To understand the relative locations of Alaska and Hawaii, as well as the vast distances separating them from the rest of the United States, see the world map.
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California Government

Executive Branch
Carries out the laws and policies of state government

The Governor
- Elected by voters to a four-year term
- Can serve two terms
- Appoints officials and some judges
- Can veto whole laws or items of laws passed by legislature

Lieutenant Governor
- Elected along with governor, but not as a running mate
- Various jobs include replacing governor should he or she leave office

The Cabinet
- Consists of officials appointed by governor
- Offers advice to governor on specific areas of knowledge

Legislative Branch
Makes state laws

Bicameral System
- Has two houses—State Senate and Assembly
- Both houses take part in lawmaking
- Legislature can override the governor’s veto with a two-thirds vote in both houses

The State Senate
- 40 senators
- Serve four-year terms
- Limited to two terms

The Assembly
- 80 Assembly members
- Serve two-year terms
- Limited to three terms

Judicial Branch
Decides conflicts and questions about the law

Trial Courts
58 Superior Courts, one in each county

Appellate Courts
- Hear most appeals from lower courts
- Six district courts of appeals
- Have at least three justices:
  - Appointed by governor then confirmed by Commission on Judicial Appointments
  - Approved by voters in next election

Supreme Court of California
- Hears appeals of criminal cases involving death penalty and cases where state laws or state constitution are found invalid
- Has seven justices:
  - Appointed by governor then confirmed by Commission on Judicial Appointments
  - Approved by voters in next election

California Governors

Peter Burnett (1849–1851)
John McDougall (1851–1852)
John Bigler (1852–1856)
J. Neeley Johnson (1856–1858)
John Weller (1858–1860)
Milton Latham (1860)
John Downey (1860–1862)
Leland Stanford (1862–1863)
Frederick Low (1863–1867)
Henry Haight (1867–1871)
Newton Booth (1871–1875)
Romualdo Pacheco (1875)
William Irwin (1875–1880)
George Perkins (1880–1883)
George Stoneman (1883–1887)
Washington Bartlett (1887)
Robert Waterman (1887–1891)
Henry Markham (1891–1895)
James Budd (1895–1899)
Henry Gage (1899–1903)
George Pardee (1903–1907)
James Gillett (1907–1911)
Hiram Johnson (1911–1917)
William Stephens (1917–1923)
Friend Richardson (1923–1927)
C. C. Young (1927–1931)
James Rolph (1931–1934)
Frank Merriam (1934–1939)
Culbert Olson (1939–1943)
Earl Warren (1943–1953)
Goodwin Knight (1953–1959)
George Deukmejian (1983–1991)
Gray Davis (1999–2003)
Arnold Schwarzenegger (2003– )
## California Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State tree</td>
<td>California Redwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State bird</td>
<td>California valley quail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State marine animal</td>
<td>Gray whale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State animal</td>
<td>Grizzly bear</td>
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<tr>
<td>State reptile</td>
<td>Desert tortoise</td>
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<tr>
<td>State flower</td>
<td>Golden Poppy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year of Statehood</td>
<td>1850 (31st state)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nickname</td>
<td>The Golden State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motto</td>
<td>Eureka (I have found it.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song</td>
<td>&quot;I Love You, California&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highest Elevation</td>
<td>Mt. Whitney, 14,495 feet above sea level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Elevation</td>
<td>Death Valley, 282 feet below sea level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Area</td>
<td>163,707 sq. miles</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Rank in Land Area</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Coastline</td>
<td>840 miles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Largest City</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest Lake</td>
<td>Lake Tahoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Counties</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longest River</td>
<td>Sacramento River</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>35,484,453 (as of 2003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Rank in Population</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length (North to South)</td>
<td>770 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width (East to West)</td>
<td>250 miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**State tree:** California Redwood  
**State bird:** California valley quail  
**State marine animal:** Gray whale  
**State animal:** Grizzly bear  
**State reptile:** Desert tortoise  
**State flower:** Golden Poppy  
**Capital:** Sacramento  
**Year of Statehood:** 1850 (31st state)  
**Nickname:** The Golden State  
**Motto:** Eureka (I have found it.)  
**Song:** "I Love You, California"  
**Highest Elevation:** Mt. Whitney, 14,495 feet above sea level  
**Lowest Elevation:** Death Valley, 282 feet below sea level  
**Total Area:** 163,707 sq. miles  
**National Rank in Land Area:** 3  
**Total Coastline:** 840 miles  
**Largest City:** Los Angeles  
**Largest Lake:** Lake Tahoe  
**Number of Counties:** 58  
**Longest River:** Sacramento River  
**Population:** 35,484,453 (as of 2003)  
**National Rank in Population:** 1  
**Length (North to South):** 770 miles  
**Width (East to West):** 250 miles
Africa Second-largest continent. Lies in both the Northern and the Southern Hemispheres. p. 13
Alabama (AL) State in the southern United States. Admitted as a state in 1819. Capital: Montgomery. (33°N 87°W) p. 248
Albany Capital of New York. (42°N 74°W). p. 94
Appalachian Mountains Mountain system in eastern North America that extends from Canada to central Alabama. p. 61
Arctic Region around the North Pole including Arctic Ocean, parts of Alaska, Canada, Russia and Scandinavian countries. (90°N 0°E) p. 8
Asia Largest continent. Occupies the same land mass as Europe. p. 6
Atlanta Capital of Georgia. (33°N 84°W) p. 501
Atlantic Ocean Vast body of water separating North and South America from Europe and Africa. p. 9

