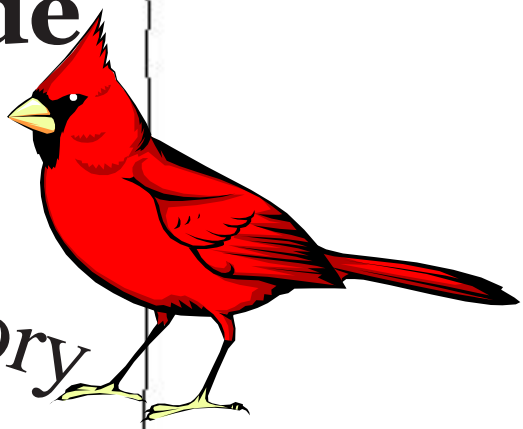
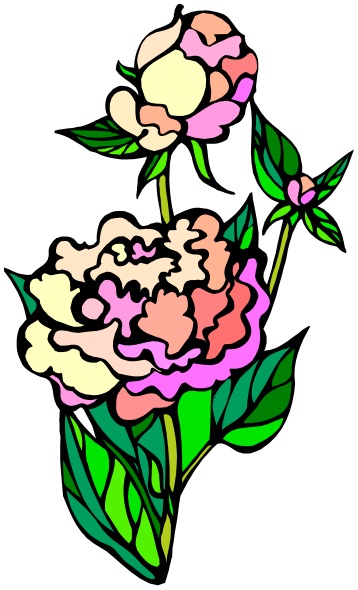
Your Guide to Indiana History





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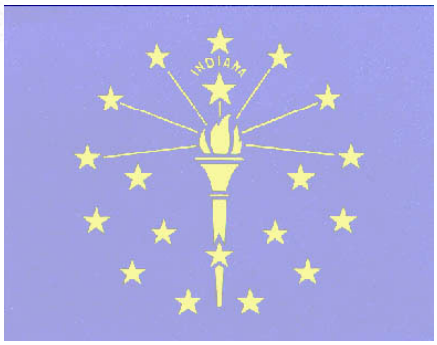
Ralph Foley



Your Guide To

INDIANA HISTORY®

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OUR NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE

Indiana means the land of the Indians. The Indians were the first people to live in the area called Indiana. This is why they are also called Native Americans. The word native means one of the first people to live in a land.

Scientists believe that early Native Americans probably arrived around the same time as animals, like the mammoth, which arrived in North America from Asia. The mammoth was a large and woolly animal, similar to an elephant. Early Native Americans used the mammoth for many reasons. They ate the mammoth and used their skin for clothing. The Native Americans also used the mammoths' bones to make tools and weapons.

The early Native Americans lived like nomads. Nomads are a type of people who move from place to place to search for food. Native Americans made spears from stone tips. They used these spears to hunt large animals like the mammoth. Native Americans later learned to hunt faster animals with bows and arrow. Native Americans also found food by fishing. They used fishhooks made from animals bones. Native Americans gathered plants to eat as well. Wild plants provided nuts, berries, and fruit.

Eventually, the Native Americans stopped moving from place to place and settled down to become farmers. They grew plants like corn, beans, squash, and tobacco. Because the Native Americans began to stay in one place, villages and towns were formed.

Many different Native American groups lived in Indiana. These groups included the Potawatomi, Shawnee, Wyandotte, Piankaska, Delaware, and Miami.

The Miami were one of the most important Native American tribes. The Miami lived between the Wabash and White rivers. The Native Americans often used canoes to travel down the river. This river route provided a way for people to trade who lived far away from each other. The Miami used canoes and were experts in river traveling. Because the river was so important to their daily lives, they built their villages in the Wabash Valley near the river.

