

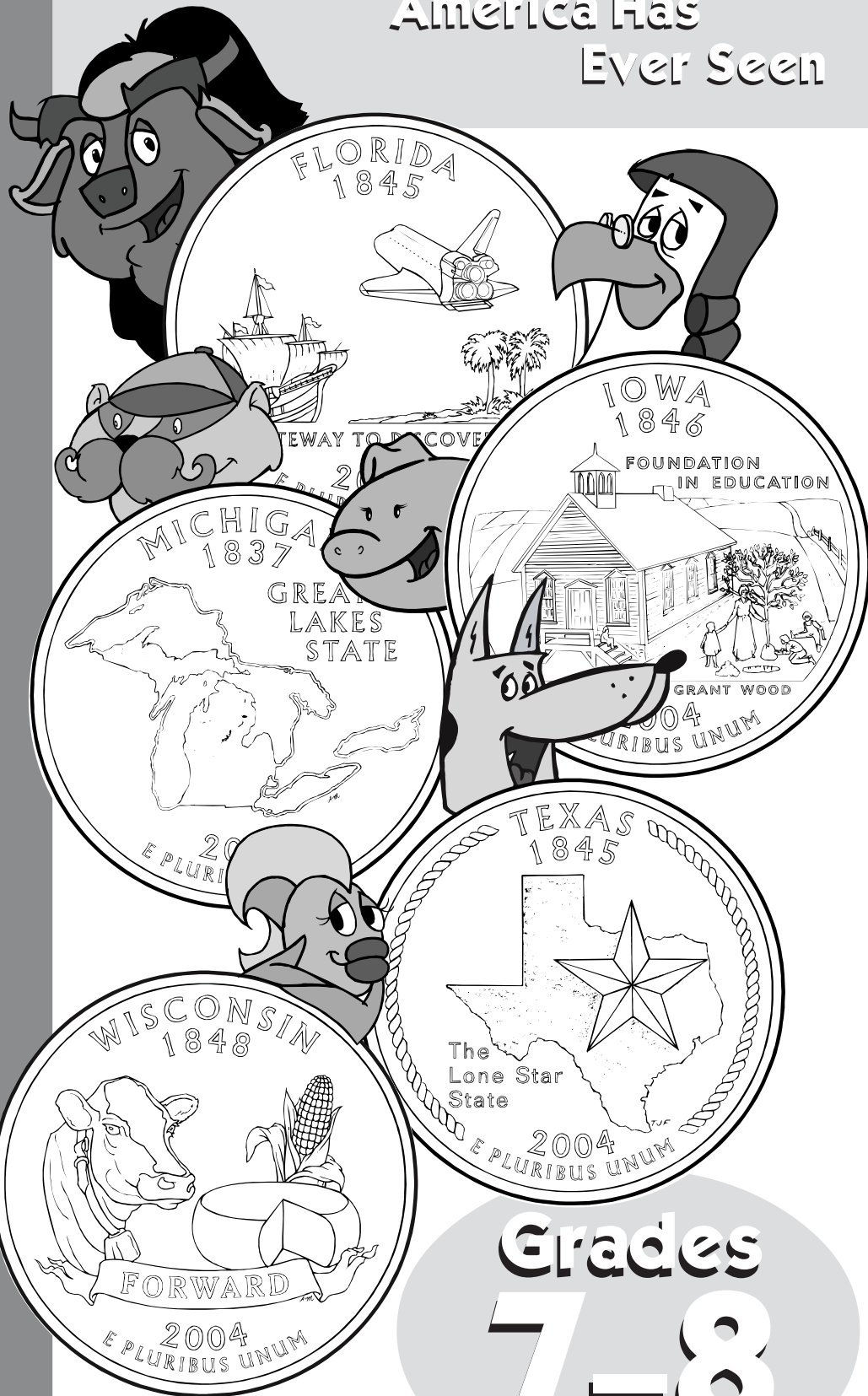


The Greatest Educational Change America Has Ever Seen

Lesson Plans

This teaching guide includes:

- ◆ 6 teacher-friendly lesson plans that fit easily into your curriculum
- ◆ Reproducible student worksheets that coincide with each lesson
- ◆ Fun state facts and information on the new quarter designs
- ◆ USA map template with state outlines



**Grades
7-8**



The United States Mint Has Big Plans for You!

Kids and coin collecting go hand in hand! By downloading the most recent sets of 50 State Quarters® Program lesson plans, you are able to bring the excitement of America's quarter craze right into your own classroom.

Launched in 1999, the United States Mint 50 State Quarters Program is a 10-year coin initiative commemorating each of the nation's states in the order that were admitted into the Union. Approximately every ten weeks (five times a year) through 2008, a new limited-edition quarter that displays an individual state's design is released into general circulation.

As it has every year since the beginning of this program, the United States Mint is offering the public three free sets of lesson plans (for grades K–1, 2–3, and 4–6). This year, we have added two new sets of free plans (for grades 7–8 and 9–12). All are designed to bring life to the history and beauty of our country. Moreover, these plans, created and reviewed by teachers to meet your curricular goals, draw upon the specific designs of the commemorative quarter reverses to help inspire students to learn about the culture, geography, and unique heritage of each state.

Each set of lesson plans blends clear instructions with kid-friendly reproducible worksheets, background information, and answer keys to help make instruction easier for you!

Within the 2004 50 State Quarters Program lesson plans, you will also notice a strong connection to the United States Mint H.I.P. Pocket Change™ Web site. Appearing on the cover as well as within the plans themselves, the coin-loving H.I.P. Pocket Change Pals will show you ways to supplement the quarter activities with all of the fun and educational resources available on the site!

The H.I.P. Pocket Change Web site, located at www.usmint.gov/kids, is dedicated to promoting lifelong pleasure in coins and coin collecting. Through games, informational features, and interactive animated cartoons, the site introduces students to what's H.I.P. about coins—they're "History In your Pocket."

The United States Mint is proud to be taking such an active role in promoting knowledge about the individual states, their history and geography, and the rich diversity of the national heritage among America's youth. Take some time to explore all of the high quality educational resources available on the United States Mint H.I.P. Pocket Change Web site, including the materials related to the 50 State Quarters Program! We hope that you find these resources to be an extremely valuable addition to your classroom.

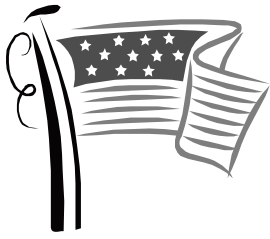


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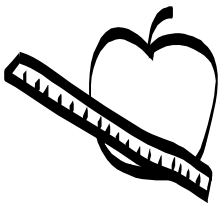
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50 State Quarters® Program Overview

Launched in 1999, the United States Mint 50 State Quarters Program is a 10-year coin initiative commemorating each of the nation's states in the order that they ratified the U.S. Constitution. The 50 State Quarters Program introduces the American populace to the history, geography, and heritage unique to each state.

Approximately every 10 weeks, a new quarter is released into general circulation (five quarters are released each year). The state design is displayed on the reverse (back) of the quarter, and a portrait of George Washington appears on the coin's obverse (front). Each quarter is minted for a period of 10 weeks.



Quarter Information

1999 (1)

Delaware

The Delaware quarter, depicting the historic horseback ride of Caesar Rodney, galloped onto the scene as it kicked off the much anticipated U.S. Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program.

Caesar Rodney was a delegate to the Continental Congress. On July 1, 1776, despite extreme illness, Rodney set off on the 80-mile journey to Philadelphia withstanding thundershowers and a severe summer heat wave. The next day, he arrived at Independence Hall just in time to cast the deciding vote in favor of our nation's independence. This native of Dover has also held more public offices than any other Delaware citizen. In addition to being an extremely dedicated delegate, Rodney was also a soldier, judge, and speaker of Delaware's Assembly.



State Capital: Dover
State Bird: Blue Hen Chicken
State Tree: American Holly
State Flower: Peach Blossom
State Motto: Liberty and independence
Entered Union (rank): December 7, 1787 (1)

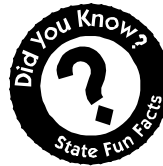
Nickname: First State
Origin of Name: Named for Lord De La Warr
State Song: "Our Delaware"

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania quarter, the second coin in the 50 State Quarters® Program, depicts the statue "Commonwealth," an outline of the state, the state motto, and a keystone. This design was chosen to further help educate people about the origins of our second state, founded on December 12, 1787.

The statue "Commonwealth," designed by New York sculptor Roland Hinton Perry, is a bronze-gilded 14' 6"

high female form that has topped Pennsylvania's state capital dome in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, since May 25, 1905. Her right arm extends in kindness and her left arm grasps a ribbon mace to symbolize justice. The image of the keystone honors the state's nickname, "The Keystone State." At a Jefferson Republican victory rally in October 1802, Pennsylvania was toasted as "the keystone in the federal union." The modern persistence of this designation is justified in view of the key position of Pennsylvania in the economic, social, and political development of the United States.



