

EXTREMES

Hottest: Indiana's highest temperature was 116°F (47°C) in Collegeville on 14 July 1936.

Climate

Although Indiana's weather is generally mild, each of the state's four seasons has something unique. Winter brings heavy snow to the Lake Michigan area in the north of the state. Snowfall there can total 100 inches (254 cm) during one winter season. Like Indiana's Midwest neighbors, Indiana has heavy winds and dangerous tornadoes during spring. Summers are pleasant but humid. Average temperatures in July usually range from 73°F to 78°F (23–26°C), depending on the area. In the fall, Indianans enjoy beautiful red, orange, and yellow leaves on the state's many maple, oak, and yellow poplar trees.



Geography

For thousands of years, glaciers covered most of Indiana. These powerful glaciers ground down the landscape to make most of the state very flat. The glaciers also left behind fertile soil, and today Indiana is covered with rich farmland. The ancient glaciers did not reach down to Indiana's southern section, leaving rugged hills. Indiana's major rivers like the Ohio and the Wabash provided important routes for early exploration and migration. They helped Indiana earn its reputation as the Crossroads of America. Indiana's 36,185 square miles (93,720 sq km) make it the 38th largest state.



Resources and Economy

Indiana relies heavily on its huge manufacturing industry. The state leads the nation in steel production with 23 million tons of steel per year! A steel mill in Gary has the largest blast furnaces in the entire Western Hemisphere. Not only can Indiana produce large amounts of steel, it can also ship it easily. Indiana has more interstate highways per square mile than any other state. These highways take Indiana's raw materials to all parts of the country. Indiana claims many other important resources, too. The state's rich farmland makes it the 10th-leading farming state, although farming is not as important now as it was in the past. Southern Indiana holds rich limestone deposits. Many of the United States's most famous buildings are built from this limestone, including New York's Empire State Building.



History

The French Arrive

By the time the French explorer René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, reached Indiana in 1679, Native Americans had lived in the area for thousands of years. They built villages, farmed, created beautiful pottery and jewelry, and made large mounds of earth as monuments. The French traders who followed La Salle built forts along Indiana's rivers to protect their fur trade. The French often intermarried with Native Americans. Catholic priests also forged their way into the Indiana wilderness, seeking new converts. Indiana land was part of the French Empire until 1763, when the region was taken over by Britain.

A Revolutionary Hero

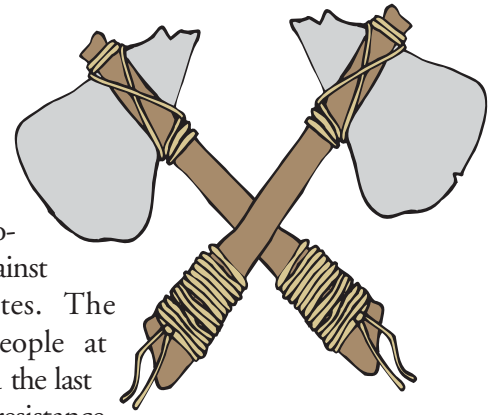


Indiana played an important part during the American colonies' revolution against Britain. A frontiersman named George Rogers Clark led his soldiers against the British in Indiana. Clark and his men marched from Illinois to capture the British fort at Vincennes. This victory gave the Americans control of the frontier and made Clark a war hero. When the British lost the war, Indiana became part of the new United States.

