

<b>State:</b>	<b>Alabama</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Montgomery</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Heart of Dixie</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Camellia</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Yellowhammer</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Southern Pine</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"Alabama"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>December 14, 1819 (22)</b>

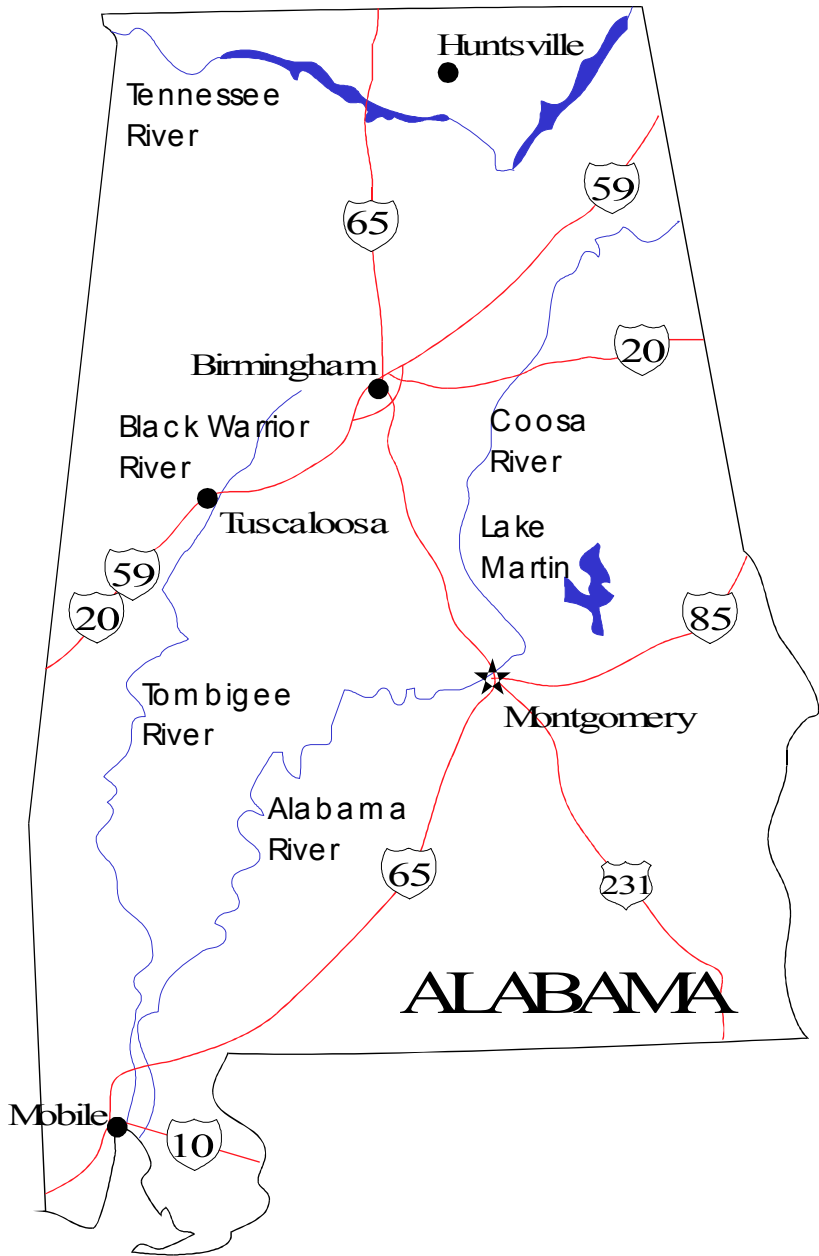
The first permanent European settlement in Alabama was founded by the French at Fort Louis de la Mobile in 1702. The British gained control of the area in 1763 by the Treaty of Paris, but had to cede almost all of the Alabama region to the U.S. after the Revolution. The Confederacy was founded at Montgomery in February 1861 and for a time, the city was the Confederate Capital.

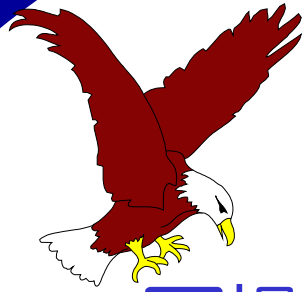
During the last part of the 19th century, the economy of the state slowly improved. At Tuskegee Institute, founded in 1881 by Booker T. Washington, Dr. George Washington Carver carried out his famous agricultural research.

In the 1950's and 60's, Alabama was the sight of such landmark civil rights actions as the bus boycott in Montgomery (1955-1956) and the "Freedom March" from Selma to Montgomery (1965).

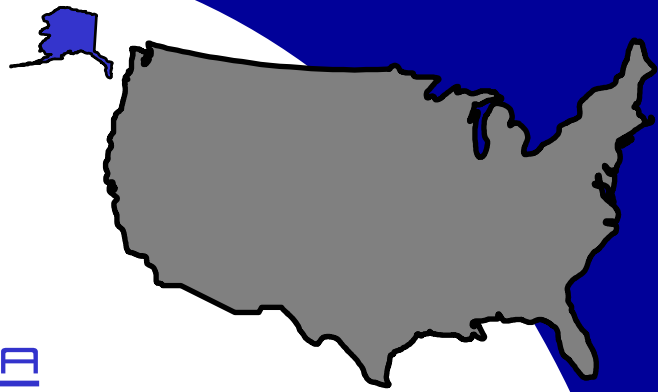
Today paper, chemicals, rubber, plastics, apparel, textiles, and metals such as iron and steel are the leading industries. The state ranks high in the production of poultry, soybeans, milk, vegetables, livestock, wheat, cattle, cotton, peanuts, fruits, hogs and corn.







ALASKA



<b>State:</b>	<b>Alaska</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Juneau</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>The Last Frontier</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Forget Me Not</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Willow Ptarmigan</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Sitka Spruce</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"Alaska's Flag"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>January 3, 1959 (49)</b>

Vitus Bering, a Dane working for the Russians, and Alexei Chirikov discovered the Alaskan mainland and the Aleutian Islands in 1741. Alaska, which equals one fifth of the continental U.S., was unexplored in 1867 when Secretary of State William Seward arranged for its purchase from the Russians for \$7,200,000. Despite a price of about two cents an acre, the purchase was widely ridiculed as "Sewards Folly." Since then, Alaska has returned billions of dollars worth of products to the U.S.

The Gold Rush of 1898 resulted in a mass influx of more than 30,000 people to Alaska.

In 1968, a large oil and gas reservoir near Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic Coast was found. The Prudhoe Bay reservoir, with an estimated 10 billion barrels of oil and 27 trillion cubic feet of gas, is twice as large as any other oil field in North America. The Trans-Alaska pipeline was completed in 1977 at a cost of \$7.7 billion. On June 20, oil started flowing through the 800 mile long pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez.

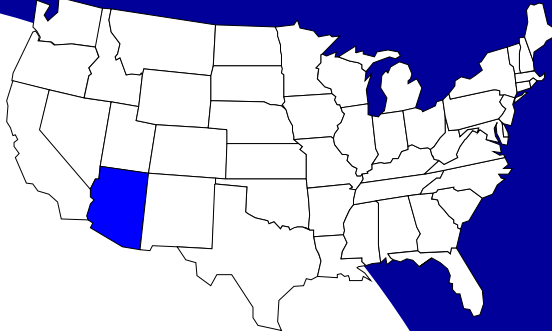
Other industries important to Alaska's economy are fisheries, wood and wood products, furs and tourism.







# ARIZONA



<b>State:</b>	<b>Arizona</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Phoenix</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Grand Canyon State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Flower of Saguaro Cactus</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Cactus Wren</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Palo Verde</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>“Arizona March Song”</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>February 14, 1912 (48)</b>

Marcos de Niza, a Spanish Franciscan friar, was the first European to explore Arizona. He entered the area in 1539 in search of the Seven Cities of Gold. In 1775 the Spanish established Fort Tucson. In 1848, after the Mexican War, most of the Arizona territory became part of the U.S., and the southern portion of the territory was added by the Gadsden Purchase in 1853.

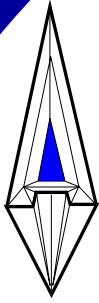
Arizona history is rich in legends of the Old West. It was here that the great Indian chiefs Geronimo and Cochise led their people against the frontiersmen. Today, Arizona has the largest U.S. Indian population; more than 14 tribes are represented on 20 reservations. Tombstone, Arizona, was the sight of the West's most famous shoot-out, the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral.

Manufacturing has become Arizona's most important industry. Principal products include electrical, communications and aeronautical items. The state produces over half the country's copper.

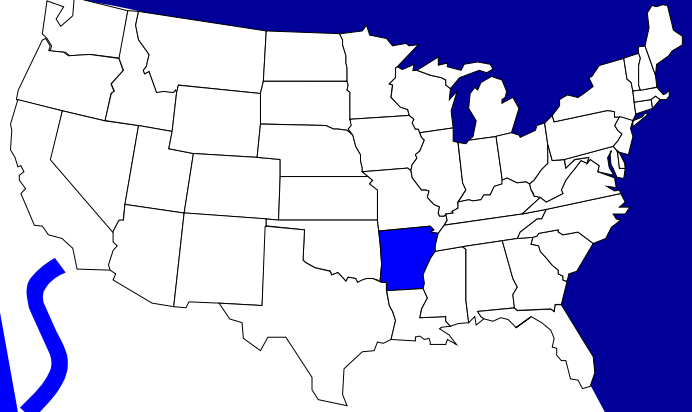
State attractions include such famous scenery as the Grand Canyon, the Petrified Forest, the Painted Desert, Hoover Dam, Fort Apache and the reconstructed London Bridge.







# ARKANSAS



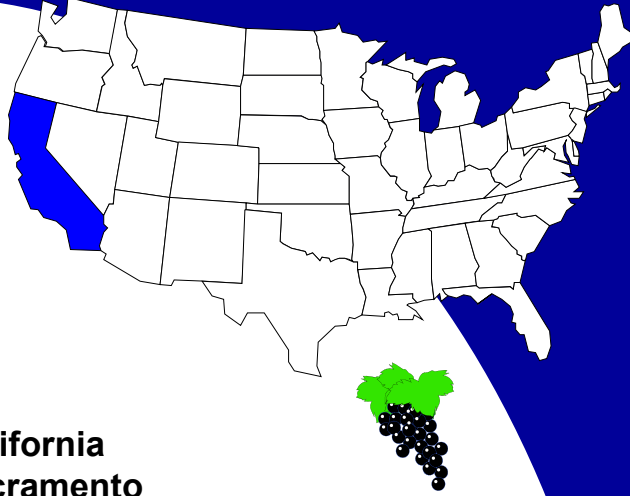
<b>State:</b>	<b>Arkansas</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Little Rock</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Land of Opportunity</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Apple Blossom</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Mocking Bird</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Pine</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"Arkansas"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>June 15, 1836 (25)</b>

Hernando de Soto, in 1541, was among the early European explorers to visit the territory. It was a Frenchman, Henri de Tonti, who in 1686 founded the first permanent white settlement -- the Arkansas Post. In 1803 the area was acquired by the U.S. as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

Food products are the state's largest employment sector, with lumber and wood products a close second. Arkansas is also a leader in the production of cotton, rice and soybeans. It also has the country's only active diamond mine; located near Murfreesboro, it is operated as a tourist attraction. Hot Springs Caverns and Buffalo National River in the Ozarks are also major state attractions.







