



VIRTUAL
ARKANSAS

Connect | Celebrate | Contribute

Join us on our Journey Across Arkansas as we commemorate the people, places, and events that shape the Natural State—past, present, and future. Connect with our nation's history, celebrate Arkansas's unique story, and contribute to our state's future success.

Special Edition Activity Book Includes Arkansas Traveler Passport Pages



A family-focused expedition that brings Arkansas heritage to life through hands-on activities at museums, historic sites, and state parks. Designed for K-5 students and families, participants track their adventures with a special passport and celebrate their learning journey.

Tear out the pages included in this activity book to create your passport. Don't forget to visit the Arkansas250 website to receive a commemorative completion prize!



Scan the QR code to visit the
Arkansas Celebrates America 250 website
and explore all the ways
Arkansas Department of Education is
celebrating our nation's birthday in
The Natural State



SECRETARY OF STATE
Cole Jester

Public Affairs Division
State Capitol, Room 029, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501) 682-5080 • www.sos.arkansas.gov

10-2025

ARKANSAS



Celebrating America 250 in Arkansas
with bonus pages in partnership with
Arkansas Department of Education



A Book of Symbols & Activities
about the Natural State

Published by Secretary of State Cole Jester



COLE JESTER
ARKANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE

There are so many things that make Arkansas a very special place to live. Beautiful mountains, towering forests, scenic rivers and rich farmland are just a few of the sights that give our state its nickname: The Natural State.

There are many other exciting things to learn about Arkansas.

Did you know:

- You can dig for diamonds in Arkansas?
- Arkansas is the country's top rice-growing state?
- The state is known for its own special type of tomato?

One of my favorite places in Arkansas is the State Capitol in Little Rock. Part of my job is to care for the Capitol and to make sure that you have fun when you visit. What a great job I have!

Please enjoy the activities in this book. I hope they help you learn more about our great state!

Cole Jester
Arkansas Secretary of State

State Capitol • Suite 256 • 500 Woodlawn Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094
501-682-1010 • Fax 501-682-3510
e-mail: arsos@sos.arkansas.gov • www.sos.arkansas.gov

Hey kids!
I'm the Arkansas Traveler. I love traveling around the state to see its beauty and learn about its rich history. Follow me through this book and discover some of the things that make Arkansas so special!



The Arkansas Creed

**I believe in Arkansas
as a Land of Opportunity and Promise.**

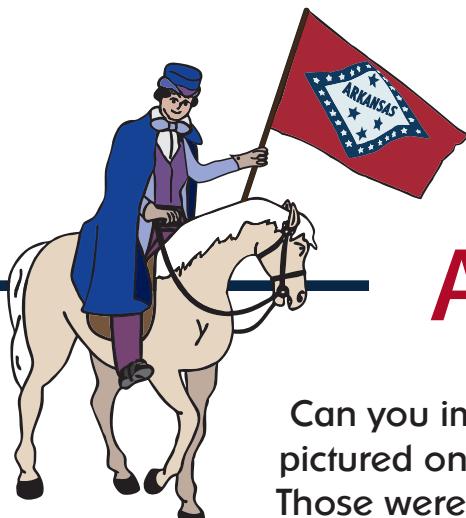
**I believe in the rich heritage
of Arkansas and I honor the men
and women who created this heritage.**

**I believe in the youth of Arkansas
who will build our future.**

**I am proud of my state,
I will uphold its constitution,
obey its laws, and
work for the good
of all its citizens.**



The Arkansas State Flag



The Story of the Arkansas Flag

Can you imagine Arkansas's flag with a big boat pictured on it? What about a dancing bear? Those were two of the ideas suggested during the search for the state's first official flag.

Before 1913, Arkansas did not have a state flag. The Pine Bluff Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution decided to hold a contest for ideas. There were 65 designs entered. Some were drawn with crayon, and some were pieced together with silk.

The winning design came from Miss Willie Hocker of Wabbaseka. She explained the meaning for all the symbols on her flag:

- Red, white and blue – the colors of the U.S. flag
- 25 stars – Arkansas was the 25th state admitted to the Union
- Diamond – Arkansas is the nation's only diamond-producing state
- The center stars –
 - a) Three nations have ruled Arkansas: Spain, France and the United States
 - b) Arkansas was the third state created from the Louisiana Purchase (1803)
 - c) Two stars below "Arkansas" represent Arkansas and Michigan, "twin states" that became part of the United States near the same time (Arkansas on June 15, 1836, and Michigan on January 26, 1837)

The state's name was added on a suggestion by the selection committee. On February 26, 1913, the state legislature approved the design as the state's official flag.

In 1923, the legislature added a fourth blue star to indicate the state had been a member of the Confederate States of America from 1861 to 1865. Its placement was moved in 1924 to make the design balanced once again.

Proclamation

This is to certify that

*has completed a study
of the Great State of*

Arkansas

*and promises to continue
to learn more about his/her state.*

Cole Jester, Arkansas Secretary of State

Teacher or Parent Signature

Date



Tear here to detach bookmark



Virginia Belcher Brock
Author



"I Salute the Arkansas Flag
with its
Diamond and Stars.
We Pledge Our Loyalty
to Thee."

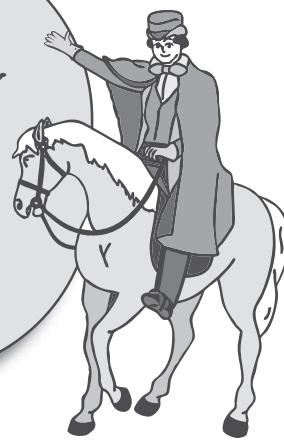


Color the Arkansas Flag



Follow this
guide to color
your flag...

1. RED
2. BLUE
3. WHITE



How did Arkansas get its name?

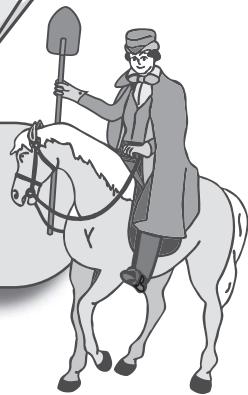
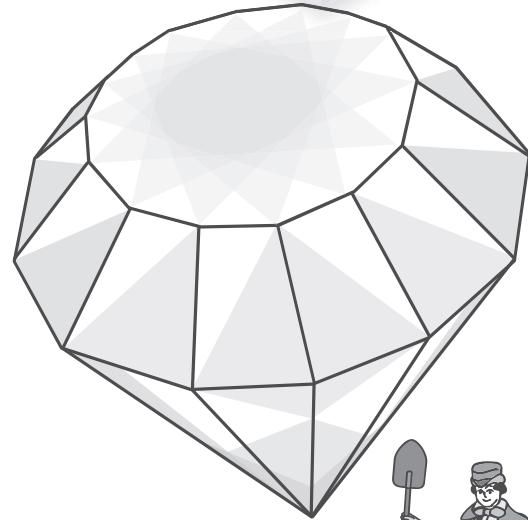


Did you know that the word Arkansas comes from the Native Quapaw tribe meaning “people who live downstream?” French and Spanish explorers used the term “Arkansaw” to refer to the people and the land in which they lived.

