



Indiana House of Representatives  
It's your state government, participate in it.

# WHAT'S A HOOSIER?

Your Guide to Indiana History



**DISTRIBUTED BY**

**State Representative  
Tim Wesco**

H21@iga.in.gov  
317-232-9600 | 800-382-9841

Sign up for my email newsletters at [in.gov/h21](https://in.gov/h21)

# Table of Contents

3	Indiana Facts
4	Native American Heritage
5-6	Early Hoosiers and Statehood
7	Agriculture and Economy
8	Hoosier Contributions
9	Famous Hoosiers
10	History Scramble
11-12	Indiana History Quiz
13	Answer Key



Information for this booklet made possible  
from: [www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org), [IN.gov](http://IN.gov) and  
**Indiana: The World Around Us**  
MacMillan/McGraw - Hill, 1991

# Indiana Facts



## STATE FLAG



The star above the torch stands for Indiana, which was the 19th state to join the Union. The state colors are blue and gold.

## STATE SEAL



The state seal depicts a pioneer scene portraying how the early people of Indiana overcame the wilderness. The seal has been in use since 1801, but was not officially adopted until 1963.

## POPULATION



Indiana is the 15th largest state. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, 6,785,528 Hoosiers live here.

## STATE BIRD



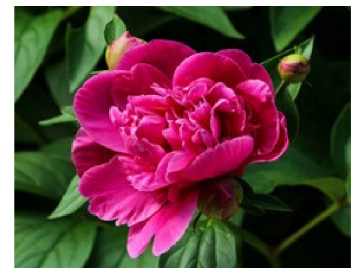
In 1933, the Indiana General Assembly selected the cardinal as the state bird.

## STATE CAPITAL



Indiana's capital is Indianapolis. However, Corydon was the first Indiana capital from 1813 to 1825. The Statehouse is located in Indianapolis.

## STATE FLOWER



From 1931 to 1957, the zinnia was the state flower of Indiana. In 1957, the Indiana General Assembly adopted the peony as the new state flower.



# Native American Heritage



Indiana means “the land of the Indians.” Early Native Americans lived like nomads. A nomad is a person who moves from place to place in search of 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 bow and arrows. Native Americans also found food by fishing and gathering plants.

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. They lived between the Wabash and White rivers, and often used canoes to travel down the river. This river route provided a way for people who lived far away from each other to trade.

The Miami grew pumpkins, melons, beans and most importantly, corn. They found that corn was easy to grow because of the long, hot summers and the fertile soil, near the rivers. Today, farmers in Indiana are still growing thousands of acres of corn in the Wabash Valley 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, or a path to cross land, where 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.

The Native Americans were also builders of mounds. Mounds are large piles of earth. Archaeologists believe the mounds were used as places to worship and as homes for their chiefs. Mounds State Park in Anderson and Angel Mounds State Historic Site near Evansville offer a glimpse into the Native Americans’ past.



***Little Turtle  
Miami Chief***



# 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, which helped French fur traders move to Indiana and open trading posts. The French befriended the Native Americans who were living 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. In turn, they taught the Native Americans the French way of life. Soon, the Native Americans began to depend on trade goods supplied by the French.

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 is still located near present-day Lafayette.

Forts were also built near Vincennes and Kekionga, located near the Wabash River. The river became a major trade route for the French. In the 1750s, British fur traders 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.



*Native American  
leader Pontiac*

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, which 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. Now the British controlled the French forts, but the Native Americans did not like this change.

Pontiac, a Native American leader, decided to fight the British because British settlers were using Indiana land for farming. Pontiac worked to unite all of the Indiana tribes to fight against the British. They were successful in capturing Fort Miami and Fort Ouiatenon from the British.

# Early Hoosiers and Statehood



However, once winter arrived, the Native American warriors needed to move back to their villages and could not guard the forts from British troops. Eventually, the British recaptured the forts and the tribes began to trade with the British.

The Native Americans agreed to trade with the British because the British guaranteed 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 moving into the frontier.

The confrontations between the colonists and the British government led to the American Revolution, which lasted from 1776-1783.

