

# Welcome To Maine

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

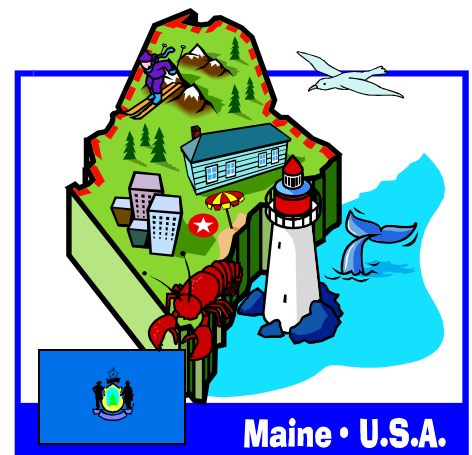
I live in Maine. It is a New England. Maine is famous for forests, beautiful fall scenery, lobster, maple syrup, blueberries, and the Atlantic Ocean! It is the 39<sup>th</sup> largest state and the 41<sup>st</sup> most populous, making it below average in both categories. You might know some of the major cities, like Portland (not the one in Oregon), Bangor, and Lewiston. The state capital is Augusta. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Maine, let me tell you a little more about my state.

Maine is one of the biggest states in New England. It is much larger than its neighbors, like Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Delaware, etc... Despite that, it has the lowest population density east of the Mississippi River. There are a lot of wide open spaces. Well, maybe not wide open, seeing how 83% of Maine is covered with forest! So, there are a lot of wide forested spaces. That's how it got the nickname: The Pine Tree State. The evergreen and deciduous forest makes for beautiful scenery, especially in the fall. Many people like to go on 'color tours' of the fall leaves in New England in the fall. With so many forested areas, it also means there are a lot of animals around, like deer and moose. This makes Maine a great place for hunting, fishing, and hiking.

One good thing about so many trees is the maple syrup. Maine is pretty famous for maple syrup. Don't you like it on your pancakes? Trees also mean lumber and paper. These are some of Maine's biggest industries. Its location on the water also means that it is a good place for shipbuilding and fishing. The lobsters here are great. Don't forget the blueberries, too. Maine produces more low-bush blueberries than any other state.

Maine is definitely a place to go if you love the outdoors. Acadia National Park is particularly nice to see. Maine has warm summers, but cold winters. It's not terribly busy with large cities or anything like that, which makes it a nice change of pace from more populated states to the south, like New York or New Jersey. Maine is a great place to get away. Maybe that's why so many books, movies, and TV shows seem to happen in Maine!

Now that you know a little more about Maine, are you thinking about visiting? There are many things to see and do. Hope to see you soon!



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

1. What is Maine's nickname?
  - A. The Forest State
  - B. The Pine Tree State
  - C. The Rainbow Tree State
  - D. The Lobster State
  
2. True or False: Maine is the most populous state in our country.
  - A. True
  - B. False
  
3. Which of these is Maine famous for?
  - A. big cities
  - B. tall mountains
  - C. corn
  - D. blueberries
  
4. Which of these products does NOT come from Maine's forests?
  - A. blueberries
  - B. paper
  - C. lobsters
  - D. maple syrup
  
5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Maine? Why or Why Not?  

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