

Pre-Statehood

Indiana means “land of the Indians.” Today we use the terms Native Americans and indigenous people instead of Indians. Native Americans lived on the land that became Indiana for over 10,000 years before settlers from other places moved here. The Miami, Potawatomi, Lenape, Wabash, Kaskaskia, Sauk, Fox, Piankashaw, and Eel River are some of the tribes that lived here when European settlers arrived.

From around 1750 to 1815, the tribes pushed back against the settlers' trying to take their land. Through many treaties, settlers took hundreds of thousands of acres of Native Americans' land and forced them to move farther west. In 1816 when Indiana became a state, Native Americans still lived in about two-thirds of the state. It is important to understand that Indiana history did not begin when immigrants from Europe reached the land. There were many people already here with their own foods, cultures, and religions.

The U.S. government passed something called the Land Ordinance of 1785. This document set up an organized way to survey and sell western land to European immigrants moving into the area. At the time, Indiana was considered “western land.”

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 was the document that set up the Northwest Territory. The Northwest Territory included what would become Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota. When the U.S. Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance, they made it a law that people who lived in the territory could not enslave other people. Even though the territory was supposed to be free, some settlers continued to enslave African Americans.

A man named William Henry Harrison was a delegate, a person chosen to represent the Northwest Territory in front of the national government in Washington, D.C. He presented a document called the Land Act of 1800. When Congress passed the act, it made it easier for settlers to buy land. Many German and Irish immigrants and immigrants from the east coast moved to Indiana so they could buy land.

In May 1800, a large chunk of land that they called the Indiana Territory was separated from the original Northwest Territory, and our journey to becoming a state started. William Henry Harrison was chosen by President John Adams to be the governor of the Indiana Territory. Since we were beginning to form a government, we needed a capital. At that time, the only post office in the territory was in Vincennes, Indiana. There was a busy trading post there too. It was the best place to receive messages and send messages, and so Vincennes was chosen as the Indiana Territory capital.

At first, William Henry Harrison, a territorial secretary, and three judges were the only government the Indiana Territory had. But in 1804, settlers wanted to have their voices heard in the government that made the decisions they lived by. So, the territory moved to the next stage of becoming a state. Now, people who owned a certain amount of land and paid taxes could vote, and a General Assembly formed. A General Assembly is a body of people elected by voters to represent their opinions in government. The people elected were called delegates.

When William Henry Harrison was governor of the Indiana Territory, Native Americans lived on most of the land the U.S. wanted to own. To claim the land, Harrison got Native Americans to sign ten treaties between 1803 and 1809. The treaties said that millions of acres of land in the territory belonged to the United States. This upset several of the Native American tribes, and

they battled to defend their land. Some of the Native American tribes moved west, but some still live in Indiana today.

William Henry Harrison retired from being governor of the territory in 1812 and moved to Ohio. A man named Thomas Posey became the new governor.

By 1813, the land that is now Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota had broken off from the Indiana Territory. It didn't make sense for Vincennes, Indiana to be the capital anymore because it was in the very western part of the territory. The government decided to move the capital to a location more in the middle of the territory. Corydon was central to where most settlers lived along the Ohio River, so it was chosen as the Indiana Territory capital in 1813.

A large group of settlers thought we should become a state because we would be stronger if we were a part of the United States. But there was another group of settlers that did not want to become a state because Indiana would enter the union as a free state, a state where slavery was against the law. We know now that slavery is wrong, and it was a system that hurt millions of African Americans in the United States. But at the time, the debate over whether slavery should exist was the biggest issue in the territory. The debate ended when Indiana entered the union as a free state in 1816.

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Statehood

Remember when we talked about delegates and the General Assembly? Well, Jonathan Jennings was one of the most important delegates in the Indiana Territory General Assembly. He represented Indiana settlers' opinions and people voted for him time and time again. Jennings was the leader of the group that wanted Indiana to become a state.

In 1815, Jonathan Jennings went to Washington, D.C. with other Indiana Territory delegates to plead the case for statehood in front of the U.S. Congress. The Indiana territory had to meet many requirements to prove that we would be a good addition to the country. For example, the territory had to have at least 60,000 people living in it to become a state. The delegates showed Congress a census, which was a record that proved we counted that 63,000 people lived in the territory. After hearing out the Indiana territorial delegates, Congress decided to pass the Indiana Enabling Act, the official government document that said we could become a state. But, we had a few more steps to complete first.

