Arizona

Nickname: The Grand Canyon State

Motto: Ditat Deus, which means “God Enriches”

Statehood Day: Arizona became the 48th state on February 14, 1912

Number of Counties: 15

Population: 7,171,646 (as of 2018)

Time Zone: Mountain Standard Time, Arizona does not observe daylight savings

Federally Recognized Indian Tribes: 21
Arizona’s Capital

The current capital is in Phoenix and has been since it was built in 1898. When Arizona was a territory, the capital moved between Prescott and Tucson.

What city or town do you live in?

Do you know what city or town you live in? Ask a parent, teacher, or someone you know to help you. Write the name of your city or town and draw a dot on the Arizona map to show where it is located. The star on the map is Arizona’s capital, Phoenix.

What is the difference between capital and Capitol?

A capital is the most important city in an area, region, country, etc., and it generally refers to the seat of government and administrative center for the area. A capitol is a building where legislators meet and hold sessions. Arizona is unique, we do not have just one capitol building; instead, we have a complex of several buildings close together where government officials meet and work. To remember the difference, think of the “o” in capitol as the dome, or circular roof, of the building.
Arizona State Flag

The top half of Arizona’s flag has thirteen red and yellow rays, which represent America’s thirteen original colonies. Since Arizona is a western state, the rays also show a setting sun. The colors of the rays copy the red and yellow in the Spanish flags carried by Coronado when he came to Arizona in the 1500s. The bottom half of the flag is a solid blue field, the same color as the blue in the United States flag. The large copper star in the center of the flag symbolizes how Arizona is the largest producer of copper in the United States. In 1910, Col. Charles W. Harris designed a flag for the Arizona Rifle Team, and Arizona adopted it as the state flag in 1917.

State Flag Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below, write your answer on the blank line provided. All the words are located in the state flag description above.

1. cpopre ________________________________
2. aiznrao ______________________________
3. clinoeso ______________________________
4. stentgi snu ___________________________
5. cnodaoro _____________________________
6. wserent ______________________________
7. snaihps ______________________________
8. uitnde setast __________________________
Arizona History

Before the U.S.-Mexico War, the Southwest was a part of Mexico and the territory of Arizona did not exist. After the U.S. won the war in 1848, the government also decided to purchase the bottom piece of modern-day Arizona, called the Gadsden Purchase, to help build a railroad across the United States. President Abraham Lincoln made present-day Arizona a territory in 1863 and appointed the first territorial governor.

However, the people living in Arizona wanted to become a state – they wanted to elect their own officials and make their own rules. To do this, Arizonians had to follow the guidelines set by President William Howard Taft. Once Arizona followed his rules and wrote their own constitution, Arizona finally became a state on February 14th, 1912.
Branches of Government

Like the U.S., Arizona has three branches of government:

1. Legislative – consists of a 30-member senate (one from each legislative district) and a 60 member house (two from each district). Each member is elected for two-year terms.
2. Executive – headed by the governor, who is elected to a four-year term. Other elected officials in the branch are the Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Mine Inspector, and a five-member Corporation Commission.
3. Judicial – headed by the Arizona Supreme Court, which has six justices and one chief justice. They are appointed by the governor.

Arizona in the U.S. Federal Government

- Arizona has two senators in the United States Senate. Each state elects two senators for 6-year terms. Senators represent the entire state.
- Arizona has nine representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each district elects a representative to the House for a 2-year term. These congressmen/congresswomen each represent about 710,000 people.
Arizona Government Word Search

Circle the nine words related to Arizona’s government listed below. Words may appear up and down, diagonally, or straight across.

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

REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE
GOVERNOR

LEGISLATIVE
SENSOR
JUSTICES

STATE
JUDICIAL
FEDERAL
Arizona Capitol Museum

The Arizona Capitol Museum is located inside the original state capitol building, constructed from 1898-1901. Here you can see where the House and Senate used to meet before they outgrew the space. The capitol building can be spotted from far away, with the copper dome on top and a Winged Victory statue spinning around in the wind.

There are four floors in the museum:

First Floor: Here you can learn about the U.S.S. Arizona and see the silver plates and cups that were once used on the ship. You can also see the largest piece of the ship recovered from the wreckage.

Second Floor: The second floor tells the story of how Arizona took its shape and went from being a territory to becoming a state. You can also discover Arizona’s state governors and learn about their duties.

Third Floor: Here you can you take a seat in the room where the state constitution was written. You can learn more about the problems faced when writing Arizona’s guidelines, and find out how the constitution can be changed.

Fourth Floor: The top floor has great views of the copper dome and Winged Victory. Here you can see the historic House and Senate chambers and learn more about the building’s history.