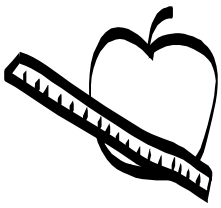
State Capital: Harrisburg
State Bird: Ruffed Grouse
State Tree: Eastern Hemlock
State Flower: Mountain Laurel
State Motto: Virtue, liberty, and independence

Entered Union (rank): December 12, 1787 (2)
Nickname: Keystone State
Origin of Name: ... In honor of Admiral Sir William Penn, father of William Penn
State Song: "Pennsylvania"

New Jersey

The New Jersey quarter, the third coin in the 50 State Quarters® Program, depicts General George Washington and members of the Continental Army crossing the Delaware River en route to very important victories during the Revolutionary War. The design is based on the 1851 painting by Emmanuel Leutze, "Washington Crossing the Delaware."

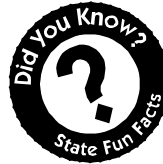
It was a cold Christmas night in 1776 and the Delaware River was frozen in many places. General George Washington calculated the enemy would not be expecting an assault in this kind of weather. He and his soldiers



Quarter Information

1999 (2)

courageously crossed the Delaware River into Trenton, New Jersey. Using surprise as their greatest weapon, Washington's army captured over 900 prisoners and secured the town. Later that night, his army continued towards Princeton, New Jersey, again taking the enemy by surprise. These two victories proved very important to his army as they gave the soldiers courage, hope, and newfound confidence. The supplies confiscated from their captives helped them survive the brutal winter of 1777.



State Capital: Atlanta
State Bird: Brown Thrasher
State Tree: Live Oak
State Flower: Cherokee Rose
State Motto: Wisdom, justice, and moderation

Entered Union (rank): January 2, 1788 (4)
Nickname: Empire State of the South
Origin of Name: In honor of King George II of England
State Song: "Georgia on My Mind"



State Capital: Trenton
State Bird: Eastern Goldfinch
State Tree: Red Oak
State Flower: Purple Violet
State Motto: . . . Liberty and prosperity
Entered Union (rank): December 18, 1787 (3)

Nickname: Garden State
Origin of Name: From the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel

Connecticut

The Connecticut quarter, the last 50 State Quarters® Program coin issued in 1999, features "The Charter Oak," an important part of Connecticut's heritage and existence. On the night of October 31, 1687, Connecticut's Charter was put to a test. A British representative for King James II challenged Connecticut's government structure and demanded its surrender. In the middle of the heated discussion, with the Charter on the table between the opposing parties, the candles were mysteriously snuffed out, darkening the room. When visibility was reestablished, the Connecticut Charter had vanished. Heroic Captain Joseph Wadsworth saved the Charter from the hands of the British and concealed it in the safest place he could find—in a majestic white oak. This famous tree, "The Charter Oak," finally fell during a great storm on August 21, 1856.



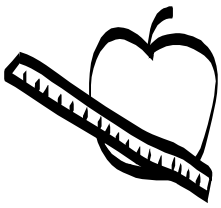
State Capital: Hartford
State Bird: American Robin
State Tree: White Oak
State Flower: Mountain Laurel
State Motto: . . . Qui transtulit sustinet
(He who transplanted still sustains)

Entered Union (rank): January 9, 1788 (5)
Nickname: Constitution State
Origin of Name: From an Indian word, "Quinnehtukqut," meaning "beside the long tidal river" or "long river place"
State Song: "Yankee Doodle"

Georgia

The Georgia quarter, the fourth quarter released under the 50 State Quarters® Program, is a real peach. The selected design incorporates several symbols associated with this traditional, yet very diverse southern state.

Just from studying the Georgia quarter design, one can learn a lot about the fourth state of the Union. The selected design prominently features the peach—a symbol long associated with the state—within the confines of a silhouetted outline of the state. Live Oak sprigs border the central design paying homage to the official state tree, the Live Oak. And if you ever need to know the Georgia state motto, simply look across the top of the design, where the words "Wisdom, Justice, and Moderation," grace a hanging banner.



Quarter Information

2000 (1)

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts quarter, the first quarter of the new millennium, features a design of “The Minuteman,” a famous statue that stands guard at The Minuteman National Historical Park in Concord, Massachusetts.

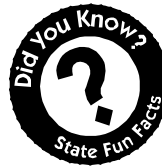
The selected design captures a piece of the Bay State’s exceptional history. The Minutemen played a big role in protecting our nation, as they rallied together to help defeat the British during the Revolutionary War. These small, influential forces consisting of farmers and colonists, were always at-the-ready and were trained to assemble and fight on just a minute’s notice-hence the term “minutemen.”

peacetime capital. The Treaty of Paris was ratified here, officially ending the Revolutionary War. A treasure preserved, the Statehouse continues as the country’s oldest state capital building still in legislative use.

Leaf clusters from the official state tree, the White Oak, and the nickname the Old Line State complete the selected design. Maryland is nicknamed the Old Line State in honor of its “troops of the line.” These troops won praise from George Washington, who was Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.



- State Capital:** Boston
- State Bird:** Chickadee
- State Tree:** American Elm
- State Flower:** Mayflower
- State Motto:** Ense petit placidam
sub libertate quietem
(By the sword we seek peace, but
peace only under liberty)
- Entered Union (rank):** February 6, 1788 (6)
- Nickname:** Bay State
- Origin of Name:** From Massachusetts tribe of Native
Americans, meaning “at or about the great hill”
- State Song:** “All Hail to Massachusetts”



- State Capital:** Annapolis
- State Bird:** Baltimore Oriole
- State Tree:** White Oak
- State Flower:** Black-Eyed Susan
- State Motto:** Fatti maschii, parole
. femine (Manly deeds, womanly words)
- Entered Union (rank):** April 28, 1788 (7)
- Nickname:** Old Line State
- Origin of Name:** In Honor of Queen Henrietta Maria
(wife of King Charles I of England)
- State Song:** “Maryland! My Maryland!”

Maryland

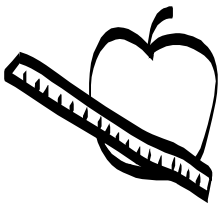
The Maryland quarter, the second in the Year 2000 series, highlights the striking dome of the Maryland Statehouse.

Through its new quarter, our seventh state shares its pride for the honored Maryland Statehouse. A distinctive building dating back to 1772, it features the country’s largest wooden dome built without nails. Besides housing Maryland’s colonial legislature, it was also crucial to our national history. From 1783-1784, the Maryland Statehouse served as the nation’s first

South Carolina

The South Carolina quarter, the eighth coin released under the 50 State Quarters® Program, shows key state symbols—a Palmetto Tree, the Carolina Wren, and the Yellow Jessamine. The Palmetto Tree represents South Carolina’s strength. The Carolina Wren’s song symbolizes the hospitality of the state’s people. The Yellow Jessamine, a delicate golden, bloom—a sign of coming spring—is part of South Carolina’s vast natural beauty. An outline of South Carolina, and a star indicating the capital, Columbia, form the quarter’s background.

The Carolina Wren, the state bird, and the Yellow Jessamine, the state flower, are native throughout South Carolina. The importance of the Palmetto Tree, the state tree, dates back to the Revolutionary War. In



Quarter Information

2000 (2)

1776, colonists in a small fort built of Palmetto logs successfully defeated a British fleet trying to capture Charleston Harbor. Since then, South Carolina has been called “The Palmetto State.”



State Capital: Columbia
State Bird: Carolina Wren
State Tree: Palmetto
State Flower: Yellow Jessamine
State Mottos: Animis opibusque parati (Ready in soul and resource) and Dum spiro spero (While I breathe, I hope)

Entered Union (rank): May 23, 1788 (8)
Nickname: Palmetto State
Origin of Name: In honor of King Charles I of England
State Songs: “Carolina” and “South Carolina on My Mind”

New Hampshire

The New Hampshire quarter, the ninth coin released under the 50 State Quarters® Program, honors one of the state’s most unique natural attractions, “The Old Man of the Mountain.” The state’s motto, “Live free or die,” and nine stars, representing New Hampshire being the ninth state to ratify the Constitution, complete the design.

“The Old Man of the Mountain” is a rock formation that can be found on Mt. Cannon in the Franconia Notch gateway to Northern New Hampshire. From the right view, this unique rock formation, comprised of five layers of Conway red granite, depicts the distinct profile of an elderly man gazing eastward. Geographers believe that the layers of granite were positioned by the melting and slipping away action of an ice sheet that covered the Franconia Mountains at the end of the glacial period-some 2,000 to 10,000 years ago. Today, the formation, measuring over 40 feet high with a lateral distance of 25 feet, is held in place by cables and turnbuckles to prevent further slipping and possible destruction.



State Capital: Concord
State Bird: Purple Finch
State Tree: Paper Birch
State Flower: Purple Lilac
State Motto: Live free or die
Entered Union (rank): . June 21, 1788 (9)

Nickname: Granite State
Origin of Name: From the English county of Hampshire
State Song: “Old New Hampshire”

Virginia

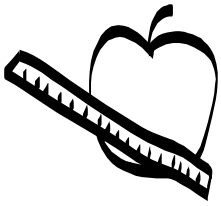
The Virginia quarter, the tenth coin released under the 50 State Quarters® Program, honors our nation’s oldest colony, Jamestown, Virginia. Jamestown turns 400 years old in 2007. The selected design features the three ships, Susan Constant, Godspeed, and Discovery. These ships brought the first English settlers to Jamestown.

