



# The Mini Page

**Next Week:**  
The  
Homestead Act

Issue 17, 2024

Founded by Betty Debnam



photo by John Walker

### Mini Fact:

Country music legend Marty Stuart, on stage at the Grand Ole Opry, has won many Grammy Awards.

### Famous Tennesseans

• **Al Gore** is best known for his run for the U.S. presidency in 2000. Although he won the popular vote, he lost the electoral vote and the presidency to George W. Bush.



photo by Center for American Progress Action Fund

Al Gore

He was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Carthage, Tennessee, and Washington. His father was a U.S. congressman and then senator from Tennessee.

Gore was elected to the House of Representatives from Tennessee for four terms, and to the U.S. Senate for two terms. He served as vice president with President Bill Clinton.

• **Davy Crockett** was a legendary frontiersman. Movies and stories about him have made him famous even today.



Davy Crockett

He was born in Greene County, Tennessee, and grew up in Jefferson County. He served as a U.S. Army scout and later as a U.S. congressman from Tennessee.

He was killed fighting against the Mexican army at the Alamo, a fort in Texas.

Millions of tourists pour into Tennessee, our 16th state, because of its music, especially country-western. Gospel, Christian, blues, jazz, Appalachian folk, bluegrass and rock 'n' roll are important musical influences.

Early people in the area included Muscogee Creek, Yuchi and Shawnee, and later Cherokee, who came west from Virginia. Tennessee means "meeting place of the waters" in the Cherokee language.

Hernando de Soto was the first European to explore the area, in about 1541. The French, Spanish, British and North Carolina all claimed parts of the area.

In the Civil War, Tennessee had the second most battles of all the states. Today, it is the 15th most-populated state, with more than 7 million people.

Tennessee is called the Volunteer State because it has had so many people volunteer to serve in the nation's wars.

### Living in Tennessee

Nashville is the state capital. It's also called Music City USA, and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum is there.

Memphis is thought of as the birthplace of rock 'n' roll. Elvis Presley's home, Graceland, is a popular tourist attraction.

King Cotton was the name given this important crop in the 1800s. It helped bring great wealth to plantation owners of that

time. Although it is not as important today, it is still a top crop. Farms and businesses also raise cattle, chickens, soybeans, corn, tobacco, timber and hogs.

Tennessee's largest manufacturing industry is automobiles. Nissan, General Motors and Volkswagen all have plants there.

### Fun in Tennessee

The Appalachian Trail runs through the Great Smoky Mountains. Hiking, canoeing, rock climbing, skiing and mountain biking are popular outdoor sports.

Dollywood, an amusement park in Pigeon Forge, was founded by singer and songwriter Dolly Parton. She grew up along the Little Pigeon River with 11 brothers and sisters.



photo by McBoobAtU93

The Wild Eagle at Dollywood was the first wing coaster in the United States.

The "Grand Ole Opry" is a world-famous radio show and live performance venue where musicians such as Garth Brooks, Parton and Chet Atkins became stars. It is the longest continuously running radio show in America, on the air since 1925.

Cumberland Caverns is the second-largest known cave system in Tennessee and one of the longest in the world. The Lost Sea in Sweetwater is the largest known underground lake in the United States.



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### Resources



#### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/MP/Tennessee](https://bit.ly/MP/Tennessee)

#### At the library:

- "Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop" by Alice Faye Duncan
- "Dolly: The Story of Dolly Parton and Her Big Dream" by Robyn McGrath

### Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Tennessee are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



AUTOMOBILES, BLUES, CAVERNS, CHEROKEE, COTTON, COUNTRY, CROCKETT, DOLLYWOOD, GORE, GRACELAND, MEMPHIS, MUSIC, NASHVILLE, OPRY, ROCK, TENNESSEE, TOBACCO, VOLUNTEER.

C S E L I B O M O T U A N D F  
D H D O O W Y L L O D Y D G R  
M O E A H N Y R T N U O C O E  
U C P R X C A V E R N S L R E  
S C V R O D E E S S E N N E T  
I A B S Y K T T E K C O R C N  
C B L O U M E M P H I S O E U  
X O U G R A C E L A N D T G L  
J T E K C O R U C O T T O N O  
Y U S C O N A S H V I L L E V

### Cook's Corner

#### Rice and Meat Balls

##### You'll need:

- 1/2 cup white rice, uncooked
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 egg
- 1 medium onion, chopped

- pinch of salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 can tomato soup



\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

##### What to do:

1. Mix all the ingredients together except the soup.
2. With clean hands, shape the mixture into small balls.
3. Place balls in a large baking dish and pour soup over them.
4. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 50 to 60 minutes. Makes a dozen balls.

1. Music that became popular with young people in the '50s (9-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

2. Arrangement of sounds like melody, rhythm and harmony (5-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □

3. In the open air; the opposite of indoors (8-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. Offer to do something without being asked (9-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Memphis is called the birthplace of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Nashville is known as \_\_\_\_\_ City USA.
3. Bob likes to hike \_\_\_\_\_ in the Great Smoky Mountains.
4. Many Tennesseans were proud to \_\_\_\_\_ for war service.

### ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Rock 'n' roll, Music, Outdoors, Volunteer.

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### Mini Jokes



- Trey:** What did Tennes-see?  
**Tonya:** The same thing Arkan-saw!

### Eco Note



Marine biologists say thousands of humpback whales starved to death in the North Pacific between 2012 and 2021 due to a massive marine heat wave sometimes referred to as "the blob." After decades of population growth due to conservation efforts and the end of commercial whaling, 20% of the marine mammals apparently perished because the warmer ocean waters produced less food. Scientists say tufted puffins, sea lions and seals also saw population declines during the heat wave. "These whales are indicators of ocean health," said Ted Cheeseman of Australia's Southern Cross University.

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### For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles that feature Tennessee.

**Teachers:** Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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