

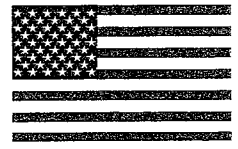
America The 50 States

ESSENTIAL FACTS ABOUT THE STATES



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Capital: Washington, D.C. (District of Columbia)
 Flag: The flag consists of 13 alternate stripes, 7 red and 6 white; these represent the 13 original colonies. Fifty 5-pointed white stars, representing the present number of states in the Union, are placed in 9 horizontal rows alternately of 6 and 5 against a blue field in the upper left-hand corner of the flag.



Official Seal
 Obverse: An American eagle with outstretched wings bears a shield consisting of 13 alternating white and red stripes with a broad blue band across the top. The right talon clutches an olive branch, representing peace; in the left are 13 arrows, symbolizing military strength. The eagle's beak holds a banner with the motto "E pluribus unum" (From many one); overhead is a constellation of 13 five-pointed stars in a glory.



Reverse: Above a truncated pyramid is an all-seeing eye within a triangle; at the bottom of this triangle appear the roman numerals MDCCLXXVI (1776). The pyramid stands on a grassy ground, against a backdrop of mountains. The words "Annuit Coeptis" (He has favored our undertakings) and, on a banner, "Novus Ordo Seclorum" (A new order of the ages) surround the whole.
 Anthem: The Star Spangled Banner
 Motto: In God We Trust



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (DC)
 Origin of Name: From "Columbia," a name commonly applied to the US in the late 18th century, ultimately deriving from Christopher Columbus. Became US Capital: Dec. 1, 1800
 Size: 69 sq. mi.
 Motto: Justitia omnibus (Justice for all)
 Bird: Wood thrush
 Flower: American beauty rose
 Tree: Scarlet oak



(Alabama continued)
 Motto: Audemus jura nostra defendere (We dare defend our rights)
 Bird: Yellowhammer
 Fish: Tarpon
 Flower: Camellia
 Tree: Southern (longleaf) pine
 Stone: Marble
 Mineral: Hematite

ALABAMA (AL)
 Origin of Name: Probably after the Alabama Indian tribe.
 Nickname: The Heart of Dixie
 Capital: Montgomery
 Entered Union: Dec. 14, 1819 (22nd)
 Size: 51,609 sq. mi.



ALASKA (AK)
 Origin of Name: From the Aleut word "alakashak," meaning "peninsula" or "mainland."
 Nickname: The Frontier State
 Capital: Juneau
 Entered Union: Jan. 3, 1959 (49th)
 Size: 586,400 sq. mi.
 Song: "Alaska's Flag"
 Motto: North to the Future
 Gem: Jade
 Mineral: Gold



(Alaska continued)
 Bird: Willow ptarmigan
 Fish: King salmon
 Flower: Wild forget-me-not
 Tree: Sitka spruce
 Sport: Dog team racing (mushing)

ARIZONA (AZ)
 Origin of Name: Probably from the Pima or Papago Indian word "arizonac," meaning "place of small springs."
 Nickname: The Grand Canyon State
 Capital: Phoenix
 Entered Union: Feb. 14, 1912 (48th)
 Size: 113,909 sq. mi.
 Song: "Arizona"
 Motto: Ditat Deus (God enriches)
 Bird: Cactus wren
 Flower: Blossom of the saguaro cactus
 Tree: Paloverde
 Official neckwear: Bola tie



ARKANSAS (AR)
 Origin of Name: French derivation of Arkansas or Arkansas, a name given to the Quapaw Indians by other tribes.
 Nicknames: The Land of Opportunity; The Natural State
 Capital: Little Rock
 Entered the Union: Jun. 15, 1836 (25th)
 Size: 53,103 sq. mi.
 Song: "Arkansas"
 Motto: Regnat populus (The people rule)
 Bird: Mockingbird
 Mammal: White-tailed deer
 Flower: Apple blossom
 Tree: Pine
 Mineral: Quartz crystal
 Gem: Diamond
 Rock: Bauxite
 Insect: Honeybee
 Beverage: Milk



CALIFORNIA (CA)

Origin of Name:

Probably from the mythical island of California in a 16th-century romance novel by Garcí Ordóñez de Montalvo.

