STATE 21 OF 50 · IL

FREE
5 PUZZLES



THE PRAIRIE STATE

Illinois Puzzle Pack

Five free puzzles about Illinois for kids in grades 2 to 8, with a fast-facts page and every answer key.

Crossword · Word Search · Word Fill-In · Word Scramble · Cryptogram · Fast Facts · Answer Keys

Welcome to Illinois!



Grab a pencil and hop aboard: we're touring Illinois! In the next few pages you'll crack a secret code, hunt for hidden cities, and follow clues from the tall towers of Chicago to the rolling prairie and the mighty Mississippi River. You'll meet a bright red bird, the biggest pumpkin crop in the country, and a strange fossil called the Tully monster that has been found nowhere else on Earth. Ready? Let's roll through the Prairie State!

ILLINOIS FAST FACTS

Capital	Springfield
Largest city	Chicago
Nickname	The Prairie State
Statehood	December 3, 1818 (the 21st state)
Region	Midwest
State bird	Northern Cardinal
State flower	Violet
State tree	White Oak
State Fossil	Tully Monster
State Insect	Monarch Butterfly
State Snack Food	Popcorn
Motto	State Sovereignty, National Union

For parents and teachers: This Illinois pack fits grades 2 to 8, and the answer keys are at the back. Print as many copies as you need for your home or classroom.

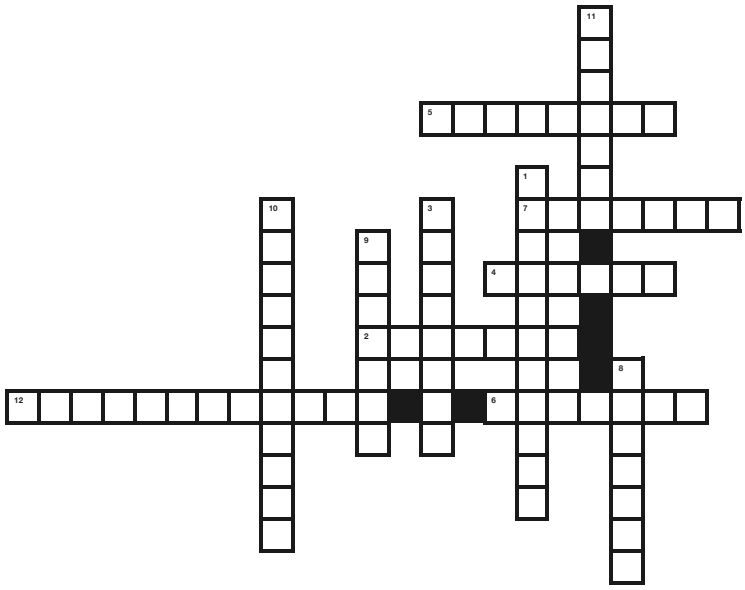
PUZZLE 1 OF 5 · CROSSWORD

Illinois Crossword

12 clues about the state

Read each clue and write the answer in the matching squares, one letter per box.

Puzzle Guide: Start with the clues you are sure of. Every letter you write is a free hint for the words that cross it.



ACROSS

2. Biggest city, on the shore of Lake Michigan

4. Small purple state flower

5. State tree, picked by a student vote in 1973

6. Land of ___, the state slogan

7. Grassy land that gives the state its nickname

12. Odd 300-million-year-old state fossil found only here

DOWN

1. The state capital, where Abraham Lincoln once lived

3. Bright red state bird, chosen by schoolchildren

8. Orange and black butterfly that is the state insect

9. Crunchy official state snack food

10. Big river along the state's western border

11. ___ Mounds, site of a huge ancient city near Collinsville

PUZZLE 2 OF 5 · WORD SEARCH

Illinois Places to Explore

Cities, forests and famous roads across the Prairie State

Find every word in the list. Words go across, down and on a slant.

Puzzle Guide: Hunt for an unusual letter like Q, X, J or Z first, then check all eight directions around it.