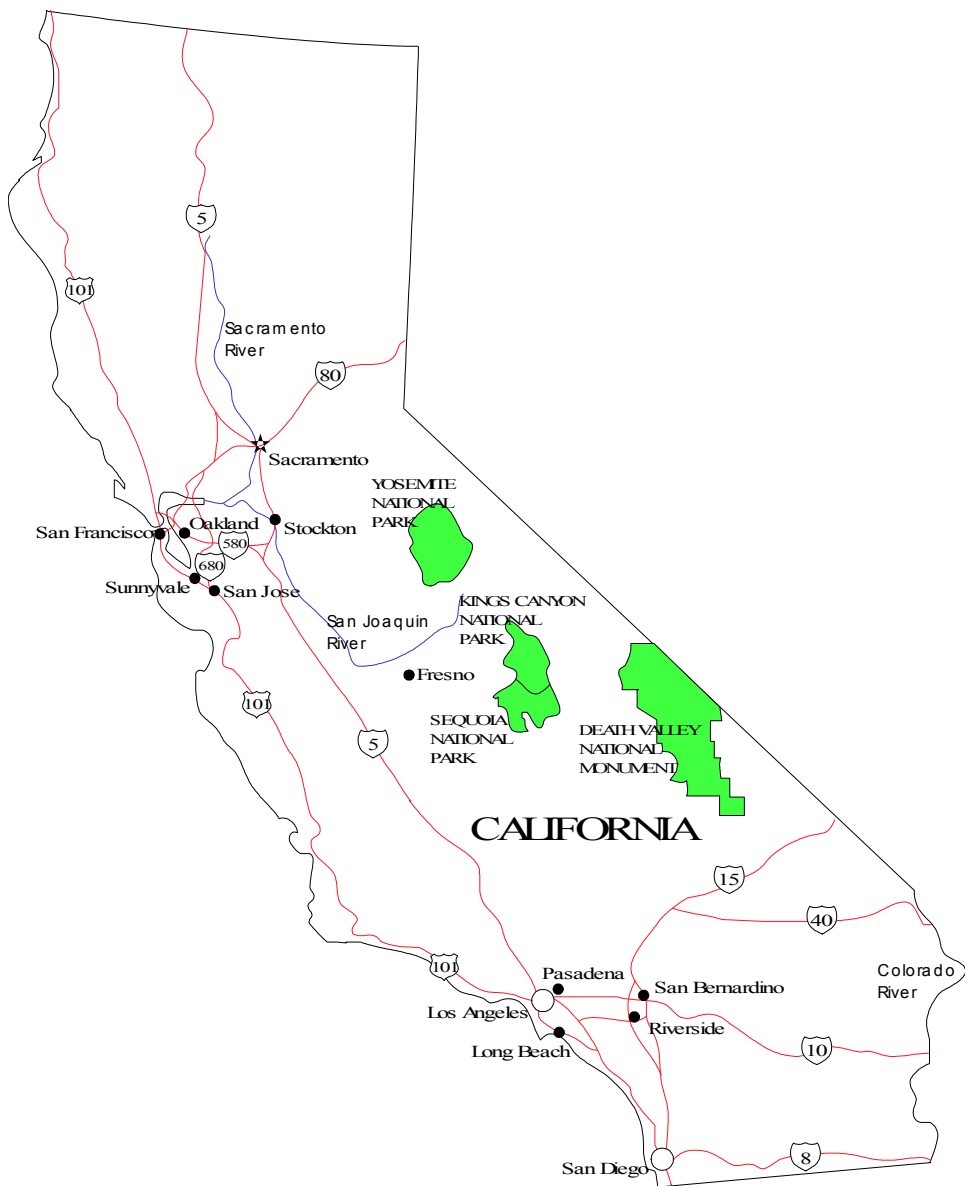
<b>State:</b>	<b>California</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Golden State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Golden Poppy</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>California Valley Quail</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>California Redwood</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"I Love You, California"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>September, 9, 1850 (31)</b>

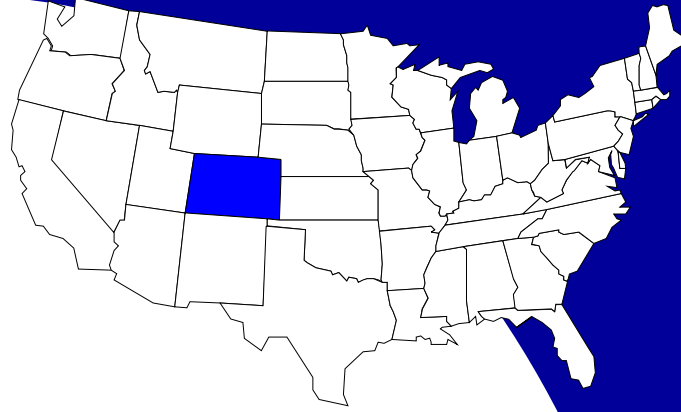
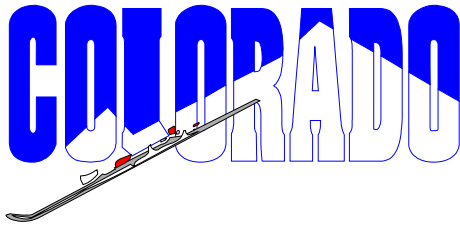
Although California was sighted by Spanish navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542, its first Spanish mission was not established until 1779. California became a U.S. Territory in 1847 when Mexico surrendered it to John C. Fremont. On January 24, 1848, James W. Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Mill, starting the California Gold Rush and bringing settlers to the state in large numbers.

Leading industries include manufacturing (transportation equipment, machinery and electronic equipment), agriculture, biotechnology and tourism. Principal natural resources include timber, petroleum and natural gas.

Death Valley, in the southeast, is 282 feet below sea level, the lowest point in the nation; and Mt. Whitney (14,491 ft) is the highest point in the contiguous 48 states. The General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park is estimated to be about 3,500 years old, and a stand of bristle cone pine trees in the White Mountains may be over 4,000 years old.







<b>State:</b>	<b>Colorado</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Denver</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Centennial State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Rocky Mountain Columbine</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Lark Bunting</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Colorado Blue Spruce</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"Where the Columbines Grow"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>August 1, 1876 (38)</b>

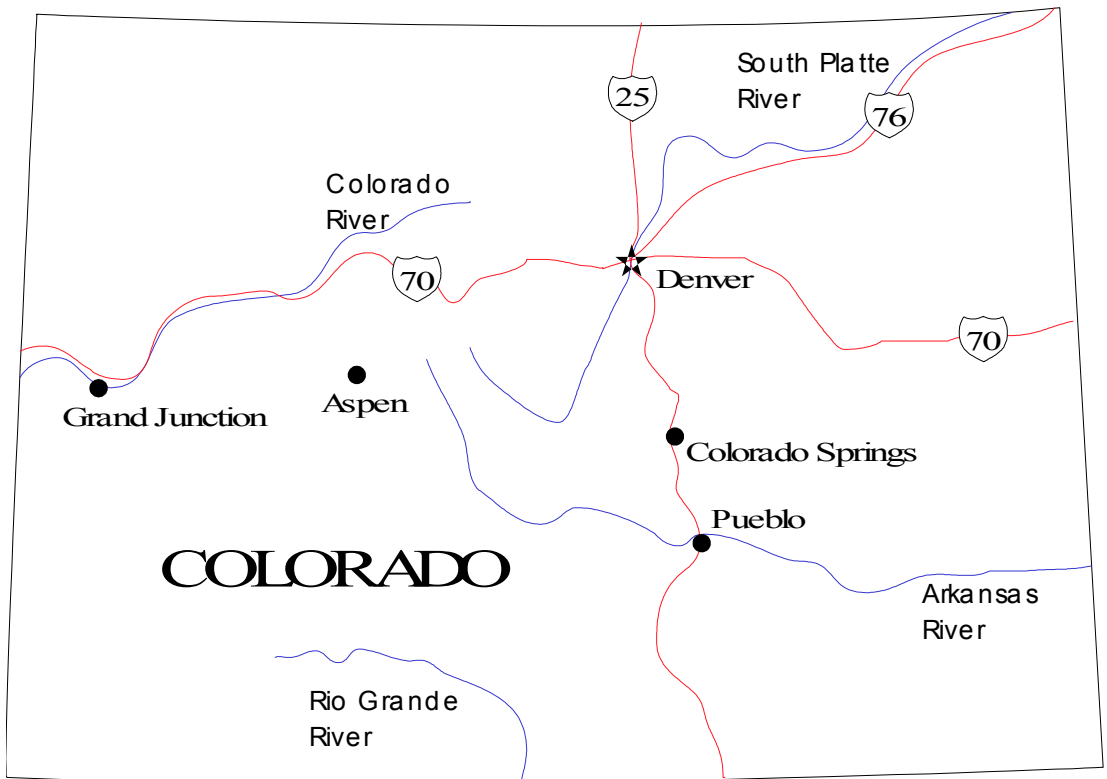
The U.S. obtained eastern Colorado as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the central portion in 1845 with the admission Texas as a state, and the western part in 1848 as a result of the Mexican War.

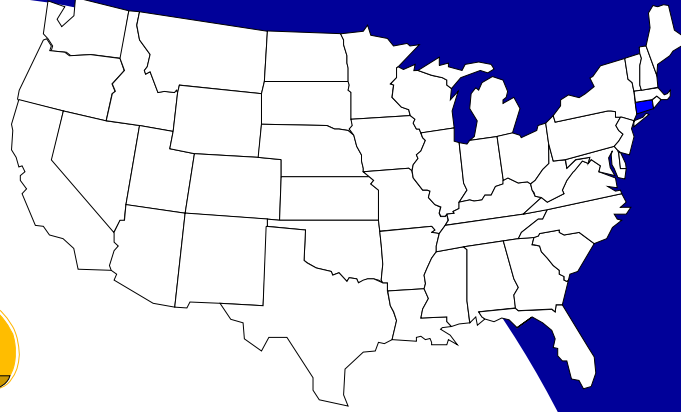
Colorado has the highest mean elevation of any state, with more than 1,000 rocky mountain peaks over 10,000 feet and 54 towering above 14,000 feet. Pikes Peak, the most famous of these mountains, was discovered by U.S. Army Lt. Zebulon M. Pike in 1806.

Once primarily a mining and agricultural state, Colorado's economy is now driven by the service-producing industries. Tourism accounts for approximately \$6 billion annually. The ski industry accounts for about \$1.8 billion of the tourist industry.

The two primary facets of Colorado's manufacturing industry are food and printing and publishing. The primary crops include corn, hay and wheat. Denver is home to companies that control half of the nations gold production.







<b>State:</b>	<b>Connecticut</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Hartford</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Nutmeg State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Mountain Laurel</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>American Robin</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>White Oak</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"Yankee Doodle"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>January 9, 1788 (5)</b>

In 1633, Dutch colonists built a fort and trading post near present day Hartford, but soon lost it to English Puritans migrating south from the Massachusetts Bay colony. English settlements, established in the 1630's at Windsor, Wethersfield and Hartford, united in 1639 to form the Connecticut Colony and adopted the Fundamental Orders, considered the world's first written constitution.

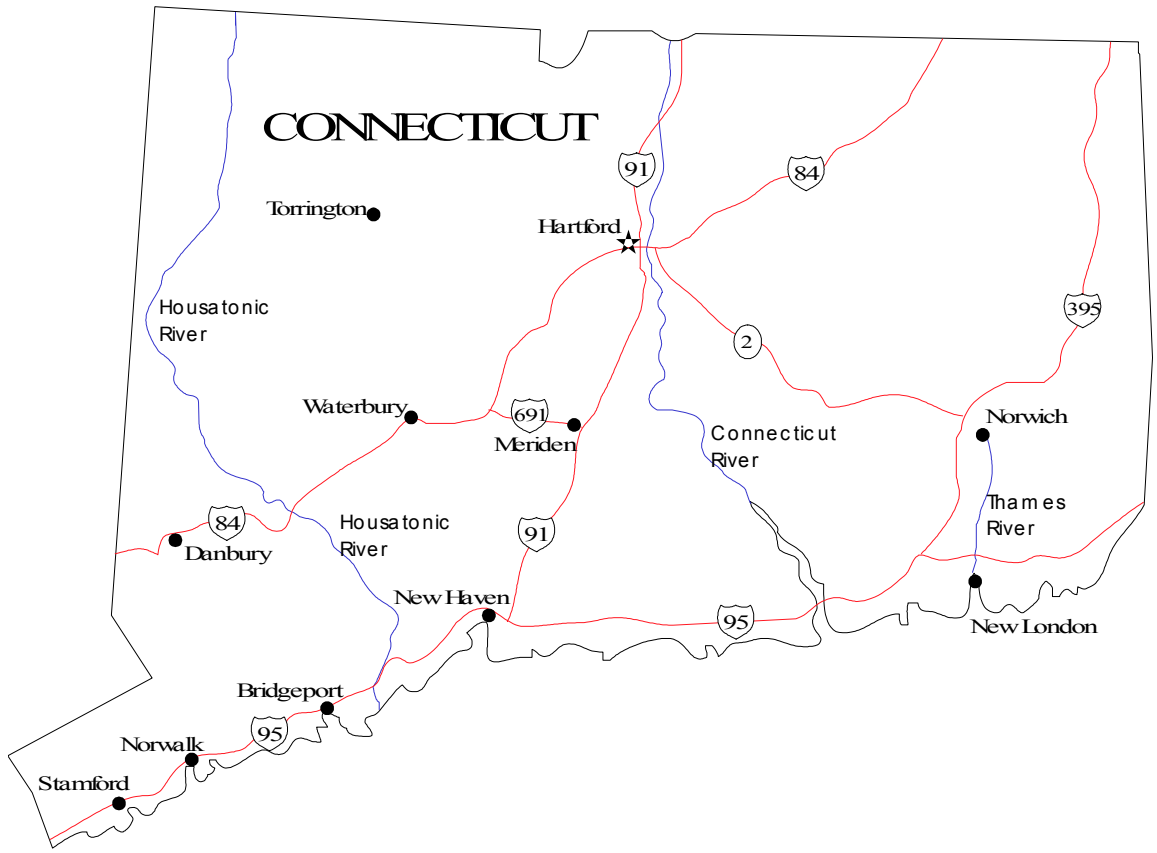
Connecticut played a prominent role in the Revolutionary War, serving as the Continental Army's major supplier. Sometimes called the "Arsenal of the Nation," the state became one of the most industrialized in the nation.

