

# Source Document

Average precipitation each year ranges from about 50 inches in the southeast to 30 inches in the northwest. *Precipitation* means rain, melted snow, and other moisture. The climate gives the state a long growing season, from about 225 days in the southeast to 170 days in the north.

**Q:**

What are the 10 most important geographic features of Missouri?

DISCUSSION: HOW DO THE GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES OF THE STATE AFFECT ITS ECONOMY AND GOVERNMENT?

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF MISSOURI

Missouri has a rich history. It was home to mound-building Indians in prehistoric times. *Prehistoric* means "before written history." Then came the Osage, Shawnee, Fox, and Delaware tribes.

The area that is now Missouri was included in the Louisiana Purchase. Prior to that, it had belonged to the French and to the Spanish. Missouri became a state in 1821 and was involved in the slavery issue.

### Indian Civilization

In prehistoric times, as early as 12,000 B.C., people lived in what is now Missouri. These people left a record of their lives through the things they made. There were several prehistoric civilizations: the Hopewell (500 B.C. to 400 A.D.); the Mississippian (900 A.D. to 1350 A.D.); and the Osage and Missourian (1350 A.D. to 1700 A.D.).

These early people built their settlements close to the rivers in order to grow crops. They built *mounds* of earth in which to bury their dead. The Mississippians also built temples on these mounds. They lived in large villages, in houses with square roofs and walls made of rushes and wood. They farmed, fished, and hunted. They were also adept at making pottery and copper jewelry.

Many tribes were living and hunting in Missouri when the first explorers arrived. Some spoke the same language as the Algonquins who lived to the east. Others spoke the language of the Sioux. The Missouri tribe was the strongest tribe living in the area. They lived in large houses with frames made of wood poles. The roofs and sides were covered with reeds. These people hunted and farmed for a living. Another major tribe was the Osage. The Osage also lived in large houses and were farmers and hunters. They hung dried meat, animal skins, and clothing inside their houses.

After the first Europeans explored the area, the settlers began to arrive. They took over the land the Indians had farmed and hunted. As this happened, the Indians began to move west. A peace treaty was signed between the Indians and the U.S. government in 1815. It ended Indian attacks on the settlers. While there are no Indian tribes living in Missouri today, they did leave the state with its name. Missouri is an Indian word that is believed to mean, "the town of big canoes."

### Settlement

The first Europeans to come to Missouri were probably French explorers from Canada. Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet wrote the first accounts of exploration in the area in 1673.

The Mississippi valley was claimed for France by Robert Cavalier, whose title was Sieur de la Salle, in 1682. This area included what is now Missouri, though Cavalier called it Louisiana. In 1762 France gave the Louisiana region to Spain, and Spain returned it to France in 1800. In 1803, France sold it



Excavation of land for housing or other large developments is usually done by huge machinery, but for fragile sites like this Indian ruin at Stockton Reservoir at Stockton, the soil is loosened and dug by hand.

to the United States, calling it the "*Louisiana Purchase*."

The French made the first European settlement at Ste. Genevieve in the 1730s. St. Louis was founded as a fur trading post in 1764 by Auguste Chouteau and Pierre Laclede. St. Charles was founded in 1769.

### Statehood

Congress made Missouri a territory of the United States in 1812. In 1820, Congress passed the Missouri Compromise. It provided that Maine would become a "free" state and Missouri a "slave" state, meaning that slavery would be allowed in Missouri. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 had not allowed slavery in the states of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. The result was that many slave owners moved to Missouri. Many people from the north who opposed slavery also moved to Missouri, creating controversy in the state regarding slavery.

Missourians elected delegates to a state constitutional convention. They completed writing a new constitution in 1820. Congress then admitted Missouri as the 24th state on August 10, 1821. The first state capitol was at St. Charles. Missouri's first governor was a Democrat named Alexander McNair. The state gained another six counties in the northwest as part of the Platte Purchase in 1837.

### Missouri Develops

Missouri became the "*jumping off place*" for those who were exploring or moving west. Lewis and Clark began their famous exploration of the west from St. Louis in 1804. Moses Austin and his son Stephen traveled west from Missouri to what was then part of Mexico. They set up a new settlement there that later became the state of Texas. The Santa Fe Trail westward began in Independence. Many people who were part of the great "land rush" in Oklahoma started from Missouri.

The Missouri River attracted farmers to the state. Many settled near major streams. Businessmen built mills there for grinding grain. Cheap land, a team of horses, a cultivator, and hard work were all that were needed to start farming. Many kinds of crops were grown in the state: wheat, corn, hay, tobacco, apples, grapes, nuts, potatoes, and vegetables. Cattle also became a big industry. The state is still a major producer of cheddar cheese and milk. The mule became the trademark of Missouri agriculture. Mules were recognized for their sure-footedness, endurance, and good common sense.

