Guinness World Record for the most snow angels made simultaneously in one place. On February 17, 2007, 8,962 people made snow angels at the state capitol grounds.
- North Dakota is the coldest state in the contiguous U.S..
- North Dakota is one of two states with an official State March: Flickertail March.

Strange Laws:

- It is illegal to lie down and fall asleep with your shoes on.
- In Fargo, dancing or attending a function where people are dancing, while wearing a hat is prohibited.
- Keeping an elk in a sandbox in a backyard is prohibited.



LEWIS & Clark Interpretive Center, located along the route Lewis and Clark traveled, has exhibits which focus on artifacts from every tribe the explorers encountered. It showcases the culture of the Mandan Indians and the winter of 1804-05. More at parkrec.nd.gov.

South Dakota

#40: Nov. 2, 1889



Mount Rushmore State

Population: 882,235 (2018)
State Capital: Pierre
Governor: Kristi Noem
Bird: Ring-necked pheasant
Fish: Walleye
Flower: American Pasque flower
Insect: Western honeybee
Tree: Black Hills Spruce



Motto: Under God the people rule

Fun Facts:

- The most famous point of interest in South Dakota is Mount Rushmore National Memorial, located in Pennington County.
- Jewel Cave in Custer County, is the second largest cave system in the U.S., and third largest in the world with 181.89 miles of passageways.
- The largest and best-preserved Tyrannosaurus Rex fossil in the world was discovered by Sue Hendrickson near Faith, in 1990.
- South Dakota is the only state with an official State Jewelry: Black Hills gold. Lemmon has the world's largest Petrified Wood Park.

Strange Laws:

- It is legal to use fireworks to keep birds away from sunflower crops.
- Falling asleep in a cheese factory is prohibited.
- It's against the law to create static in Huron.



THE GEOGRAPHIC Center of the Nation Monument in Belle Fourche, was designated by the National Geodetic Survey. The monument is not at the actual center of the nation, but rather in the nearest town to the actual site which is located on private property. More at travel-southdakota.com.

Montana

#41: Nov. 8, 1889



Treasure State

Population: 1.062 million (2018)
State Capital: Helena
Governor: Steve Bullock
Bird: Western meadowlark
Fish: Westslope cutthroat trout
Flower: Bitterroot
Tree: Ponderosa pine



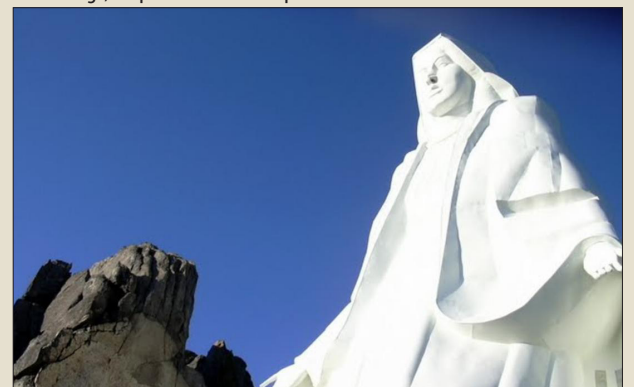
Motto: Oro y plata (Gold and silver)

Fun Facts:

- Montana is from the Spanish word "montaña" meaning "mountainous."
- Montana is home to the hydrological apex of North America on Triple Divide Peak. From this spot, water flows to three oceans: Hudson Bay (Arctic), Gulf of Mexico (Atlantic), and the Pacific Ocean.
- The coldest temperature on record for the contiguous U.S. was -70°F (-57°C) recorded on Jan. 20, 1954, in Rogers Pass.
- The largest snowflake was 15 inches wide recorded at Fort Keogh, on Jan. 28, 1887.
- The city of Loma holds the world record for the greatest temperature change in 24 hours. On Jan. 14-15, 1972, the temperature rose from -54°F to 49°F, a change of 103 °F.

Strange Laws:

- A married woman may not go fishing alone on Sundays; unmarried women may not fish alone at all.
- In Billings, no person shall raise pet rats.



OUR LADY of the Rockies is a 90-foot statue built in the likeness of Mary, the mother of Jesus, that sits atop the Continental Divide overlooking Butte. It is the fourth-tallest statue in the U.S. More at ourladyoftherockies.net.



