



The Grand Canyon State

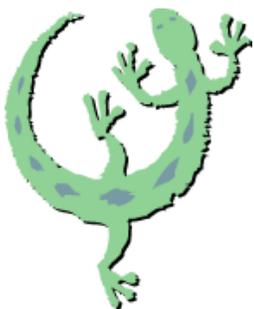
Established 1912
48th State

Did You Know?

- Arizona achieved statehood on Valentine's Day in 1912.
- The Grand Canyon is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.
- Lake Mead and Lake Mohave are two of the longest lakes in the United States.
- The *bola tie*, a cord fastened with a clasp, is the official state neckwear because it was created by Arizonan Vic Cedarstaff.
- The world's largest solar telescope is located at Kitts Peak National Observatory.
- Arizona's most plentiful mineral is copper.
- The original London Bridge was taken apart and reconstructed in Lake Havasu City.
- Arizona has the largest percentage of its land set aside as Native American land.
- At one time, camels were used to carry goods across Arizona.
- Yuma is one of the sunniest cities in the United States.
- Arizona has towns named Christmas and Santa Claus.
- The famous gunfight at the O.K. Corral took place in Tombstone in 1881.
- Arizona is home to the roadrunner. Roadrunners can run faster than they can fly, reaching speeds up to 15 miles per hour.
- Arizona is one of the only states where you can get an out-of-state address on your Arizona driver's license.

The Place

Climate



Arizona is famous for its warm, sunny weather. Temperatures vary depending on elevation. Winter temperatures of 60°F (16°C) are common in Arizona. In the desert, summer temperatures often exceed 100°F (38°C). Arizona also has a dry climate, but the amount of precipitation varies depending on where you are. The deserts only receive about 2 inches (5 centimeters) a year, while the mountains get closer to 30 inches (76 centimeters). Because of the dry climate, wildfires are common in the summer. These fires are difficult to control and often burn for days.

Average Seasonal High and Low Temperatures

Spring: 85/56°F
 Summer: 104/78°F
 Fall: 87/61°F
 Winter: 68/43°F

Geography



Arizona is made up of three geographic regions—the Colorado Plateau, the Central Mountain, and the Basin and Range. The Colorado Plateau, an area of flat highlands, covers most of northern Arizona. Rivers such as the Colorado and the Little Colorado have cut deep canyons into this region. The state gets its nickname from the most famous of these canyons—the Grand Canyon. Steep mountain ranges and large ponderosa pine forests characterize the Central Mountain region, also called the Transition Zone. The Basin and Range region covers most of southern Arizona and is made up of both mountains and desert basins. It includes the Sonoran and Yuma deserts. This region is also where most of Arizona’s largest cities are located. Arizona is also home to the Petrified Forest—a national park famous for its fossils. The fossils come from trees that have been fossilized over millions of years, turning into hard mineral rocks.

Resources and Economy



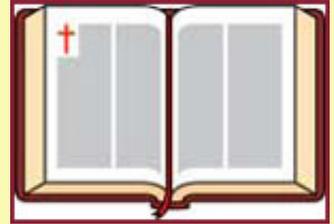
Manufacturing is one of the most important industries in the state. Leading manufactured goods include electronic, communications, and *aeronautical* (aircraft) products. Also, Arizona produces most of the nation’s copper. Irrigation has made it possible for farmers to produce crops in spite of the dry climate. The state’s farmers grow cotton, grains, fruits, and vegetables. A growing number of Arizonans work for the government and in service industries such as hotels and restaurants. The state is a popular place for people to retire because of the warm weather. Arizona’s climate and beautiful scenery also attract many visitors to the state. While many Arizonans have benefited from the state’s growing economy, the Native Americans who live on *reservations* (land set aside by the federal government for Native Americans) are among the poorest people in the nation.

