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Arkansas

Facts, Map and State Symbols



[Arkansas Flag Printout/Quiz](#)
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Arkansas was the 25th state in the [USA](#); it became a state on June 15, 1836.

State Abbreviation - AR

State Capital - Little Rock

Largest City - Little Rock

Area - 53,182 square miles [Arkansas is the [29th biggest state](#) in the USA]

Population - [2,673,400](#) (as of 2000) [Arkansas is the 33rd most populous state in the USA]

Name for Residents - Arkansans

Major Industries - agriculture (chickens, soybeans, rice, cotton), paper and wood products (including furniture), electronic equipment, mining (aluminum and diamonds)



Presidential Birthplace - William Jefferson

Clinton was born in Hope on August 19, 1946 (he was the 42nd US President, serving from 1993 to 2001).

Major Rivers - Arkansas River, [Mississippi River](#)

Major Lakes - Lake Ouachita, Bull Shoals Lake

Highest Point - Magazine Mountain - 2,753 feet (839 m) above sea level

Lowest Point - Ouachita River; 55 feet, (17 m) above sea level

Number of Counties - 75

Bordering States - [Louisiana](#), [Mississippi](#), [Missouri](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Tennessee](#), [Texas](#)

Origin of the Name Arkansas - Arkansas is from the Quapaw (Sioux) word "acansa," which means "downstream place" or "south wind."

State Nickname - The Natural State

State Motto - "Regnat populus" - The people rule

State Songs - "Arkansas", by Wayland Holyfield, and "Oh Arkansas", by Terry Rose and Gary Klaff

Dinosaur Fossil Found in Arkansas - [Arkansaurus](#)

Arkansas State Symbols and Emblems:




State Flag



The official state flag of Arkansas was chosen in a design contest in 1913; the winner was Miss Willie Kavanaugh Hocker of Wabbaseka. The flag's design was finalized in 1926.

The diamond shapes in the center represent the diamond gemstone, because Arkansas is the only state in the USA where diamonds have been found. Since Arkansas was the twenty-fifth state to join the Union, there are 25 white stars around the diamond. The three blue stars in the lower part of the center represent Spain, France and the United States, the countries that have ruled Arkansas. The blue star in the upper center represents the Confederacy, of which Arkansas was a member.

Animal Symbols:

<p>State Bird</p>  <p>Mockingbird</p>	<p>State Mammal</p>  <p>White-tailed deer</p>	<p>State Fish</p> <p>None</p>	<p>State Insect</p>  <p>Honeybee</p>
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Plant Symbols:

<p>State Flower</p> <p>Apple blossom</p>	<p>State Tree</p> <p>Pine Tree</p>	<p>State Fruit and Blossom</p> <p>South Arkansas vine ripe pink tomato</p>
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Earth Symbols:

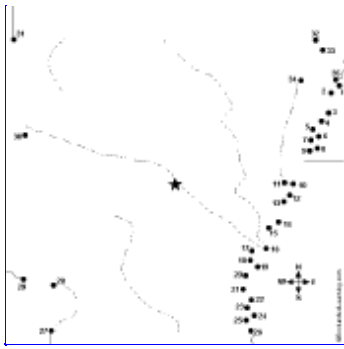
<p>State Gem</p> <p>Diamond</p>	<p>State Rock</p> <p>Quartz crystal</p>	<p>State Mineral</p> <p>Bauxite</p>	<p>State Soil</p> <p>Stuttgart (unofficial)</p>
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Miscellaneous Symbols:

<p>State Beverage</p>  <p>Milk</p>	<p>State Instrument</p>  <p>Fiddle</p>	<p>State Dance</p> <p>Square dance</p>
--	--	---

Related Pages:

 <p>Arkansas: Map/Quiz Printout Answer geography questions about Arkansas using the map on this quiz. Answers</p>	 <p>Arkansas: Label Me! Printout Label the major features of Arkansas. Answers</p>	 <p>Arkansas: Outline Map Printout An outline map of Arkansas to print.</p>
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Arkansas: US State Dot to Dot Mystery Map

Connect the dots to draw the borders of a mystery state of the USA. Then use a globe or atlas to figure out which state you have drawn. You might want to give students clues, such as that it is in the southeastern USA, that its capital is Little Rock, or that its name starts with "A." Answer: Arkansas.