Diamond The State Gem

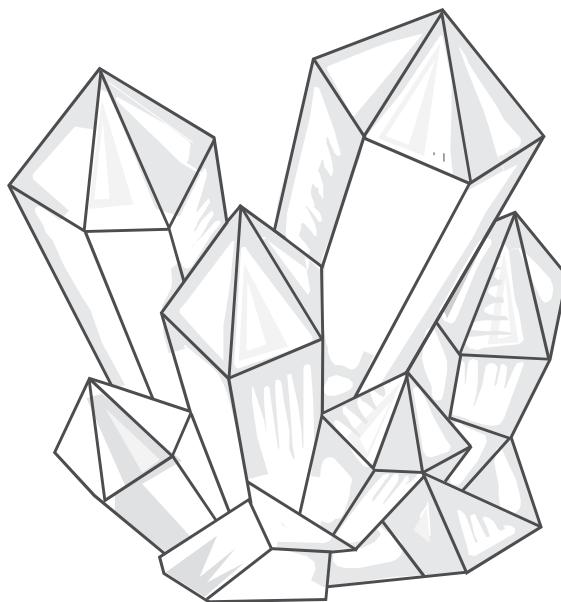
D

The Arkansas State Gem is the diamond. The Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro is the only place in the world where anyone can dig for diamonds – and KEEP them!



More than **75,000** diamonds have been found in the diamond field. Over **35,000** of those have been found since it became Crater of Diamonds State Park!*

Quartz The State Mineral

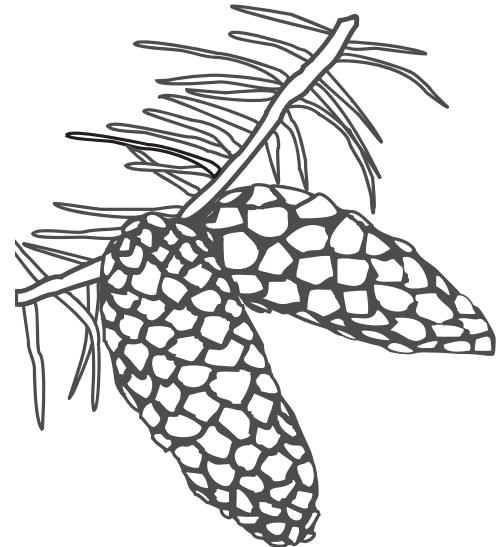
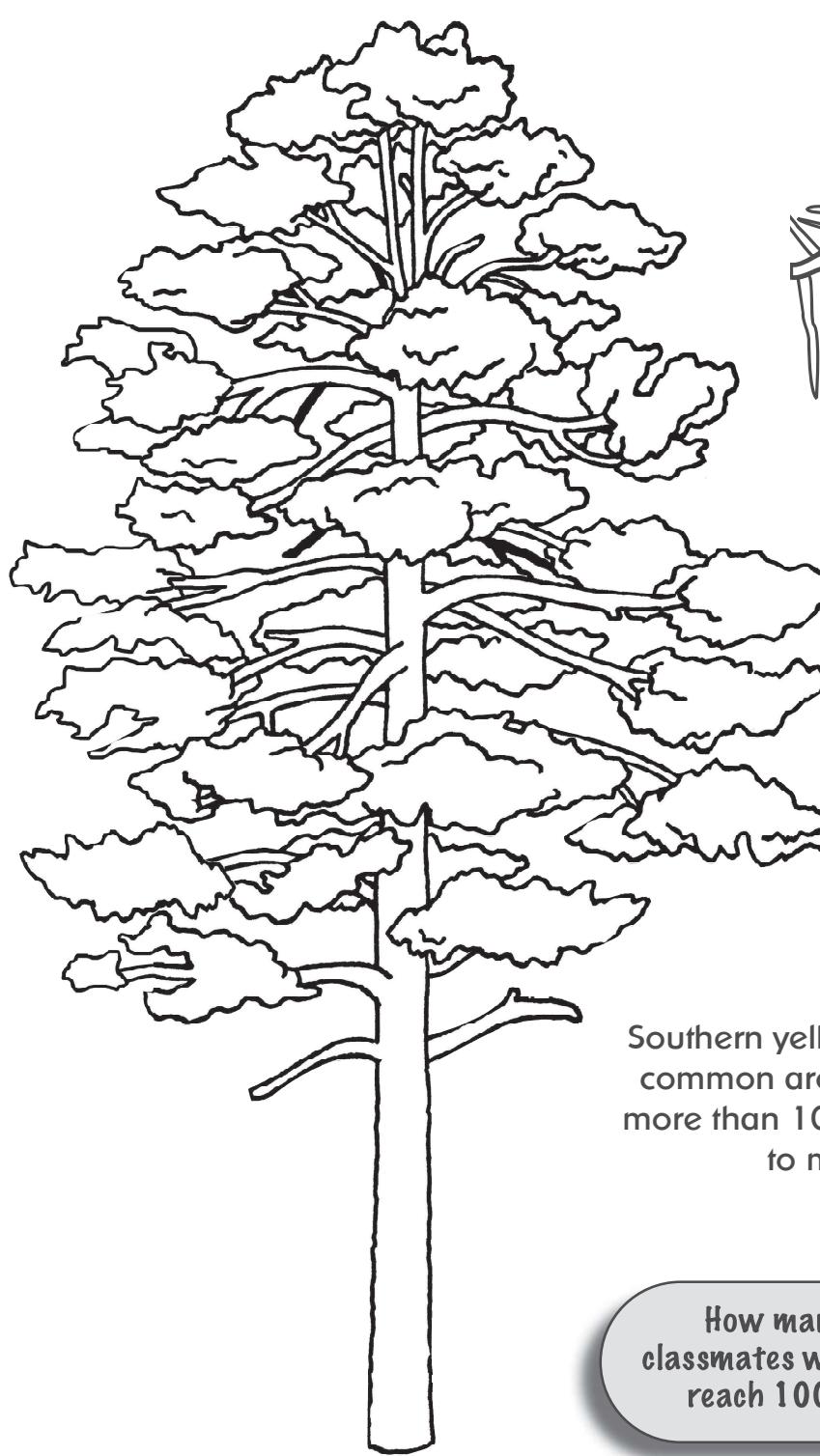


Quartz is mined in the Ouachita Mountains. The crystals are sometimes called “Arkansas Diamonds,” but they really aren’t diamonds. Quartz is usually clear or white, but can also be pink, yellow or even purple.

