All About MINNESOTA

STATEHOOD
Minnesota became a state in 1858; the 32nd state in the union.

LOCATION
Upper Midwest, north central United States. Minnesota is bordered by Canada on the north; Iowa on the south; Lake Superior and Wisconsin on the east; and North and South Dakota on the west.

STATE NAME
The name “Minnesota” comes from Dakota Indian words meaning “sky-tinted waters,” or “sky-blue waters.”

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TWIN CITIES</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>412,517 Largest city in Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>300,353 Capital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rochester</td>
<td>111,907 Home of Mayo Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington</td>
<td>87,224 Home of Mall of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duluth</td>
<td>86,597 Major shipping port on Lake Superior</td>
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(Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2015 census)

MINNESOTA’S PEOPLE

TOTAL POPULATION
5.5 million

POPULATION UNDER AGE 18
1.28 million; 23.4%

MEDIAN AGE
37.9

DIVERSITY
19% of Minnesotans identify as people of color

SKY-BLUE WATERS
Minnesota’s lakes and rivers are part of what this state is all about. The many lakes are part of what makes it different from all other states. One of Minnesota’s nicknames is “Land of 10,000 Lakes,” but it really has a lot more. The state is on the shore of the biggest of the Great Lakes, Lake Superior, and Minnesota is where the world’s third largest river, the Mississippi, begins.

NUMBER OF LAKES
11,842 (more than 10 acres)

RIVERS AND STREAMS
69,200 miles

MISSISSIPPI RIVER
680 miles of its 2,552 total miles flow through Minnesota

LAKE SUPERIOR
is the world’s largest freshwater lake. Lake Superior is at the end of the St. Lawrence Seaway, which brings boats from around the world to the port of Duluth, Minnesota.

Minnesota’s rivers and streams flow in three directions: north to Hudson Bay in Canada, east to the Atlantic Ocean and south to the Gulf of Mexico.

GEOGRAPHY

SIZE
12th largest state in the United States

CAPITAL
St. Paul

LAND AREA
83,574 square miles

WATER AREA
7,326 square miles

LENGTH
just over 400 miles

WIDTH
varies from about 200-350 miles

LOWEST POINT
602 feet at Lake Superior shore

HIGHEST POINT
2,301 feet at Eagle Mountain

MEAN ELEVATION
1,200 feet above sea level

LONGITUDE
89° 34’W to 97° 12’W

LATITUDE
43° 34’N to 49° 23’N

EXPLORE MINNESOTA™
MINNESOTA’S BEGINNINGS

THE FIRST MINNESOTANS
Humans first came to Minnesota during the last ice age. They probably followed herds of large game into this area.

Some of those early Minnesota people carved pictures of humans, animals and weapons into rocks.

Some of these carvings, called “petroglyphs,” may be 5,000 years old. Ancient burial mounds and unearthed objects like spear points are evidence that people lived here ages ago.

The Dakota and Ojibwe (also called Chippewa or Anishinabe) Indians lived in Minnesota when the first Europeans arrived. Many Dakota, Ojibwe and other American Indians live in Minnesota today.

THE EARLY YEARS OF MINNESOTA

The weather changes a lot in Minnesota! Each season comes with its own pleasures. Temperatures are usually slightly warmer south of the Twin Cities, and cooler in northern parts of the state. There is also typically less snow in southern Minnesota and more in northern Minnesota, especially in the northeast, inland from Lake Superior.

CLIMATE

| JANUARY | 24° | 7° |
| AUGUST | 80° | 61° |
| MAY | 70° | 48° |
| OCTOBER | 59° | 39° |

Minnesota is known for its cold winters, but we just bundle up and go out and play in the snow.

Spring brings warming temperatures and a major “green-up” as trees grow leaves.

Summer is sunny and pleasant, and it’s common to have several days as warm as 90° Fahrenheit.

In the fall the trees turn brilliant colors as the days cool down.

STATE SYMBOLS

Motto
“L’Etoile du Nord,” which means “Star of the North” in French

Nicknames
North Star State
Land of 10,000 Lakes
Gopher State

Seal
The official seal shows a farmer plowing a field near St. Anthony Falls on the Mississippi River, an Indian riding a horse, and the words “L’Etoile du Nord.”

