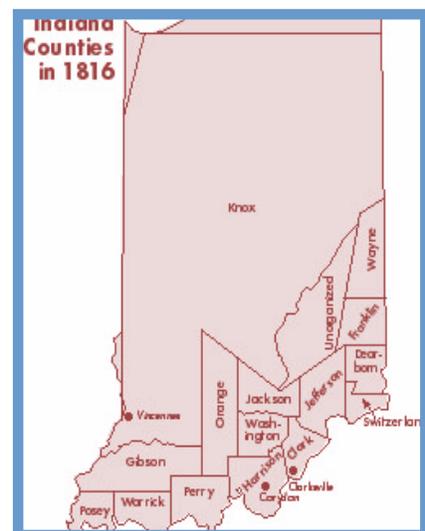# INDIANA FACTS

Congress coined the name "Indiana" in 1800, when the Indiana Territory was carved out of the Northwest Territory. The name, which means "the land of the Indians," was retained when Indiana was admitted to the Union as the 19th state on December 11, 1816.

At the time of statehood, native Americans were officially recognized as the owners of most of central and northern Indiana, or about two-thirds of the State. In 1818 the federal government purchased land in central Indiana to encourage settlement. Known as the New Purchase, the land was officially opened for settlement in 1820.

In that same year a site near the geographic center of the State was chosen as the future capital, and the city of Indianapolis was established. The city was planned and construction of streets and government buildings commenced.

In 1824, the records of State government were moved from the original capital at Corydon. In January 1825, the State legislature convened in the new State capital.

Did You Know? Indiana covers 36,291 square miles, making it 38th in size to the 50 states.

EDUCATION

Indiana's 1816 State constitution was the first in the U.S. to provide for a system of free public schools. However, because such a plan proved far too optimistic for a pioneer society, tax money was not available for its establishment.

In the 1840s, tax-supported schools were strongly urged by Caleb Mills, a prominent Indiana educator, and in 1851 his recommendations were incorporated in a new state constitution. The development of a public school system was delayed by complications, but many public elementary schools were in use by 1870.

Today most children in Indiana attend public schools, but almost 10% attend private or parochial schools.

About one-half of all college students in Indiana are enrolled in state-supported four-year schools of higher education. The two largest institutions are Indiana University and Purdue University. The other state universities are Indiana State, Ball State, and the University of Southern Indiana.

Many private colleges and universities in Indiana are affiliated with religious groups. The University of Notre Dame is an outstanding Roman Catholic school. DePauw University, Earlham College and Valparaiso University are affiliated with Protestant denominations.

In 2000, the General Assembly approved the creation of Community College of Indiana, a joint venture with Ivy Tech State College and Vincennes University. This partnership was formed to bring a new range of educational options to communities, offering flexibility, affordability and accessibility.

The State Motto was adopted by the 1937 General Assembly. **"The Crossroads of America"** signifies the importance of waterways, railroads, highways and other transportation facilities in the state, viewed by many as some of the finest in the nation.

RECREATION

Indiana has a wide variety of recreational facilities and tourist attractions. Picnicking, camping, water sports, hiking, and other outdoor activities are popular. These sports are enjoyed especially in many state parks, state forests, and a national forest.
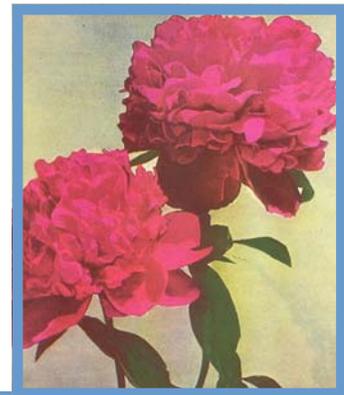
Indiana's lakes and rivers provide game fish for anglers, and its fields and woodlands attract animal watchers and hunters. There are a number of state memorials that commemorate famous Hoosiers or events associated with the state's history.

The State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages state recreational resources. To find lists and information about State Parks and Reservoirs, State Park Inns, and camping opportunities, visit this web site: www.IN.gov/dnr.