On April 10, 1606, King James I of England chartered the Virginia Company to encourage colonization in the New World. The first expedition, consisting of the three ships depicted on the quarter, embarked from London on December 20, 1606. On May 12, 1607, they landed on a small island along the James River nearly 60 miles from the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. It was here the original settlers (104 men and boys) established the first permanent English settlement called Jamestown, in honor of King James I.



State Capital: Richmond
State Bird: Cardinal
State Tree: Dogwood
State Flower: Dogwood
State Motto: Sic semper tyrannis (Thus always to tyrants)

Entered Union (rank): June 25, 1788 (10)
Nickname: The Old Dominion
Origin of Name: In honor of Queen Elizabeth I, the “Virgin Queen” of England



Quarter Information

2001 (1)

New York

The New York quarter, the first quarter of the 2001 series, features the Statue of Liberty superimposed over an outline of the state along with the inscription “Gateway to Freedom.” Also incorporated into the state outline is a line tracing the Hudson River and the route of the Erie Canal.

The New York design celebrates the “Empire State” as a point of entry for millions of immigrants seeking the political freedom and democracy that American citizenship provides. President Grover Cleveland accepted the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, on behalf of the United States on October 28, 1886. Lady Liberty was designated a National Monument on October 15, 1924, and underwent extensive restoration for her remarkable centennial on July 4, 1986. Governor George E. Pataki asked the U.S. Mint to add the line tracing the Hudson River and the route of the Erie Canal because of the vital developmental role of the waterways.



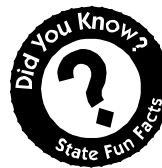
State Capital: Albany
State Bird: Eastern Bluebird
State Tree: Sugar Maple
State Flower: Rose
State Motto: Excelsior (Ever upward)
Entered Union (rank): July 26, 1788 (11)

Nickname: Empire State
Origin of Name: In honor of the Duke of York
State Song: “I Love New York”

North Carolina

The North Carolina quarter, the 12th in the series and the second quarter to be released in the 2001 series, highlights the famous 1903 photograph of the “First Flight.” The North Carolina quarter commemorates the

historic feat that took place on December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina with the first successful flight of a heavier-than-air, self-propelled flying machine. The craft, called the Flyer, traveled a distance of approximately 37 meters (120 feet) on its first flight and soared even further as one of the most significant human achievements in history.



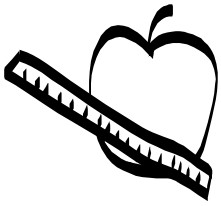
State Capital: Raleigh
State Bird: Cardinal
State Tree: Pine
State Flower: Dogwood
State Motto: Esse quam videri
(To be rather than to seem)

Entered Union (rank): November 21, 1789 (12)
Nickname: The Tar Heel State or The Old North State
Origin of Name: In honor of King Charles I
of England
State Song: “The Old North State”

Rhode Island

The Rhode Island quarter, the third quarter of the 2001 series, honors the “Ocean State.” Featuring a vintage sailboat gliding through Rhode Island’s famous Narragansett Bay, and an image of the Pell Bridge in the background, with the design showcasing Rhode Island’s most popular sport—sailing.

With more than 400 miles of coastline, Rhode Island, the smallest state in the Union, has more than 100 fresh water and salt water beaches. Known as the “sailing capital” of the world, Rhode Island was home to the America’s Cup for more than 50 years. Narragansett Bay is crucial to the architecture of Rhode Island. An inlet of the Atlantic Ocean, extending into eastern Rhode Island, the Bay receives four major rivers, and has several islands.



Quarter Information

2001 (2)



State Capital: Providence
State Bird: . . . Rhode Island Red Hen
State Tree: Red Maple
State Flower: Violet
State Motto: Hope
Entered Union (rank): . May 29, 1790 (13)

Nickname: The Ocean State
Origin of Nickname: From the Greek
Island of Rhodes
State Song: "Rhode Island It's for Me"

Vermont

The Vermont quarter, the fourth quarter in the 2001 series, features Camel's Hump Mountain with an image of maple trees with sap buckets in the forefront. The design honors the "Green Mountain State," the first state admitted to the Union after the original 13 colonies.

Vermont is most famous for its skiing and the production of maple sugar and syrup. Until the 1800s when cane sugar was introduced, Americans relied on Vermont's maple sugar for much of its sugar supply.

Featured on the quarter is Camel's Hump Mountain in the northern half of Vermont's Green Mountains. Camel's Hump is easily recognized by its unique double-humped profile and is one of the highest peaks in Vermont.



State Capital: Montpelier
State Bird: Hermit Thrush
State Tree: Sugar Maple
State Flower: Red Clover
State Motto: Freedom and Unity
Entered Union (rank): . March 4, 1791 (14)

Nickname: Green Mountain State

Origin of Name: From the French "Les verts monts," meaning "green mountains"

State Song: "Hail, Vermont!"

Kentucky

The Kentucky quarter, the fifth and last quarter in the 2001 series, shows the stately mansion, Federal Hill, with an inscription that reads, "My Old Kentucky Home." A thoroughbred racehorse is positioned behind a fence in the foreground of the quarter.

Kentucky was the first state on the western frontier to join the Union and is one of four states to call itself a "commonwealth." Kentucky is home of the longest running annual horse race in the country, the Kentucky Derby. The famous Kentucky Bluegrass country is also grazing ground for some of the world's finest racehorses.

Featured on the new quarter is another prominent symbol of Kentucky, Federal Hill, which has become known as "My Old Kentucky Home." The design shows a side view of the famous Bardstown home where Stephen Foster wrote the state song, "My Old Kentucky Home."



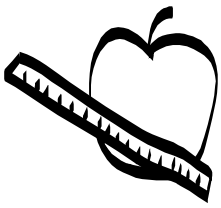
State Capital: Frankfort
State Bird: Kentucky Cardinal
State Tree: Tulip Poplar
State Flower: Goldenrod
State Motto: United we stand,
divided we fall

Entered Union (rank): June 1, 1792 (15)

Nickname: Bluegrass State

Origin of Name: Generally thought to be a Native American word meaning "great prairie"

State Song: "My Old Kentucky Home"



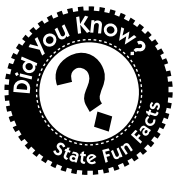
Quarter Information

2002 (1)

Tennessee

The Tennessee quarter, the first quarter of 2002 and sixteenth in the series, celebrates the state’s contributions to our nation’s musical heritage. The design uses musical instruments and a score with the inscription “Musical Heritage.” Three stars represent Tennessee’s three regions and the instruments symbolize each region’s distinct musical style.

The fiddle represents the Appalachian music of east Tennessee, the trumpet stands for the blues of west Tennessee for which Memphis is famous, and the guitar is for central Tennessee, home to Nashville, the capital of country music.



State Capital: Nashville
State Bird: Mockingbird
State Tree: Tulip Poplar
State Flower: Iris
State Motto: Agriculture and commerce

Entered Union (rank): June 1, 1796 (16)
Nickname: The Volunteer State,
The Big Bend State,
The Mother of Southwestern Statesmen

Origin of Name: Named after Cherokee Indian villages called “Tanasi”

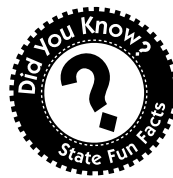
State Song: Seven official state songs:
“My Homeland, Tennessee,” “When It’s
Iris Time in Tennessee,” “My Tennessee,”
“Tennessee Waltz,” “Rocky Top,” “Tennessee,”
and “The Pride of Tennessee.”

Ohio

The Ohio quarter, the second quarter of 2002 and seventeenth in the series, honors the state’s contribution to the history of aviation, depicting an early aircraft and an astronaut, superimposed as a group on the outline of the state. The design also includes the inscription “Birthplace of Aviation Pioneers.”

The claim to this inscription is well justified — the history making astronauts Neil Armstrong and John

Glenn were both born in Ohio, as was Orville Wright, co-inventor of the airplane. Orville and his brother, Wilbur Wright, also built and tested one of their early aircraft, the 1905 Flyer III, in Ohio.



State Capital: Columbus
State Bird: Cardinal
State Tree: Buckeye
State Flower: Scarlet Carnation
State Motto: With God, all things
are possible

Entered Union (rank): March 1, 1803 (17)

Nickname: Buckeye State

Origin of Name: From the Iroquois Indian word meaning “large river” or “beautiful river”

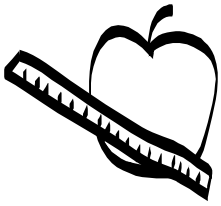
State Song: “Beautiful Ohio”

Louisiana

The Louisiana quarter, the third quarter of 2002 and eighteenth in the series, displays the image of Louisiana’s state bird — the pelican, a horn with musical notes, and the outline of the Louisiana Purchase territory, along with the inscription “Louisiana Purchase.”