Nickname: The Golden State

Capital: Sacramento

Entered Union: Sep. 9, 1850 (31st)

Size: 158,693 sq. mi.

Song: "I Love You California"

Motto: Eureka (I have found it)

Colors: Pale blue and golden yellow

Animal: California grizzly bear (extinct)

Bird: California valley quail

Fish: South Fork golden trout

Flower: Golden poppy

Tree: California redwood

Rock: Serpentine

Mineral: Native gold

Reptile: California desert tortoise

Insect: California dog-face butterfly (flying pansy)

Marine Mammal: California gray whale

Fossil: California saber-toothed cat



FLORIDA (FL)

Origin of Name:

Named in 1513 by Juan Ponce de Leon, who landed during Pascua Florida (the Easter festival of flowers).

Nickname: The Sunshine State

Capital: Tallahassee

Entered Union: Mar. 3, 1845 (27th)

Size: 58,560 sq. mi.

Song: "Old Folks at Home" (also known as "Swanee River")

Poet Laureate: Dr. Edmund Skellings

Motto: In God We Trust

Animal: Florida panther

Marine Mammals: Manatee, dolphin

Bird: Mockingbird

Fish: Largemouth bass (freshwater), Atlantic sailfish (saltwater)

Flower: Orange blossom

Tree: Sabal palmetto palm

Gem: Moonstone

Stone: Agatized coral

Shell: Horse conch

Beverage: Orange juice



IDAHO (ID)

Origin of Name:

Apparently coined by a lobbyist-politician, George M. Willing, who claimed the word came from an Indian term meaning "gem of the mountains."

Nickname: The Gem State

Capital: Boise

Entered Union: Jul. 3, 1890 (43rd)

Size: 83,557 sq. mi.

Song: "Here We Have Idaho"

Motto: Esto perpetua (May it endure forever)

Bird: Mountain bluebird

Flower: Syringa

Tree: Western white pine

Gem: Star garnet

Horse: Appaloosa



(Kansas continued)

March: "The Kansas March"

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

Animal: American bison

Bird: Western meadowlark

Flower: Wild native sunflower

Tree: Cottonwood

Insect: Honeybee

KENTUCKY (KY)

Origin of Name:

Derived from the Wyandot Indian word "kah-tentah" (the land of tomorrow).

Nickname: The Bluegrass State

Capital: Frankfort

Entered Union: Jun. 1, 1792 (15th)

Size: 40,395 sq. mi.

Song: "My Old Kentucky Home"

Motto: United We Stand, Divided We Fall

Colors: Blue and gold

Bird: Cardinal

Wild Animal: Gray squirrel

Fish: Bass

Flower: Goldenrod

Tree: Kentucky coffee tree



COLORADO (CO)

Origin of Name: From the Spanish word "colorado," meaning "red" or "reddish brown."

Nickname: The Centennial State

Capital: Denver

Entered Union: Aug. 1, 1876 (38th)

Size: 104,247 sq. mi.

Song: "Where the Columbines Grow"

Motto: Nil sine numine (Nothing without providence)

Bird: Lark bunting

Gem: Aquamarine

Tree: Colorado blue spruce

Flower: Rocky Mountain columbine



GEORGIA (GA)

Origin of Name:

Named for King George II of England in 1732.

Nicknames:

The Empire State of the South; The Peach State

Capital: Atlanta

Entered Union: Jan. 2, 1788 (4th)

Size: 58,876 sq. mi.

Song: "Georgia"

Motto: Wisdom, Justice, Moderation

Bird: Brown thrasher

Fish: Largemouth bass

Flower: Cherokee rose

Wildflower: Azalea

Tree: Live oak

Gem: Quartz

Insect: Honeybee

Fossil: Shark tooth



ILLINOIS (IL)

Origin of Name: French derivative of "iliniwek," meaning "tribe of superiormen," an Indian group formerly in the region.