Many famous people were part of Missouri's early history. Some of them were:

- Daniel Boone: explorer and frontiersman
- Manuel Lisa and William Ashley: fur traders

- Joseph Smith: organizer of the Mormon church who settled in Independence in the 1830s
- Kit Carson: frontier scout and trail blazer
- Father Pierre Jean DeSmet: Catholic missionary to the Indians
- Samuel Clemens: author from Hannibal who wrote classic American literature under the name of Mark Twain

### The Civil War

In 1854, battles began to break out between anti-slavery forces in Kansas and pro-slavery forces in Missouri. Governor Claiborne Jackson was strongly pro-south when the war broke out. He and most of the legislature moved to southern Missouri af-

Samuel Langhorne Clemens' early career experiences as a Mississippi River steamboat pilot and a reporter, plus his love of travel, gave him the material he needed for his many writings, which he penned under the name of Mark Twain.



ter the war started. There they passed an ordinance to secede from the union. Many Missourians did not agree with this action so they set up another government in Jefferson City that was accepted as the real government. Missouri became a battleground during the Civil War from 1861 to 1865. About 11 per cent of the battles in the Civil War were fought in Missouri. Among these were battles at Carthage, Lexington, and Boonville.

### The Late 1800s

St. Louis became the main center of industry in the state after the Civil War. Key industries were leather products, chemicals, lead and iron products, beer, and streetcars. Meat packing and flour milling developed in Kansas City. St. Joseph was another center for meat packing. Two very different industries grew in Washington, Missouri: the manufacture of zithers, and corn cob pipes called meerschaums. Lead mining and the making of bricks and railroad ties were other big industries in the state.

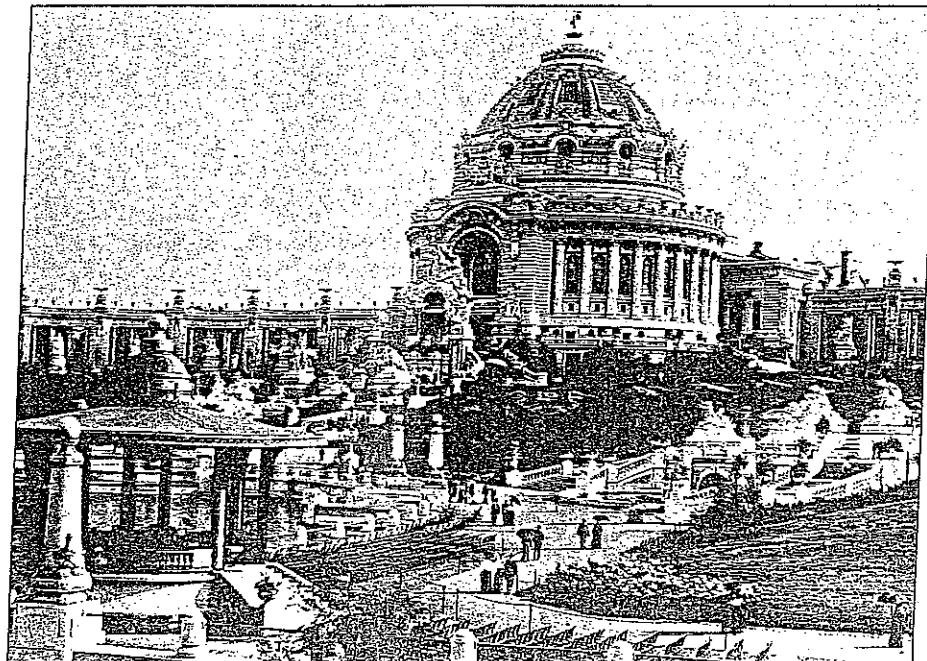
### The 20th Century

Many important things have happened in Missouri during the 20th century. In 1904, the Louisiana Purchase Centennial Exposition was held in St. Louis. This brought people to Missouri from all over the nation. It was like a giant fair.

Missouri was known for political corruption in the early 1900s. Members of the legislature sold their votes and influence. Making money this way was called "*boodle*." Corruption brought a demand for reform, which helped the Republican party gain some power.

The Pendergast family gained power in Kansas City during the 1920s and 1930s. Tom Pendergast, city councilman, became known as "*Boss*" because his faction of the Democratic Party gained control of the council and used *patronage* to control city hall. Patronage refers to the practice of using relatives and friends in city-paid jobs.

During this period, the *progressive movement* gained power. The progressives wanted to elect United States Senators, give women the right



The Louisiana Purchase Centennial Exposition of 1904 celebrated "the greatest bargain in American history"—when the western half of the Mississippi River basin, known as Louisiana, was purchased from France a century before.

Writing Assignment  
The State of Missouri

What were the names of some of the Indian tribes that were in what is now Missouri prior to the arrival of the “white man”? What was the result of the increased number of settlers on Indian land? What was the controversy surrounding Missouri becoming a state and how was it resolved? What effect did Missouri play upon the settlement of the West? Just prior to the Civil War why did many see Missouri as a land of opportunity?

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80 pts.

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100 pts.

1. Two or more facts from the text on each question. Give a short version of the text.
2. Two or more facts. How were these facts used? Give a short uncomplicated version of the end result of the facts.
3. Two or more facts. Short version of the text. Provide ideas of how the facts were able to make changes in the results of what happened in the text.
4. More than two facts when available. Write in your own words how these facts were used to influence the end result.

Writing grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Factual grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Missouri's State History, Constitution, and Government

1. Who inhabited the area of Missouri before Europeans came to the United States?
2. From whom did the U.S. purchase the Louisiana territory?
3. Why did Napoleon sell the Louisiana territory? What was the name of this purchase?
4. What was the controversy that led to the Missouri Compromise?
5. What was the date and year that Missouri became a state?
6. How many capitals has Missouri had?
7. What is Missouri's present capital?
8. Why was Missouri important during the Civil War?
9. What does Missouri lead the nation in?
10. What year was the current Missouri constitution adopted?
11. What is Missouri's nickname?