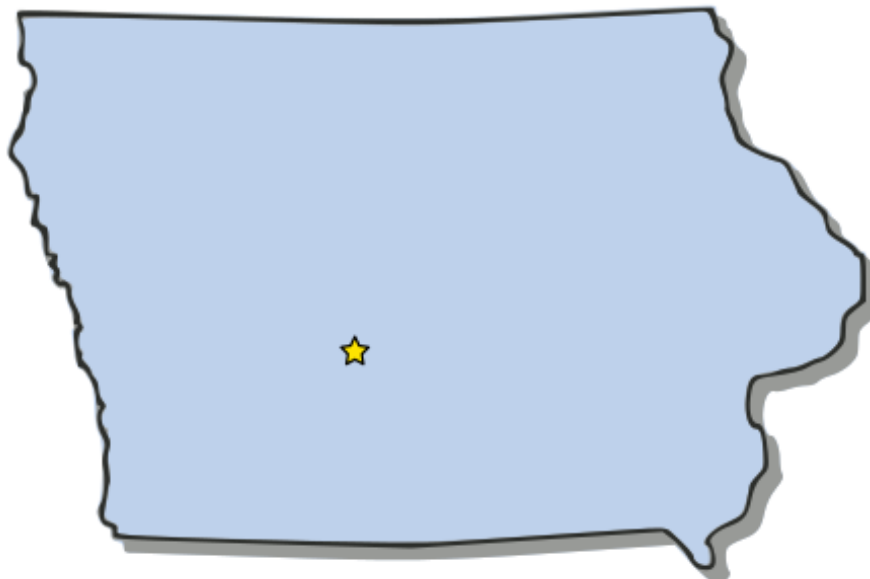


December 28, 1846

Iowa Becomes a State

Iowa is one of the most important farming states in the United States. It has been described as the "Corn State" and "the land where the tall corn grows." Iowa has become important in the areas of food processing, and the production of construction equipment, pharmaceuticals, and farm machinery. In the early days of Iowa's history, it was home to many Native American tribes, such as the Omaha, Oto, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Miami, Ottawa, and Sioux. Settlers moved into Iowa in large numbers and found rich farmland. Most of these people were against slavery, and when the Civil War began in 1861, Iowa supported the Union. The state continued to grow and develop, with dams providing power in many areas. Farming prospered at many times throughout the state's history, but the 1920s and 1930s were very difficult times for farmers. They worked together, forming cooperatives to try to keep their land and find new ways to prosper. The people of Iowa have had their good and bad times through the years, but have always rebounded. The terrible flooding that struck the area in 1993 was one of those rough times, along with destructive floods again in 2008. Iowa's population has continued to grow, however, showing this is a state where people want to be. Some famous people from Iowa include Herbert Hoover, Henry A. Wallace, Grant Wood, Norman E. Borlaug, Buffalo Bill Cody, Harriet Nelson, John Wayne, Lou Hoover, and Glenn Miller.

Look at the map of Iowa below. Label the capital of Iowa. Locate the cities of Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Sioux City, Keokuk, Iowa City, Muscatine, Burlington, Clinton, Dubuque, Fort Madison, Council Bluffs, Waterloo, Ames, Oskaloosa, Fort Dodge, Ottumwa, and Shenandoah, and label them on the map. Also, locate the Missouri River, Big Sioux River, Mississippi River, Des Moines River, Cedar River, Iowa River, Maquoketa River, Wapsipinicon River, Clear Lake, East Okoboji Lake, West Okoboji Lake, Spirit Lake, Lake Odessa, Trumbull Lake, Eagle Lake, and Storm Lake, and label them. Lastly, label the states, provinces, or bodies of water that border Iowa. When you have finished, move on to the timeline of Iowa history on the next page and the research prompts that follow.



Timeline of Iowa History

1673

1762

1788

1800

1803

1808

1832

1838

1846

1853

1855

1857

1867

1873

1882

1913

1920

1921

1962

1985

1. Spain returns control of the Louisiana Territory to France
2. Iowa becomes the 29th state in the Union
3. Farmers begin having difficulty making payment for debts and loans from the war years
4. Native Americans led by Chief Black Hawk are defeated in the Black Hawk War
5. Iowa reorganizes its court system
6. France gives control of the Louisiana Territory to Spain
7. The Keokuk Dam is completed
8. The United States Army builds Fort Madison, Iowa's first fort
9. The first railroad is completed across Iowa
10. First Europeans arrive in the area of Iowa
11. University of Iowa is established
12. Iowa's first public library opens
13. The area of present-day Iowa becomes part of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase
14. The Fenelon Place Elevator, the shortest and steepest railroad in the United States, is built
15. Des Moines becomes the capital of Iowa
16. A state lottery is established to raise revenue in the state
17. Julien Dubuque, the first permanent settler in the area of present-day Iowa, obtains permission from the Native Americans to mine lead near what is now Dubuque
18. State banner is adopted
19. The Territory of Iowa is created
20. Grange members win control of the legislature when they oppose the way the railroads are serving the farmers

Research Prompt #1

The state of Iowa covers approximately 56,273 square miles and has a population of a little more than three million people. New York City covers an area of approximately 303 square miles and has a population of just over eight million people. Using the figures of three million people for Iowa and eight million people for New York City, compute the average population per square mile for each. Do you think it is better to live in a city such as New York City or in a state with more open space, such as Iowa? Why?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Research Prompt #2

Many of the first settlers who moved into the Iowa area from other states in the Union or immigrated from other countries found that one of the problems they faced in starting a homestead was the lack of timber, since much of Iowa is prairie. What did the settlers do to compensate for the lack of timber? How did they build homes, keep warm, build fences, etc.?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Research Prompt #3

Research the advantages and disadvantages of the railroads coming to Iowa. How did they help the farming communities in the early days of the state? How did they help with transportation for the common person? What disadvantages did the railroads bring? How did the power behind the railroads impact the common person?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Timeline of Iowa History

Answer Key

First Europeans arrive in the area of Iowa	1673	
Julien Dubuque, the first permanent settler in the area of present-day Iowa, obtains permission from the Native Americans to mine lead near what is now Dubuque	1762	France gives control of the Louisiana Territory to Spain
	1788	
	1800	Spain returns control of the Louisiana Territory to France
The area of present-day Iowa becomes part of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase	1803	
	1808	The United States Army builds Fort Madison, Iowa's first fort
Native Americans led by Chief Black Hawk are defeated in the Black Hawk War	1832	
	1838	The Territory of Iowa is created
Iowa becomes the 29th state in the Union	1846	
	1853	Iowa's first public library opens
University of Iowa is established	1855	
	1857	Des Moines becomes the capital of Iowa
The first railroad is completed across Iowa	1867	Grange members win control of the legislature when they oppose the way the railroads are serving the farmers
	1873	
The Fenelon Place Elevator, the shortest and steepest railroad in the United States, is built	1882	
	1913	The Keokuk Dam is completed
Farmers begin having difficulty making payment for debts and loans from the war years	1920	
	1921	State banner is adopted
Iowa reorganizes its court system	1962	
	1985	A state lottery is established to raise revenue in the state