Nickname: The Prairie State

Slogan: Land of Lincoln

Capital: Springfield

Entered Union: Dec. 3, 1818 (21st)

Size: 56,400 sq. mi.

Song: "Illinois"

Motto: State Sovereignty-National Union

Animal: White-tailed deer

Bird: Cardinal

Flower: Violet

Tree: White oak

Mineral: Fluorite

Insect: Monarch butterfly



LOUISIANA (LA)

Origin of Name: Named in 1682 for France's King Louis XIV.

Nickname: The Pelican State

Capital: Baton Rouge

Entered Union: Apr. 30, 1812 (18th)

Size: 48,522 sq. mi.

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

Motto: Union, Justice, and Confidence

Colors: Gold, white, and blue

Bird: Eastern brown pelican

Flower: Magnolia

Tree: Bald cypress

Gem: Agate

Fossil: Petrified palmwood

Insect: Honeybee



CONNECTICUT (CT)

Origin of Name:

From the Mohican word "quinnhehtukut," meaning "beside the long tidal river."

Nicknames: The

Constitution State; The Nutmeg State

Capital: Hartford

Entered Union: Jan. 9, 1788 (5th)

Size: 5,009 sq. mi.

Song: "Yankee Doodle"

Motto: Qui transtulit sustinet (He who transplanted still sustains)

Animal: Sperm whale

Bird: American robin

Flower: Mountain laurel

Tree: White oak

Mineral: Garnet

Insect: European praying mantis

Ship: USS Nautilus



HAWAII (HI)

Origin of Name:

Unknown. The name may stem from Hawaii Loa, traditional discoverer of the islands, or from Hawaiki, the traditional Polynesian homeland.

Nickname: The Aloha State

Capital: Honolulu

Entered Union: Aug. 21, 1959 (50th)

Size: 6,424 sq. mi.

Song: "Hawaii Pono"

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

Bird: Nene (Hawaiian goose)

Flower: Pua aloalo (hibiscus)

Tree: Kukui (candlenut)

Island Emblems: Each of the eight major islands has its own color and emblem.

-Hawaii: Red (luhia blossom)

-Kahoolawe: Gray; hinahina (beach heliotrope)

-Kauai: Purple; mokihana (fruit capsule of the Pelea anisata)

-Lanai: Yellow; kaunaoa (Cuscuta sandwichiiana)

-Maui: Pink; lokelani (pink cottage rose)

-Molokai: Green; kukui (candlenut blossom)

-Niuhau: White; white puka shell

-Oahu: Yellow; ilima (Sida fallax)



INDIANA (IN)

Origin of Name: Named "land of Indians" for the many Indian tribes that formerly lived in the state.

Nickname: The Hoosier State

Capital: Indianapolis

Entered Union: Dec. 11, 1816 (19th)

Size: 36,291 sq. mi.

Song: "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away"

Motto: The Crossroads of America

Bird: Cardinal

Flower: Peony

Tree: Tulip tree (yellow poplar)

Stone: Indiana limestone

Poem: "Indiana"



IOWA (IA)

Origin of Name: Named for Iowa Indians of the Siouan family.

Nickname: The Hawkeye State

Capital: Des Moines

Entered Union: Dec. 28, 1846 (29th)

Size: 56,290 sq. mi.

Song: "The Song of Iowa"

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

Bird: Eastern goldfinch

Flower: Wild rose

Tree: Oak

Stone: Geode



MAINE (ME)

Origin of Name:

Either from the French for an historical district of France or from the early use of "main" to distinguish coast from islands.

Nickname: The Pine Tree State

Capital: Augusta

Entered Union: Mar. 15, 1820 (23rd)

Size: 33,215 sq. mi.