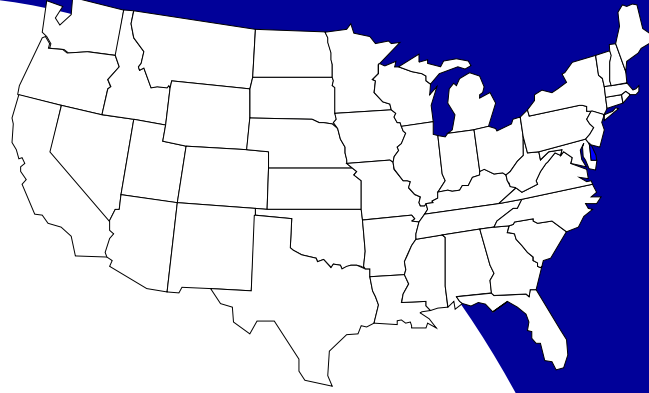
Today factories produce weapons, sewing machines, jet engines, helicopters, motors, hardware and tools, cutlery, clocks, locks, silverware and submarines. Hartford, which has the oldest U.S. newspaper still being published -- the Hartford Courant, est. 1754 -- is the insurance capital of the nation.

Poultry, fruit and dairy products account for the largest portion of the farm income, and Connecticut's shade-grown tobacco is acknowledged to be the state's most valuable crop per acre.



# CONNECTICUT





<b>State:</b>	<b>Delaware</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Dover</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>First State, the Diamond State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Peach Blossom</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>American Holly</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"Our Delaware"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>December 7, 1787 (1)</b>

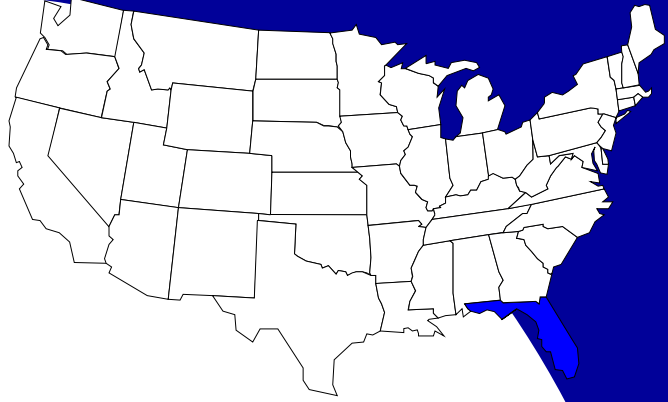
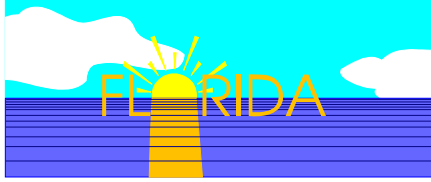
Henry Hudson, sailing under the Dutch flag, is credited with Delaware's discovery in 1609. The following year, Capt. Samuel Argall of Virginia named Delaware for his colony's governor, Thomas West, Baron De La Warr. The English took over the area in 1664 and it was transferred to William Penn as the southern Three Countries in 1682.

Delaware fought as a separate state in the American Revolution and became the first state to ratify the constitution. During the Civil War, although a slave state, Delaware did not secede from the Union.

In 1802, Eleuthere Irenee du Pont established a gunpowder mill near Wilmington that laid the foundation for Delaware's huge chemical industry. Today Delaware manufactures products, machinery, machine tools and automobiles. Delaware also grows a great variety of fruits and vegetables and is a U.S. pioneer in the food canning industry. Corn, soybeans, potatoes and hay are the important crops. Delaware's broiler chicken farms supply the big Eastern markets, and fishing and dairy products are other important industries.







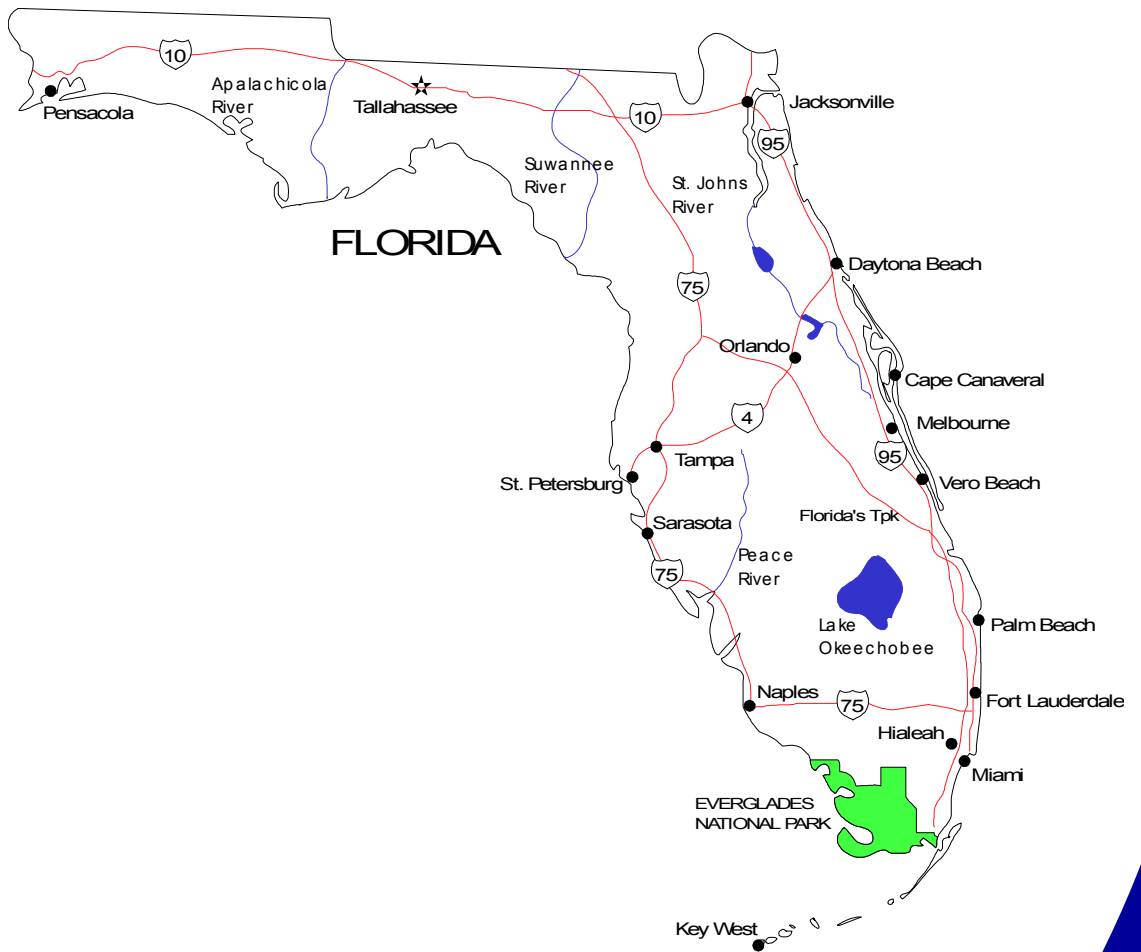
<b>State:</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Tallahassee</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Sunshine State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Orange Blossom</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Mocking Bird</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>“Suwannee River”</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>March 3, 1845 (27)</b>

In 1513, Ponce De Leon, seeking the mythical “Fountain of Youth,” discovered and named Florida for Spain. It was sold to the United States in 1819. Florida’s early 19th century history as a U.S. territory was marked by wars with the Seminole Indians that did not end until 1842.

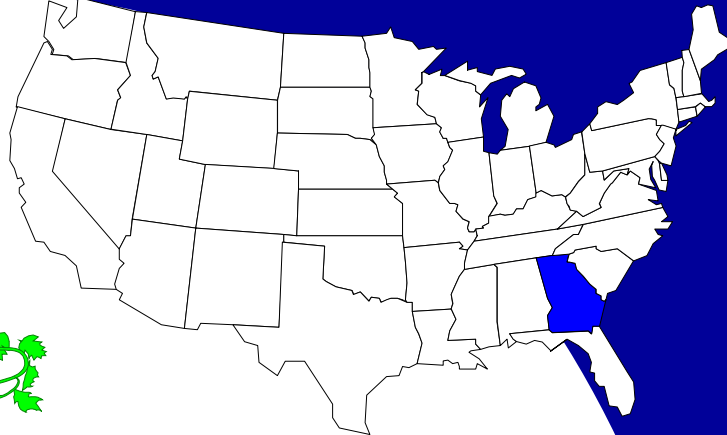
One of the fastest growing states in the U.S., Florida’s population grew from 2.8 million in 1950 to more than 12.9 million in 1990. Florida’s economy rests on a solid base of tourism (in 1992 more than 40.5 million visitors from all over the world), manufacturing, agriculture and international trade. In recent years, oranges, grapefruit and tomatoes lead Florida’s crop list followed by vegetables, potatoes, melons, strawberries, sugar cane, dairy products, cattle and forest products.

Major tourist attractions include Miami Beach, Palm Beach, Daytona Beach, St. Augustine (founded in 1565, the oldest permanent city in the U.S.), Key West, Disney World and NASA Kennedy Space Center.





# GEORGIA



<b>State:</b>	<b>Georgia</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Atlanta</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Peach Tree State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Cherokee Rose</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Brown Thrasher</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Live Oak</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"Georgia on My Mind"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>January 2, 1788 (4)</b>

Hernando de Soto, the Spanish explorer, first traveled to parts of Georgia in 1540. British claims later conflicted with those of Spain. After obtaining a royal charter, Gen. James Oglethorpe established the first permanent settlement in Georgia in 1733 as a refuge for English debtors.

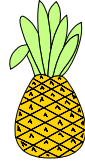
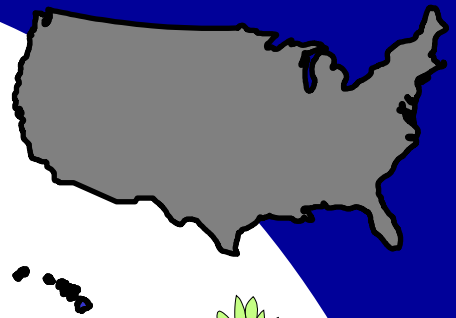
A confederate stronghold, Georgia was the scene of extensive military action during the Civil War. Union General William T. Sherman burned Atlanta and destroyed a 60-mile-wide path to the coast to capture Savannah in 1864.

The largest state east of the Mississippi, it is the communications and transportation center for the southeast and the area's chief distributor of goods. Georgia leads the nation in the production of paper and board, tufted textile products, and processed chicken. Important agricultural products are corn, cotton, tobacco, soybeans, eggs and peaches. Georgia produces twice as many peanuts as the next leading state. From its vast stands of pine come more than half the world's resins and turpentine.





# HAWAII



<b>State:</b>	<b>Hawaii</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Honolulu</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Aloha State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Yellow Hibiscus</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Nene (Hawaiian Goose)</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Kukui (Candlenut)</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"Hawaii Pono"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>August 21, 1959 (50)</b>

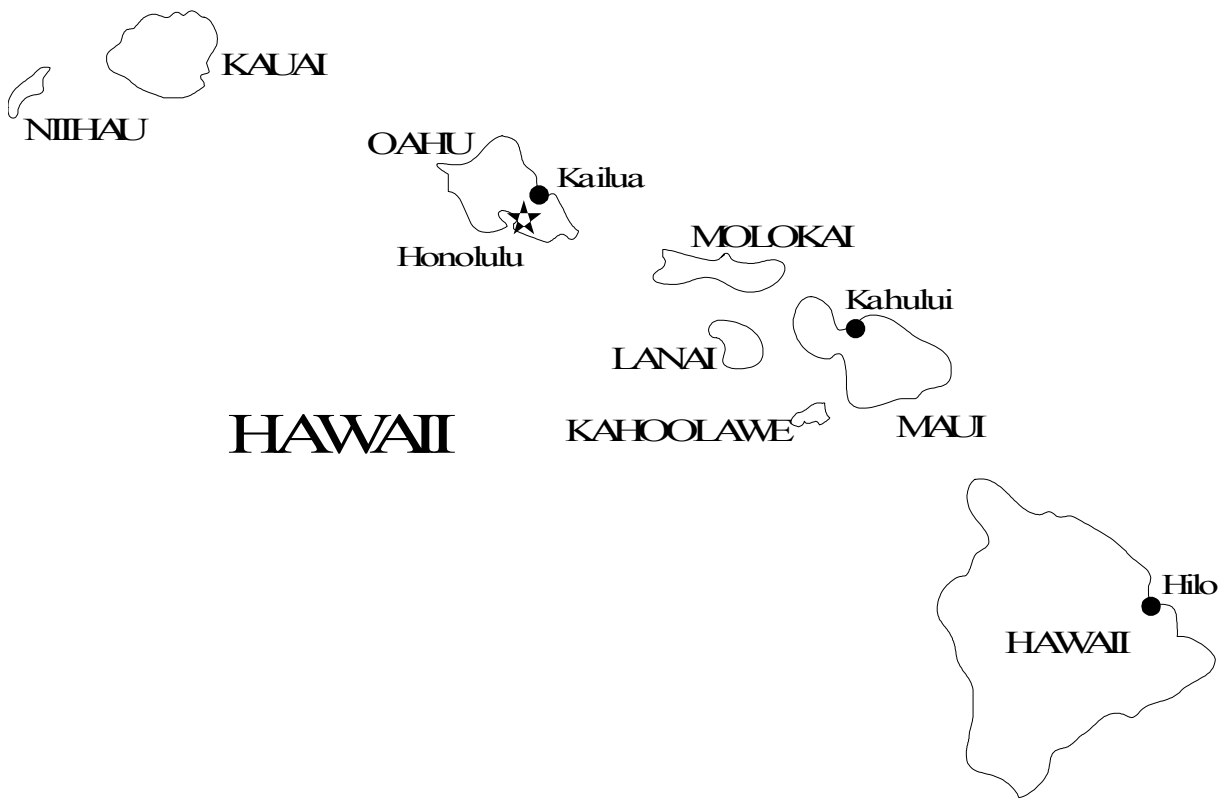
First settled by Polynesians sailing from other Pacific islands between 300 and 600 A.D., Hawaii was visited in 1778 by British Captain James Cook who called the group the Sandwich Islands.