Before Indiana could become a state, we needed a constitution and a representative government. During its formation as a new country, the United States learned that people need to have a basic set of beliefs that everyone agrees to live by. A constitution is a legal document that lists all these beliefs. For instance, you might recognize this constitutional principle: "WE DECLARE, That all people are created equal; that they are endowed by their CREATOR with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;" The U.S. Congress is an example of a representative government too. It has leaders elected from each state to represent the opinions and needs of the citizens in their state.

In June 1816, 43 delegates met in Corydon for the Indiana Constitutional Convention. At the convention, they had to write the constitution and set up a representative government. Both goals were accomplished that summer. The Indiana Territory General Assembly became the Indiana General Assembly, a state representative government. With the Constitution of 1816, we had our first form of state government, and Jonathan Jennings was elected to serve as the first governor of Indiana.

Legend has it that delegates gathered under a huge elm tree when they were writing the constitution. This tree became known as the Constitutional elm. You can still find the stump of it if you visit Corydon. Wood from the tree was used to build the case that holds the constitution on display at the Indiana Statehouse today.

Indiana officially became a state on December 11, 1816. We were the nineteenth state to join the union, and we entered as a free state, which meant that slavery was against the law in Indiana. Corydon was the first state capital. Indiana had 15 counties when it became a state. A county is a separated, smaller area of land in the state that has a local government. By 1825 we had almost 50 counties, and today 92 counties make up the state of Indiana.

Transportation

Can you imagine trying to get from place to place without interstates, highways, cars, or even a paved road? Well, when settlers arrived in Indiana, they didn't have any of those things. They had to travel on foot, on horseback, or even by canoe. A few roads and trails existed, but they were rugged and difficult to navigate. The best road was created by buffalo, not people. Herds of buffalo trampled down a path for centuries as they migrated through what would become Indiana

land. Instead of forging a new path, most settlers used the buffalo's road known as the "Buffalo Trace."

If a family were moving to a new area or a business was delivering supplies, people loaded up sturdy wagons that could cross the rough trails without breaking. About two wagons could fit side by side on the Buffalo Trace. It took a long time to get to where you needed to go. For example, to go from Cincinnati to Indianapolis today would take about two hours in a car, but back then it took 2 or 3 days. When Indiana started moving its capital from Corydon to Indianapolis in 1824, it took the group 11 days and 4 wagons to make the 130-mile journey.

Since moving across land was so challenging, water provided a much faster and easier way for people to travel. The Ohio River was the most important means of transportation for Indiana settlers between 1800 and 1825. Most Hoosiers chose to live in the southern part of the state early on because that's where flatboats and steamboats shipped goods. The Wabash River connected with the Ohio River, making it a major trade route farmers used to move their produce. Later, the Wabash River would be named our official state river.

After Indiana became a state in 1816, we needed help with our transportation problem because poor roads made it difficult for people to communicate and to do business. That was not good for a new state trying to grow and contribute to the national economy. So, the federal government decided to give us grant money to build better roads and canals. The National Road was built from 1829 to 1834 to connect the state to the rest of the country and allow more people to move through Indiana on their way west. The Wabash and Erie Canal was another big project that started in 1832. Over 1,000 workers that were mostly Irish immigrants used shovels, picks, and wheelbarrows to dig the canal. It was extremely hard work, and it took over 20 years to

complete. The canal stretched 468 miles from the Great Lakes in northern Indiana to the Ohio River in the south. People made homes along the canal where forests, swamps, and prairies used to be, and farmers moved crops and livestock on the water. In the time the canal was dug, Indiana's population tripled, and people began to settle all over the state instead of just in the southern part along the river.

In the mid-1800s, railroads started to pop up all over the state. Residents had to give some of their money to the businesses building the railroads so they could begin the construction. Many people invested their money in the railroad businesses because they knew the railroads would connect Indiana towns and cities with St. Louis, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and east coast cities. That was good for Hoosiers who could then expand their businesses as far as the rail line went. By 1920, Indiana had 7,600 miles of railways.

Have you ever wondered why Indiana is known as the "Crossroads of America?" At first it was because more railroad companies moved through Indianapolis than any other city in the nation. Now we're called the "Crossroads of America" because more interstates cross through Indiana than any other state in the country. In the 1950s, highways and interstates began to replace the old modes of transportation. Today, we have 13 interstates, and vehicles drive around 81 billion miles on our roads in a year. We also have adapted to air travel, with 117 public airports and 564 private airports to choose from in the state.