Arkansas' Flag Printout/Quiz

Read about and answer questions on the flag of Arkansas.



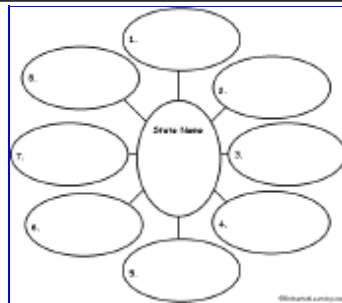
Arkansas' Flag: Large Coloring Printable

A large black-and-white printable of the flag of Arkansas.

A large empty rectangular box for drawing a map of the state, followed by several horizontal lines for writing.

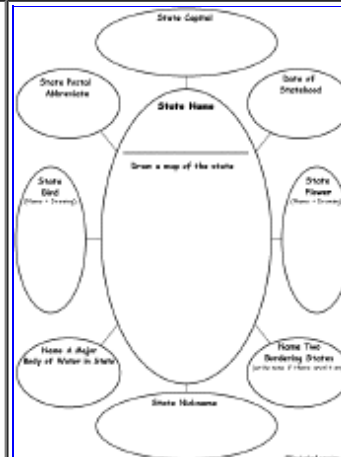
Your State: Draw and Write

Draw a map of the state that you live in (in the USA) and write about it.



US State - Find Related Words

For a US state, write eight words related to the state, then use each word in a sentence.



US State Graphic Organizer

For one US state, write the name of the state, draw a map of the state, then write the state capital, postal abbreviation, date of statehood, state bird (draw and write), state flower (draw and write), a major body of water in the state, two bordering states, and state nickname.

A state report graphic organizer. It includes a large box for drawing a map, a 'State' label, and a list of fields to be filled out: 'Capital City', 'State nickname', 'Area', 'Population', 'Date of statehood', and 'State bird'. A small map of the USA is included for locating the state.

US State Report Graphic Organizer Printout #1

This printout helps the student do a short report on a US state, prompting the student to draw a map of the state, locate it on a US map, draw the state's flag, and write its capital city, state nickname, area, population, date of

Map: You can major cities, bodies of water, borders of states, counties, and political and

[US State Report Graphic Organizer Printout #2](#)

This printout helps the student do a short report on a US state, prompting the student to draw a map of the state, locate it on a US map, draw the state's flag, and write its capital city, state nickname, area, population, date of statehood, state bird, state flower, climate, and major industries.

US State Map

US State: _____

By _____

[US State Printable Book](#)

A short, printable book on a US state. To complete the book, the student must research a US state, draw its map, draw its flag, and answer simple questions about the state.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Now write one thing that you would like to change.



[USA Map: Find Your State](#)

Find and label your state in the USA, and label other important geography.

[Answers](#)

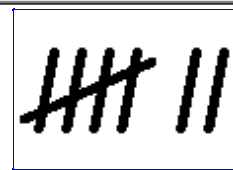
statehood, and state bird.



[USA Map: Where I Live](#)

Write your country, state, and city, and then find and label your state (and a few other geographical features).

A	N
B	O
C	P
D	Q
E	R
F	S
G	T
H	U
I	V
J	W
K	X
L	Y
M	Z

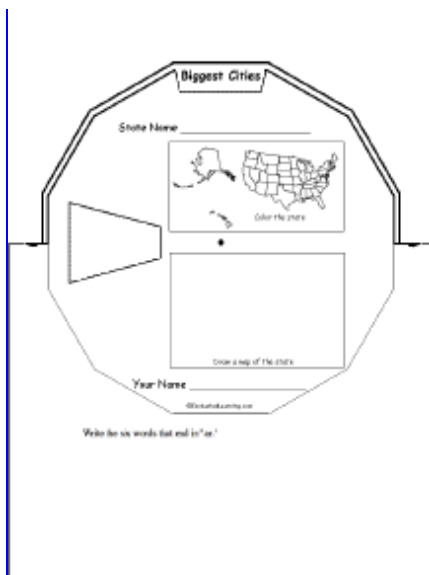


[The Census](#)

A census is an official count of the number of people in a region. The survey is done by a government, usually

Write Ten Things About Your State

A one-page printable worksheet. Write ten things about your state (plus one thing you would like to change).



