



# Missouri State History ~ In a Nutshell ~

Written & designed by  
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Missouri State History In a Nutshell  
by Cyndi Kinney & Judy Trout  
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### **What is the "In a Nutshell" series?**

This is a series of concise, easy to understand information on many popular topics. You will find that many of products in this series can also be found as part of larger publications and/or curriculum on the publisher's website. At the end of each book, you will find a list of questions that may be used to help you review the material.

# Missouri State History Lapbook Journal Study Guide



The Great Seal of Missouri

Welcome to Missouri, a land of fertile plains, rolling hills, well-watered prairies and historic rivers.

Two of this country's greatest waterways, the Mississippi River on the state's eastern border, and the Missouri River, which winds across the state, helped Missouri become a supply center for many of the westward-bound settlers of the nation's early years. Shipping along the navigable rivers boosted the state's status as an agricultural supplier. Barges and steamboats used the waterways to move goods and people. River towns boomed. Railroads continued to fuel the growth of Missouri as a large transportation center. Today more than a dozen major railroads carry goods through the state, and transcontinental airlines keep passengers and cargo on the move.

The Missouri Territory, and later the state, took the name of the Missouri River. The river was named for the Missouri Indians who lived along the banks. The name, Missouri, means "canoe haver."

People who live in Missouri or who come from Missouri are called Missourians.



Map of Capital, Major Cities and Rivers

## STATEHOOD

On August 10, 1821, Missouri became the 24<sup>th</sup> state to be admitted into the Union.

## STATE CONSTITUTION

Missouri has had four constitutions. The first was adopted in 1820. It was a brief, basic document that could only be amended by the Legislature, and guaranteed the vote only to free white male citizens. The second constitution (drafted toward the close of the Civil War in 1865), was submitted to the voters and narrowly ratified by only a 1,862-vote margin. This document placed some restrictions on the Legislature and provided for popular ratification of amendments. It was controversial, however, because it included an "ironclad oath" intended to punish former Confederates and Confederate sympathizers. This constitution lasted only ten years and was replaced by yet another constitution in 1875. The 1875 Constitution (3<sup>rd</sup>) limited taxation, extended the governor's term of office from two to four years, gave strong support to the principle of public education, provided for the popular election of Supreme Court justices, and provided "home rule" to the rapidly growing city of St. Louis.

The present Missouri Constitution was drafted by a bipartisan group of delegates during World War II. These individuals sought to modernize the somewhat antiquated and oft-amended 1875 document. The new constitution was approved by the voters in 1944 and adopted in 1945. The Missouri Constitution is somewhat similar to the United States Constitution, particularly in the structure of the three branches of government (legislative, executive, and judicial) and in the specific enumeration of a "Bill of Rights" for Missouri citizens.

**PREAMBLE:** *We the people of Missouri, with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and grateful for His goodness, do establish this constitution for the better government of the state.*

## STATE GOVERNMENT

The state of Missouri is governed under the Constitution of 1945. This document, with its subsequent amendments, sets the framework for state government and outlines the duties and responsibilities of its officials. Just like on the federal level, Missouri has three branches of government: the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch.

### Executive Branch

In Missouri, the governor is the highest elected official in the Executive Branch. The Executive Branch of government is in charge of enforcing laws made by the Legislative Branch. Some of the governor's powers include choosing directors of state agencies, selecting citizens for boards and official groups, and filling empty positions in county offices. The governor also appoints judges. The governor acts as the commander-in-chief of the Missouri National Guard. The governor also has the power to pardon individuals who have committed crimes, call special sessions for the legislature, and activate the National Guard for state emergencies.

Each January the governor delivers a speech called the "State of the State" to the Missouri Legislature and submits a state budget. After the legislature passes a bill, the governor has the power to sign the bill into law or prevent it from becoming a law by vetoing it. When the governor vetoes a bill, the legislature can pass it anyway if 2/3 of both houses vote for it. The Missouri Constitution says the governor must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen for 15 years, and a resident of Missouri for 10 years. The governor may only serve two four-year terms.

The lieutenant governor serves as the president of the Missouri Senate and can vote to break a tie. The lieutenant governor also serves on many boards and official groups. In case the governor cannot carry out his duties of office because of death, resignation, disability, or absence, the lieutenant governor becomes the governor. The lieutenant governor is much like the vice-president of the United States. The qualifications for lieutenant governor and governor are the same.