We sure have come a long way from muddy trails and sturdy wagons to being recognized as the "Crossroads of America."

At the Market

Goods are things that can be grown, or made, or found, and sold. When you think about goods made in our state, what do you think of? If you thought of corn, you would be right. The crop we're most known for was here before Indiana was even a state though, and we have to thank Native Americans for that.

Corn was one of the plants that many Native American tribes grew. Corn was an important part of their diet, but it was also a part of their culture. In fact, when settlers arrived and started trading with Native Americans, corn was one of the goods Native Americans traded.

Before we bought things with money, we used to trade goods for other goods. Like, if you were a farmer, you might trade food with someone that makes clothes. Over time, Hoosier settlers started growing corn themselves and trading it among their neighbors and surrounding communities. Besides corn, hog farming was another one of the earliest successful Hoosier markets. Whether growing plants or raising hogs, farming was the first way Hoosiers entered the marketplace outside of the state. In the 1850s, Indiana was one of the top five states in the country that produced corn and hogs.

As Indiana's population grew, factories began to pop up all over the state. Factories were big businesses that had lots of buildings and machines. Factories needed a lot of workers to run the machines and build the things being made at the factory, so people from around the United States and the world moved to Indiana towns with factories to live and work. For example, the Studebaker brothers started making automobiles in their factory in South Bend. A car has several parts, and machines and people make all the parts and put them together. The Studebaker brothers hired 30,000 workers so they could make automobiles as quickly as possible at their factory.

The new factories produced all kinds of goods. Steamboats were made in Jeffersonville along the river. They made band instruments in Elkhart. The Wayne Knitting Mills in Fort Wayne made socks and clothing. The Ball Brothers started one of the most well-known glass jar companies, Ball jars, in Muncie, Indiana.

Indiana's natural resources like coal, limestone, and iron ore made the state an ideal place for industry to expand. An industry is a group of businesses that are involved in producing a good, like steel. The United States Steel Company placed its new factory in northern Indiana by Lake Michigan. People moved there for work, and the area became the city of Gary, Indiana. It was a good place to make steel because we had the limestone, coal and iron ore needed to make steel and the railroads and shipping port needed to deliver products to and from the mill.

Since we had a steel mill, the cheap and easy access to steel made the automobile industry explode. The Studebaker factory was the most well-known, but over 40 Hoosier cities were involved in making automobiles. In fact, being the center of automobile production was the reason the Indianapolis 500 race was created. The first race ran on Memorial Day in 1911.

Besides the steel and automobile industries, limestone created another booming business in Indiana. Limestone quarries could be found all over southern Indiana. Quarries are areas where people find stone and then remove it to be sold. Indiana limestone was used to construct buildings in the state and across the country, and most are still standing today, like the Pentagon, the Empire State Building, Biltmore Estates, and Indiana University buildings. Over 30 state capitol buildings are made of Indiana limestone, including our very own, which was completed in 1888.

By the 1920s more Hoosiers worked in factories than on farms. This trend continued as Indiana began to make electrical products. You see, electricity started to replace gas, so there was a big need for electrical products. People across the state and country wanted electric stoves, radios, and refrigerators, and Indiana factories produced them.

A lot has changed in the past 200 years, but Indiana's market is still a mix of industry and farming today. The state's top industries produce automobiles, steel, medicine, machines, and electrical and transportation equipment. In northern Indiana, we have three international ports. These are places where boats can unload and load products that bring in millions of dollars of trade. In 2008, Indiana farmers that grow corn, soybeans, hogs, dairy products, and eggs made us one of the top ten states in the country with the greatest farming production. But Indiana was also in the top 10 farming exporters in the U.S. This means that Hoosier farmers' products are sent around the world. Indiana has become a leader in something called bioenergy too. Scientists discovered that farming products can be transformed into fuel, which is good for us because we have a lot of farms, and it's good for the planet because these fuels are a renewable energy.

Government

Since 1816, Indiana's government has been led by three main sections: the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. You may be familiar with the three branches of government because the federal government in Washington, D.C. has them too. The legislative, executive, and judicial branches in Indiana form our state's government, and the legislative, executive, and judicial branches in Washington, D.C. form the United States' national government.

The Indiana Constitution of 1816 continued to guide the three branches until it was replaced by a new state constitution in 1851. Since Indiana's population had multiplied more than ten times its

original population, in 1850, 150 delegates met for another Constitutional Convention to write a new agreement. If you visit the statehouse in Indianapolis, Indiana, you can see the original 1816 Constitution and the 1851 Constitution.