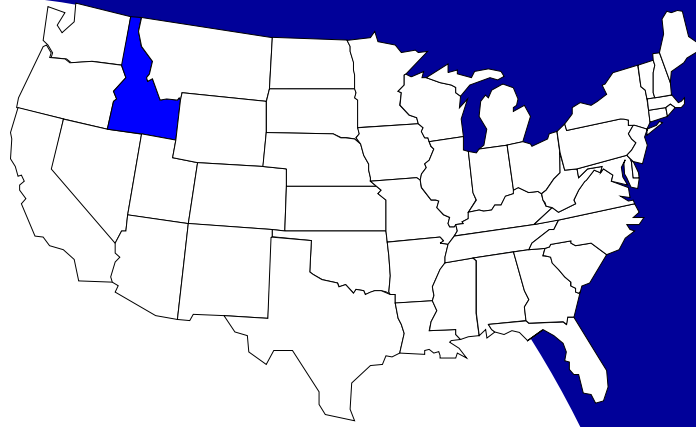
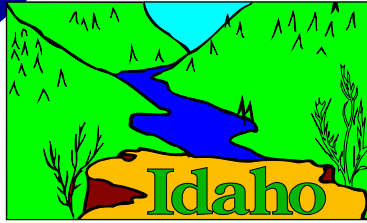
Hawaii was a native kingdom throughout most of the 19th century when the expansion of the vital sugar industry (pineapple came after 1898) meant increasing U.S. business and political involvement. Hawaii became a U.S. Territory in 1900. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, was directly responsible for the United States entry into World War II.

Hawaii, 2,397 miles west-southwest of San Francisco, is a 1,523 mile chain of islets and eight main islands -- Hawaii, Kahoolawe, Maui, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai, and Nihau.

The temperature is mild and Hawaii's soil is fertile for tropical fruits and vegetables. Cane sugar and pineapples are the chief products. Hawaii also grows coffee, bananas and nuts. The tourist business is Hawaii's largest source of outside income.

Hawaii's highest peak is Mauna Kea (13,796 ft.). Mauna Loa (13,679 ft.) is the largest volcanic mountain in the world in cubic content.





<b>State:</b>	<b>Idaho</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Boise</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Gem State, Spud State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Syringa</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Mountain Bluebird</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>White Pine</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>“Here We Have Idaho”</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>July 3, 1890 (43)</b>

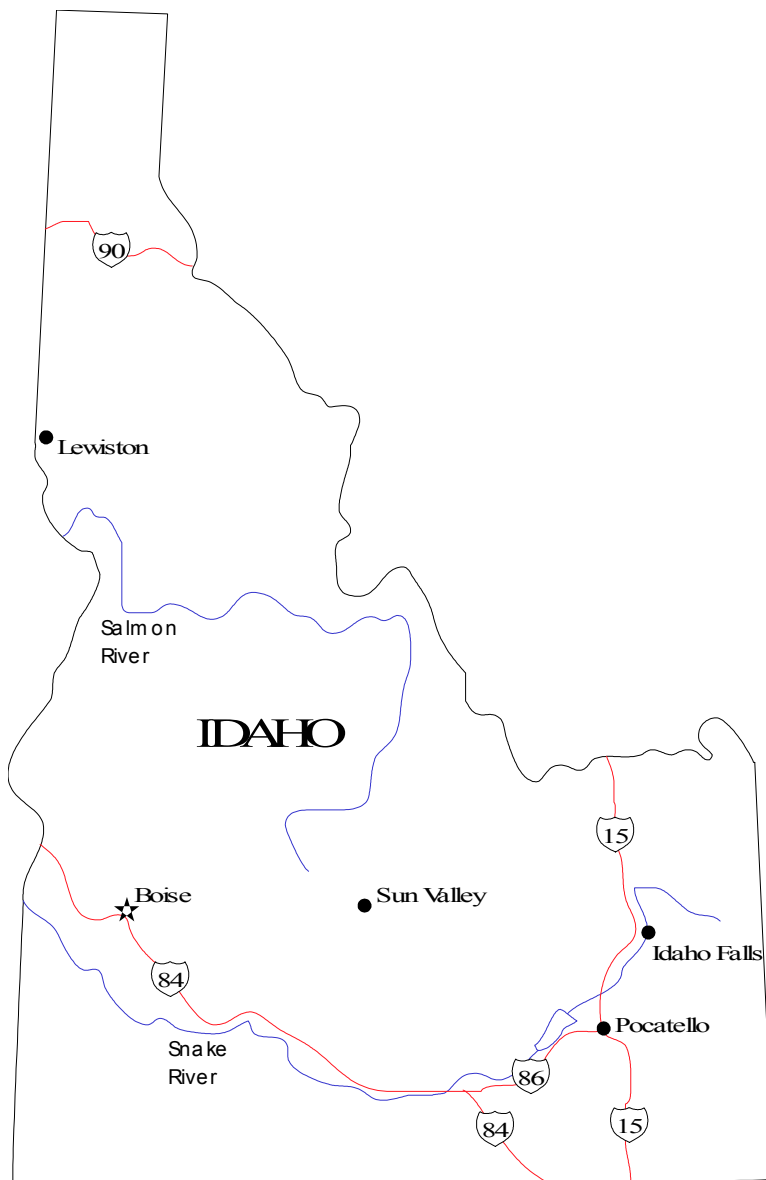
After it's acquisition by the U.S. as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the region was explored by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in 1805-06. Northwest boundary disputes with Great Britain were settled by the Oregon Treaty in 1846, and the first permanent U.S. settlement in Idaho was established by the Mormons at Franklin in 1860.

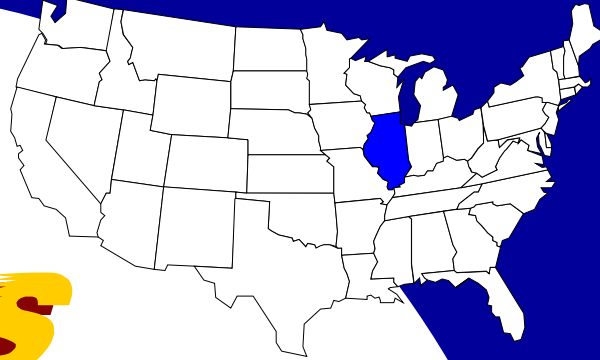
In the 1870's growing white occupation of Indian lands led to a series of battles between U.S. forces and the Nez Perce, Bannock and Sheepeater tribes.

Mining, lumbering and irrigation farming have been important for years. Idaho produces more than one fifth of all the silver mined in the United States. It also ranks high among the states in lead, cobalt, garnet, phosphate rock, zinc, mercury and gold.

Idaho's most impressive growth began when World War II military needs made processing agricultural products a big industry, particularly the dehydrating and freezing of potatoes. The state produces about one fourth of the nation's potato crop as well as wheat, apples, corn, barley, sugar beets and hops.







# ILLINOIS

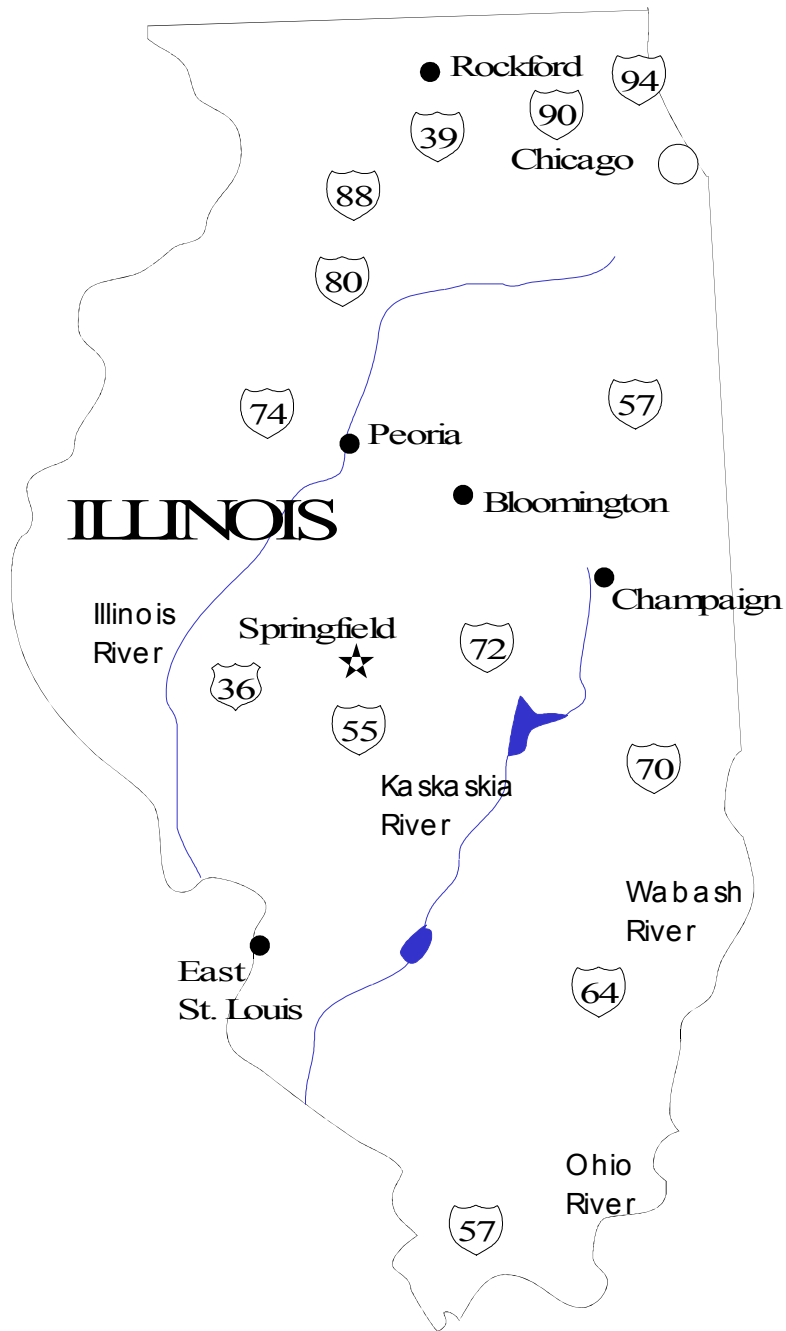
<b>State:</b>	<b>Illinois</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Springfield</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Prairie State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Violet</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Cardinal</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>White Oak</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>“Illinois”</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>December 3, 1818 (21)</b>

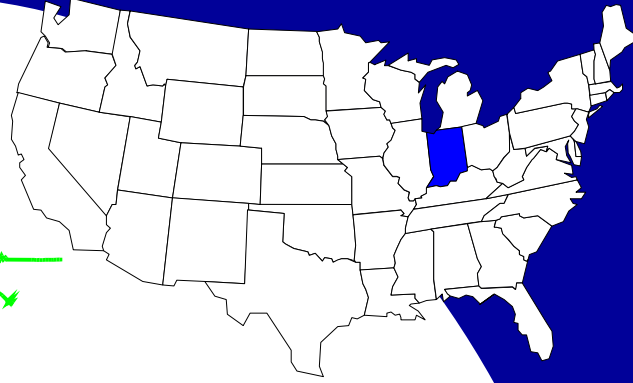
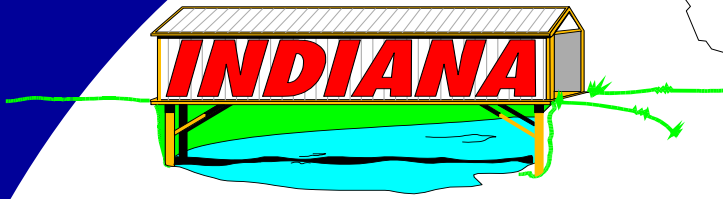
French explorers Marquette and Joliet, in 1673, were the first Europeans of record to visit the region. In 1699 French settlers established the first permanent settlement at Cahokla, near present day East St. Louis. Great Britain obtained the region at the end of the French and Indian War in 1763. The area figured prominently in frontier struggles during the Revolutionary War and Indian wars during the 19th century.

