



photo by Anthony

Meet the Mountain State

West Virginia, our 35th state, was once a part of Virginia. But when Virginia voted to **secede**, or leave, the United States in 1863, West Virginia stayed loyal to the Union. It became its own state on June 20, 1863.

About 1.8 million people live in West Virginia. Charleston is the capital, with about 50,000 people.

Early history

Native Americans have lived in the area of West Virginia for thousands of years. Over the centuries, native people were hunters and gatherers, grew corn and other crops, made pottery and built mounds. In 1671, the first Europeans arrived in the region.

Natural resources

West Virginia is known for its natural wonders. It attracts many outdoor-loving tourists, especially from eastern cities. It is the only state to rest entirely in the Appalachian Mountains. Mountain biking, hiking, fishing and rock climbing are some favorite activities.

Underground beauty is found in caves such as Seneca Caverns, Smoke Hole Caverns and Lost



World Caverns. Organ Cave is the 16th-longest cave in the U.S.

Oil, natural gas, stone and salt are also important resources.

Working in West Virginia

The state is the largest producer of coal in the U.S.; the energy from coal powers not only West Virginia but other states. Mining coal has been an important industry for West Virginians for many decades.

People also work in the lumber industry, in agriculture, in health care and manufacturing.

Many world-famous glass studios are in the state, including Blenko in Milton and Fenton Art Glass in Williamstown. The Huntington Museum of Art, the West Virginia Museum of American Glass in Weston and the Oglebay Institute Glass Museum in Wheeling are famous for their exhibits of art glass.



photo courtesy Oglebay Institute

Blowing glass at the Oglebay Institute Glass Museum.

Sports

West Virginians are fans of football and basketball teams from West Virginia University and Marshall University. Minor league baseball, hockey and soccer teams also compete in the state.



photo by Valerius Tygart

The "organ" formation at Organ Cave in West Virginia.

West Virginians To Know

• **Chuck Yeager** is best known for being the first person officially to fly faster than the speed of sound, flying nearly 700 mph in 1947. He became most famous for this feat after author Tom Wolfe wrote about him years later in "The Right Stuff."



Chuck Yeager

Yeager broke the sound barrier when he was a test pilot for the U.S. Air Force. He had served as a fighter pilot during World War II. He was born in Myra, West Virginia, and grew up in West Hamlin, West Virginia.

• **Anna Jarvis** helped turn Mother's Day into a national holiday. She lived in Grafton, West Virginia, and later in Philadelphia. The first national Mother's Day was celebrated in those two cities in 1908.



photo courtesy Library of Congress

Anna Jarvis

• **Steve Harvey**, a famous comedian and game show host, was born in Welch, West Virginia. His father was a coal miner. Harvey is also an author and has won seven Daytime Emmy Awards. He has hosted a television series for kids called "Little Big Shots."



photo by Angela George

Steve Harvey

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/3Wuu6OK

At the library:

- "Animals of West Virginia!" by Hope Aicher

Try 'n' Find

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



BIKING, CAVES, CHARLESTON, COAL, FISHING, GAS, GLASS, HARVEY, HIKING, JARVIS, LUMBER, MINING, MOUNTAIN, OIL, RESOURCES, SECEDE, SPORTS, UNION, WEST VIRGINIA, YEAGER.

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

Cook's Corner

Apple Cookies

You'll need:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 2 cups flour

What to do:

1. In a large bowl, mix together sugar and butter until creamy.
2. Add the milk and egg and stir until blended.
3. In another bowl, mix together the flour, salt, baking powder and cinnamon.
4. Add dry ingredients to the creamy mixture and mix well. Stir in apples and butterscotch chips.
5. Drop by spoonfuls onto a greased baking sheet.
6. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven for 10 minutes. Makes 4 dozen cookies.

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 cup apples, chopped
- 3/4 cup butterscotch chips



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

Mini Jokes



Weston: Why did the scarecrow win an award?
Whitney: Because he was out standing in his field!

Eco Note



Insects are rapidly disappearing even in places far from farms or cities. A 20-year study of a remote meadow in Colorado found that flying insect numbers have fallen by more than 70%, with hotter summers as the strongest culprit. The discovery adds to mounting evidence that climate change is eroding biodiversity on a global scale, undermining food webs and threatening species that rely on insects for survival. Their decline has far-reaching consequences for agriculture and human health.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles with news about West Virginia.

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