Thomas Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon Bonaparte in 1803 for \$15 million. Dubbed the “greatest real estate deal in history” the Louisiana Purchase added thirteen new states to the Union, nearly doubling its size and making it one of the largest countries in the world.

The horn on the coin is a tribute to the state’s heritage of jazz music, a genre heard and played by millions of enthusiasts around the globe. Jazz was born in New Orleans over a hundred years ago, a combination of elements from blues, ragtime, and marching band music. A multitude of musicians propelled jazz from New Orleans’ French Quarter onto the world stage, making the style a dominant force in 20th Century music.



Quarter Information

2002 (2)



State Capital: Baton Rouge
State Bird: Brown Pelican
State Tree: Bald Cypress
State Flower: Magnolia
State Motto: Union, justice and confidence

Entered Union (rank): . . . April 30, 1812 (18)

Nickname: Pelican State

Origin of Name: Named in honor of France's King Louis IV

State Song: "Give Me Louisiana" and "You Are My Sunshine"

Indiana

The Indiana quarter, the fourth quarter of 2002 and nineteenth in the series, represents the state pride in the famous Indianapolis 500 race. The design features the image of a racecar superimposed on an outline of the state with the inscription "Crossroads of America." The design also includes 19 stars signifying Indiana as the 19th state to ratify the Constitution.

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is a 2.5 mile track built in 1909 for automotive research purposes. While the track was and is used for research, it is best known for hosting auto races, most famously, the Indy 500. The oldest auto race in the world, the Indy 500 has been run every year since 1911, except during the two World Wars.

The winner of the first Indy 500 was Ray Harroun whose car, the Marmon Wasp, is thought to have been the first to have a single seat and to use a rearview mirror. In the time since Harroun's victory, the Indy 500 has become an international event, synonymous with auto racing.



State Capital: Indianapolis
State Bird: Cardinal
State Tree: Tulip Tree
State Flower: Peony
State Motto: The crossroads of America

Entered Union (rank): December 11, 1816 (19)

Nickname: Hoosier State

Origin of Name: Means "Land of the Indians"

State Song: "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away"

Mississippi

The Mississippi quarter, the last quarter of 2002 and 20th in the series, combines two elegant magnolias with the inscription "The Magnolia State."

The magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), named for the French botanist Pierre Magnol, is strongly associated with the South, where the popular flower was introduced from Asia. This association helped Mississippi to adopt it as the state flower in 1952.

In 1900, when Mississippi schoolchildren were asked to vote for a state flower, they chose the magnolia over cape jasmine, yellow jasmine, cotton, and others. The selection remained unofficial, however, until February 26, 1952, when the Mississippi legislature finally adopted the magnolia as the state flower, opposed by only one vote. A similar election for state tree in 1935 gave the magnolia a landslide victory, made official on April 1, 1938.



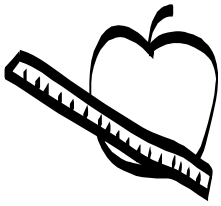
State Capital: Jackson
State Bird: Mockingbird
State Tree: Magnolia
State Flower: Magnolia
State Motto: Virtute et armis
(By valor and arms)

Entered Union (rank): December 10, 1817 (20)

Nickname: Magnolia State

Origin of Name: Possibly based on Chippewa "mici zibi," loosely meaning "great river"

State Song: "Go Mississippi"



Quarter Information

2003 (1)

Illinois

The Illinois quarter is the first quarter of 2003, and the 21st in the 50 State Quarters Program. The Illinois quarter design depicts a young Abraham Lincoln within the outline of the state. A farm scene and the Chicago skyline appear on the left and to the right of the state's outline. Twenty-one stars border the coin, signifying Illinois as the 21st state to be admitted into the Union on December 3, 1818.

"The Prairie State," also commonly known as the "Land of Lincoln," pays tribute to our nation's 16th president. The young Lincoln lived and practiced law in Springfield before becoming one of our nation's greatest leaders. President Lincoln's historic home, burial site, and new presidential library are all located in the Springfield area. The final design, "Land of Lincoln—21st State/Century," represents the history and future of Illinois.



State Capital: Springfield
State Bird: Cardinal
State Tree: White Oak
State Flower: Purple Violet
State Motto: State Sovereignty,
National Union

Entered Union (rank): December 13, 1818 (21)
Nickname(s): Prairie State
Origin of Name: Algonquin for "warriors."
Comes from the word "Illini," a confederation of the Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Michigamea, Moingwena, Peoria and Tamaroa Indian tribes.
State Song: "Illinois"

Alabama

The Alabama quarter is the second quarter of 2003, and the 22nd in the 50 State Quarters Program. Alabama became the 22nd state to be admitted into the Union on December 14, 1819. The Alabama quarter design features an image of Helen Keller with her name in English, and in a reduced version of braille. The Alabama quarter is the first U.S. circulating coin to feature braille. An Alabama long leaf pine branch and magnolias grace the sides of the design, and a "Spirit of Courage" banner underlines the central image.

Helen Keller was born at "Ivy Green" in Tusculum, Alabama, in 1880. When she was a small child, an illness deprived her of

sight and hearing, the senses by which we normally learn to speak. Despite her disabilities, Helen Keller learned to speak and read using the raised and manual alphabets, as well as Braille. Miss Keller also graduated with honors, receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Radcliffe. She went on to publish numerous books, articles and essays. Helen Keller lived out her life addressing social issues for disabled persons and women. Every year at "Ivy Green," a weeklong celebration is held to commemorate her lifetime of accomplishments and her "Spirit of Courage."



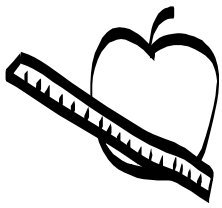
State Capital: Montgomery
State Bird: Yellowhammer
State Tree: . . . Southern longleaf pine
State Flower: Camellia
State Motto: Audemus jura
nostra defendere
(We Dare Defend Our Rights)

Entered Union (rank): December 14, 1819 (22)
Nickname: Yellowhammer State or
The Heart of Dixie, The Cotton Plantation State,
The Cotton State, The Lizard State
Origin of Name: Means "tribal town" in
the Creek Indian language or
a combination of Choctaw "alba"
(vegetation, herbs, plants) and "amo"
(gatherer, picker). "Vegetation gatherers"
describes the agricultural Alabama Indians.
State Song: "Alabama"

Maine

The Maine quarter is the third quarter of 2003, and the 23rd in the 50 State Quarters Program. Maine became the 23rd state to be admitted into the Union, as part of the Missouri Compromise on March 15, 1820. The Maine quarter design incorporates a rendition of the Pemaquid Point Light atop a granite coast and of a schooner at sea.

Pemaquid Point Light is located in New Harbor, and marks the entrance to Muscongus Bay and John Bay. Since the beginning of ship activity in the area, a shoal created hazardous navigation conditions, causing many shipwrecks. As maritime trade increased in the area, so did the need for a lighthouse. In 1826, Congress appropriated funds to build a lighthouse at Pemaquid Point. Although the original building was replaced in 1835, and the original 10 lamps in 1856, the light is still a



Quarter Information

2003 (2)

beacon for ships and remains one of Maine’s most popular tourist attractions. The schooner resembles “Victory Chimes,” the last three-masted schooner of the Windjammer Fleet. “Victory Chimes” has become synonymous with Maine windjamming. The Pemaquid Point Light design was chosen by votes from more than 100,000 Maine residents.



State Capital: Augusta
State Bird: Black-capped Chickadee
State Tree: Eastern White Pine
State Flower: White pine cone and tassel

State Motto: Dirigo (I direct)

Entered Union (rank): March 15, 1820 (23)

Nickname: Pine Tree State

Origin of Name: Probably a reference to the mainland, as opposed to the many surrounding islands

State Song: “State of Maine Song” or “State Song of Maine”

Missouri

The Missouri quarter is the fourth quarter of 2003, and the 24th in the 50 State Quarters Program. Missouri became the 24th state on August 10, 1821, as part of the Missouri Compromise.

The Missouri quarter depicts Lewis and Clark’s historic Corps of Discovery navigating the Missouri River with the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (Gateway Arch) in the background, inscribed “Corps of Discovery 1804–2004.”

While much of the state’s history is tied to the mighty rivers that flow through it, the “Show Me State” got its nickname because of the devotion of its people to simple common sense. In 1899, Rep. Willard D. Vandiver said “Frothy eloquence neither convinces nor satisfies me. I’m from Missouri. You’ve got to show me.”

It is easy to imagine President Thomas Jefferson saying “show me” as he sent Lewis and Clark forth on their 1,500-mile trek into the uncharted Louisiana Purchase territory. Their 1,500-mile journey, which some claim was the greatest U.S. military expedition ever, began in St. Charles—just 20 miles west of St. Louis—and gave rise to America’s westward expansion.



