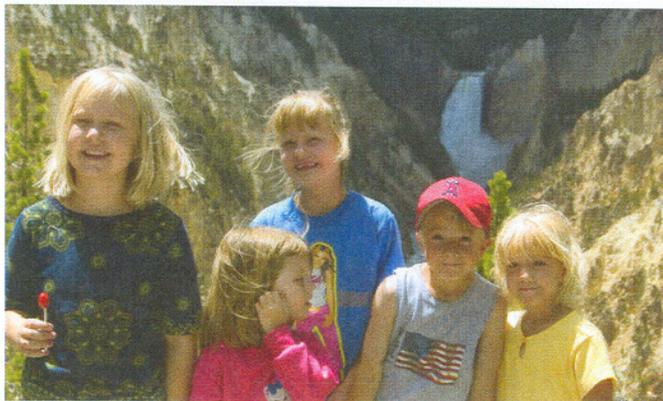
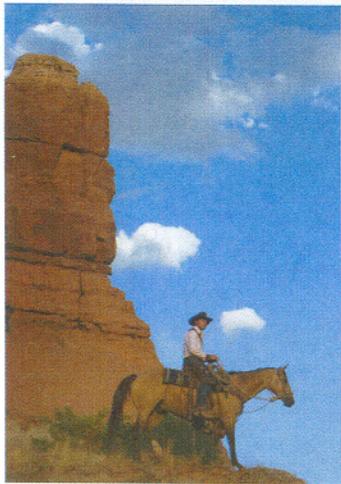
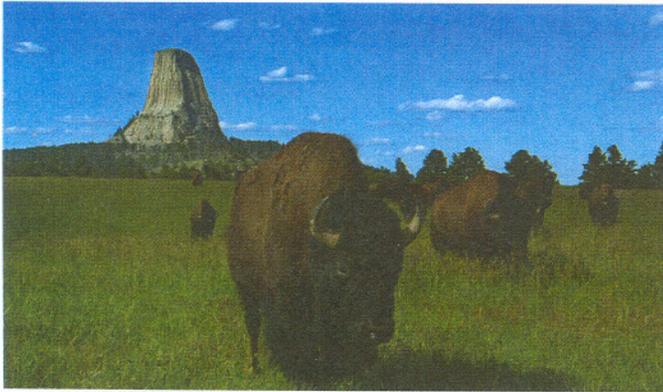


# WYOMING

## STUDENT GUIDE



*Wyoming*  
  
 Forever West™

## COLORFUL PAST

Since the 16th Century, a number of governments have claimed parts of what is now the State of Wyoming. The following national flags have flown over the Wyoming Territory: France, Great Britain, Mexico, Spain, Texas and the United States. Wyoming officially became the 44th U.S. state in 1890.



The name Wyoming was adopted from two Algonquin Indian words meaning "at the big plains" or "large prairie place."

Gold in California and the lure of rich land in Oregon brought increasing numbers of pioneer wagon trains rolling over the Oregon Trail through Wyoming.

Soldiers came to protect the wagon trains from Indians, and they also established forts along the trails.

The most important of the western military posts was Fort Laramie in southeastern Wyoming. Fort Laramie became a haven for gold seekers and weary emigrants. It was also an important station for the Pony Express and the Overland Stagecoaches, and it served as a vital military post in the wars with the Plains Indians.



Wyoming State Archives

Chief Washakie (WASH-ah-key) became known as the Indian Chief that helps white men. He assisted the U.S. military in their campaigns against the Sioux and Cheyenne tribes. Washakie was chief of the Eastern Shoshones for sixty years and is the only Native American to have a military fort named after him. Chief Washakie signed the treaty that established the boundaries of what is now the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. A graveyard in the town of Fort Washakie houses a substantial granite memorial with an inscription that reads: "Always loyal to the government and his white brothers."

**Chief Washakie**

Great herds of buffalo once grazed on the rolling hills of Wyoming, giving rise to one of the state's best known citizens, William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody. Near the turn of the century, Buffalo Bill took his Wild West Show to Europe to give audiences a brief glimpse of the cowboys, Indians and other characters who lived in America's West during Wyoming's early days.



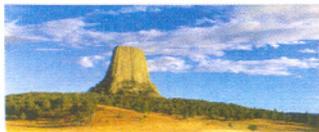
Wyoming State Archives

**Buffalo Bill Cody**

# WYOMING FIRSTS

**First National Park:** In 1872, Congress named Yellowstone National Park as the first national park in the world.

**First National Forest:** In 1891 President Harrison signed the act naming the Shoshone National Forest as the first national forest. Today, there are nine national forests in Wyoming.



