

MISSOURI

HISTORY

Missouri grew up where two great rivers meet. Native nations, French traders and American settlers each helped build it.

The First Peoples

People have lived in Missouri for at least 12,000 years. About 1,000 years ago, Native farmers built towns with large earth mounds near the big rivers. St. Louis was later nicknamed Mound City for the mounds that stood there. By the 1700s, the Osage were the most powerful nation in the region. They grew corn and hunted bison on the plains. The Missouria lived along the Missouri River.

French Towns and Fur

The French explorers Marquette and Jolliet paddled past the mouth of the Missouri River in 1673. French settlers came later to mine lead and to farm. Some brought enslaved Africans to work in the mines. Ste. Genevieve, begun around 1750, is Missouri's oldest town. In 1764, Pierre Laclède and young Auguste Chouteau started a **trading post** called St. Louis. The Osage brought furs there to trade for cloth, tools and guns. In 1780, a British-led force of Native warriors attacked St. Louis. The town's defenders drove them off.

Joining the United States

The United States bought the land from France in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. The next year, Lewis and Clark set out from the St. Louis area to explore the West. Congress made Missouri a **territory** in 1812. During the War of 1812, Sauk and other warriors allied with Britain raided settlements along the rivers. Settlers built forts and fought back. In **treaties** signed

in 1808 and 1825, the Osage gave up their Missouri land for payments and goods and moved west. Native people live in Missouri today.

The 24th State

Settlers poured in for farmland. Many came from Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. Some brought enslaved workers, who raised hemp and tobacco. Congress argued about whether Missouri should allow slavery. Under the Missouri **Compromise** of 1820, Missouri came in as a slave state and Maine as a free state. Missouri became the 24th state on August 10, 1821. Jefferson City became the capital in 1826.

A Divided State

Missouri stayed in the Union during the Civil War, but its people fought on both sides. Confederate troops won the Battle of Wilson's Creek near Springfield in 1861. Union troops won at Westport in 1864 and held the state. Missouri ended slavery in January 1865.



Building Missouri

Steamboats crowded the river landings, and wagon trains left Independence for Santa Fe and Oregon. Railroads followed. In 1874, the Eads Bridge carried trains across the Mississippi at St. Louis. Kansas City grew around its stockyards, where cattle were sold. In 1904, St. Louis held a World's Fair and the first Olympic Games in the United States.

MISSOURI THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Auguste Chouteau	Helped start St. Louis as a teenager.
Daniel Boone	Frontiersman. Moved to Missouri in 1799.
Scott Joplin	Ragtime composer. Wrote the Maple Leaf Rag in Sedalia.
Laura Ingalls Wilder	Wrote the Little House books on her farm near Mansfield.
Harry S. Truman	From Independence. The 33rd president.

WORDS TO KNOW

trading post	a place where people meet to swap goods
territory	land run by the United States that is not yet a state
treaty	a written agreement between nations
compromise	a deal in which each side gives up something