The secretary of state is responsible for many different things in Missouri, all related to providing and preserving information for the public. The secretary of state is in charge of elections, taking care of historic records, overseeing the State Library, the securities industry, and serves as the filing agency for business records. The secretary of state is the guardian of the Great Seal of the State of Missouri and validates official documents of the governor. The office also publishes the Official Manual of the State of Missouri, also known as the "Blue Book." Before being elected, the secretary of state must be a Missouri resident for at least one year.

The state auditor is responsible for inspecting the finances of all state agencies, boards and official groups, as well as some counties in Missouri. Citizens may ask the auditor to examine a local government. The state auditor performs these audits to make sure Missouri government uses its citizens' tax dollars responsibly. The qualifications for state auditor and the governor are the same.

The state treasurer is the guardian of the state's money. The treasurer manages and invests the state's money. The treasurer also handles the Unclaimed Property Program, which attempts to return forgotten funds deposited in banks to their owners. The treasurer has the same requirements as the secretary of state but is limited to serving two terms.

The attorney general serves as the lawyer for the state, representing the interests of Missouri government agencies and its citizens. The attorney general also gives legal advice to statewide officers such as the governor and secretary of state, as well as the legislature and other state and local government agencies. The attorney general must be an attorney and live in Jefferson City while in office.

## Legislative Branch

The Missouri legislature, known as the General Assembly, is composed of two "houses." The upper house is called the Senate, and the lower and larger of the two is called the House of Representatives. The General Assembly meets every year from early January until late May. Many legislators are businesspersons or attorneys and are able to maintain their regular occupations while serving in the Assembly

Like the U.S. Congress, the General Assembly could be described as the "law-making" branch of government. It also has powers of oversight and confirmation, among others. And like the U.S. Congress, committees are very important in organizing the work of the General Assembly. Every year, hundreds of bills are introduced to the General Assembly. Each of these will be assigned to

a specific standing committee, depending on its subject matter. Committees with the most members include Appropriations, Agriculture, Education, and Banks. Each house operates independently of the other and just because a bill is introduced in the House does not mean it is necessarily introduced in the Senate, or vice-versa.

The Missouri Senate has 34 members. Senate terms are four years, with one-half of the Senate up for election every two years. Senate candidates must be at least 30 years of age, a qualified Missouri voter for three years, and a resident of their district for at least one year. When the lieutenant governor is not presiding over the Senate, the president pro tempore, elected by the members of the Senate, presides over the Senate most of the time and is the Senate's main official. The Senate also approves most of the appointments made by the governor to head state agencies and to serve on state boards and commissions.

The House of Representatives has 163 members. House terms are for two years. House candidates must be at least 24 years of age, a qualified voter of the state for two years, and a resident of their district for at least one year. The speaker of the House, elected by the members of the House, presides over the House and is its main officer.

As a result of a constitutional amendment approved by Missouri voters in 1992, there are now term limits on members of the General Assembly. No one can serve more than eight years in one house, or more than sixteen years total in both.

## Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch of Missouri government, the state's court system, is made up of three levels: circuit, appeals and supreme. All judges must be licensed to practice law in Missouri and are required to retire at age 70.

At the trial level are the circuit and associate circuit courts. Missouri has 45 judicial circuits, divided along county lines. Circuit courts handle civil and criminal trials. Every circuit contains at least one circuit judge and at least one associate circuit judge for each county within the circuit. Associate circuit judges must be at least 25 years of age, a qualified voter of Missouri, and a resident of the county. Circuit judges must be at least 30 years of age, a citizen of the United States at least 10 years, a qualified voter of Missouri at least three years, and a resident of the circuit at least one year. Circuit judges have six-year terms while associate circuit judges have four-year terms.

The next level is the appellate court. There are three appeals court districts in Missouri, located in St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield. The courts of appeals hear cases from lower courts whose decisions have been appealed and are not reserved exclusively for the Missouri Supreme Court. Appeals court judges must be at least 30 years old, residents of their district, U. S. citizens for at least 15 years, and Missouri voters for nine years before their selection. Appellate judges are appointed initially and then retained by a favorable vote of the people every 12 years.

