Welcome to Wonderful Wyoming!

Wyoming has a colorful history. The amount of information and stories on Wyoming are boundless. Two superb starting places for researching Wyoming and its history are your schools and local libraries because, along with their book references and resources, the majority of these facilities have access to the Internet.

Our website has a variety of information for many different purposes. For instance, data searchers may appreciate the “Historical Information” section of the website at:

http://soswy.state.wy.us/Information/HistoricalInfo.aspx

Trivia buffs may enjoy the “Wyoming Firsts” brochure which lists some of Wyoming’s firsts, gives a quick summary on Wyoming and provides interesting facts.

The gold postcard proudly displays the Wyoming Great Seal. The dates of its adoption and symbolism can be found on the reverse side.

Thank you for your interest in learning more about our wonderful state!
Did You Know . . .

- The Bucking Horse & Rider mark has represented the State of Wyoming for nearly 100 years.
- The Bucking Horse & Rider mark first appeared on Wyoming's license plates in 1936.
- The State of Wyoming is the only state in the country that owns and actively protects the Bucking Horse & Rider mark for use by its citizens.
- The horse seen in the silhouette is most commonly referred to as Steamboat - “the horse that couldn't be ridden.”
- The Wyoming National Guard first used the Bucking Horse & Rider mark in World War I.
- The University of Wyoming has used the Bucking Horse & Rider mark since 1921.

For More Information concerning the Bucking Horse & Rider trademark, please contact:

TRADEMARK LICENSING OFFICE
P. O. Box 3322
Laramie, WY 82071

307.766.LOGO (5646)
307.766.4049 (fax)
wyominglicensing.net
The State of Wyoming is internationally recognized for its famous trademark, the Bucking Horse & Rider. The Bucking Horse & Rider has gracefully represented Wyoming since at least as early as 1918 with its uniquely western spirit and flair.

During World War I the Bucking Horse & Rider mark was used as an insignia and worn by members of the Wyoming National Guard in France and Germany. The Bucking Horse & Rider displayed on uniforms was originally designed by First Sergeant George N. Ostrom of E Battery, 3rd Battalion, 148th Field Artillery Regiment, AEF. It was at this time that the mark was officially adopted by the United States Army and used as a means of identification on gun trails, trucks, helmets and other equipment.

The use of the Bucking Horse & Rider mark continued and was used extensively by Wyoming military units during out-of-state and overseas duties, including Korea and Vietnam. The mark eventually became a rallying point, a symbol of pride and a reminder of home to our troops.

Some believe that the Bucking Horse & Rider mark is representative of a legendary rodeo horse named “Steamboat” dating back to the early 1900’s. One of the best known bucking horses of all time, Steamboat was known as “the horse that couldn’t be ridden.” However, there has been a great deal of dispute as to who is the man on the bucking horse.

In 1935 Secretary of State, Lester Hunt, proposed legislation which permitted his office to make changes to Wyoming’s license plate design. At the time, this change was deemed necessary to combat the problem of widespread counterfeiting of Wyoming’s license plate. Therefore, Secretary Hunt commissioned Mr. Allen T. True of Littleton, Colorado to “put to paper” his concept for a new license plate design which included the famous “Bucking Horse & Rider.”

In 1936, Wyoming’s unique license plate containing the BH&R made its debut. Advance sales for the new license plate in 1935 totaled $15,588—approximately double the amount sold the previous year. The Bucking Horse & Rider mark has been featured on Wyoming’s license plates ever since and will most likely have a home there forever.
Wyoming Firsts

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. Thus, the first trading post west of the Missouri River was established.

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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 woman jury was sworn in March 7, 1870 in Laramie.

First Woman Bailiff: In 1870, Martha Symons - Boies - Atkinson of Albany County was appointed the first woman bailiff in the world.

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

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

First National Forest: By an Act signed by President Benjamin Harrison in 1891, Shoshone National Forest became the first national forest. Wyoming now has 9 national forests.

