



The Midwest Region





ILLINOIS



ILLINOIS

Capital City: Springfield

Statehood: December 3, 1818 – It is the 21st State

State Motto: State Sovereignty, National Union

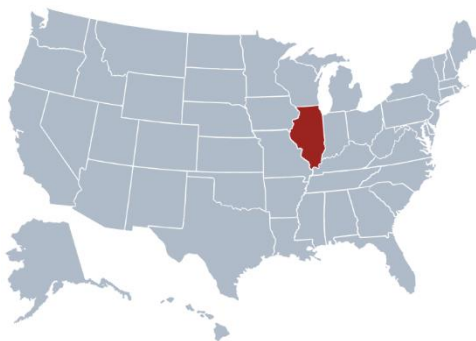
Nickname: The Prairie State

Population: 12,880,580 – Rank 5 of 50

Did You Know? The state name is derived from the Algonquin word meaning "tribe of superior men."

Illinois is known as the "Land of Lincoln" as Abraham Lincoln spent most of his life there. It is also the birthplace of our 40th President, Ronald Reagan.

Illinois was the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery in 1865.





INDIANA

Capital City: Indianapolis

Statehood: December 11, 1816 – It is the 19th State

State Motto: The Crossroads of America

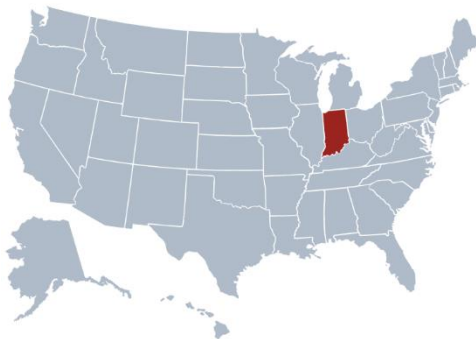
Nickname: The Hoosier State

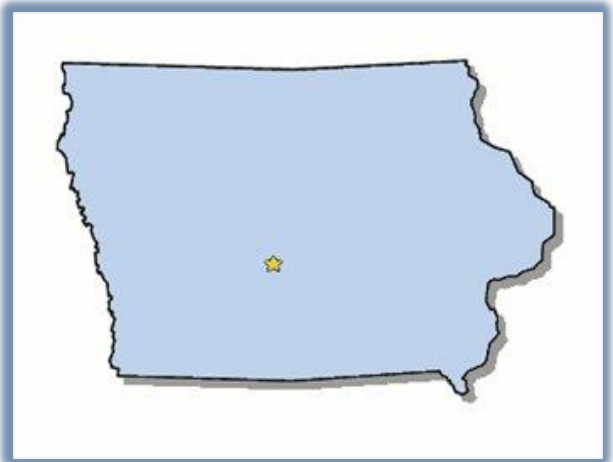
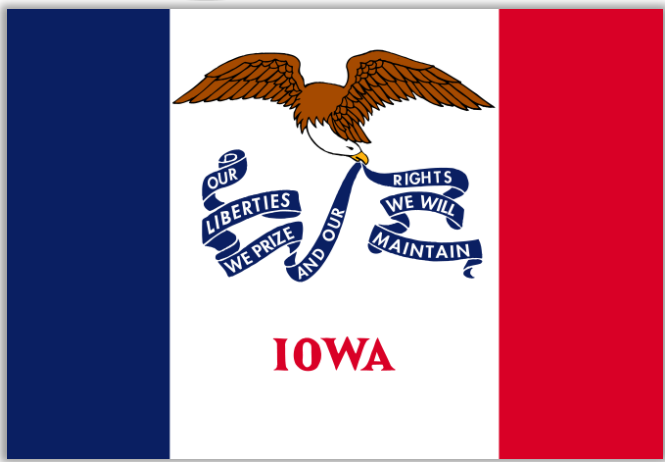
Population: 6,596,855 – Rank 16 of 50

Did You Know? In 1880, Wabash, Indiana became the first city in the U.S. to have electric streetlights. There is also a city in Indiana named Santa Claus! More than 500,000 letters are sent there each Christmas!

The first professional baseball game was played in Fort Wayne on May 4, 1871.

French fur traders established the first permanent settlement in Indiana in 1732 at Vincennes.