State Capital: Jefferson City
State Bird: Bluebird
State Tree: . . . Flowering Dogwood
State Flower: White Hawthorn
State Motto: . . . Salus populi suprema lex esto (The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law)

Entered Union (rank): August 10, 1821 (24)

Nickname: Show Me State

Origin of Name: . . . Named after Missouri Indian tribe whose name means “town of the large canoes”

State Song: “Missouri Waltz”

Arkansas

The Arkansas quarter, fifth and final quarter of 2003, is the 25th in the 50 State Quarters Program. Arkansas was acquired through the Louisiana Purchase and later became the Arkansas Territory before gaining statehood on June 15, 1836. The Arkansas quarter design bears the image of rice stalks, a diamond, and a mallard gracefully flying above a lake.

It is fitting that the “Natural State,” Arkansas’s official nickname, chose images of natural resources. Arkansas has an abundance of clear streams, rivers, and lakes...in fact, more than 600,000 acres of natural lakes. Arkansas is also known for its sportsmanship and attracts mallard hunters from across the nation. Visitors to Arkansas can search Crater of Diamonds State Park for precious gems including, of course, diamonds. The mine at Crater of Diamonds State Park reportedly is the oldest diamond mine in North America, and the only one in the United States open to visitors, who get to keep what they find. Visitors can also experience “Rice Fever” the way W.H. Fuller did when he grew the first commercially successful rice crop in Arkansas. Soon after, Arkansas became the leading producer of rice in the United States.



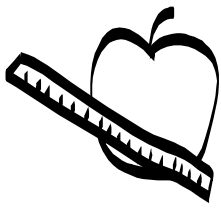
State Capital: Little Rock
State Bird: Mockingbird
State Tree: Pine
State Flower: Apple Blossom
State Motto: Regnat populus (The People Rule)

Entered Union (rank): June 15, 1836 (25)

Nickname: The Natural State

Origin of Name: French version of Sioux “acansa,” meaning “downstream place” or “south wind.”

State Song: “Arkansas” or “Oh, Arkansas”



Quarter Information

2004 (1)

Michigan

The Michigan quarter is the first of 2004, and the 26th in the 50 State Quarters® Program. Michigan became the 26th state on January 26, 1837. The Michigan quarter depicts the outline of the state and the Great Lakes system. The quarter is inscribed “Great Lakes State.”

As indicated by the state’s nickname, much of Michigan’s history is tied to the Great Lakes—Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario—five of the world’s largest lakes. Together, they encompass more than 38,000 square miles and form the largest body of fresh water in the world. Michigan borders four of these Lakes, all but Ontario—more than any other state. It should come as no surprise, then, that Michigan is the only place in the world with a floating post office: the J.W. Westcott II is the only boat in the world that delivers mail to ships while they are still underway, and has been operating for 125 years.



State Capital: Lansing
State Bird: Robin
State Tree: White Pine
State Flower: Apple Blossom
State Motto: “If You See A Pleasant Peninsula, Look About You.”

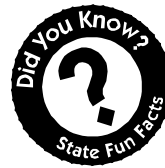
Entered Union (rank): January 26, 1837 (26)
Nickname(s): The Wolverine State, The Great Lakes State
Origin of Name: Based on Chippewa Indian word “meicigama” meaning “great water,” referring to the Great Lakes.
State Song: Michigan, My Michigan

Florida

The Florida quarter is the second of 2004, and the 27th in the 50 State Quarters® Program. Florida became the 27th state to be admitted into the Union on March 3, 1845. The design incorporates a 16th-century Spanish galleon, a space shuttle, and the inscription “Gateway to Discovery.” A strip of land with Sabal palm trees is also depicted.

On Easter in 1513, while searching for the legendary Fountain of Youth, Ponce de Leon named the region “Pascua Florida,” meaning “Flowery Easter.” In 1539, Hernando de Soto and other explorers continued the exploration of the New World through the region.

Near Orlando, Cape Canaveral (later renamed Cape Kennedy) has been the starting point for most of the modern era’s most significant scientific space expeditions, from Man’s first moon landing to the Voyager probe currently exploring deep space outside our solar system. From 16th-century Spanish galleons to 21st-century space exploration, Florida has played a continuing role in humanity’s quest for knowledge and discovery. With the highest average temperature of any state and the second longest shoreline, Florida is one of the world’s most popular tourist destinations.



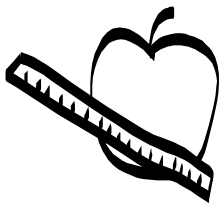
State Capital: Tallahassee
State Bird: Mockingbird
State Tree: Sabal Palmetto
State Flower: Orange Blossom
State Motto: In God We Trust
Entered Union (rank): March 3, 1845 (27)
Nickname(s): Sunshine State
Origin of Name: Named on Easter 1513 by Ponce de Leon for “Pascua de Florida” meaning “Flowery Easter”
State Song: Swanee River

Texas

The Texas quarter is the third of 2004, and the 28th in the 50 State Quarters® Program. Texas became the 28th state to be admitted into the Union on December 29, 1845. The quarter, encircled by a rope-themed design, incorporates an outline of the state with a star superimposed inside the outline with the inscription “The Lone Star State.”

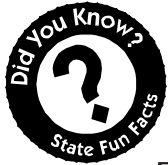
In 1519, Spanish explorer Alonso Alvarez de Pineda was the first European to visit Texas. Myths of the golden “Seven Cities of Cibola” brought many Spaniards from Mexico into Texas. Although these cities were never found, Spain made claims on and began settling the region now known as Texas. Over the next few years, the French began moving into the area as well. Though initially part of Mexico, settlers rebelled and declared their independence. At the Battle of San Jacinto on March 2, 1836, Texas triumphed. After nine years as a sovereign republic, Texas entered the Union.

The state’s nickname, the “Lone Star State,” refers to the state flag. It displays a single, five-point white star on a field of blue with an upper white horizontal stripe and a lower red horizontal stripe. Texas is the only state to have had the flags of six different nations fly over it: Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate States, and the United States.



Quarter Information

2004 (2)



State Capital: Austin
State Bird: Mockingbird
State Tree: Pecan
State Flower: Bluebonnet
State Motto: Friendship
Entered Union (rank): . . . December 29,
1845 (28)

Nickname: Lonestar State
Origin of Name: Based on a word used by
Caddo Indians meaning "friends"
State Song: Texas, Our Texas

Iowa

The Iowa quarter is the fourth of 2004 and the 29th in the 50 State Quarters® Program. Iowa became the 29th state to be admitted into the Union on December 28, 1846. The Iowa quarter design illustrates the state's commitment to education and honors native Iowan Grant Wood. It is based on "Arbor Day," one of Wood's paintings. The design contains a depiction of a one-room schoolhouse and a teacher and students planting a tree, with Grant Wood's name below. The quarter is inscribed "Foundation in Education."

Iowans have had a commitment to education since the state's earliest days. When Iowa became a state in 1846, it already had a number of rural country schools in each of its counties. Iowa established its first high school in the 1850s though, generally, high schools did not become widespread until after 1900. Private and public colleges also quickly took root in the new state.

Though Iowa has long been a leader in agriculture, the state is unique in being the only one whose east and west borders are completely formed by rivers—the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.



State Capital: Des Moines
State Bird: Eastern Goldfinch
State Tree: Oak
State Flower: Wild Rose
State Motto: . . . "Our liberties we prize
and our rights we will maintain"

Entered Union (rank): December 28, 1846 (29)
Nickname: Hawkeye State

Origin of Name: From "loway," the French word for the Bah-kho-je Indian tribe that lived in the area.
State Song: The Song of Iowa

Wisconsin

The Wisconsin quarter is the fifth of 2004, and the 30th in the 50 State Quarters® Program. Wisconsin became the 30th state to be admitted into the Union on May 29, 1848. The Wisconsin design depicts an agricultural theme featuring the head of a cow, a round of cheese, and an ear of corn. The design also bears an inscription of the state motto, "Forward."

Wisconsin is the dairy capital of the world, ranking number one in the number of milk cows and the production of over 15 percent of the nation's milk—more than any other state. Today, Wisconsin produces over 350 different varieties, types, and styles of award-winning cheeses. Approximately 17,000 dairy farms with just over 1 million cows that produce an average of 17,306 pounds of milk each, per year, continue the reputation for quality milk from Wisconsin.

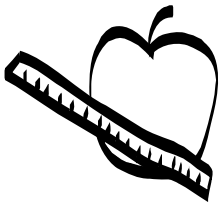
The state is also a major corn-growing state, ranking 10th in the production of corn for grain, with 363 million bushels produced in 2000. State corn production contributed \$690 million to the Wisconsin economy in 2000. Wisconsin is also a leading supplier of mint. In 2000, Wisconsin mint growers provided more than 477,000 pounds of mint oil, including 315,000 pounds of peppermint and 162,000 pounds of spearmint annually. One drum of mint oil will flavor 3.5 million sticks of gum.

Wisconsin adopted the state motto, "Forward," in 1851, reflecting Wisconsin's continuous drive to be a national leader.



State Capital: Madison
State Bird: Robin
State Tree: Sugar Maple
State Flower: Wood Violet
State Motto: Forward
Entered Union (rank): . . . May 29, 1848 (30)

Nickname: Badger State
Origin of Name: Perhaps from an Algonquian word that means "long river" or a Chippewa/Ojibwa/Anishinabe word that means "grassy place," or "gathering of the waters."
State Song: On, Wisconsin!



