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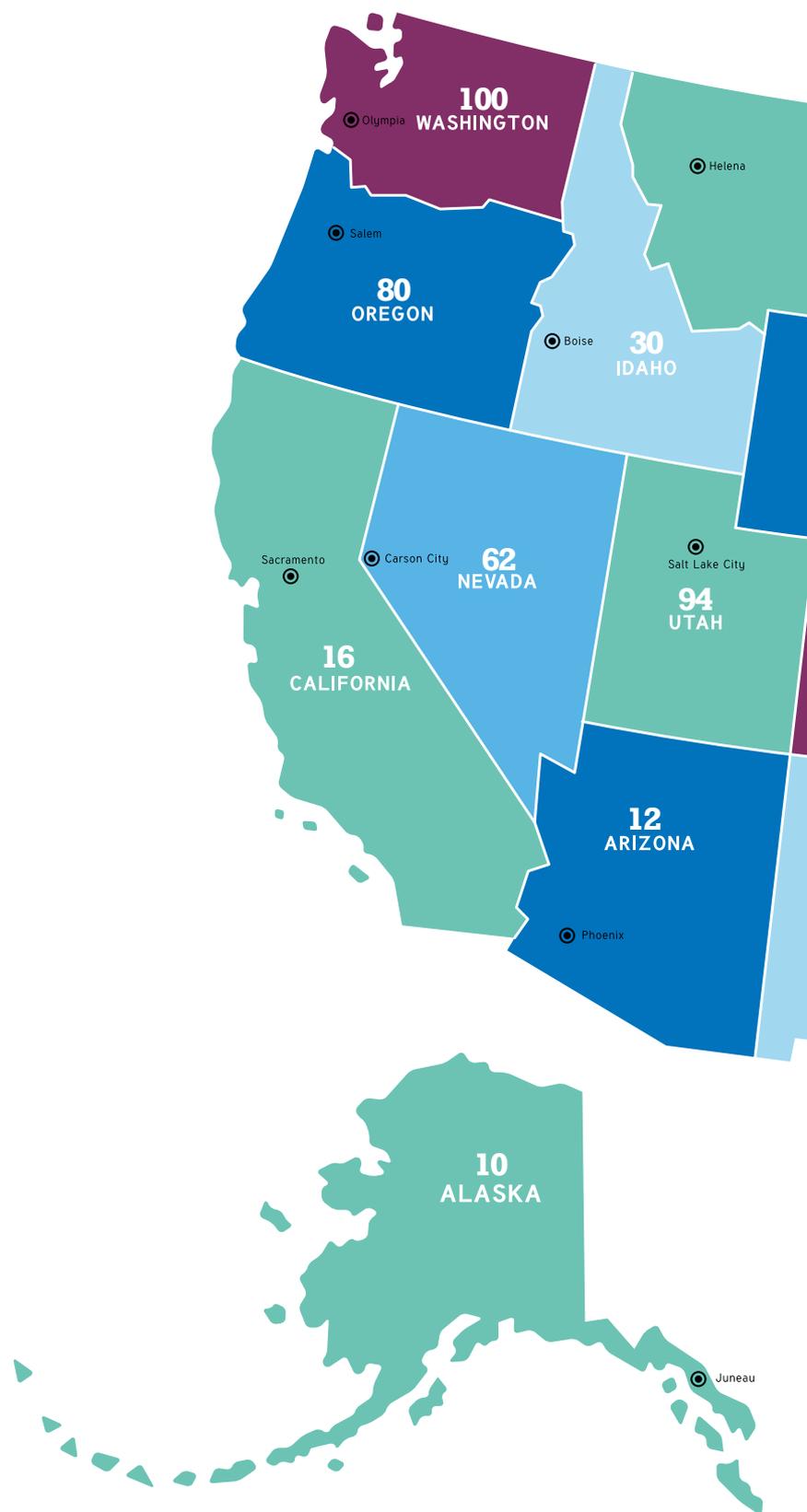


