

The 50 United States of America

Alabama (AL)

Nickname: Heart of Dixie, "Yellowhammer State" **Capital:** Montgomery **Largest City:** Birmingham **Area:** 52,423 square miles **Population:** 4,557,808 **Highest Point:** Cheaha Mountain – 2,407 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Tombigbee River, Alabama River, Tennessee River, Chattahoochee River **Major Lakes:** Guntersville Lake, Wilson Lake, Martin Lake, West Point Lake, Lewis Smith Lake **Major Industries:** agriculture (cotton, corn, peanuts, soybeans, poultry, livestock), hydroelectric power, mining (coal, limestone, iron ore), steel industry **History:** Alabama means "tribal town" in the language of the local Creek Indians. AL became the 22nd state on December 14, 1819 **Known for:** Magnolia tree blossoms.

Alaska (AK)

Nickname: The Last Frontier, Great Land **Capital:** Juneau **Largest City:** Anchorage **Area:** 656,425 square miles **Population:** 663,661 **Major Industries:** oil (petroleum) **Highest Point:** Mt. McKinley – 20,320 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Yukon River, Kuskokwim River, Colville River, Copper River **Major Lakes:** Iliamna Lake, Aleknagik Lake, Becharof Lake, Clark Lake, Minchumina Lake **History:** Alaska is from the Aleut Indian words "alaxsxaq" or "agunalaksh" that mean the mainland or shore. AK became the 49th state on January 3, 1959 **Known for:** Dog sledding, igloos, & Eskimos.

Arizona (AZ)

Nickname: Grand Canyon State **Capital:** Phoenix **Largest City:** Phoenix **Area:** 114,006 square miles **Population:** 5,939,292 **Major Industries:** mining (copper, molybdenum, gold & silver), manufacturing, & tourism **Highest Point:** Humphreys Peak - 12,633 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Colorado River, Little Colorado River, Gila River, Bill Williams River **Major Lakes:** Lake Mead, Lake Havasu, Lake Mohave, Theodore Roosevelt Lake, San Carlos Lake, Lake Powell **History:** Arizona comes from the Aztec Indian word "arizuma", that means "silver-bearing", from the Tohono O'odham Indian word "Aleh-zone" which means "small spring", or the Pima Indian word "Ali shonak" which means the same. AZ became the 48th state on February 14, 1912 **Known for:** The Grand Canyon & Monument Valley.

Arkansas (AR)

Nickname: The Natural State **Capital:** Little Rock **Largest City:** Little Rock **Area:** 53,182 square miles **Population:** 2,779,154 **Major Industries:** agriculture (chickens, soybeans, rice, cotton), paper & wood products (including furniture), electronic equipment, mining (aluminum & diamonds) **Highest Point:** Magazine Mountain – 2,753 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Arkansas River, Mississippi River **Major Lakes:** Lake Ouachita, Bull Shoals Lake **History:** Arkansas is from the Quapaw (Sioux) word "acansa", meaning "downstream place" or "south wind". AR became the 25th state on June 15, 1836 **Known for:** Paddlewheel steamboat.

California (CA)

Nickname: The Golden State **Capital:** Sacramento **Largest City:** Los Angeles **Area:** 163,707 square miles **Population:** 36,132,147 **Major Industries:** agriculture, oil, mining, electronics, movie making / entertainment, & tourism **Highest Point:** Mt. Whitney/ 14,495 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Sacramento River, Colorado River, San Joaquin River **Major Lakes:** Lake Tahoe, Salton Sea, Owens Lake, Searles Lake **History:** California comes from a mythical Spanish island ruled by a queen called Califia. The Spanish explorers originally thought that California was an island. CA became the 31st state on September 9, 1850 **Known for:** Spanish mission church, Hollywood, San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge & trolley cars, prospecting for gold, giant sequoia redwood trees.

Colorado (CO)

Nickname: Centennial State, Colorful Colorado **Capital:** Denver **Largest City:** Denver **Area:** 104,100 square miles **Population:** 4,665,177 **Major Industries:** agriculture (wheat, cattle, sheep), tourism, mining, oil, finance, & manufacturing **Highest Point:** Mt. Elbert – 14,433 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Colorado River, Rio Grande, Arkansas River, South Platte River **Major Lakes:** Grand Lake, Blue Mesa Reservoir, John Martin Reservoir **History:** Colorado is Spanish for the "color red" & refers to the muddy Colorado River. CO became the 38th state on August 1, 1876 **Known for:** Rocky Mountains, the steam locomotive & transcontinental rail travel.

