Jonathan Jennings was the President of the Constitutional Convention of 1816.

The Preamble of the Indiana Constitution reads:

"To the end, that justice be established, public order maintained, and liberty perpetuated, we the people of the state of Indiana, grateful to Almighty God for the free exercise of the right to choose our own form of government, do ordain this constitution.

From 1800 - 1812, William Henry Harrison served as the first governor of the Indiana Territory and later was elected President of the United States.

With the increasing importance of joining the union, Jonathan Jennings became a leader in the pursuit of Indiana's statehood. As a congressman representing the Indiana Territory, his efforts led to the Indiana Enabling Act. This legislation allowed Indiana to become a state. The Indiana Enabling Act required Indiana's leaders to meet and write a state constitution. In the summer of 1816, Jonathan Jennings was chosen as the president of the Constitutional Convention. The Constitutional Convention was a group of 43 men who worked together to write Indiana's first constitution.

The Constitution of 1816 outlined the three parts of state government that we still use today. The Legislative office would have a General Assembly to make laws.

The Judicial office would have a Supremecourt to decide if the laws were constitutional.

The Executive office would be led by a state governor to make sure that the laws were followed by the people of Indiana.

In December of 1816, Indiana became the 19th state to join the Union. Jonathan Jennings was then appointed as its first governor, Corydon would be Indiana's original state capital.

It's a Fact

The Constitution of 1816 was written in the heat of summer under the shade of a giant elm tree. This tree would later be named the Constitutional Elm.
1. What is the capital of Indiana? ____________________________________________

2. Which Great Lake is north of Gary, Indiana? ______________________________

3. Which state borders Indiana to the north? _________________________________

4. Which state forms most of Indiana’s eastern border? _________________________

5. Which state borders Indiana to the south? _________________________________

6. Which state borders Indiana to the west? _________________________________

7. What river separates Indiana and Kentucky? ______________________________

8. Which river crosses Indiana from east to west and is recognized as its state river? ________________________________________________________________

9. Which river runs through Indiana’s capital city? __________________________

10. The Tippecanoe Battlefield is close to which Indiana city? ________________

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**IT’S A FACT:**

INDIANAPOLIS WAS NOT INDIANA’S CAPITAL CITY UNTIL 1825. IN 1816, WHEN CONGRESS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED INDIANA AS A STATE, THE CAPITAL WAS CORYDON.
The Hoosier State

Indiana is widely known as the “The Hoosier State.”

Since the mid-1830’s, there has been a debate about the reason that people from Indiana are nicknamed “Hoosiers.”

Some suggest that the term began as a pioneer greeting, “Who’s yere?”

Others believe the name was originally used by a contractor named Sam Hoosier. He hired men from Indiana to work on the Louisville and Portland Canal. His employees were called “Hoosier’s Men” and finally just “Hoosiers.”

A few think that “Hoosier comes from the word “husher.”

Hushers were Indiana riverboat workers who were so tough and bold that they “hushed” all who challenged them.

What do you think would be a good nickname for the state of Indiana? Why?

IT’S A FACT:

The State of Indiana adopted the nickname “Hoosier State” more than 150 years ago.

SELECTION FROM FAMOUS POEM “THE HOOSIER’S NEST” PUBLISHED IN 1833

“... IN HOOSIER LIFE INITIATED:
ERECTS A CABIN IN THE WOODS, WHERIN
HE STOWS HIS HOUSEHOLD GOODS,
AT FIRST, ROUND LOGS AND CLAPBOARD ROOF,
WITH PUNCHEON FLOOR, QUITE CARPET PROOF,
AND PAPER WINDOWS, OILED AND NEAT, HIS EDIFICE IS THEN COMPLETE...”
Indiana’s State Flag was adopted in 1917

This flag was designed by Paul Hadley as part of a contest to obtain a design for the states 100th birthday in 1916.

The torch stands for liberty and enlightenment. The rays mean that freedom and knowledge are available to everyone.

The large star represents Indiana and the eighteen smaller stars represents the eighteen states in the union before Indiana.