Song: "State of Maine Song"

Motto: Dirigo (I direct)

Animal: Moose

Bird: Chickadee

Fish: Landlocked salmon

Flower: White pine cone and tassel

Tree: Eastern white pine

Insect: Honeybee

Mineral: Tourmaline



DELAWARE (DE)

Origin of Name: Named for Thomas West, Baron De La Warr, colonial governor of Virginia. The name was first applied to the bay.

Nicknames: The First State;

The Diamond State

Capital: Dover

Entered Union: Dec. 7, 1787 (1st)

Size: 2,057 sq. mi.

Song: "Our Delaware"

Colors: Colonial blue and buff

Motto: Liberty and Independence

Bird: Blue hen's chicken

Flower: Peach blossom

Tree: American holly

Rock: Sillimanite

Insect: Ladybug



MARYLAND (MD)

Origin of Name: Named for Henrietta Maria, queen consort of King Charles I of England.

Nicknames: The Old Line State; Free State

Capital: Annapolis

Entered Union: Apr. 28, 1788 (7th)

Size: 10,577 sq. mi.

Song: "Maryland, My Maryland"

Motto: Fatti maschii, parole femine (Manly deeds, womanly words)

Bird: Baltimore oriole

Fish: Rockfish

Flower: Blackeyed Susan



(Maryland continued)
 Tree: White oak
 Dog: Chesapeake Bay retriever
 Insect: Baltimore checkerspot butterfly
 Sport: Jousting

MASSACHUSETTS (MA)

Origin of Name: Derived from the name of the Massachusetts Indian tribe that lived on Massachusetts Bay; the name is thought to mean "at or about the Great Hill."
 Nickname: The Bay State
 Capital: Boston
 Entered Union: Feb. 6, 1788 (6th)
 Size: 8,257 sq. mi.
 Song: "All Hail to Massachusetts"
 Folk Song: "Massachusetts"
 Poem: "Blue Hills of Massachusetts"
 Motto: Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem (By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty)
 Heroine: Deborah Samson
 Bird: Chickadee
 Horse: Morgan horse
 Dog: Boston terrier
 Marine Mammal: Right whale
 Fish: Cod
 Flower: Mayflower (ground laurel)
 Tree: American elm
 Gem: Rhodonite
 Mineral: Babingtonite
 Rock: Roxbury pudding stone
 Historical Rock: Plymouth Rock
 Explorer Rock: Dighton Rock
 Building & Monument Stone: Granite
 Fossil: Theropod dinosaur tracks
 Beverage: Cranberry juice
 Insect: Ladybug

MICHIGAN (MI)

Origin of Name: Possibly derived from the Fox Indian word "mesikami," meaning "large lake."
 Nickname: The Wolverine State
 Capital: Lansing
 Entered Union: Jan. 26, 1837 (26th)
 Size: 58,216 sq. mi.
 Song: "Michigan, My Michigan"
 Motto: Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice (If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you)
 Bird: Robin
 Fish: Brook trout
 Flower: Apple blossom
 Tree: White pine
 Stone: Petoskey stone
 Animal: White tailed deer
 Gem: Chlorastrolite

MINNESOTA (MN)

Origin of Name: Derived from the Sioux Indian word "minnesota," meaning "sky-tinted waters."
 Nickname: The North Star State
 Capital: St. Paul
 Entered Union: May 11, 1858 (32nd)
 Size: 84,068 sq. mi.
 Song: "Hail! Minnesota"
 Motto: L'Etoile du Nord (The North Star)
 Bird: Common loon
 Fish: Walleye
 Flower: Pink and white lady's slipper
 Tree: Red (Norway) pine
 Gem: Lake Superior agate
 Grain: Wild rice
 Mushroom: Morel or sponge mushroom
 Drink: Milk

MISSISSIPPI (MS)