Connecticut (CT)

Nickname: Constitution State **Capital:** Hartford **Largest City:** Bridgeport **Area:** 5,544 square miles **Population:** 3,510,297 **Major Industries:** agriculture, industry, & tourism **Highest Point:** Mt. Frissell – 2,380 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Connecticut River, Housatonic River, Thames River **Major Lakes:** Lake Candlewood **History:** Connecticut comes from a Mohican/Algonquin word "quonehtacut", which means "long tidal river". CT became the 5th state on January 9, 1788.

Delaware (DE)

Nickname: First State, Diamond State, Blue Hen State, Small Wonder **Capital:** Dover **Largest City:** Wilmington **Area:** 2,489 square miles **Population:** 843,524 **Major Industries:** business, agriculture, & tourism **Highest Point:** Ebright Road – 442 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Delaware River, Mispillion River, Nanticoke River **Major Lakes:** Delaware Lake **History:** Delaware is named to honor the early Virginia governor, Lord De La Warr. DE became the 1st state on December 7, 1787.

Florida (FL)

Nickname: The Sunshine State **Capital:** Tallahassee **Largest City:** Jacksonville **Area:** 65,758 square miles **Population:** 17,789,864 **Major Industries:** tourism, agriculture (oranges, grapefruit, tomatoes), electronics **Highest Point:** A hill in Walton County – 345 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** St. John's River, St. Mary's River, Suwannee River **Major Lakes:** Lake Okeechobee, Lake George **History:** The Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon named it "Pascua de Florida", meaning "Feast of Flowers" on Palm Sunday, April 2nd, 1513 & claimed it for Spain. FL became the 27th state on March 3, 1845 **Known for:** American alligator, oranges, & Cape Canaveral.

Georgia (GA)

Nickname: Empire State of the South, Peach State **Capital:** Atlanta **Largest City:** Atlanta **Area:** 59,441 square miles **Population:** 9,072,576 **Major Industries:** textiles, timber (especially pine), agriculture (cotton, corn, peanuts, soybeans, poultry) **Highest Point:** Brasstown Bald - 4,784 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Chattahoochee River, Savannah River, Suwannee River **Major Lakes:** Lake Sidney Lanier, Clark's Hill Lake, West Point Lake, Lake Hartwell **History:** Georgia is named to honor King George II of England. GA became the 4th state on January 2, 1788 **Known for:** Peanuts & peaches.

Hawaii (HI)

Nickname: Aloha State **Capital:** Honolulu **Largest City:** Honolulu **Area:** 10,932 square miles **Population:** 1,275,194 **Major Industries:** tourism, agriculture (bananas, pineapples, macadamia nuts, taro) **Highest Point:** Mauna Kea – 13,796 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Wailuku River (on the island of Hawaii), Anahulu River (on the island of Oahu) **Major Lakes:** Salt Lake **History:** Hawaii may have been named for the traditional home of the Polynesians. HI became the 50th state on August 21, 1959 **Known for:** Great surfing, Kilanea volcano.

Idaho (ID)

Nickname: Gem State **Capital:** Boise **Largest City:** Boise **Area:** 83,574 square miles **Population:** 1,429,096 **Major Industries:** agriculture (potatoes, wheat, sugar beets, barley), lumber, mining **Highest Point:** Borah Peak – 12,662 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Snake River, Salmon River, Clearwater River **Major Lakes:** Coeur d' Alene Lake, Priest Lake, Lake Pend Oreille **History:** "Idaho" is represented as being an Indian word meaning "gem of the mountains". ID became the 43rd state on July 3, 1890 **Known for:** Mining & potatoes.

Illinois (IL)

Nickname: Prairie State, Land of Lincoln **Capital:** Springfield **Largest City:** Chicago **Area:** 57,918 square miles **Population:** 12,763,371 **Major Industries:** agriculture (corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, barley, rye, sorghum), cattle, manufacturing, mining **Highest Point:** Charles Mound - 1,235 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Mississippi River, Ohio River, Illinois River, Wabash River **Major Lakes:** Lake Michigan, Rend Lake **History:** Illinois comes from the word Illini, a confederation of the Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Michigamea, Moingwena, Peoria & Tamaroa Indian tribes. IL became the 21st state on December 3, 1818 **Known for:** the red cardinal & Abraham Lincoln.