History

Time Line

| | | |
|------------|--|---|
| | Native American tribes live in the area thousands of years before the arrival of European explorers and settlers | |
| AD 300 | | |
| AD 300–500 | Hohokam culture develops in central and southwestern Arizona | |
| 1500 | | |
| 1539 | Marcos de Niza, a Franciscan friar, and Esteban de Dorantes, a black Moorish slave, are the first Europeans to explore Arizona | |
| 1540 | Francisco Vásquez de Coronado leads an expedition into Arizona and claims it for Spain; part of his group reaches the Grand Canyon |  |
| 1600 | | |

1692 Eusebio Kino, a Jesuit priest, begins his missionary work in southern Arizona



1752 The first non-Native American settlement (Tubac) is started

1800

1821 Mexico takes control of Arizona from Spain

1848 Most of Arizona comes under U.S. control

1853 The United States buys southern Arizona in the Gadsden Purchase

1854 Copper is found in Arizona

1857 The first stagecoach line crosses Arizona

1863 The Arizona Territory is established

1867 Phoenix is founded

1881 The O.K. Corral gunfight takes place in Tombstone

1886 The fighting between Native Americans and whites ends with Geronimo's surrender

1900

1912 Arizona becomes the 48th state



1919 Grand Canyon National Park is established

1936 Hoover Dam is completed

1960s Many retirement communities are created, causing large numbers of senior citizens to move to Arizona for at least part of the year

1964 Barry Goldwater, a U.S. Senator from Arizona, is the Republican candidate for president; he loses by a large margin to Lyndon B. Johnson

1985 The Central Arizona Project, a water diversion canal, goes into operation

1988 Rose Mofford becomes the state's first female governor

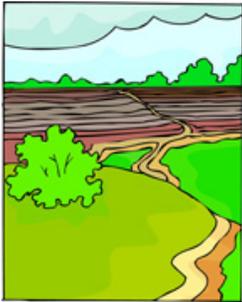
2000

2005 Hundreds of volunteers patrol the Arizona-Mexico border in a controversial attempt to halt illegal immigration



| | |
|---------|--|
| 2008 | The Valley Metro light-rail opens, connecting downtown Phoenix to Mesa and Tempe |
| 2010 | The Arizona state government passes a law requiring immigrants to carry identification papers at all times and allowing police officers to check the status of immigrants they have stopped or pulled over |
| 2011 | A gunman in Tucson shoots U.S. congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords in the head and kills six others |
| 2017 | President Donald Trump <i>pardons</i> (forgives) former sheriff Joe Arpaio, who was found guilty of ignoring a court ruling |
| PRESENT | |

The Hohokam



Around AD 500, small groups of people who would later be united as the Hohokam tribe, one of several Native American tribes in the area prior to the arrival of European explorers and missionaries, moved into the valleys of central Arizona. A regional identity formed somewhere around AD 950. The Hohokam built a system of canals to bring water from the rivers to their fields. Some of these canals are still used by farmers today. This early form of irrigation made it possible for them to grow corn, beans, squash, and cotton. The Hohokam were also skilled in making pots and jewelry and in weaving cloth. Their civilization lasted about a thousand years.

The Seven Cities of Cibola



In the 1500s, Spaniards came to what is now Arizona in search of gold and silver to take back to Spain. Some of them had heard stories of seven wealthy cities to the north, called the Seven Cities of Cibola, where the streets were paved with gold. But explorers like Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, *Fray* (friar) Marcos de Niza, and Francisco Vásquez de Coronado all failed in their quests to find these mythical golden cities. While searching for Cibola, Coronado encountered and brutally fought groups of Hopis and Zunis.

Not everyone was seeking worldly wealth. Some came to convert the Native Americans in the region to Christianity. In 1692, Father Eusebio Kino arrived in southern Arizona. He helped establish 24 missions in the area. He taught the natives not only about Christianity but farming as well. Some of the Native Americans accepted the missionaries, but others did not. Many of them wanted to keep their own religion and culture.