Q

Pine

The State Tree



P

Southern yellow and loblolly **pine** trees are common around Arkansas. They can grow more than 100 feet tall. Pine trees are used to make paper, lumber and many other products.

How many of your
classmates would it take to
reach 100 feet high?



Apple Blossom

The State Flower

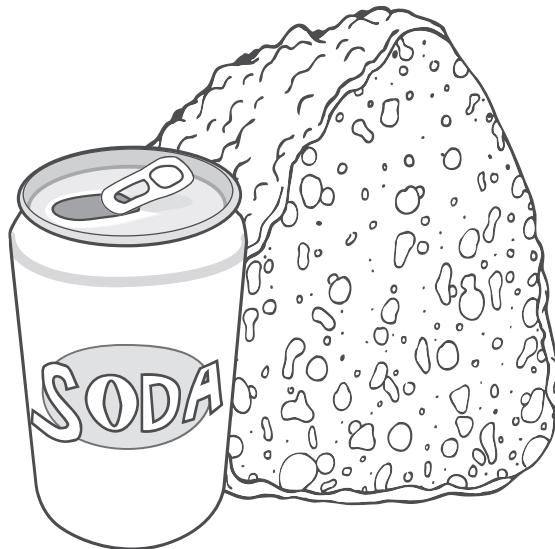
A

Apple blossoms grow on trees. They are pink and white with green leaves. At one time, apples were a major crop in the state. Today, the town of Lincoln in Washington County still hosts the annual Arkansas Apple Festival each fall.



Bauxite

The State Rock



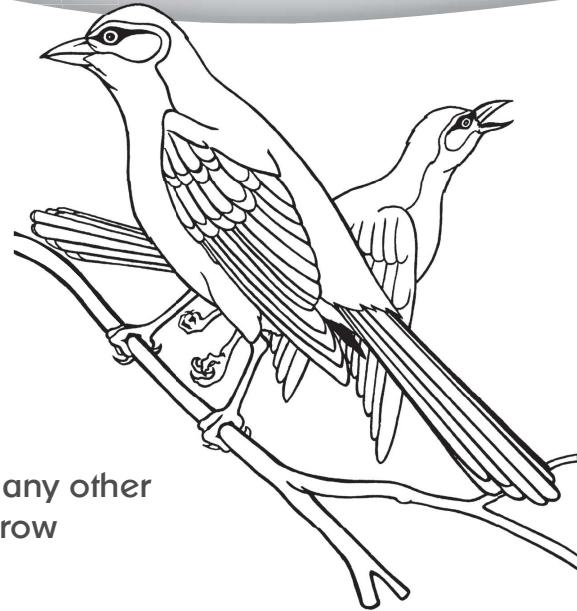
B

Bauxite is an important part of making aluminum, which is the metal used for soft drink cans. Saline County has the largest bauxite deposits in the United States. Colors in the rock are white, grey, yellow and red.

Mockingbird

The State Bird

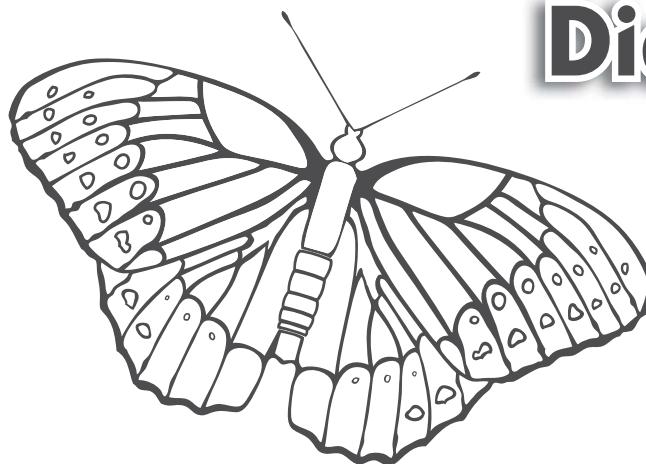
M



The **mockingbird** can imitate the sounds of many other birds — frogs and insects, too! Mockingbirds grow about 10 inches long. Their feathers are shades of gray with white patches.

Diana Fritillary

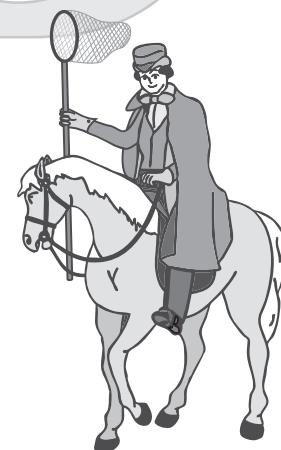
The State Butterfly



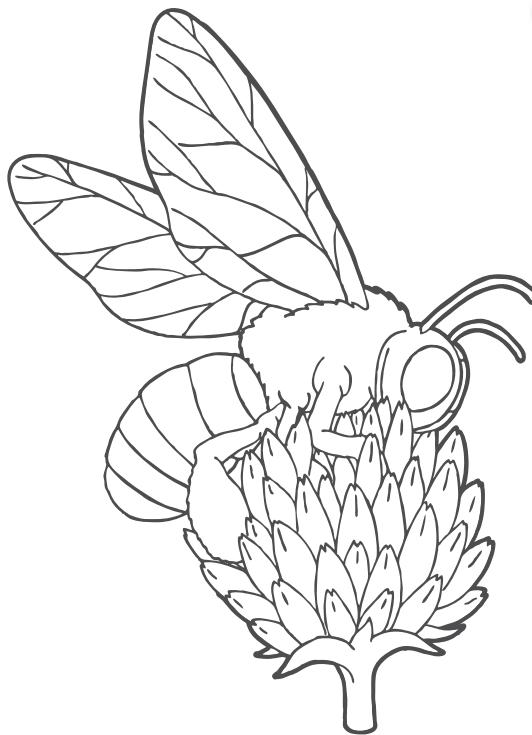
The **Diana Fritillary** butterfly is large and very colorful. Males are dark brown with orange markings. The females are larger and have bright blue markings with white spots. They live in moist mountain areas, especially around Mount Magazine.

Mount Magazine is Arkansas's tallest point.
Its peak is **2,753** feet high!

D



Honeybee The State Insect



Honeybees are very helpful for farmers. They fly from flower to flower to collect pollen. The pollen helps plants make the fruit and seeds that farmers sell. Bees also make honey.

Milk The State Beverage

Dairy farming is an important part of Arkansas agriculture. Milk is a good source of calcium and Vitamin D, which helps your teeth and bones grow strong.



White-Tailed Deer

The State Mammal



White-tailed deer are the most popular game animal in Arkansas. Young deer have red fur with white spots that help them hide in tall grass. Their fur turns brownish-gray by their first birthday.

When deer are scared, they raise their tail to show the white fur underneath as they run away.



