

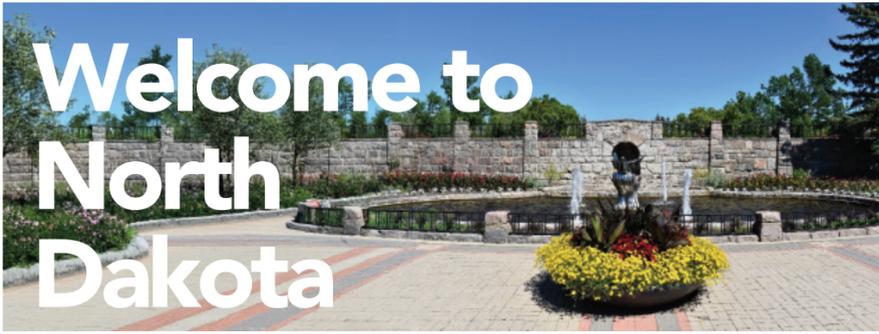


# The Mini Page

**Next Week:**  
Award-winning  
books

Issue 13, 2026

Founded by Betty Debnam



## Welcome to North Dakota

photo by Words in the Wind

North Dakota is our 39th state, having entered the Union on Nov. 2, 1889. It is a landlocked state that borders Montana, South Dakota and Minnesota, along with Canada.



About 800,000 people live in North Dakota, many in Fargo, the state's largest city. The capital is Bismarck.

### North Dakota history

Native American tribes including the Hidatsa, Cree and Sioux lived in the area for thousands of years before Europeans arrived in the mid-1700s. The Spanish and French controlled the region until the late 1800s, when the railroad brought more settlers.

In the mid-20th century, oil exploration brought more people to North Dakota.

### In the Peace Garden State

North Dakota is home the International Peace Garden, a garden that straddles the international boundary line between the United States and Canada.

Agriculture is the top business in North Dakota; about 90% of the land there is in farming. Farmers produce beans, wheat, corn, seeds for oil, soybeans and sugar beets. People also work in oil production, food processing and technology.

Along with Native Americans, many people of Norwegian and Icelandic descent live in the state. In the late 1800s, many Germans immigrated to the area.

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### Mini Fact:

The Peace Garden has more than 80,000 flowering plants in its formal garden.

### Having fun

North Dakotans enjoy ice fishing, skiing and snowmobiling. Fans follow minor-league baseball teams and hockey teams.



photo by Eam DeBshaw

North Dakota has 63 national wildlife refuges, the most of any state. People also visit the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, where Lewis and Clark became acquainted with Sacagawea. The site has the remains of three Native American villages.

This painting by George Catlin shows a Hidatsa village with earth-covered lodges along the Knife River.



At a site called Medicine Hole, a cave entrance sometimes releases an eerie fog. Early Native Americans believed that the hole was where all humans and animals came out of the Earth at the beginning of time.

Visitors also explore Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The president had two ranches in the state's Badlands.

### Education

North Dakota is home to many public universities, five tribal colleges and universities, and four private schools.

### North Dakotans to know

• **Louise Erdrich** is an author who has written books for children and adults. You may have read books in her series The Birchbark House. Erdrich is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota. Her mother was an Ojibwe woman.



Louise Erdrich

• **Sacagawea** (sah-KAH-gah-WAY-uh) is the Shoshone Indian woman who guided Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on their explorations to the Pacific Ocean.

She grew up near the present-day Montana-Idaho border. When she was about 10 years old, she was captured by Hidatsa warriors. They brought her to their villages in present-day North Dakota, about 1,000 miles away.



Sacagawea

The Hidatsa tribe adopted her and gave her the name Sacagawea, which means "Bird Woman."

In 1804, Lewis and Clark stopped for the winter near the Hidatsa village. They hired her and her husband as interpreters for the journey. Sacagawea traveled with them more than 4,000 miles through the wilderness.

## Resources



### On the Web:

• [youtu.be/5fFGoQJ3JpQ](https://youtu.be/5fFGoQJ3JpQ)

### At the library:

• "Lakota" by Heather Bruegl  
• "Lewis and Clark and Sacagawea" by Dalton Rains

## Try 'n' Find

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



BISMARCK, CLARK, CREE,  
DAKOTA, ERDRICH,  
FARMS, GARDEN,  
HIDATSA, LAKOTA,  
LANDLOCKED, LEWIS,  
NATIVE, NORTH, OIL,  
PEACE, SACAGAWEA,  
SIOUX, WILDLIFE.

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

## Cook's Corner

### Colorful Corn Salad

#### You'll need:

- 2 (16-ounce) packages frozen sweet corn kernels, thawed
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 1 red pepper, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped

- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon sugar



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

#### What to do:

1. In a large bowl, combine corn, onions and peppers.
2. In another bowl, combine vinegar, olive oil, salt, lemon juice and sugar for the dressing.
3. Pour dressing over corn mixture. Mix well.
4. Place in refrigerator until ready to serve. Serves 8.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. little part of something (5) \_\_\_\_\_
2. underground part of a house (8) \_\_\_\_\_
3. period of 10 years (6) \_\_\_\_\_
4. "Texas Hold 'Em" singer (7) \_\_\_\_\_
5. fill with air (7) \_\_\_\_\_
6. where bats may live (4) \_\_\_\_\_
7. flapjacks (8) \_\_\_\_\_

ADE	CE	INF	DEC
VE	MENT	CE	CAK
LATE	PAN	PIE	BEY
BASE	ON	ES	CA

Answers: piece, piece, basement, decade, Beyonce, cave, pancakes.

## Mini Jokes



**Billy:** What do you get when you cross a bison with a chicken?

**Briana:** Buffalo wings!

**Ben:** What do you call a truck full of bison?

**Betty:** A buffa-load!

## Eco Note



Plants growing close together can warn each other about incoming stress, giving them a survival advantage. In experiments with thale cress, researchers at the University of Missouri in Columbia exposed both isolated plants and tightly packed groups to intense light. Crowded plants quickly activated more than 2,000 protective genes and showed far less damage, while plants grown alone failed to mount the same defense. The team found that neighboring plants release hydrogen peroxide, a chemical stress signal that spreads from one plant to another and triggers the response.

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## For later:

Look in your local newspaper for news or sports items that mention North Dakota.

### Wonderword Puzzle Books

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