Arizona Grows



Before 1848, much of Arizona and what we now call the American Southwest belonged first to Spain and then to Mexico. But by the middle of the 1800s, U.S. citizens had already settled in the northern Mexican Territory, and many people wanted the United States to take the region from Mexico. Tensions between the two countries led to the Mexican-American War (1846–48). Following its defeat in the war, Mexico gave up its northern territory, which included most of what is now Arizona, to the United States. In 1853, the United States bought the rest of Arizona from Mexico in what is called the Gadsden Purchase.

Arizona’s Indian Wars



As more white settlers moved into Arizona in the 1860s, intrusions on Native American lands increased. Some of the Native Americans survived by raiding towns and ranches to get food and supplies. As a result, there were many battles between the native tribes and federal troops. Cochise, a famous Apache chief, and Geronimo, an Apache military leader, led the Native Americans against the U.S. Army. Although outnumbered by U.S. soldiers, the Apache survived for years by hiding in the deserts and mountains. However, Cochise's Apache were finally defeated in 1872. Geronimo's forces successfully escaped U.S. and Mexican armies countless times before surrendering at Skeleton Canyon in 1886. By that time, most Native Americans in the state had been moved to reservations.

Bringing Water to the Desert



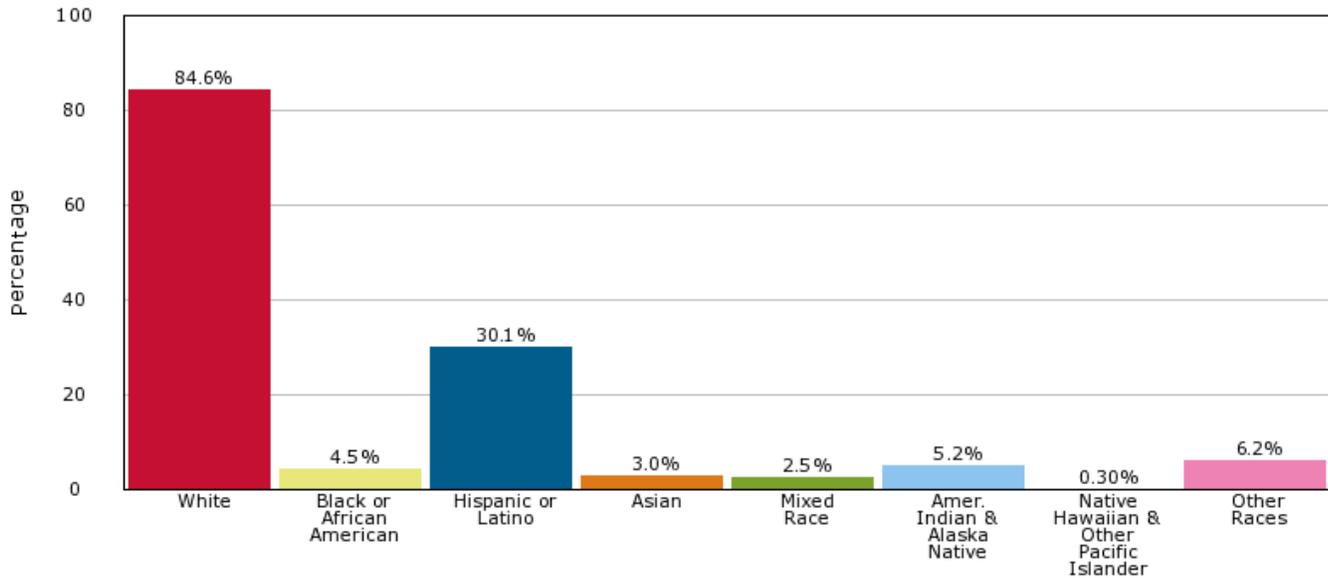
One of the great challenges Arizona continues to face is supplying enough water to support its farming, industry, and growing population. A network of canals and dams was built in the early part of the 20th century to harness the state's rivers to make water available to Arizona's farmland and cities. Later on, the state also looked for help from the federal government for the Central Arizona Project, which brought water from the Colorado River to cities like Phoenix and Tucson beginning in the mid-1980s. Increased development of the land and increased technology such as air-conditioning made it possible for more people to live in desert areas. In fact, because of the addition of canals and irrigation systems in Phoenix, the city now has moderate humidity, which is uncommon in a desert climate. Many retirement communities were created for senior citizens who became part-time or full-time Arizona residents. Water in Arizona is not sustainable unless new technologies are developed and conservation efforts are put into place.

