

FACTS ABOUT IDAHO

Name: Originally suggested for Colorado, the name “Idaho” was used for a steamship which traveled the Columbia River. With the discovery of gold on the Clearwater River in 1860, the diggings began to be called the Idaho Mines. “Idaho” is a coined or invented word and is not a derivation of an Indian phrase “E Dah Hoe (How),” supposedly meaning “gem of the mountains.”

Nickname: The “Gem State”

Motto: “Esto Perpetua” (Let it be perpetual)

Discovered by Europeans: 1805, the last of the 50 states to be sighted

Organized as Territory: March 4, 1863, act signed by President Lincoln

Entered Union: July 3, 1890, 43rd state to join the Union

GEOGRAPHY

Land Area: 82,677 square miles, 13th in area size

Water Area: 880 square miles

Highest Point: 12,662 feet above sea level at the summit of Mt. Borah, Custer County in the Lost River Range

Lowest Point: 770 feet above sea level at the Snake River at Lewiston

Length: 479 Miles

Width: 305 miles at widest point

Geographic Center: Settlement of Custer on the Yankee Fork River, Custer County

Number of Lakes: More than 2,000

Navigable Rivers: Snake, Coeur d’Alene, St. Joe, St. Maries, and Kootenai

Largest Lake: Lake Pend Oreille, 180 square miles

Temperature Extremes: Highest, 118° at Orofino July 28, 1934; Lowest, -60° at Island Park Dam, January 18, 1943

2007 Est. Population: 1,499,200; 39th among states
(DFM, *Economic Forecast*, July 2007)

Data Source: *Idaho Blue Book* 2006-2007, published by the Idaho Secretary of State’s Office

Photo Sources: Jason Abbott, Patricia Foxx, Scott Page, Steven Wagner, and Mihir Joshi



State Flag



State Horse: Appaloosa



State Insect: Monarch Butterfly



State Vegetable: Potato



State Quarter: Peregrine Falcon



State Bird: Mountain Bluebird