US State Wheel

This 2-page print-out makes a wheel about a single US state; the student fills out the information on the wheel. It consists of a base page together with a rear wheel that spins around. After putting the wheel together, the student follows the instructions on the front wheel (coloring in the state on a US map and drawing a small map of the state) and fills out the 12 sections of the wheel with information about one state. When you spin the wheel, facts about the US State appear, including: Biggest Cities, Capital, Flag, Bodies of Water, Postal Abbreviation, State Bird, Population (rank), Area (rank), Residents Called, Bordered by, Major Industries, and Entered Union (order).

US State - Find a Related Word for Each Letter

For a US state, see if you can think of and write down a word or phrase that is related to that state for each letter of the alphabet. Think of cities, famous people from the state, bodies of water, mountains, landmarks, and other features. Find words for as many letters as you can.

periodically. This page explains how and why censuses are taken.

What is a Census?
A census is an official count of the number of people in a location. The survey is done by government and is usually taken every 10 years.
Censuses have been taken by governments for thousands of years. The name census is from the Latin word *censere*, which means "to assess." The census has also helped set laws in order to keep track of men for military service and to collect tax collection.

The US Census
The US census is taken every 10 years (a years ending with zero) since 1790. It is a massive survey that is done to determine how many people live in the country, where they live, and other important socio-economic information.
Questionnaires are sent to every household in the country. The census asks questions about the number of people living in each house, their gender, age, ethnicity, and for the people in that household are related to one another. A smaller set of randomly-selected people are asked more in-depth questions, including information about the type of home they live in, how many bedrooms, plumbing, fuel costs, rent/mortgage costs, education, or disability, health care, number of cars, computer use, employer, work hours, income, transportation used, and other data.
The population figures are used to determine how many members of the US House of Representatives represent an area, and to allocate federal funding for local programs. Locations with more people get more representatives in Congress, and places with more people may get more government funding for local projects.
Response to the census is required by law. The data is confidential, but becomes public after 72 years.

Questions

1. A census counts the number of _____ in a place.
2. How often is a census usually taken?
3. The US census is taken in years ending in _____.
4. Does every US citizen determine how many representatives are sent to the _____?
5. Is response to the census required by law? _____

Census:

[Printable Read-and-Answer Worksheet](#)

A printable worksheet on the census, with a short text to read, a map to color, and questions to answer. Or [go to the answers](#). Or [go to a pdf file with the worksheet and the answers](#).

US State Facts, Map and State Symbols

Alabama	Hawaii	Massachusetts	New Mexico	South Dakota
Alaska	Idaho	Michigan	New York	Tennessee
Arizona	Illinois	Minnesota	North Carolina	Texas
Arkansas	Indiana	Mississippi	North Dakota	Utah
California	Iowa	Missouri	Ohio	Vermont
Colorado	Kansas	Montana	Oklahoma	Virginia
Connecticut	Kentucky	Nebraska	Oregon	Washington
Delaware	Louisiana	Nevada	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
District of Columbia	Maine	New Hampshire	Rhode Island	Wisconsin
Florida	Maryland	New Jersey	South Carolina	Wyoming
Georgia				

[Order and Dates of Statehood](#)

[State Population Figures](#)

[State Area Figures](#)

[State Extremes and Records](#)

[US Postal Codes](#)

[US Postal Codes Matching](#)

[Guidelines for Writing a Report on a State](#)

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Arkansas

The Geography of Arkansas

[Click here](#) for a few definitions.