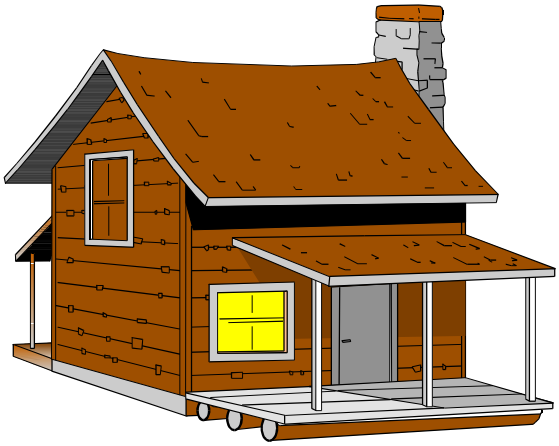
The Miami grew pumpkins, melons, beans and most importantly corn in the fertile soil that surrounded the river. They found that corn was easy to grow because of the long, hot summers and the fertile soil. Today, farmers in Indiana are still growing thousands of acres of corn in the Wabash Valley area each year.

Kekionga was the most important Miami village. Kekionga was located in north-central Indiana between the Wabash and Maumee rivers. It was near an important portage. A portage is a path across land over which people can carry boats and goods from one body of water to another. This portage was important because the Miami used the rivers for trade and travel. Kekionga was located where Fort Wayne is today. Although Fort Wayne is not the largest city in Indiana, it is still an important part of Indiana's economy.

The Native Americans were also builders of mounds. Mounds are large piles of earth that were built for many reasons. Archaeologists believe the mounds were used as places to bury their dead and to worship. Archaeologists are people who discover old things in our earth. These discoveries give clues as to how people lived a long time

Early Hoosiers and Statehood

The first people to arrive in Indiana from Europe were French fur traders. One of France's most famous explorers was Robert La Salle. He discovered a route from the Great Lakes to the Kankakee River. French fur traders moved to Indiana and opened trading posts along this route. The French befriended the Native Americans who lived in Indiana and began trading goods for valuable furs to send to Europe.



The French often lived among the Native Americans and learned about their way of life. Some married the Native Americans and raised families. In turn, they taught the Native Americans the French way of life. Soon, the Native Americans began to depend on trade goods.

To protect the fur traders, the French built forts throughout the area. Fort Ouiatenon was built on the Wabash River in 1717. It was named for the Wea Indians, a part of the Miami Tribe. This fort still there located near present-day Lafayette. Forts were also built near Vincennes and Kekionga. Both forts were located on or near the Wabash River. The river became a major trade route for the French. In the 1750s, British fur traders had moved into areas where the French were trading. While most Native Americans preferred to trade with the French, some decided to trade with the British. This competition upset the French, and the countries went to war.

The Native Americans aligned themselves with the French and fought the British from 1754 to 1763. This was known as the French and Indian War. In Indiana, the British took control of Fort Ouiatenon and Fort Miami. This allowed them to control the Wabash River and the fur trade. The war between the British and French ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. A treaty is an agreement between two countries. Now the British controlled the French forts and the Native Americans did not like this change.

Pontiac, a Native American leader, decided to fight the British since British settlers were using Indiana land for farming. Pontiac worked to unite all of the Native American tribes in Indiana to fight against the British. The Native Americans were successful in capturing Fort Miami and Fort Ouiatenon from the British. However, once winter came along the Native American warriors needed to move back to their villages and could not guard the forts from the British troops. Eventually, the British recaptured the forts and forced the French settlers to leave the area. The Native Americans remained and began to trade with the British.

The Native Americans agreed to trade with the British because the British guaranteed that they would not move west of the Appalachian Mountains. However, the colonists did not like being told what to do by the British government and they began to move into the frontier. The confrontations between the colonists and the British government led to the American Revolution which lasted from 1776-1783.

When the American colonists won the Revolutionary War, America's borders expanded all the way to the Mississippi River. The American government called this new land the Northwest Territory. This land was not officially recognized as individual states, but it did belong to the United States. During the 1780s, pioneers from the eastern states began to move into the new territory. Again, the Native Americans became concerned because the new settlers were taking and farming their land.

Miami Chief Little Turtle organized over 1,000 warriors to fight the American soldiers. After the Battle of Fallen Timbers, Chief Little Turtle decided that the Native Americans must seek peace with the settlers. Chief Little Turtle and General Anthony Wayne signed the Treaty of Greenville. General Wayne promised to let the Native Americans live in the western part of the Northwest Territory and to pay them for the land which the Native Americans gave up. The pioneers would be allowed to live in the eastern part of the territory.