DNR also maintains the Indiana Trails Inventory, which includes local, state and national recreational resources. The list, maintained on the web site listed above, includes trails for hiking, biking and canoeing as well as snowmobile and rail trails.

To find historic Indiana sites, visit the web site mentioned above.

For information about weekend get-aways, festivals, common – and not-so-common – tourist sites, visit the Indiana Tourism Division's web site: www.in.gov/enjoyindiana/

The State Flower is the **peony**. It was adopted as the official state flower by the 1957 General Assembly. It blooms in late May and early June in white and various shades of red and pink. It appears in single and double forms.

The peony is cultivated widely throughout the state. It is started from roots planted between the first of September and the time the ground freezes. It does not require rich soil but should have the full sun.

GOVERNMENT

The state's chief executive is the governor. The governor and the lieutenant governor are jointly elected to four-year terms. The governor may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The governor appoints and can also remove the heads of almost all state departments, boards, and commissions. The governor may veto proposed legislation, although the legislature can override a veto by a majority vote of the full membership in each house. The governor may also exercise a so-called pocket veto by failing to sign a bill passed in the last two days of a legislative session. There are six other elected officials. The attorney general, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, superintendent of public instruction and clerk of courts are elected for four-year terms.

The state legislature, known as the General Assembly, consists of a 50-member Senate and a 100-member House of Representatives. Senators are elected for four-year terms and representatives for two-year terms. Legislative sessions must end after 61 legislative days or by April 30 in odd-numbered years and after 30 legislative days or by March 1 in even-numbered years. The governor may call special sessions.

The state's highest court, the Supreme Court, consists of five judges. There is also a Court of Appeals composed of 15 judges. The governor appoints judges for the supreme and appeals courts from among nominees chosen by a special commission. After the judges have served for two years, they must receive the approval of the electorate in a yes or no vote in order to serve for a term of ten years.

Most Indiana counties have their own circuit courts and others share a circuit court with a neighboring county. Circuit court judges are elected for six-year terms. About one-fourth of the counties have superior courts, and a few of the more heavily populated counties have juvenile courts, probate courts, and criminal courts, all the judges of which are elected for four-year terms.

There are also city courts, town courts, and a county court system. Marion County, which includes Indianapolis, has municipal courts, to

Did You Know? Indiana's altitude averages 700 feet, ranging from 320 feet in Posey County to 1,257 feet in Wayne County.

GOVERNMENT, continued

which judges are appointed by the governor, and a magistrate's court.

A board of county commissioners heads most of Indiana's 92 counties. Other elected county officials are the auditor, treasurer, recorder, clerk of the circuit court, surveyor, sheriff, coroner, and assessor, all of whom are elected for four-year terms. All incorporated Indiana cities have the mayor and council form of municipal government. Towns are governed by boards of trustees. A township trustee and township advisory board governs each township. The members of the city councils, boards of trustees, and advisory boards are elected to office.

Indiana elects two U.S. senators and ten members of the House of Representatives. The state casts 12 electoral votes.

CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR

Indiana House of Representatives

200 West Washington Street

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

(317) 232-9600

(800) 382-9842

Indiana State Senate

200 West Washington Street

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2785

(317) 232-9400

(800) 382-9467

TDD Telephone Numbers

(317) 232-0404

(800) 548-9517

Senate/House: http://www.in.gov/legislative/legislators/

Did You Know? 14th in population among the 50 states, Indiana has an estimated 5,942,901 residents (1999).

SPORTS

Indiana is known for the quality of its high school and college basketball and wrestling competition, and the state is often chosen as the site of national sporting events.

Indianapolis is the home of several professional teams: Indiana Pacers (basketball), Indianapolis Colts (football), Indianapolis Ice (hockey), and Indianapolis Indians (baseball).

Indy car, NASCAR and Formula One automobile racing are represented by the Indianapolis 500, the Brickyard 400, and the United States Grand Prix, all held in Indianapolis.

The NCAA executive offices are housed in Indianapolis, as is the IUPUI Sport Complex, home of the RCA Tennis Championships, Indiana University Natatorium and Michael A. Carroll Track & Soccer Stadium.

