

# KEEPING STUDENTS WELL INFORMED AT HOME WHILE THEY'RE DISTANCE LEARNING.



## World of Wonder

EXPLORING THE REALMS OF HISTORY, SCIENCE, NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY  
By Laurie Triefeldt

# IDAHO

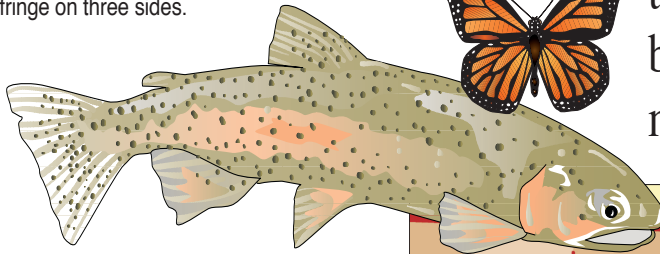
Sometimes called "the Gem State" due to its abundance of mineral deposits and natural beauty, this Rocky Mountain state is home to mountains, canyons, forests, lakes and farmland.



**Syringa** became the state flower in 1931. This woody shrub has clusters of white, fragrant flowers and grows up to 12 feet (3.6 m) tall. The plant was once used by Native Americans to make bows, arrows and snowshoes. The bark and leaves can be used to make a mild soap.



Idaho's flag is designed with the state seal on a blue background and often has a yellow or gold fringe on three sides.



The **cutthroat trout** is native to Idaho and became the state fish in 1990. It is considered an indicator species because it is vulnerable to changes in the environment.

### What's in a name?

In the mid-1800s, a mining lobbyist named George M. Willing asked Congress to call a new territory in the Rocky Mountain range "Idaho." Willing claimed it was a Native American word, but later said that he had made it up. Despite the deception, the name Idaho took hold in the region.

People from Idaho are called Idahoans.

### Just the facts

<b>Total area</b>	83,569 sq. mi. (216,443 sq. km)
<b>Population</b>	1,787,065
<b>Capital city</b>	Boise
<b>Highest elevation</b>	Borah Peak 12,662 ft. (3,859 m)
<b>Lowest elevation</b>	Snake River at Lewiston 710 ft. (216 m)
<b>Agriculture</b>	Barley, beef cattle, hay, milk, potatoes, sugar beets, wheat
<b>Manufacturing</b>	Chemicals, computer and electronic equipment, fabricated metal products, food products, wood products
<b>Mining</b>	Molybdenum, phosphate rock, sand and gravel, silver



The state insect is the monarch butterfly.



The mountains of the Coeur d'Alenes are known for their **huckleberries**, the official state fruit. Tasty treats for people, they are also food for grizzly and black bears.



2007 Idaho quarter

### Did you know?

In 1809, the Canadian fur trader, surveyor and map-maker **David Thompson** built Idaho's first trading post, on the shores of Lake Pend Oreille.

In 1905, Idaho's fourth governor, **Frank Steunenberg**, was assassinated.

**Hells Canyon** is 10 miles (16 km) wide and consists of seven notable peaks called the **Seven Devils**. They run along the east bank of the Snake River and the Idaho-Oregon border.

At its deepest point, Hells Canyon is 7,993 feet (2,436 m) deep, the deepest gorge in the United States.

At 212 feet (65 m) high, the **Shoshone Falls** on the Snake River is higher than Niagara Falls.

The town of **American Falls** was literally picked up and moved in the mid-1920s to make room for the American Falls Dam.

**Crystal Ice Cave**, near American Falls, is 160 feet (49 m) under ground. The caves have a frozen river, frozen waterfall and other amazing ice and stone formations. While temperatures on the surface may be sweltering, the temperature in the ice cave is a constant 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0 C).

**Lava Hot Springs** has become a popular resort town. More than 6 million gallons (23 million liters) of hot mineral water pour out of the springs every day.

The Kamiah Valley was the winter home of the **Nez Perce**. It was here that the Nez Perce bred the famous spotted **Appaloosa** horse.