IOWA

Capital City: Des Moines

Statehood: December 28, 1846 – It is the 29th State

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

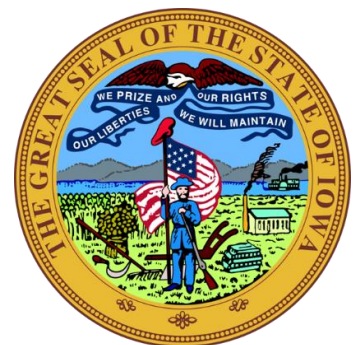
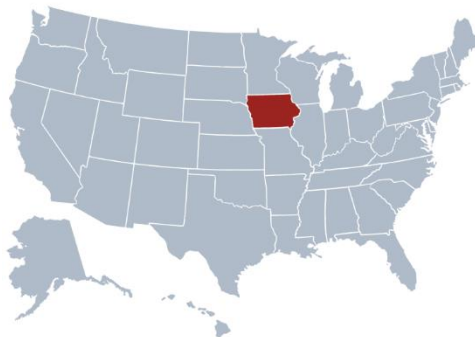
Nickname: The Hawkeye State

Population: 3,107,126 – Rank 30 of 50

Did You Know? 90% of Iowa is farmland. There are more than 93,000 farms in the state and it is the largest producer of corn and soybeans in the U.S.

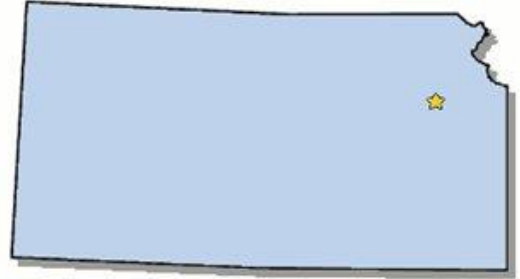
The state is nicknamed in honor of the Native American Chief Black Hawk of the Sauk tribe.

Iowa is the only state that starts its spelling with two vowels.





KANSAS



KANSAS

Capital City: Topeka

Statehood: January 29, 1861 – It is the 34th State

State Motto: *Ad astra per aspera* – Latin
Meaning: To the Stars Through Difficulties

Nickname: The Sunflower State

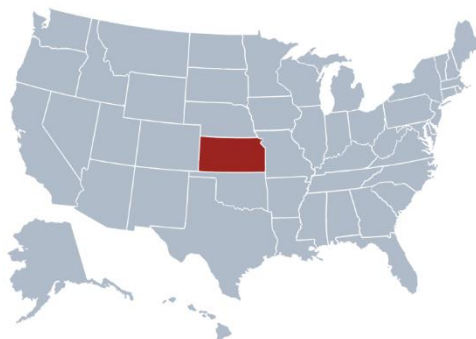
Population: 2,904,021 – Rank 34 of 50

Did You Know? In 1803, the United States purchased Kansas from France in the Louisiana Purchase.

Helium was discovered in 1905 at the University of Kansas.

Every type of prairie habitat can be found in Kansas.

Fire Station Number 4 in Lawrence, originally a stone barn constructed in 1858, was a station site on the Underground Railroad.





MICHIGAN

Capital City: Lansing

Statehood: January 26, 1837 – It is the 26th State

State Motto: *Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice* – Latin Meaning: If You Seek a Pleasant Peninsula, Look About You

Nickname: The Great Lake State

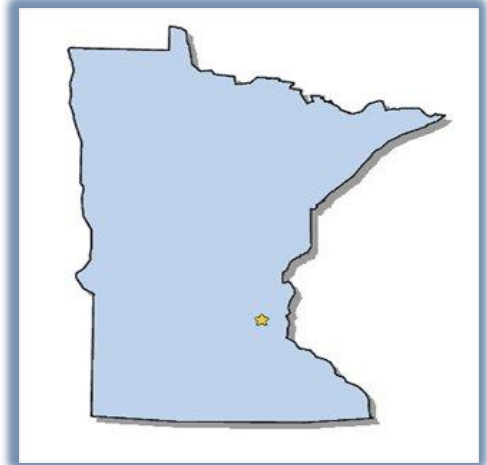
Population: 9,909,877 – Rank 10 of 50

Did You Know? Michigan has over 11,000 inland lakes and more than 36,000 miles of streams. And, you are never more than six miles from one of them!