K	V	L	L	G	T	E	U	F	I	C	P	T	J	J
V	F	Z	P	A	T	D	S	O	V	H	D	P	D	O
A	A	U	C	L	X	R	H	J	Y	A	E	A	N	L
M	L	I	S	E	S	O	A	B	A	M	C	N	A	I
F	A	X	X	N	B	U	W	L	U	P	A	Y	P	E
E	K	Q	Y	A	R	T	N	O	R	A	T	S	E	T
W	E	U	J	M	O	E	E	O	O	I	U	E	R	W
U	M	I	L	D	C	S	E	M	R	G	R	V	V	B
G	I	N	P	P	K	I	F	I	A	N	P	A	I	G
M	C	C	E	I	F	X	O	N	J	A	C	N	L	U
U	H	Y	O	B	O	T	R	G	V	E	R	S	L	U
R	I	Q	R	P	R	Y	E	T	X	L	R	T	E	I
Z	G	G	I	G	D	S	S	O	Y	G	U	O	S	Z
S	A	L	A	D	S	I	T	N	I	I	O	N	K	U
P	N	P	V	D	S	X	M	D	A	N	A	V	S	I

Word List

SHAWNEEFOREST
BLOOMINGTON
ROCKFORD
AURORA
GALENA
ROUTESIXTYSIX
NAPERVILLE
EVANSTON
JOLIET
QUINCY
LAKEMICHIGAN
CHAMPAIGN
DECATUR
PEORIA
ELGIN

THE ILLINOIS SUPER PACK

20 more Illinois puzzles are waiting for you

Hungry for more? The Illinois Super Pack has 20 more puzzles: Chicago landmarks, young Abraham Lincoln, prairie wildflowers, inventions like barbed wire and the Ferris wheel, Native nations and a Route 66 road trip. Twenty puzzles, one big state, $1.99.

ALL 20 PUZZLES INSIDE

1	Illinois Rivers and Waterways	Word Search
2	Illinois Farm Fields	Word Scramble
3	Illinois State Symbols	Word Fill-In
4	Illinois Pumpkin Patch	Cryptogram
5	Illinois Chicago Sights	Word Search
6	Illinois Young Lincoln	Word Scramble
7	Illinois Native Nations	Word Fill-In
8	Illinois Big Wheel	Cryptogram
9	Illinois Inventions and Discoveries	Word Search
10	Illinois Weather and Seasons	Word Scramble
11	Illinois Lake Michigan Shore	Word Fill-In
12	Illinois Mound City	Cryptogram
13	Illinois Cities and Towns	Word Search
14	Illinois Music and Arts	Word Scramble
15	Illinois Route 66 Road Trip	Word Fill-In
16	Illinois River Reversal	Cryptogram
17	Illinois Prairie Plants	Word Search
18	Illinois Birds	Word Scramble
19	Illinois Southern Forest	Word Fill-In
20	Illinois Freedom Fact	Cryptogram

Enjoying Illinois so far? The Super Pack has 20 more puzzles, and every one has its own theme: 5 word searches, 5 cryptograms, 5 word scrambles and 5 word fill-ins. Not one of them repeats a puzzle in this free pack.

For grown-ups: it is a one-time payment of $1.99, not a subscription. Every puzzle comes with an answer key, and the personal and classroom license lets you print unlimited copies for your own home or classroom.

- ✓ 20 new Illinois puzzles, each with its own theme
- ✓ 5 word searches, 5 cryptograms, 5 scrambles and 5 fill-ins
- ✓ Answer keys for every puzzle
- ✓ Print unlimited copies for your own home or classroom
- ✓ One-time $1.99 payment, no subscription

Scan to get all 20 Illinois puzzles

20 puzzles. $1.99. Yours to print again and again.

