

WISCONSIN FUN FACTS

Wisconsin was the 30th state in the USA; it became a state on May 29, 1848.

State Abbreviation - WI

State Capital - Madison

Largest City - Milwaukee

Area - 65,503 square miles [Wisconsin is the 23rd biggest state in the USA]

Population - 5,363,675 (as of 2000)
[Wisconsin is the 18th most populous state in the USA]

Name for Residents - Wisconsinites

Major Industries - dairy products (milk, butter, cheese), farming (corn), machinery, paper manufacturing, beer, tourism



Major Rivers - Wisconsin River, Mississippi River, St. Croix River, Chippewa River

Major Lakes - Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Winnebago

Highest Point - Timms Hill - 1,952 feet (595 m) above sea level

Bordering States - Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois

Origin of the Name Wisconsin -

Wisconsin is from an Indian word, but the origin is uncertain. It is perhaps an Algonquian Indian word that means "long river," a Chippewa/Ojibwa/Anishinabe word, "Ouisconsin," that means "grassy place," or "gathering of the waters."

State Nickname - Badger State

State Motto - "Forward"

State Song - On, Wisconsin!

Wisconsin



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|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| ADELL | ELLA | LENA | OWEN |
| ANTIGO | GILLET | LYONS | PORTAGE |
| APPLETON | GREEN BAY | MADISON | RACINE |
| AVOCA | HAYES | MARINETTE | RIPON |
| SARABOO | HILES | MILWAUKEE | SIREN |
| BELOIT | INO | NEKOOSA | TOMAH |
| BENNETT | KENOSHA | NIAGRA | VIOLA |
| CASCO | KIFI | OAKDALE | WAUKESHA |
| DELAVAN | KING | OREGON | WAUPUN |
| EAU CLAIRE | LA CROSSE | OSHKOSH | WAUSAU |
| ELCHO | LAONA | OSSEO | WITHEE |

WISCONSIN STATE SYMBOLS & EMBLEMS

State Flag

Wisconsin's official state flag was adopted in 1913. The flag has a deep blue background. White letters spell out "WISCONSIN" and "1848," the year Wisconsin became a state. A sailor with rope and a miner with an axe surround a yellow shield in the center of the flag.

The shield depicts an arm and hammer, a plow, a pick and shovel, and an anchor. These represent Wisconsin's main industries: manufacturing, agriculture, mining, and shipping. In the center of the shield is a blue ring with the words "E PLURIBUS UNUM" (which is the motto of the U.S.A. and means "Out of Many, One" - this refers to the states of the United States being united into one country). Inside the ring is a smaller shield with a blue top and red and white stripes on the bottom.

A badger (Wisconsin's state animal) and a white ribbon reading "FORWARD" are above the shield. A cornucopia filled with food and a stack of lead ore are under the shield.



Animal Symbols

State Bird – Robin

State Animal – Badger

State Wildlife Animal – Whitetail Deer

State Domestic Animal – Dairy Cow

State Dog – American Water Spaniel

State Fish – Muskellunge

State Insect – Honey Bee

State Symbol of Peace – Mourning Dove

Plant Symbols

State Fruit – Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*)

State Grain – Corn

State Wildflower – Wood Violet (*Viola papilionacea*)

State Tree – Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

Earth Symbols

State Fossil – Trilobite (*Calymene celebra*) A marine arthropod with a three-part body.

State Stone – Red Granite

State Mineral – Galena (Lead Sulfide)

State Soil – Anitgo Silt Loam (a fertile soil)