The State Flag was adopted by the 1917 General Assembly as part of the commemoration of the state's Centennial. The Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored a competition. Paul Hadley of Mooresville submitted the prize-winning design.

The torch in the center stands for liberty and enlightenment; the rays represent their far-reaching influence.

The outer circle of stars stands for the original thirteen states and the inner circle for the next five states to be admitted to the Union. The larger star stands for Indiana, the 19th state.

Originally called a banner, it was renamed a flag by the 1955 General Assembly. The state flag is "regulation in addition to the American flag, with all of the military forces in the State of Indiana, and in all public functions in which the state may or shall officially appear."

The state flag is always carried or displayed on the observer's right of the U.S. flag.

STATE POEM

"Indiana" by Arthur Franklin Mapes

Adopted by the 1963 General Assembly

God crowned her hills with beauty,

Gave her lakes and winding streams.

Then He edged them all with woodlands

As the settings for our dreams.

Lovely are her moonlit rivers,

Shadowed by the sycamores,

Where the fragrant winds of Summer

Play along the willowed shores.

I must roam those wooded hillsides,

I must heed the native call,

For a Pagan voice within me

Seems to answer to it all.

I must walk where squirrels scamper

Down a rustic old rail fence,

Where a choir of birds is singing

In the woodland...green and dense.

I must learn more of my homeland

For it's paradise to me,

There's no haven quite as peaceful,

There's no place I'd rather be.

Indiana...is a garden

Where the seeds of peace have grown,

Where each tree, and vine, and flower

Has a beauty...all its own.

Lovely are the fields and meadows

That reach out to hills that rise

Where the dreamy Wabash River

Wanders on...through paradise.

Did You Know? The average annual rainfall is 40 inches. The average summer temperature range is 70 – 80 degrees Fahrenheit; average winter temperatures are 25-35 degrees Fahrenheit.

STATE SONG

"On The Banks Of The Wabash, Far Away" by Paul Dresser

Adopted by the 1913 General Assembly

Round my Indiana homesteads wave the cornfields,

In the distance loom the woodlands clear and cool.

Oftentimes my thoughts revert to scenes of childhood,

Where I first received my lessons, nature's school.

But one thing there is missing in the picture,

Without her face it seems so incomplete.

I long to see my mother in the doorway,

As she stood there years ago, her boy to greet.

CHORUS

Oh, the moonlight's fair tonight along the Wabash,

From the fields there comes the breath of newmown hay.

Through the sycamores the candle lights are gleaming,

On the banks of the Wabash, far away.

Many years have passed since I strolled by the river.

Arm in arm, with sweetheart Mary by my side.

It was there I tried to tell her that I loved her,

It was there I begged of her to be my bride.

Long years have passed since I strolled thro' the churchyard.

She's sleeping there, my angel, Mary dear.

I loved her, but she thought I didn't mean it,

Still I'd give my future were she only here.

The State River is the **Wabash River**, so named by the 1996 General Assembly.

MOST POPULOUS CITIES

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 estimates

Complied by the Indiana State Data Center, Indiana State Library

#	City	County	Population
1.	Indianapolis	Marion	784,242
2.	Fort Wayne	Allen	219,351
3.	Evansville	Vanderburgh	117,156
4.	South Bend	St. Joseph	105,494
5.	Gary	Lake	99,516
6.	Hammond	Lake	79,985
7.	Bloomington	Monroe	68,779
8.	Muncie	Delaware	67,166
9.	Lafayette	Tippecanoe	59,753
10.	Carmel	Hamilton	58,198

The State Stone was adopted by the 1971 General Assembly. A piece of **Indiana Limestone** (the "official state stone") can be found on the fourth floor of the Indiana State House.

