



## Happy Birthday, Illinois!



### Mini Fact:

Remember, the S at the end of Illinois is silent!

On Dec. 3, 1818, Illinois (ill-i-NOY) was admitted to the Union as the 21st state. This week, The Mini Page celebrates the Land of Lincoln's 200th birthday, or bicentennial!

### Before Europeans

For about 7,000 years, American Indians lived in the area that is now Illinois. Different tribes fought each other, but in the 1600s, about 13 tribes joined together to form an alliance, or a group to help and protect each other, that is sometimes called the Illini (ill-LYE-nye). You may know this word today as the name of the sports teams at the University of Illinois.

### Moving toward statehood

Explorers claimed the land for the French in 1673, but about 100 years later, the British won the territory.

When Illinois became a state in 1818, its capital was Kaskaskia in the southwest part of the state. The capital moved to Vandalia and finally to Springfield, thanks to the work of a young state representative, Abraham Lincoln.

### Illinois today

Among the United States, Illinois has the sixth-largest population, with almost 13 million people. Its largest city is Chicago, the third-largest city in the country.

However, farmland covers about three-quarters of its territory. Illinois farmers produce soybeans, corn, hogs, cattle and wheat.



photo by Allison Meier

The Field Museum in Chicago is known for its dinosaur exhibits, including Sue, a T-rex.

### Illinois fact-a-roonies

• The Illinois Waterway links Lake Michigan with the Mississippi River on the western border, and this links the state to the Gulf of Mexico. Lake Michigan and the St. Lawrence Seaway offer a connection to the Atlantic Ocean. Chicago is one of the country's top ports.

• The architect Frank Lloyd Wright lived in and designed many of his famous buildings in Oak Park. More of his buildings are there than anywhere else in the world.

• The White Sox, Cubs, Bears, Bulls and Blackhawks are some of Chicago's famous professional sports teams.

The McDonald's #1 Store Museum in Des Plaines is the site of the first McDonald's restaurant, which opened in April 1955.



photo by Frank Kehren

### Two Illinoisan presidents

• **Abraham Lincoln** was born near Elizabethtown, Kentucky. When he was about 7, his family moved to Indiana. When he was 21, his family moved to Illinois.



Lincoln lived there for about 30 years, working as a boat deckhand, store clerk, postmaster, surveyor, state legislator and lawyer.

He was elected to one term of Congress in 1846. In 1858, he ran against Stephen A. Douglas for the Senate. Although he lost that race, their debates made him famous, and he was elected president in 1860.

The Civil War began soon after he took office. Four years later, on April 9, 1865, the South surrendered and the war was over. Five days later, Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.

• **Ronald Reagan** served as president from 1981 to 1989. He was born in Tampico, Illinois. He went to high school in Dixon, Illinois, and to college in Eureka.



During his presidency, he was known for his economic policies, which cut taxes and government programs. He increased defense spending. He worked with the Soviet leader for a nuclear arms treaty.

President Reagan died in 2004 after suffering with Alzheimer's disease for more than 10 years.

### Resources



#### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/MPillinois](http://bit.ly/MPillinois)

#### At the library:

- "Illinois" by Michael Burgan

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### Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Illinois are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward. See if you can find:



ALLIANCE,  
BICENTENNIAL,  
CATTLE, CHICAGO,  
CORN, FRENCH, HOGS,  
ILLINOIS, LAKE, LINCOLN,  
MICHIGAN, MUSEUM,  
NATIVE, REAGAN,  
SPRINGFIELD, STATE,  
TRIBES, UNION, WRIGHT.

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

### Cook's Corner

#### Sweet Corn Pudding

##### You'll need:

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cups half-and-half

- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 6 eggs
- 6 cups canned or frozen corn kernels



• You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

##### What to do:

1. Combine sugar, baking powder, salt and flour in a small bowl.
2. In a large bowl, mix together half-and-half, butter and eggs. Add sugar mixture gradually. Stir in corn.
3. Pour mixture into a 9-by-13-inch greased baking dish.
4. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 45 minutes or until golden-brown. Let cool. Serves 8.

1. The outer edge of a state or country (6-letter noun)

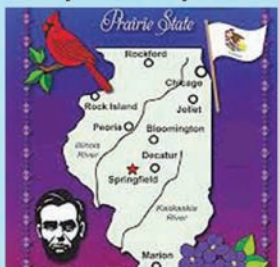
2. A large region used to raise crops and animals (8-letter noun)

3. A large place of level and rolling grasslands (7-letter noun)

4. Geographical area belonging to a government (9-letter noun)

### ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: border, farmland, prairie, territory.

### Mini Jokes



Ian: How do sailors greet each other?  
Irene: "Long time no sea!"

### Eco Note



Across the world, the only habitats that are expanding are urban landscapes. Large cities cover hundreds of square miles, while roads, railways, parking lots and airports take up yet more land. Urban areas now cover 3 percent of Earth's land — that may not sound like a lot, but cities draw natural resources from a huge area, and so have a huge impact. Species such as foxes, pigeons and some wild plants thrive in these concrete jungles, but cities cannot support the biodiversity of wild habitats.

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### For later:

Look in your newspaper and circle articles about Illinois' government, businesses or sports teams.

**Teachers:** For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bit.ly/MPstandards](http://bit.ly/MPstandards). And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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