The Northwest Territory was divided into two parts. Indiana was formed out of the western part of the territory. The Ordinance of 1785 set up a system for dividing the land into townships. The township was further divided into sections which pioneers could purchase. Another important ordinance stated that people could not own slaves in the Northwest Territory.

William Henry Harrison was named the first governor of the Indiana Territory and he governed for 12 years. During this time, Indiana's population continued to grow and Indiana became the 19th state on December 11, 1816.

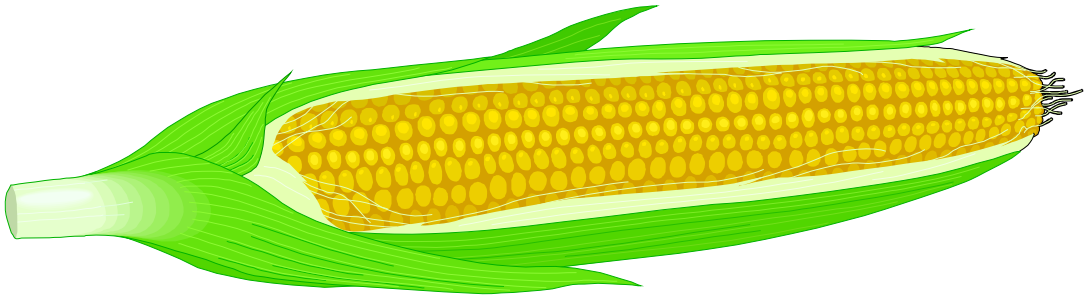
HOOSIER ECONOMY

Agriculture has a strong tradition in Indiana.
One of our state's major crops is corn.
Indiana is part of the Corn Belt States which is made up of several Midwestern and Plain States.
The corn our farmers grow is used for many things including food for livestock and automobile fuel (known as ethanol).

Indiana is also the biggest producer of popcorn in the country.
Hoosier Orville Redenbacher started one of the biggest popcorn companies in America.

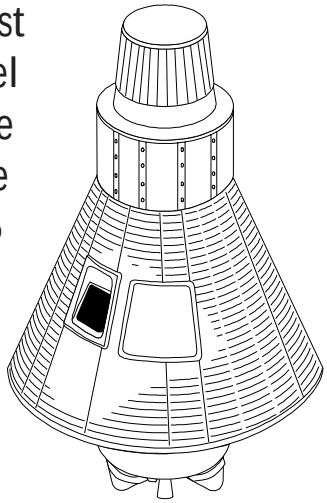
Products which come from the Corn Plant:
From the Seeds: Popcorn, Corn Meal, Corn Starch, Animal Feed
From the Oil in the Seeds: Corn Oil, Paint, Margarine, Ethanol
From the Stems and Leaves: Hay and Fertilizer

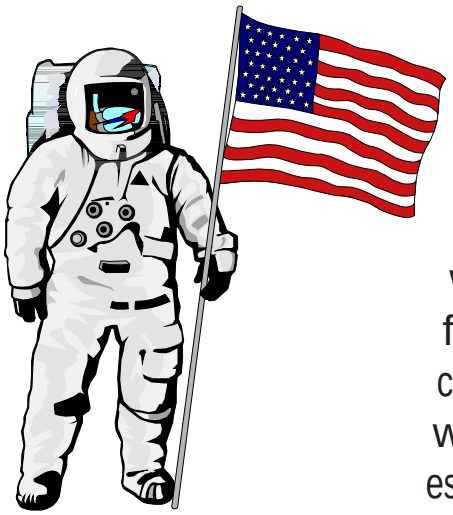
Industry:
Electronics Manufacturing
Steel
Metal Products
Transportation Equipment and Vehicles
Pharmaceuticals



HOOSIER TRADITIONS

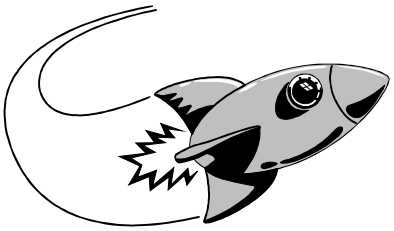
Space Program - During the 1950's the United States and the Soviet Union battled to see which country could reach space first. Gus Grissom is one of Indiana's most famous astronauts and the second American to travel into space. On July 21, 1961, Gus was aboard the United States' Mercury capsule which he named the Liberty Bell. Although the flight took only 15 minutes, it was an important step in American space travel.