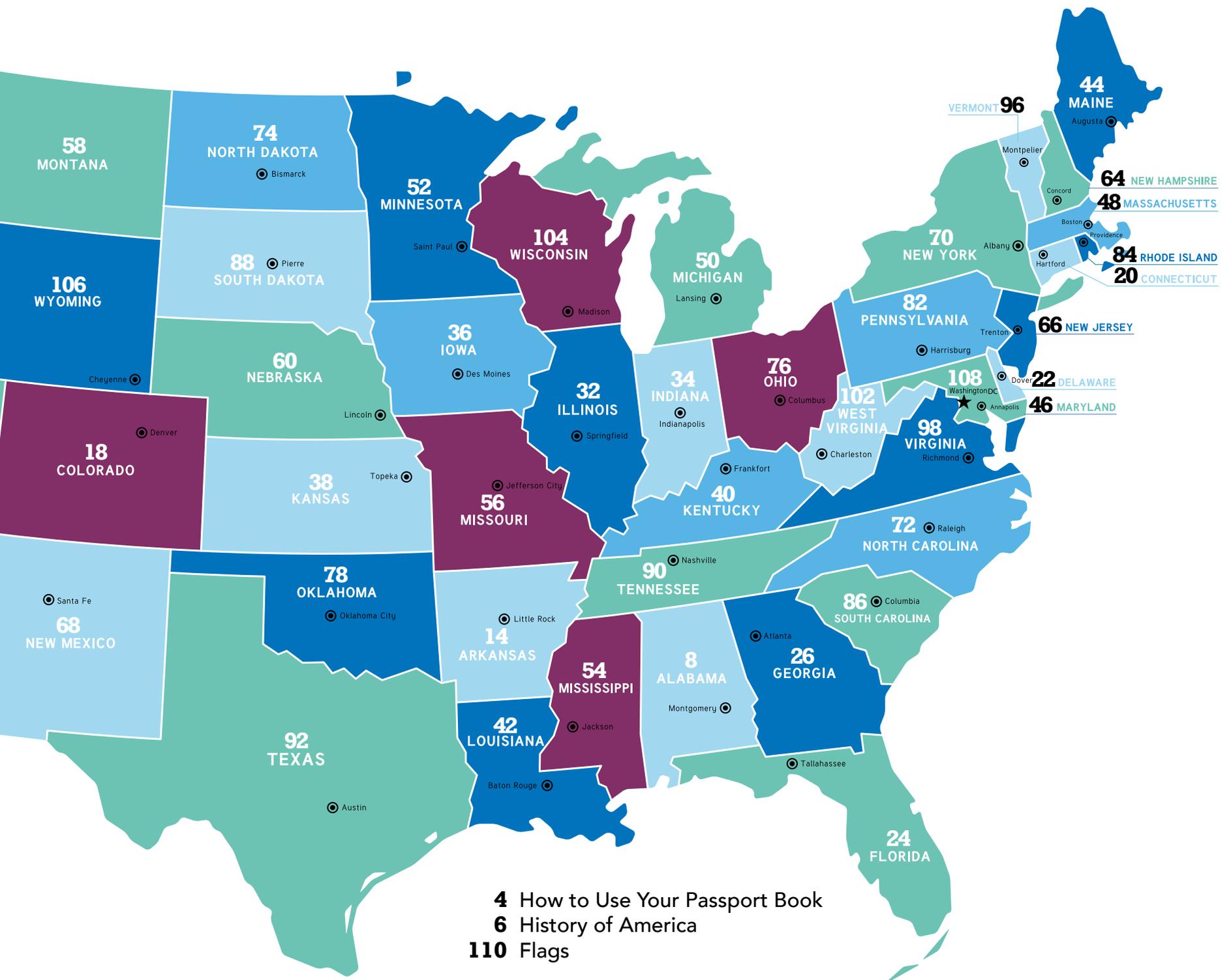
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Craig Froman was born in California (in the West), then moved to Missouri (in the Midwest), and now he lives with his precious wife and kids in Arkansas (in the South). The summer before he started 6th grade, his family loaded up in a camper and drove for six weeks around the United States, traveling through 31 states and exploring so many wonders of God's world. He's since traveled to 40 of the 50 states, including Hawaii, and loves all the places he's been able to see with his own eyes. Now he is the assistant editor at New Leaf Publishing Group and author of *Passport to the World* and *Children's Atlas of God's World*. He has a Bachelor of Arts in business administration and a master's degree in education.





A MAP OF YOUR JOURNEY OF THE UNITED STATES

Your *Passport to America* is created to be a unique journey across the states in alphabetical order. Each state on the map above shows the page number where it can be found. Enjoy!