puzzlepage.app/store/illinois-super-puzzle-pack

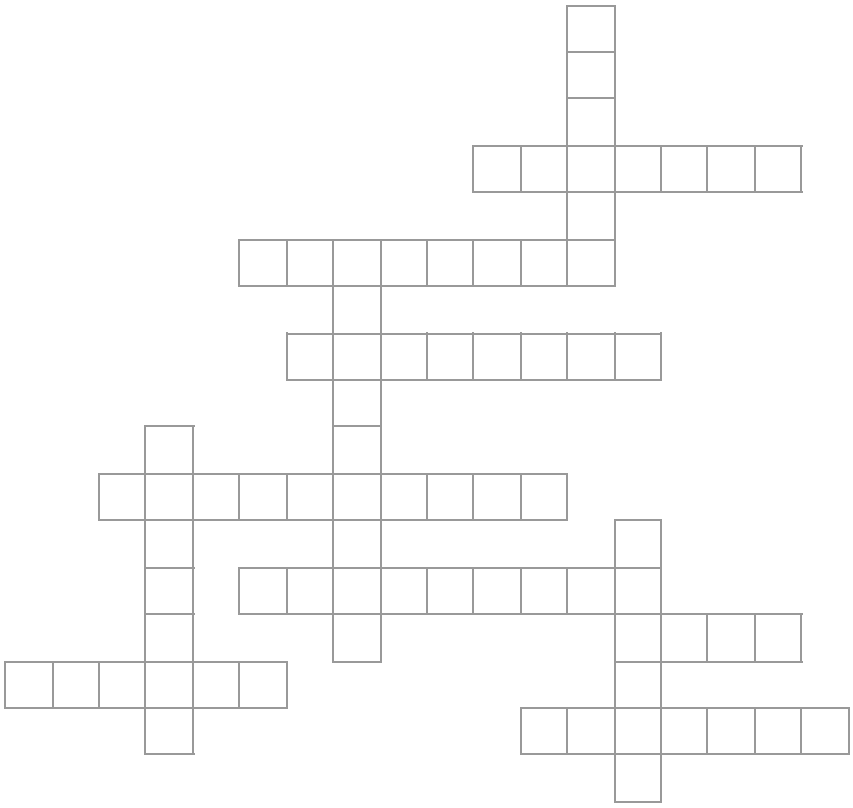
PUZZLE 3 OF 5 · WORD FILL-IN

Illinois Animals

Creatures of the prairies, woods, rivers and ponds

Fit every word from the list into the grid. Start with the longest words and the ones that only fit one place.

Puzzle Guide: Count the boxes first. A word that is the only one of its length can go in right away.



Word List

4 letters:	DEER
6 letters:	COYOTE, REDFOX, TURTLE
7 letters:	CATFISH, OPOSSUM, RACCOON
8 letters:	BLUEGILL, BOBWHITE
9 letters:	BALDEAGLE, MILKSNAKE
10 letters:	SALAMANDER

PUZZLE 4 OF 5 · WORD SCRAMBLE

Illinois Fun

Things to see, eat and do in the Prairie State

Unscramble each word. Every answer is from this state's story.

Puzzle Guide: Find the vowels, then try a starting letter. Say your guesses out loud: Illinois words sound right.

Unscramble each word below.

	Scrambled	Your Answer
1.	KNILESY	_____
2.	AERFNLTKO	_____
3.	DDIHPESE	_____
4.	UPPIMKN	_____
5.	EBNOSYAS	_____
6.	RCOIDFNEL	_____
7.	MSUEUM	_____
8.	AUARMQIU	_____
9.	NCGLYCI	_____
10.	OLABTSIA	_____
11.	OTHDGO	_____
12.	LABEABSL	_____

PUZZLE 5 OF 5 · CRYPTOGRAM

Illinois Secret Fact

Crack the code to learn when Illinois became a state

Each letter stands for a different letter. Use the given letters to crack the code and read a true fact.

Puzzle Guide: Look for one-letter words first. They are almost always A or I, and that unlocks a lot of the code.

D	N	N	D	H	J	D	Z		Y	P	B	S	R	P

G	A	P		G	O	P	H	G	W		E	D	V	Z	G

Z	G	S	G	P		J	H		Q	P	B	P	R	Y	P	V

					,									
G	A	D	V	Q		P	D	F	A	G	P	P	H	

								.
P	D	F	A	G	P	P	H	

Hints:

`P` = E `G` = T `Z` = S

FINISH LINE

You did it, Illinois explorer!

You solved your way across Illinois, the Prairie State. Check your work on the answer pages that follow, and give yourself a star for every puzzle you finished.

One more challenge: tell someone three things you learned about Illinois. Here is one to start you off: its capital is Springfield.