In 1967, Gus Grissom was training with his fellow astronauts for the first Apollo flight. As the astronauts were practicing in their capsule a fire broke out due to a problem in the wiring. None of the astronauts were able to escape the fire and all were killed. This tragic accident showed the dangers of early space training.

Purdue University continues to train our young men and women for space travel. Dr. David A. Wolf, received his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University. Dr. Wolf is also a NASA astronaut who has spent extended periods of time in space. In 1997, Dr. Wolf boarded the Russian space station, Mir, for a total of 119 days. As part of his historic trip, he worked alongside Russian astronauts (known as cosmonauts) and was even able to complete a spacewalk.



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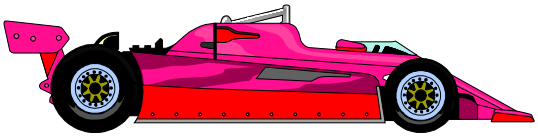
INDIANAPOLIS 500 - Known as the "Greatest Spectacle in Racing", the Indianapolis 500 celebrates 86 years of racing in 2002. This 500 mile race is held every year during Memorial Day weekend. Racecar drivers from all over the world compete in this famous Hoosier event.

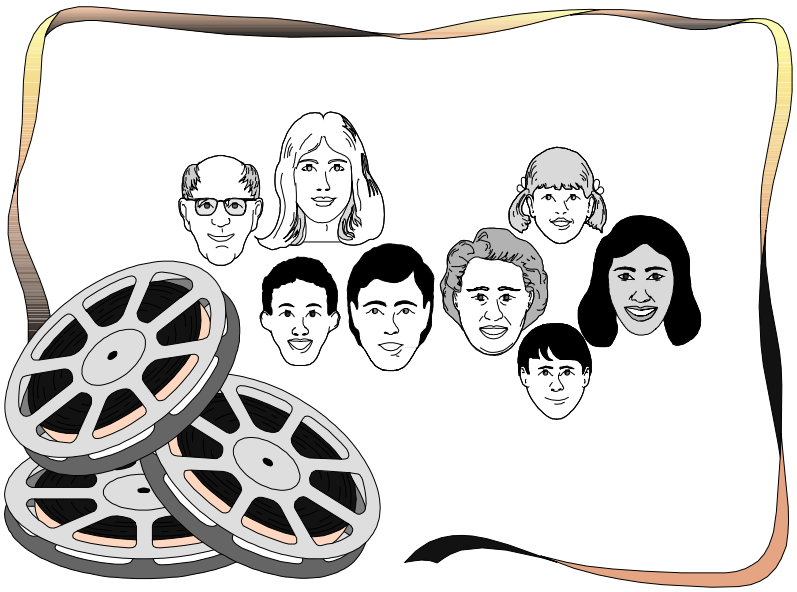


Basketball - Although Basketball was invented in Springfield, Massachusetts, the sport has become one of our state's greatest Hoosier traditions. Whether it is the high school state basketball tournament, the rivalry of Indiana University vs. Purdue University, the success of the Indiana Pacers, or the newest addition for the state, the Indiana Fever, Hoosiers cheer for and follow all levels of basketball.

Hoosier Hysteria began in 1954when the tiny school of Milan, total enrollment of 162 students, defeated Muncie Central High School. This game ended when Bobby Plump scored the dramatic game winning shot. The movie "Hoosiers" captures what the sport means to so many of Indiana's citizens with its story of a small school winning the Indiana Boys State Basketball Championship.