When the 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. These areas were not officially recognized as individual states, but did belong to the United States.

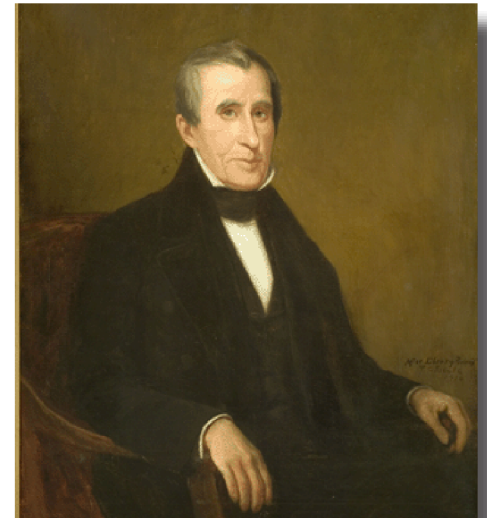
During the 1780s, pioneers from eastern states began to move into the new territory. Again, Native Americans became concerned because the new settlers were taking over and farming their land.

Miami Chief Little Turtle organized more than 1,000 warriors to fight the American soldiers. After the Battle of Fallen Timbers, Chief Little Turtle decided they 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 the tribes gave them. Pioneers were then allowed to live in the eastern part of the territory.

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

In 2016, Indiana celebrated 200 years of statehood.



***William Henry Harrison,  
Indiana's first governor***

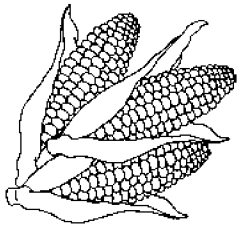
# Agriculture and Economy



Agriculture is a strong tradition in Indiana and contributes over \$35 billion a year to the state's economy. Agriculture is part of every aspect of our lives, regardless of where we live, by providing the basic essentials like food, clothing and shelter.

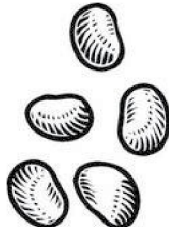
## Indiana's Top Agriculture Products

Source: IN.gov/isda



### CORN

Indiana is part of the Corn Belt States and ranks fifth among U.S. corn producing states. In a typical year, almost half of all cropland in Indiana is planted with corn. Corn is a major component in many food items like cereals, peanut butter, snacks and soft drinks.



### SOYBEANS

Indiana ranks fifth in the nation for soybean production. Indiana farmers produce nearly 10% of all soybeans grown in the U.S. Soy ink is used to print newspapers and textbooks. One acre of soybeans can produce 82,368 crayons.



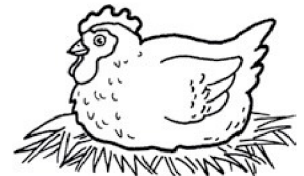
### HOGS

Indiana is the fifth-largest producer of pork in the U.S. There are roughly 3,000 pork farmers in Indiana. Pig fat can be used in a variety of products, including weed killers, chalk, cosmetics, floor wax, crayons and antifreeze.



### DAIRY

Indiana's nearly 900 dairy farms produce more than 4 billion gallons of milk each year. A cow produces an average of 6.3 gallons of milk daily and 350,000 glasses of milk in a lifetime. The average Indiana dairy herd has 187 cows.



### CHICKEN EGGS

Indiana ranks second in the U.S. for egg production with more than 37 million chickens that lay eggs. Eggs contain essential protein, minerals and vitamins. Egg yolks are one of the few foods that naturally contain Vitamin D.



Indiana is also the second-biggest producer of popcorn in the country. Orville Redenbacher, from Brazil, Indiana, started one of the largest popcorn companies in America.