Quarter Information

2005 (1)

California

The first quarter released in 2005 honors California, and is the 31st in the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. California was admitted into the Union on September 9, 1850, becoming our Nation's 31st State. Nicknamed the "Golden State," California's quarter depicts naturalist and conservationist John Muir admiring Yosemite Valley's monolithic granite headwall known as Half Dome with a soaring California condor. The coin bears the inscriptions "California," "John Muir," "Yosemite Valley," and "1850."

In 1849, the year before California gained statehood, the family of 11-year-old John Muir emigrated from Scotland to the United States, settling in Wisconsin. In 1868, at the age of 30, Muir sailed up the West Coast and landed in San Francisco. He made his home in the Yosemite Valley, describing the Sierra Nevada Mountains as "the Range of Light... the most divinely beautiful of all the mountain chains I have seen." He devoted the rest of his life to the conservation of natural beauty, publishing more than 300 articles and 10 books that expanded his naturalist philosophy.

In 1890, Congress established Yosemite National Park, and in 1892 John Muir helped form the Sierra Club to protect it, serving as that organization's President until his death in 1914. The California condor, with a wingspan as long as nine feet, is also featured on the coin in a tribute to the successful repopulation of the once nearly extinct bird.

- State Capital: Sacramento
- State Bird: . . . California Valley Quail
- State Tree: Redwood and Giant Sequoia
- State Flower: California Poppy
- State Motto: Eureka
- Entered Union (rank): September 9, 1850 (31)
- Nickname(s): Golden State
- Origin of Name: . Named after Califia, a mythical paradise in a Spanish romance by Montalvo
- State Song: I Love You, California

Minnesota

The second quarter released in 2005 commemorates the state of Minnesota, "Land of 10,000 Lakes." On May 11, 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state admitted into the Union, and as such, it is the 32nd coin to be issued in the United States Mint's popular 50 State Quarters® Program. The design features a tree-lined lake with two people fishing, a loon on the

water, and a textured outline of the state surrounding its nickname, "Land of 10,000 Lakes."

The "Land of 10,000 Lakes" actually contains more than 15,000 such bodies of water whose total shoreline exceeds 90,000 miles—more than California, Hawaii, and Florida combined. Equally renowned as the home of the headwaters of the mighty Mississippi River, the name Minnesota is derived from the Dakota Sioux word for "cloudy water."

The natural beauty of Minnesota is vividly depicted on the reverse of this new quarter-dollar. Lined with Norwegian Pines, many of the lakes throughout the state offer much in the way of outdoor recreation, as well as providing a home for the graceful loon, Minnesota's state bird. Minnesota is also home to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. This one-million-acre wilderness area was established by Congress in 1978 and contains more than 1,500 miles of canoe routes and nearly 2,200 designated campsites.



- State Capital: Saint Paul
- State Bird: Common Loon
- State Tree: Red Pine
- State Flower: Pink and white lady's slipper
- State Motto: L'Etoile du Nord (the star of the north)

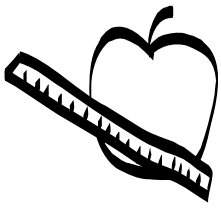
- Entered Union (rank): May 11, 1858 (32)
- Nickname(s): Land of 10,000 Lakes/North Star State
- Origin of Name: Dakota Sioux for "sky-tinted water"
- State Song: Hail! Minnesota

Oregon

The state of Oregon is honored with the third quarter to be released in 2005, and the 33rd in the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. On February 14, 1859, Oregon became the 33rd state to be admitted into the Union. Its coin design features a portion of Crater Lake, the deepest lake in the United States, viewed from the south-southwest rim. The design incorporates Wizard Island, as well as Watchman and Hillman Peaks on the lake's rim, and conifers. The coin bears the inscription "Crater Lake."

Crater Lake is a unique and stunning natural treasure, formed more than 7,700 years ago by the collapse of Mt. Mazama in what is now southern Oregon. At 1,949 feet, it is the deepest lake in the United States and the seventh deepest in the world, and has a record clarity depth of 134 feet. The main cause of Crater Lake's remarkable clarity is its isolation from incoming streams and rivers.

President Theodore Roosevelt established Crater Lake National Park in 1902, with the lake itself as the Park's crown.



Quarter Information

2005 (2)

jewel. It is the sixth oldest national park in the country. Since its creation, Crater Lake National Park has helped protect both the Native American cultural ties to the area and the natural habitat of the animal and plant life that lies within its boundaries.



State Capital: Salem
State Bird: Western Meadowlark
State Tree: Douglas Fir
State Flower: Oregon Grape
State Motto: Alis Volat Propiis
(She flies with her own wings)

Entered Union (rank): February 14, 1859
(33)

Nickname(s): Beaver State
Origin of Name: Unknown; maybe from French map showing Wisconsin River as "Ouaricon-sint"
State Song: Oregon, My Oregon

Kansas

The fourth quarter released in 2005 commemorates the state of Kansas. On January 29, 1861, the "Sunflower State" became the 34th state to be admitted into the Union. Kansas marks the 34th coin to be issued in the United States Mint's popular 50 State Quarters® Program, and features a buffalo and sunflower motif, emblematic of the state's history and natural beauty.

The Kansas commemorative quarter incorporates two of the state's most beloved symbols, the state animal and flower, the buffalo and the sunflower. Each of these two design elements is a visual reminder of our nation's heartland. They feature prominently in the history of the territory, and both were found in abundance throughout the state in the middle of the 19th century when Kansas gained its statehood. With its release in the fall of 2005, it is the second United States circulating coin of 2005 to carry an image of the buffalo.



State Capital: Topeka
State Bird: Western Meadowlark
State Tree: Cottonwood
State Flower: Sunflower
State Motto: Ad astra per aspera
(To the stars through difficulties)

Entered Union (rank): January 29, 1861
(34)

Nickname(s): Sunflower State
Origin of Name: From Sioux for "south wind people"
State Song: Home on the Range

West Virginia

The fifth and final quarter released in 2005 commemorates the state of West Virginia. On June 20, 1863, the "Mountain State" became the 35th state to be admitted into the Union, making this the 35th coin to be issued in the United States Mint's popular 50 State Quarters® Program. This coin captures the scenic beauty of the state with its depiction of the New River and the New River Gorge Bridge. The coin bears the inscription "New River Gorge."

Prior to gaining statehood, the area that is now West Virginia formed the western part of Virginia. Settlers in the western part of the "Old Dominion" began their efforts to join the Union when Virginia announced its secession in 1861. In the western part of the state, the Restored Government of Virginia in Wheeling drafted a state constitution in 1862. The new state called West Virginia applied to Congress for admission into the Union. Congress approved the request with one condition: that the new state abolish slavery. President Lincoln signed the West Virginia statehood bill and on June 20, 1863, West Virginia officially became the 35th state to be admitted into the Union.

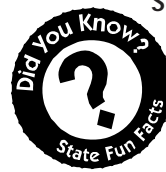
The design chosen to represent West Virginia is one that combines the natural physical beauty of the state and the triumph of the human intellect exemplified by the engineering wonder that is the New River Gorge Bridge. At 3,030 feet long and 69 feet wide, the bridge is the world's largest steel span and the second highest bridge in the United States, rising 876 feet above the New River Gorge in southern West Virginia. In 1978, 53 miles of the New River was added to the National Park System as the New River Gorge National River.

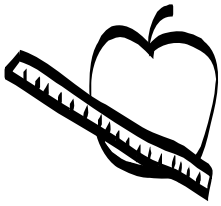
For years, crossing the New River Gorge meant long detours along narrow, winding mountain roads. The completion of the bridge in 1977 reduced this dangerous 40-minute trip to a smooth and scenic one-minute drive.

State Capital: Charleston
State Bird: Cardinal
State Tree: Sugar Maple
State Flower: Rhododendron
State Motto: Montani simper liberi
(Mountaineers are always free)

Entered Union (rank): June 20, 1863 (35)
Nickname(s): Mountain State

Origin of Name: Named after England's Queen Elizabeth I, the "Virgin Queen"
State Song: "West Virginia, My Home," "The West Virginia Hills," "This Is My West Virginia"





Quarter Information

2006 (1)

Nevada

The first commemorative quarter-dollar coin released in 2006 honors Nevada, and is the 36th coin in the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. Nevada, nicknamed "The Silver State," was admitted into the Union on October 31, 1864, becoming our Nation's 36th state. Nevada's quarter depicts a trio of wild mustangs, the sun rising behind snow-capped mountains, bordered by sagebrush and a banner that reads "The Silver State." The coin also bears the inscriptions "Nevada" and "1864."

Nevada became a territory in 1861, several years after a Mormon Battalion in the Mexican War discovered gold and silver in the area of Virginia City. This discovery would later be referred to as one of the greatest mineral discoveries, famously known as the Comstock Lode.

Nevada is home to more than 50 percent of the Nation's wild horses. The wild horses dominate the Great Basin in the vast deserts and the more than 150 mountain ranges. The first mention of wild horses was discovered in several journals dating to the 1820s.