South Arkansas Vine Ripe
Pink Tomato
The State Fruit & Vegetable



P

The **tomato** is officially a fruit, but is usually used as a vegetable. Bradley County in southern Arkansas celebrates the tomato with the annual Pink Tomato Festival.

Pecan
The State Nut

Pecan trees produce dark brown nuts that grow 1-2 inches long. The nuts are used in many southern recipes. Arkansas's pecan groves produce around 2.5 million pounds of nuts each year.

P

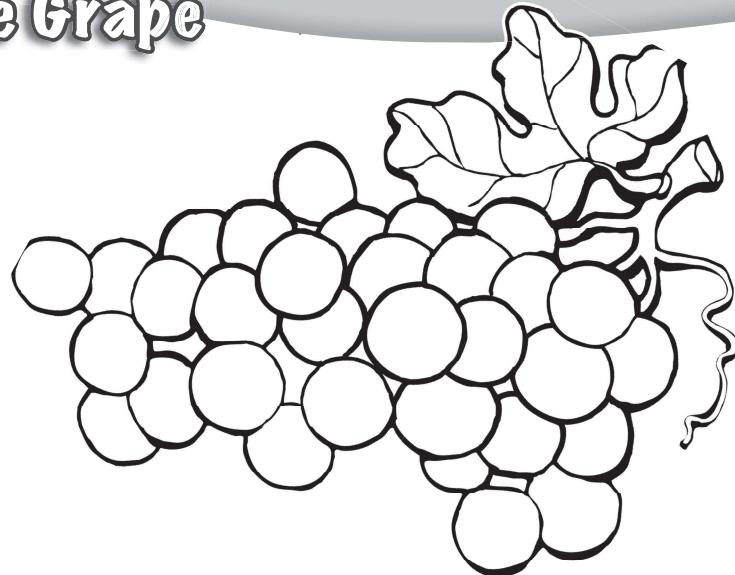
Pecan pie is my favorite dessert! What's yours?



Cynthiana

The State Grape

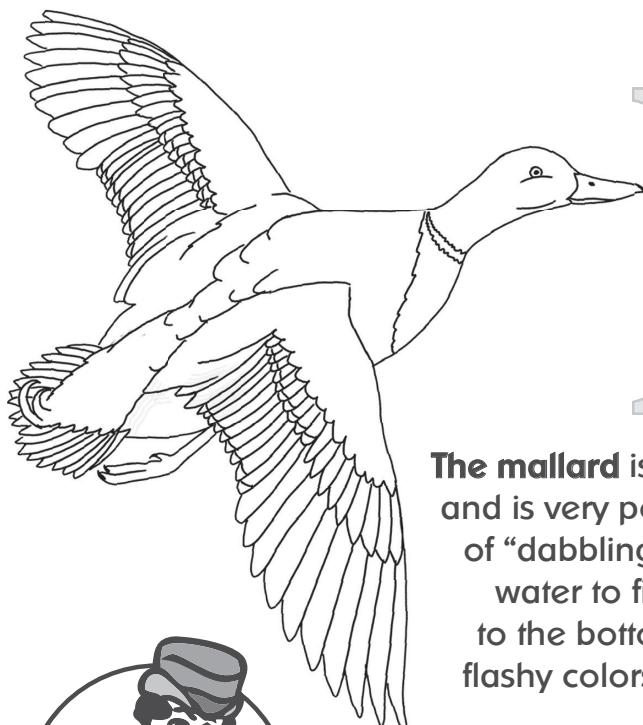
C



Cynthiana grapes are native to Arkansas. They are grown for wine making by vineyards across the Ozarks. The state is one of the nation's top producers of this type of grape.

Mallard

The State Waterfowl



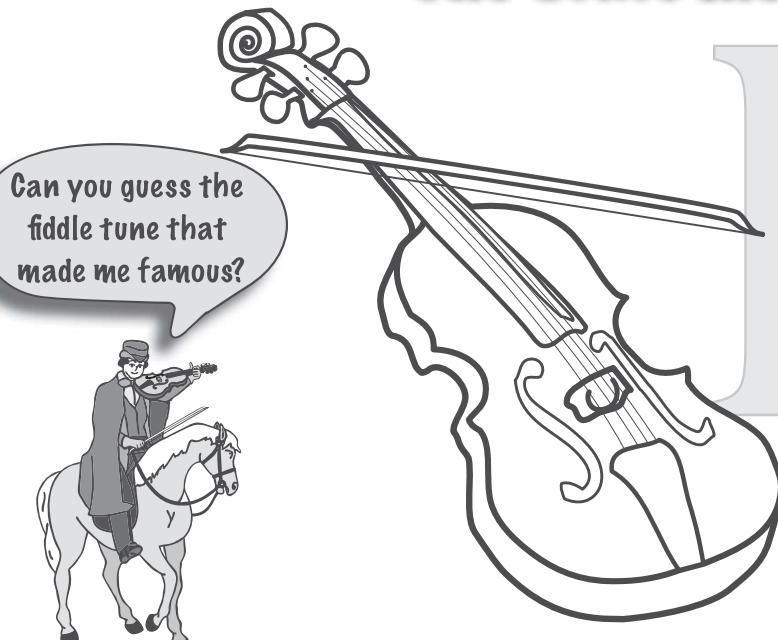
M

The **mallard** is the most common duck found in Arkansas, and is very popular with duck hunters. They are a species of "dabbling ducks," meaning they tip their heads in the water to find food near the surface, rather than diving to the bottom. The males have bright green heads and flashy colors, but the females are mostly brown all over.



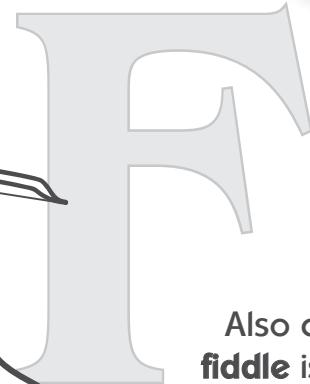
Stuttgart is called the Duck Capital of the World! They have held the World Championship Duck Calling Contest every year since 1936.

Fiddle The State Instrument



Can you guess the
fiddle tune that
made me famous?

Need a hint? It's the state historic song!