Famous Hoosiers

James Dean, Actor
Jim Davis, Creator, Garfield, Comic Strip Cat
David Letterman, Late night talk show host
Dr. David Wolf, Astronaut
Benjamin Harrison, President
William Henry Harrison, President
James Danforth "Dan" Quayle, Vice President
Madame C.J. Walker, African American Civic Leader
John Andretti, Indy Car Driver
Oscar Robertson, Hall of Fame Basketball Player
John Wooden, Hall of Fame Basketball Coach
Larry Bird, Hall of Fame Basketball Player
Knute Rockne, Hall of Fame College Football Coach
Ernie Pyle, Journalist
Shelly Long, Actress
Jane Pauley, News Anchor
Red Skelton, Comedian
Jeff Gordon, NASCAR Driver
John Mellencamp, Rock and Roll Musician
Cole Porter, Songwriter
Michael Jackson, Pop Musician
Janet Jackson, Actress and R & B Musician
Kurt Vonnegut, Author
Florence Henderson, Actress
John Dillinger, Infamous Bank Robber
Johnny Appleseed, Folk Hero
Gus Grissom, Astronaut
Steve McQueen, Actor
James Whitcomb Riley, Poet
Mark Spitz, Olympic Gold Medal Swimmer
Ryan White, AIDS Activist
Bob Griese, Hall of Fame Football Quarterback
Richard Lugar, United States Senator
Orville and Wilbur Wright, Inventor
Eli Lilly, Pharmaceutical Leader
Bill Blass, Fashion Designer
Eugene V. Debs, Socialist Leader
Theodore Dreiser, Author
James R. Hoffa, Labor Leader
Carole Lombard, Actress
Wendell Wilkie, Presidential Candidate
Don Mattingly, Baseball Player
Orville Redenbacher, Popcorn King
Clement Studebaker, Auto Manufacturer
Levi Coffin, Abolitionist
Abraham Lincoln, President
May Wright Sewall, Suffragette
Lew Wallace, Diplomat and Author
Robert Wise, Movie Director
Wilma Rudolph, Olympic Gold Medalist (Track and Field)
Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, R & B Musician
Vivica A. Fox, Actress



Unscramble the following words.
(Hint: Each word has something to do with Indiana history.)

1. ihoo rvrie _____
2. lvleeiansv _____
3. bklaeslatb _____
4. uthecems _____
5. teknu ekncro _____
6. aawshb llyvea _____
7. ryag _____
8. ngael dumosn _____
9. ealttyfae _____
10. mietoensl _____
11. dclianra _____

Multiple Choice:

1) What is Indiana's longest river?

a) Amazon River
b) Mississippi River
c) Wabash River
d) Colorado River

2) What is the major river located in southern Indiana?

a) Tippecanoe River
b) Ohio River
c) Mississippi River
d) Colorado River

3) What type of rock is Indiana known for?

a) Limestone
b) Coal
c) Marble
d) Concrete

4) Indian Chief Little Turtle was Chief of what tribe?

a) Miami
b) Apache
c) Shawnee
d) Sioux

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5) The Battle of Tippecanoe was fought between what two leaders?

a) George Washington and King George of Great Britain
b) George Rogers Clark and Chief Little Turtle
c) William Henry Harrison and Tecumseh
d) William Henry Harrison and Chief Little Turtle

6) Abraham Lincoln was the _____ President?

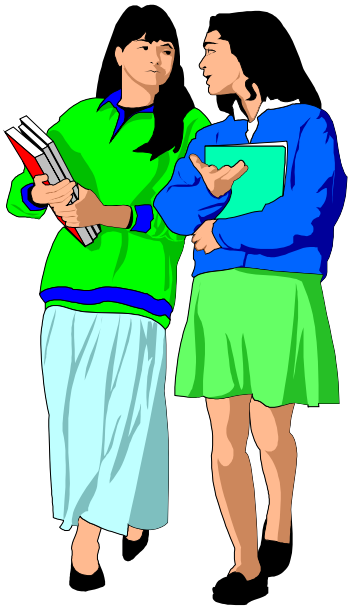
a) 5th President
b) 10th President
c) 15th President
d) 16th President

7) George Rapps followers were known as Harmonists and they settled in what city?

a) New Harmony
b) Corydon
c) Vincennes
d) Ft. Wayne

8) Indiana was the _____ state admitted into the Union?

a) 12th
b) 15th
c) 19th
d) 21st



True and False:

1) Indiana fought on the Confederate (southern) side during the Civil War.

