



INDIANA FAST FACTS

- The **first long-distance auto race** in the United States was held May 30, 1911, at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.
- **Abraham Lincoln** spent most of his boyhood life in Indiana.
- Explorers **Lewis & Clark** set out from Fort Vincennes to explore the Northwest Territory.
- The **first professional baseball game** was played in Fort Wayne in 1871.
- Historic Parke County has 32 covered bridges making it the **covered bridge capital of the world**.
- Indiana's motto is "**Crossroads of America**." Indiana has more miles of interstate highway per square mile than any other state and more major highways intersect in Indiana than in any other state.
- More than 100 species of **trees** are native to Indiana. Before pioneers moved here, more than 80% of Indiana was covered with forest. Now, only 17% of the state is forested.
- Indiana's **limestone** is top quality and one of the richest deposits found on earth. Beautiful Indiana limestone provides the sturdy structure for the Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center, the Pentagon, US Treasury and a dozen other D.C. buildings. Fourteen U.S. state capitols are built from Indiana limestone.
- **Santa Claus**, Indiana, receives over one half million letters and requests at Christmas time.
- **Peru**, Indiana, was once known as the Circus Capital of America.
- Indiana University's greatest swimmer, **Mark Spitz**, won more gold medals for swimming in a single year than any other athlete.
- **Richard Gatling** of Indianapolis invented the rapid-fire machine gun in 1862.
- The farming community of **Fountain City** in Wayne County was known as the Grand Central Station of the Underground Railroad.
- **Many celebrities and authors** have called Indiana home, including comedian Red Skelton, author James Whitcomb Riley, actor James Dean, and Pulitzer Prize winner Ernie Pyle.
- 90% of the world's **popcorn** is grown in Indiana. Orville Redenbacher was born in Brazil, IN.
- **Corn and soybeans** are Indiana's most valuable farm products.
- **Hogs** are Indiana's most valuable livestock product, followed by milk, beef cattle and eggs.
- **Tomatoes** are Indiana's leading vegetable crop. Other veggies are cucumbers, onions, potatoes, and snap beans.
- Leading **fruits** grown in Indiana are apples, blueberries and watermelons.
- The **manufacture of transportation equipment**, such as motor vehicle parts, aircraft parts and automobile assembly, ranks high in Indiana's economy.
- Indiana is a leading **coal-producing** state. Crushed stone, sand and gravel are important industries also.
- Indiana's **state flower** is the peony. The **state bird** is the cardinal. The **state tree** is the tulip tree. The **state river** is the Wabash. The **state stone** is limestone.