Indiana (IN)

Nickname: Hoosier State **Capital:** Indianapolis **Largest City:** Indianapolis **Area:** 36,420 square miles **Population:** 6,271,973 **Major Industries:** agriculture (corn, soybeans, wheat), manufacturing, mining (coal, limestone), steel-making **Highest Point:** Hoosier Hill – 1,257 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Ohio River, Wabash River, White River, Tippecanoe River, Kankakee River **Major Lakes:** Mississinewa Lake, Lake Michigan, Lake Wawasee, Monroe Lake **History:** Indiana is a word that refers to the local Indians. Indiana became the 19th state on December 11, 1816 **Known for:** Car racing – the Indianapolis "500" & steelmaking.

Iowa (IA)

Nickname: Hawkeye State **Capital:** Des Moines **Largest City:** Des Moines **Area:** 56,875 square miles **Population:** 2,966,334 **Major Industries:** agriculture (corn, soybeans, hogs, pigs), food manufacturing, insurance **Highest Point:** Hawkeye Point - 1,670 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Mississippi River, Des Moines River, Missouri River, Cedar River, Iowa River **Major Lakes:** Lake Red Rock **History:** The name Iowa comes from Ioway, the French word for the Bah-kho-je Indian tribe that lived in the area. IA became the 29th state on December 28, 1846 **Known for:** Corn.

Kansas (KS)

Nickname: Sunflower State **Capital:** Topeka **Largest City:** Wichita **Area:** 82,282 square miles **Population:** 2,744,687 **Major Industries:** agriculture (wheat & other grains), aircraft manufacturing, automobile manufacturing **Highest Point:** Mt. Sunflower – 4,039 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Kansas River, Republican River, Smoky Hill River, Arkansas River, Missouri River **Major Lakes:** Tuttle Creek Reservoir, Cheney Reservoir, Waconda Lake **History:** Kansas is named for the Konza Indians (also called Kansa or Kaw), whose name means “people of the south wind”. KS became the 34th state on January 29, 1861 **Known for:** Sunflowers.

Kentucky (KY)

Nickname: Bluegrass State **Capital:** Frankfort **Largest City:** Louisville **Area:** 40,411 square miles **Population:** 4,173,405 **Major Industries:** agriculture (tobacco, corn, peanuts, wheat), mining (anthracite coal), horses, whiskey, automobiles & trucks, chemicals **Highest Point:** Black Mountain – 4,145 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Ohio River, Mississippi River, Cumberland River, Kentucky River, Green River **Major Lakes:** Lake Cumberland, Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley **History:** Kentucky is from the Iroquois Indian word “Ken-tah-ten”, which means “land of tomorrow”. KY became the 15th state on June 1, 1792 **Known for:** the log cabin birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, Thoroughbred horses & the “blue grass” countryside.

Louisiana (LA)

Nickname: Pelican State **Capital:** Baton Rouge **Largest City:** New Orleans **Area:** 51,843 square miles **Population:** 4,523,628 **Major Industries:** agriculture (rice, cotton, soybeans), salt production, oil & natural gas, fishing (especially shellfish) **Highest Point:** Driskill Mountain – 535 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Mississippi River, Red River, Ouachita River, Atchafalaya River, Sabine River **Major Lakes:** Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Maurepas, Toledo Bend Reservoir, Grand Lake, White Lake, Calcasieu Lake, Catahoula Lake **History:** Louisiana was named by the French explorer Sieur de La Salle in 1682 to honor King Louis XIV. of France. LA became the 18th state on April 30, 1812 **Known for:** Great blue herons.

Maine (ME)

Nickname: Pine Tree State **Capital:** Augusta **Largest City:** Portland **Area:** 35,387 square miles **Population:** 1,321,505 **Major Industries:** agriculture (especially potatoes), shipbuilding, fishing (especially lobsters), footwear, machinery, electronics, tourism **Highest Point:** Mt. Katahdin – 5,268 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Androscoggin River, Kennebec River, Penobscot River, St. John River **Major Lakes:** Moosehead Lake, Sebago Lake, Chesuncook Lake, Mooselookmeguntic Lake, Richardson Lake **History:** Maine refers to the mainland. ME became the 23rd state on March 15, 1820 **Known for:** Moose & lobster.

Maryland (MD)

Nickname: Old Line State **Capital:** Annapolis **Largest City:** Baltimore **Area:** 12,407 square miles **Population:** 5,600,388 **Major Industries:** farming (corn, soybeans, tobacco, poultry & dairy products), mining (coal), steel products, communications equipment, fishing (crabs & oysters), government services **Highest Point:** Backbone Mountain – 3,360 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Potomac River, Patapsco River, Patuxent River, Susquehanna River **Major Lakes:** Lake Oakland, Deep Creek Lake, Prettyboy Reservoir, Loch Raven Reservoir **History:** Maryland is named to honor the Queen consort Henrietta Maria (1609-1669), the wife of Britain’s King Charles I. MD became the 7th state on April 28, 1788 **Known for:** U.S. Capital dome. The United States government is seated in Washington D.C. (District of Columbia / capital of the United States).