Even though the legislative, executive, and judicial branches have different functions, they are designed to be each other's equal so no branch is more powerful than the other. We call this the system of checks and balances.

Let's start with the legislative branch. It is made up of a group of people called the General Assembly. The General Assembly has two bodies, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Senators and representatives are also called legislators, which is a person who makes laws. And that's exactly what state representatives and senators do. They are elected by Indiana citizens to make new laws and improve old ones. The Senate has 50 members, and the House of Representatives has 100 members. A senator is elected for four years, and a representative is elected for two years.

Did you know you have a senator and a representative that represent you? If you have a problem that you think could be addressed by a new law or by making changes to an old law, you could reach out to your senator or representative to talk with them about it. Together, you could introduce a written explanation of the law called a bill, and if the bill gains enough support in the House and Senate it could become a state law.

The next branch is the Executive branch. Throughout Indiana, there are so many offices that apply the laws and keep the state working. The executive branch is made up of six elected positions. The people who hold these positions are called executive officers, and all the offices in

the state report to the officers. They go to work for you and Indiana citizens at the statehouse, and if you come visit the statehouse in Indianapolis you can see where their executive offices are.

The governor is the leader of the executive branch. They are responsible for keeping the state operating every day. The Lieutenant Governor is second in command behind the governor.

Besides being the head of many departments like the Department of Agriculture, they are president of the Senate. That means if senators tie when voting on a bill, the Lieutenant Governor gets to cast the tie-breaking vote. The Attorney General is the chief legal officer in the state. The Attorney General and the other people in their office represent the state in court. The Auditor is in charge of money. They track all the money that goes out of the state's bank account. They make sure that Indiana pays its bills on time and that state and local governments receive the money they need to operate. They even makes sure the governor gets their paycheck. The Indiana Treasurer deals with money too, but they don't send out money, they are in charge of the money coming into the state. They make sure that the state is investing their money wisely so Indiana can be financially strong. The Secretary of State supervises our elections so they run smoothly and so we know that the results are correct. They also keep records of businesses, people that buy and sell vehicles, and people that advise others on how to invest money. Their job is important because it helps support Indiana businesses and protects them from people that might want to take advantage of them.

The last branch is the judicial branch. The judicial branch includes the Indiana Supreme Court, the court of appeals, and trial courts. Judge sounds like judicial right? This can help you remember that judges work in the judicial branch.

If someone goes to court and judges make a decision they disagree with, they can go to the Indiana Court of Appeals and ask them to hear their case. This is called appealing. The Indiana Court of Appeals has 15 judges that listen to the appeals and decide whether the local courts' decisions were right or wrong. If the Court of Appeals decides that the local court's ruling was correct and the person still disagrees with the decision, they can appeal again to the Indiana Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the state. Five judges work in the Supreme Court. They are called justices. The word just means right or fair, and justices have to decide what is right and fair. When people disagree on what a law means, it is the justices' job to make sure that the law is being understood correctly. Sometimes they have to decide if a law is constitutional. This means that we have a set of beliefs in our constitution and our laws cannot go against that set of beliefs. The constitution is like a rulebook that keeps us on track, and the judicial branch is like the referee that makes sure we play by the rules.

Remember when we learned that we vote for senators, state representatives, and most executive officers? Well, we don't vote for the judges in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. A committee researches people that have practiced law in Indiana for a long time. Then, they choose three people who they think would be the best judge. The governor picks one of these people for the job. After the judge has worked in the position on the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals for two years, Indiana voters decide if they are doing a good job. On the ballot they check 'yes' or 'no.' If most people vote 'yes,' they can continue being a judge for ten years before citizens get to decide if they're still doing a good job. If most people vote 'no,' the governor must pick a new person for the job.

We just learned a lot about the three branches of Indiana's government. Let's review. The legislative branch is made up of elected senators and representatives that make laws and improve old ones. The executive branch has executive officers, like the governor, that apply the laws and keep the state working. The judicial branch's judges make sure Hoosiers get fair trials in court and that our laws are being understood correctly.

Citizenship

What do you think it means to be a citizen? Well, citizenship can look like a lot of different things, like telling the truth, standing up for what you believe in, and always treating everyone with respect. It helps to remember that citizenship is like a muscle that you have to exercise. Being an active citizen is your duty. Let's go through a few ways you can exercise your citizenship.

