

Welcome to Minnesota



photo by Lorie Shaul

Mini Fact:

Ice fishers build small shelters to help them keep warm while they fish.

Our 32nd state is Minnesota, the Land of 10,000 Lakes. (There actually are more than 14,000 bodies of fresh water if you count those that cross the border to Canada.) The lakes were formed by glaciers many thousands of years ago.



Minnesota was admitted to the Union on May 11, 1858. It lies in the Upper Midwest, bordering on Canada. More than 5 million people live in Minnesota; it ranks 22nd in population.

Minnesota’s origins

The state name comes from the Dakota language; *nni sota* means cloudy water. Native Americans inhabited the area until the 17th century, when French explorers and missionaries arrived. In fact, the state’s motto, *L’Étoile du Nord* (the Star of the North), is the only state motto in French.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, immigrants arrived from Scandinavia, Germany and central Europe. Minnesotans worked in farming, logging and on the railroads. Iron mining was also important in the state.

Living in Minnesota

The Twin Cities, Minneapolis and St. Paul, sit on either side of the Mississippi River. St. Paul is the capital of Minnesota, and Minneapolis is the largest city. Most of the downtown business area is in Minneapolis on the west side of the river.

Both cities are home to new groups of immigrants, including Mexicans, Somalis, Hmong, Indians and Vietnamese people.

Today, many large companies are based in Minnesota, including Target, 3M, General Mills, Land O’ Lakes and Best Buy. Along with farming, people there work in health care, technology and forestry.

Cold and hot

Minnesota has cold winters with a lot of snow in the northern areas. Summers can be hot and very humid. Tornadoes, blizzards, thunderstorms and hail are not unusual.

With the freezing temperatures, Minnesotans enjoy many winter sports, such as ice fishing, hockey, skating, skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. In warmer weather, swimming, canoeing and boating are popular. Minnesota has more miles of bike trails than any other state.



photo by Erik Johnson

Minnesota fun

Professional sports teams include the Minnesota Vikings (NFL), Minnesota Twins (MLB), Minneapolis Lakers (NBA), Minnesota Lynx (WNBA) and Minnesota Wild (NHL).

Large annual events include the Minnesota State Fair, the Saint Paul Winter Festival and the Judy Garland Festival.

Famous Minnesotans

• **Charles Schulz**, the cartoonist behind the “Peanuts” comic strip, was born in Minneapolis in 1922. In 1950, Schulz sent his cartoon “Li’l Folks” to United Feature Syndicate, which distributed the comic with the name “Peanuts.” Later, the strip would be seen daily in 2,600 newspapers around the world.



photo courtesy Orange County Archives

Charles Schulz

• Singer, songwriter and musician **Prince** was born in 1958 in Minneapolis. He wrote his first song when he was only 7 years old. Both of his parents were musicians. Before his death in 2016, he sold more than 100 million records worldwide.



photo by Scott Penner

Prince

• You may know **Judy Garland**, who starred as Dorothy in “The Wizard of Oz.” Garland was born in 1922 in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The actress and singer appeared in 34 feature films both as a child and an adult. She died in 1969 in London.



Judy Garland

Resources



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

At the library:
• “Minnesota” by Martin Schwabacher
• “What’s Great About Minnesota?” by Nadia Higgins

Try ‘n’ Find

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



CANADA, COLD, DAKOTA, FISHING, FRENCH, GARLAND, HOCKEY, HOT, HUMID, LAKES, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, PRINCE, SCHULZ, ST. PAUL, SWIMMING, TWIN CITIES, WATER.

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

Cook’s Corner

Peach Crisp

You’ll need:

- 4 cups fresh or canned sliced peaches
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 cup rolled oats, uncooked

- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 cup butter, softened



What to do:

1. Place peaches evenly on bottom of a greased 8-by-8-inch baking pan.
2. In a medium bowl, combine remaining ingredients except butter. Mix well.
3. Add butter. Mix until crumbly.
4. Cover peaches evenly with crumbly mixture.
5. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 30 minutes. Serves 6.

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

1. Large inland bodies of standing water (5-letter plural noun)

□ □ □ □ □

2. Animals that lay eggs, have wings and feathers (5-letter plural noun)

□ □ □ □ □

3. Trying to catch animals that live in water (7-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. In the open air; a place away from a building (8-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. More than 14,000 _____ in Minnesota were made by glaciers.
2. Many _____ nest in the Superior National Forest.
3. In the winter, ice _____ is an extremely popular activity.
4. People in Minnesota enjoy being _____.

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: Lakes, Birds, Fishing, Outdoors.

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