Massachusetts (MA)

Nickname: Bay State **Capital:** Boston **Largest City:** Boston **Area:** 10,555 square miles **Population:** 6,398,743 **Major Industries:** textiles, electronics, publishing, tourism, fishing & education **Highest Point:** Mt. Greylock – 3,491 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Charles River, Connecticut River, Merrimack River, Hoosic River, Housatonic River **Major Lakes:** Quabbin Reservoir **History:** Massachusetts is named for an Algonquian Indian word that means “a big hill place”. MA became the 6th state on February 6, 1788 **Known for:** The Mayflower Ship & Plymouth Plantation, Cape Cod.

Michigan (MI)

Nickname: Great Lakes State, Wolverine State **Capital:** Lansing **Largest City:** Detroit **Area:** 96,810 square miles **Population:** 10,120,860 **Major Industries:** automobiles, farming (corn, soybeans, wheat), timber, fishing **Highest Point:** Mt. Arvon – 1,978 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Detroit River, Grand River, Kalamazoo River, St. Clair River, St. Mary’s River **Major Lakes:** Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario **History:** Michigan is from an Algonquian Chippewa Indian word “meicigama” that means “big sea water” (referring to the Great Lakes). MI became the 26th state on January 26, 1837 **Known for:** Henry Ford & automobiles.

Minnesota (MN)

Nickname: Gopher State, North Star State **Capital:** St. Paul **Largest City:** Minneapolis **Area:** 86,943 square miles **Population:** 5,132,799 **Major Industries:** farming (corn, soybeans, sugar beets, wheat, dairy products), paper pulp, mining (iron ore) **Highest Point:** Eagle Mountain – 2,301 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Minnesota River, Mississippi River, Rainy River, Red River of the North, St. Croix River **Major Lakes:** Upper Red Lake, Lower Red Lake, Mille Lacs Lake, Vermillion Lake, Rainy Lake, Lake of the Woods, Lake Superior, Leech Lake, Winnibigoshish Lake, Lake Pepin **History:** Minnesota is from a Dakota Sioux Indians word that means “cloudy water” or “sky water” & refers to local rivers. MN became the 32nd state on May 11, 1858 **Known for:** Birchbark canoe & loons.

Mississippi (MS)

Nickname: Magnolia State **Capital:** Jackson **Largest City:** Jackson **Area:** 48,434 square miles **Population:** 2,921,088 **Major Industries:** farming (cotton, corn, soybeans, rice), oil, textiles, electronic equipment, transportation equipment, fishing **Highest Point:** Woodall Mountain – 806 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Mississippi River, Big Black River, Pearl River, Yazoo River **Major Lakes:** Ross Barnett Reservoir, Arkabutla Lake, Sardis Lake, Grenada Lake **History:** Mississippi is perhaps from the Ojibwa (Chippewa) Indian words “mici zibi”, which means “great river” or “gathering of waters”. MS became the 20th state on December 10, 1817 **Known for:** Cotton.

Missouri (MO)

Nickname: The Show Me State **Capital:** Jefferson City **Largest City:** St. Louis **Area:** 69,709 square miles **Population:** 5,800,310 **Major Industries:** farming (corn, soybeans), mining (zinc, lead), aircraft equipment, beer brewing, automobiles **Highest Point:** Taum Sauk Mountain - 1,772 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Mississippi River, Missouri River, Osage River, St. Francis River, Current River **Major Lakes:** Lake of the Ozarks, Table Rock Lake, Clearwater Lake, Lake Wappapello **History:** Missouri is named for an Algonquian Indian word that means "river of the big canoes". MO became the 24th state on August 10, 1821 **Known for:** Farm tractors.

Montana (MT)

Nickname: Big Sky Country, Treasure State **Capital:** Helena **Largest City:** Billings **Area:** 147,046 square miles **Population:** 935,670 **Major Industries:** farming (wheat, sugar beets), cattle ranching, mining, oil, lumber, tourism **Highest Point:** Granite Peak - 12,799 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Yellowstone River, Missouri River, Clark Fork River **Major Lakes:** Flathead Lake, Fort Peck Lake **History:** Montana is from the Spanish word mountainous. MT became the 41st state on November 8, 1889 **Known for:** The Rocky Mountains & Glacier National Park, mountain goats, & cowhands.

