

May 29, 1848

Wisconsin Becomes a State

Wisconsin is a state of firsts. The first practical typewriter was invented in Milwaukee; the first kindergarten in the United States was opened in Wisconsin; the world's first plant to provide electricity from water power was built in Wisconsin; malted milk was invented in Wisconsin; and the list could go on and on. Wisconsin became a state interested in new ideas and progress from a very early point in its history. Many of the educational and social reforms started in Wisconsin were later adopted by other states and by the federal government. Along with the ideas of progress that Wisconsin is famous for, it is also famous for its dairy products and other food products, along with the production of chemicals, computers, machinery, and other products. Wisconsin is a state with many beautiful natural vistas. From the lakes and rivers to the forests and fields, there are many attractions for visitors to this beautiful state. Many famous people are from Wisconsin, including Joseph McCarthy, Laura Ingalls Wilder, William Rehnquist, Frank Lloyd Wright, Eric Heiden, Deke Slayton, and Nathan Farragut Twining.

Look at the map of Wisconsin below. Label the capital of Wisconsin. Locate the cities of Appleton, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Racine, Sheboygan, Wausau, Milwaukee, Kenosha, Beloit, Baraboo, Cassville, Manitowoc, Portage, Chippewa Falls, Medford, Spooner, and Janesville, and label them on the map. Now label Timms Hill. Also, locate the Bad River, Montreal River, Nemadji River, Flambeau River, St. Croix River, Black River, Chippewa River, La Crosse River, Wisconsin River, Fox River, Menominee River, Milwaukee River, Oconto River, Peshtigo River, Lake Winnebago, Lake Geneva, Lake Koshkonong, Lake Mendota, Lake Poygan, Lake Du Bay, Lake Puckaway, and Chippewa Lake, and label them. Lastly, label the states, provinces, or bodies of water that border Wisconsin. When you have finished, move on to the timeline of Wisconsin history on the next page and the research prompts that follow.



Timeline of Wisconsin History

1634

1712

1740

1763

1774

1783

1833

1836

1848

1851

1853

1871

1872

1911

1917

1932

1946

1961

1971

1990

1. The Wisconsin area becomes part of the province of Quebec under the British Quebec Act
2. The Peshtigo forest fire strikes Wisconsin
3. Wisconsin becomes the thirtieth state of the Union
4. War ends between the French and the Fox
5. Joseph R. McCarthy wins election to the United States Senate from Wisconsin
6. The first highway numbering system in the United States is adopted in Wisconsin
7. The first newspaper in Wisconsin is established
8. The first state news service in the nation is founded in Wisconsin
9. War begins between the French and the Fox, a Native American tribe
10. Wisconsin becomes the first state in the Union to offer a school voucher program
11. The first railroad in Wisconsin begins serving the area between Milwaukee and Waukesha
12. The University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin State University merge, forming the University of Wisconsin System
13. The French and Indian War ends with French territory in the Wisconsin area won by the British
14. Wisconsin passes its first unemployment compensation act
15. State legislation is passed authorizing free public libraries
16. At the end of the American Revolution, the Wisconsin area becomes part of the United States
17. Wisconsin's first sales tax is established
18. The French explorer Jean Nicolet explores the Wisconsin area
19. The Wisconsin legislature passes the Workmen's Compensation Act
20. The Wisconsin territory is established by Congress

Research Prompt #1

Paul Bunyan is one of the most well-known folk heroes in the United States. In 1922, tales of the exploits of this legendary hero were collected from loggers in Wisconsin. They were published for the use of students at the University of Wisconsin. However, tales of Paul Bunyan began circulating in the 1880s or earlier. Many states claim him as a native. Research Paul Bunyan and write about your findings.

[illegible]

Research Prompt #2

Caroline Quarlls was the first fugitive slave who traveled through Wisconsin's underground railroad. She lived from approximately 1824 to 1892. Do some research and write about her experience and about how the underground railroad in Wisconsin operated.

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 #3

Joseph McCarthy was a senator from Wisconsin from 1946 until his death in 1957. Do some research on Senator McCarthy. What was he known for? Why do you think people listened to his accusations? What were the results of his actions? Do you think any good came from his claims and efforts to prove them?

[illegible]

Timeline of Wisconsin History

Answer Key

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