Origin of Name: Derived from the Ojibwa Indian words "misi sipi," meaning "great river."
 Nickname: The Magnolia State
 Capital: Jackson
 Entered Union: Dec. 10, 1817 (20th)
 Size: 47,716 sq. mi.
 Song: "Go, Mississippi"
 Motto: Virtute et armis (By valor and arms)
 Mammal: White-tailed deer
 Water Mammal: Porpoise
 Bird: Mockingbird
 Waterfowl: Wood duck
 Fish: Largemouth or black bass
 Insect: Honeybee
 Fossil: Prehistoric whale
 Flower: Magnolia
 Tree: Magnolia
 Stone: Petrified wood
 Beverage: Milk

MISSOURI (MO)

Origin of Name: Probably from the Iliniwek Indian word "missouri," meaning "owners of big canoes."
 Nickname: The Show Me State
 Capital: Jefferson City
 Entered Union: August 10, 1821 (24th)
 Size: 69,674 sq. mi.
 Song: "Missouri Waltz"
 Motto: Salus populi suprema lex esto (The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law)
 Bird: Bluebird
 Flower: Hawthorn blossom
 Tree: Flowering dogwood
 Rock: Mozarkite (chert, or flint rock)
 Mineral: Galena

MONTANA (MT)

Origin of Name: Derived from the Latin word meaning "mountainous."
 Nicknames: The Treasure State; Big Sky Country
 Capital: Helena
 Entered Union: November 8, 1889 (41st)
 Size: 147,138 sq. mi.
 Song: "Montana"
 Motto: Oro y Plata (Gold and silver)
 Bird: Western meadowlark
 Fish: Black-spotted (cutthroat) trout
 Flower: Bitterroot
 Tree: Ponderosa pine
 Gems: Yogo sapphire; Montana agate
 Grass: Bluebunch wheatgrass

NEBRASKA (NE)

Origin of Name: From the Oto Indian word "nebrathka," meaning "flat water" (for the Platte River).
 Nickname: The Cornhusker State
 Capital: Lincoln
 Entered Union: March 1, 1867 (37th)
 Size: 77,237 sq. mi.
 Song: "Beautiful Nebraska"
 Motto: Equality Before the Law
 Bird: Western meadowlark
 Flower: Goldenrod
 Tree: Cottonwood
 Gem: Blue agate
 Rock: Prairie agate
 Grass: Little bluestem
 Insect: Honeybee
 Fossil: Mammoth

NEVADA (NV)

Origin of Name: Named for the Sierra Nevada Mountains. (Nevada means "snow-covered" in Spanish)
 Nicknames: The Sagebrush State; The Silver State
 Capital: Carson City
 Entered Union: October 31, 1864 (36th)
 Size: 110,540 sq. mi.
 Song: "Home Means Nevada"
 Motto: All for Our Country
 Animal: Desert bighorn sheep
 Reptile: Desert tortoise
 Rock: Sandstone
 Fish: Lahontan cutthroat trout
 Bird: Mountain bluebird
 Flower: Sagebrush
 Tree: Single-leaf piñon
 Metal: Silver
 Gem: Black fire opal
 Grass: Indian ricegrass
 Fossil: Ichthyosaur

NEW JERSEY (NJ)

Origin of Name: Named for the British Channel Island of Jersey.
 Nickname: The Garden State
 Capital: Trenton
 Entered Union: December 18, 1787 (3rd)
 Size: 7,836 sq. mi.
 Motto: Liberty and Prosperity
 Colors: Buff and Jersey blue
 Animal: Horse
 Bird: Eastern goldfinch
 Fish: Brook trout
 Flower: Violet
 Tree: Red oak
 Memorial Tree: Dogwood
 Insect: Honeybee

NEW MEXICO (NM)

Origin of Name: Spanish explorers in 1540 called the area "the new Mexico."
 Nickname: Land of Enchantment
 Capital: Santa Fe
 Entered Union: January 6, 1912 (47th)
 Size: 121,666 sq. mi.
 Songs: "O Fair New Mexico"; "Asies Nuevo Mexico"; "Born to Run"
 Motto: Crescit eundo (It grows as it goes)
 Animal: Black bear
 Bird: Roadrunner (chaparral bird)
 Fish: Cutthroat trout
 Flower: Yucca
 Tree: Piñon
 Fossil: Coelophysis dinosaur
 Gem: Turquoise
 Vegetables: Frijol; chili