Nebraska (NE)

State Nickname: Cornhusker State, The Tree Planters' State **Capital:** Lincoln **Largest City:** Omaha **Area:** 77,358 square miles **Population:** 1,758,787 **Major Industries:** farming (corn, soybeans, wheat, sorghum), grain processing, meat-packing, & the Air Force Strategic Air Command **Highest Point:** Panorama Point - 5,426 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Missouri River, Niobrara River, Platte River, Republican River **Major Lakes:** Lewis & Clark Lake, Harlan County Lake, Lake C.W. McConaughty **History:** Nebraska is from an Oto Indian word that means "flat water" (referring to the Platte River, which means "flat river" in French). NE became the 37th state on March 1, 1867 **Known for:** The ring-necked pheasant.

Nevada (NV)

Nickname: Silver State, Sagebrush State **Capital:** Carson City **Largest City:** Las Vegas **Area:** 110,567 square miles **Population:** 2,414,807 **Major Industries:** tourism, mining (gold, silver), hydro-electric power **Highest Point:** Boundary Peak - 13,143 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Colorado River, Humboldt River, Truckee River **Major Lakes:** Pyramid Lake, Lake Mead, Lake Mojave, Lake Tahoe, Walker Lake **History:** Nevada is from the Spanish word meaning "snowcapped". NV became the 36th state on October 31, 1864 **Known for:** The pronghorn antelope & Hoover Dam.

New Hampshire (NH)

Nickname: Granite State **Capital:** Concord **Largest City:** Manchester **Area:** 9,351 square miles **Population:** 1,309,940 **Major Industries:** textiles, lumber, tourism, electronic equipment, computer software **Highest Point:** Mt. Washington - 6,288 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Androskoggin River, Connecticut River, Merrimack River **Major Lakes:** Lake Winnepesaukee, Newfound Lake, Squam Lake, Lake Winnepesaukee **History:** New Hampshire was named for Hampshire, England, by Captain John Mason. NH became the 9th state on June 21, 1788.

New Jersey (NJ)

Nickname: Garden State **Capital:** Trenton **Largest City:** Newark **Area:** 8,722 square miles **Population:** 8,717,925
Major Industries: farming (potatoes, tomatoes, peaches), chemicals, pharmaceuticals, petroleum-based products, insurance, tourism **Highest Point:** High Point - 1,803 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Delaware River, Hudson River
Major Lakes: Lake Hopatcong, Packanack Lake **History:** New Jersey was named by James, Duke of York (the brother of King Charles II. of England). NJ became the 3rd state on December 18, 1787.

New Mexico (NM)

Nickname: Land of Enchantment **Capital:** Santa Fe **Largest City:** Albuquerque **Area:** 121,598 square miles
Population: 1,928,384 **Major Industries:** mining (potash, copper, silver, uranium), oil, natural gas, tourism **Highest Point:** Wheeler Peak - 13,161 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Rio Grande, Pecos River **Major Lakes:** Elephant Butte Reservoir, Conchas Lake, Navajo Reservoir **History:** New Mexico was named by the Spanish, in reference to Mexico. NM became the 47th state on January 6, 1912 **Known for:** Pueblo village ruins & the stagecoach.

New York (NY)

Nickname: The Empire State **Capital:** Albany **Largest City:** New York City **Area:** 54,475 square miles **Population:** 19,254,630
Major Industries: finance, communications, international trade, publishing, fashion, communications, farming (fruit and dairy), tourism **Highest Point:** Mt. Marcy, 5,344 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Hudson River, Mohawk River, Genesee River **Major Lakes:** Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Champlain, Lake George **History:** The English took over the area that had been called "New Netherlands" in 1664 & renamed it New York to honor the Duke of York (York is a city in England). NY became the 11th state on July 26, 1788 **Known for:** Niagara Falls, New York City, & the Statue of Liberty.

North Carolina (NC)

Nickname: Tar Heel State **Capital:** Raleigh **Largest City:** Charlotte **Area:** 53,821 square miles **Population:** 8,683,242
Major Industries: farming (tobacco, poultry), textiles, furniture **Highest Point:** Mt. Mitchell - 6,684 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Neuse River, Roanoke River, Yadkin River **Major Lakes:** Lake Mattamuskeet, Lake Phelps, Lake Waccamaw **History:** North Carolina is named to honor King Charles I. (Carolus is Latin for Charles). NC became the 12th state on November 21, 1789 **Known for:** "The Wright Flyer" by the Wright brothers in 1903, Bears, The Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the Appalachian mountain range.