Significant episodes in the state's early history include the growing migration of Eastern settlers following the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825; the Black Hawk War; and the rise of Abraham Lincoln from farm laborer to President-elect.

Today, Illinois stands high in manufacturing, coal mining, agriculture and oil production. It ranks third in the nation in export of agricultural products, first in soybeans, and second in corn and hog production. An important dairying state, Illinois is also a leader in corn, oats, wheat, barley, rye, truck vegetables and nursery products. The state manufactures a great variety of industrial and consumer products including railroad cars, clothing, furniture, tractors, liquor, watches and farm equipment.







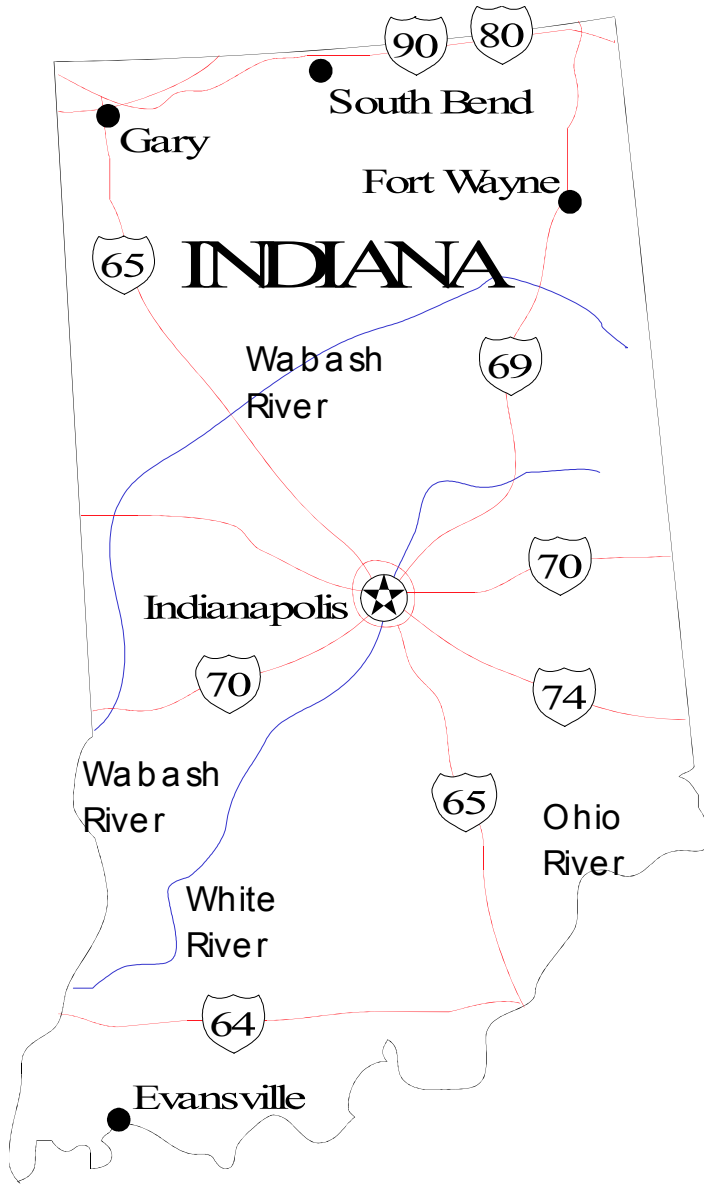
<b>State:</b>	Indiana
<b>Capital:</b>	Indianapolis
<b>Nickname:</b>	Hoosier State
<b>State Flower:</b>	Peony
<b>State Bird:</b>	Cardinal
<b>State Tree:</b>	Tulip Tree
<b>State Song:</b>	“On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away”
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	December 11, 1816 (19)

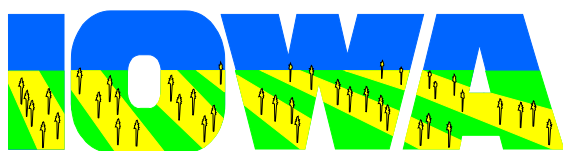
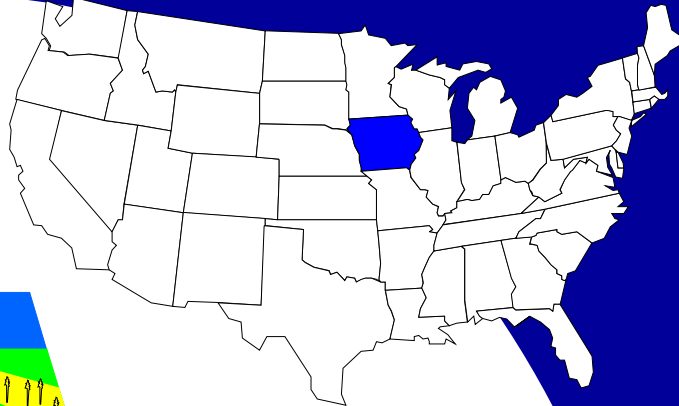
First explored for France by La Salle in 1679-1680. The region figured importantly in the Franco-British struggle for North America that culminated with British victory in 1763. George Rogers Clark led American forces against the British in the area during the Revolutionary War. Prior to becoming a state, Indiana was the scene of frequent Indian uprisings until the victory of Gen. William Henry Harrison at Tippecanoe in 1811.

Indiana's 41 mile Lake Michigan waterfront -- one of the world's great industrial centers -- turns out iron, steel and oil products. Other products include automobile parts and accessories, mobile homes and recreational vehicles, truck and bus bodies, aircraft engines and farm machinery. Phonograph records, wood office furniture and pharmaceuticals are also manufactured.

The state is a leader in agriculture, with corn the principal crop. Hogs, soybeans, wheat, oats, rye, tomatoes, onions and poultry also contribute heavily to Indiana's agricultural output. Much of the building limestone used in the U.S. is quarried in Indiana.





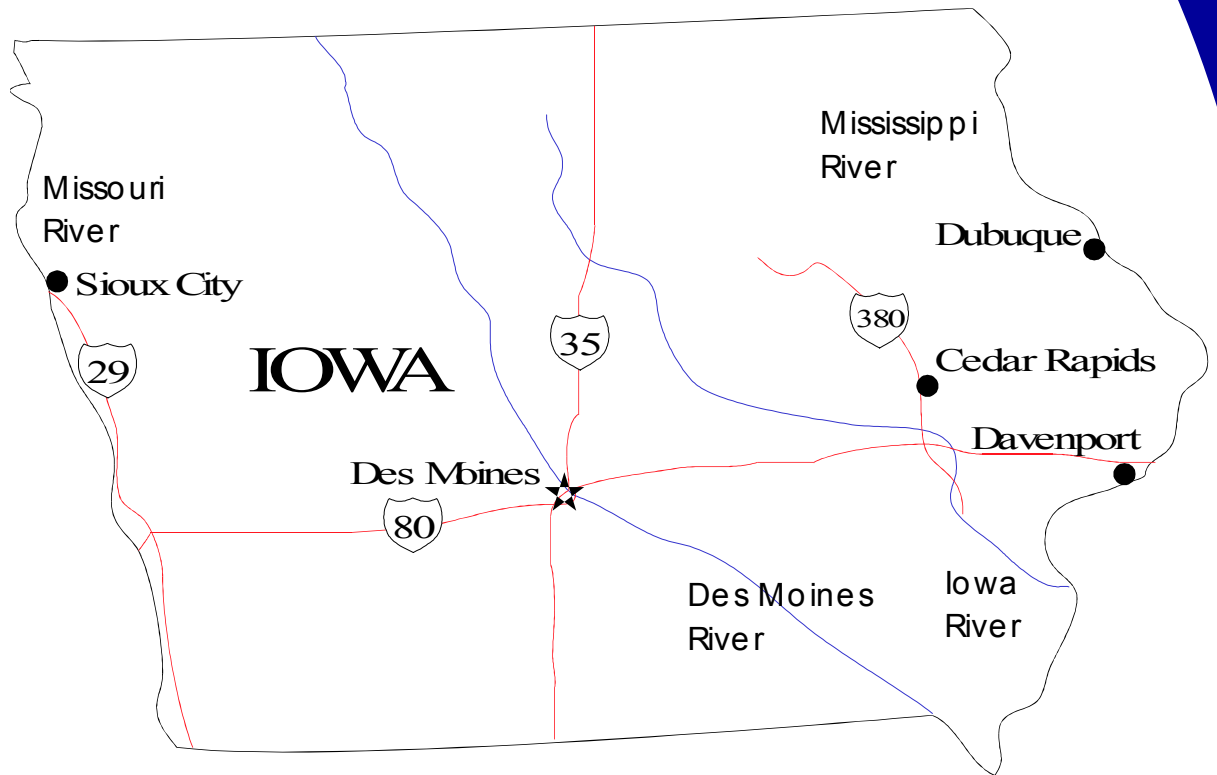


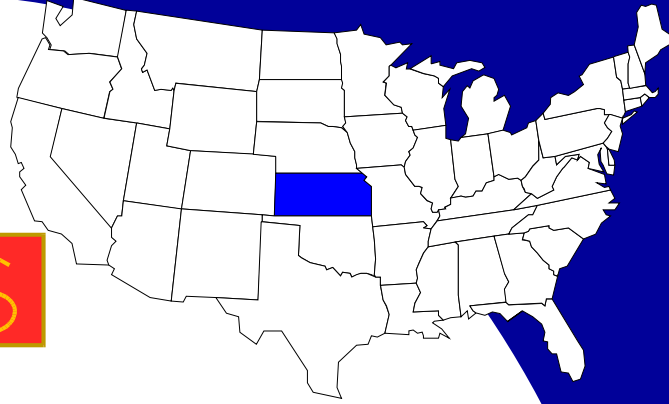
<b>State:</b>	<b>Iowa</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Des Moines</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Hawkeye State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Wild Rose</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Eastern Goldfinch</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Oak</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"Song of Iowa"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>December 28, 1846 (29)</b>

The first Europeans to visit the area were the French explorers, Marquette and Joliet in 1673. The United State obtained control of the area in 1803 as part of the Louisiana Purchase. When Iowa became a state in 1846, its capital was Iowa City; the more centrally located Des Moines became the new capital in 1857. At that time, the state's present boundaries were also drawn.

Iowa stands in a class by itself as an agricultural state. It's farms sell over \$10 billion worth of crops and livestock annually. Iowa leads the nation in all corn, soybean, livestock and hog marketing, with about 25% of the pork supply. Its forests produce hardwood lumber, particularly walnut, and its mineral products include cement, limestone, sand, gravel, gypsum and coal.







# KANSAS

<b>State:</b>	<b>Kansas</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Topeka</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Sunflower State, Jayhawk State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Sunflower</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Western Meadowlark</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Cottonwood</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"Home on the Range"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>January 29, 1861 (34)</b>

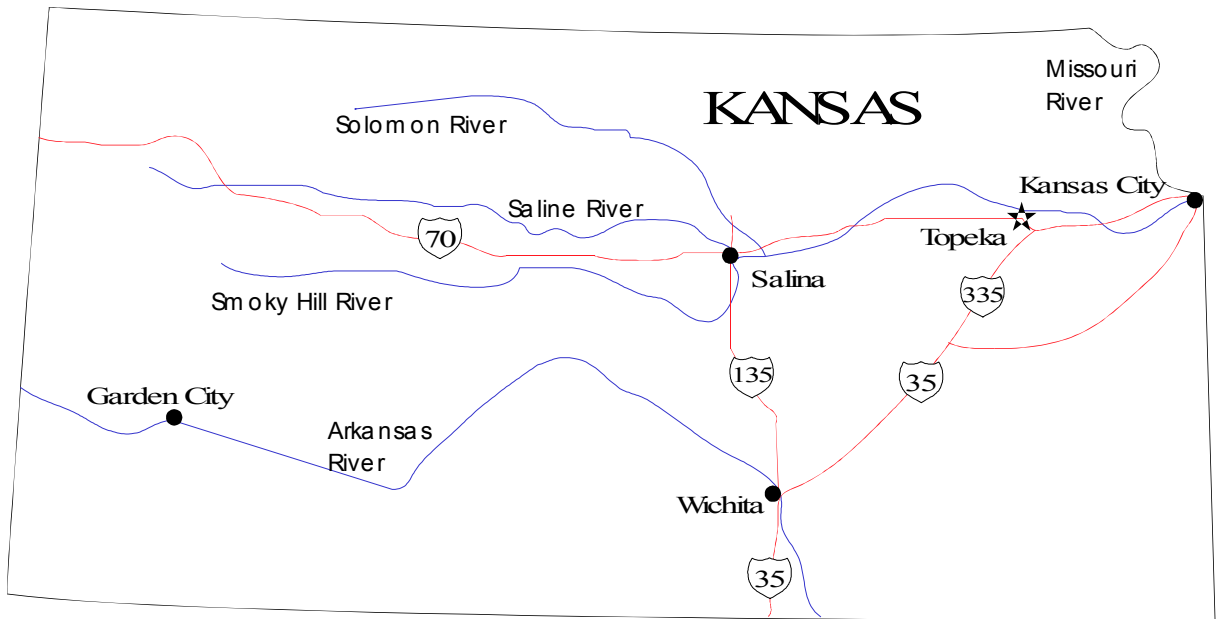
La Salle's extensive land claims for France (1682) included present day Kansas. Ceded to Spain by France in 1763, the territory reverted back to France in 1800 and was sold to the U.S. as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Lewis and Clark, Zebulon Pike and Stephen H. Long explored the region between 1803 and 1819. The first permanent settlements in Kansas were outposts -- Fort Leavenworth (1827), Fort Scott (1842), and Fort Riley (1823) -- established to protect travelers along the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails.