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

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

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

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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 from 1925 to 1927. In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her the first woman to head the U.S. Mint, a position she held until 1953.
State Capital: Cheyenne
State Nickname: Big Wyoming, Equality State, Cowboy State
Admitted to Union: July 10, 1890, 44th state
Size: 97,914 square miles, 9th largest state
Population: 563,626 (2010 Census)
Highest Point: Gannet Peak at 13,804 feet
Lowest Point: Belle Fourche River at 3,100 feet
State Seal: The State Seal was adopted by the 2nd Legislature in 1893.
State Flower: Indian Paintbrush (Castillija linariaefolia), 1917
State Bird: Meewlark (genus Sturnella), 1927
State Tree: Cottonwood (Populus Sargentii), 1947
State Motto: “Equal Rights,” 1955
State Gemstone: Jade (nephrite), 1967
State Mammal: Bison (Bison bison), 1985
State Fish: Cutthroat Trout (Salmo clarki), 1987
State Fossil: Knightia (fossilized fish), 1987
State Reptile: Horned Toad (Phrynosoma douglassi brevirostre (Girad)), 1993
State Dinosaur: Triceratops, 1994
State Sport: Rodeo, 2003
State Coin: Sacajawea Golden Dollar Coin, 2004
State Grass: Western Wheatgrass (Agropyron smithii), 2007
State Insect: Sheridan’s Green Hairstreak Butterfly, (Callophrys sheridanii), 2009
State Code: As derived from the book, Cowboy Ethics, by James P. Owen, 2010
State Shrub: Wyoming Big Sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis), 2016

More About Wyoming: Since the 16th century, a number of governments have claimed parts of what is now the State of Wyoming. The following national flags flew over the Wyoming Territory: France, Great Britain, Mexico, Spain, Texas, and the United States. And, the following territorial flags have flown over Wyoming: Dakotas, Idaho, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

The leading industries in Wyoming are agriculture, recreation, tourism, and minerals. In fact, the largest (cleanest burning) coal resources in the United States are found in Wyoming. Wyoming lands are estimated to contain 1.4 trillion tons of coal. The world’s largest surface coal mine complex is located near Gillette. Wyoming leads the nation in the production of coal, bentonite, and trona.

Wyoming contains many gemstones including jade, moss agates, rubies, jasper, bloodstones, star sapphires, diamonds, peridot, and others.

Wyoming is a fisherman’s paradise with 15,846 miles of fishing streams and 297,633 acres of fishing lakes. There are 3,400 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs that support 76 species of fish, 31 species of which are game fish.

Nearly 1 million big game animals (including elk, deer, moose, antelope, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats) winter in Wyoming. Trophy game animals also include black bear, grizzly bear, and mountain lions.

Wyoming has the oldest and largest outdoor rodeo in the world which has been celebrated every year since 1897 and almost every summer night you could attend a hometown rodeo somewhere in Wyoming. It is easy to see why many call us the Cowboy State.

The Bucking Horse and Rider (BH&R) is recognized worldwide as the insignia for Wyoming and is our federally registered trademark. Throughout the state you will see the BH&R trademark with the phrase Wyoming Authentic/Wyoming Proud.

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WYOMING
March Song

Lyric by C. E. WINTER
Music by G. E. KNAPP

March tempo

In the far and mighty West, Where the
In thy flowers wild and sweet, Colors
Where thy peaks with crowned head, Rising
Other treasures thee dost hold, Men and
In the nation's banner free, There's one

WYOMING, WYOMING! Land of the sun-light clear!
I love 0 Wyoming!

Land that we hold so dear! Wyoming, Wyoming! Precious art thou and

Wyoming, Wyoming! Beloved State of mine!
GREAT SEAL
of the
STATE OF WYOMING

Adopted by the Second Legislature of 1893
Revised by the Sixteenth Legislature in 1921

The Secretary of State is the Custodian of the Great Seal. The signature of the Governor, the certifying signature of the Secretary of State, and the impression of the Great Seal represent the authority and sovereignty of the State of Wyoming.

