

Welcome To Tennessee

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

I live in Tennessee. It is a state in Appalachia. Tennessee is famous for mountains, music, coal, and agriculture. It is the 36th largest state. That makes it a little below average in size, but it is 17th in population, which is a little above average. You might know some of the major cities, like Chattanooga, Clarksville, Knoxville, Memphis, and Nashville. The state capital is Nashville. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Tennessee, let me tell you a little more about my state.

Tennessee is pretty mountainous in the east. Cities like Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg draw a lot of tourists. It's fun to hike in the Smoky Mountains. Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited national park in our country! Why not? It has elk, bears, deer, and lots of wildlife. You can hike along mountains, jump in icy mountain rivers to cool off in the summer, or walk under waterfalls! In the western part of the state, you can see the Mississippi River, too. Tennessee is a land of natural beauty.

Tennessee was originally settled by several tribes of Indians. The Spanish explored it, and the British eventually began settling it. It played an important role as a frontier battleground during the American Revolution. It became the 16th state, right before Ohio. It was very important in the Civil War. They supplied more troops to the Confederacy than any other state, as well as a lot of Union troops, too. This is why it is still known as *The Volunteer State*. It was on the border and it played an important role in the war.

One of the biggest things about Tennessee is definitely the music. It has been a big state for Rock and Roll, Country, and Blues. Elvis Presley's home called Graceland was in Memphis. You can still visit it. Other famous musicians like Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Roy Orbison started there, too! If Memphis is about rock and folk music, then Nashville is the capital of country music. It has the Grand Ole Opry and the Country Music Hall of Fame. Country music legend Dolly Parton even has her own theme park in Tennessee. It's all about the music and musicians here!

Now that you know a little more about Tennessee, are you thinking about visiting? There is a lot of great music to hear when you visit. Hope to see you soon!



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

1. What is Tennessee's size ranking?
 - A. 27th
 - B. 37th
 - C. 35th
 - D. 36th
2. True or False: Tennessee is mostly known for chicken.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. Which of these types of music is Tennessee not famous for?
 - A. Country
 - B. Rap
 - C. Blues
 - D. Rock & Roll
4. Which of these is one of Tennessee's nicknames?
 - A. The Country State
 - B. The Musical State
 - C. The Volunteer State
 - D. The Skinny State
5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Tennessee? Why or Why Not?

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