Little Turtle and Tecumseh

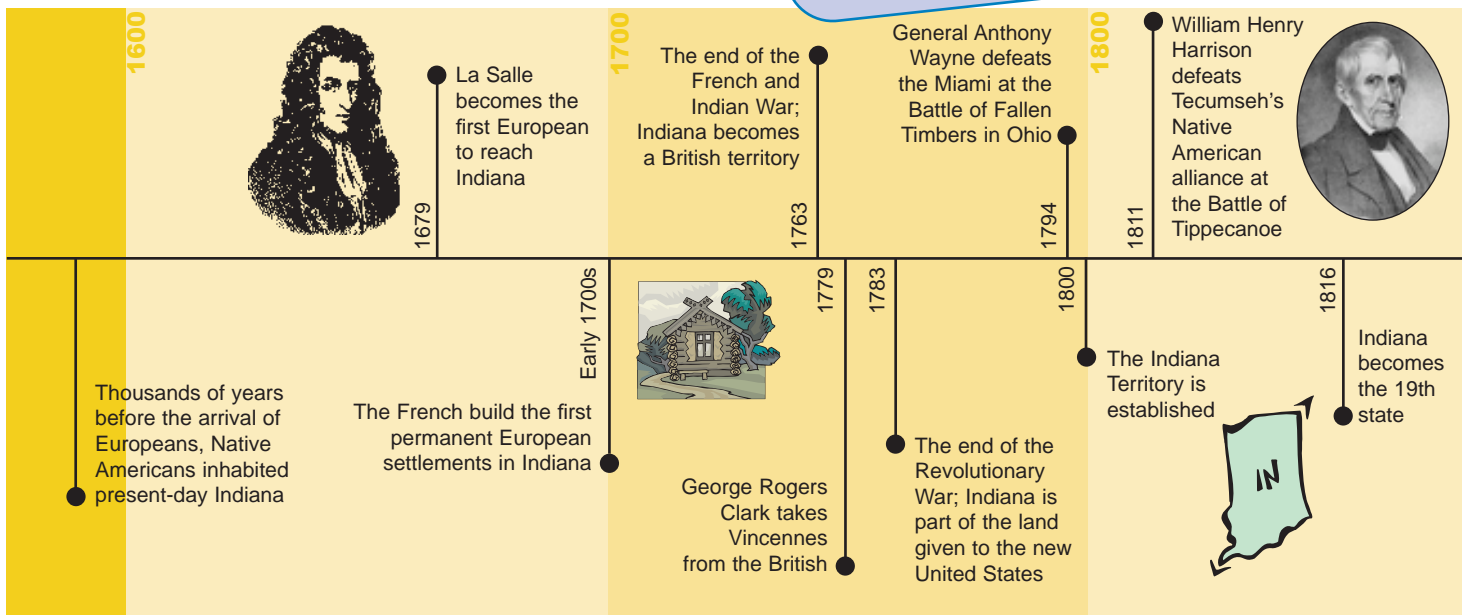
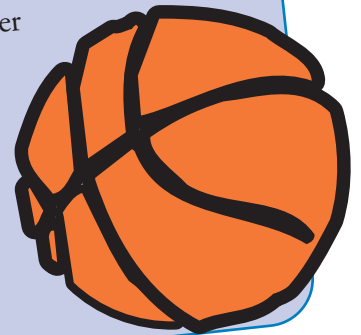
New settlers then began moving into Indiana, and Native Americans had to fight to keep their land. Chief Little Turtle led the Miami tribe against settlers in Indiana before eventually losing at the Battle of

Fallen Timbers in Ohio. Shawnee chief Tecumseh tried to unite all the local tribes together to fight against the United States. The defeat of his people at Tippecanoe ended the last Native American resistance in Indiana. Throughout the following decades, the U.S. government forced many Native Americans to leave.



Cultural Note

When people think of Indiana, two things usually come to mind: car racing and basketball. Indiana was home to many of the nation's early automobile manufacturers. They built a test track in 1909, and two years later they held the first Memorial Day 500-mile race. Later known as the Indy 500, it has become one of the world's major sporting events. It attracts drivers and spectators from all parts of the globe. Basketball is also at the center of Indiana culture. Thousands of Indiana fans support their local high school and university basketball teams. They call the basketball season Hoosier Hysteria.



The Underground Railroad

About 60,000 settlers had moved to Indiana by the time it became a state in 1816. The settlers built log cabins and raised corn and livestock. New roads, canals, and railroad lines made Indiana an important place for the western movement of Americans. By the 1860s, Indiana had 2,200 miles (3,541 km) of railroad tracks. A different kind of Indiana railroad, the Underground Railroad, helped runaway slaves in



the years before the Civil War. The Underground Railroad was a network of people who would hide escaped slaves and help them move farther north. Two Indianans, Levi and Katie Coffin, helped as many as two thousand slaves escape to Canada.

