Profile of Michigan

Key Facts of Michigan

AREA
58,110 square miles of land, 1,305 square miles of inland water, and 38,575 square miles of Great Lakes water area; there are 10,083 inland lakes of more than 5 acres in surface area and 3,288 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. Combined water and land area makes it the 10th largest state in the Union.

ELEVATION
Highest point in the state is Mt. Arvon in Baraga County, 1,981 feet above sea level; lowest point is along the Lake Erie shoreline, 572 feet above sea level.

HISTORY
First permanent French settlement by Father Jacques Marquette at Sault Ste. Marie, 1668; French forces surrendered Detroit to British at close of French and Indian War, 1760; became part of the Northwest Territory, 1787; became Michigan Territory, 1805; admitted into the Union as the twenty-sixth state, 1837.

NICKNAME
The Wolverine State.

POPULATION
9,938,444 (2000); ranks eighth among the 50 states.

STATE CAPITAL
Detroit served as the state capital until 1847, when it was permanently moved by the Legislature to Lansing.

STATE MOTTO
Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice
(If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you).

STATE SEAL
The Great Seal of the State of Michigan was adopted at the Constitutional Convention of 1835.

DELEGATION TO U.S. CONGRESS
Two (2) U.S. Senators (2 Democrats)
Fifteen (15) U.S. Representatives (7 Republicans, 8 Democrats)

SALARIES OF ELECTED STATE OFFICERS

	2009	2011
Governor	$177,000	$159,300
Lieutenant Governor	123,900	111,510
Secretary of State	124,900	112,410
Attorney General	124,900	112,410
State Legislators	79,650	71,685
Justices of the Supreme Court	164,610	164,610
Court of Appeals Judges	151,441	151,441

POPULATION	Michigan	United States
2000 Total	9,938,444	281,421,906
2008 Estimate	10,003,422	304,059,724
2000-2008 % Increase	.65	8.4

Michigan's State Seal

First adopted in 1835, Michigan's Great Seal was designed by Lewis Cass. The seal evokes strong national images, with "*E Pluribus Unum*" on a scroll across the top and the American Eagle prominently displayed. Below these are an elk and a moose on either side of a shield bearing the Latin word "*Tuebor,*" which means "I will defend," and reflects Michigan's position as a border state. Below this, an image of a man stands with one hand raised in peace and another holding a rifle, symbolic of his willingness to protect our state and nation. The state's motto, "*Si Quaeris Peninsulam Amoenam Circumspice,*" which means "If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you," is at the base of the shield. The Great Seal may not be used for commercial purposes.

Michigan's State Flag

Michigan's present state flag was adopted by the Legislature in 1911 with a simple phrase, "The State Flag shall be blue charged with the arms of the State." This is Michigan's third flag. The state coat of arms appears on both sides. The first flag, bearing the State Seal, a soldier, a lady on one side and a portrait of the first governor, Stevens T. Mason, on the other, was first flown in 1837—the year Michigan became a state. In 1865, the second flag carried the state coat of arms on a field of blue on one side and, on the reverse side, the coat of arms of the United States. The state flag flies over the Capitol on the main flagstaff, just below the flag of the United States.

MICHIGAN'S STATE SYMBOLS

Flower

APPLE BLOSSOM

The apple blossom, the symbol of springtime beauty and the bounty of Michigan's orchards and agricultural lands, has been the official State Flower since its adoption by the Legislature on April 28, 1897. The resolution stated "a refined sentiment seems to call for the adoption of a State Flower." It continued, "Our blossoming apple trees add much to the beauty of our landscape, and Michigan apples have gained a world-wide reputation…one of the most fragrant and beautiful species of apple, the *Pyrus coronaria,* is native to our state." Michigan has been one of the leading producers of apples and apple products since those early days.

(Joint Resolution 10 of 1897)

Bird

ROBIN

The robin redbreast became the official State Bird on May 21, 1931, when the Legislature, by resolution, made the selection as the result of an election conducted by the Michigan Audubon Society. Nearly 200,000 votes were cast, of which robin redbreast "received many more votes than any other bird as the most popular bird in Michigan." The resolution added that the robin redbreast is "the best known and best loved of all the birds in the state of Michigan."

(House Concurrent Resolution 30 of 1931)

Tree

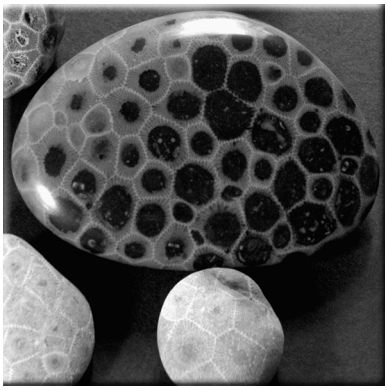
WHITE PINE

The towering white pine (*Pinus strobus*) of Michigan's lush forests of the pioneering days was adopted as the official State Tree on March 4, 1955. The white pine was the focal point of one of Michigan's greatest industries, lumbering. It is the largest conifer of the eastern and upper Midwest forests, reaching 150 feet in height and up to 40 inches in diameter. On Arbor Day in 1955, lawmakers attended special ceremonies during which small white pine trees were planted on the Capitol lawn.