The People

Population

Arizona is one of the fastest-growing states in the country. Many, particularly *retirees* (older people who have finished working), are attracted to the state because of the warm climate. Hispanics are the state's largest ethnic minority, but Arizona also has one of the largest Native American populations in the country. Twenty-one tribes are represented on more than 20 reservations, including the Navajo, Gila, Apache, and Hopi tribes. The majority of Arizonans live in cities. The two main cities are Phoenix and Tucson.

Total Population: 6,482,505



Hispanics may belong to any racial group. Totals may not equal 100%.

Government



Capital: Phoenix
State Abbreviation: AZ
Governor: Doug Ducey (Republican)
U.S. Senators: 2
 Jeff Flake (Republican)
 John McCain (Republican)
U.S. Representatives: 9
 Republicans: 5
 Democrats: 4
State Senators: 30
State Representatives: 60
Counties: 15

- Arizona’s constitution was adopted in 1911.
- Arizona *legislators* (lawmakers) serve two-year terms.
- Arizona casts 11 electoral votes in presidential elections.

Famous People



Cesar Chavez

Erma Bombeck — Newspaper columnist
Kit Carson — Trapper and frontiersman
Cesar Chavez — Labor leader
Wyatt Earp — Frontier marshal
Barry Goldwater — Politician
Zane Grey — Western novelist
Helen Hull Jacobs — Tennis player
Percival Lowell — Astronomer
Stevie Nicks — Singer



Wyatt Earp

Geronimo — Apache chief
Cochise — Apache chief
Sandra Day O'Connor — Supreme Court justice
John Wesley Powell — Explorer
William Rehnquist — Supreme Court justice
Linda Ronstadt — Singer
Emma Stone — Actress
Frank Lloyd Wright — Architect



Sandra Day O'Connor



Linda Ronstadt

Native America



After the Hohokam civilization mysteriously disappeared, the Navajo and Apache people came to Arizona in the 1400s. The Navajo farmed and lived in the north, while the Apache hunted in the south. When Arizona became an official United States territory, white settlers took any land they wanted. The Native Americans responded by raiding the settlements. Eventually the U.S. Army stepped in. Colonel Kit Carson rounded up thousands of Navajo, forcing them to march 300 miles (500 kilometers) to Bosque Redondo in New Mexico. The journey took around 20 days, and hundreds of Navajo died along the way from cold and starvation. The trek was called the Long Walk. After five years of enduring nightmarish conditions in Bosque Redondo, the surviving Navajo were allowed to return to a reservation in Arizona.

In the late 1800s, Native American children in Arizona were sent to Indian Schools, such as the Phoenix Indian School. These schools forced children to adopt white, Anglo-American culture. Students were forced to cut their hair, speak only English, and take English names. The Phoenix Indian School closed in 1990.

During World War II, the military recruited several hundred Navajo Marines to develop a code based on the Navajo language. Since it was a highly difficult language native to America, military leaders believed it would be almost impossible to crack the code. Navajo soldiers created and memorized the code until they were able to transmit and decode a message in a matter of seconds. Known as “code talkers,” these soldiers were directly responsible for the American victory at the Battle of Iwo Jima, during which six code talkers worked nonstop, sending more than eight hundred messages without a single error. The code was never broken. The code talkers received a Congressional Gold Medal in 2000, and a film was later made based on their story.

Today, Arizona is home to the largest reservation in the country, including the Navajo Nation. In fact, reservations cover more than a quarter of the land in Arizona. The

Navajo reservation covers northeastern Arizona, stretching into Utah and New Mexico, an area larger than West Virginia. There are several hundred thousand Navajo members. Founded close to one thousand years ago, the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in the United States is Oraibi, a village located on top of a mesa on the Hopi reservation.