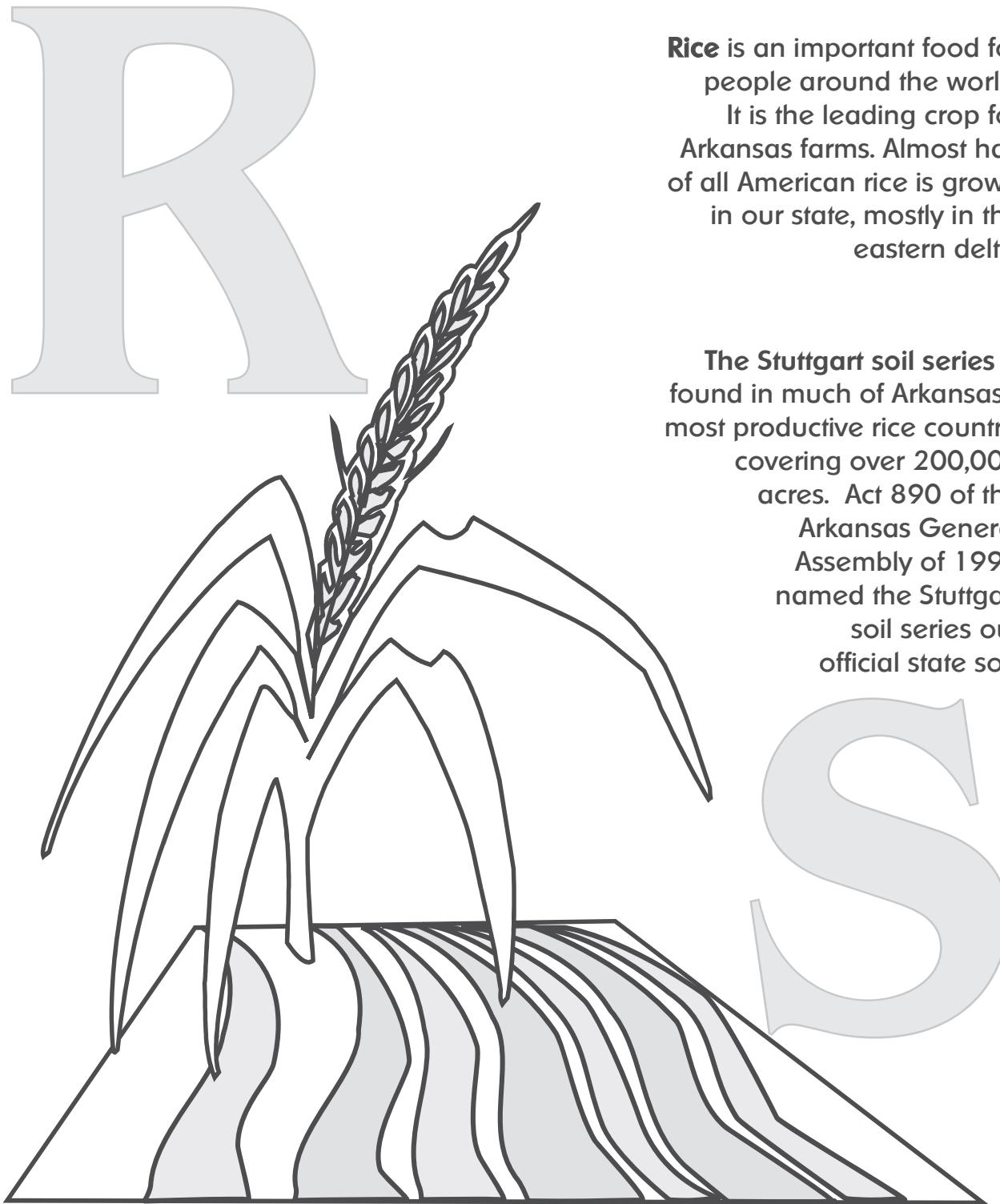
Also called a violin, the **fiddle** is one of the main instruments used in American folk music. Long before mp3 players and radios, a fiddle tune might have been the only music in a pioneer home.

Square Dance The State American Folk Dance



In a **square dance**, four couples stand facing each other and perform a variety of steps together. Dancers follow the directions of a "caller," the person who calls out steps during the song.

Rice The State Grain Stuttgart Soil Series The State Soil



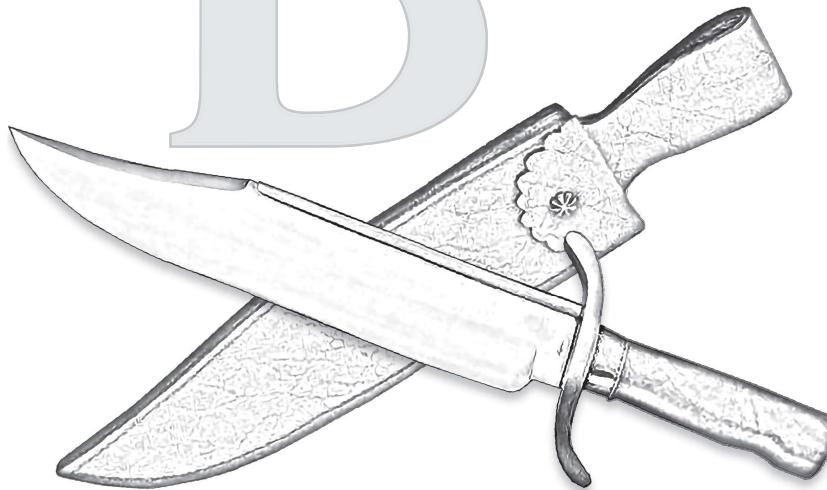
Rice is an important food for people around the world. It is the leading crop for Arkansas farms. Almost half of all American rice is grown in our state, mostly in the eastern delta.

The Stuttgart soil series is found in much of Arkansas's most productive rice country, covering over 200,000 acres. Act 890 of the Arkansas General Assembly of 1997 named the Stuttgart soil series our official state soil.