North Dakota (ND)

Nickname: Peace Garden State, Flickertail State, Roughrider State **Capital:** Bismarck **Largest City:** Fargo **Area:** 70,704 square miles
Population: 636,677 **Major Industries:** farming (wheat, barley, oats, flaxseed) , cattle, mining (lignite, soft coal), electrical power generation **Highest Point:** White Butte - 3,506 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** James River, Missouri River, Red River **Major Lakes:** Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe **History:** North Dakota is what the Sioux Indians called themselves. ND became the 39th state on November 2, 1889 **Known for:** Tepees.

Ohio (OH)

Nickname: Buckeye State **Capital:** Columbus **Largest City:** Columbus **Area:** 44,828 square miles **Population:** 11,464,042
Major Industries: manufacturing (steel, cars, airplanes, rubber products, chemicals, plastics), farming, mining (coal) **Highest Point:** Campbell Hill - 1,550 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Ohio River, Cuyahoga River, Miami River, Sandusky River **Major Lakes:** Lake Erie, Grand Lake **History:** Ohio derives from the Iroquois Indian word meaning "good river" or "large river". OH became the 17th state on March 1, 1803 **Known for:** The Blimp.

Oklahoma (OK)

Nickname: Sooner State **Capital:** Oklahoma City **Largest City:** Oklahoma City **Area:** 69,903 square miles
Population: 3,547,884 **Major Industries:** farming (wheat, cattle), oil, natural gas **Highest Point:** Black Mesa - 4,973 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Arkansas River, Canadian River, Red River **Major Lakes:** Lake Texoma, Eufaula Lake, Lake Hudson, Lake O' the Cherokees, Gibson Lake, Oologah Lake, Keystone Lake **History:** The name Oklahoma is from the Choctaw Indian words "okla" meaning people & "humma" meaning red. OK became the 46th state on November 16, 1907 **Known for:** Cherokee Indians.

Oregon (OR)

Nickname: Beaver State **Capital:** Salem **Largest City:** Portland **Area:** 98,386 square miles **Population:** 3,641,056
Major Industries: timber, paper products, farming (wheat, cattle), mining (coal), computer equipment, electronics **Highest Point:** Mount Hood - 11,239 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Columbia River, Deschutes, Willamette River, John Day River, Snake River **Major Lakes:** Upper Klamath Lake, Crater Lake **History:** The origin is unknown. It may have come from the French word Ouragan (which means Hurricane) & was a former name of the Columbia River. OR became the 33rd state on February 14, 1859 **Known for:** Covered wagons of the pioneers & totem poles.

Pennsylvania (PA)

Nickname: Keystone State **Capital:** Harrisburg **Largest City:** Philadelphia **Area:** 46,058 square miles **Population:** 12,429,616 **Major Industries:** steel, farming (corn, oats, soybeans, mushrooms), mining (iron, portland cement, lime, stone), electronics equipment, automobiles, pharmaceuticals **Highest Point:** Mt. Davis - 3,213 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Allegheny River, Susquehanna River, Delaware River, Ohio River **Major Lakes:** Lake Erie **History:** Pennsylvania was named to honor Admiral William Penn & his son, William Penn, Pennsylvania's founder. PA became the 2nd state on December 12, 1787 **Known for:** The Liberty Bell.

Rhode Island (RI)

Nickname: The Ocean State, Little Rhody **Capital:** Providence **Largest City:** Providence **Area:** 1,545 square miles **Population:** 1,076,189 **Major Industries:** textiles, jewelry, rubber products, machinery, tourism **Highest Point:** Jerimoth Hill - 812 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Sakonnet River **Major Lakes:** Scituate Reservoir **History:** Rhode Island is either named for the Isle of Rhodes (in the Mediterranean Sea) or for its red clay (the Dutch explorer Adriaen Block may have named it "Rood Eylandt" meaning Red Island in Dutch). RI became the 13th state on May 29, 1790. **Known for:** being the smallest state in the nation.

South Carolina (SC)

Nickname: Palmetto State **Capital:** Columbia **Largest City:** Columbia **Area:** 32,007 square miles **Population:** 4,255,083 **Major Industries:** farming (tobacco, soybeans), textiles, manufacturing chemicals, processed foods, machinery, electronics, paper products, tourism **Highest Point:** Sassafras Mountain - 3,560 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Santee River, Edisto River, Savannah River, Pee Dee River **Major Lakes:** Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, Lake Murray, Hartwell Lake, Lake Greenwood **History:** South Carolina was named to honor King Charles I. (Carolus is Latin for Charles). SC became the 8th state on May 23, 1788 **Known for:** Hoggerhead turtles.