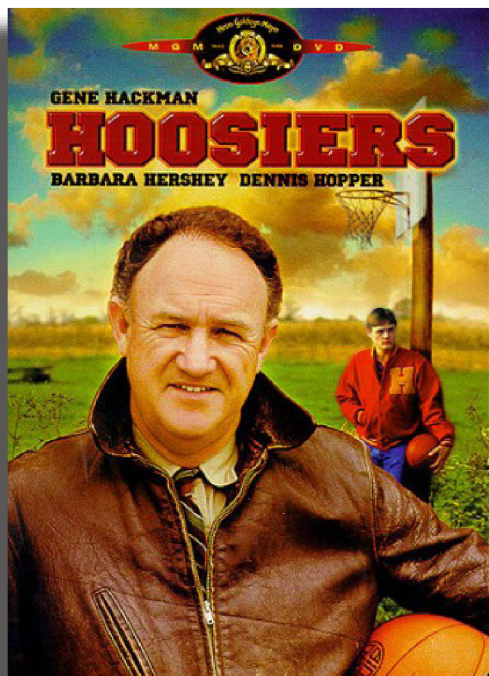
# Hoosier Contributions



During the 1950s, the United States and the Soviet Union battled to see which country could reach space first. This is known as the “Race to Space.” Gus Grissom, born in Mitchell, is one of Indiana’s most famous astronauts and the second American to travel into space. On July 21, 1961, Grissom 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.

Dr. David A. Wolf, a graduate of North Central High School in Indianapolis, received his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University in 1978. He then went on to receive a doctorate of medicine from Indiana University in 1982. Wolf became a NASA astronaut who spent extended periods of time in space. In 1997, Wolf boarded the Russian space station, Mir, for a total of 119 days.

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is the largest spectator sporting facility in the world, with more than 250,000 permanent seats. It hosts three major racing events each year: Indianapolis 500, Brickyard 400 and the Grand Prix. The Indianapolis 500 and Brickyard 400 take place on the 2.5-mile oval, while the Grand Prix is on the 16-turn, 2.621-mile road course. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway celebrated 100 years of motorsports during the 2010-2011 racing season.



Although basketball was invented in Massachusetts, the sport has become one of our state’s greatest traditions. Whether it is the high school state basketball tournament, the rivalry of Indiana universities or the professional teams — the Indiana Pacers and the Indiana Fever — Hoosiers cheer for and follow all levels of basketball.

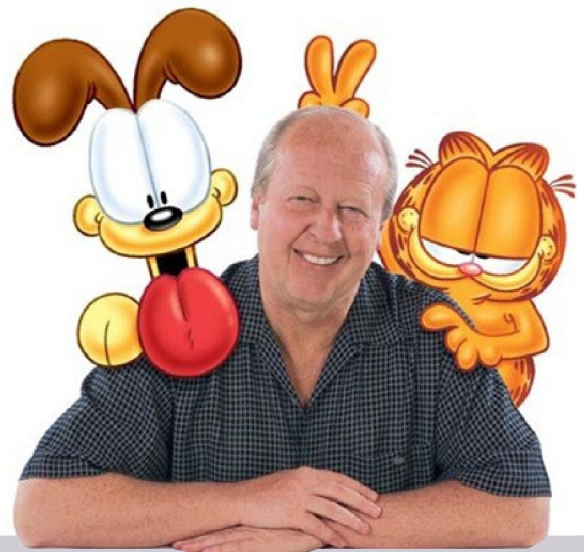
Hoosier Hysteria began in 1954 when the tiny school of Milan, total enrollment of 162 students, defeated Muncie Central High School in the state basketball tournament. The game ended when Bobby Plump scored the dramatic game-winning shot. In addition, the movie “Hoosiers” captures what the sport means 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*  
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, *Civic Leader*  
John Andretti, *Indy Car Driver*  
Oscar Robertson, *Basketball Player*  
John Wooden, *Basketball Coach*  
Larry Bird, *Basketball Player*  
Knute Rockne, *College Football Coach*  
Ernie Pyle, *Journalist*  
Jim Davis, *Comic Artist*  
Shelly Long, *Actress*  
Jane Pauley, *News Anchor*  
Red Skelton, *Comedian*  
Jeff Gordon, *NASCAR Driver*  
John Mellencamp, *Musician*  
Cole Porter, *Songwriter*  
Michael Jackson, *Musician*  
Janet Jackson, *Actress and Musician*  
Kurt Vonnegut, *Author*  
Florence Henderson, *Actress*  
John Dillinger, *Infamous Bank Robber*  
Johnny Appleseed, *Folk Hero*  
Wilma Rudolph, *Olympic Gold Medalist*  
Gus Grissom, *Astronaut*  
Steve McQueen, *Actor*  
James Whitcomb Riley, *Poet*  
Mark Spitz, *Olympic Gold Medalist*