Baltimore Maryland city northeast of Washington, D.C., on the Chesapeake Bay. (39°N 76°W) p. 248
Bering Land Bridge Land bridge that once connected what is now Alaska with Siberia. p. 6
Boston Capital of Massachusetts. (42°N 71°W) p. 44
Brazil Republic in eastern South America. Capital: Brasilia. (10°S 55°W) p. 661
Buena Vista City in northeastern Mexico. (33°N 117°W) p. 321
Bull Run Creek in northeastern Virginia where the Confederates won two major battles during the Civil War. p. 479
Bunker Hill Hill in Boston, Massachusetts. Site of an early Revolutionary War battle. p. 81

California (CA) State in the western United States. Admitted as a state in 1850. Capital: Sacramento. (38°N 121°W) p. 10
Cape of Good Hope Southern tip of Africa. p. 15
Caribbean Sea Arm of the Atlantic Ocean between North and South America. p. 9
Central America Region of land connecting North and South America. p. 7
Charleston Port city in southeastern South Carolina. Originally called Charles Town. (33°N 80°W) p. 40
Chesapeake Bay Inlet of the Atlantic Ocean in Virginia and Maryland. p. 39
Chicago Large U.S. city in northeastern Illinois on Lake Michigan. Major port. (41°N 87°W) p. 358
Columbia River River in northwestern United States and southwestern Canada. Forms part of boundary between Oregon and Washington. p. 238
Colorado (CO) State in the southwestern United States. Admitted as a state in 1876. Capital: Denver. (39°N 107°W) p. 8
Concord One of two northeastern Massachusetts towns (along with Lexington) where the first fighting of the American Revolution took place in 1775. (42°N 71°W) p. 79
Connecticut (CT) State in the northeastern United States. One of the original thirteen colonies. Admitted as a state in 1788. Capital: Hartford. (41°N 73°W) p. 46
Cuba Island-country in the Caribbean about 90 miles south of Florida. Capital: Havana. (22°N 79°W) p. 646

Delaware (DE) State in the eastern United States. One of the original thirteen colonies. Admitted as a state in 1787. Capital: Dover. (38°N 75°W) p. 50
District of Columbia Federal district between Maryland and Virginia where the capital of the United States is located. (39°N 77°W) p. 202
Ecuador
Republic in northwest South America. Capital: Quito. (2°S 78°W) p. 8

England
Region of the United Kingdom that makes up most of the southern part of the island of Great Britain. Capital: London. (51°N 1°W) p. 25

Erie Canal
An early 1800s building project that created a waterway between New York cities of Albany, the capital, and Buffalo, on Lake Erie. p. 264

Europe
Continent occupying the same land mass as Asia. p. 12

Florida

Fort McHenry
U.S. fort that guarded Baltimore, Maryland. The British attacked the fort in the War of 1812. p. 248

Fort Necessity
Site where the French defeated British colonists in 1754, in what was the first battle of the French and Indian War. p. 60

Fort Sumter
Fort on Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. Attack by Confederate forces here began the Civil War. p. 473

France
Country in Western Europe. Capital: Paris. (46°N 0°W) p. 18

Georgia
(GA) State in the southeastern United States. Admitted as a state in 1788. One of the original thirteen colonies. Capital: Atlanta. (32°N 84°W) p. 40

Germany

Gettysburg
Town in southern Pennsylvania. (40°N 77°W) p. 498

Great Basin
Elevated region made up of parts of California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming that was home to many American Indian nations. p. 10

Great Britain
Kingdom in western Europe that includes England, Scotland, and Wales. p. 56

Great Lakes
Chain of lakes located in central North America and that extends across the U.S.-Canada border. Includes Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario. p. 17

Great Plains
Region of central North America that lies between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains p. 10