(Public Act 7 of 1955)

Stone

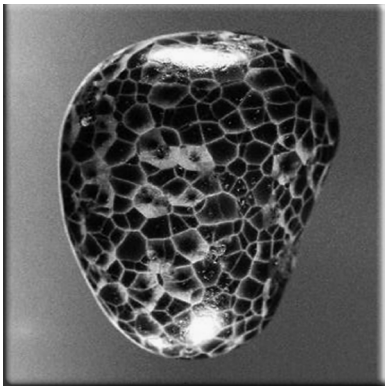
PETOSKEY STONE



The Petoskey stone is Michigan's official State Stone. Petoskeys are fossilized fragments of ancient corals. The corals were found in the northern counties of Michigan's lower peninsula about 350 million years ago. The living corals died and were transformed into large fossil reefs. Fragments from the fossil reefs were scattered by glaciers about 1.8 million years ago. These fossil fragments are found on beaches as pebbles and cobbles, rounded by the action of the waves. Petoskey stones are most often found along the shorelines of Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, and inland lakes.

(Public Act 89 of 1965)

Gem



CHLORASTROLITE

Chlorastrolite, the official State Gem, is a mineral that is formed in association with lava flows. Its common name, "greenstone," comes from its green color. Typical gems have a pattern of overlapping edges, ranging from yellow-green to almost black. Chlorastrolite is derived from three Latin words: "*chloros,*" meaning green; "*aster,*" meaning star; and "*lithos,*" meaning stone. In Michigan, chlorastrolite pebbles can be found on rocky beaches in Northern Michigan's "copper country," particularly on Isle Royale.

(Public Act 56 of 1972)

Fish

BROOK TROUT

Michigan lawmakers chose the trout as the official State Fish in 1965. Since four trout species are found in Michigan—brook, brown, rainbow, and lake—many felt that clarification was needed. Legislation enacted in 1988 designated the Brook Trout as Michigan's official State Fish. The trout lives in many of Michigan's lakes, rivers, and streams. Sportspersons love it for its gameness, good flavor, rich flesh, and pretty colors. Most trout live year-round in fresh water.

(Public Act 5 of 1988)

MICHIGAN'S STATE SYMBOLS

Soil

KALKASKA SOIL SERIES

Michigan has about 400 different kinds of soils. Each soil has its own unique set of properties and supports different types of vegetation or activities. Michigan's official State Soil, the Kalkaska Soil Series, was formed from the chemical and physical activities of vegetation in sandy glacial deposits. As one of the most extensive soil series in Michigan, it is found in both peninsulas. It is typically several feet thick and made up of many distinct layers. The soil is easily identified and conducive to varied uses, including forests, wildlife, cultivation, recreation, and business.

(Public Act 302 of 1990)

Reptile

PAINTED TURTLE

In 1995, the Michigan Legislature formally adopted the *Chrysemys picta*, or "painted turtle," as Michigan's State Reptile. The painted turtle is found throughout the entire state of Michigan. It ranges in size from four to ten inches in length. It has distinctive yellow and red markings on its head, limbs, and shell. It lives in shallow water and eats pond vegetation, insects, crayfish, and mollusks, including the zebra mussel. During the cold winter months, it buries itself in the mud and hibernates.

(Public Act 281 of 1995)

Game Mammal

WHITE-TAILED DEER

The white-tailed deer, Michigan's official State Game Mammal, is found in much of the United States and Canada. Abundant throughout our state, these herbivores can run up to 35 miles per hour. Photographers, tourists, hunters, and nature enthusiasts are drawn to Michigan for this beautiful animal. The deer's distinctive tail, when raised, is like a flag that provides a flash of white, signaling other deer when there is danger.

(Public Act 15 of 1997)

Wildflower

DWARF LAKE IRIS

On December 30, 1998, the Dwarf Lake Iris became the State Wildflower by act of the Legislature. This wildflower is found on rocky shorelines in the Great Lakes region, with 90% of the species found in Michigan. The Dwarf Lake Iris is most likely to be found on the Lake Huron shoreline along the northern part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

(Public Act 454 of 1998)

Fossil

MASTODON

The elephant-like Mastodons roamed virtually all of Michigan's Ice Age landscape from 20,000 years ago until approximately 10,000 years ago, when they became extinct. Dining on leaves, pines, and acorns, these creatures grew nine feet tall and stretched 15 feet from tusk to tail. They may have weighed as much as six tons. More than 250 Mastodon remains have been discovered; and, near Saline, scientists found the only set of Mastodon footprints known to exist in the world. In recognition of the importance of gaining knowledge of this ancient mammal, the Legislature designated the Mastodon (*Mammut americanum*) as the official State Fossil of Michigan.

(Public Act 162 of 2002)

Clean Water

AMERICAN LOTUS BLOSSOM

The country's largest aquatic plant, the American Lotus Blossom (*Nelumbo lutea*), is the official Symbol of Clean Water in Michigan. The lotus blossom helps to clean the waters it lives in, and its selection as a state symbol highlights Michigan's unique and abundant fresh water resources.

(Public Act 78 of 2004)

MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE
ONLINE INFORMATION

www.legislature.mi.gov

- Track recent bill activity, including daily introduced bills, bills passed by chamber, and enrolled bills.
- Follow current issues and legislative sessions; the committee schedules include the time and place for meetings and the bills on the agenda for each meeting.
- Search the Michigan Compiled Laws and the Michigan Constitution, by section or keyword.
- Access electronic legislative publications including Public Act tables, Michigan Manuals, Official Journals, Michigan Compiled Laws, and more than 20 downloadable general interest booklets.
- The Notification System allows a person to select items of interest and receive email notice of changes to the items.