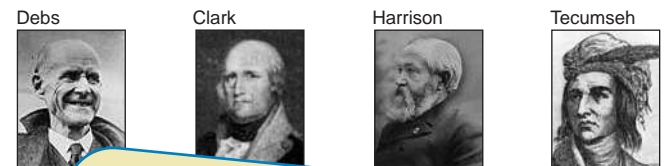
A New Indiana

The decades following the Civil War were a time of great growth for the Indiana economy. Farmers started growing wheat and exporting it to other states. Indiana's industry exploded. The Standard Oil Company built a refinery on Lake Michigan, and Inland Steel began in Chicago Heights, in the 1880s. Then in 1906, U.S. Steel built the city of Gary for 100,000 worker families. The Studebaker Company began making automobiles instead of wagons. Other automakers followed. New arrivals to Indiana, like

European immigrants and African-Americans, seized the new opportunities for work. Even though work conditions were hard, Indiana thrived.

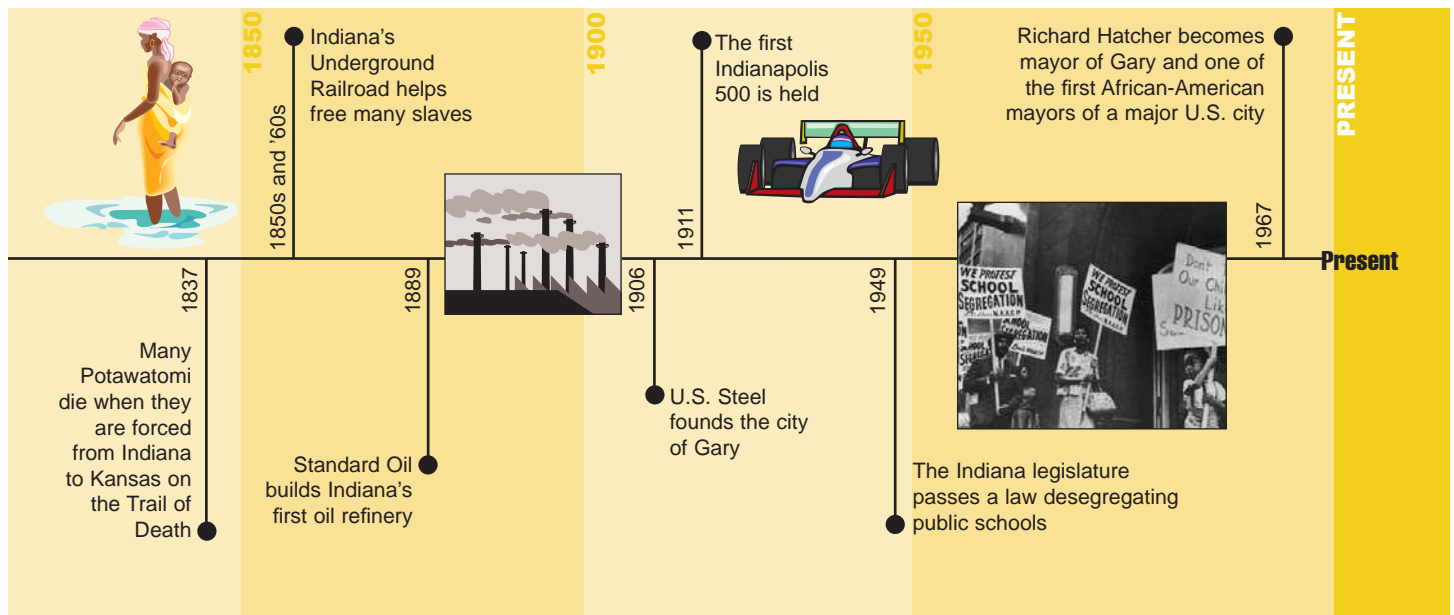
The economic crisis of the Great Depression hurt these industries, but they quickly recovered because their products were so important to the United States's World War II effort.

Throughout the 20th century, Indiana maintained its reputation as one of the country's industrial centers.



