

# State of Indiana

## State Facts

<b>AREA</b>	36,185 square miles, including 253 square miles of water. Length, 275 miles breadth, 144 miles. Highest altitude, 1,257 feet in Wayne County; lowest altitude, 320 feet in Posey County.
<b>CLIMATE</b>	Four distinct seasons. Average temperatures in July range from 63 to 86 degrees Fahrenheit; January ranges from 17 to 35 degrees Fahrenheit. Record high: 116 degrees at Collegeville in 1936. Record low: 35 below zero at Greensburg in 1951. Average annual precipitation is 40 inches.
<b>STATE CAPITAL</b>	Indianapolis (combination of Indiana and Greek word "polis" meaning city -- thus, Indianapolis means "city of Indiana").
<b>STATE MOTTO</b>	The Crossroads of America. Adopted 1937.
<b>STATE FLOWER</b>	Peony. Adopted 1957.
<b>STATE TREE</b>	Tulip tree (yellow poplar). Adopted 1931
<b>STATE BIRD</b>	Cardinal. Adopted 1933.
<b>STATE SONG</b>	"On the Banks of the Wabash," by Paul Dresser. Adopted 1913
<b>STATE POEM</b>	"Indiana", by Arthur Franklin Mapes, Kendallville. Adopted 1963.
<b>STATE STONE</b>	Indiana limestone. Adopted 1971.
<b>STATE SEAL</b>	The seal depicts a pioneer scene--a woodsman felling a tree, a buffalo fleeing from the sound of the axe and the sun gleaming over a distant hill. In use since 1801, the seal was officially adopted in 1963.
<b>STATE FLAG</b>	The Indiana flag displays 19 gold stars surrounding a gold torch centered on a rectangular field of blue. The torch stands for liberty and enlightenment. Thirteen stars in the outer circle represent the 13 original states; the five in the inner circle represent the five states next admitted to the Union. The star above the torch stands for Indiana, the 19th state. Adopted 1917.
<b>STATE NAME</b>	The name Indiana means "land of the Indian". It was coined in 1800 when Congress carved the new state of Ohio from the Northwest Territory and designated the remaining vast area as the Indiana Territory. The territorial name was retained when Indiana became a state in 1816.
<b>NICKNAME</b>	The nickname for someone of Indiana birth or long residency is "Hoosier", a word whose origin has never been determined. Some have said it stemmed from the pioneer custom of greeting night callers with, "Who's yere?" Others claimed it came from "hoosier men", referring to laborers for an early-day Indiana contractor named Sam Hoosier. Still others traced the word to the term "husher", meaning a river boat worker strong enough to "hush" any challenger, or to "hoozer", a dialect word meaning hill-dweller.

Source: Here Is Your Indiana Government, 1993-94, Indiana Chamber of Commerce.