

# ALL ABOUT MINNESOTA



## STATE NAME

The name "Minnesota" comes from the Dakota Indian phrase Mni Sóta Makȟe, meaning "land where the waters reflect the skies."

## NICKNAMES

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

## GEOGRAPHY

### CAPITAL

St. Paul

### SIZE

12<sup>th</sup> largest state

### LAND AREA

79,610 square miles (92%)

### WATER AREA

7,329 square miles (8%)

### 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 in Cook County

### MEAN ELEVATION

1,200 feet above sea level

### LONGITUDE

89° 34'W to 97° 12'W

### LATITUDE

43° 34'N to 49° 23'N

More info:

[sos.state.mn.us/about-minnesota](https://sos.state.mn.us/about-minnesota)

## THE EARLY YEARS

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

As far back as 7,000 years ago, people carved pictures, called "petroglyphs," into rocks. Some of these ancient carvings can be seen today in places such as Jeffers Petroglyphs, a site in southwest Minnesota managed by the Minnesota Historical Society.

The Dakota and Ojibwe Indians lived in Minnesota when the first Europeans arrived. An Ojibwe guide named Ozawindib led explorer Henry Rowe Schoolcraft to the source of the Mississippi River at Lake Itasca in 1832.

More info: [mnhs.org](http://mnhs.org)

## SKY-BLUE WATERS

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

**RIVERS AND STREAMS** add up to 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. It is at the end of the St. Lawrence Seaway, which brings boats from around the world to the port of Duluth.

**THE LAURENTIAN DIVIDE** cuts across northern Minnesota. Waters to its north flow to Hudson Bay. Waters to its south flow to the Gulf of Mexico or east to the Atlantic Ocean.

## MINNESOTA'S PEOPLE

### FIVE LARGEST CITIES

Twin Cities

1. **Minneapolis:** Population 435,885, largest city in Minnesota
2. **St. Paul:** Population 315,925, capital
3. **Rochester:** Population 119,969, home of Mayo Clinic
4. **Bloomington:** Population 90,271, home of Mall of America
5. **Duluth:** Population 87,306, major shipping port on Lake Superior

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2019 estimates

**TOTAL POPULATION** 5.64 million  
(Rural: 23%; urban: 77%)

**DIVERSITY** 20% of Minnesotans identify as people of color

**STATE RANK IN POPULATION** 22<sup>nd</sup>

**MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL AREA POPULATION** 3.28 million; 16th largest metro area in the U.S.

**POPULATION UNDER AGE 18** 1.3 million 23%

**MEDIAN AGE** 37.9

More info: [mn.gov/admin/demography](http://mn.gov/admin/demography)



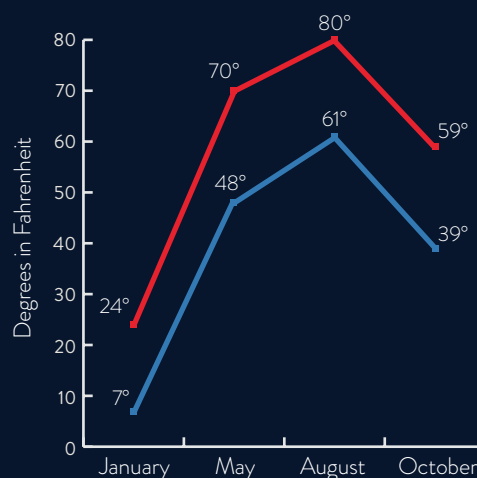
## CLIMATE

**AVERAGE ANNUAL SNOWFALL:** 36-70 inches

**NORMAL ANNUAL PRECIPITATION:** 8-32 inches

More info: [climate.umn.edu](http://climate.umn.edu)

### AVERAGE HIGH/LOW TEMPERATURES



## TIMELINE



Beaver photo by Minnesota Zoo

**1679**

French explorers arrive in Minnesota

**1700s**

Fur traders, for French and then British companies, come for beaver pelts for making hats in Europe

**1830s-1850s**

First settlers arrive; primarily European Americans from the East Coast



U of M mascot Goldy Gopher photo by Jane Andersen

**1851**

University of Minnesota is founded

**1858**

Minnesota becomes the 32nd state on May 11

**1862**

With the U.S. Government behind on payments to the Dakota for their land, and the Dakota experiencing widespread hunger, tensions mount and the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 breaks out in southwest Minnesota



Dancing at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis

**1860s-1900s**

Arrivals of large numbers of immigrants, especially Germans and Scandinavians

**1900s-TODAY**

New Minnesotans arrive from Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia, Mexico and other places around the world



# MAJOR MINNESOTA INDUSTRIES

Minnesota produces a wide variety of goods and services. Some 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.