Famous People

- Benjamin Harrison:** 23d U.S. president
- Eugene Debs:** Labor leader
- Knute Rockne:** Notre Dame football coach
- Jessamyn West:** Author who described Quaker life in *The Friendly Persuasion*
- George Rogers Clark:** Revolutionary War hero
- Larry Bird:** Legendary basketball player
- David Letterman:** Comedian and talk-show host
- Cole Porter:** Songwriter and musician
- Tecumseh:** Native American leader
- Mark Spitz:** Winner of seven gold medals in swimming at the 1972 Olympics



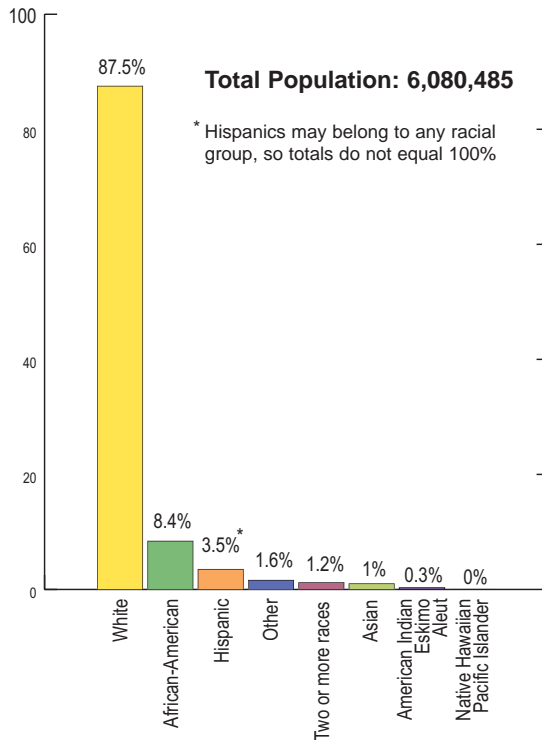
Did You Know?

- Indianans have been called Hoosiers since the 1830s, but people today can't agree on what the word means.
- Fort Wayne was the home of the first professional baseball game in 1871.
- Indiana has an actual town called Santa Claus. It receives half a million letters at Christmas.
- Abraham Lincoln grew up in a one-room log cabin in Spencer County.
- Rockefeller Center, the Pentagon, the U.S. Treasury, a dozen other government buildings in Washington, D.C., and 14 state capitol buildings are all made from Indiana limestone.
- Except for Hawaii, Indiana is the smallest state west of the Appalachian Mountains.
- Unique sand dunes stretch along much of Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline.
- Ray Harroun won the first Indy 500 in 1911. He averaged 75 mph and won \$14,000. The average speed of the Indy 500 today is 167 mph.



Population

During the first half of the 1800s, people from Southern states like Virginia and Kentucky settled Indiana's south. People from New England moved into Indiana's northern and central farmlands. Many southern Indianans still have slightly different accents than Indianans in the north. European immigrants and African-Americans later moved to Indiana's industrial cities. About two-thirds of Indianans today live in one of the state's big cities like Indianapolis, Evansville, Fort Wayne, and Gary.



State Symbols



State Stone
Limestone—This is quarried in southern Indiana for buildings around the country.



State Flower
Peony—The fourth state flower in Indiana's history, it is popular in decorating graves on Memorial Day.



State Tree
Tulip tree—This tree has greenish-yellow flowers that bloom in May or June.



State Bird
Cardinal—Cardinals live in Indiana year-round. The male is bright red, and the female is brown or dull red.

Government

Capital: Indianapolis

U.S. Senators: 2

U.S. Representatives: 9

Counties: 92

- Indiana has 50 state senators and 100 state representatives.
- Senators and representatives together make up the General Assembly, Indiana's lawmaking body.

State Motto: The Crossroads of America—Indiana was historically home to major water traffic routes and railroad lines.

For more information: See www.state.in.us or contact the Indiana Tourism Division, Indiana Department of Commerce, One North Capitol, Suite 700, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2288; phone (888) ENJOY-IN; Web site www.enjoyindiana.com.

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