South Dakota (SD)

Nickname: Mount Rushmore State **Capital:** Pierre **Largest City:** Sioux Falls **Area:** 77,121 square miles **Population:** 775,933 **Major Industries:** cattle farming, tourism, food processing, machinery and wood products **Highest Point:** Harney Peak - 7,242 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Cheyenne River, Missouri River, James River, White River **Major Lakes:** Lake Oahe, Lake Francis Case, Lewis and Clark Lake **History:** South Dakota is what the Sioux Indians called themselves. SD became the 40th state on November 2, 1889 **Known for:** Mount Rushmore National Memorial & wheat.

Tennessee (TN)

Nickname: The Volunteer State **Capital:** Nashville **Largest City:** Memphis **Area:** 42,146 square miles **Population:** 5,962,959 **Major Industries:** mining (coal), electrical power, enriched uranium production, music, automobile manufacturing, farming (tobacco, cattle, soybeans, cotton), walking horses, tourism **Highest Point:** Clingmans Dome - 6,643 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Tennessee River, Mississippi River, Cumberland River, Clinch River, Duck River **Major Lakes:** Kentucky Lake, Norris Lake, Chickamauga Lake, Cherokee Lake, Tims Ford Reservoir **History:** The name Tennessee comes from a Cherokee village in the region that is called "Tanasie." TN became the 16th state on June 1, 1796 **Known for:** being the home of country music.

Texas (TX)

Nickname: The Lone Star State **Capital:** Austin **Largest City:** Houston **Area:** 268,601 square miles **Population:** 22,859,968 **Major Industries:** petroleum and natural gas, farming (cotton, livestock), steel, banking, insurance, tourism **Highest Point:** Guadalupe Peak, 8,749 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Rio Grande, Red River, Brazos River **Major Lakes:** Lake Bryan, Caddo Lake, Cedar Creek Lake, Arrowhead Lake **History:** The Caddo Indians of eastern Texas called their group of tribes the "Tejas," meaning "those who are friends". TX became the 28th state on December 29, 1845 **Known for:** Oil wells since 1901, armadillos, longhorn cattle, The Alamo – site of a most famous battle.

Utah (UT)

Nickname: Beehive State **Capital:** Salt Lake City **Largest City:** Salt Lake City **Area:** 84,904 square miles **Population:** 2,469,585 **Major Industries:** oil, natural gas, mining (coal, copper, iron ore, silver, gold), steel-making, farming (cattle, sheep, dairy products), tourism **Highest Point:** Kings Peak - 13,528 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Colorado River, Green River **Major Lakes:** Great Salt Lake, Lake Powell, Utah Lake **History:** The name Utah is from the Ute Indians. UT became the 45th state on January 4, 1896 **Known for:** Skiing & Great Salt Lake – the largest in North America.

Vermont (VT)

Nickname: Green Mountain State **Capital:** Montpelier **Largest City:** Burlington **Area:** 9,615 square miles **Population:** 623,050 **Major Industries:** maple syrup, farming (dairy), tourism, electronics, forest products **Highest Point:** Mt. Mansfield - 4,393 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Connecticut River, West River, Otter River, Winooski River **Major Lakes:** Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog **History:** The name Vermont comes from the French words for green mountain, "mont vert." VT became the 14th state on March 4, 1791 **Known for:** The Minuteman - volunteer who fought in the war for independence at Lexington & Concord.

Virginia (VA)

Nickname: Old Dominion State **Capital:** Richmond **Largest City:** Virginia Beach **Area:** 42,769 square miles **Population:** 7,567,465 **Major Industries:** farming (tobacco, peanuts, corn, sweet potatoes, poultry, ham), tourism, US Navy warships, mining, lumber, government workers **Highest Point:** Mt. Rogers - 5,729 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** James River, Rappahannock River, Potomac River, Shenandoah River **Major Lakes:** Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Gathright Dam (Lake Moomaw), John H. Kerr Reservoir, John W. Flannagan Reservoir, Pound Lake, Philpott Lake **History:** Virginia is named for Queen Elizabeth I. of England (she was known as the Virgin Queen). VA became the 10th state on June 25, 1788 **Known for:** Cannons & numerous battles of the Revolutionary & Civil Wars.