**Soda Springs** has thousands of naturally carbonated water springs. In 1937, a well-drilling team accidentally created the largest man-made geyser in the world.

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; www.idaho.gov; www.statesymbolsusa.org; www.50states.com; www.visitidaho.org; www.netstate.com

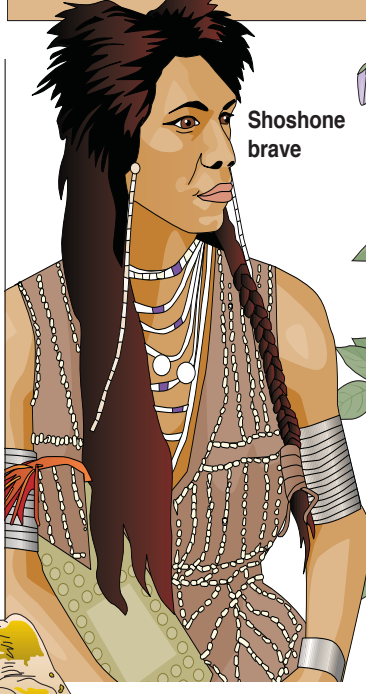
### Way back when

Native Americans have lived in the Idaho region for more than 10,000 years. The Nez Perce, Coeur d'Alene, Pend d'Oreille, Shoshone, Kootenai, Paiute and Bannock are some of the people who have lived here.

In 1805, Lewis and Clark explored the Idaho region — the first white men to do so. Several trading posts were established in the early 1800s. In 1836, Henry and Eliza Spalding, two Presbyterian missionaries, arrived in the region. They established the Lapwai Mission Station and planted Idaho's first potato crop.

In 1862, gold was discovered in the Boise Basin, and thousands of fortune seekers came to the area.

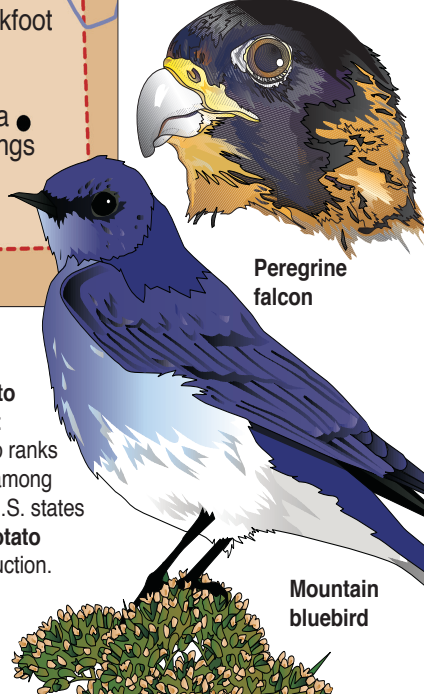
Idaho became the 43rd U.S. state on July 3, 1890.



Shoshone brave



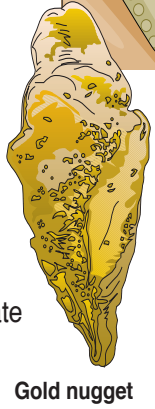
**Potato plant**  
Idaho ranks first among the U.S. states in potato production.



Peregrine falcon

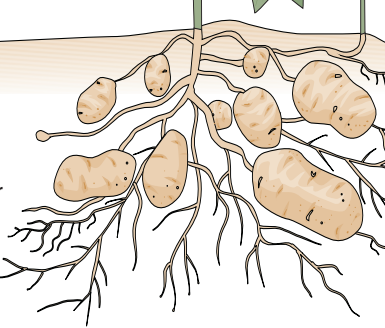
Mountain bluebird

Idaho has two state birds, the mountain bluebird and the peregrine falcon (the official state raptor). The mountain bluebird is known for its exceptionally clean nests, which it builds in hollow trees and nooks. The peregrine falcon is the world's fastest bird.



Gold nugget

Idaho's mountains contain gold, silver, lead, zinc, cobalt, copper and other rare minerals and gems, such as star garnets (the state gem), jasper, opal, jade, topaz, zircon and tourmaline.



Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809)



William Clark (1770-1838)

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