Longitude / Latitude Longitude: 89° 41' W to 94° 42' W
Latitude: 33° N to 36° 30' N

Length x Width Arkansas is 260 miles long and 240 miles wide.

Geographic Center Explanation The [geographic center](#) of Arkansas is located in Pulaski County, 12 miles NW of [Little Rock](#).
Longitude: 92° 18.1'W
Latitude: 34° 48.9'N

Borders Arkansas is bordered by [Missouri](#) on the north and [Louisiana](#) on the south. [Missouri](#), [Tennessee](#), and [Mississippi](#) border Arkansas on the east. The Mississippi River marks Arkansas' eastern border with these three states. On the west, Arkansas is bordered by [Texas](#) and [Oklahoma](#).

Total Area Arkansas covers 53,182 square miles, making it the 29th largest of the [50 states](#).

Land Area 52,075 square miles of Arkansas are land areas.

Water Area 1,107 square miles of Arkansas are covered by water.

Highest Point The highest point in Arkansas is [Magazine Mountain](#) at 2,753 feet above sea level. Visit [Mt. Magazine State Park](#).

Lowest Point The lowest point in Arkansas is the [Ouachita River](#) at 55 feet above sea level.

Mean Elevation The Mean Elevation of the state of Arkansas is 650 feet above sea level.

Major Rivers Arkansas River, Mississippi River



[Arkansas base and elevation maps](#)



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Major Lakes

[Lake Ouachita](#), [Bull Shoals Lake](#)

The Land

The Highlands of Arkansas are in the north and western part of the state. The Ozark Plateau and the Ouachita mountains are located here. The Lowlands of Arkansas lie to the south and the east. Arkansas can be divided into five main land regions; the Ozark Plateau, the Arkansas Valley, the Ouachita Mountains, the Mississippi Alluvial Plain (referred to as the Mississippi Embayment on the map to the left), and the West Gulf Coastal Plain.



Map courtesy of [Rockhounding Arkansas](#)

Ozark Plateau: The Ozark Plateau lies in the northwestern and north central part of Arkansas. Also covering parts of [Missouri](#), [Illinois](#) and [Oklahoma](#), the Ozark Plateau is an area of rugged hills and deep valleys. Much of the area, sometimes referred to as the Ozark Mountains, is heavily forested. To the south, river gorges up to 1,500 feet deep, carved by swiftly flowing streams, cut through the plateau. The steep hills in this area of the Plateau are called the [Boston Mountains](#). The Boston Mountains give way to the Arkansas Valley to the south of the Plateau. The Ozark Plateau is home to [Mammoth Springs](#), one of the largest springs in the United States. Visit [The Ozarks](#) by Carmen Borne for more information about the Ozark Plateau.

Arkansas Valley: Separating the Ozark Plateau to the north and the Ouachita Mountains to the south is the Arkansas Valley. Cutting through the Arkansas Valley, is the Arkansas River, the largest river in the state. Though the elevation of the Arkansas Valley is generally lower than the Ozark Plateau to the north and the Ouachita Mountains to the south, a few mountains dot the landscape. Magazine Mountain, the highest point in Arkansas, is found in the Arkansas Valley. Visit [River Valley](#) by Carmen Borne for more information about the Arkansas Valley.

Ouachita Mountains: One of two major ranges in the United State that runs east to west, the [Ouachita Mountains](#) consist of parallel ridges and valleys that run from eastern [Oklahoma](#) to central Arkansas. The [Ouachita River](#) runs through a section of the mountains. The Ouachita Mountains are known for mineral and timber resources and for their hot springs. The world-famous [Hot Springs](#) are located in the Ouachita Mountains north of Lake Hamilton. Visit [Ouachitas](#) by Carmen Borne for more information about the Ouachita Mountains.