Bowie Knife

The State Knife

B



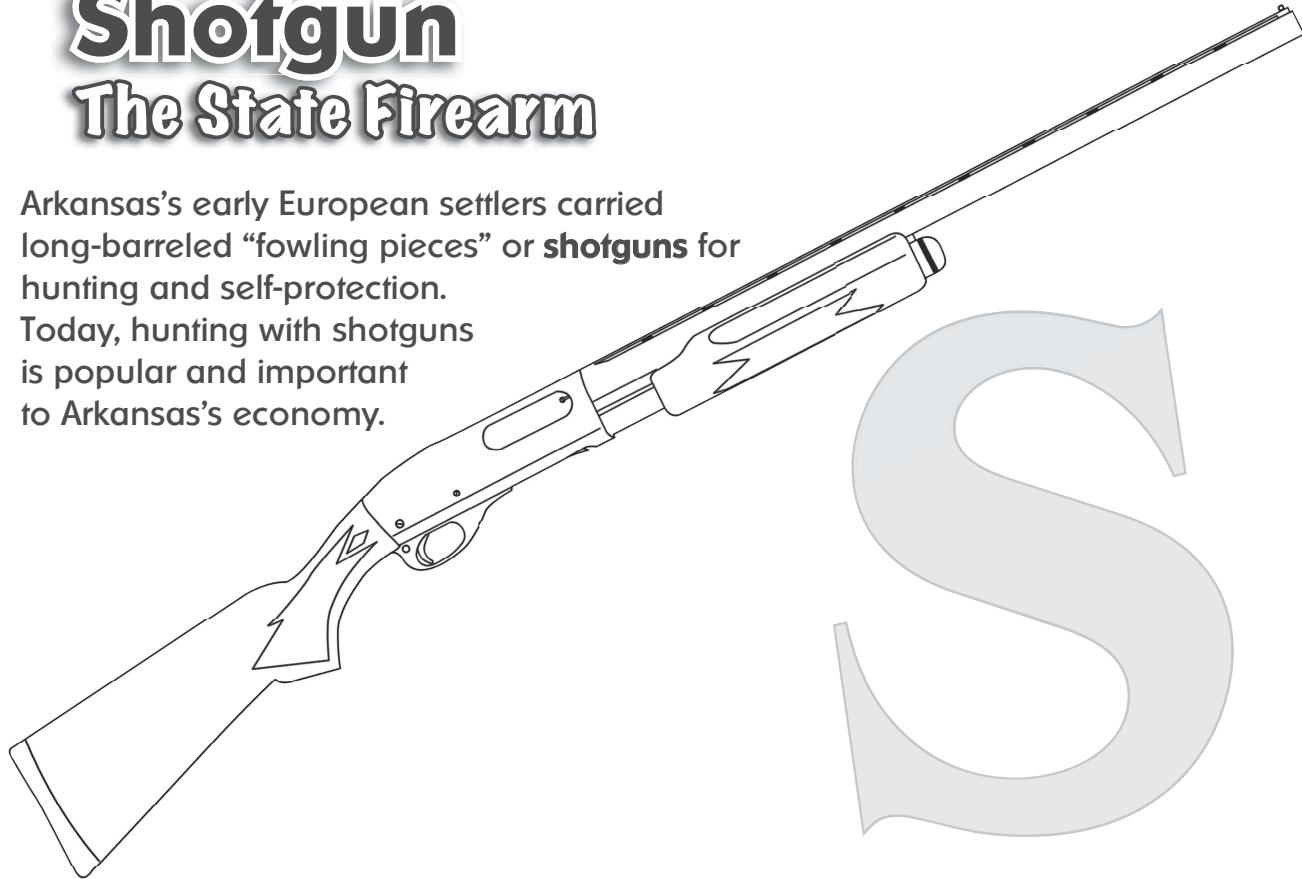
In Arkansas's early years, men often carried large belt knives of various patterns as accessories and for self-defense. The "Bowie" was one such, inspired by a knife carried and used by adventurer and land speculator James Bowie (1796-1836).

Shotgun

The State Firearm

Arkansas's early European settlers carried long-barreled "fowling pieces" or **shotguns** for hunting and self-protection.

Today, hunting with shotguns is popular and important to Arkansas's economy.



S

Dutch Oven

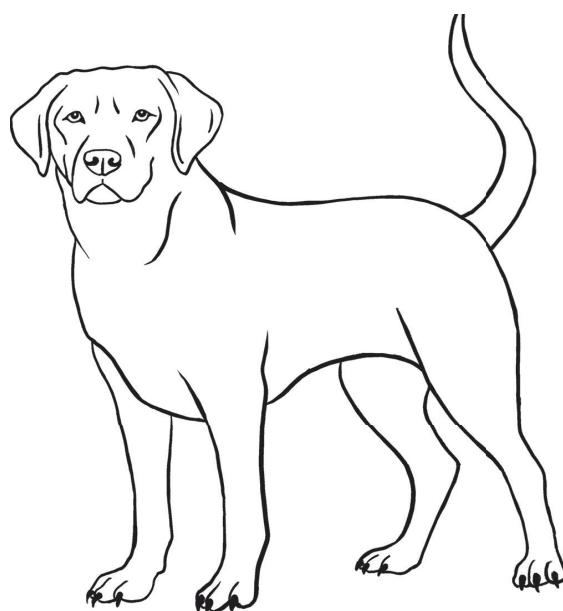
The State Historic Cooking Vessel

The **Dutch oven** is a deep, heavy pot with legs, a lid and a handle. Pioneers set the pot over a campfire and placed hot coals on the lid to cook their meals. They could make foods like soup, biscuits and even cake in pots like this. Today, many campers still use Dutch ovens.

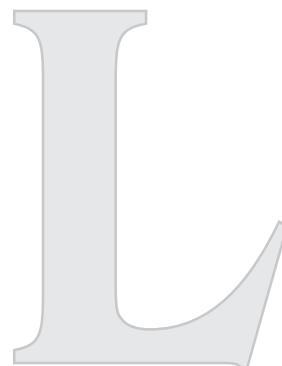


Labrador Retriever

The State K-9



The **Labrador Retriever** was bred to help waterfowl hunters. These “duck dogs” have webbed paws, a thick tail, and a waterproof coat to help them swim. They come in three colors; yellow, black, and chocolate. Labs are very smart and friendly, which makes them the most popular hunting dogs in the state.



Arkansaurus *fridayi*

The State Dinosaur



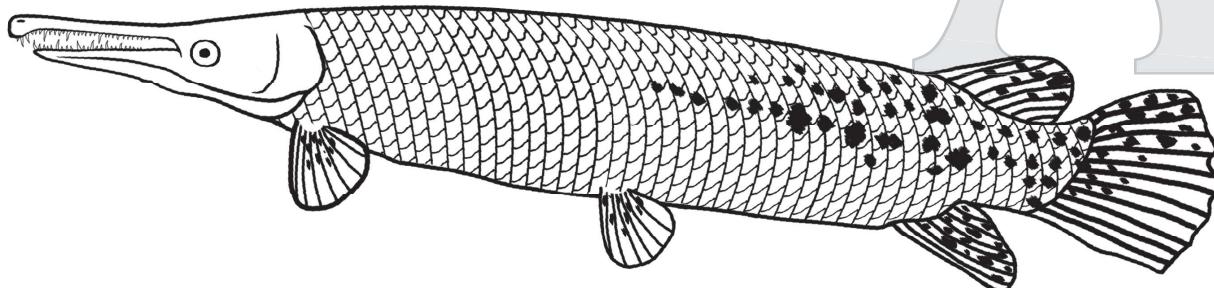
A

In August 1972, Joe B. Friday discovered the remains of the right hind foot of a dinosaur on his land in Lockesburg (Sevier County). The dinosaur was given the informal name "Arkansaurus *fridayi*" in 1973. They are the only dinosaur bones known to have been found in Arkansas. In 2017, the Arkansas Legislative Assembly designated Arkansaurus *fridayi* the official State Dinosaur.

Alligator Gar

The State Primitive Fish

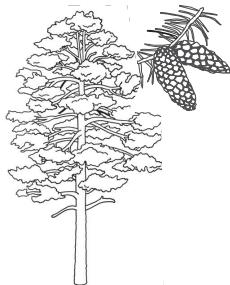
Arkansas's lakes and rivers are home to dozens of species of native fish. The **alligator gar** has a long, broad snout and sharp teeth; it is one of the oldest species of fish and can breathe both air and water, which allows it to survive in very shallow water.