Thirteen outer stars are for the original thirteen states and the remaining five stars are for the five states added before Indiana.
The Indiana constitutions of 1816 and 1851 both provided for a state seal. The design for the current state seal is based on designs used since Indiana was a territory. It was approved as the official state seal design by the 1963 General Assembly.

Indiana’s state seal depicts scene from the pioneer era of the territory and state. There are three hills in the background. A setting sun is beginning to disappear behind the hills. On the right of the seal are two sycamore trees and a woodsman with his ax is nearby. He has begun to cut a notch in one of the trees. A buffalo in the foreground is jumping over a log and facing to the left. The ground near the woodsman and buffalo is sprouting shoots of blue grass

(Indiana Historical Society)
**INDIANA STATE BIRD**

In 1933, the Indiana General Assembly chose the cardinal to be the state bird of Indiana. Also known as the redbird, the cardinal is the state bird of seven states: Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, North Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia. The bright red males are easily spotted, especially in the winter. Female cardinals are brown with a dusty red crest. Cardinals build nests in bushes and brushy areas and are frequent visitors to bird feeders.

*(Indiana Historical Society)*

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**INDIANA STATE TREE**

The tulip tree, also known as the tulip poplar and yellow poplar, became Indiana's state tree in 1931. The tree usually grows to be 100 feet tall or more. The flowers, which bloom in the summer, are yellow in color and look like tulips. The tulip tree can be found throughout the state. Wood from the tree is soft white in color and can be used to make furniture, trim, and cabinets.

*(Indiana Historical Society)*

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**INDIANA STATE FLOWER**

The 1957 Indiana General Assembly adopted the peony as the state flower. The zinnia was the state flower from 1931 to 1957. The peony blooms in late spring and is usually red or pink but can be white. The peony is grown all over the state and is a popular decoration at cemeteries for Memorial Day.

*(Indiana Historical Society)*
Indiana designated the Wabash River as the official state River in 1996. The Wabash river is also the theme of Indiana's state song, is mentioned in the state poem, and on Indiana's honorary award The Sagamore of the Wabash.

Indiana designated Salem limestone (quarried in south and central Indiana) as the official state stone in 1971.

Bedford, Indiana is known as the “Limestone Capital of the World.” Limestone quarried and carved in Bedford is featured on famous buildings across America, including the Pentagon and the Empire State Building. Indiana’s State House in Indianapolis is also built with southern Indiana Limestone.

**Indiana State Motto**
(1937 General Assembly resolution)

*The Crossroads of America is the official motto of Indiana. The nickname began as the nickname for the city of Indianapolis, which is the hub for several major Interstate highways that criss-cross the state, connecting Hoosiers to the rest of the United States.*

**Indiana State Nickname**

Indiana is nicknamed *The Hoosier State*. The origin of the word Hoosier is rooted deep in the history of Indiana and the original meaning has been lost. Historians, folklorists, politicians, and everyday Hoosiers offer many colorful theories on the origin of the term, but no one has a definitive answer.
INDIANA’S STATE SONG
Adopted as the Indiana State Song by the Sixty-eighth Regular Session of the Indiana General Assembly on March 14, 1913

“ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH, FAR AWAY”
WORDS AND MUSIC BY PAUL DRESSER

’Round my Indiana homestead wave the cornfields,
In the distance loom the woodlands clear and cool,
Oftentimes my tho’ts revert to scenes of childhood,
Where I first received my lessons - nature’s school.
But one thing there is missing in the picture,
Without her face it seems so incomplete,
I long to see my mother in the doorway,
As she stood there years ago, her boy to greet.

[CHORUS]
Oh, the moonlight’s fair tonight along the Wabash,
From the fields there comes the breath of new-mown hay,
Through the sycamores the candle lights are gleaming,
On the banks of the Wabash, far away.