Gulf of Mexico
Gulf on the southeastern coast of North America, bordered by the United States, Mexico, and Cuba. p. 7

Haiti
Republic in the West Indies. Capital: Port-au-Prince. (19°N 72°W) p. 235

Hartford
Capital of Connecticut. (41°N 72°W) p. 249

Hawaii

Hispaniola
Island that includes the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. p. 17

Hudson Bay
Inland sea in east-central Canada. Explored by Henry Hudson in 1610. p. 9

Hudson River
River flowing from northeastern to southern New York. p. 27

Idaho

Illinois

India
Large republic in southern Asia. Capital: New Delhi. (28°N 77°E) p. 15

Indiana

Indian Ocean
Vast body of water east of Africa, south of Asia, west of Australia, and north of Antarctica. p. 14

Iowa
(IA) State in the north-central United States. Admitted as a state in 1846. Capital: Des Moines. (42°N 94°W) p. 239

Ireland
Island in the British Isles. Divided into Northern Ireland (Capital: Belfast), and the Republic of Ireland (Capital: Dublin). (54°N 8°W) p. 400

Italy
Jamestown
First successful English colony in North America. Established in eastern Virginia in 1607. p. 36

Japan
Country in the Western Pacific Ocean. Made up of a chain of islands. Capital: Tokyo. (37°N 134°E) p. 15


Lake Erie
One of the Great Lakes. Located in the United States and Canada. p. 247

Latin America
Spanish-speaking countries of North and South America that were once claimed by Spain or Portugal. p. 262

Lexington One of two northeastern Massachusetts towns (along with Concord) where the first fighting of the American Revolution took place in 1775. (42°N 71°W) p. 79

Liberia Country on the west coast of Africa. (6°N 10°W) p. 417

London Capital of the United Kingdom, in England. (52°N 0°W) p. 42

Los Angeles Large city in southern California. (34°N 118°W) p. 320


Maine (ME) State in the northeastern United States. Admitted as a state in 1820. Capital: Augusta. (45°N 70°W) p. 267

Manhattan Island Island at the north end of New York Bay. One of the five boroughs that make up New York City. p. 27

Maryland (MD) State in the east-central United States. One of the original thirteen colonies. Admitted as a state in 1788. Capital: Annapolis. (39°N 76°W) p. 39

Massachusetts (MA) State in the northeastern United States. One of the original thirteen colonies. Admitted as a state in 1788. Capital: Boston. (42°N 72°W) p. 43

Mediterranean Sea Large sea bordered by southern Europe, Southwest Asia, and northern Africa. p. 14

Mesoamerica Area from Mexico to North Central America during pre-Spanish culture. p. 7

Mexico Country in southern North America. Capital: Mexico City. p. 6


Mississippi (MS) State in the southeastern United States. Admitted as a state in 1817. Capital: Jackson. (32°N 89°W) p. 261

Mississippi River River that flows from Minnesota south to the Gulf of Mexico. p. 8

Missouri (MO) State in the central United States. Admitted as a state in 1821. Capital: Jefferson City. (38°N 93°W) p. 239

Missouri River River that flows from southern Montana and joins the Mississippi River. p. 8

Montana (MT) State in the northwestern United States. Admitted as a state in 1889. Capital: Helena. (47°N 112°W) p. 239

Montreal City in southeastern Canada founded by the French in 1642. (46°N 74°W) p. 17

Nebraska (NE) State in the central United States. Admitted as a state in 1867. Capital: Lincoln. (41°N 101°W) p. 239

Netherlands
Country in northwestern Europe. Capital: Amsterdam. (52°N 5°E) p. 25


New Amsterdam Dutch settlement on the island of Manhattan. Founded in 1626. p. 24

New England Northeastern section of the United States. Made up of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. p. 44
New Hampshire  (NH) State in the northeastern United States. One of the original thirteen colonies. Admitted as a state in 1788. Capital: Concord. (44°N 71°W) p. 47
New Jersey  (NJ) State in the northeastern United States. One of the original thirteen colonies. Admitted as a state in 1787. Capital: Trenton. (40°N 75°W) p. 49
New Mexico  (NM) State in the southwestern United States. Admitted as a state in 1912. Capital: Santa Fe. (34°N 107°W) p. 8
New Orleans  Port city in southeastern Louisiana. (30°N 90°W) p. 26
New Spain  Vast area of North America controlled by Spain. p. 22
New Sweden  Swedish colony in North America that was located along the Delaware River. p. 27
New York  (NY) State in the northeastern United States. One of the original thirteen colonies. Admitted as a state in 1788. Capital: Albany. (42°N 78°W) p. 18
New York City  Largest city in the United States. (41°N 74°W) p. 51
North America  Continent in the northern Western Hemisphere. p. 6
North Carolina  (NC) State in the southeastern United States. One of the original thirteen colonies. Admitted as a state in 1789. Capital: Raleigh. (35°N 81°W) p. 21