NEW HAMPSHIRE (NH)

Origin of Name: Named for the English county of Hampshire
 Nickname: The Granite State
 Capital: Concord
 Entered Union: June 21, 1788 (9th)
 Size: 9,304 sq. mi.
 Song: "Old New Hampshire"
 Motto: Live Free or Die
 Animal: White-tailed deer
 Bird: Purple finch
 Fresh water fish: Brook trout
 Salt water fish: Striped bass
 Flower: Purple lilac
 Tree: White birch
 Insect: Ladybug

NEW YORK (NY)

Origin of Name: Named for the Duke of York (later King James II) in 1664.
 Nickname: The Empire State
 Capital: Albany
 Entered Union: July 26, 1788 (11th)
 Size: 49,576 sq. mi.
 Song: "I Love New York"
 Motto: Excelsior (Ever upward)
 Animal: Beaver
 Bird: Bluebird
 Fish: Brook or speckled trout
 Flower: Rose
 Tree: Sugar maple
 Fruit: Apple
 Fossil: Prehistoric crab
 Gem: Garnet
 Beverage: Milk

NORTH CAROLINA (NC)

Origin of Name: Named in honor of King Charles I of England.
 Nickname: The Tarheel State
 Capital: Raleigh
 Entered Union: Nov. 21, 1789 (12th)
 Size: 52,586 sq. mi.
 Song: "The Old North State"
 Motto: Esse quam videri (To be rather than to seem)
 Mammal: Gray squirrel
 Bird: Cardinal
 Fish: Channel bass
 Reptile: Eastern box turtle
 Insect: Honeybee
 Flower: Dogwood
 Tree: Pine
 Shell: Scotch bonnet
 Precious Stone: Emerald
 Rock: Granite

NORTH DAKOTA (ND)


Origin of Name: The state was formerly the northern section of Dakota Territory; "dakota" is a Siouan word meaning "allies."
 Nicknames: The Sioux State; The Flickertail State
 Capital: Bismarck
 Entered Union: November 2, 1889 (39th)
 Size: 70,665 sq. mi.
 Song: "North Dakota Hymn"
 March: "Spirit of the Land"
 Motto: Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable
 Bird: Western meadowlark
 Fish: Northern pike
 Flower: Wild prairie rose
 Tree: American elm
 Grass: Western wheatgrass
 Stone: Teredo petrified wood
 Beverage: Milk

OHIO (OH)


Origin of Name: From the Iroquois Indian word "oheo," meaning "beautiful."
 Nickname: The Buckeye State
 Capital: Columbus
 Entered Union: March 1, 1803 (17th)
 Size: 41,222 sq. mi.
 Song: "Beautiful Ohio"
 Motto: With God All Things Are Possible
 Bird: Cardinal
 Insect: Ladybug
 Flower: Scarlet carnation
 Tree: Buckeye
 Gem: Ohio flint
 Beverage: Tomato juice

OKLAHOMA (OK)


Origin of Name:
Derived from the Choctaw Indian words "oklahumma," meaning "land of the red people."
Nickname: The Sooner State
Capital: Oklahoma City
Entered Union: Nov. 16, 1907 (46th)
Size: 69,919 sq. mi.
Song: "Oklahoma!"
Poem: "Howdy Folks"
Motto: Labor omnia vincit (Labor conquers all things)
Animal: American bison (buffalo)
Bird: Scissor-tailed flycatcher
Fish: White bass (sand bass)
Floral Emblem: Mistletoe
Tree: Redbud
Stone: Barite rose (rose rock)


OREGON (OR)