A

Make a Match

Match the symbol and its name



Quartz



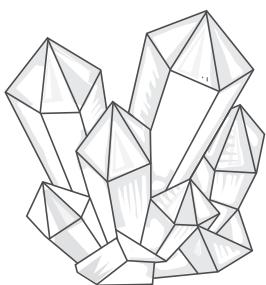
Pine Tree



Rice



Dutch Oven



Pink Tomato

Map It!

Arkansas



Arkansas is made up of 75 local governments called counties. Where do you live?

1. Color your county on the map above.
2. Draw a star where the state capital is located.
3. Connect the dots above the map to spell your state.



Songs of Arkansas

**Arkansas
(You Run Deep in Me)**
by Wayland Holyfield

October morning in the Ozark Mountains,
Hills ablazing like that sun in the sky.
I fell in love there and the fire's still burning
A flame that never will die.

CHORUS
Oh, I may wander, but when I do
I will never be far from you.
You're in my blood and I know you'll always be.
Arkansas, you run deep in me.

Moonlight dancing on a delta levee,
To a band of frogs and whippoorwill
I lost my heart there one July evening
And it's still there, I can tell

REPEAT CHORUS
Magnolia blooming, Mama smiling,
Mallards sailing on a December wind.
God bless the memories I keep recalling
Like an old familiar friend.

REPEAT CHORUS
And there's a river rambling through
the fields and valleys,
Smooth and steady as she makes her
way south,
A lot like the people whose name
she carries.
She goes strong and she goes proud.

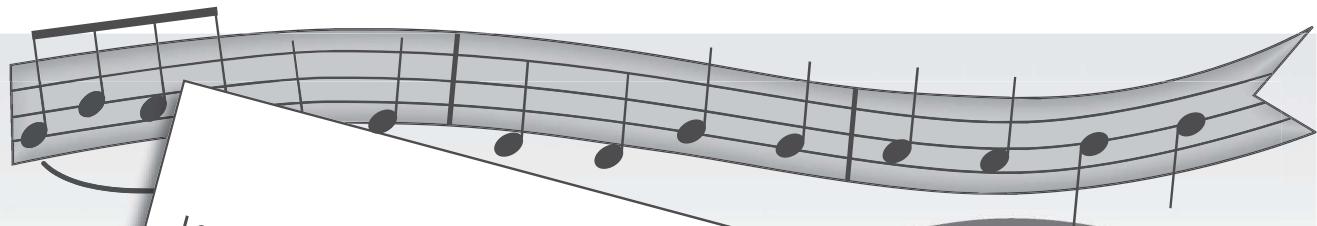
CHORUS
It's the spirit of the mountains and the spirit of the Delta,
It's the spirit of the Capitol dome.
It's the spirit of the river and the spirit of the lakes,
It's the spirit that's in each and every home.
It's the spirit of the people and the spirit of the land,
It's the spirit of tomorrow and today.

CHORUS
Oh Arkansas, oh Arkansas, Arkansas U.S.A.
It's the spirit of friendship, it's the spirit of hope.
It's the Razorbacks every game they play.
Oh Arkansas, oh Arkansas, Arkansas U.S.A.

CHORUS
It's the spirit of the forest, it's the spirit of the eagle.
It's the spirit of the country that we love.
It's the spirit of pride that we all feel deep inside,
It's the spirit that shines from above.
It's the spirit of our fathers, it's the spirit of our kids,
It's the spirit of the music that we play.

CHORUS
Oh Arkansas, oh Arkansas, Arkansas U.S.A.
Oh Arkansas, oh Arkansas, Arkansas U.S.A.
Oh Arkansas, oh Arkansas, Arkansas U.S.A.

State Song



Arkansas

by Eva Ware Barnett

I am thinking tonight of the Southland,
Of the home of my childhood days,
Where I roamed through the woods
and the meadows
By the mill and the brook that plays;
Where the roses are in bloom
And the sweet magnolia, too,
Where the jasmine is white
And the fields are violet blue,
There a welcome awaits all her children
Who have wandered afar from home

CHORUS

Arkansas, Arkansas, 'tis a name dear,
'Tis the place I call "home, sweet home";
Arkansas, Arkansas, I salute thee,
From thy shelter no more I'll roam.

'Tis a land full of joy and of sunshine,
Rich in pearls and in diamonds rare,
Full of hope, faith and love for the stranger,
Who may pass 'neath her portals fair,
There the rice fields are full,
And the cotton, corn and hay,
There the fruits of the field,
Bloom in winter months and May,
'Tis the land that I love, first of all, dear,
And to her let us all give cheer.

REPEAT CHORUS

—Official state anthem—

The Arkansas Traveler

Lyrics by the Arkansas State Song Selection Committee, 1947
Music by Colonel Sandford "Sandy" Faulkner, about 1850

On a lonely road quite long ago,
A trav'ler trod with fiddle and a bow;
While rambling thru the country rich and grand,
He quickly sensed the magic and the beauty of the land.

CHORUS

For the wonder state we'll sing a song,
And lift our voices loud and long.
For the wonder state we'll shout hurrah!
And praise the opportunities we find in Arkansas.

Many years have passed, the trav'lers gay,
Repeat the tune along the highway;
And every voice that sings the glad refrain
Re-echoes from the mountains to the fields
of growing grain.

REPEAT CHORUS

—state historic song—

This is MY favorite!