Just before the Civil War, the conflict between the pro- and anti-slavery forces earned the region the grim title, "Bleeding Kansas."

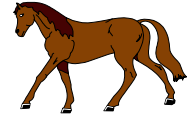
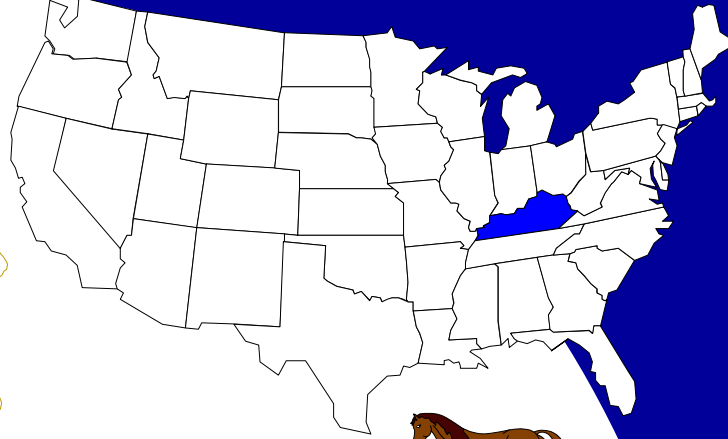
Today wheat fields, oil well derricks, herds of cattle, and grain storage elevators are chief features of the Kansas landscape. A leading wheat-growing state, Kansas also raises corn, sorghums, oats, barley, soybeans and potatoes. Kansas stands high in petroleum production and mines zinc, coal, salt and lead. It is also the nation's leading producer of helium.

Wichita is one of the nation's leading aircraft manufacturing centers, ranking first in production of private aircraft. Kansas City is an important transportation, milling and meat packing center.





# KENTUCKY



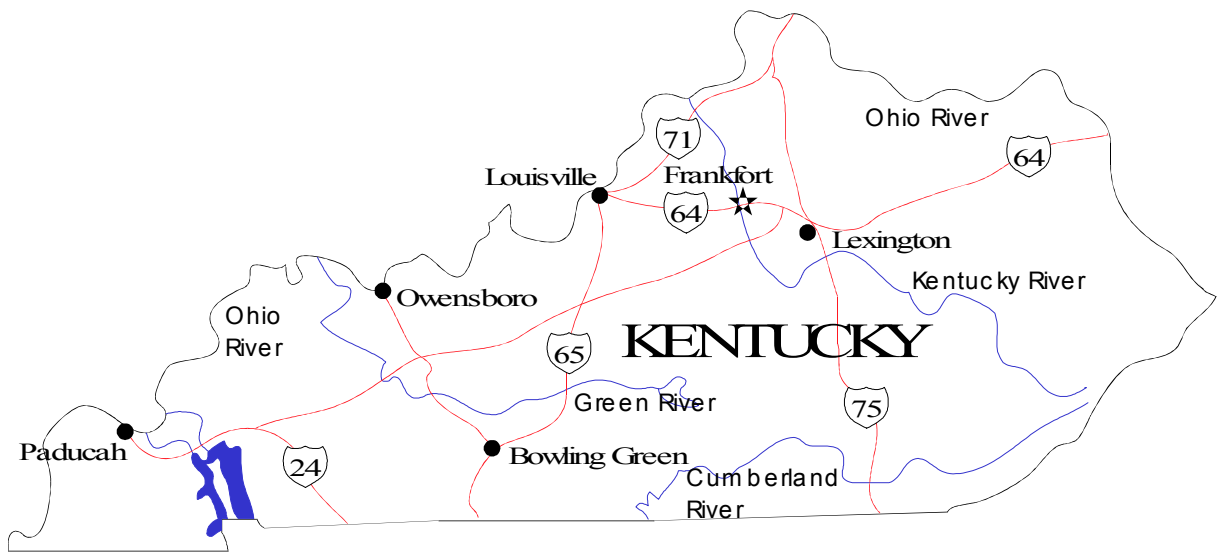
<b>State:</b>	<b>Kentucky</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Frankfort</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Bluegrass State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Goldenrod</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Kentucky Cardinal</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Coffee tree</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"My Old Kentucky Home"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>June 1, 1792 (15)</b>

Kentucky was the first region west of the Allegheny Mountains settled by American pioneers. James Harrod established the first permanent settlement at Harrodsburg in 1774; the following year Daniel Boone, who had explored the area in 1767, blazed the Wilderness Trail and founded Boonesboro.

During the Civil War, as a slave holding state with a considerable abolitionist population, Kentucky was caught in the middle of the conflict, supplying both Union and Confederate forces with thousands of troops.

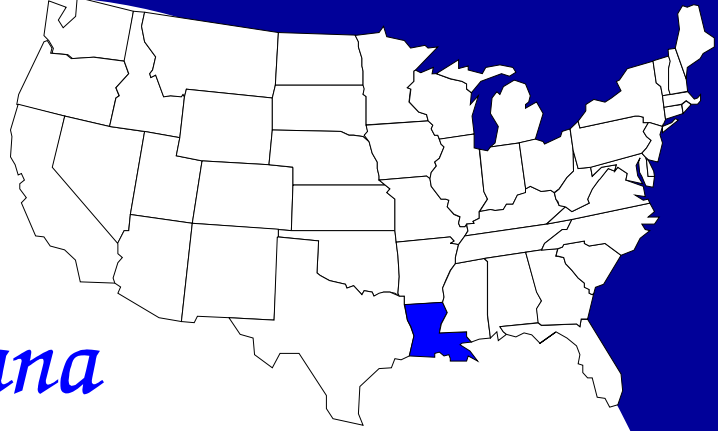
Kentucky prides itself on producing some of the nation's best tobacco, horses, and whiskey. Corn, soybeans, wheat, fruit, hogs, cattle and dairy farming are also important. Manufactured items include furniture, aluminum ware, brooms, shoes, lumber products, machinery, textiles and iron and steel products.

Louisville, the largest city, famed for the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs, is also the location of a large state university, whiskey distilleries and cigarette factories.





# Louisiana



<b>State:</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Baton Rouge</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Pelican State, Creole State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Magnolia</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Pelican</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Bald Cypress</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"You Are My Sunshine"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>April 30, 1812 (18)</b>

Louisiana has a rich, colorful historical background. La Salle reached the mouth of the Mississippi River and claimed all the land drained by it and its tributaries for Louis XIV of France in 1682. Louisiana became a French crown colony in 1731, was ceded to Spain in 1763, returned to France in 1800 and sold to the U.S. as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

In 1815, Gen. Andrew Jackson's troops defeated a larger British army in the Battle of New Orleans, neither side aware that the treaty ending the War of 1812 had been signed.

Louisiana is a leader in natural gas, salt, petroleum and sulfur production. Much of the oil and sulfur comes from offshore deposits. The state also produces large crops of sweet potatoes, rice, sugar cane, pecans, soybeans, corn and cotton.

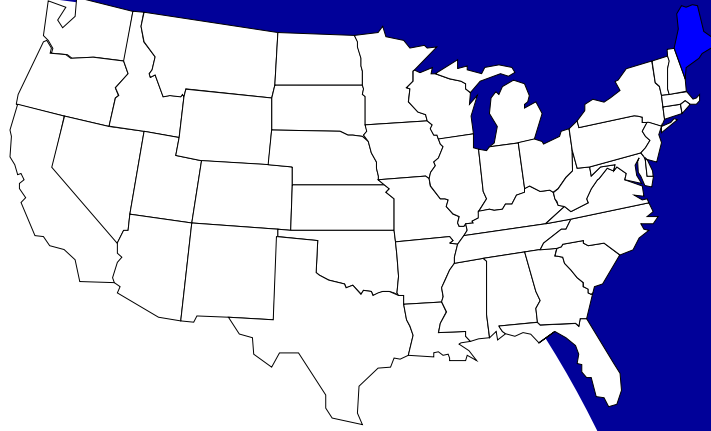
Leading manufactures include chemicals, processed food, paper, lumber and wood products, transportation equipment and apparel. Louisiana's marshes supply most of the nation's muskrat fur as well as that of opossum, raccoon, mink and otter, and large numbers of game birds.







**MAINE**



<b>State:</b>	<b>Maine</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Augusta</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Pine Tree State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>White Pine Cone &amp; Tassel</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Chickadee</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>White Pine</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>“State of Maine Song”</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>March 15, 1820 (23)</b>

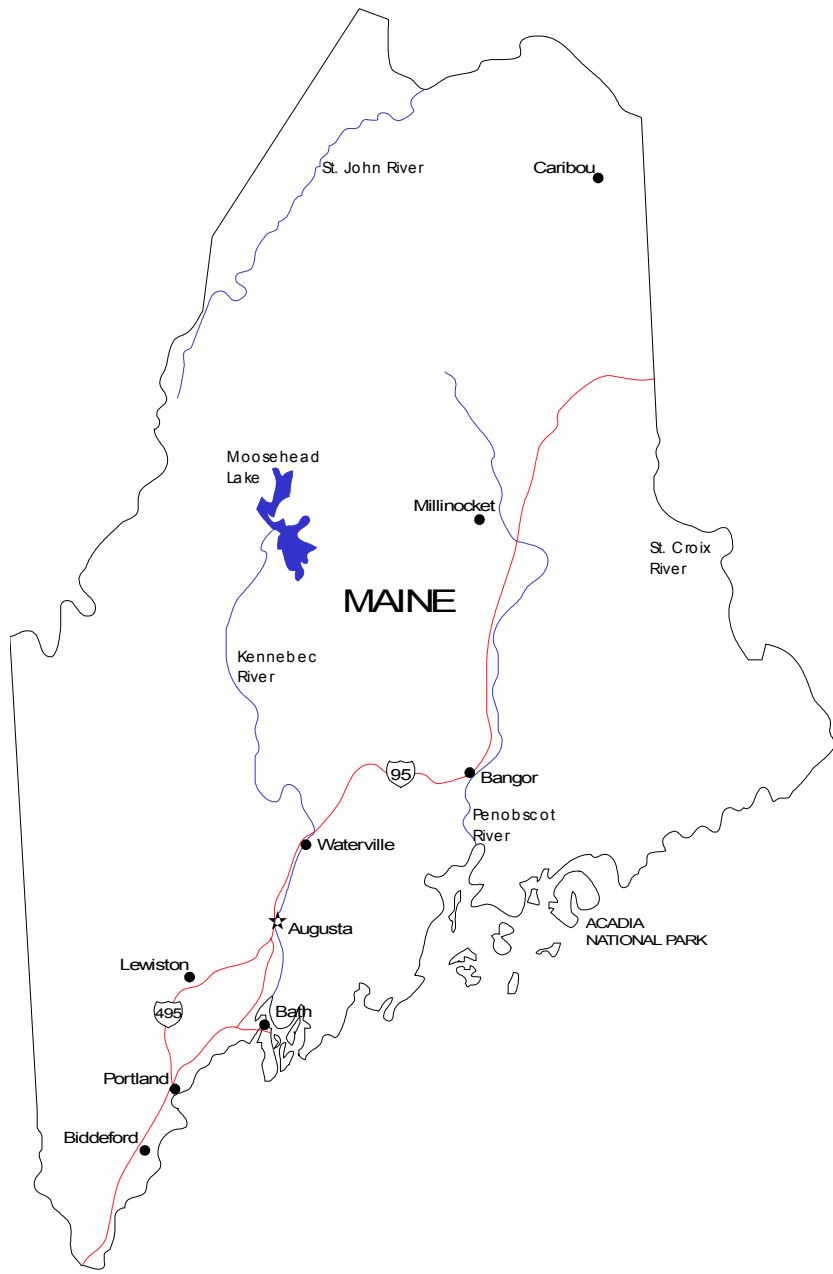
John Cabot and his son, Sebastian, are believed to have visited the Maine coast in 1498. However, the first permanent English settlements were not established until more than a century later, in 1623. Long governed by Massachusetts, Maine became the 23rd state as part of the Missouri Compromise in 1820.