HOW TO USE YOUR PASSPORT BOOK

Welcome to the start of an incredible journey across the United States! Your book is set up in alphabetical order by the 50 states. You will cross over mountains, rivers, and oceans, all the while in the comfort of your own living room, car, or backyard tent!

1 State: This is the name of the specific state you are visiting. Most of the facts listed will relate to the state, which includes history and God's natural wonders there. You will also learn about cultural and traditional customs.

2 State flag: Here you will find information on the flag of the state you are visiting. This will include the reasoning behind the colors and the symbols, and sometimes who came up with the design itself!

3 State stats: Here you can quickly find out details about the state, which includes a map, the capital, state postal abbreviation, U.S. Census Bureau region, and size of the state in square miles. Find the highlighted state and its capital city, as well as where it is in relation to neighboring states, lakes, or oceans.

4 State motto: Read the phrase that represents the slogan or proverb from that particular state.

5 Greeting from a friend: Read a welcome from a friend to learn more about the state, as well as to see how the name of the state came to be.



6 State stamp: This is a special stamp with images that represent the state and the people there.

HISTORY OF AMERICA



WHERE THE AMERICAN STORY BEGINS . . .

God created the lands that we call America, or the United States, back when He created the world, as recorded in the first chapters of Genesis. There were no people here at that time. The first people would have started their journey here a little over 4,000 years ago. Everyone was living on a plain in Shinar, an area of the Middle East. God wanted them to fill the earth, but they wanted to stay there, desiring to work together to build a tower to show how great they were. This is the Tower of Babel, the account of which you can find in Genesis 11:1–9.

THE PEOPLE BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY

According to the historical account in Genesis, the Lord altered the languages of the people, and they went off into the world with those who spoke the same language they did.

It is interesting how many cultures refer to the ancient account of the tower. There is a Sumerian legend, a story from Mexico, an account passed down from the native people of Arizona, as well as stories from Nepal, Myanmar, Tanzania, and more. The first people to step onto what is now American soil would have come across an ice bridge created during the Ice Age between what is now the Asian continent and Alaska.



THE NATIVE PEOPLES

The people walking to North America didn't all come at once. They came in waves — some staying in the colder northern areas while others moved farther south, finally filling what is now the major land area of the United States, as well as Central and South America. By the time the first Europeans sailed across the Atlantic — these being the Norse people as far back as A.D. 1001 — the Native Americans were living throughout all the major areas of North and South America. These first settlers left a legacy of language, and it's interesting that over 170 native languages are still spoken in the United States. So, thousands of years ago, the first movement of what are often called immigrants began. Immigrants leave their land or country and go to live in another land. Many more waves of people would come later — by foot, by ship, by car, by bus, and by plane.

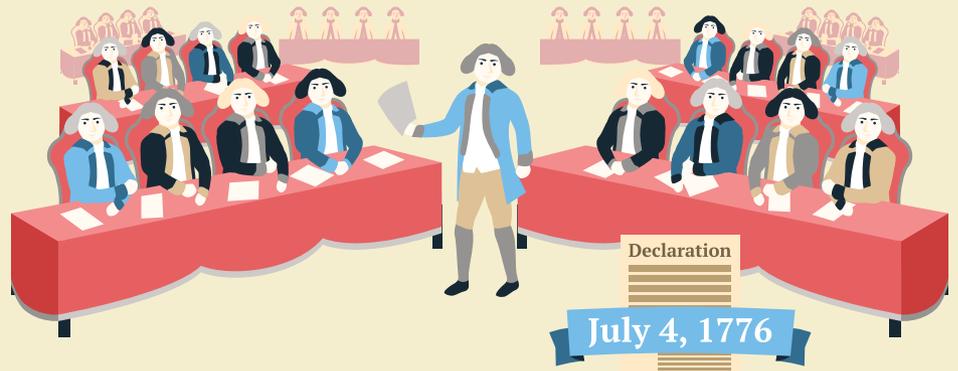


THE NEW WAVES OF IMMIGRANTS

The next Europeans to travel to North and South America came from Spain, England, and Portugal. The most famous of these expeditions was led by Christopher Columbus in 1492. This Italian explorer was funded by the Spanish, seeking a shorter trade route to India. Soon the Spanish began to conquer the native people who lived on the land, and more countries began sailing across the Atlantic to establish villages and towns.

