



Arizona's Gift

from the Grand Canyon State
CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE 2009

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ARIZONA FACTS

As Arizona travels across the United States to deliver the Capitol Christmas Tree, many Americans will get to meet our great state. Here are a few fast facts about Arizona, the home of the Capitol Christmas Tree 2009.

- 1.** Arizona became the 48th state in the Union on February 14, 1912.
- 2.** Known as the Grand Canyon State, Arizona will celebrate its centennial during 2012.
- 3.** Arizona covers 13,909 square miles and is the 6th largest state in the Union.
- 4.** Phoenix is the capital of Arizona and is the nation's 5th largest city. 6.5+ million people live in Arizona.
- 5.** Five C's of Arizona commerce: Cotton, Citrus, Cattle, Copper and Climate.
- 6.** Rising to a height of 12,643 feet, Mount Humphreys north of Flagstaff is the state's highest mountain.
- 7.** Arizona has an official state reptile: the Arizona Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake.
- 8.** The saguaro cactus blossom is the official state flower. The saguaro is the largest American cactus.
- 9.** Oraibi is the oldest Indian settlement in the United States. The Hopi Indians founded it.
- 10.** César Chávez, the historic labor leader, was born in Yuma.
- 11.** Petrified wood is the official state fossil found in the Petrified Forest in northeastern Arizona.
- 12.** The bola tie is the official state neckwear and worn even to formal black-tie events.
- 13.** The Palo Verde, which means "green stick," is the official state tree and is found in the deserts of Arizona.
- 14.** The cactus wren is the official state bird. Only 7 to 8 inches long, it often nests in giant saguaro cactus.
- 15.** Turquoise is the official state gemstone. It is the favored stone of most Native American jewelers.
- 16.** Arizona is home of Grand Canyon National Park—1 of the 7 Natural Wonders of the World.
- 17.** The amount of copper on the roof of the Arizona Capitol building is equivalent to 4,800,000 pennies.
- 18.** Arizona observes Mountain Standard Time on a year-round basis. One exception is the Navajo Nation.
- 19.** The battleship USS Arizona was commissioned in 1913 and launched in 1915. It rests in Pearl Harbor.
- 20.** The Navajo Nation is the largest reservation at 180,462 acres and the largest tribe in the United States.
- 21.** Arizona's most abundant mineral is copper. Arizona leads the nation in copper production.
- 22.** NASA astronauts trained for lunar missions in Meteor Crater near Winslow, Arizona.
- 23.** Copper boomtown Bisbee was once the largest city between St. Louis and San Francisco.
- 24.** Picacho Peak is the only location in Arizona where a Civil War battle was fought.
- 26.** The original London Bridge was shipped stone by stone and reconstructed in Lake Havasu City.
- 27.** Arizona land use is diverse: 2% farming, 57% pastureland, 24% forests and 17% urban centers.
- 28.** Fountain Hills is home to the tallest fountain in the world.
- 29.** Four Corners is the only spot in the United States where a person can stand in four states at one time.
- 30.** In 1939, architect Frank Lloyd Wright's studio, Taliesin West, was built near Scottsdale.
- 31.** Arizona, among all the states, has the largest percentage of its land designated as Indian land.
- 32.** The world's largest solar telescope is located at Kitt Peak National Observatory in the city of Sells.

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