Mississippi Alluvial Plain: The Mississippi River forms most of the eastern border of Arkansas between [Tennessee](#) and [Louisiana](#). The Mississippi Alluvial Plain lies along the Mississippi River and covers the eastern third of Arkansas. Though most of the region is level Lowlands, the Mississippi Alluvial Plain is broken by a narrow strip of hills running north to south through the central Plain. These hills form [Crowley's Ridge](#). The Mississippi Alluvial Plain is sometimes referred to as the Delta region and is covered with rich soil carried by the Mississippi River and its tributaries. For more information about the Mississippi Alluvial Plain in Arkansas, visit [Delta](#) by Carmen Borne.

West Gulf Coastal Plain: In Arkansas, the West Gulf Coastal Plain covers the southeastern and south central portions of the state along the border of [Louisiana](#). This Lowland area of Arkansas is characterized by pine forests and farmlands. Natural resources include natural gas, petroleum deposits and beds of bromine flats. The lowest point in the state is found on the [Ouachita River](#) in the West Gulf Coastal Plain of

Arkansas. Visit [Gulf Coastal](#) by Carmen Borne for more information on the West Gulf Coastal Plain.

For additional information on some of the land areas of Arkansas, visit [this page](#) from the Department of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Service.

([Arkansas Close-up](#))

Climate (All temperatures Fahrenheit)

Highest Temperature The highest temperature recorded in Arkansas is 120°, Fahrenheit. This record high was recorded on August 10, 1936 at [Ozark](#).

Lowest Temperature The lowest temperature in Arkansas, -29°, was recorded on February 13, 1905 at Pond.

Average Temperature Monthly average temperatures range from a high of 93.6 degrees to a low of 26.6 degrees.

Climate Arkansas enjoys the four seasons in moderation, and the longer spring and fall seasons provide a mild climate. January average temperatures range from 35° to 4° F; the average temperature in July is 81° F. The annual relative humidity averages 57 percent. Arkansas receives approximately 44 to 54 inches of rainfall annually, while the capital city of Little Rock receives less than 4 inches of annual frozen precipitation.

Average yearly precipitation for Arkansas, from 1971 to 2000, is shown on [this chart](#) from Oregon State University.

Sources:

[The World Almanac of the U.S.A.](#) by Allan Carpenter and Carl Provorse, Copyright © 1998
The United States Geological Survey [Website](#)
[Maps.com](#) <http://www.maps.com>

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Arkansas

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Arkansas State Symbols, Songs, and Emblems

For the latest symbols information, visit the [NETSTATE CHRONICLE](#).

List order

Designation ▼	Symbol / Emblem	Adopted
American Folk Dance	Square Dance	1991
Anthem	" Arkansas ," words and music by Mrs. Eva Ware Barnett	1987
Beverage	Milk	1985
Bird	Mockingbird (<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>)	1929
Butterfly	Diana Fritillary Butterfly (<i>Speyeria diana</i>)	2007
Creed	The Arkansas Creed	1972
Flag	Find out more...	1913
Floral Emblem	Apple Blossom (<i>Pyrus malus</i>)	1901
Fruit	South Arkansas Vine Ripe Pink Tomato	1987
Gem	Diamond	1967
Grain	Rice	2007
Great Seal	Find out more...	1864
Historical Song	" The Arkansas Traveler ," words by the Arkansas State Song Selection Committee (1947) and music by Colonel Sanford (Sandy) Faulkner (about 1850)	1987
Historic Cooking Vessel	Dutch Oven	2001
Insect	Honeybee (<i>Apis mellifera</i>)	1973
Language	English	1987
Mammal	White-tailed Deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>)	1993
Mineral	Quartz Crystal	1967
Musical Instrument	Fiddle	1985
Poet Laureate	The Governor is authorized to designate or appoint, by	1971

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	proclamation, a Poet Laureate of the State of Arkansas.	
Purple Martin Capital of Arkansas, Northwest	Fort Smith	1993
Purple Martin Capital of Arkansas, Southeast	Lake Village	1993
Rock	Bauxite	1967
Soil	Stuttgart Soil Series 	1997
Song	" Arkansas (You Run Deep in Me) ," words and music by Wayland Holyfield " Oh, Arkansas ," words and music by Terry Rose and Gary Klaf	1987
Tree	Pine Tree (Genus <i>Pinus</i> L.)	1939
Trout Capital of the U.S.A.	Cotter	1993
Vegetable	South Arkansas Vine Ripe Pink Tomato	1987

Sources...