People would eventually come to America from nearly every nation on earth, which meant bringing their distinctive beliefs, languages, and customs. This has created both a wonderful mix of ideas and thoughts that can be shared and also frustration and anxiety in having to try to find common ground for so many different people. This is a good place to remember that we should always seek peace when we can. Jesus talked about being a people of peace when He said: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9).

The birth of the United States began when the 13 original colonies rose up against Britain and declared their independence in 1776. These colonies became the first 13 states, and eventually, 37 more states would be added. There are also special territories of the United States. These are American Samoa, Baker Island, Guam Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Islands, Navassa Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palmyra Atoll, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Wake Island.



It is interesting that the United States does not have an official national language, though the majority of people do speak English. There are over 400 languages in the country that are either spoken or signed (for the Deaf). This includes Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, French, Arabic, Russian, German, Bengali, Hebrew, and Navajo. One of the languages spoken here, American Sign Language, was created for the Deaf community.

WHERE THIS STORY WILL END

The Bible tells us that one day there will be people gathered to God from all over the world because of His love shown through His Son Jesus. The blood Jesus shed on the Cross will ransom, or save, "people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9). This will include people from the United States!

LET'S GO!

You normally only need a passport if you come to the United States from another country. It's not something you need as you travel from state to state. However, you can get a passport kind of stamp at every U.S. capitol building. Make sure you keep your small passport book handy as you go from state to state, and as you read each one put a state flag sticker in it from the back of the book.



ALABAMA

STATE STATS



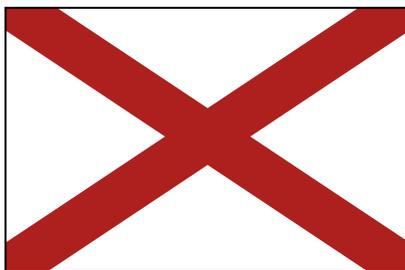
Square Miles: 52,420

Capital: Montgomery

Postal abbreviation: AL

U.S. region: The South

State motto: We dare defend our rights



The state flag is white with a red cross, created to look like the Confederate battle flag. The official name of the flag is the "crimson cross of St. Andrew's," and it can be rectangular or square.



Chicken and White Barbecue Sauce

Hello friends!

We're here in the South, and our state name comes from the language of the Choctaw people and means "thicket-clearers" or "vegetation gatherers." If you come to Montgomery, you'll see our state capital building. Our capital city was named after Richard Montgomery, who was a Revolutionary War general. At 52,420 square miles, we're ranked number 30 in size out of the 50 states. Welcome to Alabama!



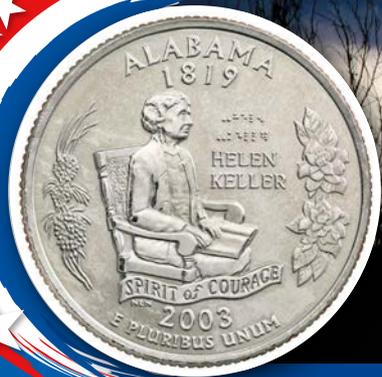
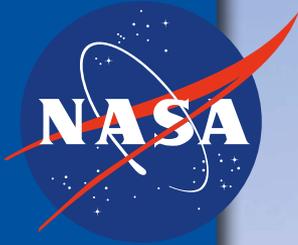
Middle Bay Lighthouse, Mobile, Alabama

DID YOU KNOW?

- The very first citywide electric trolley system in America was in Montgomery. It started up back in 1886.
- A resident of Alabama named Sequoyah created the written alphabet of the Cherokee language. This helped the Cherokee people begin to read and write in their own language.
- The airport in Birmingham opened in 1931. Back then, a flight from Birmingham to Los Angeles took about 19 hours. Now it only takes between 6 to 7 hours!
- The Saturn V rocket was built by NASA to send people to the moon. That V in the name is for the Roman numeral five. This rocket was used in the Apollo space program during the 1960s and 1970s and was developed in Huntsville, Alabama, at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.



