

Welcome To Wisconsin

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

I live in Wisconsin. It is a northern state. Wisconsin is famous for cheese, cheese, and more cheese. Did I mention the cheese? But Wisconsin is not only known for that, they're also known for many foods, plumbing, power tools, bratwurst, manufacturing, and really quite a lot of things! It is the 23rd largest state, and it is 20th in population, which makes it around average in both categories. You might know some of the major cities, like Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Kenosha, and Oshkosh. The state capital is Madison. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Wisconsin, let me tell you a little more about my state.



I guess I want to start with the food. A quarter of our country's cheese comes from Wisconsin alone! People are crazy about cheese here. At some sporting events, people wear hats that look like giant wedges of cheese! They're called cheeseheads. Then there's the milk and butter. All of this makes Wisconsin *America's Dairyland*. Although, it's also known as *The Badger State*. Wisconsin makes a lot of our country's cranberries, ginseng, corn, oats, potatoes, carrots, cherries, maple syrup, and sweet corn. Wow! You might also know famous food brands like Oscar Mayer, Tombstone frozen pizza, and Johnsonville bratwurst.

Then there are big businesses, too. There are a lot of paper mills. You can also find famous companies that make things like power tools, construction equipment, motorcycles, furniture, plumbing fixtures, boat motors, small engines, and many other things. These are big brands you might have heard of, like Kohler, Evinrude, Mercury Marine, Harley-Davidson, and many more.

Wisconsin is a pretty state, so a lot of people here live in the country. About 2/3 of people live in rural areas. Wisconsin also has a long coastline with Lake Michigan. It's one of the states with the most water in its territory, behind only Alaska, Michigan, and Florida. So, it's a great place to swim, boat, or even snowmobile in the winter. There are plenty of outdoor sports to take in, with a good deal of college sports, and also pro teams like: the Green Bay Packers, the Milwaukee Brewers, and the Milwaukee Bucks.

Now that you know a little more about Wisconsin, are you thinking about visiting? Put on your cheesehead hat and get ready to eat some cheddar! Hope to see you soon!

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

1. What is Wisconsin's population ranking?
 - A. 21st
 - B. 20th
 - C. 19th
 - D. 22nd
2. True or False: The city of Madison is Wisconsin's capital.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. Which of these brands is NOT from Wisconsin?
 - A. Oscar Mayer
 - B. Johnsonville
 - C. McDonald's
 - D. Tombstone
4. What are Wisconsin's two nicknames?
 - A. The Cheese State and the Badger State
 - B. The Badger State and the Dairy State
 - C. America's Dairyland and The Cheese State
 - D. America's Dairyland and The Badger State
5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Wisconsin? Why or Why Not?

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