Arkansas General Assembly, *Arkansas Code of 1987*, <<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/bureau/Publications/Arkansas%20Code/ARCodeMainDoc.pdf>> (Accessed 9 December 2009)
Shankle, George Earlie. *State Names, Flags, Seals, Songs, Birds, Flowers, and Other Symbols*. Irvine, Calif.: Reprint Services Corp, Revised edition, 1971.
Shearer, Benjamin F. and Barbara S. *State Names, Seals, Flags and Symbols: A Historical Guide Third Edition, Revised and Expanded*. Westport, Conn: Greenwood Press, 3 Sub edition, 2001.

Making laws in Arkansas

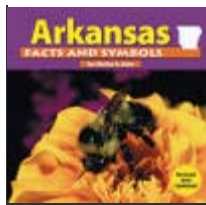
The Arkansas House of Representatives offers [General Assembly at Work](#) and [How a Bill Becomes Law](#) to help us understand how laws are made in Arkansas.

Additional Information

[State Symbols](#): The Traveler's Guide to Arkansas (Activities 5-9: History) from the Arkansas Secretary of State.

[Arkansas State Symbols](#) : Symbols Document from the Arkansas Secretary of State.

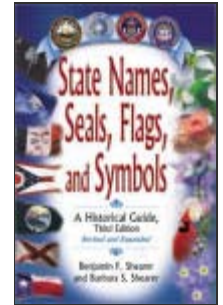
[Arkansas Facts and Symbols](#), by Elaine A. Kule. 24 pages. Publisher: Capstone Press; Rev Upd edition (August 2003) **Reading level:** Grades 3-4. **Interest level:** Grades 3-9. Perfect for report writing! Easy-to-read text covers major Arkansas symbols such as the state flag, seal, bird,



[Arkansas Facts and Symbols](#)
Elaine A. Kule

tree, flower, animal, and more. A "Fast Facts" section highlights the state's capital city, largest city, physical size, population, natural resources, farm products, and primary manufactured goods. Also included are full-page maps that introduce the concept of the map key, which is great for teaching map-reading skills.

[State Names, Seals, Flags and Symbols](#), by Benjamin F. Shearer, Barbara S. Shearer. 544 pages. Greenwood Press; 3 Sub edition (October 30, 2001) This is one of the best, and most comprehensive, books we could find about the official state names and nicknames, mottoes, seals, flags, capitols, flowers, trees, birds, songs, and miscellaneous designations of each state. This, coupled with the 1938 Shankle book, formed the basis of our symbol library. If you're serious about your states symbols, you'll want to have this book and the one below. This book also contains information about state holidays, license plates, sports teams, universities and other trivia.



[State Names, Seals, Flags and Symbols](#)
Benjamin F. Shearer
Barbara S. Shearer

[State Names, Flags, Seals, Songs, Birds, Flowers, and Other Symbols](#), by George Earle Shankle. 522 pages. Reprint Services Corp; Revised edition (June 1971) Reprint of the 1938 revised edition. The first comprehensive book about our state symbols! From the preface: "*This book grew out of the desire of its author to know, about his native state, a great many facts which he found exceedingly difficult to obtain. After three years of research in the Library of Congress, he is able to give to the public this storehouse of information, which could have been gathered from not library less fertile in source material...*"

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Arkansas

[Map of Arkansas](#)Capital: [Little Rock](#)

State abbreviation/Postal code: Ark./AR

Governor: Mike Beebe, D (to Jan. 2015)

Lieut. Governor: Mark Darr, R (to Jan. 2015)

Senators: [Mark Pryor](#), D (to Jan. 2015); [John Boozman](#), R (to Jan. 2017)

U.S. Representatives: 4

[Historical biographies of Congressional members](#)

Secy. of State: Mark Martin, R (to Jan. 2015)

Atty. General: Dustin McDaniel, D (to Jan. 2015)

Treasurer: Martha A. Shoffner, D (to Jan. 2015)

Organized as territory: March 2, 1819

[Entered Union \(rank\)](#): June 15, 1836 (25)

Present constitution adopted: 1874

[Motto](#): *Regnat populus* (The people rule)[State symbols](#):

flower apple blossom (1901)

tree pine (1939)

Spaniard [Hernando de Soto](#) was among the early European explorers to visit the territory in the mid-16th century, but 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](#).