Origin of Name:
Unknown; name first applied to the river now known as the Columbia.
Nickname: The Beaver State
Capital: Salem
Entered Union: February 14, 1859 (33rd)
Size: 96,981 sq. mi.
Song: "Oregon, My Oregon"
Dance: Square Dance
Poet Laureate: William E. Stafford
Motto: The Union
Colors: Navy-blue and gold
Animal: American beaver
Bird: Western meadowlark
Fish: Chinook salmon
Flower: Oregon grape
Tree: Douglas fir
Rock: Thunderegg (geode)
Insect: Oregon swallowtail butterfly


PENNSYLVANIA (PA)


Origin of Name: Named for Admiral William Penn, father of the founder of Pennsylvania.
Nickname: The Keystone State
Capital: Harrisburg
Entered Union: December 12, 1787 (2nd)
Size: 45,333 sq. mi.
Motto: Virtue, Liberty, and Independence
Flagship: U.S. Brig Niagara
Animal: White-tailed deer
Bird: Ruffed grouse
Dog: Great Dane
Fish: Brook trout
Flower: Mountain laurel
Insect: Firefly
Tree: Hemlock
Beautification and Conservation Plant: Penngift crownvetch
Beverage: Milk


RHODE ISLAND (RI)


Origin of Name: Named for Rhode Island in Narragansett Bay, which was likened to the isle of Rhodes in the Mediterranean Sea.
Nicknames: The Ocean State; Little Rhody
Capital: Providence
Entered Union: May 29, 1790 (13th)
Size: 1,214 sq. mi.
Song: "Rhode Island"
Motto: Hope
Bird: Rhode Island Red
Flower: Violet
Mineral: Bowenite
Rock: Cumberlanidite


SOUTH CAROLINA (SC)


Origin of Name:
Named in honor of King Charles I of England.
Nickname: The Palmetto State
Capital: Columbia
Entered Union: May 23, 1788 (8th)
Size: 31,055 sq. mi.
Song: "Carolina"
Poet Laureate: Helen von Kolnitz Hyer
Mottos: Animis opibusque parati (Prepared in mind and resources); Dum spiro spero (While I breathe, I hope).
Animal: White-tailed deer
Reptile: Loggerhead sea turtle
Bird: Carolina wren
Wild Game Bird: Wild turkey
Fish: Striped bass
Flower: Yellow jessamine
Tree: Palmetto
Gem: Amethyst
Stone: Blue granite


SOUTH DAKOTA (SD)


Origin of Name: The state was formerly the southern part of Dakota Territory; "dakota" is a Sioux word meaning "friend."
Nicknames: The Coyote State; The Sunshine State
Capital: Pierre
Entered Union: November 2, 1889 (40th)
Size: 77,047 sq. mi.
Song: "Hail, South Dakota"
Motto: Rule
Animal: Coyote
Bird: Chinese ring-necked pheasant
Flower: Pasque flower
Tree: Black Hills spruce
Gem: Fairburn agate
Mineral: Rose quartz
Grass: Western wheatgrass


TENNESSEE (TN)

Origin of Name: Probably from Indian name "Tenase," which was the principal village of the Cherokee.
Nickname: The Volunteer State
Capital: Nashville
Entered Union: Jun. 1, 1796 (16th)
Size: 42,246 sq. mi.
Songs: "When It's Iris Time In Tennessee"; "The Tennessee Waltz"; "My Homeland, Tennessee"; "Rocky Top"
Public School Song: "My Tennessee"
Poet Laureate: Richard M. "Pek" Gunn
Poem: "Oh Tennessee, My Tennessee"
Folk Dance: Square dance
Motto: Agriculture and Commerce
Slogan: Tennessee—America at Its Best
Animal: Wild raccoon
Bird: Mockingbird
Cultivated Flower: Iris
Wild Flower: Passion flower
Tree: Tulip poplar
Gem: Tennessee pearl
Rocks: Limestone, agate
Insects: Ladybug, firefly


TEXAS (TX)