**First National Monument:** Devils Tower was designated the first national monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906.

**First Business West of the Missouri River:** In 1834 Fort William was erected at the confluence of the Laramie and North Platte Rivers by veteran fur traders William Sublette and Robert Campbell. This was the first trading post established west of the Missouri River.

**First State to Have a County Public Library System:** The Laramie County Public Library System was organized in August 1886.

**First Ranger Station:** In 1891 the Wapiti Ranger Station was established in the Shoshone National Forest.

**First Artificially Lit Evening Football Game:** The first interscholastic football game to be played under artificial light took place in Midwest, Wyoming in 1925.



## WYOMING FIRSTS FOR WOMEN



**First Women to Vote:** John A. Campbell, Wyoming's first Territorial Governor, signed a bill December 10, 1869 making Wyoming the first state to grant women the right to vote.

**First Woman Governor in the U.S.:** Nellie Tayloe Ross was elected to complete the term of her husband who died in office. She served 1925-1927.

**First Woman Statewide Elected Official:** Estelle Reel Meyer was elected as State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1894.

**First Town in America to be Governed Entirely by Women:** The city of Jackson, from 1920 to 1921, had a woman mayor, town council and town marshal. One of the women defeated her husband for her council seat.

**First Woman Justice of the Peace:** Esther Hobart Morris was appointed February 17, 1870, in South Pass City.

**First All Woman Jury:** The first all-women jury was sworn in March 7, 1870, in Laramie.

**First Woman Bailiff:** In 1870, Mary Atkinson of Albany County, was appointed the first woman bailiff in the world.

# WYOMING'S EQUALITY HERITAGE

Wyoming is known as the "Equality State" because of the rights women have traditionally enjoyed here. Wyoming women were the first in the nation to vote, serve on juries and hold public office.

In 1869, Wyoming's territorial legislature became the first government in the world to grant "female suffrage" by enacting a bill granting Wyoming women the right to vote. The act was signed into law on December 10, of that year by Governor A. J. Campbell.

Less than three months later, on February 17, 1870, the "Mother of Women's Suffrage in Wyoming," Esther Hobart Morris, of South Pass City, became the first woman ever to be appointed a justice of the peace. Laramie was also the site for the first equal suffrage vote cast in the nation by a woman-Mrs. Louisa Swain on September 6, 1870.

In 1894, Estelle R. Meyer became the first woman in the United States elected to a public office, Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In 1924, Nellie Tayloe Ross was the first woman in the United States elected for the office of state governor. She took office on January 5, 1925, 20 days before "Ma" Ferguson of Texas (elected on the same day) took office. Mrs. Ross went on to become the first woman to be appointed Director of the United States Mint, a position she held for 20 years.



Nellie Tayloe Ross

Wyoming State Archives

## CHRONOLOGY

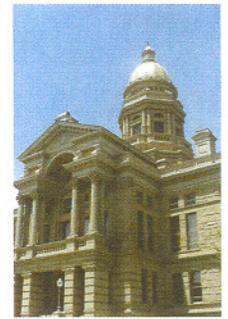
- 1742-43** Francois Louis Verendrye and companions are the first white men to see the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming.
- 1803** Louisiana Purchase (including present Wyoming) is completed.
- 1805** Lewis and Clark employ Sacajawea (a Shoshone Indian) as guide for the Corps of Discovery.
- 1806** John Colter explores Rocky Mountains (credited with being first native-born American to enter what is now Wyoming).
- 1822** General William H. Ashley establishes trading post on the Yellowstone River. Jim Bridger arrives with Gen. Ashley.
- 1825** Ashley and his men descend Green River (first white men to navigate it). Beginning of fur trade/rendezvous period.
- 1834** Fort Laramie is established by William Sublette and Robert Campbell; was first permanent trading post in Wyoming (military post from 1849-1890).
- 1846** President Polk approves act establishing military posts along Oregon Trail.
- 1854** Grattan Massacre occurs near Fort Laramie.
- 1855** General W.S. Harney leads military expedition against the Sioux.