Michigan is derived from the Native words "Michi-gama" meaning large lake.

The first automobile ever manufactured with air conditioning was made in Detroit in 1939. Detroit is known as the "Motor City."





MINNESOTA

Capital City: Saint Paul

Statehood: May 11, 1858 – It is the 32nd State

State Motto: *L'étoile du Nord* – French Meaning: The Star of the North

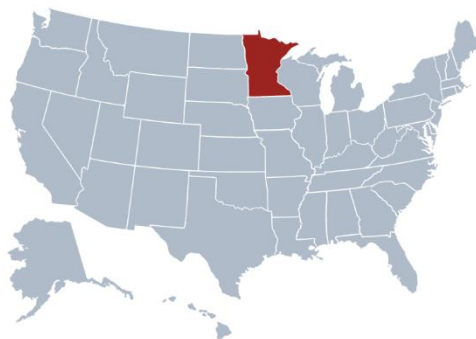
Nickname: The Land of 10,000 Lakes

Population: 5,457,173 – Rank 21 of 50

Did You Know? Minnesota was discovered by French explorers and trappers. It was claimed for France in 1679.

The St. Lawrence Seaway – an important Great Lakes waterway - allows oceangoing ships to reach Duluth. It was opened in 1959.

The state name comes from a Dakota Indian word meaning "sky-tinted water."





MISSOURI

Capital City: Jefferson City

Statehood: August 10, 1821 – It is the 24th State

State Motto: *Salus populi suprema lex esto* – Latin
Meaning: Let the Welfare of the People be the
Supreme Law

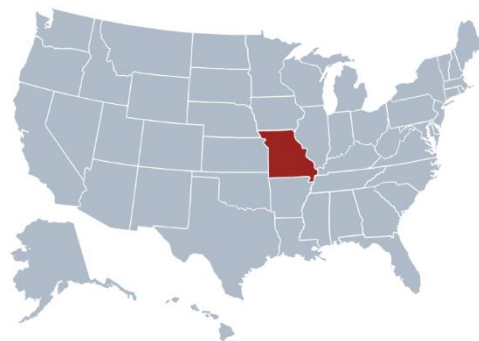
Nickname: The Show Me State

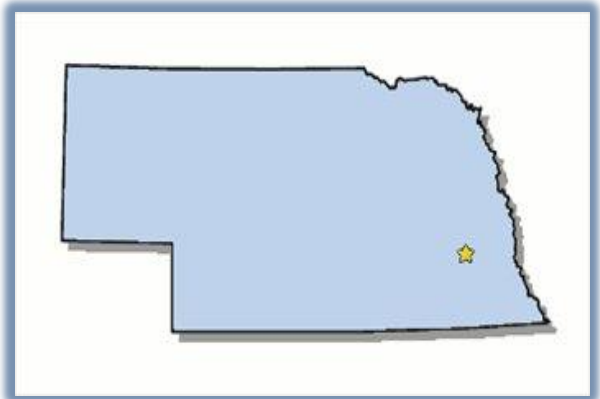
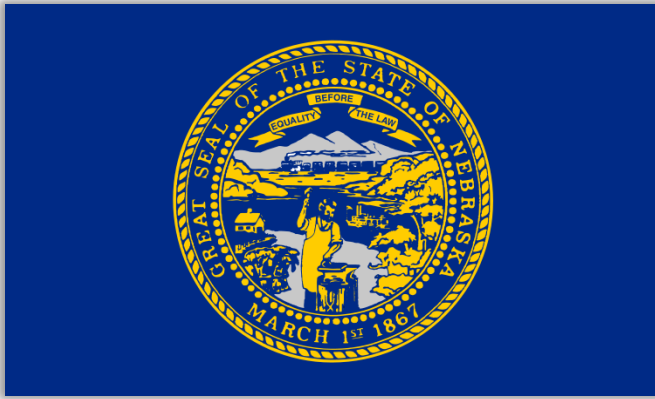
Population: 6,063,589 – Rank 18 of 50

Did You Know? The Santa Fe and Oregon Trails began in Independence.

Named after a tribe called Missouri Indians, meaning "town of the large canoes."

