

Official State Poem

Indiana

God crowned her hills with beauty
Gave her lakes and winding streams
Then he edged them all with woodlands
As the settings for our dreams.

Lovely are her moonlit rivers
Shadowed by the sycamores
Where the fragrant winds of summer
Play along the willowed shore.

I must roam those wooded hillsides
I must heed the native call
For a pagan voice within me
Seems to answer to it all.

I must walk where squirrels scamper
Down a rustic old rail fence .
Where a choir of birds is singing
In the woodland...green and dense.

I must learn more of my homeland
For it's paradise to me
There's no haven quite so peaceful
There's no place I'd rather be.

Indiana.....is a garden
Where the seeds of peace have grown
Where each tree and vine and flower
Has a beauty all its own.

Lovely are the fields and meadows
That reach out of the hills that rise
Where the dreamy Wabash River
Wanders on....through paradise.

Indiana

State Song - "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away", by Paul Dresser, adopted in 1913.

State Tree - Tulip Tree (Yellow Poplar), adopted in 1931.

State Bird - Cardinal (Red Bird), adopted in 1933.

State Motto - "The Crossroads of America", adopted in 1937.

State Flower - Peony, adopted in 1957.

State Poem - "Indiana", by Arthur F. Mapes, adopted in 1963.

State Stone - Indiana Limestone, adopted in 1971.

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March 7, 1951 - Indiana Legislature enacted Burns Ind. Statutes 36-3201 (IC 8-15-2-1) authorizing the Indiana Toll Road construction.

September 21, 1954 - Ground broken for building of the Indiana Toll Road.

September 1, 1956 - Indiana Toll Road incorporated into Interstate Highway System - I-80 and I-90.

September 17, 1956 - Official opening of the Indiana Toll Road.

September 15, 1980 - Sale of \$259,500.00 in Bonds to provide funds for the 1980 improvement program.

July 1, 1981 - Indiana Toll Road became part of the Indiana Department of Highways by virtue of Public Law 74 and Public Law 41.

November 15, 1981 - The Indiana Toll Road celebrated its 25th year of operation.

INDIANA

... a brief history



INDIANA - A BRIEF HISTORY

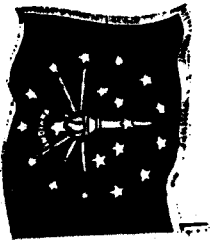
State Name - Congress coined the name Indiana, which means "Land of the Indians", when in 1800 it separated an area containing all or part of 5 present states from the Northwest Territory and named the separated areas the "Indiana Territory". The territorial name was retained when Indiana became a state.

State Capital - Indianapolis (combination of Indiana and Greek word "polis", meaning city; thus, Indianapolis is the "City of Indiana") which has a metropolitan area population of 1.2 million and is intersected by seven state highways.

Indiana is in North Central United States, bounded on the north by Lake Michigan and Michigan; on the east by Ohio; on the south by the Ohio River and Kentucky; on the west by Illinois and on the southwest by the Wabash River. The state is 276 miles long and 177 miles wide.

Indiana has five cities with population in excess of 100,000 - Fort Wayne, Evansville, Gary, South Bend and Hammond. There are 54 cities with population in excess of 10,000.

Although Indiana ranks 38th nationally in size, the state is ranked 12th in population. Altitude varies from 320' in Posey County to 1,257' in Wayne County, above sea level. Average annual precipitation ranges from 43" in Southern Indiana to 36" in Northern Indiana.



BANNER - The Indiana flag displays 19 gold stars and a gold torch on a field of blue. The torch is said to stand for liberty and enlightenment; the rays represent far-reaching influence. The stars in the outer circle represent the 13 original states; those in the inner arc represent the 5 states next admitted to the Union. The star above the torch stands for Indiana, the 19th State. Adopted 1917.



STATE
SEAL

GREAT SEAL - The seal depicts a pioneer scene - a woodsman felling a tree while a buffalo flees from the forest across the plains and the sun sets in the distance. It has been used since 1801, but was not officially adopted until 1963.

ORIGIN OF TERM "HOOSIER"

There are many stories as to the origin of the term "Hoosier".

In the early days when pioneers were beginning to settle in southern Indiana, it was not uncommon for strangers to pass by a cabin or through a settlement. In the native dialect, someone would call out to the approaching stranger "who's hyar", meaning who's here or who are you. Thus, the word Hoosier, sounding like the dialect term "who's hyar" came into being and referred to the settlers of Indiana.

Another story is based on Samuel Hoosier, a contractor on the Ohio Falls Canal, Louisville. He found that men from the north side of the river seemed to suit him better than the immigrants usually hired for this work and he gave them preference. The result was that they came to be known as "Hoosier's men", and finally "Hoosiers".

Still others trace the word to "husher", a term applied to men (usually river boat workers) able to "hush" any challenger because of their strength.