DID YOU KNOW? 10 TRUE FACTS ABOUT ILLINOIS

- Illinois became the 21st state on December 3, 1818. Springfield has been the capital since 1839.
- Chicago is the largest city in Illinois and the third largest in the country, with about 2.7 million people in 2020.
- Illinois grows more pumpkins than any other state, and most of them are made into canned pumpkin for pies.
- The only home Abraham Lincoln ever owned is in Springfield, and it is now a national historic site.
- Monks Mound at Cahokia Mounds is the largest prehistoric earthen mound in the Americas north of Mexico.
- The first Ferris wheel was built for a world's fair in Chicago in 1893. It stood about 264 feet tall.
- On February 1, 1865, Illinois became the first state to approve the 13th Amendment, which ended slavery.
- The Tully monster, the state fossil, is a soft-bodied animal from about 300 million years ago found only in Illinois.
- In 1900, engineers reversed the Chicago River so that it flows away from Lake Michigan instead of into it.
- Illinois takes its name from the Illinois Confederation, a group of Native nations that included the Peoria and Kaskaskia.

MAKE YOUR OWN

Keep the Illinois lessons going

Every puzzle in this pack was made with PuzzlePage. The same tools are at puzzlepage.app: type your own words, preview the page and print. Here are four ways to use them for Illinois.

Word Search Maker

Turn a spelling list of Illinois cities, rivers and landmarks into a word search.

puzzlepage.app/word-search

Crossword Maker

Write your own clues about Springfield and the Prairie State for a custom crossword.

puzzlepage.app/crossword

Worksheet Builder

Put a Illinois word search, scramble and crossword on one page for a quick review sheet.

puzzlepage.app/worksheet-builder

Flash Card Maker

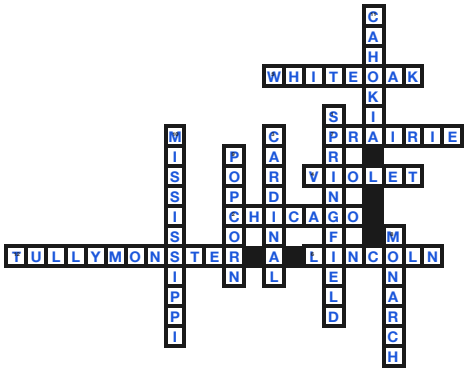
Make printable cards for Illinois facts: its capital, nickname, statehood date and more.

puzzlepage.app/flash-card-maker

Scan for 20 more Illinois puzzles at puzzlepage.app

Answer Key

1. Illinois Crossword (Crossword)

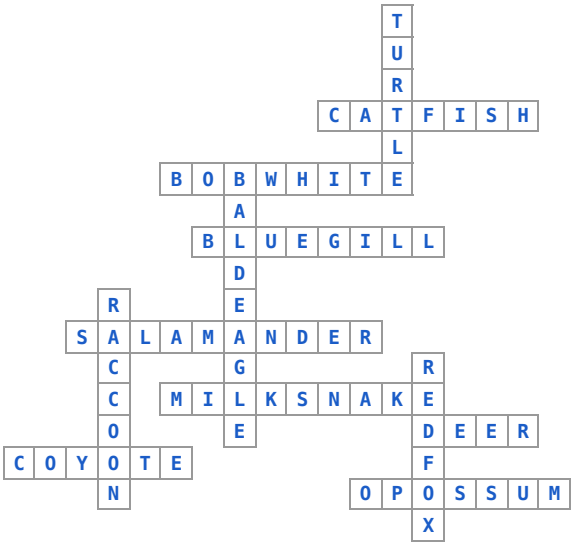


2. Illinois Places to Explore (Word Search)

K	V	L	L	G	T	E	U	F	I	C	P	T	J	J
V	F	Z	P	A	T	D	S	O	V	H	D	P	D	O
A	A	U	C	L	X	R	H	J	Y	A	E	A	N	L
M	L	I	S	E	S	O	A	B	A	M	C	N	A	I
F	A	X	X	N	B	U	W	L	U	P	A	Y	P	E
E	K	Q	Y	A	R	T	N	O	R	A	T	S	E	T
W	E	U	J	M	O	E	E	O	O	I	U	E	R	W
U	M	I	L	D	C	S	E	M	R	G	R	V	V	B
G	I	N	P	P	K	I	F	I	A	N	P	A	I	G
M	C	C	E	I	F	X	O	N	J	A	C	N	L	U
U	H	Y	O	B	O	T	R	G	V	E	R	S	L	U
R	I	Q	R	P	R	Y	E	T	X	L	R	T	E	I
Z	G	G	I	G	D	S	S	O	Y	G	U	O	S	Z
S	A	L	A	D	S	I	T	N	I	I	O	N	K	U
P	N	P	V	D	S	X	M	D	A	N	A	V	S	I