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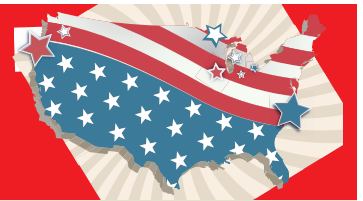
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U.S. States & Territories



Washington

#42: Nov. 11, 1889



Evergreen State

Population: 7.536 million (2018)

State: Capital: Olympia

Governor: Jay Inslee

Bird: American goldfinch

Fish: Steelhead trout

Flower: Rhododendron

Insect: Green Darner

Tree: Western Hemlock

Motto: Al-ki (By and by)

Fun Facts:

- The state of Washington was named after the first president of the U.S., George Washington.
 - Washington state is the largest producer of apples in the U.S.
 - Harbor Island is the largest man-made island in the U.S.
 - Washington became the first state to ban texting while driving in 2007.
 - Washington is the only state with a State Oyster: *Ostrea lurida*.
 - Washington has more glaciers than any of the other 47 contiguous states.
 - Boeing's Everett factory is the world's largest building by volume.
- Strange Laws:**
- Harassing Bigfoot is prohibited.
 - It is illegal to attach a vending machine to a utility pole without consent from the utility company.



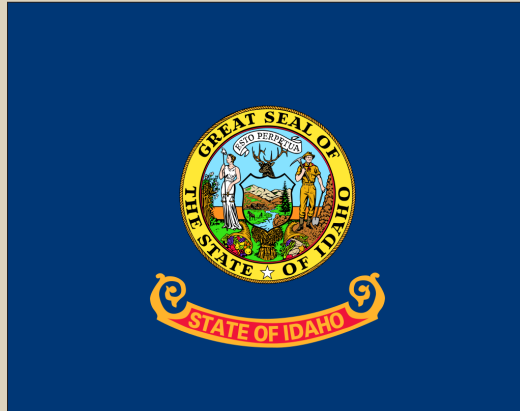
PHOTO COURTESY OF DLLU

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THE SPACE Needle is an observation tower in Seattle. It was built for the 1962 World's Fair, which drew over 2.3 million visitors.

Idaho

#43: July 3, 1890



Gem State

Population: 1.754 million (2018)

State Capital: Boise

Governor: Brad Little

Bird: Mountain bluebird

Fish: Cutthroat trout

Flower: Syringa

Insect: Monarch butterfly

Tree: Western white pine

Motto: Esto perpetua (Let it be perpetual)

Fun Facts:

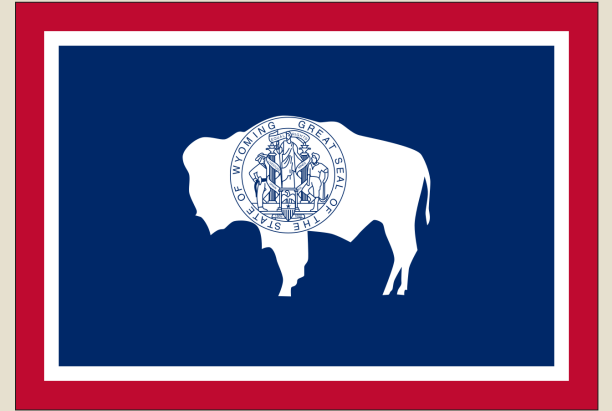
- Soda Springs boasts the largest man-made geyser in the world.
 - Hell's Canyon is the deepest gorge in America at 7,993 feet.
 - Idaho's Shoshone Falls is called the "Niagara of the West." It is 45 feet higher than the Niagara Falls.
 - Idaho is called the "Gem State" because nearly every known type of gemstone has been found in the state of Idaho.
- Strange Laws:**
- Sabotaging the timber industry is prohibited.
 - There are qualifications a potato must meet to be deemed an "Idaho Deluxe," "Idaho Standard" or "Idaho Utility" potato.
 - Only those who are blind or partially blind may use a white cane or a cane tipped in red.



THE SPIRAL of Injustice is one of the features of the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial in Idaho. More at annefrankmemorial.org.