Part of the Territory of Missouri from 1812, the area became a separate entity in 1819 after the first large wave of settlers arrived. The next several decades were marked by the development of the cotton industry and the spread of the Southern plantation system west into Arkansas. Arkansas joined the [Confederacy](#) in 1861, but from 1863 the northern part of the state was occupied by Union troops.

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bird [mockingbird](#) (1929)

insect [honeybee](#) (1973)

song "Arkansas" (1963)

Nickname: The Natural State

Origin of name: From the Quapaw Indians

10 largest cities (2010): [Little Rock](#), 193,524; [Fort Smith](#), 86,209; [Fayetteville](#), 73,580; [Springdale](#), 69,797; [Jonesboro](#), 67,263; [North Little Rock](#), 62,304; [Conway](#), 58,908; Rogers, 55,964; Pine Bluff, 49,083; Bentonville, 35,301

Land area: 52,068 sq mi. (134,856 sq km)

Geographic center: In Pulaski Co., 12 mi. SW of Little Rock

Number of counties: 75

Largest county by population and area: Pulaski, 366,463 (2005); Union, 1,039 sq mi.

State parks: 51

Residents: Arkansan

2010 resident population: 2,915,918

2010 resident census population (rank): 2,915,918 (32). Male: 1,431,637; Female: 1,484,281. White: 2,245,229 (77.0%); Black: 449,895 (15.4%); American Indian: 22,248 (0.8%); Asian: 36,102 (1.2%); Other race: 99,571 (3.4%); Two or more races: 57,010 (2.0%); Hispanic/Latino: 186,050 (6.4%). 2010 population 18 and over: 2,204,443; 65 and over: 419,981; median age: 37.4.

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state's largest employing 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 National Park](#) and Buffalo National River in the [Ozarks](#) are major state attractions. Blanchard Springs Caverns, the Historic Arkansas Museum at Little Rock, the [William J. Clinton Birthplace](#) in [Hope](#), and the Arkansas Folk Center in Mountain View are also of interest.

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Selected famous natives and residents:

- G. M. "Broncho Billy" Anderson *actor*;
- [Maya Angelou](#) *author and poet*;
- [Daisy Bates](#) *social reformer*;
- Dee Brown *author*;
- [Helen Gurley Brown](#) *editor*;
- Dale Bumpers *governor and senator*;
- [Glen Campbell](#) *singer*;
- [Hattie Caraway](#) *first elected woman senator*;
- [Johnny Cash](#) *singer*;
- [Eldridge Cleaver](#) *social activist*;
- [William Jefferson Clinton](#) *former president*;
- William Darby *founder of the Darby Rangers*;
- [Dizzy Dean](#) *baseball player*;
- [Orval Faubus](#) *governor*;
- [John Gould Fletcher](#) *poet*;
- [J. William Fulbright](#) *former senator*;
- [John Grisham](#) *author*;
- Tess Harper *actress*;
- John H. Johnson *publisher*;
- E. Fay Jones *architect*;
- [Scott Joplin](#) *composer*;
- [Alan Ladd](#) *actor*;
- [Douglas MacArthur](#) *general*;
- Patsy Montana *singer*;
- Isaac C. Parker *judge*;
- [Albert Pike](#) *pioneer teacher and lawyer*;
- [Dick Powell](#) *actor*;
- [Mary Steenburgen](#) *actress*;
- [Billy Bob Thornton](#) *actor*;
- [Sam Walton](#) *founder of Wal-Mart*;
- William C. Warfield *concert singer and actor*.