2) The current state capital is located in Ft. Wayne.

3) One of Indiana's major crops is corn.

4) Richard Lugar is one of our state's current U.S. Senators.

5) Peru, Indiana is home to the Circus Hall of Fame.

6) Jim Davis was the creator of the Raggedy Ann & Andy dolls.

7) The tulip is the official state flower.

8) The Indianapolis 500 is a famous basketball tournament.

9) George Rogers Clark was a famous frontiersman who defeated the British at Vincennes

10) Gus Grissom was the first American man in space.

Answers

History Scramble: People, Places and Things

1) Ohio River

2) Evansville

3) Basketball

4) Tecumseh

5) Knute Rockne

6) Wabash Valley

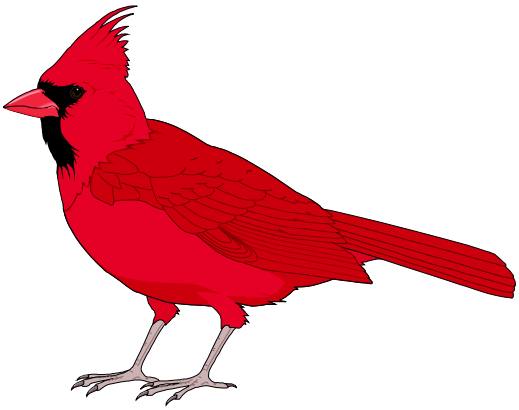
7) Gary

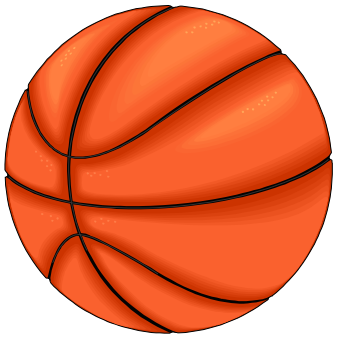
8) Angel Mounds

9) Lafayette

10) Limestone

11) Cardinal





Multiple Choice:

1) Wabash River

2) Ohio River

3) Limestone

4) Miami

5) William Henry Harrison and Tecumseh

6) 16th President

7) New Harmony

8) 19th State

True and False:

1) False, Indiana fought on the Union (northern) side.

2) False, Indianapolis

3) True

4) True

5) True

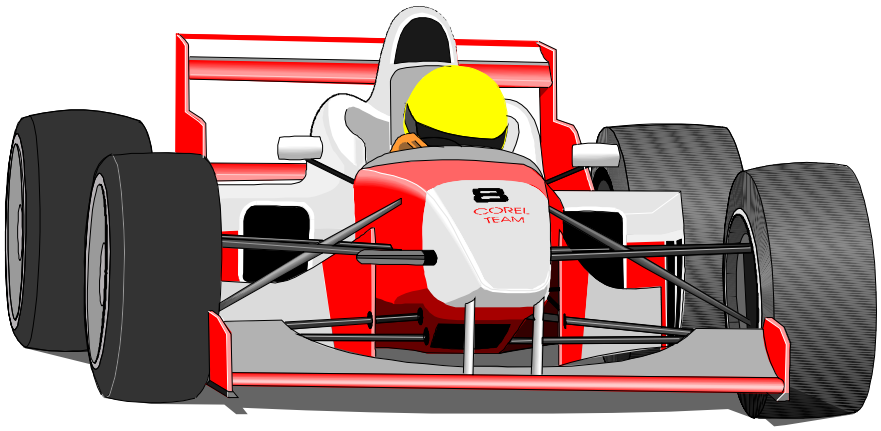
6) False, Garfield

7) False, Peony is the state flower

8) False, Indianapolis 500 is a famous automobile race

9) True

10) False, Gus Grissom was second.



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