- 1856** Mormon 'hand-cart' emigration enters Wyoming en route to Utah.
- 1860** Pony Express riders cross Wyoming.
- 1861** Edward Creighton completes transcontinental telegraph line across Wyoming. Pony Express discontinued.
- 1862** Government mail route is changed from central Wyoming-Oregon Trail, to Overland (Cherokee) Trail because of Indian attacks.
- 1863** Troops under General P. E. Connor sent to Wyoming to suppress Indians.
- 1864** Indians wage war along North Platte River in Wyoming as a result of Sand Creek Massacre in Colorado.
- 1865** Battle of Platte Bridge, Lt. Caspar Collins killed. Platte Bridge station renamed Fort Caspar. General Patrick Connor organizes the Powder River Indian Expedition. 1865 is known as the "Bloody Year on the Plains."
- 1866** Fort Phil Kearny (1866-1868) built along the Bozeman Trail. Red Cloud's War begins against the military forts in the Powder River region. Fetterman Massacre occurs. Union Pacific Railroad builds into Wyoming. Fort D.A. Russell, Camp Carlin, and Fort Fetterman (1867-1882) established. Town of Cheyenne is founded. Wagon Box Fight takes place in the Big Horns. Fort D. A. Russell (now Fort F. E. Warren) is established.
- 1868** Peace Commission signs treaties with Sioux, Crow, and Arapaho at Fort Laramie; Shoshone Reservation established. July 25, The territory of Wyoming is created by Congress. Fort Fred Steele is established (1868-1886).
- 1869** April 15, J. A. Campbell inaugurated as first governor of Wyoming. Cheyenne designated as territorial capital. First territorial legislature convenes. Act granting suffrage to women is approved (the first in U.S.). Union Pacific Railway is completed across territory.
- 1870** Population (U. S. Census), 9,118. First homestead entry is perfected in the territory. Women serve on juries in Laramie. Mrs. Esther H. Morris, of South Pass City, is appointed first woman justice of the peace. Louisa Swain, of Laramie, cast first equal suffrage vote. Washburn and Doane Expedition explores Yellowstone National Park region.
- 1872** "Yellowstone Wonderland" is established as world's first national park. The State Penitentiary is built at Laramie and destroyed by fire soon after; partially rebuilt in 1873.
- 1876** Cheyenne-Black Hills stage line launched. Custer leads expedition in northern Wyoming. Custer killed in Battle of Little Big Horn in Montana.
- 1877** Arapaho are moved to Shoshone Wind River Reservation for temporary quarters and have remained there ever since.
- 1885** Chinese massacre in Rock Springs.



- 1886** Governor Warren approves act providing for capitol building. Commission is appointed to build capitol and state university. First county library established in Cheyenne.
- 1887** Cornerstone of capitol building is laid at Cheyenne.
- 1888** September 6, University of Wyoming opens at Laramie. 400 Mormon families move into Big Horn Basin. Wyoming National Guard is established.
- 1889** November, Wyoming adopts state constitution.
- 1890** Population, 62,553. July 10, Wyoming is admitted into Union as the 44th state. October 14, Francis E. Warren (last territorial governor) is inaugurated as governor of state. First oil well is brought in by Pennsylvania Oil & Gas Company in the Shannon field of the Salt Creek district near Midwest and Edgerton.
- 1891** President Harrison establishes Yellowstone Timber Land Reserve, first in the U.S.
- 1892** Johnson County Cattle War.
- 1897** First Cheyenne Frontier Days is celebrated.
- 1898** New penitentiary is completed at Rawlins.
- 1899** U.P. mail train is robbed of \$60,000 in unsigned bank notes at Wilcox.
- 1900** Population, 92,531. Chief Washakie buried with full military honors in post cemetery at Fort Washakie.
- 1903** Tom Horn is hanged in Cheyenne, November 20.
- 1906** Devils Tower National Monument is established as the first National Monument in the United States.
- 1910** Population, 145,965. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt visits Cheyenne Frontier Days Celebration.
- 1917** Buffalo Bill dies in Denver. State Flower and State Flag are adopted by legislature. The Wyoming Highway Department is created. Jim Baker's cabin is moved to Cheyenne. Wyoming male citizens register for World War draft.
- 1921** Great oil well roars in at the Teapot Dome near Midwest and Edgerton. Prize fighting is legalized in Wyoming.
- 1924** Governor William B. Ross dies in office. Nellie Tayloe Ross made governor, first woman to hold such office in the United States.
- 1929** Grand Teton National Park is established.
- 1930** Population, 225,565.