The two dates on the Great Seal, 1869 and 1890, commemorate the organization of the territorial government and Wyoming’s admission into the Union. The woman in the center holds a banner proclaiming “Equal Rights,” symbolizing Wyoming as the first government to grant equal civil and political rights to women. The male figures typify the livestock and mining industries of the State. Upon a five-pointed star the number “44” appears, being the number of admission into the Union. On top of the pillars rest lamps from which burn the Light of Knowledge. Scrolls encircling the two pillars bear the words “Oil,” “Mines,” “Livestock,” and “Grain,” four of Wyoming’s major industries.
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.

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.”

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 Firsts**

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**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. Louise 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.

**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).


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.
1867  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 (1868-1869).
1868  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.
1869  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.
1870  "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.
1872  Cheyenne-Black Hills stage line launched. Custer leads expedition in northern Wyoming. Custer killed in Battle of Little Big Horn in Montana.
1876  Arapaho are moved to Shoshone Wind River Reservation for temporary quarters and have remained there ever since. Chinese massacre in Rock Springs.
1877  Chinese massacre in Rock Springs.
1878  Governor Warren approves act providing for capitol building. Commission is appointed to build capitol and state university. First county library established in Cheyenne.
1879  November, Wyoming adopts state constitution.
1880  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.
1881  President Harrison establishes Yellowstone Timber Land Reserve, first in the U.S.
1882  Johnson County Cattle War.
1883  First Cheyenne Frontier Days is celebrated.
1884  New penitentiary is completed at Rawlins.
1885  U.P. mail train is robbed of $60,000 in unsigned bank notes at Wilcox.
1886  Population, 92,531. Chief Washakie buried with full military honors in post cemetery at Fort Washakie.
1887  Tom Horn is hanged in Cheyenne, November 20.
1888  Devils Tower National Monument is established as the first National Monument in the United States.
1890  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.
1891  Governor William B. Ross dies in office. Nellie Tayloe Ross made governor, first woman to hold such office in the United States.
1892  Grand Teton National Park is established.
1893  Population, 225,565.
1931 Fort D. A. Russell is officially renamed Fort Francis E. Warren.
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.
1978 Largest radio telescope in the world built on Jelm Mountain outside of Laramie.
1979 July 16, Cheyenne hit by devastating tornado.
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

Tourism accounted for $2.5 billion in direct expenditures, $7.3 million in overnight stays, $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 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—Towermore 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
Seminoe 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.
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.

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 Horns, 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.

To find out more about Wyoming, visit our website for kids. The address is 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 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
1. ___________ was the first permanent trading post in Wyoming.

2. From April 3rd, 1860 to October 1861, the______ _______ was the main method of mail delivery on the frontier.


4. ___________ was established as the world’s first national park in 1872.

5. In 1887, the _____________ of the Wyoming State Capitol building was laid in Cheyenne.

6. On July 10th, 1890, the state of Wyoming was admitted as the ____ state in the Union.

7. The first ___________ ____________ _______ was celebrated in 1897.

8. _______ _________ was proclaimed as the nation’s first national monument in 1906 by Theodore Roosevelt.

9. In 1929,__________ __________National Park was established outside of Jackson.

10. The state of Wyoming suffered from an intense ________________ in 1949.

12. Near ______________, WY people can still see the ruts along the Oregon Trail that were carved into stone by thousands of covered wagons.

13. In 1891, President Harrison signed an act that made the Shoshone forest the first __________ ___________ in the United States.

14. In 2001, ________________, a Wyomingite, was sworn in as the Vice President of the United States.

15. Immigrants on the Oregon Trail often stopped at __________ Cliff or __________ Rock to inscribe their names.

16. Wyoming has __________ National Forests.

17. Wyoming has _______ National Parks and _______ State Parks.

18. __________ _______ __________ took his Wild West Show to Europe in 1887.

19. The __________ __________ __________ is an area in Wyoming where the water does not flow to either ocean - it just seeps into the ground.

20. There are ______ counties in the state of Wyoming.
21. Wyoming is known as the ____________ ____________ because of the rights women have traditionally enjoyed here.

22. 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 ________________.