Flag
The background is royal blue, and the state seal is in the center. Around the seal is a wreath of lady slipper flowers. There are also 19 stars in the circle, since the 19th state admitted to the union after the 13 largest star at the top is for Minnesota, the “North Star State.”
MAJOR MINNESOTA INDUSTRIES

The Minnesota economy is very diverse. Minnesota produces a wide variety of goods and services. Some of these products are exported to countries around the world.

In addition, Minnesota produces most of the iron ore mined in the U.S., and there are limestone and granite quarries.

MINNESOTA BUSINESSES

Minnesota is home to some of the biggest companies in the U.S., including Target, 3M, Best Buy, General Mills, Medtronic and Hormel Foods.

HEALTH CARE & MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
FOREST PRODUCTS (wood and paper)
PRINTING & PUBLISHING
HIGH TECHNOLOGY (electronic equipment, scientific instruments, computer equipment and services, and more)
FINANCE & INSURANCE
FOOD PRODUCTS (meat, dairy and grain products, processed vegetables and more)
TOURISM

MINNESOTA AGRICULTURE

Based on 2015 data and rankings unless otherwise noted

TOP CROPS
1st Sugar beets, processed sweet corn and green peas
2nd Wild rice
3rd Dry beans and oats
4th Corn, soybeans, flaxseed
5th Rye

74,000 FARMS
51% AGRICULTURAL LAND
That’s almost 26 MILLION ACRES!

TOP ANIMAL PRODUCTS
1st Turkeys
2nd Hogs
3rd Meat animals
6th Cheese and honey
8th Milk

TOP EXPORT MARKETS
China
Canada
Mexico

4th nationally in farm exports
$7.3 BILLION IN 2014

FLOWER
Pink and White Lady’s Slipper
The flower has a white and pink pouch and narrow, white petals, and looks like a slipper. It grows in damp, wooded areas. Fun Fact: Minnesota is the only state to have an orchid as the state flower.

TREE
Red Pine
(also called Norway pine)
The needles grow in clusters of two and the cones are about 2 inches long.

BUTTERFLY
Monarch
Four generations of Monarchs born in Minnesota each summer. The last generation flies south to Mexico for the winter.

Common Loon
There are more loons in Minnesota than in any other state except Alaska. These water birds can dive as deep as 250 feet to look for food.

xs in the center pages, the state
Minnesota was
Original 13. The
North Star State.”
FAMOUS MINNESOTANS

ANN BANCROFT
Explorer
First woman to cross the ice to both the North Pole (1986 by dogsled) and South Pole (1993 by skis)

BOB DYLAN
(Robert Zimmerman)
Singer/Songwriter
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (1988); Grammy (multiple), Oscar (2001) and Nobel Prize (2016) winner

JUDY GARLAND
Actress/Singer
Played Dorothy in the movie “The Wizard of Oz”

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
Politician
U.S. Senator (1949-64 and 1971-78); U.S. Vice President (1965-69)

GARRISON KEILLOR
Author/Humorist/Radio Personality
Lake Wobegon Days (1990); “A Prairie Home Companion”

SINCLAIR LEWIS
Author
Main Street (1920); first person from the United States to win the Nobel Prize for Literature (1930); featured on a U.S. postage stamp (1985)

CHARLES A. LINDBERGH, JR.
Aviator
First person to fly alone over the Atlantic Ocean (1927)

WALTER F. MONDALE
Politician
U.S. Senator (1964-76); U.S. Vice President (1977-81)

GEORGE “PINKY” NELSON
Astronaut
Flew space missions in 1984, 1986 and 1988

KAREN NYBERG
Astronaut
2008 space shuttle flight

PRINCE
(Rogers Nelson)
Singer/Songwriter/Actor
Grammy Award winner (1984, 1986 and 2005); Oscar for Best Soundtrack (1984); Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (2004); Made movies “Purple Rain” and “Graffiti Bridge”; NAACP Vanguard Award (2005)

CHARLES SCHULZ
Cartoonist
Created “Peanuts” series

LINDSEY YOON
Olympic Skier
Only American woman to win gold in downhill skiing (2010)

LAURA INGALLS WILDER
Author
Little House on the Prairie series of children’s books

ROY WILKINS
Civil Rights Leader
Director of the NAACP (1955-1977)