Many years have passed since I strolled by the river,
Arm in arm, with sweetheart Mary by my side,
It was there I tried to tell her that I loved her,
It was there I begged of her to be my bride.
Long years have passed since I strolled thro’ the churchyard.
She’s sleeping there, my angel, Mary dear,
I loved her, but she thought I didn’t mean it,
Still I’d give my future were she only here.

THINK ABOUT IT...
Why do you think that Paul Dresser wrote about cornfields, the Wabash River and Sycamore trees in his song about Indiana?

If you were composing a song about Indiana, what would you include? Why?
Indiana’s State Poem

“Indiana”
Written by Arthur Franklin Mapes of Kendallville
Adopted by the 1963 General Assembly

God crowned her hills with beauty,
Gave her lakes and winding streams,
Then He edged them all with woodlands
As the setting for our dreams.
Lovely are her moonlit rivers,
Shadowed by the sycamores,
Where the fragrant winds of Summer
Play along the willowed shores.
I must roam those wooded hillsides,
I must heed the native call,
For a pagan voice within me
Seems to answer to it all.
I must walk where squirrels scamper
Down a rustic old rail fence,
Where a choir of birds is singing
In the woodland . . . green and dense.
I must learn more of my homeland
For it’s paradise to me,
There’s no haven quite as peaceful,
There’s no place I’d rather be.
Indiana . . . is a garden
Where the seeds of peace have grown,
Where each tree, and vine, and flower
Has a beauty . . . all its own.
Lovely are the fields and meadows,
That reach out to hills that rise
Where the dreamy Wabash River
Wanders on . . . through paradise.

Ready, Set, Draw!

Arthur Mapes creates a vivid image of Indiana as a paradise of winding streams, a choir of birds, and wooded hillsides. Draw a picture of your Indiana paradise. Include at least five examples that illustrate the reasons you may think that Indiana is a paradise.
The Branches of State Government

The writers of Indiana’s Constitution wanted Indiana to have a strong state government, but they also wanted to make sure that one person or group did not hold too much power. Modeled after the federal government, Indiana has three branches of government which were designed to balance the powers of state government. The names of these branches are executive, legislative, and judicial. This organization of power is referred to as “the system of checks and balances.”

**LEGISLATIVE**
The Indiana General Assembly is a part-time citizen legislative body. The General Assembly passes new laws and improves old ones.

It is made up of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are 50 Senators and 100 Representatives.

These elected members are divided by two major political parties: Republican and Democrat.

**EXECUTIVE**
The Executive Branch includes the elected offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Auditor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**JUDICIAL**
The Judicial Branch of Indiana’s state government includes the Indiana Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and local circuit courts. There are five Justices on the Supreme Court. They are appointed by the Governor. The Supreme Court is responsible for making sure that Indiana laws are properly applied based on the Constitution.

* Is it important for the three branches of government to work together? Why or why not?

* How do the three branches of government balance the governing powers of the state?

* In which branch of government would you most enjoy working? Why?
UNSCRAMBLE A FEW OF THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS GRANTED BY THE CONSTITUTION:

1) The right to speak, write or publish your thoughts and opinions
   is the freedom of “eechps” - ________________________________________

2) The right to worship in the faith of your choice
   is the freedom of “ginoleri” - ________________________________________

3) All people accused of a crime have the right to a
   fair and speedy “tilar” - ____________________________________________

4) To protect themselves or defend the state, Hoosiers have a right to
   own “ponweas” - ________________________________________________

5) All citizens are guaranteed the same privileges (under the law),
   and have the right to be treated ‘eqayllu” - _________________________

6) The right of a group to join together to express their views in public
   Is the freedom of peaceful “aslysemb” - ____________________________

☆☆ What right granted by Indiana’s Constitution do you think is most Important? Why?
INDIANA LAWS:
How Our Laws Are Made:

BILL INTRODUCTION:
First, a legislator has an idea for a new law and writes the details in a document called a BILL. The Senator or Representative who writes a bill is called its AUTHOR. The author must then file the bill. The bill is read by its author in its chamber of origin.