23. The first woman to ever be appointed as a justice of the peace was _______________ _______________ ________________.

24. In 1924, _______________ _______________ ________________ was the first woman in the United States elected for the office of state governor.
25. Wyoming’s economy revolves around three main industries: ______________, ______________, and ________________.

26. ______________ accounts for 70% of Wyoming’s agricultural revenue.

27. North America’s largest surface coal mine (The _______ _________ Mine) is located near ____________, Wyoming.

29. 1899 was the first year that the University of Wyoming football team played ______________ _______ ____________. This is the oldest interstate rivalry west of the Mississippi River.

30. ______________ ______________ was the first Wyomingite to win a gold medal at the 2003 Olympic games. The event was Greco-Roman Heavyweight Wrestling.

31. ________________ is a famous sportscaster that was a radio broadcaster for the NY Yankees and Boston Red Sox. Later on he became a TV play-by-play announcer for the AFL, NFL, and MLB.
Wyoming has more wildlife than it does people. See if you can identify these animals.
Can you identify the animals that make these tracks?
Name these Wyoming state items.
FAMOUS WYOMINGITES
Can you name these famous Wyomingites?
80. Highest Point in the State of Wyoming: ____________________________

81. Lowest Point in the State of Wyoming: ____________________________

82. Does Wyoming have the first, second, or third highest average elevation in the United States? ____________________________________________

83. Wyoming is the _____________ biggest state in the Union.

Name the six states that border Wyoming:

84 ____________________________
85 ____________________________
86 ____________________________
87 ____________________________
88 ____________________________
89 ____________________________
Name Wyoming's two National Parks.

Name Wyoming's two National Monuments.

Name Wyoming's only National Historic Site.
Can you name these governors from Wyoming?

First Territorial Governor of Wyoming
First State Governor of Wyoming
First Female Governor of Wyoming and USA
Current Governor of Wyoming
# Wyoming Quiz Answers

| 1.   | Fort Laramie                                      | 38.  | Elk                              |
| 2.   | Pony Express                                      | 39.  | Deer                             |
| 3.   | Black                                            | 40.  | Bobcat                           |
| 4.   | Yellowstone                                      | 41.  | Woodchuck                        |
| 5.   | Cornerstone                                      | 42.  | Moose                            |
| 6.   | 44th                                             | 43.  | Mountain Lion                    |
| 7.   | Cheyenne Frontier Days                           | 44.  | Wolf                             |
| 8.   | Devils Tower                                     | 45.  | Swan                             |
| 9.   | Grand Teton                                      | 46.  | Black Bear                       |
| 10.  | Blizzard                                         | 47.  | Grizzly Bear                     |
| 11.  | Fires                                            | 48.  | Bison                            |
| 12.  | Guernsey                                         | 49.  | Muskrat                          |
| 15.  | Register – Independence                          | 52.  | Raccoon                          |
| 17.  | Two – Twelve                                     | 54.  | Mountain Lion                    |
| 20.  | Twenty-three                                     | 57.  | Rodeo (State Sport)             |
| 22.  | Vote                                             | 59.  | Cutthroat Trout (State Fish)     |
| 23.  | Esther Hobart Morris                             | 60.  | Bison (State Mammal)             |
| 24.  | Nellie Tayloe Ross                               | 61.  | Horned Toad (State Reptile)      |
| 25.  | Minerals, agriculture, tourism                   | 62.  | Western Meadowlark (State Bird)  |
| 26.  | Cattle                                           | 63.  | Jade (State Gemstone)            |
| 27.  | Black Thunder – Gillette                         | 64.  | Plains Cottonwood (State Tree)   |
| 28.  | Trick question, there is no #28                  | 65.  | Triceratops (State Dinosaur)     |
| 29.  | Colorado State Rams                              | 66.  | Indian Paintbrush (State Flower) |
| 30.  | Rulon Gardner                                    | 67.  | Knightia (State Fossil)          |
| 33.  | Antelope                                         | 70.  | Chief Washakie                   |
| 34.  | Black Bear                                       | 71.  | Jim Bridger                      |
| 35.  | Mustangs (Horses)                                | 72.  | Curtis Edward “Curt” Gowdy       |
| 36.  | Bison                                            | 73.  | Nellie Tayloe Ross               |
| 37.  | Big Horn Sheep                                   | 74.  | Rulon Gardner                    |
Wyoming Quiz Answers

