

## The Grand Canyon State

Established 1912

48th State



### 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).



## 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 bolo tie is the official state neckwear.
- The world's largest solar telescope is located at Kitts Peak National Observatory.
- Arizona's most abundant 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 averages 332 days of sunny skies a year, the most of any place 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.

## The Place

### Climate



Arizona is famous for its warm, sunny weather. About 80 percent of the days are sunny. 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 cm) a year, while the mountains get closer to 30 inches (76 cm).

## Geography



Arizona is made up of three geographic regions—the Colorado Plateau, the Central Mountains, and the Basin and Range Region. 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.

## Resources and Economy

Manufacturing is one of the most important industries in the state. Leading manufactured goods include electronic, communications, and aeronautical 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 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

300 B.C.

300 B.C. Hohokam culture develops in central and southwestern Arizona

## A.D. 1500

A.D. 1539 Fray Marcos de Niza is the first European to explore Arizona

1540

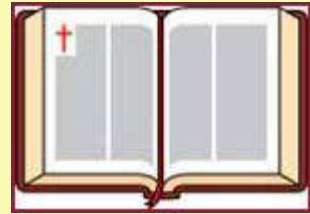
Francisco Vásquez de Coronado leads an expedition into Arizona and claims it for Spain; part of his group reaches the Grand Canyon



## 1600

1692

Eusebio Kino, a Jesuit priest, begins his missionary labors 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 stage-coach 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		
1919	The Grand Canyon National Park is established	
1936	Hoover Dam is completed	
1985	The Central Arizona Project goes into operation	
PRESENT		

### The Hohokam

Around A.D. 300, the Hohokam, 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. 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, and then the Hohokam moved away.

### Early Explorers and Missionaries

In the 1500s, Spaniards came to present-day 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 Cíbola, where the streets were paved with gold. But Cabeza de Vaca, Fray Marcos de Niza, Francisco Vásquez de Coronado, and others all failed in their quest to find these mythical golden cities. However, 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

Prior to 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 present-day 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 fought to keep their land by raiding towns and ranches to get food and supplies. As a result, there were numerous battles between the native tribes and federal troops. Cochise and Geronimo, two famous Apache chiefs, led the Native Americans against the 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. And by the time Geronimo surrendered at Skeleton Canyon in 1886, 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 agriculture, industry, and growing population. A network of canals and dams was built in the early part of the 20th century to



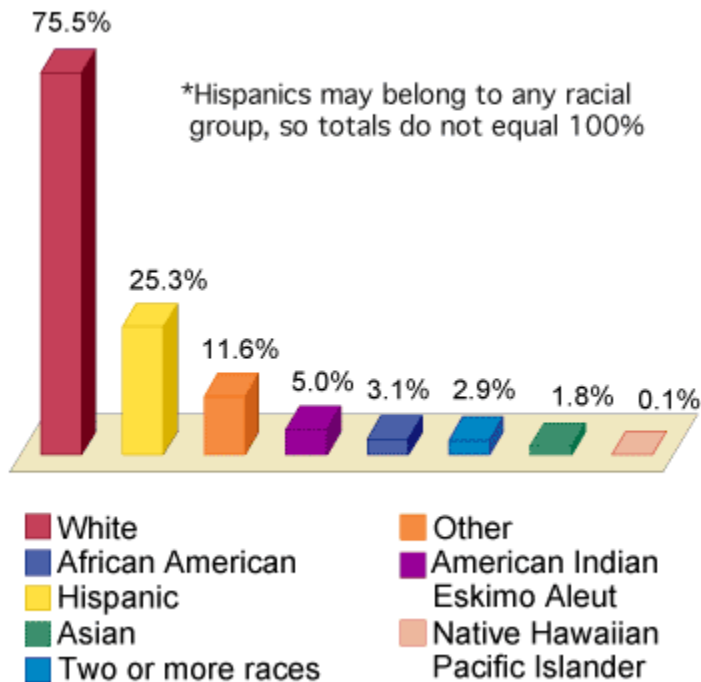
harness the state's rivers to make water available to Arizona's farmland and cities. Later on, the state also sought help from the federal government for the Central Arizona Project, which brought water from the Colorado River to cities like Phoenix and Tucson beginning in the mid-1980s.

## The People

### Population

Arizona is one of the fastest-growing states in the country. Many, particularly retirees, are attracted to the state because of the warm climate. Hispanics are the state's largest ethnic group, but Arizona also has one of the largest Native American populations in the country. More than 14 tribes are represented on 20 reservations. Close to 90 percent of Arizonans live in cities. The two main cities are Phoenix and Tucson.

**Total Population: 5,456,453**



### Government

**Capital:** Phoenix

**U.S. Senators:** 2

**U.S. Representatives:** 8

**Counties:** 15

- Arizona's constitution was adopted in 1911.

- Arizona legislators serve two-year terms.
- Arizona casts 10 electoral votes in presidential elections.

## Famous People

- *Barry Goldwater* — Politician
- *Cesar Chavez* — Labor leader
- *Cochise* — Apache chief
- *Erma Bombeck* — Newspaper columnist
- *Frank Lloyd Wright* — Architect
- *Geronimo* — Apache chief
- *Helen Hull Jacobs* — Tennis player
- *John Wesley Powell* — Explorer
- *Kit Carson* — Trapper and frontiersman
- *Linda Ronstadt* — Singer
- *Percival Lowell* — Astronomer
- *Sandra Day O'Connor* — Supreme Court justice
- *William Rehnquist* — Supreme Court justice
- *Wyatt Earp* — Frontier marshal
- *Zane Grey* — Western novelist

## Fun Facts & Contacts

### State Symbols

#### State Bird

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



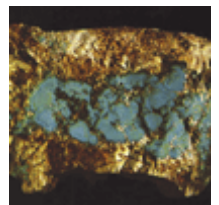
#### State Flower

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



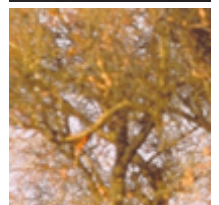
#### State Gemstone

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



#### State Tree

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



### Cultural Note

The Grand Canyon is 217 miles (349 km) long and



nearly 1 mile (1.6 km) 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.

## For More Information

See [www.az.gov](http://www.az.gov) or contact the Arizona Office of Tourism, 1110 West Washington Street, Suite 155, Phoenix, AZ 85007; phone (888) 520-3433; web site [www.arizonaguide.com](http://www.arizonaguide.com).

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Axiom Press, Inc.  
333 South 520 West, Suite 360  
Lindon, Utah 84042 USA  
1.800.528.6279; 801.932.6459  
fax 801.847.0127  
[www.culturegrams.com](http://www.culturegrams.com)