FIRST READING:
After a bill is filed, it is ready for the FIRST READING. During the first reading, a bill is introduced by having its title read aloud. Senators’ bills are first read in the Senate. Representatives’ bills are first read in the House. The presiding officer, President Pro Tempore of the Senate or Speaker of the House, assigns the bill to a committee for further review.

COMMITTEE HEARING:
Committees have great power, especially the COMMITTEE CHAIR. The chair decides which of the bills assigned to the committee will be considered. Committee members talk about what is both good and bad about bills. People from the community can attend the COMMITTEE MEETINGS and give opinions about the bills. If the committee decides that a bill is a good idea then it will recommend “DO PASS” or they will make changes and recommend “AMEND DO PASS.” The bill will then return to the Senate or the House for the SECOND READING.

SECOND READING:
After a bill is recorded as “do pass” or “amend to pass” by the committee, it is reprinted. After the legislators have had the copy of the bill for 24 hours, the bill is ready for the second reading. During the second reading, a bill can be AMENDED by the author or any legislator. The Senators or Representatives vote either yea (yes) or nay (no) on a bill’s amendments. If the majority of legislators are in favor and vote “yea,” the bill is ready for THIRD READING after 24 more hours.

THIRD READING:
Third reading is very important. During THIRD READING, the full Senate or House votes to either pass or defeat a bill. A majority of votes is needed to pass a bill. If a bill is passed, it is sent to the SECOND HOUSE which is sometimes called the OTHER CHAMBER. (Senate bills are now sent to the House. House bills are not given to the Senate)

SECOND HOUSE (OTHER CHAMBER):
Bills must go through the same process in the SECOND HOUSE. This chamber may pass, amend or defeat bills. If there are no amendments, a bill is signed by both the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The bill is then sent to the Governor. If the Second House amends a bill, the revised bill must return to the original house. The amendments can either be approved or rejected. If the amendments are approved, the bill is signed by both the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker of the House and then sent to the Governor. If the amendments are rejected, the bill is sent to a CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:
A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE is made up of two Senators and two Representatives. These four legislators study the bill and compromise on a revised version of the bill which is then voted on by both houses. If both houses approve the bill, it is sent to the Governor.

THE GOVERNOR:
When the Governor receives a bill, he can sign the bill into law, veto (reject) it, or do nothing. If the Governor does nothing, the bill will become law without his/her signature in seven days. Legislators can overturn vetoes and create a new law with a majority vote.
HOW DOES A BILL BECOME A LAW?

START

BILL DRAFT: THE IDEA IS WRITTEN IN PROPER FORM

FIRST READING: THE BILL IS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE OR SENATE AND SENT TO A COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ACTION: THE COMMITTEE APPROVES THE BILL AND SENDS IT ON

COMMITTEE REVIEW: THE COMMITTEE STUDIES THE BILL AND MAY MAKE CHANGES

SECOND READING: AFTER COMMITTEE APPROVAL, THE BILL IS GIVEN SECOND READING WHERE IT MAY BE AMENDED

THIRD READING: THE BILL PASSES IF A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS VOTE FOR IT

GOVERNOR'S ACTION: THE GOVERNOR MAY SIGN A BILL INTO LAW OR VETO IT

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE: IF THE BILL IS AMENDED, ANY CHANGES MUST BE APPROVED BY FIRST HOUSE

VEarto OVERRIDE: IF A BILL IS VETOED, IT MAY STILL BECOME LAW BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE

SECOND HOUSE: THE BILL REPEATS THE PROCESS

LAW: THE BILL BECOMES LAW WITH OR WITHOUT THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE.

FINISH
GOOD IDEAS FOR BILLs COME FROM YOU!
Contact your Legislator:

1. Think of a good idea for a bill.
2. Research the idea.
3. Write a letter to your legislators explaining your idea. Use your research to add supportive facts to your letter. Ask if there is a Legislator willing to author a bill with your idea.
4. If your bill gets an author, it will be assigned to a committee for review. Plan to attend a committee meeting to voice your support for the bill.