Wyoming

#44: July 10, 1890



Cowboy State, Equality State

Population: 577,737 (2018)

State Capital: Cheyenne

Governor: Mark Gordon

Animal: Bison

Bird: Meadowlark

Fish: Cutthroat Trout

Reptile: Horned Toad

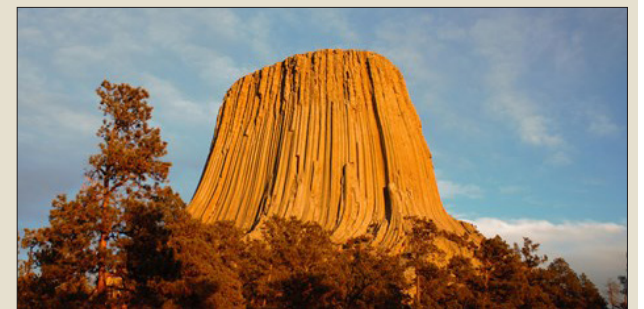
Gemstone: Jade

Tree: Plains Cottonwood

Motto: Equal rights

Fun Facts:

- The name Wyoming originated from a Native American word, *mecheweamiing*, meaning "at the big plains."
 - Wyoming is nicknamed the "Equality State" as it was the first state to give women the right to vote.
 - Devil's Tower (below) was the first national monument in the U.S.
 - The ten largest coal mines in the U.S. are all located in Wyoming.
- Strange Laws:**
- It is illegal to wear a hat that obstructs people's view in a public theatre or place of amusement.
 - Fishing with firearms is prohibited.
 - Failure to close a fence could result in a \$750 fine.



DEVIL'S TOWER, composed of igneous rock in the Bear Lodge Ranger District of Black Hills, near Hulett and Sundance in Crook County, northeastern Wyoming, was featured in the movie *Strange Encounters of the Third Kind*. More at nps.gov/deto.

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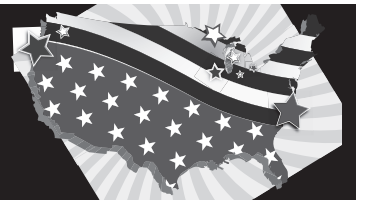
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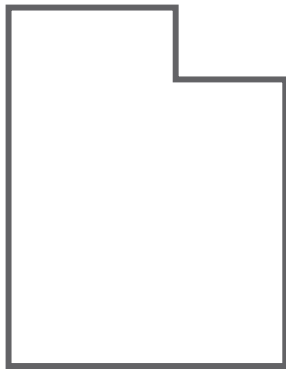
Utah

#45: Jan. 4, 1896



Beehive State

Population: 3.161 million (2018)
State Capital: Salt Lake City
Governor: Gary Herbert
Bird: California gull
Fish: Bonneville cutthroat trout
Flower: Segoe lily
Grass: Indian ricegrass
Tree: Quaking aspen
Motto: Industry
Fun Facts:



- The origin of the name Utah came from the Native Americans.
 - The Great Salt Lake is saltier than the ocean. Its salt content can be more than seven times that of the ocean.
 - The First Transcontinental Railroad was completed at Promontory Summit, on May 10, 1869.
 - Utah is the only state with an official state cooking pot: dutch oven.
- Strange Laws:**
- It is illegal to unfairly discriminate against milk distributors for any reason, particularly the quality of milk.
 - Causing a catastrophe is prohibited.
 - Throwing a snowball earns the same fine as throwing a missile.
 - Cyclists must keep one hand on their handlebars.



RAINBOW BRIDGE National Monument is the largest natural bridge in the world. More at templesquare.com.

Oklahoma

#46: Nov. 16, 1907



Sooner State

Population: 3.943 million (2018)
State Capital: Oklahoma City
Governor: Kevin Stitt
Bird: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Fish: Sand bass
Flower: Oklahoma Rose
Insect: European honey bee
Tree: Redbud
Motto: Labor omnia vincit (Hard work conquers all things)
Fun Facts:



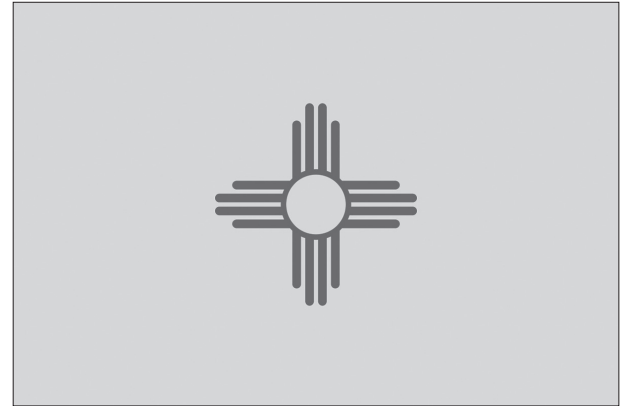
- The name Oklahoma comes from two Choctaw Indian words: "okla" meaning people, and "humma" meaning red. The states name translates to "red people."
 - The Land Rush of 1889 permitted settlers to claim the Unassigned Lands in present-day Oklahoma. Some settlers tried to beat the system by entering the area before the official start at noon on April 22, 1889. These settlers were called the Sooners, and that's where Oklahoma got its nickname.
- Strange Laws:**
- It is illegal to leave a horse, mule, donkey or other animal within the city without tying it to something.
 - It is illegal to wrestle a bear or to trip a horse.



CHICKASAW ARTIST Mike Larsen created this bronze statue, located at the Chickasaw Cultural Center, to commemorate the Chickasaw's arrival to new territory after removal from their original homeland. More at chickasawculturalcenter.com.

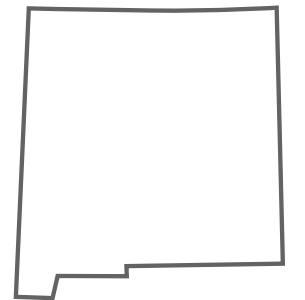
New Mexico

#47: Jan. 6, 1912



The Land of Enchantment

Population: 2.095 million (2018)
State Capital: Santa Fe
Governor: Michelle Lujan Grisham
Bird: Greater roadrunner
Fish: Rio Grande cutthroat trout
Flower: Yucca
Insect: Tarantula Hawk Wasp
Tree: Two-needle piñon
Motto: Crescit eundo (It grows as it grows)
Fun Facts:



- New Mexico was named by the Spanish for lands north of the Rio Grande (Nuevo Mexico). The word Mexico is named after Mexitli, an Aztec war god. Mexico means "place where Mexitli lives."
 - At 7,198 feet above sea level, Santa Fe is the highest capital city in the U.S.
 - New Mexico is the only state with an official question: "Red or green?"
 - The world's first detonation of a nuclear weapon took place in the Jornada del muerto desert about 35 miles southeast of Socorro.
- Strange Laws:**
- It is illegal to provide glue, spray paint, permanent marker or paint to a child without their parent's permission.
 - Dancing around a sombrero is prohibited.
 - It is illegal to carry a lunchbox down Main Street in Las Cruces.



THE AZTEC Ruins National Monument consists of preserved structures constructed by the Pueblo Indians nearly a thousand years ago. More at nps.gov/azru



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U.S. States & Territories



Arizona

#48: Feb. 14, 1912



Grand Canyon State

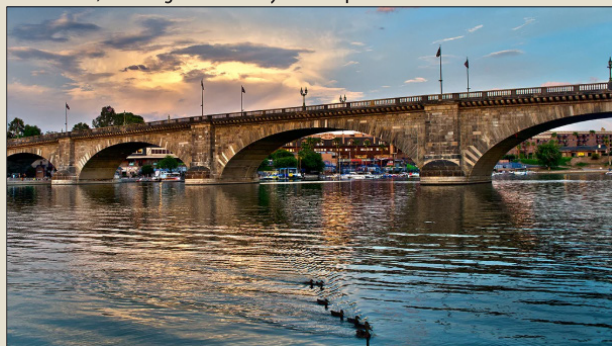
Population: 7.172 million (2018)
State Capital: Phoenix
Governor: Doug Ducey
Bird: Cactus wren
Fish: Apache trout
Flower: Saguaro cactus blossom
Insect: Two-tailed swallowtail
Tree: Palo verde
Motto: Ditat deus (God enriches)
Fun Facts:



- Arizona has 18 national monuments, more than any other state in the U.S.
- Arizona is the largest copper producing state in the U.S., accounting for 60 percent of all copper production in the country.
- "Skydive Arizona" is the largest skydiving center in the world.
- The only place in the country where mail is delivered by mule is in the village of Supai, located at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.
- Arizona is one of the states that forms the Four Corners, the only location in the U.S. where four states intersect at one point.

