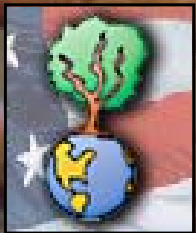


Wyoming

The United States of America

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Cheyenne



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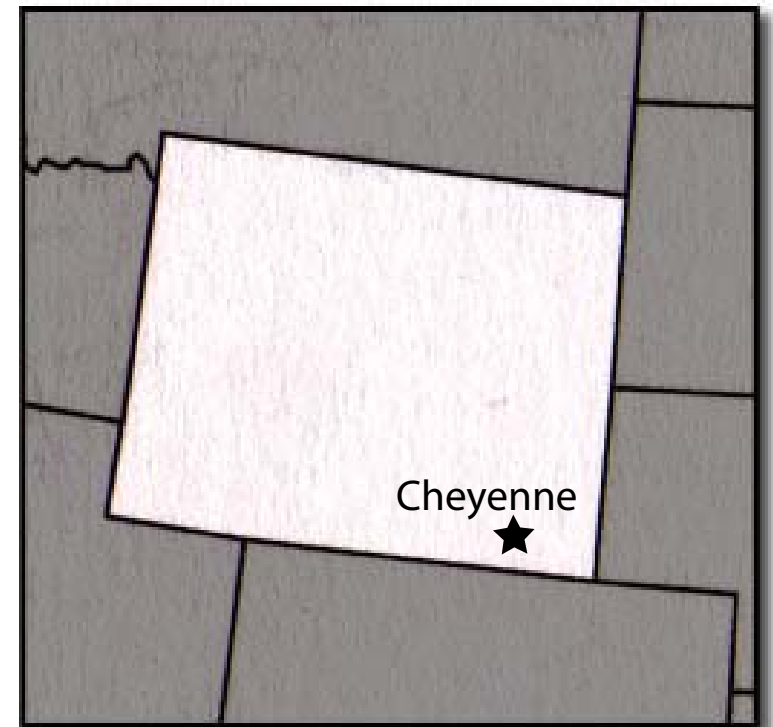




Location

Wyoming is a Rocky Mountain state. To the north is Montana. To the east lie South Dakota and Nebraska. Colorado and Utah are to the south, forming the southern border. Utah and Idaho are to the west.

Cheyenne is the capital city. It is located in the southeastern part of the state.





History

Before Statehood

The U.S. bought some of the Wyoming area from France in 1803 as part of the Louisiana Purchase. Later, the western part was acquired by England. Settlers in covered



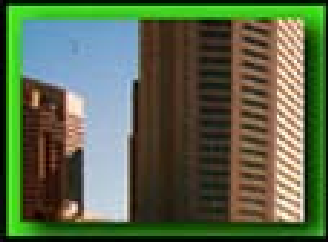
Covered wagon

wagons crossed the region over the California, Mormon and Oregon Trails.

Longhorn steer



In 1867, the Union Pacific railroad in southern Wyoming speeded up settlement. The discovery of gold brought more people. Longhorn cattle were brought from Texas. In 1872, the first U.S. national park, Yellowstone National Park, was created.



History

Since Statehood

Wyoming became the 44th state of the United States on July 10, 1890. In 1902, the Yellowstone Timberland **Reserve**, the first national forest in the United States, was created. In 1910, the Buffalo Bill **Dam** on the Shoshone



Hydroelectric power

River provided irrigation for new farmland. Between 1910 and 1958, six dams were built.

Uranium was discovered in 1949. Titanium was discovered in 1954 near Iron Mountain. Oil pipelines were built to carry oil to the refineries. When the U. S. Supreme Court allowed strip mining in 1976, extensive coal fields were opened to mining.

Titanium





Government

The state government of Wyoming is divided into three branches. Governor David Freudenthal is head of the executive branch. This branch is in charge of

carrying out the laws. The legislature has two parts, the Senate and House of Representatives.



Gov. David Freudenthal

Capitol building



The third branch is the judicial branch. This branch interprets the laws. Wyoming has 23 counties. Each has a local government headed by 3 commissioners. Wyoming was the first state to grant women the right to vote.



State Flag

The state flag was adopted in 1917. It shows a bison on a blue field that is bordered in white and red. The state seal has a bison branded with the state seal. The seal shows a woman on a pedestal holding a banner with the state motto "***Equal*** Rights."



The pillars represent knowledge and two men symbolize livestock raising and mining. The eagle and shield show support for the United States. The dates 1869 and 1890 indicate when Wyoming became a territory and a state.





Current Facts

Scenic Wyoming



Over 493,782 people live in Wyoming. The state is ranked the 50th largest state for the number of people

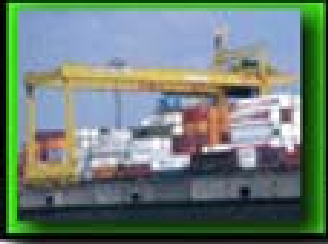
living in it. Wyoming covers 97,105 square miles. It is ranked the 9th largest state in total area in the United States.

Coal chute



The largest coal **mine** in the United States is Black Thunder, located near Wright.

Wyoming is nicknamed the "Equality State" because it was the first state to allow women to vote.



Industry

Today

Oil well



much of the annual value of all goods produced. Chemical products are important as are wood and lumber

Wyoming's oil and natural-gas mining are its most important industries. Mining accounts for

Sheep



products. Cattle and sheep continue to be valuable. The state's wool production is second only to Texas. Sugar beets, hay and wheat are the agricultural products. Tourism is becoming a bigger part of the economy.