**Governor Francis E. Warren**



- 1931 Fort D. A. Russell is officially renamed Fort Francis E. Warren.
- 1935 December 10 designated as Wyoming Day.
- 1939 Trona discovered in Sweetwater County.
- 1941 George Hopkins parachutes onto the top of Devils Tower without the consent of the National Park Service. He spent six days stranded on top before he was rescued.
- 1942 Heart Mountain Relocation Center (a Japanese internment center during WWII) established in Park County.
- 1947 Fort F.E. Warren becomes Francis E. Warren Air Force Base.
- 1949 Severe blizzard paralyzes entire state.
- 1978 Largest radio telescope in the world built on Jelm Mountain outside of Laramie.
- 1979 July 16, Cheyenne hit by devastating tornado.
- 1979-80 Cheyenne receives record snowfall amount 121 ½ inches.
- 1988 More than one million acres burn during Yellowstone National Park fires.
- 1990 Wyoming celebrates Centennial.
- 2001 Richard (Dick) Cheney sworn in as Vice President of the United States.

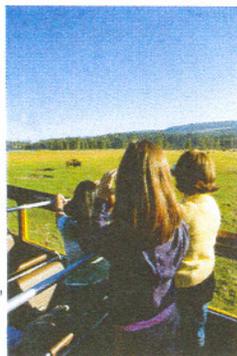


## WYOMING'S ECONOMY

Wyoming's economic well-being revolves around three major industries—tourism, agriculture, and the extraction of minerals.

### Tourism

In 2006, tourism accounted for \$2.5 billion in direct expenditures, \$7.3 million in overnights, \$103 million in state and local tax revenue, and 29,950 full and part time jobs.



### Agriculture

There are over 9,100 farms and ranches which average 3,780 acres in size, ranked #1 in U.S. Agriculture commodities in Wyoming include: timber, beef cattle, buffalo, corn, hay, wheat, sugar beets, barley, and dry beans. The cattle industry is the largest component of agriculture, bringing 3/4 of all cash receipts. Wyoming wool and sheep production are ranked #2 in the United States.



### Minerals

Wyoming has the world's largest natural sodium carbonate (trona) deposits and the nation's second largest uranium deposits.

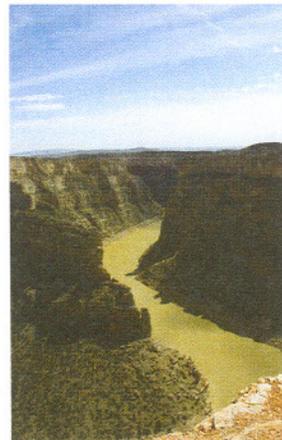
- Coal- 444,970,617 tons
- Bentonite- 6,102,218 tons
- Trona- 18,058,020 tons
- Crude Oil- 54,144,111 barrels
- Natural Gas- 2,060,833,933 cubic feet



## NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES, RECREATION AREAS

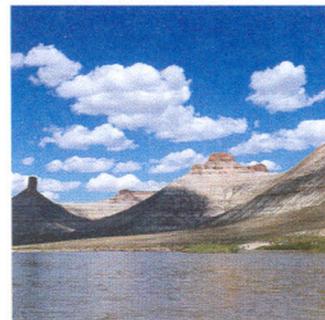
### Bighorn Canyon National Recreation

**Area** – When the Yellowtail Dam was completed in 1966, the Congress established the Bighorn Canyon as a National Recreation Area. The dam was named after the Crow chairman Robert Yellowtail. The Recreation Area covers over 70,000 acres across northern Wyoming and southern Montana. The Wyoming Visitor Center for this Recreation Area is located in Lovell, Wyoming. This area has a great deal of recreational opportunities: boating, fishing, wildlife viewing, camping, and hiking.



### Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area

– In 1869, John Wesley Powell named this area "Flaming Gorge" due to its breathtaking red rocks and cliffs. The Reservoir at Flaming Gorge was completed in 1964. This reservoir has over 300 miles of shoreline as well as lodges and marinas. There are many different outdoor recreational opportunities at the Flaming Gorge, but the one that is by far the most popular is fishing. Trophy size Trout and Northern Pike have been caught here.



### Fort Laramie National Historic Site

– Founded in 1834 as Fort William, a fur-trading post, it was a place for mountain men, frontier entrepreneurs, and Plains Indians to mingle. In 1849, the United States Army purchased the post, renamed it Fort Laramie, and expanded it into a major military fort. It was the center of military presence on the High Plains, an important command post, a staging area for troops, and a strategic communications and transportation depot. Fort Laramie was proclaimed a National Monument July 16, 1938, and converted to a National Historic Site April 29, 1960.

