INDIANA

THE HOOSIER STATE *Became a state December 11, 1816 (19th)*

Indiana calls itself the Crossroads of America because so many roads and railroads meet here. It is a state of corn fields, car races and small towns, with sandy beaches on Lake Michigan.



Lincoln's Indiana Boyhood

Abraham Lincoln was 7 years old when his family moved from Kentucky to the Indiana woods in 1816. He helped his father clear land with an ax and build a log cabin. He went to school for only a few months at a time and borrowed books wherever he could. As he grew he earned about 25 cents a day clearing land and building fences. Lincoln lived in Indiana until he was 21.



A March Through Icy Water

During the Revolutionary War, British soldiers held Fort Sackville at Vincennes. In February 1779, George Rogers Clark led about 170 men on a march of about 180 miles to take it. Rivers had flooded the land, and the men waded through cold water for days. The surprised British surrendered on February 25.



The Brickyard

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway opened in 1909. Its first surface broke apart under the cars, so workers paved the track with 3.2 million bricks. People have called it the Brickyard ever since. In 1911, Ray Harroun won the first 500-mile race at an average speed of about 75 miles an hour. A strip of the old bricks still marks the finish line.



Stone from an Ancient Sea

About 340 million years ago, a warm, shallow sea covered Indiana. Shells and bits of tiny sea animals piled up on the bottom and slowly pressed into limestone. Today workers cut the stone out of quarries, or open pits, in southern Indiana. It was used to build the Empire State Building, the Pentagon and the Washington National Cathedral.



A Sand Hill That Moves

Wind off Lake Michigan piles sand into giant hills along Indiana's shore. Beach grass and other plants hold most dunes in place with their roots. A dune called Mount Baldy has little to hold it, so the wind pushes it inland about six feet a year on average. Indiana Dunes became a national park in 2019.



From Wagons to Cars

In 1852, brothers Henry and Clement Studebaker opened a blacksmith shop in South Bend. They began building wagons, and their company grew into the largest wagon maker in the world. When automobiles arrived, Studebaker changed with the times. It sold an electric car in 1902 and gasoline cars two years later. The South Bend factory closed in 1963.

BY THE NUMBERS

Population	About 7 million (17th most)
Size	About 36,400 square miles (38th largest)
Highest point	Hoosier Hill, 1,257 feet
Counties	92
Neighbors	Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois

DID YOU KNOW?

- No one knows for sure where the word Hoosier came from. It was already in a popular poem by 1833.
- Say's firefly became the state insect in 2018. Students at a West Lafayette elementary school worked for four years to make it happen.
- Indiana has a town named Santa Claus. Its post office gets thousands of letters to Santa every year.
- The name Indiana means "land of the Indians." The Miami and Potawatomi nations are among the peoples whose homelands are here.

FIND IT ON THE MAP

1. Which city is both the capital and the largest city?
2. Which city is closest to the Lincoln Boyhood Home?
3. How tall is the tallest of the Indiana Dunes?

Answers: 1. Indianapolis 2. Evansville 3. 192 feet