Ryan White, *AIDS Activist*  
Bob Griese, *Football Quarterback*  
Richard Lugar, *United States Senator*  
Wilbur Wright, *Inventor*  
Eli Lilly, *Pharmaceutical Leader*  
Bill Blass, *Fashion Designer*  
Peyton Manning, *Football Player*  
Theodore Dreiser, *Author*  
James R. Hoffa, *Labor Leader*  
Carole Lombard, *Actress*  
Wendell Wilkie, *Presidential Candidate*  
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*  
Mike Pence, *Vice President*  
Gene Stratton-Porter, *Author*



**Jim Davis, Creator of Garfield,  
Comic Strip Cat**

# History Scramble



Directions: Unscramble the following words.

*Hint: Each word has something to do with Indiana and can be found in this book.*

1) neakeakk rvrie \_\_\_\_\_

2) awtoamtoip \_\_\_\_\_

3) bklaeslatb \_\_\_\_\_

4) eortbr aseall \_\_\_\_\_

5) lmiailw ernhy rsrihano \_\_\_\_\_

6) traeg eklas \_\_\_\_\_

7) dnaaini \_\_\_\_\_

8) eihfc tilelt luettr \_\_\_\_\_

9) ealttyfae \_\_\_\_\_

10) rpncoop \_\_\_\_\_

11) dclianra \_\_\_\_\_



# Indiana History Quiz



Directions: Circle the correct answer.

*Hint: All the answers can be found in this book.*

1) Between what two rivers did the Miami Tribe live?

- a) Amazon River & Nile River
- b) Mississippi River & Ohio River
- c) Wabash River & White River
- d) Colorado River & Kankakee 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 year was Indiana's bicentennial?

- a) 2016
- b) 2000
- c) 1816
- d) 1916

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

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

5) Who was Indiana's first governor?

- a) George Washington
- b) Chief Little Turtle
- c) William Henry Harrison
- d) Anthony Wayne

6) The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is the \_\_\_\_\_ spectator sporting facility in the world.

- a) Only
- b) Best
- c) Smallest
- d) Largest

7) Indiana was the \_\_\_\_\_ state admitted into the Union.

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

# Indiana History Quiz Continued



Directions: Write true or false next to each statement below. If the statement is false, provide the correct answer.

*Hint: All the answers can be found in this book.*

- 1) Basketball was invented in Indiana.
- 2) The current state capital is located in Fort Wayne.
- 3) One of Indiana's major crops is corn.
- 4) David Letterman is from Indiana.
- 5) Jim Davis was the creator of the Raggedy Ann & Andy dolls.
- 6) The tulip is the official state flower.
- 7) The Indianapolis 500 is a famous basketball tournament.
- 8) Kekionga was located where Fort Wayne is today.
- 9) Gus Grissom was the first American man in space.



## History Scramble

- 1) Kankakee River
- 2) Potawatomi
- 3) Basketball
- 4) Robert LaSalle
- 5) William Henry Harrison
- 6) Great Lakes
- 7) Indiana
- 8) Chief Little Turtle
- 9) Lafayette
- 10) Popcorn
- 11) Cardinal

## Indiana History Quiz

- 1) Wabash River & White River
- 2) Ohio River
- 3) 2016
- 4) Miami
- 5) William Henry Harrison
- 6) Largest
- 7) 19th

## True or False

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) False, basketball was invented in Massachusetts | 6) False, peony is the state flower                    |
| 2) False, Indianapolis                             | 7) False, Indianapolis 500 is a famous automobile race |
| 3) True  | 8) True  |
| 4) True  | 9) False, Gus Grissom was the second American in space |
| 5) False, Garfield                                 |  |