The Missouri Supreme Court, the state's highest court, hears cases appealed from the courts of appeals or those involving the death penalty, a U.S. treaty or statute, the Missouri Constitution, the state's revenue laws, and the title to any state office. The Supreme Court also supervises all lower courts in the state. There are seven judges on the Supreme Court, which have the same qualifications and terms as appeals court judges. The chief justice position is rotated between members every two years.

## TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Tribal Government operates separately from Missouri State Government. For more information, visit: <http://www.doi.gov/governments/tribalgovernments.cfm>

## U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

The legislative branch of the United States government makes laws for our nation and raises and distributes money to run the United States government. The most evident part of the legislative branch is the United States Congress. Congress is divided into two parts, called houses. The two parts are the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress is referred to as a bicameral body because it is made up of two houses. The Latin roots of the word bicameral, "bi" and "cameral," mean two chambers or rooms.

Members of the Senate are called Senators and members of the House of Representatives are called Representatives. Senators and representatives serving in these two bodies are sometimes referred to as congressmen, or women, and sometimes as legislators because their business is to legislate or make laws. The role of the legislative branch is defined in the United States Constitution.

Each state elects people to represent them in the United States Congress in Washington, DC. The citizens of each state elect two senators to represent them in the Senate. They also elect representatives to represent them in the House of Representatives. The number of representatives each state sends to the House of Representatives is not a specific number like the Senate, but is based on the population of the state. The people, that are elected to represent the state's citizens in the United States Congress, are referred to as the Congressional Delegation.

There are 100 senators in the U.S. Senate. Each is elected to a term, in the Senate, of six years. There are 435 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each is elected to a term, in the "House," of two years.

The citizens of Missouri elect two people, like every other state, to represent them in the Senate and nine people, based on Missouri's current population in the most recent federal census, to represent them in the House of Representatives.

## STATE SEAL

The Great Seal was designed by Judge Robert William Wells and adopted by the Missouri General Assembly on January 11, 1822.

The center of the state seal is composed of two parts. On the right is the United States coat-of-arms containing the bald eagle. In its claws are arrows and olive branches, signifying that the power of war and peace lies with the U.S. federal government.



On the left side of the shield, the state side, are a grizzly bear and a silver crescent moon. The crescent symbolizes Missouri at the time of the state seal's creation, a state of small population and wealth which would increase like the new or crescent moon; it also symbolizes the "second son," meaning Missouri was the second state formed out of the Louisiana Territory.

This shield is encircled by a belt inscribed with the motto, "United we stand, divided we fall," which indicates Missouri's advantage as a member of the United States. The two grizzlies on either side of the shield symbolize the state's strength and its citizens' bravery. The bears stand atop a scroll bearing the state motto, "Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto," which means, "Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law." Below this scroll are the Roman numerals for 1820, the year Missouri began its functions as a state.

The helmet above the shield represents state sovereignty, and the large star atop the helmet surrounded by 23 smaller stars signified Missouri's status as the 24th state. The cloud around the large star indicates the problems Missouri had in becoming a state. The whole state seal is enclosed by a scroll bearing the words, "The Great Seal of the State of Missouri."

## **STATE CAPITAL (Jefferson City)**

The present Capitol, completed in 1917 and occupied the following year, is the third Capitol in Jefferson City and the sixth in Missouri history.

The first seat of state government was housed in the Mansion House, Third and Vine Streets, St. Louis; the second was in the Missouri Hotel, Maine and Morgan Streets, also in St. Louis. St. Charles was designated as temporary capital of the state in 1821 and remained the seat of government until 1826 when Jefferson City became the permanent capital city. The first Capitol in Jefferson City burned in 1837 and a second structure completed in 1840 burned when the dome was struck by lightning on February 5, 1911.



The present Capitol was constructed for \$4,215,000, including site and furnishings. It is five stories high, 437 feet long, 300 feet wide in the center and 200 feet wide in the wings. The dome is 238 feet high and the height of the wings is 88 feet. It includes 500,000 square feet of floor space.

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The dome, rising 238 feet above ground level and topped by a bronze statue of Ceres, goddess of vegetation, is the first view of Jefferson City for travelers arriving from the north. The structure is Jefferson City's leading tourist attraction and is a mecca for school groups who arrive by busloads, particularly during General Assembly sessions when they fill the galleries to watch the Senate and House of Representatives in action.