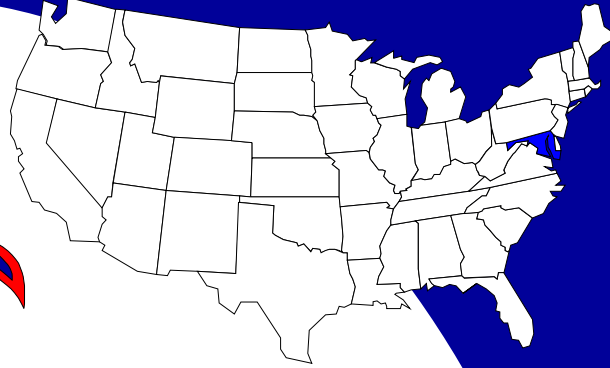
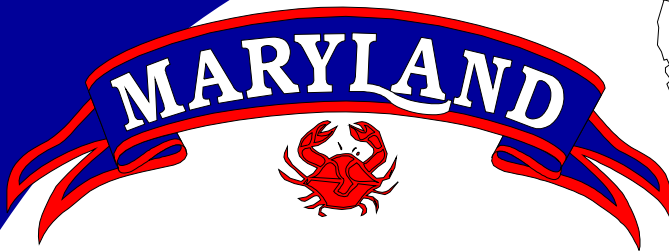
Main produces 98% of the nation’s low-bush blueberries. Farm income is also derived from apples, potatoes, dairy products and vegetables, with poultry and eggs the largest items. The state is one of the world’s largest pulp-paper producers. With almost 89% of its area forested, Maine turns out wood products from boats to toothpicks. It also ranks second in boot and shoe manufacturing.

Maine leads the world in the production of the familiar flat tins of sardines, producing more than 75 million of them annually. Lobster men normally catch 50% of the nation’s lobsters.

A scenic seacoast, beaches, lakes, mountains and resorts make Maine a popular vacation land. There are more than 2,500 lakes, 5,000 streams, plus 26 state parks, to attract hunters, fisherman, skiers and campers.







<b>State:</b>	<b>Maryland</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Annapolis</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Free State, Old Line State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Black-Eyed Susan</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>White Oak</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"Maryland! My Maryland!"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>April 28, 1788 (7)</b>

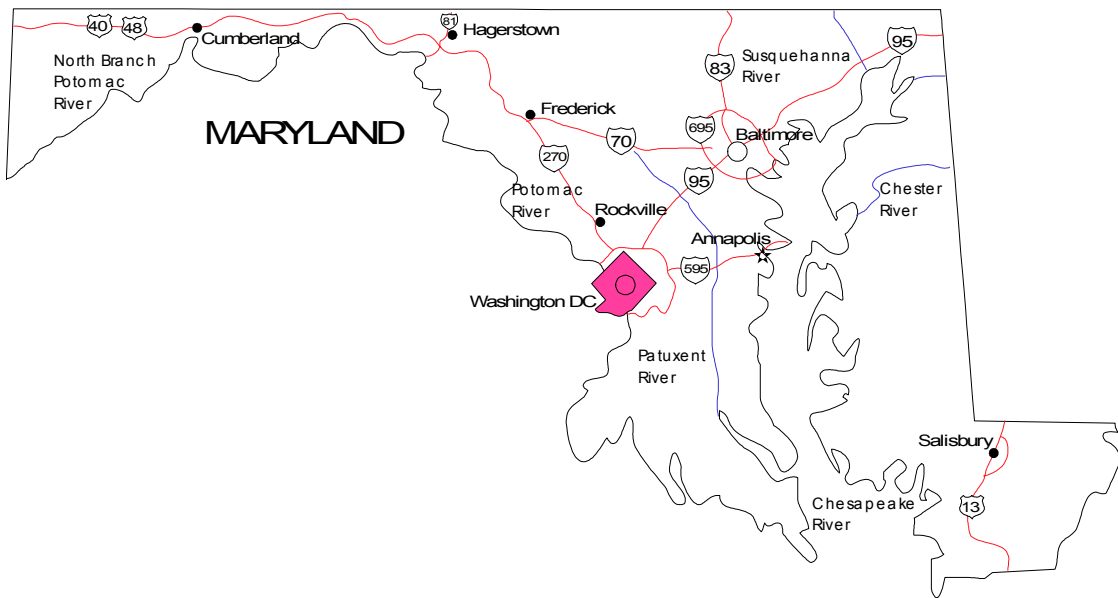
In 1608, Captain John Smith explored the Chesapeake Bay. Charles I granted a royal charter for Maryland to Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore, in 1632, and English settlers, many of whom were Roman Catholic, landed on St. Clement's Island in 1634. From 1763 to 1767, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon surveyed Maryland's northern boundary line with Pennsylvania. In 1791, Maryland ceded land to the District of Columbia.

In 1814, when the British unsuccessfully tried to capture Baltimore, the bombardment of Fort McHenry inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star Spangled Banner."

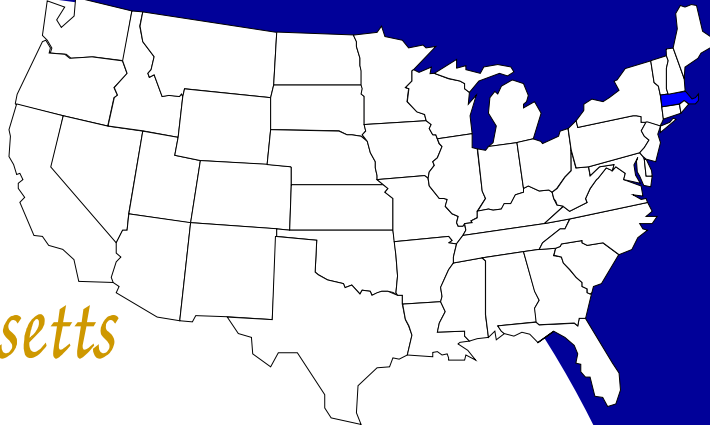
The Baltimore clipper ship trade developed during the 19th century. During the Civil War, Maryland remained a Union state even while the battles of South Mountain (1862) and Monocacy (1864) were fought on her soil.

Maryland's Eastern and Western shores embrace the Chesapeake Bay. The Bay produces more seafood -- oysters, crabs, clams, fin fish -- than any comparable body of water. Important agricultural products are chickens, dairy products, cattle, soybeans, eggs, corn, hogs, vegetables and tobacco. Sand, gravel, lime and cement stone, coal and clay are chief mineral products.





# M<sup>a</sup>ssachusetts



<b>State:</b>	<b>Massachusetts</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Boston</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Bay State, Old Colony State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Mayflower</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Chickadee</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>American Elm</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"All Hail to Massachusetts"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>February 6, 1788 (6)</b>

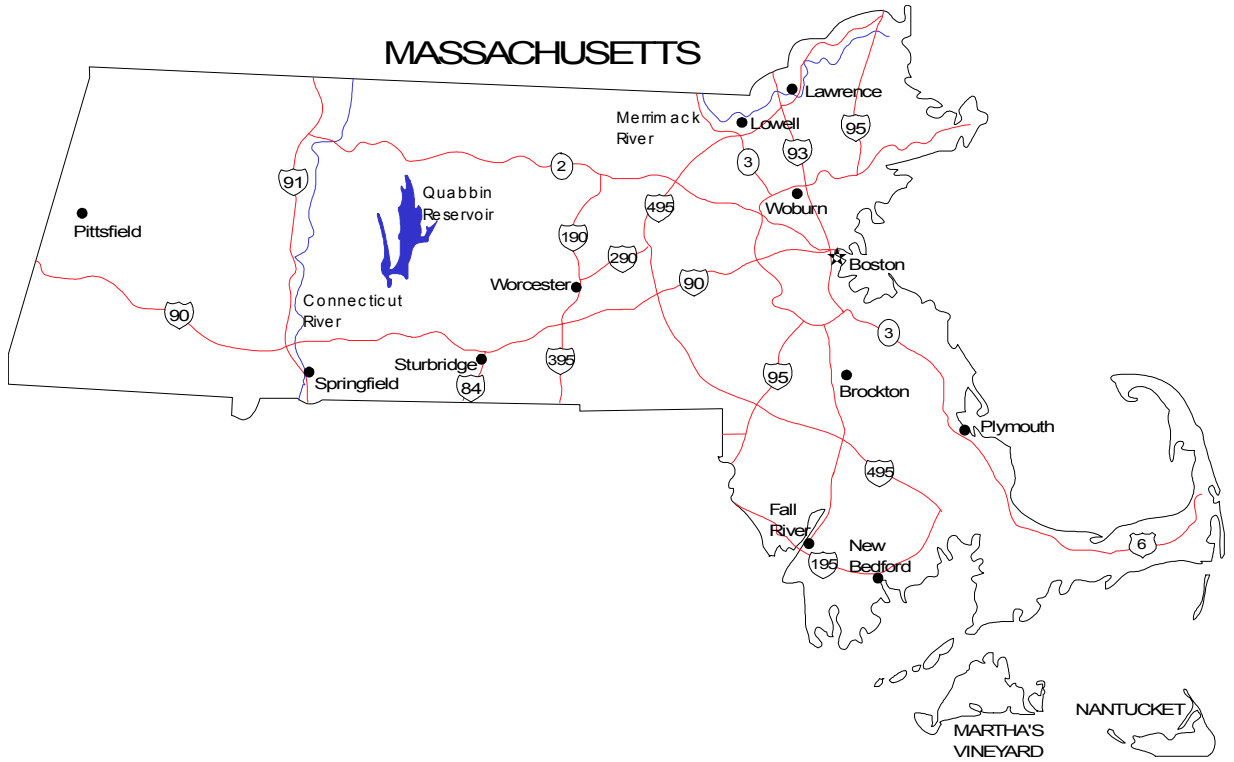
Massachusetts has played a significant role in American history since the Pilgrims, seeking religious freedom, founded Plymouth colony in 1620. As one of the most important of the 13 colonies, Massachusetts became a leader in resisting British oppression. In 1773, the Boston Tea Party protested unjust taxation. The Minutemen started the American Revolution by battling British troops at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775.

During the 19th century, Massachusetts was famous for the vigorous intellectual activity of famous writers and educators and for its expanding commercial fishing, shipping and manufacturing interests. Massachusetts pioneered in the manufacture of textile and shoes. Today, these industries have been replaced in importance by activity in the electronics and communications equipment fields.

The state's cranberry crop is the nation's largest. Also important are dairy and poultry products, nursery and greenhouse produce, vegetables and fruit. Tourism has become an important factor in the economy of the state because of its numerous recreational areas, such as Cape Cod, and historical landmarks.

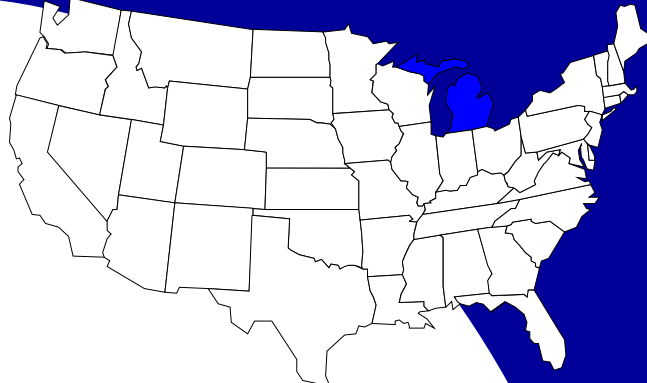


# MASSACHUSETTS





# MICHIGAN



<b>State:</b>	<b>Michigan</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Lansing</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Wolverine State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Apple Blossom</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Robin</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>White Pine</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>January 26, 1837(26)</b>

Indian tribes were living in the Michigan region when the first European, Etienne Brule of France, arrived in 1618. Other French explorers, including Marquette, Joliet and La Salle, followed, and the first permanent settlement was established in 1668 at Sault Ste. Marie. France was ousted from the territory by Great Britain in 1763, following the French and Indian War.

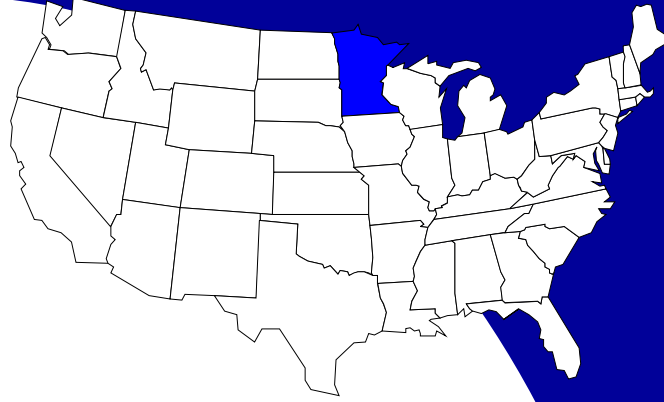
After the Revolutionary War, the U.S. acquired most of the region, which remained the scene of constant conflict between the British and U.S. forces and their respective Indian allies through the War of 1812.