Saturn V rocket



State flower: Camellia



State bird: Yellowhammer



ALASKA

STATE STATS



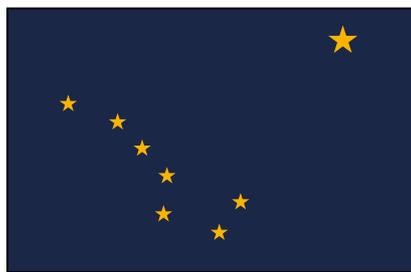
Square Miles: 665,384

Capital: Juneau

Postal abbreviation: AK

U.S. region: The West

State motto: North to the future



Designed by Benny Benson in 1927, who was an orphan. You see the Big Dipper on the dark blue background. The big star on the right side stands for the North Star, Polaris, and the state farthest in the north, which is Alaska.



Alaskan king crab legs

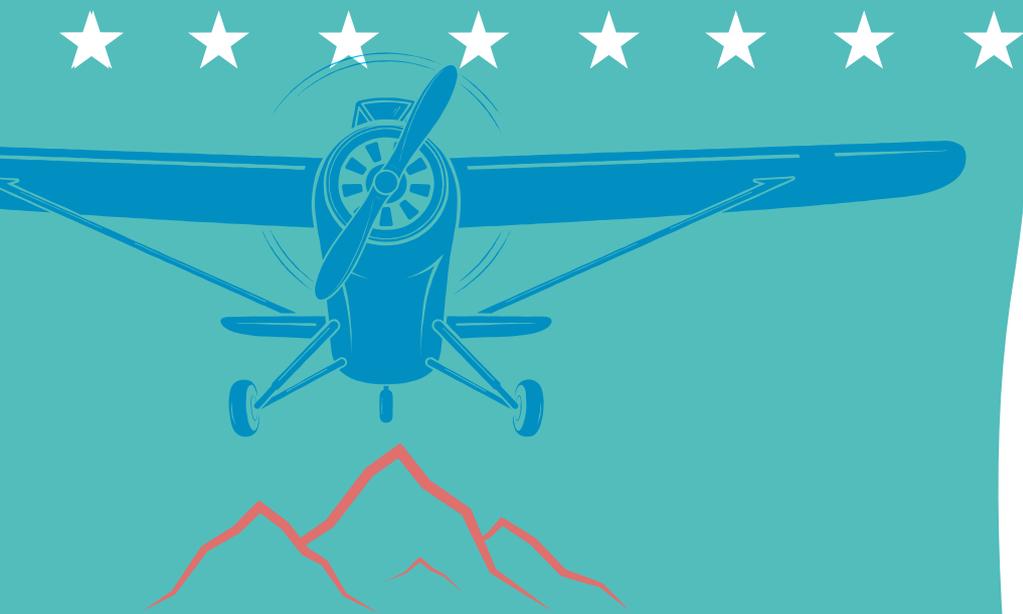


Greetings from Alaska!

Our state name is from the native Aleut language and can mean "great land," "mainland," or "the object the sea waves break against." Our state is the largest state! The total area of the land is 665,384 square miles. We're so big that if you place a map of Alaska over the 48 lower states, it would stretch from coast to coast, and we have over 6,600 miles of coastline. Our capital city is named after a gold prospector named Joe Juneau. Hope to see you in Alaska soon!



Grizzly bears hunting salmon



DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1925, the serum to help people in a horrible diphtheria epidemic in Nome was considered unsafe to use because the batch of serum there had expired. The call went out for more, but the closest place was 938 miles away in Anchorage. The only means at the time to transport the medicine quickly was by dog sled, so this "Great Race of Mercy" began with the medicine being taken by train 298 miles, then by dog sled teams, getting there in only 5½ days.



**Gunnar Kaasen
with Balto**

- The Iditarod dog sled race was first held in 1973. It was created to honor the serum run of 1925. The average time for these sleds is between 8 and 15 days. Dog mushing is an official state sport approved by the Alaska Legislature in 1972.
- The record high temperature in Alaska occurred in 1915 when it hit 100 degrees Fahrenheit at Fort Yukon. The record low occurred in 1971 at Prospect Creek Camp. The temperature was -80 degrees Fahrenheit!