MOST POPULOUS COUNTIES

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 estimates

Complied by the Indiana State Data Center, Indiana State Library

#	County	Largest City	Population
1.	Indianapolis	Marion	863,596
2.	Gary	Lake	490,844
3.	Fort Wayne	Allen	342,168
4.	South Bend	St. Joseph	266,431
5.	Carmel	Hamilton	231,760
6.	Elkhart	Elkhart	191,768
7.	Evansville	Vanderburgh	173,157
8.	Portage	Porter	154,961
9.	Lafayette	Tippecanoe	152,042
10.	Anderson	Madison	130,602

The State Nickname enjoys wide popular usage. The **"Hoosier State"** is one of the oldest of state nicknames, however, little is known about its origins.

The term came into general usage in the 1830s when John Finley wrote a poem, "The Hoosier's Nest." The poem was widely copied throughout the country and abroad. As soon as the nickname came into general use, speculation began as to its origin. The speculation and argument have gone on ever since.
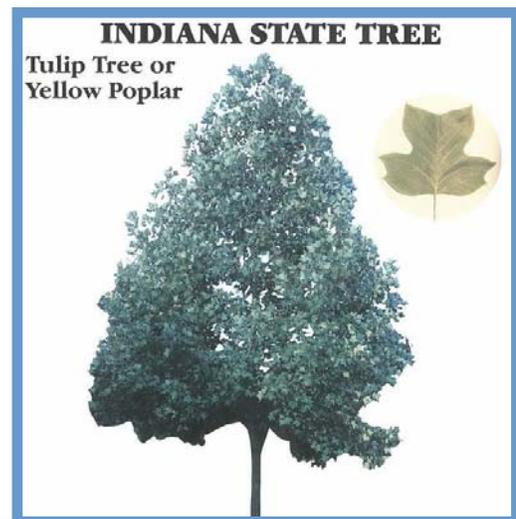
MOST COMMON NAMES OF CITIES & TOWNS

There are 5 cities and towns named Mount Pleasant; 4 named Buena Vista; 4 named Millersburg; 4 named Salem; 3 named Hamilton; 3 named Needmore; and 3 named Wheeling.

Of Indiana's cities and towns, 52 are "New" Something ("New" as a separate word), and 23 are "Saint" Someone.

"West" is the first name or first syllable of 24; "South" is the first name or first syllable of 14; and "East" is the first name or first syllable of seven.

13 cities and towns have "Green," "Greene" or Greens" as the first name

or first syllable.

12 have "Lake" as the first name or syllable, and two of those are in Lake County.

INDIANA STATE TREE
Tulip Tree or Yellow Poplar

The State Tree is the **tulip tree**, also known as the **yellow poplar**, as adopted by the 1931 General Assembly. Monarch of the great forests that covered most of Indiana in pioneer times, the tulip tree has since become comparatively rare.

In recent years, it has been extensively used in ornamental planting, as its shape, the size it attains and its distinctive blossom make it a feature in any landscape.

It should be planted in the early spring. The lovely bell-shaped greenish-yellow flowers appear in May or June. The soft white wood is used for many purposes.

CITIES & COUNTIES WITH THE SAME NAMES

54 Indiana cities and towns have the same names as counties. 15 are in counties that have the same name (county seats marked*): Dubois; Elkhart; Fountain; Fulton; Huntington*; LaGrange*; LaPorte*; Miami; Porter; Pulaski; Randolph; Sullivan*; Tipton*; Vigo; and Wabash*.

39 are in counties that have a different name (county seats marked*): Adams (Decatur County); Benton (Elkhart County); Cass (Sullivan County); Clinton (Vermillion County); Decatur (Adams County); Delaware (Ripley County); Fayette (Boone County); Franklin* (Johnson County); Greene (Jay County); Hamilton (Clinton County); Hamilton (St. Joseph County); Hamilton (Steuben County); Howard (Parke County); Jackson (Tipton County); Jasper (Dubois County); Jefferson (Clinton County); Johnson (Gibson County); Knox* (Starke County); Lawrence (Marion County); Madison (Jefferson County); Marion* (Grant County); Marshall (Parke County); Martin (Vanderburgh County); Monroe (Adams County); Monroe (Tippecanoe County); Montgomery (Daviess County); Noble (Jay County); Orange (Fayette County); Pike (Boone County); Ripley (Pulaski County); St. Joseph (Floyd County); St. Joseph (Vanderburgh County); Scott (LaGrange County); Shelby (Lake County); Spencer* (Owen County); Tippecanoe (Marshall County); Union (Pike County); Warren (Huntington County); and Washington* (Daviess County).

