

State Flag

The state flag was created in 1917 as part of Indiana's 100th birthday.

The Daughters of the American Revolution held a contest to design

the flag, and Paul Hadley of Mooresville submitted the prize-winning drawing. The torch in the center stands for liberty and enlightenment, and the rays represent their far-reaching effects. The stars on the outside stand for each of the original 13 states, and the stars on the inside stand for the next five states to be created. The larger star stands for Indiana – the 19th state.



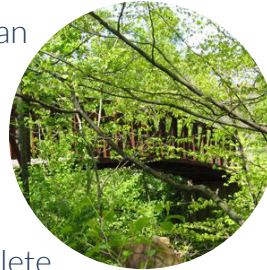
State Nickname

Indiana's nickname – “The Hoosier State” – is one of the oldest state nicknames. However, there isn't much known about its beginnings. The term started being used in the 1830s when John Finley wrote a poem called “The Hoosier's Nest.” The poem was widely copied throughout the country.

POINTS OF PRIDE ACROSS INDIANA

Indiana State Parks

Every Hoosier is within an hour drive of an Indiana state park. These allow visitors to experience what Indiana looked like before the pioneers settled here. For a complete list of state parks and events, visit www.in.gov/dnr/parklake.



Indiana State Museum



The Indiana State Museum is located in downtown Indianapolis. It was built using only materials found in Indiana, and on its outside, there are icons representing each of Indiana's 92 counties. The museum includes exhibits on Indiana's past, present and future. For more information, go to www.in.gov/ism.

Indiana Statehouse

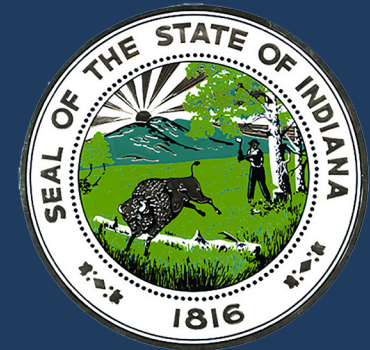
Located in downtown Indianapolis, the Indiana Statehouse is the center of our state government. The building, constructed in 1888, lets visitors see state government in action. For more information, visit www.in.gov/iga.



SYMBOLS OF INDIANA



A GUIDE TO THE HOOSIER STATE'S SYMBOLS



COMPLIMENTS OF THE INDIANA SENATE

1-800-382-9467

State Seal

The state seal has been used since Indiana was a territory. It can be found on papers as early as 1801. In 1963, the General Assembly officially approved its current design.

It features a sun rising over a hill, two sycamore trees, a woodsman with an ax and a buffalo jumping over a log.



State Tree

The General Assembly named the tulip tree – also known as the yellow poplar – the official state tree in 1931. At one point, this tree covered most of Indiana, but it has recently become hard to find. Its lovely bell-shaped, green-yellow flowers appear in May or June, and its soft white wood is used for many purposes.



State Bird

The General Assembly chose the cardinal as Indiana's state bird in 1933. Male cardinals are shades of red and have a black "mask" from their eyes to their throat. Females and young cardinals are brown with touches of red on their crest, wings, tail and breast. Cardinals do not migrate, and you can hear their song on the first sunny days of late winter.



"On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away"

Indiana's state song was written by Paul Dresser and chosen by the General Assembly in 1913. Here is the chorus:

*Oh, the moonlight's fair tonight along the Wabash, From the fields there comes the breath of new mown hay.
Through the sycamores the candle lights are gleaming, On the banks of the Wabash, far away.*

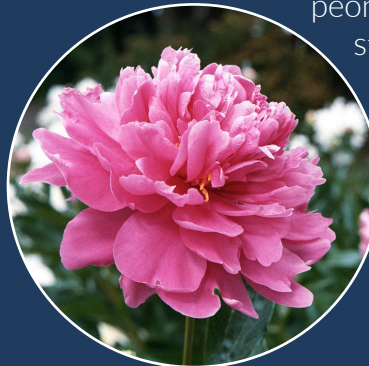
State River

In 1996, the General Assembly named the Wabash River the official state river. It freely flows for 411 miles, making it the longest stretch of free-flowing river east of the Mississippi River.



State Flower

In 1957, the General Assembly chose the peony as Indiana's state flower. The flower blooms in late May and early June in shades of white, red and pink.



State Motto

In 1937, the General Assembly declared "The Crossroads of America" as the new state motto. This illustrated the importance of waterways, railroads, highways and other transportation structures in Indiana.