75. Francis E. Warren
76. Tom Horn
77. Jackson Pollock
78. Esther Hobart Morris
79. Red Cloud
80. Gannet Peak (13,804 ft.)
81. Belle Fourche River (3,100 ft.)
82. Second highest at 6,700 ft. (First – Colorado 6,800, Third – Utah 6,100)
83. Ninth
84. Montana
85. South Dakota
86. Nebraska
87. Colorado
88. Utah
89. Idaho
90. Grand Teton National Park
91. Yellowstone National Park
92. Devils Tower National Monument
93. Fossil Butte National Monument
94. Fort Laramie National Historic Site
95. John Allen Campbell
96. Francis E. Warren
97. Nellie Tayloe Ross
98. Matt Mead
99. 1834
100. 1866
101. 1872
102. 1887
103. 1906
104. 1929
Can you list the year that these important events occurred in Wyoming history?

- Fort Laramie is established by William Sublette and Robert Campbell. (1843)
- The Fetterman Massacre occurs near Fort Phil Kearney. (1868)
- Yellowstone is established as the first National Park in the world. (1872)
- The cornerstone of the Capitol building is laid in Cheyenne. (1873)
- Devils Tower is established as the country's first National Monument. (1876)
- Grand Teton National Park is established. (1929)
Wyoming

Word Search

Cheyenne
Shoshone
Yellowstone
Washakie
Bighorn
Wildlife
Tourism
Oil and Gas
Cowboy
Devils Tower
Grand Tetons
Flaming Gorge
Fort Laramie
Equality

Jim Bridger
Fossil
Dinosaurs
Oregon Trail
Bison
Green River
Wind River
Cody
Elk
Geyser
Antelope
Camping
Bear
Ranch
Wyoming has 23 counties. Can you name them all with the help of the clues to the right?
Write the name of each county within in its appropriate borders.
Wyoming County Game

Wyoming has 23 counties. Can you name them all with the help of the clues to the right?

1. 16th President  LINCOLN
2. Bank Robber  CROOK
3. Brand of Shoe  CONVERSE
4. Brand of Soup  CAMPBELL
5. Warm Slinky  HOT SPRINGS
6. Capital of New York  ALBANY
7. Indian Chief  WASHAKIE
8. Western Tribe of the Sioux  TETON
9. French for “broad, flat, shallow river”  PLATTE
10. General  SHERIDAN
11. Honey Agua  SWEETWATER
12. Indian Word for running H₂O  NIOBRARA
13. Indian word for “pine tree” or “pine forest”  UINTA
14. Jacque’s last name  LARAMIE
15. Manufacturer of baby products  JOHNSON
16. Non-Metallic element  CARBON
17. Pathfinder and Explorer  FREMONT
18. Rap talk for “no mineral”  NATRONA
19. Region where the Hebrews dwelt in Egypt  GOSHEN
20. Rent your apartment to another party  SUBLETTE
21. Type of sheep  BIG HORN
22. U.S. Photographer  WESTON
23. Where you have a picnic  PARK
Content for the Wyoming Student Packet has been provided by:

**Wyoming Secretary of State’s Office**  
2020 Carey Avenue, Suite 600  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0020  
Ph. 307.777.7378  
Fax 307.777.6217  
Email: secofstate@wyo.gov  
Website: https://soswy.state.wy.us

**Wyoming Travel and Tourism**  
I-25 at College Drive  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Ph. 307.777.7777  
Website: http://www.wyomingtourism.org/

**Wyoming Department of Transportation**  
5300 Bishop Boulevard  
Cheyenne, WY 82009  
Ph. 307.777.4437  
Website: http://www.dot.state.wy.us/ContactWYDOT/