The most powerful earthquake to strike the United States occurred in 1811, centered in New Madrid, Missouri. The quake shook more than one million square miles, and was felt as far as 1,000 miles away.





NEBRASKA

Capital City: Lincoln

Statehood: March 1, 1867– It is the 37th State

State Motto: Equality Before the Law

Nickname: The Cornhusker State

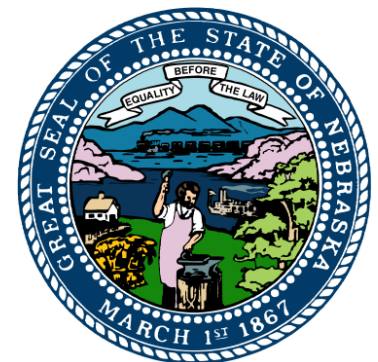
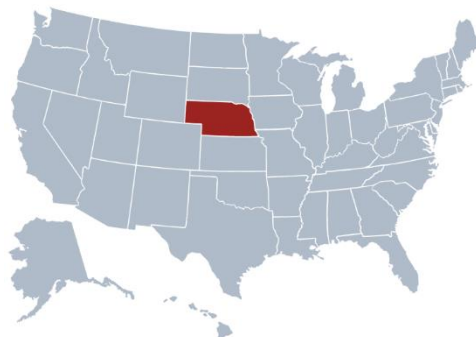
Population: 1,881,503 – Rank 37 of 50

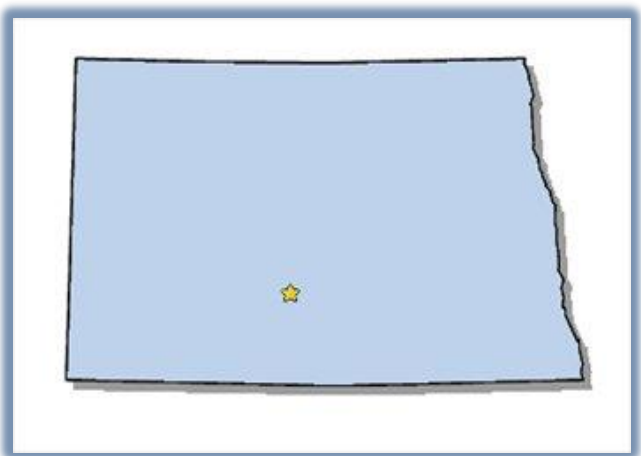
Did You Know? Nebraska is the only state in the union with a unicameral (one house) legislature. Members are elected to it without political party designation.

The state name comes from an Oto Indian word meaning "flat water."

Nebraska is home to the largest aquifer (underground water supply) in the U.S. – The Ogallala Aquifer.

The Union Pacific began its transcontinental railroad at Omaha in 1865.





NORTH DAKOTA

Capital City: Bismarck

Statehood: November 2, 1889– It is the 40th State

State Motto: Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable

Nickname: The Peace Garden State

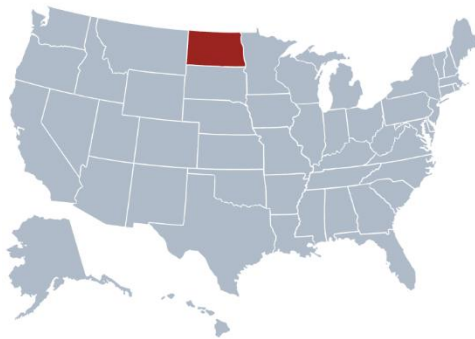
Population: 739,482 – Rank 47 of 50

Did You Know? The official drink of North Dakota is milk.

North Dakota has more registered vehicles than it has residents!

The Dakota Dinosaur Museum in Dickinson houses twelve full scale dinosaurs, thousands of rock, mineral and fossil specimens and a complete real Triceratops and Edmontosaurus.

The most rural of all the U.S. states, farms cover more than 90% of its land.





OHIO

Capital City: Columbus

Statehood: March 1, 1803 – It is the 17th State

State Motto: With God, All Things Are Possible

Nickname: The Buckeye State

Population: 11,594,163 – Rank 7 of 50

Did You Know? The Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first professional baseball team in 1869.