Strange Laws:

- In Mohave County, if a person is found stealing soap, they must wash themselves until the bar of soap has been completely used up.
- If you cut down a cactus, you could be sentenced up to 25 years in prison.
- In Arizona, it is illegal for donkeys to sleep in bathtubs.



LONDON BRIDGE, located in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., was built in the 1830s and formerly spanned the River Thames in London, England. It was dismantled in 1967 and relocated to Arizona. More at golakehasvu.com.

U.S. Virgin Islands

1927



St. Croix: Twin City; **St. Thomas:** Rock City; **St. John:** Love City

Population: 107,268 (2017)
Capital: Charlotte Amalie
Governor: Albert Bryan
Bird: Bananaquit
Flower: Yellow Trumpetbush
Song: Virgin Islands March
Tree: Tecoma Stans
Motto: United in pride and hope
Fun Facts:



- The U.S. paid \$25 million in gold for the U.S. Virgin Islands.
 - The capital was originally named as "Taphus" or "Tap House" because of its abundance of taverns. It was later named to honor King Christian V's wife.
 - Christopher Columbus named the islands "Las Once Mil Virgenes," for the 11,000 virgin followers of St. Ursula. It was soon shortened to "Las Virgenes."
- Strange Laws:**
- A person can receive \$1 for the delivery of a dead mongoose in St. Thomas.
 - There is no actual evidence that Blackbeard (also known as Edward Teach) ever used the cylindrical stone fort known as Blackbeard's Castle (below). Danish soldiers built the fort in 1679 and called it Skjtsborg Tower or "Sky Tower."



BLACKBEARD'S STATUE and Castle are located in St. Thomas of the U.S. Virgin Islands. More at blackbeards-castle.com.

American Samoa

1929



Motu o Fiafiaga (Islands of Paradise)

Population: 55,641 (2017)
Capital: Pago Pago
Governor: Lolo Matalasi Moliga
Flower/Tree: Paogo
Plant: 'Ava
Motto: Samoa, muamua le atua (Samoa, let God be first)
Fun Facts:



- The American Samoa island of Tutuila has the largest concentration of fast food restaurants and is the biggest purchaser of fast food in the entire South Pacific.
- In 1966, the United Nations offered American Samoa the chance to unite with the Independent States of Samoa as an independent country, but the majority of people voted to remain a territory of the U.S.
- Another nickname for American Samoa is "Football Islands" because the islands produce more American football players than anywhere else in the world. In September of 2017, 30 players in the NFL were from American Samoa and over 200 American Samoans played Divisional NCAA Football.
- Tuna canneries employ about 80 percent of the working population of American Samoa.
- About 93 percent of American Samoa's exports is canned tuna, and 100 percent of the exports go to the U.S.



ASAGA BRIDGE connects islands Ofu and Olosega. It is known as the "Golden Gate" of the Pacific. More at xdaysiny.com.

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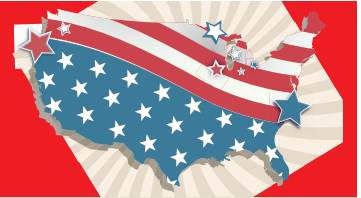
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Alaska

#49: Aug. 21, 1959



The Last Frontier

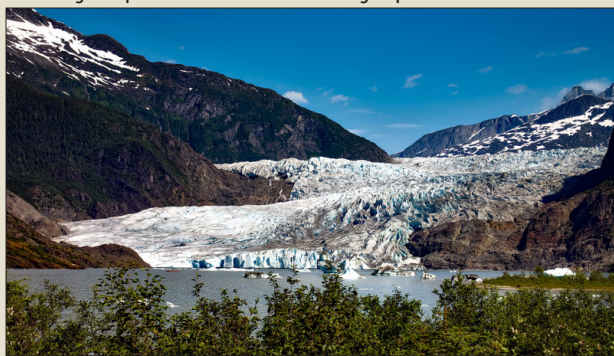
Population: 737,438 (2018)
State Capital: Juneau
Governor: Mike Dunleavy
Bird: Willow ptarmigan
Fish: King salmon
Flower: Forget-me-not
Insect: Four-spot skimmer dragonfly
Tree: Sitka Spruce
Motto: North to the future



- Fun Facts:**
- The name "Alaska" was derived from the Aleut word "Alaxsxaq," which means "mainland," or literally, "object to which the action of the sea is directed."
 - Alaska is home to North America's highest peak, Denali, at 20,320 feet.
 - Alaska has over three million lakes, of which 3,197 have an official name.
 - Nearly one-third of Alaska lies within the Arctic Circle.