Send your finished letter to this address with your legislator’s name:
Indiana General Assembly
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

HELP WRITE A NEW LAW:
Contact Your Legislators

THINK ABOUT AN IDEA FOR A BILL. RESEARCH YOUR IDEA. USE THAT INFORMATION TO WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE

Your Street Address
City, State and Zip Code

Date:

Dear Senator/Representative: _____________

I have an idea for an important bill for Indiana

My idea is (write your idea clearly and include as many details as possible)

I believe this should be a law in Indiana because (insert at least three research facts to support your position.)

Do you know if there is a legislator willing to author a bill addressing this issue? If so, can you please pass along my letter?

I hope you will support any bills concerning (write your idea again.)

Sincerely,
Your First and Last Name
Your Age

IT’S A FACT
Legislators may decide to write a bill at the suggestion of a constituent, interest group, a public official, or the Governor. Lawmakers in the same house may be asked to support a bill by being co-authors. Lawmakers in the other house may be asked to support a bill by being a sponsor.
INTERESTING FACTS: GOVERNMENT

• The shortest term served by an Indiana governor was two days. In 1861, Henry Smith Land and his running mate, Oliver P. Morton, agreed if they won the election and the Republicans won control of the legislature, Lane would become U.S. senator and Morton would take over as governor.

• Probably the most unusual bill introduced in an Indiana General Assembly was a proposal in 1897 to change the mathematical value of \( \pi \) from 3.1415926535 to 3.2. The bill died in the Senate.

  • The first African American legislator elected in Indiana was James S. Hinton. He was seated in the Indiana House of Representatives on January 6, 1881 and served one term.

• In 1925, the Indiana General Assembly established a 35 mph speed limit on state highways.

• Indiana's first female state representative was Julia D. Nelson, who began serving in the 1921 General Assembly session.

• The first female senator was Mrs. Arcada Stark Balz, an ex-school teacher. She was the third woman in the nation elected to a state senate, where she served from 1942 to 1946.

• Katie Hall served as Indiana's first African American female member of the United States House of Representatives. She served from 1974 to 1976.

• Julia Carson was the second African American female member of the United States House of Representatives. She served in the House for six terms – from 1997 until her death in 2007.

• Since 1869, Indiana has sent five men to Washington D.C., to serve as vice president.

• The first (and only) Hoosier to be elected President was Benjamin Harrison in 1888. He was the first to live in the White House after the invention of the electric light bulb. Electricity frightened the Harrison; lights were left on night and day because of their fear of touching the switches.
INTERESTING FACTS: HISTORY

- The first settlement in the Northwest Territory in what became Indiana was Clarksville, which eventually became the state’s first incorporated town. People began building homes there in 1783.

- The name “Indiana” was coined by early members of congress. The word means “land of the Indians.”

- On July 4, 1800, the Indiana Territory was carved from the Northwest Territory. The territorial capital was located at Vincennes.

- Corydon became the first state capital when Indiana was granted statehood on December 11, 1816.

- In October of 1824, a group of state officials loaded four spring wagons and moved the state capital from Corydon to Indianapolis, 130 miles north. The journey took 11 days.

- When the border between Michigan and Indiana was being established, misunderstandings by local surveyors placed the state line ten miles south of its present-day location.

- In 1905, the legislature outlawed the sale, manufacturing or possession of cigarettes. Jocko Dooley was one of the first violators brought to trial under the new law. Jocko, a chimpanzee, was a circus performer and had a habit of smoking about 200 cigarettes a day. Records are unclear as to whether jocko was found guilty.
INTERESTING FACTS: THE STATEHOUSE

- Indiana’s Statehouse was built at its present site in 1835. The building was demolished in 1878 to make way for the current Capitol Building, which was completed in 1888.
- The stone for construction of the Indiana Statehouse came from a quarry located in what is now McCormick’s Creek State Park.
- It cost nearly $2 million to build the statehouse in 1888.