In addition to housing the two legislative bodies, the Capitol provides office space for the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, state auditor and some administrative agencies. The structure is also notable for its architectural features, including its eight 48-foot columns on the south portico and six 40-foot columns on the north side; its 30-foot-wide grand stairway and its bronze front doors, each 13 by 18 feet -- largest cast since the Roman era.

The Capitol's first floor features the State Museum. Outstanding paintings, pediments and friezes decorate the Capitol interior. A prime attraction is a series of Thomas Hart Benton murals in the House Lounge.

Heroic bronze figures depicting Missouri's two great rivers, the Mississippi and Missouri, and a 13-foot statue of Thomas Jefferson dominate the south entrance. A bronze relief depicting the signing of the Louisiana Purchase by Livingston, Monroe and Marbois and the Fountain of the Centaurs are the most outstanding features on the north grounds.

## STATE MOTTO

"The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law"  
*Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto* (Latin)

## STATE FLAG

A design by Marie Elizabeth Watkins Oliver was adopted as the official Missouri State Flag on March 22, 1913; almost 92 years after Missouri became the 24th State to join the union.

This design was for a rectangular flag, consisting of three horizontal red, white and blue stripes. These stripes represent valor, purity and vigilance and justice. A circle is centered on the flag surrounded by a band of blue enclosing the Missouri Coat of Arms on a white background. The blue band displays 24 white five-pointed stars representing Missouri as the 24th State.



The shield of the Missouri Coat of Arms shows, on the right, a Bald Eagle grasping the olive branches of peace and the arrows of war in its talons. This represents the strength and powers of the Federal Government. On the left side of the shield (the state side) are a grizzly bear and a crescent moon. The grizzly bear symbolizes the strength and bravery of the citizens of the State. The crescent moon symbolizes the State of Missouri at the time of its induction into the union; a State with a small population and wealth and huge potential. The crescent moon also symbolizes the "second son." Missouri was the second State to be carved from the territory acquired with the Louisiana Purchase. The shield is encircled by a belt inscribed "United we stand, divided we fall" indicating the advantage of the union of the United States.

Two more grizzly bears, one on each side of the shield, echo the bravery and strength of the State's citizens. They are standing on a scroll displaying the Missouri State Motto, *Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto* (Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law). Below the scroll are the Roman Numerals for 1820, the year that Missouri became a member of the United States.

Above the shield a helmet is depicted, representing Missouri as a sovereign State. A large star surrounded by 23 smaller stars signifies Missouri's status as the 24th State. A cloud around the large star represents the difficulties that Missouri endured on its way to Statehood.

## STATE NICKNAMES

### *The Show Me State*

This most widely recognized nickname for Missouri was in use in the late 1890s. It's not known exactly where or how this nickname originated.

The most popular story regarding this nickname revolves around remarks made by United States Congressman Willard Duncan Vandiver who served as a member of the U.S. House Committee on Naval Affairs. Mr. Vandiver, a scholar, writer and lecturer with a passing resemblance to Mark Twain, was speaking to Philadelphia's Five O'Clock Club. Questioning the accuracy of an earlier speaker's remarks he concluded "I come from a state that raises corn and cotton and cockleburs and Democrats, and frothy eloquence neither convinces nor satisfies me. I am from Missouri. You have got to show me."

Another story is that the nickname originated as a derogatory reference to Missouri miners working in Leadville, Colorado. During the Colorado miner's strike, men from Joplin, Missouri were brought in to work the mines. It is said that the Missouri workers, unfamiliar with Colorado mining methods, required frequent instructions from the pit bosses. "That man is from Missouri. You'll have to show him."

Another legend indicates that the name originated on passenger trains. Around 1897, hundreds of free train passes were given to Missouri legislators. The conductors, when told that a free pass was being used, would say "You've got to show me."

Yet another story centers around soldiers stationed at Chickamauga Park in Tennessee in 1898 at the start of the Spanish-American War. It is said that the gate guards were from St. Louis, Missouri and that any soldier wanting to leave the encampment to go to town was required to "show" the guards a pass.

Regardless of its origin, the nickname has stuck and can be found on Missouri license plates. It has come to represent Missourians as stalwart, perhaps somewhat stubborn and with a dedication to common sense.



### *The Cave State*

This nickname references the thousands of caves found in Missouri. Over 5,600 caves have been registered and more are discovered each year. At least 20 of these caves are public "show" caves. Show caves are open to the public with guided tours.