Strange Laws:

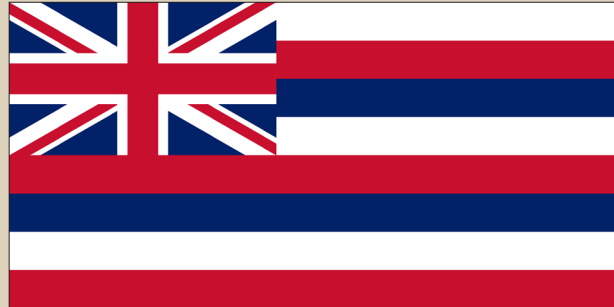
- It is illegal to whisper in someone's ear while they are moose hunting.
- Waking a sleeping bear for the purpose of taking a photograph is prohibited.
- Fattening up a sheep, cow or pig within city limits is not allowed.
- It is illegal to push a moose out of a moving airplane.



MENDENHALL GLACIER is about 13.6 miles long. The glacier and surrounding landscape are part of the 5,815 acres Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, a federally designated unit of the Tongass National Forest.

Hawaii

#50: Aug. 21, 1959



Aloha State

Population: 1.42 million (2018)
State Capital: Honolulu
Governor: David Ige
Bird: Nene
Fish: Reef Triggerfish
Flower: Yellow Hibiscus
Insect: Kamehameha Butterfly
Tree: Candlenut



Motto: Ua mau ke ea o ka 'aina i ka pono (The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness)

Fun Facts:

- Iolani Palace in Honolulu is the only royal palace in the U.S..
- Hawaii is the southernmost state in the U.S.
- Hawaii is one of two places coffee can be commercially grown. The other is California.
- There are only 12 letters in the Hawaiian alphabet: Vowels A, E, I, O, U and consonants H, K, L, M, N, P and W.

Strange Laws:

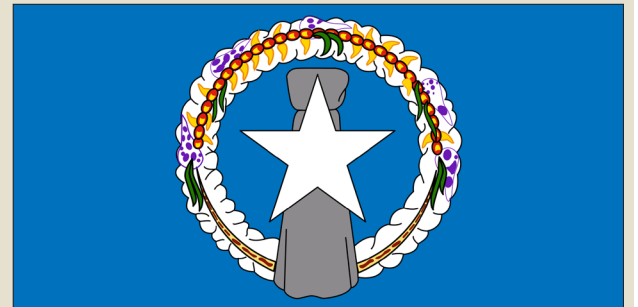
- Within the city limits of any public park, it is unlawful to annoy any bird.
- Coins are not allowed to be placed in one's ears.
- Children once had to obey all "lawful and moral" commands of their parents.
- By law, no building on Kauai is allowed to be built taller than a palm tree.



TIKI SCULPTURES once represented beloved and revered Hawaiian gods including Ku, the god of war; Lono, the god of agriculture and peace time; Kane, the god of creation, sunlight, forests and fresh water; and Kanaloa, the god of the sea realm. More at to-hawaii.com/tikis.php

Northern Mariana Islands

1975



America's Best Kept Secret

Population: 55,144 (2017)
Capital: Saipan
Governor: Ralph Torres
Bird: Mariana Fruit Dove
Flower: Plumeria
Song: Gi Talo Gi Halom Tasi
Tree: Delonix Regia



- Fun Facts:**
- The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) consists of a chain of 14 islands in the Pacific.
 - The southern islands are mostly flat limestone and coastal coral reefs whilst the northern islands consist of volcanic mountain peaks.
 - The total land area of the Northern Mariana Islands is just 184 square miles.
 - The Northern Mariana Islands are in the vicinity of the Marianas Trench which is 11,034 meters at its deepest point making it the lowest point in the world.
 - The Spanish named the Mariana Islands after Queen Mariana, the mother of Charles II of Spain.
 - The Northern Mariana Islands belong to an area in the Pacific known as Micronesia.
 - The Northern Marianas were known as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Mariana Islands District.



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