One way to be a good citizen is to respect the laws of your state and country. Just like we have rules at home, on the bus, and at school, the United States has laws. These laws are supposed to protect Americans, so we need to follow them not only for ourselves but for our neighbors.

A major action that people connect to citizenship is voting. Voting is not only our right, but it's also our responsibility. It is a way that we can voice our opinion about how we think our government should run and which people we want to represent the things we care about in government offices. People usually think about voting for the President of the United States, but we vote for so many more public officials that affect our daily life, like your state governor, lawmakers, local judges, sheriffs, and school board members. You can't vote until you are 18, but you can start practicing now by looking up when elections are being held and reminding your family members that are already 18 to register and vote!

Another task of citizenship that you don't have to worry about just yet is paying taxes. You might hear adults complain about taxes but learning more about them helps explain how taxes impact our lives and why it's important to pay them.

Taxes are portions of money taken out of citizens' paychecks, business's earnings, or even some items we buy, and this money goes to the state and the country. The Indiana Department of Revenue is the government department that makes sure everyone in the state files their taxes and sorts out the tax money. Indiana collects almost 21 billion dollars in taxes each year. That is a lot of money, but what the state does with the money helps me, you, and all Hoosiers. Once the Indiana Department of Revenue gets the money, all 92 counties in the state get a portion of it. A small amount of the money goes back to the state and local governments to keep their offices up and running and to pay their staff, everyone from the governor to state police officers, and your local firefighters. Some tax money is used for conservation, to make sure we have clean air and clean water. It's used for transportation, to make sure the roads we travel on are safe. A portion goes to Hoosier veterans to make sure they and their families have all the support they need.

Taxes go to social services. Social services are services the government provides to help communities. They help people that have medical or safety problems or people that need a place to live. Social services even make sure parents can send their kids to preschool. Can you guess where the biggest amount of tax dollars goes? It goes to over 2,000 schools and 1.1 million students in Indiana. That's you! The money goes towards special services for students to make sure they are getting the best education possible. It helps fund the technology and computer science programs in your schools. It even helps make sure your teachers get paid and that school staff get the training needed to keep you all safe while you're at school.

Another simple step you can take to be a good citizen is to be informed about issues that affect your local community and your state. Start by looking around and talking to people. Maybe you've noticed a street in your city that seems to have a lot of trash on it? You could organize a trash clean-up day with your family and friends. Or, maybe you think your classroom needs new computers? You could work with your classmates, teachers, and family to write to your state representative about your concern and ask them to vote to put more of the state's tax dollars towards education. These are just a couple examples to get you brainstorming. Think about what matters to you and the people around you and if there is something about your community that you think needs to be improved, then make a plan of action with your community and government. You might have an idea that could become the next Indiana law.

Let's review. To be a good citizen, respect the laws, be informed, vote when you can, pay your taxes when you can, but most importantly, get involved with your community and government to help yourself and others.

State Standards I believe I covered:

4.1.4 Summarize and explain the significance of key documents in Indiana's development from a United States territory to statehood. ● Examples: Land Ordinance of 1784; The Northwest Ordinance (1787), which made Indiana part of the United States territory; and the 1816 Indiana Constitution, which established the first state government.

4.1.6 Explain how key individuals and events influenced the early growth and development of Indiana. ● Examples: Indiana's first governor, Jonathan Jennings; Robert Owen and the New

Harmony settlement; moving the state capitol from Corydon to Indianapolis; development of roads and canals in Indiana; and the Indiana Constitution of 1851.

4.2.3 Identify and explain the major responsibilities of the legislative (Article 4), executive (Article 5), and judicial branches (Article 7) of state government as written in the Indiana Constitution.

4.2.4 Identify major state offices, the duties and powers associated with them, and how they are chosen, such as by election or appointment. ● Examples: Governor, lieutenant governor, chief justice, state senators, and state representatives.

4.2.5 Give examples of how citizens can participate in their state government and explain the right and responsibility of voting.

4.3.9 Explain the importance of major transportation routes in the exploration, settlement and growth of Indiana and in the state's location as a crossroad of America. ● Examples: Lake Michigan and its tributaries, Wabash River, canals, Buffalo Trace, roadways, interstates

4.4.1 Give examples of the kinds of goods and services produced in Indiana in different historical periods.

4.4.9 Identify important goods and services provided by state and local governments by giving examples of how state and local tax revenues are used.