State Capital: Carson City
State Bird: Mountain Bluebird
State Tree: Single-Leaf Pinon,
Bristlecone Pine

State Flower: Sagebrush
State Motto: "All for our country"

Entered Union (rank): October 31, 1864 (36)

Nickname(s): Silver State, Sagebrush State,
Battleborn State

Origin of Name: . . Sierra Nevada mountains in the west, meaning "snow-covered"

State Song: "Home Means Nevada"

Nebraska

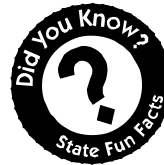
The second commemorative quarter-dollar coin released in 2006 honors Nebraska, and is the 37th coin in the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. Nebraska, nicknamed the "Cornhusker State," was admitted into the Union on March 1, 1867, becoming our Nation's 37th state.

Nebraska's quarter depicts an ox-drawn covered wagon carrying pioneers in the foreground and Chimney Rock, the natural wonder that rises from the valley of North Platte River,

measuring 445 feet from base to tip. The sun is in full view behind the wagon. The coin also bears the inscriptions "Nebraska," "Chimney Rock," and "1867."

Chimney Rock was designated a National Historic Site on August 9, 1956, and is maintained and operated by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Practically anywhere travelers go in Nebraska they will encounter reminders of America's westward expansion. The state is crisscrossed by the Oregon and Mormon Trails, the Pony Express, the Lewis and Clark Trail, the Texas-Ogallala Trail and the Sidney-Deadwood Trail.



State Capital: Lincoln

State Bird: Western Meadowlark

State Tree: Cottonwood

State Flower: Goldenrod

State Motto: . . Equality before the law
Entered Union (rank): March 1, 1867 (37)

Nickname(s): Cornhusker State,
Tree Planters State

Origin of Name: Created by John Fremont based on an Omaha Indian word meaning "broad river"

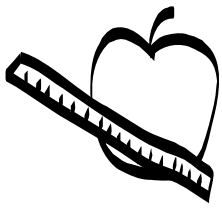
State Song: "Beautiful Nebraska"

Colorado

The third commemorative quarter-dollar coin released in 2006 honors Colorado, and is the 38th coin in the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. The Colorado quarter depicts a sweeping view of the State's rugged Rocky Mountains with evergreen trees and a banner carrying the inscription "Colorful Colorado." The coin also bears the inscriptions "Colorado" and "1876."

Colorado's Rocky Mountains are home to some of the Nation's most majestic natural wonders. Among these, rising approximately 10,000 feet from the valley floor in Northwest Colorado, Grand Mesa is the largest flat-top mountain in the world, and is home to more than 200 lakes and many miles of scenic hiking trails.

Colorado was admitted into the Union on August 1, 1876, becoming our Nation's 38th state. With statehood gained less than one month after the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Colorado is nicknamed the "Centennial State."



Quarter Information

2006 (2)



State Capital: Denver
State Bird: Lark Bunting
State Tree: Colorado Blue Spruce
State Flower: White and Lavender Columbine

State Motto: Nothing Without the Deity
Entered Union (rank): August 1, 1876 (38)
Nickname: Centennial State
Origin of Name: Spanish meaning "colored red"
State Song: "Where the Columbines Grow"

Nickname: Peace Garden State
Origin of Name: Named after the Dakota Indian tribe that lived in the area.
State Song: "North Dakota Hymn"

North Dakota

The fourth commemorative quarter-dollar coin released in 2006 honors North Dakota, and is the 39th coin in the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. On November 2, 1889, North Dakota was admitted into the Union, becoming our Nation's 39th state. The North Dakota quarter depicts a pair of grazing American bison in the foreground with a sunset view of the rugged buttes and canyons that help define the State's Badlands region in the background. The coin's design also bears the inscriptions "North Dakota" and "1889."

President Theodore Roosevelt founded the United States Park Service and signed the Antiquities Act in 1906, which was designed to preserve and protect unspoiled places such as his beloved North Dakota Badlands, now known as Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Herds of American Bison thundered across the Badlands through the 1860s. The park is now home to more than 400 wild buffalo, an animal once on the brink of extinction.



State Capital: Bismarck
State Bird: Western Meadowlark
State Tree: American Elm
State Flower: Wild Prairie Rose
State Motto: "Liberty and union, now . . . and forever, one and inseperable"

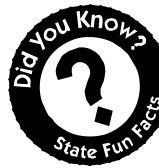
Entered Union (rank): November 2, 1889 (39)

South Dakota

The fifth and final commemorative quarter-dollar coin released in 2006 honors South Dakota, the "Mount Rushmore State," and is the 40th coin in the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. Admitted into the Union on November 2, 1889, South Dakota became the Nation's 40th state. The release of this quarter signals the end of the eighth year of the 50 State Quarters Program.

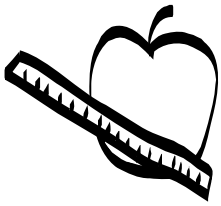
The South Dakota quarter features an image of the State bird, a Chinese ring-necked pheasant, in flight above a depiction of the Mount Rushmore National Monument, featuring the faces of four American Presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. The design is bordered by heads of wheat. The coin's design also bears the inscriptions "South Dakota" and "1889."

Sculptor Gutzon Borglum began drilling into Mount Rushmore, the 5,725-foot peak rising above Harney National Forest, in 1927. Creation of the "Shrine of Democracy" took 14 years and cost approximately \$1 million, though it is now deemed priceless.



State Capital: Pierre
State Bird: Ring-Necked Pheasant
State Tree: Black Hills Spruce
State Flower: American Pasque Flower
State Motto: Under God, the people rule

Entered Union (rank): November 2, 1889 (40)
Nickname: Mount Rushmore State
Origin of Name: Named after the Dakota Indian tribe that lived in the area
State Song: Hail, South Dakota!



Quarter Information

2007 (1)

Montana

The first commemorative quarter-dollar coin released in 2007 honors Montana and is the 41st coin in the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. Montana, nicknamed "Big Sky Country," was admitted into the Union on November 8, 1889, becoming our Nation's 41st state. The reverse of Montana's quarter features a bison skull depicted above the diverse Montana landscape with the inscription "Big Sky Country." The coin also bears the inscriptions "Montana" and "1889."

The bison skull is a powerful symbol, sacred to many of Montana's American Indian tribes. This symbol can be seen across the state on schools, businesses, and license plates, and reflects the rich native tradition of Montana, which was once home to large tribes such as the Crow and the Northern Cheyenne.

After a visit from Lewis and Clark, Montana became a destination first for fur trappers and later for gold prospectors following the discovery of gold in the 1860s. Cattle ranchers also made their way west to Montana. This rapid growth in population led to boomtowns. The nickname "Big Sky Country" reminds residents of Montana's open lands and pioneering way.



State Capital: Carson City
State Capital: Helena
State Bird: Western Meadowlark
State Tree: Ponderosa Pine
State Flower: Bitterroot
State Motto: . . "Oro y Plata," Spanish for "gold and silver"

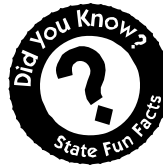
Entered Union (rank): November 8, 1889 (41)
Nickname(s): Treasure State, Big Sky Country
Origin of Name: Spanish meaning "mountainous"
State Song: "Montana"

Washington

The second commemorative quarter-dollar coin released in 2007 honors Washington, and is the 42nd coin in the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. Washington,

nicknamed the "Evergreen State," was admitted into the Union on November 11, 1889, becoming our Nation's 42nd state. The reverse of Washington's quarter features a king salmon breaching the water in front of majestic Mount Rainier. The coin bears the inscriptions "The Evergreen State," "Washington," and "1889."

Mount Rainier is an active volcano encased in more than 35 square miles of snow and glacial ice. It is the symbolic bridge between the eastern and western parts of the State. The salmon is another important symbol of Washington. It is a traditional image of Pacific Northwest culture, and this fish has provided nourishment for the native peoples of the Pacific Northwest. Newsmen and real estate pioneer C.T. Conover nicknamed Washington the "Evergreen State" because of its many lush evergreen forests.



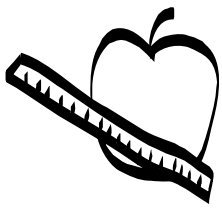
State Capital: Olympia
State Bird: Willow Goldfinch
State Tree: Western Hemlock
State Flower: Coast Rhododendron
Entered Union (rank): (42) November 11, 1889

Nickname(s): Evergreen State
Origin of Name: For President George Washington
State Song: "Washington, My Home"

Idaho

The third commemorative quarter-dollar coin released in 2007 honors Idaho, and is the 43rd coin in the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. Idaho, nicknamed the "Gem State," was admitted into the Union on July 3, 1890, becoming our Nation's 43rd state. The reverse of Idaho's quarter features the peregrine falcon imposing its presence above an outline of the state of Idaho. The coin bears the inscriptions "Esto Perpetua" (the state motto, which means "May it be Forever"), "Idaho," and "1890."