Landmarks

Devil's Tower



Devil's Tower National Monument is an 865-foot volcanic rock **column**. This is the first national monument. Dinosaur Graveyard in Medicine Bow has many prehistoric fossils. Fort Laramie National Historic Site was a fur-trading post and military post on the Oregon Trail. Grand Teton National Park near Jackson features

Grand Teton Mountain, which stands 13,770 feet tall.

Yellowstone National Park is the largest U.S. park. Much of the park is in Wyoming but it also stretches into Montana and Idaho. Yellowstone is famous for geysers, falls, hot springs and scenic **overlooks**.



Geyser



Weather & Land

Snowy mountains



Warm Chinook winds from the Rockies moderate the winter weather of the eastern

plains. Average winter temperatures range from 16° in the Yellowstone Lake area to 27° Fahrenheit in Casper. The average yearly precipitation is as little as 6 inches in the Bighorn Basin to about 31 inches in the Tetons.

Parts of Yellowstone Park get up to 200 inches of snow per year.

The land in Wyoming features the eastern Great Plains that rise to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The Continental Divide crosses the state from northwest to southeast.



Fall colors



Animals

In Wyoming

Bison



The bison was named the state animal in 1985. Its large shoulder hump makes it different from a

buffalo. It is estimated that 60 million bison roamed the continent at one time. Only a few hundred remain.

Other large animals of Wyoming include black bears, elk, moose and

Bighorn sheep



mule deer. In the mountains, sheep, grizzly bears, lynxes and lions roam.

Smaller animals at home in Wyoming are badgers, cottontail rabbits and jack-rabbits, coyotes, foxes, skunks and wild-cats.

Wyoming is also home to bald eagles and golden eagles.



State Bird

Meadowlark



The western meadowlark (*Sturnella Neglecta*) was named the state bird in 1927. This bird's black "V"

and yellow underparts make it easy to identify as it perches on tall shrubs, posts or power lines. The bird has a **flute**-like song.

It prefers grassy, open areas. The nests are built on the ground with a roof of grass to hide the eggs. The dome-shaped nest is completely hidden in tall grass. Meadowlarks are known to noisily protest intruders near the nest and chase them away.



Meadowlark



State Tree

Cottonwood



The plains cottonwood (*Populus sargentii*) was named the state tree in 1947.

It is a member of the poplar family of trees. The cottonwood grows quickly and makes a good shade

tree. The tree gets its name from the small flowers that droop in long, cottony clusters called catkins. Cottonwoods bloom early in the spring. The leaves of the tree are shiny green and shaped like a triangle with toothed edges.



Flower buds



State Flower

Painted cup



The Indian paintbrush or painted-cup (*Castilleja linariaefolia*) was named the state

flower in 1917. The flower is common in the dry plains and foothills of Wyoming, growing alongside sagebrush.

The wildflower grows from 6 to 36 inches tall. The flowers are small and green, but many colorful leaves called **bracts**, which look like petals, surround them. These bracts range in color from bright red to yellow.



Painted cup



Famous People

Buffalo Bill Cody founded the town of Cody, Wyoming in 1895. At 15 years old, he was a pony-express rider. James

Bridger was a famous trapper, guide and storyteller. Many famous women lived in Wyoming,



Bill Cody

Nellie Tayloe Ross



including Esther Morris, who became the first female ***justice of the peace*** in 1870.

In 1924, Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first woman governor. Famous trapper, James Bridger, was a Wyoming native.



Things to Do

In Wyoming

Hot springs



Wyoming's towering mountains and vast plains attract many visitors. The

state has several national parks and forests, including Yellowstone, Devil's Tower, Shosone National Forest and Grand Teton National Park.

Big-game hunting is a major attraction for visitors. Also popular

are fishing, camping and hiking the scenic wilderness trails throughout the state. Easterners come to spend time at Eaton Ranch, the first dude ranch in the West.

Sightseeing and **photography** are other activities that vacationers enjoy.



Dude ranch



Sports

In Wyoming

Big-game hunting, trapping, fishing and hiking attract many visitors.



Hiking

Wyoming has sports teams at both the high-school

and the college level. The University of Wyoming Cowboys play a full schedule of intercollegiate sports.

Fishing



Fast Facts

Governor: David Freudenthal

Capital: Cheyenne

Size: 97,105 square miles, 9th in the U.S.

Population: 493,782 people, 50th in the U.S.

Major cities: Casper, Cheyenne, Laramie, Rock Springs, Sheridan, Green River, Gillette, Rawlins

Nickname: "Equality State"

State animal: bison

State bird: meadowlark

State flower: Indian paintbrush

State tree: cottonwood

State song: "Wyoming"

State motto: "Equal rights"

Mountain valley



Grizzly bear

Glossary

bracts, a leaf or leaf-like part on the base of a flower.

column, a pillar supporting something.

dam, a barrier across a river or stream to prevent the flow of water.

equal, the same as another, a person of like stature.

flute, a musical wind-instrument consisting of a tube with a series of finger holes or keys.

justice of the peace, a local magistrate empowered to try minor law cases, swear in officials or perform marriages.

mine, an excavation in the earth from which minerals are taken or extracted.

overlook, a place from which to look down on a scene below.

photography, the process or art of producing images or objects on sensitized surfaces by the chemical actions of light or of other forms of radiant energy.

reserve, to set aside or preserve something.

Links & Books

For more information

[Link1](#)

[Link2](#)

[Link3](#)

Title: *The World Book Encyclopedia*

Publisher: World Book, Inc.

Copyright: 2002

Title: *The Kid's World Almanac of the United States*

Author: Dr. Thomas G. Aylesworth

Publisher: World Almanac

Copyright: 1990

Title: *Exploring the 50 States*

Author: Marcie Anderson

Publisher: Willowisp Press, Inc.

Copyright: 1983



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