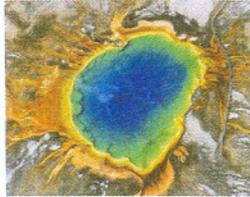


# NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS

**Yellowstone National Park**—By Act of Congress on March 1, 1872, Yellowstone was made the nation's first National Park. The commanding



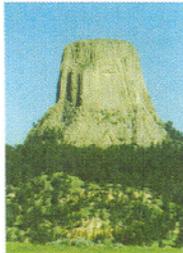
features that initially attracted interest, and led to the preservation of Yellowstone as a national park, were geological: the geothermal phenomena (more geysers and hot springs here than in the rest of the world combined), the colorful Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River, fossil forests, and the size and elevation of Yellowstone Lake.



**Grand Teton National Park**—Towering more than a mile above the valley known as Jackson Hole, the Grand Teton rises to 13,770 feet above sea level. Twelve Teton peaks reach above 12,000 feet elevation, high enough to support a dozen mountain glaciers. In contrast to the abrupt eastern face, the west side of the range slopes gently, showing the angle of tilt of the earth's crust. The Teton Mountain Range is the youngest of the mountains in the Rocky Mountain system.



**Devils Tower National Monument**—The nearly vertical monolith rises 1,267 feet above the meandering Belle Fourche River. It is the remnant of an ancient volcanic feature. Known by several northern plains tribes as Bears Lodge, it is a sacred site of worship for many American Indians. President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed this site as the first national monument on September 24, 1906.



**Fossil Butte National Monument**—This 50 million year old lake bed is one of the richest fossil localities in the world. Recorded in limestone are dynamic and complete paleoecosystems that spanned two million years. Preservation is so complete that it allows for detailed study of climate change and its effects on biological communities. Visitors discover that this resource displays the interrelationships of plants, insects, fishes, reptiles and mammals, like few other known fossil sites. The surface topography of Fossil Butte is now covered by a high cold desert.



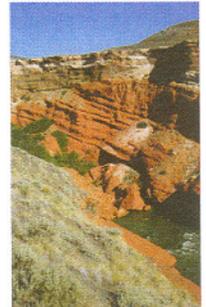
# NATIONAL FORESTS IN WY



**Bighorn National Forest**  
**Black Hills National Forest**  
**Bridger-Teton National Forest**  
**Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest**  
**Shoshone National Forest**  
**Targhee National Forest**  
**Wasatch National Forest**  
**Ashley National Forest**  
**Thunder Basin National Grassland**

# WYOMING STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

**Bear River State Park**, Evanston  
**Boysen State Park**, north of Shoshoni  
**Buffalo Bill State Park**, west of Cody  
**Curt Gowdy State Park**, Cheyenne & Laramie  
**Edness K. Wilkins State Park**, east of Casper  
**Glendo State Park**, Glendo  
**Guernsey State Park**, Guernsey  
**Hot Springs State Park**, Thermopolis  
**Keyhole State Park**, near Devils Tower  
**Seminole State Park**, northeast of Rawlins  
**Sinks Canyon State Park**, southwest of Lander  
**Hawk Springs State Recreation Area**, Hawk Springs  
**Connor Battlefield State Historic Site**, Ranchester  
**Fort Bridger State Historic Site**, Fort Bridger  
**Fort Fetterman State Historic Site**, Douglas  
**Fort Fred Steele State Historic Site**, Rawlins  
**Fort Phil Kearny State Historic Site**, Buffalo  
**Historic Governors' Mansion**, Cheyenne  
**Independence Rock State Historic Site**, Casper  
**South Pass City State Historic Site**, southwest of Lander  
**Trail End State Historic Site**, Sheridan



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

**Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site**, Hyattville. Prehistoric petroglyphs and pictographs.  
**Legend Rock State Petroglyph Site**, Thermopolis.  
**Oregon Trail Ruts**, near Guernsey. Thousands of wagons passed during the emigration period of the mid-1800's, gradually grinding the deep wheel ruts into a layer of soft sandstone.  
**White Mountain Petroglyphs**, Rock Springs. These petroglyphs date back to the time when George Washington was president.



# INTERESTING BITS AND PIECES

The largest coal resources in the United States are found in Wyoming. They are estimated at one trillion tons. The largest surface coal mine (Black Thunder Mine) is located near Gillette. Wyoming is first, nationally, in the production of bentonite and trona.