**A musher
heads out of
Willow towards
Nome, Alaska in
the Iditarod**



State flower: Forget-me-not



State bird: Willow ptarmigan



ARIZONA

STATE STATS



Square Miles: 113,990

Capital: Phoenix

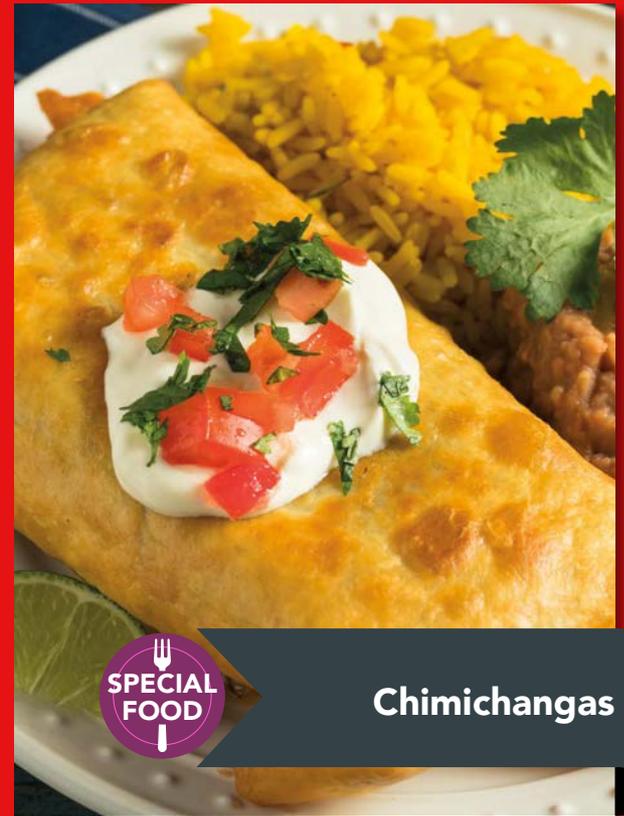
Postal abbreviation: AZ

U.S. region: The West

State motto: God enriches



The 13 stripes stand for the original 13 states. These red and yellow colors represent the colors of the Spanish conquistadors who came through Arizona in 1540. The star in the center is copper-colored and stands for Arizona's copper production. The flag was officially adopted in 1917.



Chimichangas

Hi!

Our name, Arizona, is from the O'odham language and is thought to mean "young spring" or "a little spring." If you look at the map, you can find our capital city, Phoenix. Some settlers passing through the area in 1867 named it to reflect their new town rising up from the ruins of the former native civilization. A phoenix is a mythical bird that rises from ashes. At 113,990 square miles, our state is the 6th largest of the 50 states. So glad you could visit Arizona!

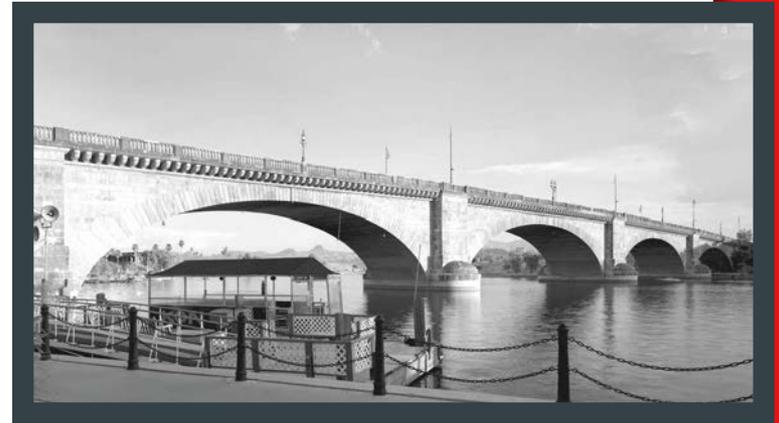


Praying Hands Formation
near Apache Junction,
Arizona

DID YOU KNOW?



- The massive Grand Canyon was carved by the movement of the receding waters after the great Flood. People explore it by hiking the trails or rafting on the Colorado River down below. Another way to get to the bottom is on a mule. Mules began carrying people up and down the Canyon back in the 1890s.
- Meteor Crater is a huge hole in the ground caused by . . . you guessed it . . . a meteor striking the earth! It's 4,180 feet across and 570 feet deep.



- In the 1830s, the original London Bridge in London, England, was built across the River Thames. Then, in 1967, they completely took it apart and relocated it to Laka Havasu, Arizona. Each block from the original bridge was numbered and brought to America so they could rebuild it right!



State bird: Cactus wren

State flower: Blossom of the Saguaro Cactus