Bordering on four of the five Great Lakes, Michigan is divided into Upper and Lower Peninsulas by the Straits of Mackinac, which link Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

While Michigan ranks first among the states in production of motor vehicles and parts, it is also a leader in other manufacturing and processing lines, including prepared cereals, machine tools, airplane parts, refrigerators, hardware, steel springs and furniture. The state produces important amounts of iron, copper, iodine, gypsum, bromine, salt, lime, gravel and cement. Michigan's farms grow apples, cherries, beans, pears, grapes, potatoes and sugar beets. Its forests contribute to the economy by producing wood products and supporting tourism.







# MINNESOTA

<b>State:</b>	<b>Minnesota</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>St. Paul</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>North Star State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Showy Lady Slipper</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Common Loon</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Red or Norway Pine</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"Hail Minnesota"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>May 11, 1858 (32)</b>

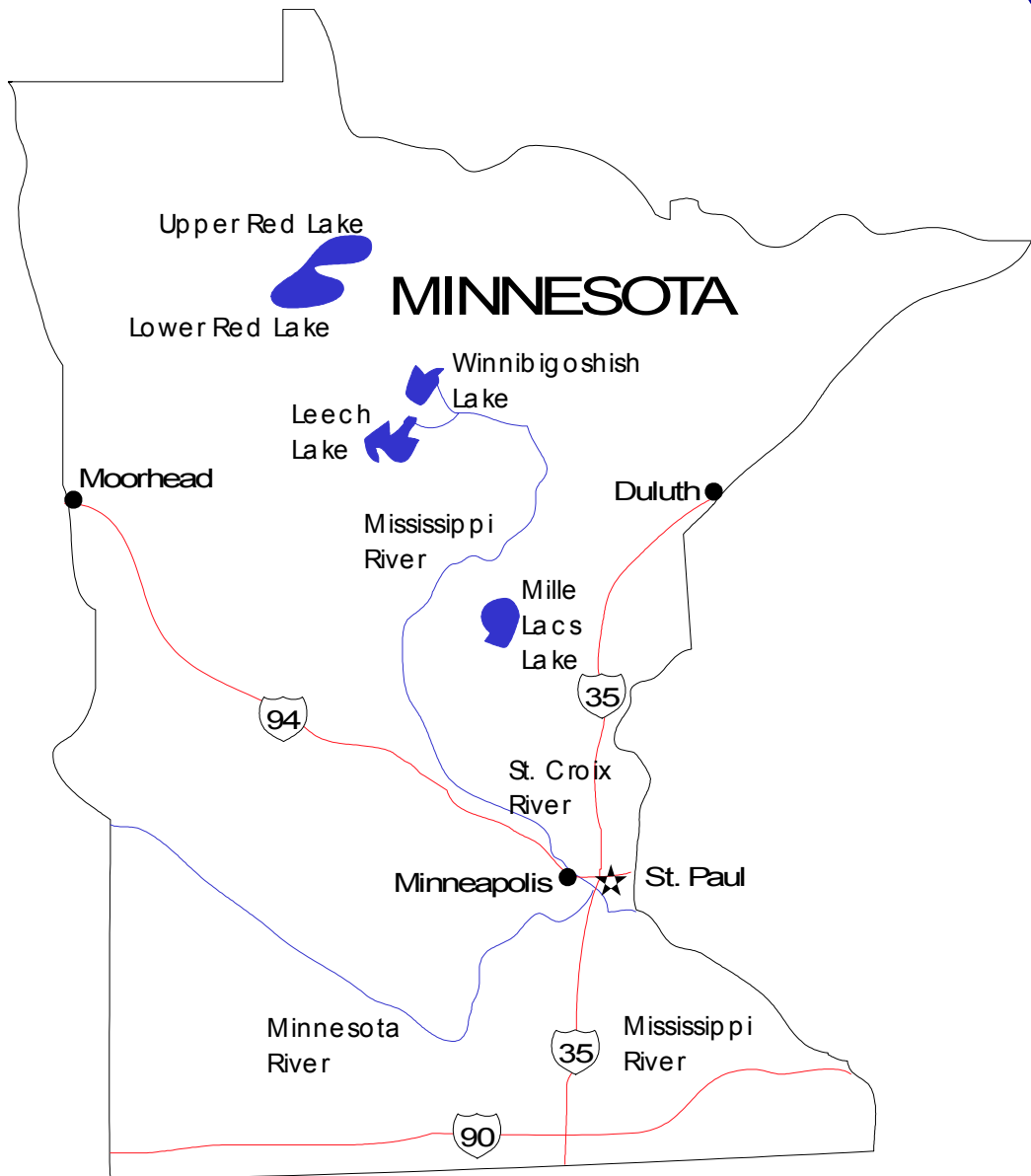
The region was claimed for Louis XIV by Daniel Greysolon, Sieur Duluth, in 1679. The U.S. acquired the eastern portion from Great Britain after the Revolutionary War and 20 years later bought the western portion from France in the Louisiana Purchase.

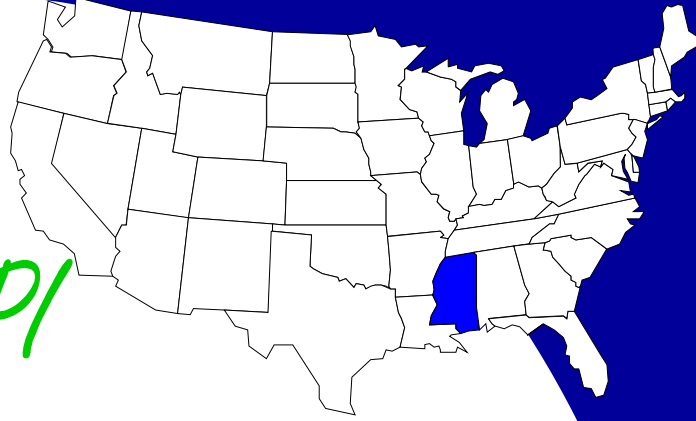
The state is rich in natural resources. It produces more than 75% of the nation's iron ore. The state's farms rank high in yields of corn, wheat, rye, alfalfa and sugar beets. Other leading farm products include butter, eggs, milk, potatoes, green beans, barley, soybeans, oats, and livestock.

Minnesota's factory production includes non-electrical machinery, fabricated metals, flour mill products, plastics, computers, scientific instruments and processed foods. Minneapolis is the trade center of the Northeast and the headquarters of the world's largest super computer and grain distributor. St. Paul is the nation's biggest publisher of calendars and law books.

Today, tourism is a major revenue producer in Minnesota, with fishing, hunting and water sports in more than 10,000 lakes bringing millions of visitors each year.







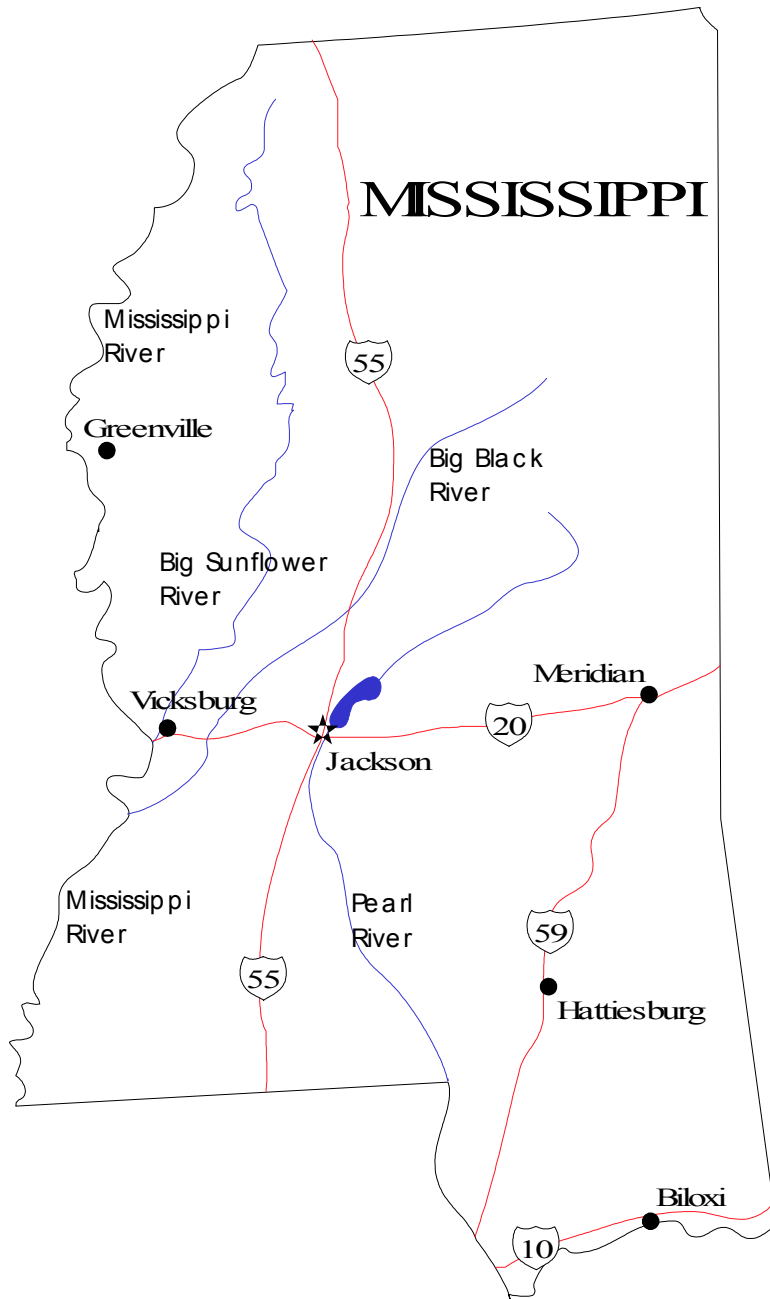
# MISSISSIPPI

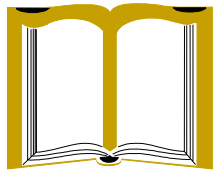
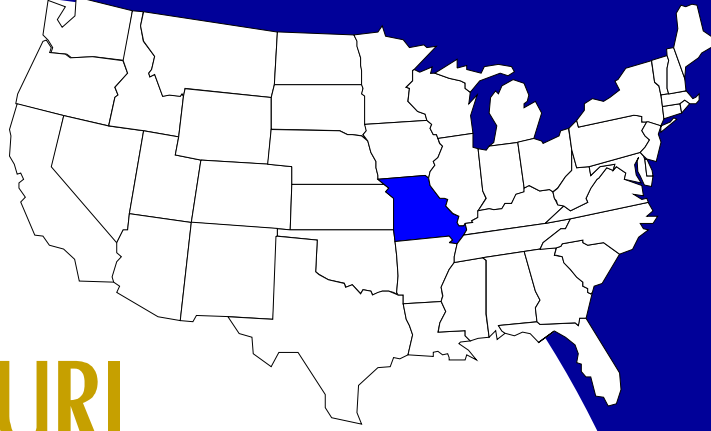
<b>State:</b>	<b>Mississippi</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Jackson</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Magnolia State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Magnolia Blossom</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Mocking Bird</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Magnolia Tree</b>
<b>State Song:</b>	<b>"Go Mississippi"</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>December 10, 1817 (20)</b>

In 1699, a French group under Sieur d'Iberville established the first permanent settlement near present day Ocean Springs. Great Britain took over the area in 1763, after the French and Indian War, ceding it to the U.S. in 1783 after the Revolution.

For a little more than one hundred years, from shortly after the state's founding through the great Depression, cotton was the undisputed king of Mississippi's economy. Today, agriculture continues as a major segment of the state's economy. While the most acreage is devoted to soybeans, cotton is the largest cash crop -- Mississippi remains third in the nation in cotton production. The state's farmlands yield important harvests of corn, peanuts, pecans, rice, sugar cane, soybeans, sweet potatoes and food grains. Poultry, eggs, meat animals and dairy products are also produced on the farms. The state remains the world's leading producer of pond-raised catfish.







# MISSOURI

<b>State:</b>	<b>Missouri</b>
<b>Capital:</b>	<b>Jefferson City</b>
<b>Nickname:</b>	<b>Show Me State</b>
<b>State Flower:</b>	<b>Hawthorn</b>
<b>State Bird:</b>	<b>Bluebird</b>
<b>State Tree:</b>	<b>Flowering Dogwood</b>
<b>State Song</b>	<b>“Missouri Waltz”</b>
<b>Entered Union &amp; Rank:</b>	<b>August 10, 1821 (24)</b>

De Sota visited the Missouri area in 1541. France’s claim to the entire region was based on La Salle’s travels in 1682. French fur traders established Ste. Genevieve in 1735, and St. Louis was first settled in 1764. The U.S. gained Missouri from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, and the area was admitted as a state following the Missouri Compromise in 1820.

Historically, Missouri played a leading role as a gateway to the West, St. Joseph being the eastern starting point of the Pony Express, while the much traveled Santa Fe and Oregon Trails began in Independence.

Manufacturing, paced by the aerospace industry, provides more income and jobs than any other segment of the economy. Missouri is also a leading producer of transportation equipment, shoes, lead and beer. Among the major crops are grain, sorghum, hay, corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, tobacco, grapes, rice and cotton. The state also ranks second in the nation in cattle production.