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Arkansas Economy

The United States has become a service economy and many states, Arkansas included, generate most of its revenue through service industries.

Agriculture

According to the *Arkansas State Agricultural Overview, 2004*, produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, farmland covers approximately 36% of the state. Livestock products add up to about 63% of the state's agricultural revenue. About 37% of the state's production is in crops.

In terms of revenue generated, Arkansas's top five agricultural products are broilers (young chickens), rice, soybeans, cattle and calves, and cotton.

Livestock

The most important livestock products produced in Arkansas are broilers, young chickens sold as chicken parts or whole chickens. Arkansas is one of the top two states, along with [Georgia](#), producing the nation's broilers. Broilers account for about 41% of the state's livestock production.

Cattle and calves contribute about 8% of the state's livestock production.

Chicken eggs, turkeys, and aquaculture complete the list of the top five livestock commodities produced in the state.

Crops

This state's most important crop is rice. Arkansas is the leading producer of rice in the United States, providing about 46% of the nation's supply.

Arkansas grows lots of soybeans and ranks 10th in the nation.

Cotton, corn for grain, and wheat round out Arkansas's most valuable five crops.

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Manufacturing

Manufacturers add value to raw products by creating manufactured items. For example, cotton cloth becomes more valuable than a boll of cotton through manufacturing processes.

Food products lead the manufacturing sector in terms of value added. Food products include animal feed, bakery goods, canned vegetables, cottonseed oil, meats, milk, poultry, rice, and soft drinks. Tyson foods, the world's largest poultry producer and processor, is located in Springdale.

Manufactured paper products (paperboard boxes, paper) rank second after food products.

A wide variety of other products are manufactured in Arkansas. They include industrial and agricultural chemicals, electrical products (electric motors, household appliances, measuring and lighting devices), fabricated metal products (valves, pipe fittings), machinery (heating and cooling equipment, metalworking machinery), plastics and rubber products, transportation products (motor vehicle/aerospace parts), and wood products (lumber, plywood, pulp paper).

Mining

Natural gas is Arkansas's most important mined product. Most natural gas is mined in the northwestern part of the state.

Petroleum is the second most valuable product mined in the Arkansas. Most of the state's production is from large oil fields along the southern border with [Louisiana](#), another leading petroleum state.

Bromine (used in dyes, photograph development, gasoline additive) and crushed stone are other important mined products. Arkansas is a leading producer of bromine.

Other mined products include cement, clays, coal, gypsum, limestone, novaculite (used as sharpening stones), quartz, sand and gravel, soapstone, tripoli, and vanadium.

Services

As one might expect, most of Arkansas's service industries are found in metropolitan areas of the state's major cities; Little Rock; Fort Smith; Fayetteville; Jonesboro; Pine Bluff; Springdale; Conway; Rogers; and Hot Springs.

The leading service industries of Arkansas are the wholesale (automobiles, farm products, mined products) and retail (department stores, discount stores, food stores) services group. The leading discount chain, Wal-Mart, is based in Bentonville.

Ranking second in the services sector, is the community, business, and personal services group. This group includes private health care services, nursing and rest

homes, law firms, motels, and repair shops.

The government (public schools, public hospitals, military bases) and finance, insurance, and real estate group is ranked third, contributing about the same to Arkansas's economy. As well as hosting the largest military base in the state, Little Rock Air Force Base, Little Rock is considered the state's major center of finance.

Ranking fifth in the services sector is the transportation (leading trucking companies, several railroads), communication (telecommunications), and utilities (electric, gas, water) service group.

Sources

John G. Hehr and Larry D. Ball, Sr., "Arkansas," World Book Online Americas Edition, <http://www.worldbookonline.com/wbol/wbPage/na/ar/co/030080>, August 14, 2001.

U.S. Department of Agriculture: National Agricultural Statistics Service, "Arkansas State Agriculture Overview, 2004", 3 January 2006, <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Ag_Overview/AgOverview_AR.pdf> (12 January 2006)



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