### *The Lead State*

Missouri's lead production has been second to none in this country. The "Old Lead Belt," located in the eastern Ozark Mountains helped Missouri achieve its status as the premier lead mining area of the world. Cities named Leadington, River Mines, Old Mines and Leadwood reflect the influence of lead mining in Missouri. Missouri's official State Mineral is Galena, a major source of lead ore.

### *The Bullion State*

It is said that this nickname originated with Thomas Hart Benton. The first Missouri Senator, Mr. Benton was elected for five terms becoming the first man to serve 30 years in the U.S. Senate. Senator Benton steadfastly supported hard currency; gold and silver. Because of his opposition to banks and paper money, a political stance against monopolies and "eastern capitalists," he was popularly known as "Old Bullion."

### *The Ozark State*

Missouri has been called "The Ozark State" because of the Ozark Mountains.

### *Mother of the West*

"Mother of the West" and "The Gateway to the West" have been used to refer to Missouri's location and its historical base for western expansion. The Oregon and Santa Fe trails both begin in Missouri. The Pony Express and the Butterfield Overland Mail Route both originated in Missouri. The 630 foot Gateway Arch, in St. Louis, pays tribute to Missouri's role in westward expansion.



### *The Iron Mountain State*

This nickname comes from Iron Mountain, so named because of the very large veins of iron ore that were found there.

### *The Puke State*

This distasteful name is said to refer to the large gathering of Missourians in 1827 at the Galena Lead Mines. According to George Earle Shankle, PhD, in *State Names, Flags, Seals, Songs, Birds, Flowers and Other Symbols*, 1938, "...so many Missourians had assembled, that those already there declared the State of Missouri had taken a 'puke.'"

### *Pennsylvania of the West*

This name may have originated because of the similarity of Missouri's and Pennsylvania's mining and manufacturing economies.

## STATE BIRD

Missouri designated the lovely eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) as the official state bird in 1927. The bluebird's song is a rich warbling whistle broken into short phrases (*Tu-wheet-tudu*) or a dry chatter.

The Eastern bluebird is a medium sized songbird (small thrush), with a short tail, chunky body, large round head, short black bill, a reddish-orange chest, and blue wings and tail (the female is a drab gray-blue with duller reddish chest, and juveniles have a spotted chest and back). Their diet consists of insects and small fruits.

The male Eastern Bluebird performs a "Nest Demonstration Display" to attract the female. He brings nest material to the hole, goes in and out, and perches above it waving his wings. This is his only contribution to nest building (the female Eastern Bluebird builds the nest and incubates the eggs). The nest is made with woven grasses or pine needles, and lined with fine grass, hair, or feathers. Eastern bluebirds prefer an open habitat with sparse groundcover (such as orchards, parks, and large lawns). Eastern bluebird nests are found in tree cavities and snags, and in nest boxes.



Eastern Bluebirds usually have more than one successful brood each year. Chicks from early nests usually leave their parents in summer, while the young from later nests frequently stay with their parents all winter. Populations of Eastern bluebirds declined in the 1960s and 1970s, but have since increased (the popularity of nest box campaigns are probably responsible for increases).

## STATE FLOWER (Floral Emblem)



Missouri designated the white hawthorn blossom as the official state flower in 1923.

Hawthorn, a woody plant that can reach 20 feet in height, belongs to the rose family (similar to plants like rose, apple and spirea). The tiny apple-like fruit (pomes) of the hawthorn is collected to make jam and also provides food for birds and small mammals.

The legislation does not name a specific variety of hawthorn, but the Missouri Department of Conservation believes the downy hawthorn (*Crataegus mollis*) should receive the recognition (Missouri is home to as many as 100 species of hawthorn).

**Below, you will find 15 general questions to help review what you have learned. Use the following page(s) for documenting your answers. Older students may choose to write a State Report as well.**

**Review Questions:**

1. List the states and/or bodies of water that border this state.
2. What was the date of statehood?
3. What is the state capital?
4. What is the state motto?
5. Name at least one state nickname.
6. Describe the state flag.
7. What is the state bird?
8. What is the state flower?
9. List at least 5 other state symbols.
10. Describe this state's government.
11. Name the major imports and exports for this state.
12. Describe the weather and climate in this state.
13. List at least 5 famous people from this state.
14. Describe at least 5 significant events in this state's history.
15. What other interesting information have you learned about this state?

## **Answers to Review Questions:**