Answer Key

3. Illinois Animals (Word Fill-In)



4. Illinois Fun (Word Scramble)

1.	KNILESY	**SKYLINE**
2.	AERFNLTKO	**LAKEFRONT**
3.	DDIHPESE	**DEEPDISH**
4.	UPPIMKN	**PUMPKIN**
5.	EBNOSYAS	**SOYBEANS**
6.	RCOIDFNEL	**CORNFIELD**
7.	MSUEUM	**MUSEUM**
8.	AUARMQIU	**AQUARIUM**
9.	NCGLYCI	**CYCLING**
10.	OLABTSIA	**SAILBOAT**
11.	OTHDGO	**HOTDOG**
12.	LABEABSL	**BASEBALL**

5. Illinois Secret Fact (Cryptogram)

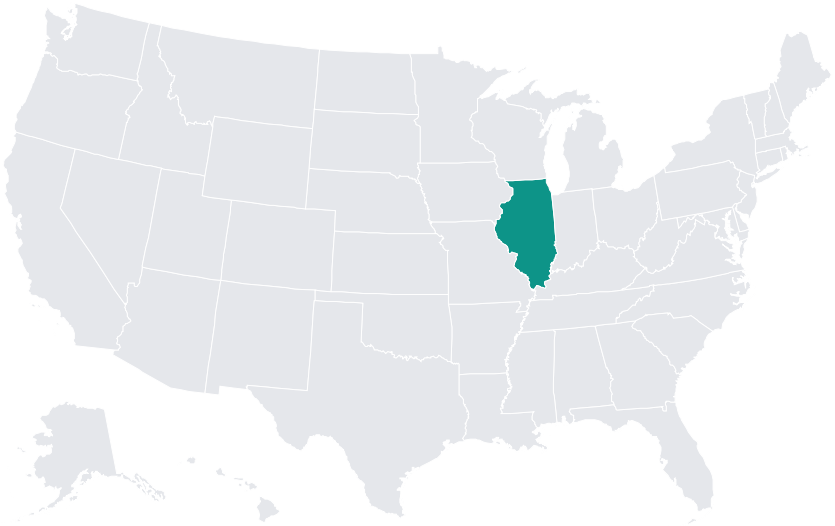
ILLINOIS BECAME THE TWENTY FIRST STATE ON DECEMBER THIRD, EIGHTEEN EIGHTEEN.

COLLECT ALL 50

You're on state 21 of 50

Illinois was the 21st state to join the Union. Every state has its own free puzzle pack, so you can solve your way across the whole country. Next stop in statehood order: Alabama.

Learning capitals too? Our 50 States: Capital, Abbreviation & Nickname flash card deck covers every capital, postal code and nickname in 150 cards for $1.29.



- [ ] Alabama
- [ ] Alaska
- [ ] Arizona
- [ ] Arkansas
- [ ] California
- [ ] Colorado
- [ ] Connecticut
- [ ] Delaware
- [ ] Florida
- [ ] Georgia
- [ ] Hawaii
- [ ] Idaho
- [x] **Illinois**
- [ ] Indiana
- [ ] Iowa
- [ ] Kansas
- [ ] Kentucky
- [ ] Louisiana
- [ ] Maine
- [ ] Maryland
- [ ] Massachusetts
- [ ] Michigan
- [ ] Minnesota
- [ ] Mississippi
- [ ] Missouri
- [ ] Montana
- [ ] Nebraska
- [ ] Nevada
- [ ] New Hampshire
- [ ] New Jersey
- [ ] New Mexico
- [ ] New York
- [ ] North Carolina
- [ ] North Dakota
- [ ] Ohio
- [ ] Oklahoma
- [ ] Oregon
- [ ] Pennsylvania
- [ ] Rhode Island
- [ ] South Carolina
- [ ] South Dakota
- [ ] Tennessee
- [ ] Texas
- [ ] Utah
- [ ] Vermont
- [ ] Virginia
- [ ] Washington
- [ ] West Virginia
- [ ] Wisconsin
- [ ] Wyoming

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