Word Search

Circle the words in the puzzle



DEER

DIAMOND

FIDDLE

HONEYBEE

MILK

PECAN

PINE

QUARTZ

RICE

TOMATO

A-Maze-ing Arkansas

Help the Arkansas Traveler find his fiddle



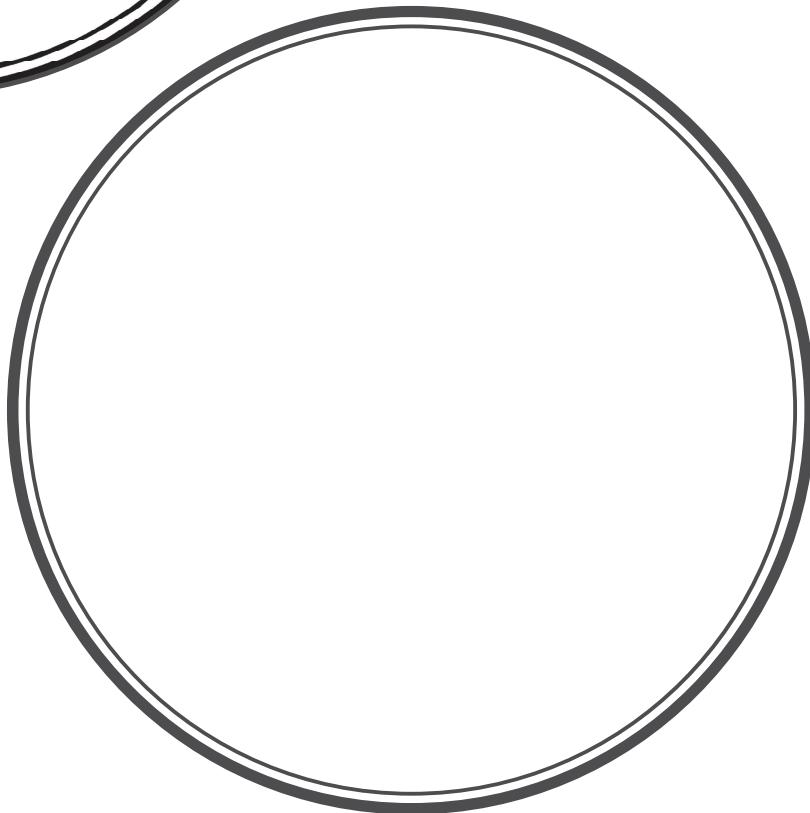
The Seal's the Deal

Use the state symbols you have learned
to design your own State Seal



The Arkansas
State Seal

My
State Seal





Before you start your
Journey Across Arkansas,
visit the QR Code to register
your Passport!



Journey Across ARKANSAS PASSPORT

Arkansas Celebrates America250

Name _____

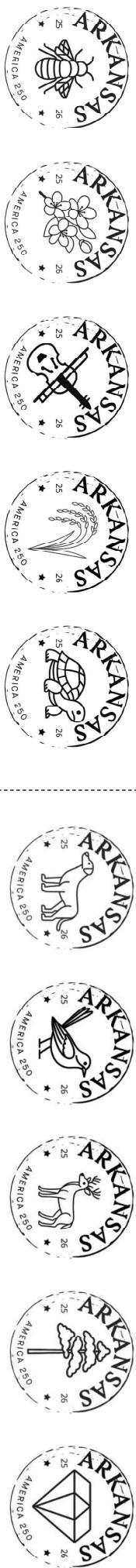
District _____

School _____

Teacher _____

Grade _____

Fold along this line to create the front and back cover of your Passport booklet.



Illustrate Your Journey

Name: _____ Place visited: _____

You've written about your journey - now show us what it looked like! In the space below, draw a picture of your favorite Arkansas 250 adventure.

- Think about the place you visited, the people you met, or what you discovered.
- Use colors, symbols, or designs to help tell your story.
- Don't worry about being an artist - just show your experience in your own way!

Fold along this line to create the first page of your Passport.



OFFICIAL TRAVELER WELCOME
This passport belongs to an Arkansas Adventurer!
Your mission: Explore. Learn. Celebrate.
Collect all your stamps and earn your reward!

This passport is your ticket to fun! Each month, you will get a special activity. It might be visiting a cool place, trying something new, or learning about Arkansas and America's 250th birthday.

Assemble Your Arkansas 250 Passport

1. Find your pieces.
 - Take out the Passport cover and the Passport pages from this booklet.
2. Stack the pages in order.
 - First, put the cover down face down.
 - Next, place this page on top, also face down.
 - Then, stack the rest of the Passport pages on top.
3. Fold your Passport.
 - Fold all the pages together along the dotted line.
4. Staple your Passport.
 - Use a stapler to staple along the fold so your passport stays together.

Completing Your Arkansas 250 Passport

Here's what to do:

1. Complete the monthly Passport activity.
2. Write about what you did in the box on that page.
3. Show it to a parent, guardian, or teacher so they can sign it.
4. When your Passport is full, turn it in to get a prize!

Have fun exploring, learning, and celebrating!

Parent, Guardian, or Teacher Signature



Passport Themes and Suggested Locations to Visit

Theme	Broad Local Site (General, Accessible in Most Communities)
Natural State Wonders	Local city, county, or state park
Arkansas and the American Journey	Local history museum or government building (e.g., county courthouse)
Foundations of Arkansas	Heritage sites (e.g. Plum Bayou Mounds) or historical markers
Honoring Arkansas's Military Legacy & Heroes	Local veteran's memorial, military museum, or historic military sites
Arkansas's Traditions & Artistic Contributions	Community arts center, theater, or holiday festival
Arkansas Innovators	Local science or discovery museum, local college/trade school, or local library
Building Pathways	City hall, civic center, or civil rights site
Arkansas's Agricultural Legacy	Local farmers market, agricultural fair, or nearby farm
Stewardship of the Land	Nature center, wildlife refuge, community cleanup site, or local and state park
Arkansas's Future	Community college/trade school/university, military history site, or local business

Fold along this line to create the first page of your Passport.

Name: _____

Place visited: _____

In the space below, answer the following questions:

- What adventure did you go on?
- What did you discover?
- How does your adventure connect to America's 250th birthday?



Arkansas's Future

Name: _____

Place visited: _____

In the space below, answer the following questions:

- What adventure did you go on?
- What did you discover?
- How does your adventure connect to America's 250th birthday?



Stewardship of the Land



Parent, Guardian, or Teacher Signature

Building Pathways

Name: _____ Place visited: _____

In the space below, answer the following questions:

- What adventure did you go on?
- What did you discover?
- How does your adventure connect to America's 250th birthday?



Arkansas's Agricultural Legacy

Name: _____ Place visited: _____

In the space below, answer the following questions:

- What adventure did you go on?
- What did you discover?
- How does your adventure connect to America's 250th birthday?



Natural State Wonders

Name: _____ Place visited: _____

In the space below, answer the following questions:

- What adventure did you go on?
- What did you discover?
- How does your adventure connect to America's 250th birthday?



Arkansas and the American Journey

Name: _____ Place visited: _____

In the space below, answer the following questions:

- What adventure did you go on?
- What did you discover?
- How does your adventure connect to America's 250th birthday?



Parent, Guardian, or Teacher Signature

Parent, Guardian, or Teacher Signature

Parent, Guardian, or Teacher Signature

Foundations of Arkansas

Name: _____ Place visited: _____

In the space below, answer the following questions:

- What adventure did you go on?
- What did you discover?
- How does your adventure connect to America's 250th birthday?



Honoring Arkansas's Military Legacy and Heroes

Name: _____ Place visited: _____

In the space below, answer the following questions:

- What adventure did you go on?
- What did you discover?
- How does your adventure connect to America's 250th birthday?



Parent, Guardian, or Teacher Signature

Parent, Guardian, or Teacher Signature

Arkansas's Traditions & Artistic Contributions

Name: _____ Place visited: _____

In the space below, answer the following questions:

- What adventure did you go on?
- What did you discover?
- How does your adventure connect to America's 250th birthday?



Arkansas Innovators

Name: _____ Place visited: _____

In the space below, answer the following questions:

- What adventure did you go on?
- What did you discover?
- How does your adventure connect to America's 250th birthday?

