

Welcome To Idaho

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

I live in Idaho. It is a Rocky Mountain State in the northwest. Idaho is famous for potatoes, having a strange shape, mining, gems, the Rocky Mountains, and rivers! It is the 14th largest state, making it near the top of the list, and is the 39th most populous, making it below average in that category. You might know some of the major cities, like Boise, Lewiston, Idaho Falls, and Pocatello. The state capital is Boise. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Idaho, let me tell you a little more about my state.

Idaho is one of the several northern states that border Canada. It is high up in the Rocky Mountains, which give it a lot of great places to mine. Because of this, and because of the mineral riches here, it is known as The Gem State. Some people also call it the Potato State, because it is particularly famous for growing potatoes. There are also a lot of rivers, especially the Snake River and the Columbia River. A cool thing about Idaho is that it has the city of Lewiston, which is the furthest inland port from the Pacific Ocean. You have to go through a bunch of locks and dams to get there.

Idaho has long been settled by American Indians, especially the Shoshone and the Nez Perce tribes. Later, as part of the Oregon Territory, it was claimed by the British and the Americans. When Oregon became a state, the leftover land was called the Washington Territory, along with what would become Montana and Wyoming. Idaho did not become a state until 1890, and only after a bit of arguing about what the state would be, because the lands nearly became parts of Nevada and Washington.

Today, Idaho is a place of science and technology. They make computers, semiconductors, and computer software. That might surprise people, who might have only heard of Idaho's potatoes. Most electricity in Idaho comes from Hydroelectric Dams, which is a very clean power source. Wind power is also taking off these days. Idaho is a big state, though, and besides wind and water power, there are several national parks to visit, like parts of Yellowstone National Park and many other parks and trails. Many of the mountains, lakes, and trails are worth visiting.

Now that you know a little more about Idaho, are you thinking about visiting? There are some fun things to see and do. It is a great place to get outside. Hope to see you soon!



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Idaho's nickname?
 - A. The Mountain State
 - B. The Border State
 - C. The Gem State
 - D. The Mining State

2. True or False: Idaho is above average in size for an American state.
 - A. True
 - B. False

3. Which of these is Idaho NOT famous for?
 - A. potatoes
 - B. gems
 - C. Rocky Mountains
 - D. baked goods

4. True or False: Idaho is one of the most populated American states.
 - A. True
 - B. False

5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Idaho? Why or Why Not?

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