Wyoming is a fisherman's paradise with 15,846 miles of fishing streams and 297,633 acres of fishing lakes. There are a total of 3,400 lakes, ponds and reservoirs that support 90 varieties of fish, 42 varieties of which are game fish. Nearly 1 million big game animals, including bear, mountain lions, elk, deer, moose, antelope, bighorn sheep and mountain goats, winter in Wyoming.

49.5% of Wyoming land is owned by the federal government.

Wyoming can boast about having one of the oldest mountain ranges—the Black Hills, and one of the newest—the Tetons.

The average population per square mile is fewer than five people. Tourists from all over the world come to Cheyenne Frontier Days to see the rodeo known as "The Daddy of 'Em All." It is the oldest and largest outdoor rodeo in the world and is held the last full week in July each year. It has been celebrated every year since 1897.

The "Bucking Horse & Rider" is generally recognized as the brand for Wyoming and is a federally registered trademark.



**State Nickname:** Equality State, Cowboy State

**Statehood Day:** July 10

**Wyoming Day:** December 10

**Population:** 493,782 (2000 Census)-Least populated state in U.S. Density: 4.6 people per square mile/1.8 per square kilometer. Distribution: 65% Urban, 35% Rural

**Square Miles:** 97,818 square miles (9th largest state in the U.S.), divided into 23 counties

**Highest Point:** Gannet Peak at 13,804 feet/4,207 meters

**Lowest Point:** Belle Fourche River at 3,100 feet/945 meters

**Elevation:** Wyoming has the second highest mean elevation in the U.S.—6,700 feet/2,042 meters

**Major Rivers:** Powder, Wind, Big Horn, Snake, North Platte, Yellowstone, and Green

**Water Area:** 714 square miles/1,849 square kilometers

**Wind River Indian Reservation:** Home to approximately 8,698 Northern Arapaho and 3,916 Eastern Shoshone.



# GEOGRAPHICAL AND CLIMATE INFORMATION

Wyoming is located in the Rocky Mountain section of the western United States, bounded by Montana on the north, by South Dakota and Nebraska on the east, by Colorado and Utah on the south, and by Utah, Idaho and Montana on the west. Wyoming is one of three states whose boundaries are straight lines. It is the ninth largest state—276 miles from north to south, and 375 miles east to west. The Great Plains meet the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming. The state is a great plateau broken by these mountain ranges: Absaroka, Owl Creek, Wyoming, Gros Ventre, Wind River, Teton, Big Horn, Black Hills, Laramie, Medicine Bow and Sierra Madre.

The Continental Divide cuts through Wyoming from the northwest to the south-central border. Rivers east of the Divide drain into the Missouri River Basin (to the Atlantic Ocean). The Snake River in northwest Wyoming eventually drains into the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean, as does the Green River through the Colorado River Basin. However, the Great Divide Basin, an eastern extension of the Red Desert, is an immense, dry piece of Wyoming—about 50 by 100 miles. Water falling or melting there drains neither west to the Pacific nor east to the Atlantic; rather it drains inward, to eventually soak into the ground or evaporate.

Wyoming's climate is semiarid, but because of its topographical diversity, it is also varied. Annual precipitation varies from as little as five inches to as much as 45 inches, some as rain, some as snow. The average is 14.5 inches. Because of its elevation (mean elevation=6,700 feet above sea level), Wyoming has a relatively cool climate. The normal mean temperature is 45.6 degrees (F). The average wind speed is 12.9 MPH. Over 60% of the days in Wyoming are sunny.

## WYOMING4KIDS.ORG

To find out more about Wyoming, visit our website for kids. The address is [www.wyoming4kids.org](http://www.wyoming4kids.org). Our website has games, a photo gallery, coloring book illustrations, a report helper, and a lot of history about Wyoming. Stop by [www.wyoming4kids.org](http://www.wyoming4kids.org) and explore the amazing places in our state!

If you are doing a report on Wyoming, you can use our photo gallery to print pictures that will go along with your report!



# STATE ITEMS



State Flag



State Seal



State Flower  
Indian Paintbrush



State Tree  
Plains Cottonwood



State Mammal  
Bison



State Bird  
Western Meadowlark



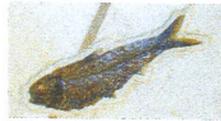
State Fish  
Cutthroat Trout



State Reptile  
Horned Toad / Lizard



State Dinosaur  
Triceratops



State Fossil  
Knightia



State Gemstone  
Jade



State Sport  
Rodeo

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