



photo by Matthew Field

Our 36th state, Nevada, joined the Union on Oct. 31, 1864. It is the driest state, with average annual rainfall of only 7 inches. It is home to parts of the Mojave (mo-HAW-vee) Desert and many mountain ranges.



### Nevada in history

Indigenous tribes including the Southern Paiute, Mohave and Gosiute (GO-shoot) lived in the area before Europeans arrived. Francisco Garcés, a Spanish missionary, explored the area in the 1700s, and Nevada became part of Alta California, a territory of Mexico, in 1804.

After the Mexican-American War, Nevada became a U.S. territory named after the Sierra Nevada mountains.

### Natural resources

The largest known silver strike in the U.S. was in 1859 near Virginia City. Silver and gold discoveries brought in thousands of people. Mining is still a major industry in the state, with gold the most important mineral mined there, along with copper, gypsum and lithium.

### Working in Nevada

Tourism is important to the state. Las Vegas, in Nevada's southern tip, is the largest city and is famous for the Strip, a long street of casinos, resorts and hotels where people enjoy gambling, elaborate shows and nightlife. About 650,000 live and work in Las Vegas.

Reno and Lake Tahoe also attract visitors with scenic settings and outdoor activities, such as snow skiing, hiking and biking.

Agriculture is a major industry in other parts of the state. Ranchers and farmers raise cattle, sheep, hay, alfalfa, dairy products and vegetables.



photo by Mobius In Mobili

### Things to see

- Hoover Dam (above), near Boulder City on the Nevada-Arizona border, is considered one of the seven modern engineering wonders of the world. It was completed in 1936 and stands 726 feet high. It took less than five years to complete.
- Lake Mead is the largest human-made lake in the U.S., formed by the building of Hoover Dam. It has about 550 miles of shoreline and is in both Nevada and Arizona.
- Lunar Crater Volcanic Field is one of the places where Apollo astronauts trained for their trip to the moon.

### Red Rock Canyon

The Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is about 17 miles from the Las Vegas strip. This area in the Mojave Desert has harsh dry conditions, rugged landscapes and sand dunes that have turned to rock over the years.



photo by Matthew Dillon

Red Rock Canyon was built by events that took place about 65 million years ago. Two **plates**, or slabs, of the Earth's crust crashed together with such force that the older plate of gray limestone jammed up over the younger plate of red sandstone.

This caused a red stripe to appear. The canyon gets its name from this stripe. The red color is caused by the rusted iron ore in the rock.

About 600 million years ago, this desert area was covered by ocean waters. Although there is little water there today, it is filled with life. Animals include the kangaroo rat, coyote and desert tortoise.

### Resources



#### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/3JHeJzM](https://bit.ly/3JHeJzM)
- [youtu.be/YYUmU8bM1\\_Y](https://youtu.be/YYUmU8bM1_Y)
- [bit.ly/3XbBrTH](https://bit.ly/3XbBrTH)

## Try 'n' Find

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

BIKING, CANYON,  
CASINOS, CATTLE, DAM,  
DESERT, GOLD, HOOVER,  
LAKE, LAS VEGAS, MEAD,  
MOJAVE, NEVADA,  
PLATES, RENO, SHEEP,  
SILVER, SKIING, TAHOE,  
TOURISM.

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



## Cook's Corner

### Pineapple Chicken

#### You'll need:

- 1 (1 1/2- to 2-pound) boneless chicken, cut in pieces
- 1 (8-ounce) can crushed pineapple, drained

- 1 (10 3/4-ounce) can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 3/4 cup raisins



#### What to do:

1. Place chicken pieces in glass 2-quart casserole dish.
2. Cover with wax paper.
3. Cook in microwave oven on high for 12 minutes. Turn chicken over.
4. Combine pineapple, soup and raisins. Pour over chicken.
5. Cook in microwave oven, uncovered, on high for 10 to 12 minutes more. Serves 4.

\* 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. mixture of red and yellow (6) \_\_\_\_\_
2. black-and-white bear (5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. pasta with filling (7) \_\_\_\_\_
4. doing laps in the pool (8) \_\_\_\_\_
5. bad guy (7) \_\_\_\_\_
6. candy-filled target (6) \_\_\_\_\_
7. not wearing shoes (8) \_\_\_\_\_

BAR	NGE	AIN	MM
OLI	SWI	EFO	PAN
PIN	VILL	ORA	ING
OT	RAVI	DA	ATA

Answers: orange, panda, ravioli, swimming, villain, pinata, barefoot.

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### Mini Jokes



**Neville:** Why did pioneers go west in covered wagons?

**Nora:** They didn't want to wait 40 years for a train!

### Eco Note



Prehistoric elephant migration routes that once stretched freely across East Africa are being choked in parts of Kenya by roads, railways, farms and electric fences, triggering fatal conflicts between humans and the pachyderms. Conservationists say more elephants are dying from clashes with people than from poaching for ivory, as expanding infrastructure and settlements block elephants' historic access to food and water. Farmers are protecting their fields from the elephants with beehives and chili pepper bombs.

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### For later:

Look in your local newspaper for articles about events in Nevada.

### Happy New Year from The Mini Page!



### KidSpot

By Dan Thompson

12-27

Q. How was the snow globe feeling?



B M J U U M F  
T I B L F O

Solution: Over each letter, write the letter that appears before it in the alphabet.

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ANS: A LITTLE SHAKEN