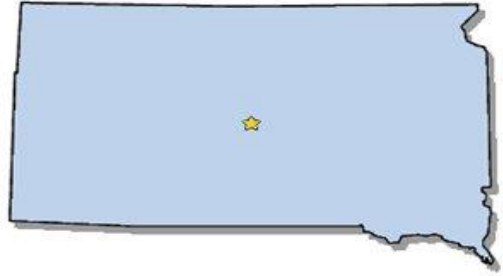
Cleveland was the world's first city to be lighted by electricity 1879.

W.F. Semple of Mount Vernon patented chewing gum in 1869.

The state name comes from an Iroquoian word meaning "great river."

Ancient tribes of "Mound Builders" left more than 6,000 burial mounds and forts throughout the Ohio region.





SOUTH DAKOTA

Capital City: Pierre

Statehood: November 2, 1889 – It is the 40th State

State Motto: Under God the People Rule

Nickname: The Mount Rushmore State

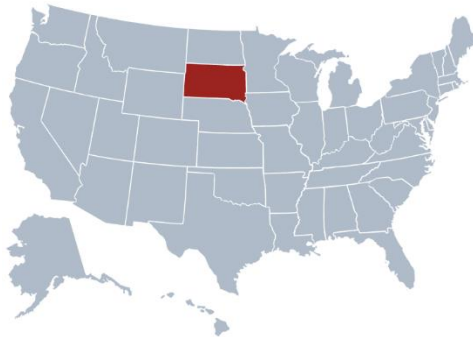
Population: 853,175 – Rank 46 of 50

Did You Know? The Black Hills are the highest mountains east of the Rockies. Mt. Rushmore, in this group, is famous for the carvings of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt.

South Dakota is the home of the Dakota, Lakota and Nakota tribes, which make up the Sioux Nation.

The Badlands, a region of barren ravines and cliffs, were created by volcanic action as well as by wind and water erosion.

The Badlands National Park – “the playground of the dinosaurs” - has fossils that include a dog-sized camel, three-toed horse, and saber-toothed cat.



WISCONSIN



1848



WISCONSIN

Capital City: Madison

Statehood: May 29, 1848 – It is the 30th State

State Motto: Forward

Nickname: The Badger State

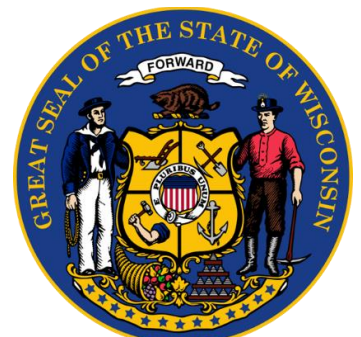
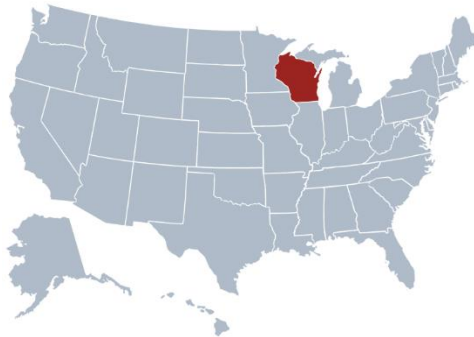
Population: 5,757,564 – Rank 20 of 50

Did You Know? Known as the Badger State after the living habits of early miners there who either lived in mine shafts or dug their homes out of the sides of hills--just like Badgers do.

In 1882, the first hydroelectric plant in the United States was built at Fox River.

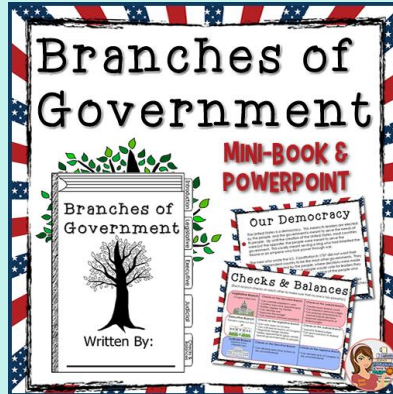
French explorers landed at Green Bay in 1634 and established a trading post.

Wisconsin is known as "America's Dairyland" because its farmers produce so much milk and cheese. There are over 1,500,000 dairy cows in the state!



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