INDIANA STATE BIRD
Cardinal or Red-Bird

The State Bird is the cardinal. The 1933 General Assembly made this official designation.

Males are of various shades of red and have a black "mask" from the eyes to the throat. Females and young are brown, with touches of red on the crest, wings, tail and breast.

Cardinals do not migrate; their song may be heard on the first sunny days of late winter. Their nests are bulky masses of twigs, rootlets, and strips of bark, lined with grasses and other finer material.

FAMOUS HOOSIERS

Indiana is home to many famous individuals. The following is a very short list. Many of the following have web sites devoted to their accomplishments.
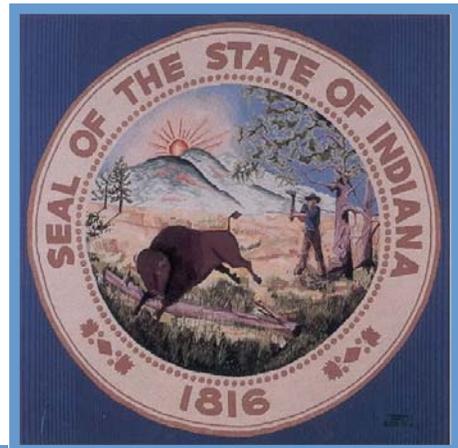
POLITICAL FIGURES: Sarah Evans Barker; Pamela Carter; Benjamin Harrison; Richard Lugar; J. Danforth Quayle.

ENTERTAINERS: Hoagy Carmichael; David Letterman; John Mellencamp; Jane Pauley; Cole Porter; Red Skelton.

ARTISTS AND AUTHORS: William Forsyth; Gene Stratton Porter; James Whitcomb Riley; Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.; Lew Wallace.

SPORTS: Larry Bird; Jeff Gordon; Knute Rockne; Oscar Robertson.

OTHERS: Johnny Appleseed; Elwood Haynes; Eli Lilly; the Ball Brothers.

The State Seal has been in use – in variations of the current form – since territorial days. It is found on official papers as early as 1801. Both the 1816 and the 1851 Constitutions provide that "there shall be a Seal of state…" In 1963 the General Assembly gave legal sanction to the current design.

There are many interpretations of the meaning of the seal. One interpretation is that the sun rises on a new commonwealth, west of the Allegheny Mountains. The woodsman represents civilization subduing the wilderness and the buffalo, fleeing to the West, represents primitive life retiring in that direction.

Another version describes a sun setting in the West, a woodsman felling a tree, and a buffalo leaving the forest and fleeing through the plain to a distant forest in the East.

STATE INFORMATION CENTER

A Division of the Indiana Department of Administration

402 West Washington Street, Room W160A, Indianapolis, IN 46204

(317) 233-0800

(800) 45-STATE or (800) 457-8283

TDD: Use RELAY INDIANA: (800) 743-3333

Spanish-Speaking: (317) 234-0225

Spanish Speaking: (800) 855-3838

Fax: (317) 233-5740

stinfo@sic.in.gov

www.IN.gov/sic

The State Information Center provides a single point of entry into state government, making state programs and services more easily accessible. Information Counselors are trained in all aspects of state government operations in order to assess the caller's needs and to match the needs to the appropriate programs or services. Counselors also direct callers to appropriate federal and local government agencies.   (October 2001)

Information in this brochure was compiled by and used courtesy of:

Indiana State Library, Indiana Division

For additional information on Indiana and Indiana history contact:

Indiana Historical Society: (317) 232-1882 or (800) HIS-1830

www.indianahistory.org

Indiana Historical Bureau: (317) 232-1882 or TDD (317) 232-7763

www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/ihb/ihb.html

The official web site of the State of Indiana, *accessIndiana*, provides links to state agencies and local, regional and federal sites.

www.IN.gov