Origin of Name:
Derived from the Caddo word "tavshas," meaning "allies" or "friends."
Nickname: The Lone Star State
Capital: Austin
Entered Union: Dec. 29, 1845 (28th)
Size: 267,339 sq. mi.
Songs: "Texas, Our Texas"; "The Eyes of Texas"
Motto: Friendship
Bird: Mockingbird
Flower: Bluebonnet
Tree: Pecan
Gem: Topaz
Stone: Palmwood
Grass: Sideoats grama


UTAH (UT)


Origin of Name:
Named for the Ute Indians.
Nickname: The Beehive State
Capital: Salt Lake City
Entered Union: Jan. 4, 1896 (45th)
Size: 84,916 sq. mi.
Song: "Utah, We Love Thee"
Motto: Industry
Animal: Elk
Bird: Sea gull
Fish: Rainbow trout
Flower: Segoly lily
Tree: Blue spruce
Gem: Topaz
Emblem: Beehive


VERMONT (VT)


Origin of Name:
Derived from the French words "vert" (green) and "mont" (mountain).
Nickname: The Green Mountain State
Capital: Montpelier
Entered Union: Mar. 4, 1791 (14th)
Size: 9,609 sq. mi.
Song: "Hail, Vermont!"
Motto: Freedom and Unity
Animal: Morgan horse
Bird: Hermit thrush
Fish: Brook trout (cold water); walleye pike (warm water)
Flower: Red clover
Tree: Sugar maple
Insect: Honeybee
Beverage: Milk
Poet Laureate: Robert Frost


VIRGINIA (VA)


Origin of Name: Named for Queen Elizabeth I of England, the "Virgin Queen."
Nickname: The Old Dominion
Capital: Richmond
Entered Union: Jun. 25, 1788 (10th)
Size: 40,815 sq. mi.
Song: "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia"
Motto: Sic semper tyrannis (Thus ever to tyrants)
Bird: Cardinal
Flower: Dogwood
Tree: Dogwood
Dog: Foxhound
Shell: Oyster
Beverage: Milk


WASHINGTON (WA)


Origin of Name: Named for George Washington.
Nickname: The Evergreen State
Capital: Olympia
Entered Union: Nov. 11, 1889 (42nd)
Size: 68,192 sq. mi.
Song: "Washington, My Home"
Motto: Alki (By and by)
Bird: Willow goldfinch
Fish: Steelhead trout
Flower: Western rhododendron
Tree: Western hemlock
Gem: Petrified wood


WEST VIRGINIA (WV)


Origin of Name: The state was originally the western part of Virginia.
Nickname: The Mountain State
Capital: Charleston
Entered Union: Jun. 20, 1863 (35th)
Size: 24,181 sq. mi.
Songs: "The West Virginia Hills"; "West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home"; "This Is My West Virginia"
Motto: Montani semper liberi (Mountaineers are always free)
Animal: Black bear
Bird: Cardinal
Fish: Brook trout
Flower: Rhododendron maximum ("big laurel")
Tree: Sugar maple


WISCONSIN (WI)

Origin of Name: Probably from the Ojibwa word "wishkonsing," meaning "place of the beaver."
Nickname: The Badger State
Capital: Madison
Entered Union: May 29, 1848 (30th)
Size: 56,154 sq. mi.
Song: "On, Wisconsin!"
Motto: Forward
Animal: Badger
Wildlife Animal: White-tailed deer
Domestic Animal: Dairy cow
Bird: Robin
Fish: Muskellunge
Flower: Wood yulif
Tree: Sugar maple
Symbol of Peace: Mourning dove
Rock: Red granite
Mineral: Galena
Insect: Honeybee


WYOMING (WY)

Origin of Name:
Derived from the Delaware Indian words "maugh-wau-wa-ma," meaning "large plains."
Nickname: The Equality State
Capital: Cheyenne
Entered Union: July 10, 1890 (44th)
Size: 97,914 sq. mi.
Song: "Wyoming"
Motto: Equal Rights
Bird: Meadowlark
Flower: Indian paintbrush
Tree: Cottonwood
Gem: Jade



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