The Peregrine Falcon is one of the fastest birds in the world. Once on the endangered species list, it can now be found throughout Idaho and the United States because of conservation efforts.



Quarter Information

2007 (2)



State Capital: Boise
State Bird: Mountain Bluebird
State Tree: Western White Pine
State Flower: Syringa
State Motto: "Esto Perpetua"
meaning "It is perpetual."

Entered Union (rank): July 3, 1890 (43)
Nickname(s): Gem State
Origin of Name: An invented word
State Song: "Here We Have Idaho"

Wyoming

The fourth commemorative quarter-dollar coin released in 2007 honors Wyoming, and is the 44th coin in the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. Wyoming, nicknamed the "Equality State," was admitted into the Union on July 10, 1890, becoming our Nation's 44th state. The reverse of Wyoming's quarter features a bucking horse and rider with the inscriptions "The Equality State," "Wyoming," and "1890."

The bucking horse and rider symbolize Wyoming's Wild West heritage. "Buffalo Bill" Cody personified this in his traveling Wild West show. First settled by fur trappers, Fort Laramie, Wyoming, later became a popular destination for pioneers traveling the Oregon Trail.

Wyoming was nicknamed the "Equality State" because of its historical role in establishing equal voting rights for women. Wyoming was the first territory to grant "female suffrage" and became the first state in the nation to allow women to vote, serve on juries, and hold public office. In 1924, Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first woman elected Governor of Wyoming. In 1933, Ross became the first woman appointed as the Director of the United States Mint.



State Capital: Cheyenne
State Bird: Meadowlark
State Tree: Plains Cottonwood
State Flower: Indian Paintbrush
State Motto: Equal Rights
Entered Union (rank): . July 10, 1890 (44)

Nickname(s): Equality State, Cowboy State

Origin of Name: From Algonquin Indian words meaning "large plains"
State Song: "Wyoming"

Utah

The fifth and final commemorative quarter-dollar coin released in 2007 honors Utah, and is the 45th coin in the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. Utah was admitted into the Union on January 4, 1896, becoming our nation's 45th state. The reverse of Utah's quarter features two locomotives moving toward the golden spike that joined the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads, linking East to West and transforming both the Utah Territory and the nation, with the inscription "Crossroads of the West." The coin also bears the inscriptions "Utah" and "1896."

On May 10, 1869, two steam locomotives met at Promontory, Utah, for the "Joining of the Rails Ceremony," at which the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads completed the transcontinental route. The event was crucial to the development of the American West because it made cross-country travel more convenient and economical. The construction of the railroad and the subsequent mining boom brought diverse ethnic and religious populations to Utah. The railroad also symbolized changing technology, and moved Utah from an agrarian economy to a more industrialized one.

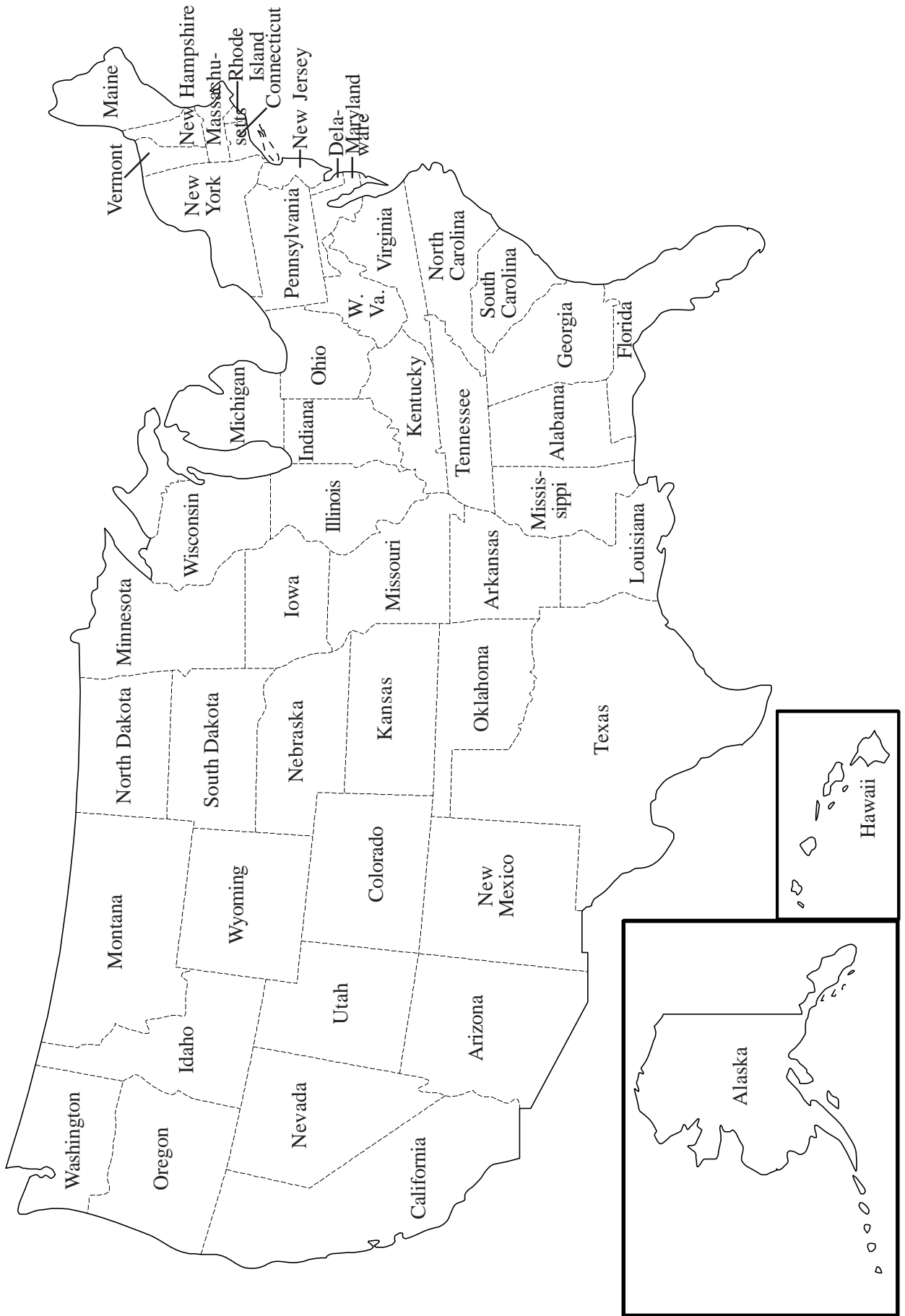
Even before the time of steam locomotives, Utah experienced a steady flow of explorers and pioneers. The Spaniards first came to explore Utah in the 18th century and were followed by mountain men, Mormons, and prospectors in search of precious metals found in the 1860s. Because of its central location, Utah became known as the "Crossroads of the West."



State Capital: Salt Lake City
State Bird: California Seagull
State Tree: Blue Spruce
State Flower: Sego Lily
State Motto: Industry
Entered Union (rank): January 4, 1896 (45)

Nickname(s): The Beehive State
Origin of Name: After the Ute Indians
State Song: "Utah, This Is the Place"

The United States of America



50 State Quarters Program Designs

Reverse (1)



50 State Quarters Program Designs

Reverse (2)



50 State Quarters Program Designs

Obverse



Circulating Coin Images

Obverse



Circulating Coin Images

Obverse





The United States Mint

50 State Quarters Program

Release Year/State Statehood Date

1999

Delaware December 7, 1787
 Pennsylvania December 12, 1787
 New Jersey December 18, 1787
 Georgia January 2, 1788
 Connecticut January 9, 1788

2000

Massachusetts February 6, 1788
 Maryland April 28, 1788
 South Carolina May 23, 1788
 New Hampshire June 21, 1788
 Virginia June 25, 1788

2001

New York July 26, 1788
 North Carolina November 21, 1789
 Rhode Island May 29, 1790
 Vermont March 4, 1791
 Kentucky June 1, 1792

2002

Tennessee June 1, 1796
 Ohio March 1, 1803
 Louisiana April 30, 1812
 Indiana December 11, 1816
 Mississippi December 10, 1817

2003

Illinois December 3, 1818
 Alabama December 14, 1819
 Maine March 15, 1820
 Missouri August 10, 1821
 Arkansas June 15, 1836

Release Year/State Statehood Date

2004

Michigan January 26, 1837
 Florida March 3, 1845
 Texas December 29, 1845
 Iowa December 28, 1846
 Wisconsin May 29, 1848

2005

California September 9, 1850
 Minnesota May 11, 1858
 Oregon February 14, 1859
 Kansas January 29, 1861
 West Virginia June 20, 1863

2006

Nevada October 31, 1864
 Nebraska March 1, 1867
 Colorado August 1, 1876
 North Dakota November 2, 1889
 South Dakota November 2, 1889

2007

Montana November 8, 1889
 Washington November 11, 1889
 Idaho July 3, 1890
 Wyoming July 10, 1890
 Utah January 4, 1896

2008

Oklahoma November 16, 1907
 New Mexico January 6, 1912
 Arizona February 14, 1912
 Alaska January 3, 1959
 Hawaii August 21, 1959