Twenty tribes have come together to form the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona. The council is made up of the highest ranking members of each tribe. United, they work with the federal and state governments to address family, health, environmental, and other issues that affect all Arizona tribes.

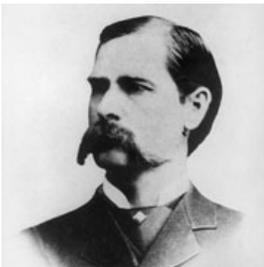
Cultural Notes

The Grand Canyon



The Grand Canyon is 277 miles (445 kilometers) long and nearly 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) deep at its deepest point. It was largely unknown until after the Civil War. In 1869, a one-armed Civil War veteran named John Wesley Powell led the first expedition through the canyon on the Colorado River. He and his men made the trip in just four small wooden boats. They made maps of the area and provided descriptions of the landscape. The Grand Canyon became a national park in 1919, just three years after the National Park Service was created. Now there are close to five million visitors to the canyon each year.

Tombstone



During the mining boom of the late 1800s, Wyatt Earp and his brothers settled in Tombstone. Tombstone was a famous Wild West town. At the time, a small area in the town was home to more than 70 saloons. Many miners would come to the town to spend the money they just earned from their work. Wyatt's older brother Virgil was a U.S. marshal and worked to keep the peace in the often rowdy city of Tombstone. Doc Holliday, a well-known gambler and friend of the Earps, soon joined them. In 1880, the Earps and Holliday got caught up in a feud with local cowboy gangs the McLaurys and the Clantons.

Things came to a head between the lawmen and the cowboys on the afternoon of 26 October 1881 at the O.K. Corral. The gunfight lasted only 30 seconds, but by the end more than 20 shots had been fired and three cowboys were dead. To this day no one knows who fired the first shot. Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday were charged with murder, but the judge dismissed the case for lack of evidence. A few weeks later, gunmen shot and killed Morgan Earp and wounded Virgil. Wyatt and Doc got revenge by hunting down and killing the men they believed responsible. The two friends then left Arizona for good. Today, hundreds of thousands of tourists visit the site of one of the most famous gunfights in U.S. history.

Fun Facts & Contacts

State Symbols

State Bird

Cactus wren—The cactus wren is the largest wren in the United States.



State Tree

Palo verde—This state tree was adopted in 1954. Its name means “green stick” in Spanish.



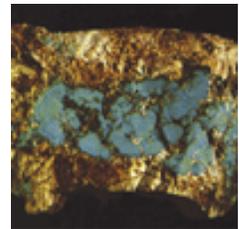
State Flower

Saguaro cactus blossom—This flower blooms during May and June. The saguaro is the largest American cactus.



State Gemstone

Turquoise—This gemstone has been used for centuries by southwest Native Americans to make jewelry.



Other Symbols

Colors: Blue and gold

Fish: Apache trout

Fossil: Petrified wood

Mammal: Ringtail

Neckwear: Bola tie

Reptile: Arizona ridge-nosed rattlesnake

Songs: “Arizona March Song” and “Arizona”

State Motto

Ditat Deus—This Latin phrase means “God Enriches.”

Major League Sports Teams

- Arizona Cardinals (NFL)
- Arizona Diamondbacks (MLB)
- Phoenix Coyotes (NHL)
- Phoenix Mercury (WNBA)
- Phoenix Suns (NBA)

For More Information

See www.az.gov or contact the Arizona Office of Tourism, 1110 West Washington Street, Suite 155, Phoenix, AZ 85007; phone (866) 275-5816; web site www.visitarizona.com.

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Arizona

EXTREMES

Hottest: The highest recorded temperature in Arizona was 128°F (53°C) at Lake Havasu in 1994.

Highest: The highest point in the state is Humphreys Peak, at 12,633 feet (3,851 m).

Lowest: The lowest point is along the Colorado River at 70 feet (21 m) above sea level.

Coldest: The lowest recorded temperature was -40°F (-40°C) at Hawley Lake in 1971.

