



photo courtesy National Park Service

Wisconsin is our 30th state, having joined the Union in 1848. This Upper Midwest state lies in the Great Lakes region, bordering Lake Michigan and Lake Superior.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, many immigrants arrived in Wisconsin, mostly from Germany and Scandinavian countries. Wisconsinites still enjoy foods such as bratwurst and **kringle**, a sweet pastry, that are part of these cultures.

Early peoples

When Europeans arrived, they found people of the Ojibwe, Sauk, Meskwaki, Kickapoo and Potawatomi tribes.

French explorer Jean Nicolet is thought to have arrived near Green Bay after canoeing through the Great Lakes in 1634. Other French explorers came to the area to trade furs.

The region was controlled by the British until 1783, when it became a territory of the United States.

Wisconsin today

Wisconsin is home to almost 6 million people. It is sometimes called the Badger State. The capital, Madison, is the state's second-largest city. Milwaukee is the largest.

Wisconsin business

Agriculture and lumber became important industries in the 1800s, and later, many

farmers growing crops switched to dairy production.

Cheese-making helped the state become known as America's Dairyland. In cities, workers brewed beer and made tools and heavy machinery.

Today, agriculture and manufacturing are still important to the state's economy, along with tourism. Wisconsin is a major supplier of paper and packaging products.

Fun in Wisconsin

People in Wisconsin enjoy outdoor sports during the winter, including snowmobiling, skiing, ice fishing and hunting. Outdoor music festivals entertain people during the summer months.

Green Bay is home to the Packers, an NFL team that's been in the league since 1921. The Milwaukee Bucks play in the NBA, and the Milwaukee Brewers play Major League Baseball. Hockey and soccer teams also draw many fans.

The University of Wisconsin and many other colleges offer educational opportunities to hundreds of thousands of students.



Holstein dairy cows in Vernon County, Wisconsin.

photo by Carol M. Highsmith



Wisconsin Fact-a-Roonies

- In 1884, five brothers started a circus in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The Ringling Brothers Circus became one of the biggest traveling shows in the nation.



Today, the Circus World Museum, with a steam calliope and circus acts, is in Baraboo. The Ringling Brothers came from there and wintered their circus there.

- The ice cream sundae was invented in Two Rivers in 1881. Every year, Wisconsinites eat 43 million gallons of ice cream.



- The first kindergarten in the U.S. was in Watertown in 1856.

- The snowmobile was invented in Wisconsin. Skiing, ice skating and sleighing add to the winter fun.



- Yodeling competitions are part of the rich heritage residents have brought from lands such as Germany and Switzerland.

- World-famous magician and escape artist Harry Houdini spent part of his childhood in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Resources

On the Web:
• [bit.ly / MPWisconsin](https://bit.ly/MPWisconsin)

At the library:
• "Faye and the Dangerous Journey" by Kim Sigafus

Try 'n' Find

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



BADGER, CHEESE, DAIRY,
FISHING, GREAT LAKES,
HOUDINI, KRINGLE,
MADISON, MICHIGAN,
MIDWEST, PACKERS,
RINGLING, SKIING,
SUNDAE, SUPERIOR,
WISCONSIN, YODEL.

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

Cook's Corner

Wisconsin Cheese Biscuits

You'll need:

- 2 cups cheddar cheese, grated
- 2 cups crisp rice cereal
- 2 cups all-purpose flour

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

What to do:

1. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Mix well.
2. Roll into small balls and place on ungreased baking sheet.
3. Flatten with a fork.
4. Bake 8 to 10 minutes in a preheated 375-degree oven. Makes about 36.



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

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. providing assistance (7) _____
2. dog with floppy ears (6) _____
3. fancy suit (6) _____
4. summertime drink (8) _____
5. eighth month (6) _____
6. changing homes (6) _____
7. rich person (11) _____

ION	LEM	MILL	FUL
MOV	HELP	AIRE	UST
GLE	ON	AUG	TUX
ADE	EDO	BEA	ING

Answers: helpful, beagle, tuxedo, lemonade, August, moving, millionaire.

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Mini Jokes



Walt: Do you want to hear a joke about Wisconsin?
Winnie: Only if it's not too cheesy!

Eco Note



Fires in the Brazilian Amazon fell nearly 70% in the first quarter of 2025 compared with the same period in 2024, according to new government data. March alone saw a 71% decline in fire outbreaks year over year. The drop comes as welcome news after 2024, when the rainforest endured its worst fire season in 17 years, with more than 140,000 reported fires. That devastation contributed to the loss of nearly 45 million acres of Amazon vegetation — 58% of all land burned in Brazil last year.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles that mention Wisconsin businesses or sports teams.

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



KidSpot By Dan Thompson 6-28
THE PUZZLER
Your challenge today is to tell if cent, scent or sent go in the following sentences.
1. I really love the ____ of your perfume.
a) cent, b) scent, c) sent.
2. She ____ me a card on my birthday.
a) cent, b) scent, c) sent.
3. I don't even have one ____ of money with me.
a) cent, b) scent, c) sent.
ANS: 1. b, 2. c, 3. a
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