- Indiana was the first state in the nation to designate an area of its capitol for use as a chapel. The chapel, now referred to as the “mediation room,” is in the southwest corridor of the fourth floor.
- The glass dome over the rotunda of the Statehouse is 108 feet from the ground.
- Eight marble statues in the rotunda area of the third floor represent Law, Oratory, Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Liberty, History, and Art – fields of human endeavor that shape a civilized society.
- In the horse and buggy days, lawmakers stabled their horses in the basement of the Statehouse. The area now is the site of offices for newspaper, television and radio reporters.
INTERESTING FACTS: GEOGRAPHY

- The area of the state of Indiana is 36,185 square miles. From its northernmost point to its extreme southernmost point, the distance is about 275 miles. The widest east-west point is nearly 160 miles across.

- Indiana’s highest altitude is 1,257 feet, in Wayne County, and the lowest point is 320 feet in Posey County.

- The first public playground in Indiana was a one-acre site opened in 1817 in Vernon. Known as “the Commons,” it is still in use.

- The first and only Indiana city to encompass an entire county is Indianapolis, which extended its limits to the boundaries of Marion County by virtue of the Unigov law, which went into effect on January 1, 1970.

- Indiana has 16 million acres of farmland, making up nearly 70 percent of all state land.

- In 1816, when Indiana was granted statehood, there were 15 counties. By 1824, when the state capital moved to Indianapolis, there were 49 counties. The rest of the land was occupied by Native Americans. Now, Indiana has 92 counties.
Are you smarter than a 4th grader?

1. Long ago Indiana was part of the ________________ Territory.

2. The Territorial Capital was in ________________, Indiana.

3. The territorial Governor who helped Indiana became a state was ________________.
   You can visit his home in Grousland.

4. Indiana became a state in ________________. (name the year)

5. The first capital city was _____________________, Indiana.
   
   Extra Credit: Name Indiana’s first Governor.

6. _____________________ was the only President ever elected from Indiana.

7. The ________________ is our State Flower.

8. The ________________ is our State Tree.

9. What are our State colors? __________________________________________

10. How many Senators serve the State of Indiana in the State Legislature? _____
    
    a. Who serve in your State Senate District?

11. How many Representatives serve the State of Indiana in the State Legislature? _____
    
    a. Who serves in your State House District?

   **Answers**

9. Blue and Gold  10. 50 (Depends on where you live)  11. 100 (Depends on where you live)
The Great State of Indiana

Word Search

Circle the words from the word list in puzzle below.

Word List:
- Author
- Cardinal
- Committee
- Constitution
- Democrat
- Executive
- Governor
- Hoosier
- Indianapolis
- Judicial
- Law
- Republican
- Senate
- Sponsor
- Tulip
- Veto
- Vote

Indiana Fun Facts

Indiana's largest natural lake is Lake Wawasee in Syracuse.

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is the home to the "greatest spectacle in racing" - The Indianapolis 500.

Pike County has 30 covered bridges and hosts one of the largest covered bridge festivals.

Amelia Earhart departed from Purdue University on her final flight.

Indianapolis is host to the President Benjamin Harrison Residence. This museum celebrates the life of our 23rd president of the United States.
"THE CROSSWORDS OF AMERICA"

Across
5. INDIANA'S STATE FLOWER
6. ELECTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVERY FOUR YEARS
7. INDIANA'S STATE BIRD
9. NAME OF ORIGINAL CAPITAL OF INDIANA
10. INDIANA'S STATE STONE
12. STATE CAPITAL
15. RIVER IDENTIFIED IN STATE SONG
16. NUMBER OF BRANCHES IN STATE GOVERNMENT

Down
1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2. "THE ___________________ STATE"
3. ELECTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVERY TWO YEARS
4. CURRENT INDIANA GOVERNOR
7. STATE MOTTO: "THE______________________ OF AMERICA"
8. ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNOR TO PREVENT A BILL FROM PASSING INTO LAW
11. NUMBER OF INDIANA SENATORS
13. NUMBER OF STARS ON INDIANA'S FLAG
14. RULES WE LIVE BY
16. NAME OF STATE TREE