Miscellaneous Symbols

State Beverage – Milk

State Dance - Polka

WISCONSIN FACTS AND TRIVIA

1. Wisconsin visitors and residents enjoy the state's 7,446 streams and rivers. End-to-end they'd stretch 26,767 miles. That is more than enough to circle the globe at the equator.
2. Wisconsin's Door County has five state parks and 250 miles of shoreline along Lake Michigan. These figures represent more than any other county in the country.
3. In 1878-1879 the Wisconsin legislature approved the creation of a state park in Vilas County. The proposal was not successful and the state ended up selling two-thirds of area land to lumber interest for \$8 an acre in 1897.
4. In 1900 land acquisition for Wisconsin's first state park began. The park became Interstate State Park located in St. Croix Falls.
5. Devil's Lake was established in 1911. The facility has become one of Wisconsin's oldest and most famous state parks. It leads the state parks in attendance.
6. The House on the Rock was designed and built in the early 1940s. It is considered an architectural marvel and is perched on a 60-foot chimney of rock. The 14-room house is now a complex of rooms, streets, buildings, and gardens covering over 200 acres. The Infinity Room contains 3,264 windows.
7. The state is nicknamed the Badger State.
8. In 1882 the first hydroelectric plant in the United States was built at Fox River.
9. The first practical typewriter was designed in Milwaukee in 1867.
10. Wausau is the Ginseng Capital of the World.
11. The American Birkebeiner, a 52K cross-country ski race between Cable and Hayward, is the largest on the North American continent.
12. Wisconsin snowmobile trails total 15,210 miles of signed and groomed snow highways.
13. Mount Horeb is the Troll Capital of the World and home to the Mustard Museum (see below.)
14. In the 1930s the Flambeau River State Forest was established and became a legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Project Administration.
15. Noah's Ark in Wisconsin Dells is the nation's largest water-themed park.
16. Belleville is the Unidentified Flying Object Capital of Wisconsin.
17. Potosi is the Catfish Capital of the state.
18. The nation's first kindergarten was established in Watertown in 1856. Its first students were local German-speaking youngsters.
19. Wisconsin is the dairy capital of the United States.
20. Wisconsin produces more milk than any other state.
21. Frank Lloyd Wright was born in Richland Center on June 8, 1867
22. The National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward is shaped like a Muskie.
23. The original Barbie is from Willows. Barbie's full name is Barbie Millicent Roberts.
24. Bloomer is the Jump Rope Capital of the World.
25. Milwaukee is home of Harley Davidson Motorcycles.
26. The first Ringling Brothers Circus was staged in Baraboo in 1884.
27. Somerset is the Inner Tubing Capital of the World.
28. Green Bay is Wisconsin's oldest city.
29. Two Rivers is the home of the ice cream sundae.
30. Wisconsin's second oldest city is Prairie du Chien.
31. The state's constitution is the oldest of any state west of the Allegheny Mountains. It was adopted in 1848.
32. Boscobel is the Turkey Capital of the state.
33. The Republican Party was founded in Ripon in 1854.
34. The Hamburger hall of fame is located in Seymour.
35. Monroe is the Swiss Cheese Capital of the World.
36. Mercer is the Loon Capital of the World.
37. With an average of 2,500 performers, Milwaukee's Summerfest is the nation's largest music festival.

38. Famous Wisconsinites include: Harry Houdini, famous magician and escape artist. Douglas MacArthur, well known World War II and Korean War general. Frank Lloyd Wright, America's most famous architect. William H. Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Don Ameche, actor and winner of an academy award for his performance in "Cocoon."
39. Mount Horeb's internationally known Mustard Museum holds the world's largest mustard collection. The museum contains more than 2,300 varieties of mustard. The museum celebrates National Mustard Day each August.
40. The National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is in Hayward.
41. Eagle River is known as the Snowmobile Capital of the World.
42. Marshfield is located in the geographic center of the state and is known Hub City.
43. Bonduel is the Spelling Capital of Wisconsin.
44. Muscoda is the Morel Mushroom Capital of Wisconsin.
45. Sauk City is Wisconsin's oldest incorporated village.
46. Prairie du Sac hosts the State Cow Chip Throwing Contest on Labor Day weekend.
47. Sturgeon Bay is the Shipbuilding Capital of the Great Lakes.
48. Sheboygan is the Bratwurst Capital of the World.
49. The falls in Niagara has the same geological feature as Niagara Falls, New York.
50. Green Bay is the Toilet Paper Capital of the World.

FAMOUS PEOPLE FROM WISCONSIN

Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867 – 1957) American author who wrote historical fiction Little House books; most famous for “The Little House on the Prairie”. Born in Pepin, Wisconsin.

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959) America's most famous architect who influenced the entire course of American architecture. Born in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Georgia O’Keeffe (1887 – 1986) Well-known artist who was known for her many abstract paintings. Born in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

Don Ameche (1908 – 1993) Actor who won an Academy Award for his performance in “Cocoon”; also a director. Born in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

August Derleth (1909 – 1971) American writer and anthologist who is known for his historical fiction and detective fiction works. Born in Sauk City, Wisconsin.

Liberace (1919 – 1987) Famous American entertainer and musician who is known for his many television appearances and his show called "The Liberace Show." Born in West Allis, Wisconsin.

Richard I. Bong (1920 – 1945) America's leading air ace during World War II. Born in Superior, Wisconsin.

Gene Wilder (1933 -) Actor made famous with his role as Willy Wonka in the original “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory”. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Libby Riddles (1956 -) The first woman to win the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in 1985. Born in Madison, Wisconsin.

Eric Heiden (1958 -) Five-time gold medalist speed skater of the 1980 Winter Olympics. Born in Madison, Wisconsin.