Ohio  (OH) State in the north-central United States. Admitted as a state in 1803. Capital: Columbus. (40°N 83°W) p. 117
Ohio River  River that flows from southwestern Pennsylvania west to join the Mississippi River, forming the Ohio-West Virginia, Ohio-Kentucky, Indiana-Kentucky, and Illinois-Kentucky boundaries. p. 8

Pacific Ocean  Body of water extending from the Arctic Circle to Antarctica and from western North and South America to Australia, the Malay Archipelago, and East Asia. p. 9
Panama  Country in southern Central America. Location of the Panama Canal. Capital: Panama City. (8°N 81°W) p. 17
Pennsylvania  (PA) State in the eastern United States. One of the original thirteen colonies. Admitted as a state in 1787. Capital: Harrisburg. (41°N 78°W) p. 50
Plymouth  Site in Massachusetts where the Pilgrims first landed in North America in 1620. (42°N 70°W) p. 43
Portugal  Country in southwestern Europe on the western Iberian Peninsula. (38°N 8°W) p. 14
Providence  Capital of Rhode Island. (42°N 71°W) p. 46

Rhode Island  (RI) State in the northeastern United States. One of the original thirteen colonies. Admitted as a state in 1790. Capital: Providence. (41°N 71°W) p. 46
Richmond  Capital of Virginia. Capital of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. (37°N 7°W) p. 381
Rio Grande  Spanish for Great River. Forms the border between Texas and Mexico. p. 319
Roanoke Island  Island off the coast of North Carolina. Site of the first English settlement attempt in North America. p. 27
Rocky Mountains  Mountain range in western North America that extends from Alaska south to New Mexico. p. 10
Russia  Vast country that extends from Eastern Europe through northeastern Asia. Capital: Moscow. (61°N 60°E) p. 262
Sacramento River  River in northwest California. Sacramento, capital of California sits at its head. (38°N 121°W) p. 327
San Antonio  City in southern Texas. Site of the Mexican victory over Texas forces at the Alamo during the Texas Revolution. (29°N 99°W) p. 314
San Diego  City in southern California. Located on San Diego Bay. (33°N 117°W) p. 320
San Francisco  City in western California on a peninsula between the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay. (37°N 122°W) p. 22
Santa Fe  Capital of New Mexico. (35°N 106°W) p. 22
Saratoga  Site in eastern New York of the Revolutionary War's Battle of Saratoga, the turning point of the war. p. 94
Savannah  Port city in southeastern Georgia. Founded by James Oglethorpe in 1733. (32°N 81°W) p. 40
Seneca Falls  Village in west-central New York State. Site of the first women's rights convention in the United States in 1848. (43°N 77°W) p. 426
Sierra Nevada  Large mountain range in eastern California. p. 320
South America  Continent in the southern Western Hemisphere. p. 6
South Carolina  (SC) State in the southeastern United States. One of the original thirteen colonies. Admitted as a state in 1788. Capital: Columbia. (34°N 81°W) p. 40
Spain  Country in southwestern Europe that occupies the greater part of the Iberian Peninsula. Capital: Madrid. (40°N 4°W) p. 12

Tenochtitlán  Aztec island-city that was located on the site that is now Mexico City. p. 20
Texas  (TX) State in the south-central United States. Independent republic from 1836 to 1845. Admitted as a state in 1845. Capital: Austin. (31°N 101°W) p. 10

Utah  (UT) State in the western United States. Admitted as a state in 1896. Capital: Salt Lake City. (39°N 112°W) p. 8

Valley Forge  Site in southeastern Pennsylvania where General George Washington and his troops spent the harsh winter of 1777–78. p. 96
Venezuela  Republic in northern South America. Capital: Caracas. (8°N 66°W) p. 656
Vermont  (VT) State in the northeastern United States. Admitted as a state in 1791. Capital: Montpelier. (44°N 73°W) p. 261
Vicksburg  City in western Mississippi on the bluffs above the Mississippi River. (42°N 85°W) p. 484
Virginia  (VA) State in the eastern United States. One of the original thirteen colonies. Admitted as a state in 1788. Capital: Richmond. (37°N 80°W) p. 27

West Virginia  (WV) State in the east-central United States. Part of Virginia until the area refused to join the Confederacy in 1861. Admitted as a state in 1863. Capital: Charleston. (39°N 81°W) p. 474
Wyoming  (WY) State in the northwestern United States. Admitted as a state in 1890. Capital: Cheyenne. (43°N 108°W) p. 239