Washington (WA)

Nickname: The Evergreen State **Capital:** Olympia **Largest City:** Seattle **Area:** 71,303 square miles **Population:** 6,287,759 **Major Industries:** farming (fruit, berries, nuts, cattle, wheat), lumber, tourism, hydroelectric power, computer software, aircraft, aluminum refining **Highest Point:** Mt. Rainier / 14,410 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Columbia River, Snake River, Yakima River **Major Lakes:** Lake Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lake Washington **History:** Washington is named for George Washington, the first president of the USA. WA became the 42nd state on November 11, 1889 **Known for:** The Olympic Mountains, the Cascade Mountains with Mount St. Helens & Mount Rainier, lumberjacks, & apples.

West Virginia (WV)

Nickname: Mountain State **Capital:** Charleston **Largest City:** Charleston **Area:** 24,231 square miles **Population:** 1,816,856 **Major Industries:** mining (coal), livestock, chemical manufacturing, glass products, tourism **Highest Point:** Spruce Knob - 4,863 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Ohio River, Guyandotte River, Greenbrier River **Major Lakes:** Tygart Lake, Bluestone Lake **History:** West Virginia is named for Queen Elizabeth I. of England (she was known as the Virgin Queen). Sir Walter Raleigh may have suggested this name around 1584. WV became the 35th state on June 20, 1863 **Known for:** Coal mining.

Wisconsin (WI)

Nickname: Badger State **Capital:** Madison **Largest City:** Milwaukee **Area:** 65,503 square miles **Population:** 5,536,201 **Major Industries:** dairy products, farming (corn), machinery, paper manufacturing, beer, tourism **Highest Point:** Timms Hill - 1,952 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Wisconsin River, Mississippi River, St. Croix River, Chippewa River **Major Lakes:** Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Winnebago **History:** Wisconsin is from an Indian word, but the origin is uncertain. It is perhaps an Algonquian Indian word that means "long river," a Chippewa/Ojibwa/Anishinabe word, "Ouisconsin," that means "grassy place," or "gathering of the waters." WI became the 30th state on May 29, 1848 **Known for:** Dairy cows & cheese.

Wyoming (WY)

Nickname: Equality State **Capital:** Cheyenne **Largest City:** Cheyenne **Area:** 97,818 square miles **Population:** 509,294 **Major Industries:** farming (cattle, sheep), mining (coal, uranium), oil, natural gas, tourism **Highest Point:** Gannett Peak - 13,804 feet above sea level **Major Rivers:** Bighorn River, Green River, Belle Fourche River, Powder River, North Platte River **Major Lakes:** Yellowstone Lake, Glendo Reservoir, Bighorn Lake, Boysen Reservoir, Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Seminoe Reservoir, Alcova Reservoir, Keyhole Reservoir **History:** The name Wyoming may be derived from the Delaware Indian word "Maughwauwama," which means "large plains." WY became the 44th state on July 10, 1890 **Known for:** "Old Faithful" – the famous geyser of Yellowstone National Park, bison (buffalo).



Icons represent what the state is known for.

Questions:

- 1) How many states are there in total?
- 2) Which state has the biggest area?
- 3) What is the capital of Massachusetts?
- 4) Name one of the major rivers of Arkansas!
- 5) Which five states surround Utah?
- 6) Where is the Yellowstone National Park?
- 7) Which state is called the "Sunflower State"?
- 8) What is the capital of the United States of America?
- 9) Which is the 15th state?
- 10) When did Arizona become a state?
- 11) Which state has the highest population?
- 12) What is Florida famous for?
- 13) Name one of the Great Lakes!
- 14) Which state became the first one & when?
- 15) What is the highest point of the United States?
- 16) Where can you find the Statue of Liberty?
- 17) Explain the origin of the name Colorado!
- 18) What is Hawaii's nickname?
- 19) In which state is the Golden Gate Bridge?
- 20) Who invented the first automobile & in which state?

- 1) 50
- 2) Alaska
- 3) Boston
- 4) Mississippi River or Arkansas River
- 5) Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona & Nevada
- 6) Wyoming
- 7) Kansas
- 8) Washington, D.C.
- 9) Kentucky
- 10) February 14, 1912
- 11) California
- 12) Cape Canaveral, oranges, alligators
- 13) Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, or Lake Ontario
- 14) Delaware on December 7, 1787
- 15) Mt. McKinley (Alaska)
- 16) New York
- 17) Colorado is Spanish for the "color red" & refers to the muddy Colorado River.
- 18) Aloha State
- 19) California
- 20) Henry Ford, Michigan

Answers:

Have fun making up your own questions and quiz your family and friends!