DAVE WINFIELD
Baseball Player
12-time MLB All-Star; Baseball Hall of Fame inductee

For a longer list, go to minnesotafunfacts.com/famous-minnesotans

GO MINNESOTA!
TEAMS FOR WHOM WE CHEER

MINNESOTA TWINS
Baseball

MINNESOTA VIKINGS
American Football

MINNESOTA WILD
Hockey

MINNESOTA UNITED FC
Soccer

ST. PAUL SAINTS
Minor League Baseball

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES
Men’s Basketball

MINNESOTA LYNX
Women’s Basketball

GEMSTONE
Lake Superior Agate
Cross-sections of the inside of these rocks have irregular circles, usually of red, orange and yellow.

FISH
Walleye
Found in lakes throughout Minnesota, the walleye is a favorite among anglers.

DRINK
Milk
Minnesota is a top producer of milk and other dairy products.

MUSHROOM
Morel
They pop up in forests in the spring, especially after lots of rain. These spongy-looking mushrooms are very tasty.

GRAIN
Wild Rice
Wild rice grows naturally in the shallow waters of lakes in central and northern Minnesota.
FAVORITE PLACES FOR KIDS TO TAKE THEIR FAMILIES

ITASCA STATE PARK
North of Park Rapids
Walk across the headwaters of the Mississippi River on stepping stones.

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK
Near International Falls
Take an excursion boat trip to explore Minnesota’s national park, mostly lakes surrounded by the north woods.

JUDY GARLAND HOME AND CHILDREN’S DISCOVERY MUSEUM
Grand Rapids
Young children enjoy this museum next to the childhood home of the actress who played Dorothy in the movie “The Wizard of Oz.”

INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER
Ely
Watch a wolf pack and learn about wolf behavior.

MILL CITY MUSEUM
Downtown Minneapolis
Learn how old mills made flour from wheat. There are hands-on exhibits and a baking lab.

GREAT LAKES AQUARIUM
Duluth
See the fish that live in Lake Superior and other animals, like otters, that live around the lake.

MALL OF AMERICA
Bloomington
The biggest shopping center in the U.S. Home to Nickelodeon Universe indoor amusement park and Sea Life Minnesota Aquarium.

MINNESOTA CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
Downtown St. Paul
Kids aged six months to 10 years can crawl, splash, touch and play their way through this fun museum.

OLIVER KELLEY FARM
Elk River
Experience life on a farm from 150 years ago, complete with farm animals.

SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA
Downtown St. Paul
Try lots of hands-on exhibits about the human body, the Mississippi River, weather, dinosaurs and much more.

MINNESOTA ZOO
Apple Valley
See hundreds of animals, from penguins to bears.

MINNESOTA HISTORY MUSEUM
Near downtown St. Paul
A great place to learn about Minnesota’s history, with many special programs for kids.

VALLEYFAIR
Shakopee
Plenty of exciting rides for big and little kids.

MYSTERY CAVE
Near Preston
Take a guided tour through the cave at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park.

MUFFIN
Blueberry
Wild blueberries grow in northeastern Minnesota.

PHOTOGRAPH
“Grace”
Taken in 1918 by Eric Enstrom, this photo shows an elderly man bowing his head and giving thanks.

SONG
“Hail Minnesota!”
This song was written by two students at the University of Minnesota in 1904-05.

APPLE
Honeycrisp
Anderson Elementary in Bayport, Minn. suggested the Honeycrisp be added to our list of state symbols. The Honeycrisp was developed at the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station and was introduced to the public in 1991. The Honeycrisp is a later-season variety, ready to eat mid-September through mid-October.
FOR MORE INFORMATION

The following websites have more information about Minnesota.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
mn.gov/governor

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE
sos.state.mn.us/about-minnesota

STATE LEGISLATURE
leg.state.mn.us/youth

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
minnesota.agclassroom.org

STATE OF MINNESOTA
state.mn.us

EXPLORE MINNESOTA TOURISM
exploreminnesota.com

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
mndnr.gov

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
mnhs.org

MINNESOTA STATISTICAL INFORMATION
mn.gov/admin/demography

MINNESOTA WEATHER AND CLIMATE
climate.umn.edu

For travel information,
call 888-VISITMN
exploreminnesota.com

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