Photo by Jessica Brouillette

## MINNESOTA BUSINESSES

Minnesota is home to some of the biggest companies in the U.S., including UnitedHealth Group, U.S. Bancorp, CHS, Target, 3M, Best Buy, General Mills, Hormel Foods (makers of SPAM) and Polaris.

- Health care and medical equipment
- Forest products (wood and paper)
- Printing and publishing
- High technology (electronic equipment, scientific instruments, computer equipment and services, and more)
- Food products (meat, dairy and grain products, processed vegetables and more)
- Finance and insurance
- Tourism

## MINNESOTA AGRICULTURE

Minnesota ranks 5th in total agricultural production in the U.S.

### TOP CROPS

1. Sugar beets, green peas, wild rice
2. Processed sweet corn
3. Soybeans, dry beans, sunflowers and oats

### TOP ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Turkeys and hogs

### TOP EXPORT MARKETS

China, Canada and Mexico

More info: [minnesota.agclassroom.org](http://minnesota.agclassroom.org)

Source: Based on 2019 data and rankings unless otherwise noted



Photo by Jane Andersen

## MINNESOTA INVENTIONS



Water ski photo by Ben Threinen



Skyway in downtown St. Paul



Photo by Mall of America

- Water skis
- Inline skates
- Pontoons
- Scotch tape
- Shopping malls
- Pacemakers
- Skyways
- Tilt-a-whirl rides
- Pop-up toaster
- Post-It Notes
- Black box flight recorder

## STATE SYMBOLS



Photo by Travis Novitsky

### STATE BIRD

Common Loon



Photo by Melanie Mahonen

### STATE FLOWER

Pink and white Lady's Slipper



### STATE BUTTERFLY

Monarch



Photo by Lisa McClintick

### STATE GEMSTONE

Lake Superior Agate



Photo by Slim's Resort/Lake of the Woods

### STATE FISH

Walleye

More state symbols: [leg.mn.gov/leg/symbols](http://leg.mn.gov/leg/symbols)



# 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)

## HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

### Politician

Elected U.S. Vice President (1965-69)



## SUNISA (SUNI) LEE

### Olympic Gymnast

Won a gold medal for women's all-around at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo

## WALTER F. MONDALE

### Politician

Elected U.S. Vice President (1977-81)

## KAREN NYBERG

### Astronaut

Took her first trip to the International Space Station in the Space Shuttle Discovery in 2008



## PRINCE

### Musician

(Prince Rogers Nelson)

Seven-time Grammy winner and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer whose hits included "Purple Rain" and "When Doves Cry." Fans can tour his home and recording studio, Paisley Park, in Chanhassen.

## GABLE STEVESON

### Olympic Wrestler

Won a gold medal in the men's freestyle 125-kilogram class at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo

## DAVE WINFIELD

### Baseball Player

12-time MLB All-Star and Baseball Hall of Famer



## CHARLES SCHULZ

### Cartoonist

Created the "Peanuts" series featuring Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Peppermint Patty (above), Linus and others. You can see statues of the Peanuts characters in Rice Park and throughout St. Paul.



## LAURA INGALLS WILDER

### Author

Wrote the *Little House on the Prairie* series of children's books about pioneer life in Minnesota. In Walnut Grove, Minnesota, you can visit the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum and attend the annual Wilder Pageant (above).



## CHARLES AND WILLIAM MAYO

### Doctors

Co-founded the Mayo Clinic in Rochester with their father, William Worrall Mayo. This bronze sculpture of the brothers (above) is one of many works of art on display in downtown Rochester.

For a longer list, go to:

[minnesotafunfacts.com/famous-minnesotans](https://minnesotafunfacts.com/famous-minnesotans)

# GO MINNESOTA!

Minnesota is one of the few states with a professional team in every major sport, including:

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Minnesota Vikings

## INDEPENDENT WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Minnesota Vixen



## NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Minnesota Wild

## NATIONAL WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE

Minnesota Whitecaps



## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Minnesota Twins

## NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Minnesota Timberwolves

## WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Minnesota Lynx

## MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

Minnesota United FC

In addition, the MiLB's Saint Paul Saints are a major source of entertainment every summer, and the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers have a full schedule of sporting events all year.

**explore MINNESOTA**

For more travel information, call 888-VISITMN or visit [exploreminnesota.com](https://exploreminnesota.com).

Email: [explore.mn@state.mn.us](mailto:explore.mn@state.mn.us)

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