

# Michigan

## Reading and Discussion

**Michigan** is a Midwestern state in the United States. It is named after **Lake Michigan**, an adaptation of the word “**mishigama**,” which means large water or large lake. Michigan state consists of two **peninsulas**. A peninsula is a piece of land that is surrounded by water on three sides.

Michigan’s Lower Peninsula is sometimes called “**the mitten**” because of its shape. The Upper and the Lower Peninsulas are separated by the **Straits of Mackinac**, which is a channel five miles long joining Lake Michigan to Lake Huron. The Upper Peninsula is important to the economy because of its natural resources and tourism. Residents of the Upper Peninsula are typically called “**Yoopers**.”

Michigan has several nicknames, such as **The Great Lakes State**, **The Wolverine State**, **The Automotive State**, and **Water-Winter Wonderland**.

Michigan has 64,980 lakes. No matter where a person is in Michigan, he or she is never more than six miles from a natural source of water. This state has the longest freshwater shoreline in the world, and it is bordered by four of the five **Great Lakes** and by **Lake Saint Clair**. It also has more lighthouses than any other state in the USA.

Michigan ranks 8<sup>th</sup> with regard to population. While the largest city in Michigan is **Detroit**, the capitol of Michigan is **Lansing**. Michigan has been a home to much of the American automotive industry throughout history. Henry Ford’s first automobile plant was in Highland Park in Michigan.

The highest point in the state is **Mount Arvon**, which is in the Huron Mountains. The **Porcupine Mountains**, also located in Michigan, are part of one of the oldest mountain chains in the world. Michigan also has the largest state forest system and the largest state park in the USA. One of its national parks is called **Isle Royale National Park**. Michigan also has more public golf courses than any other state.

The state motto of Michigan is “**Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice**.” This is a Latin phrase meaning, “If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you.” The state bird is the **American robin**, and the state flower is the **apple blossom**. Michigan’s state tree is the **white pine**, and its state animal is the **wolverine**.

Michigan was admitted to the United States on January 26, 1837. It became the 26<sup>th</sup> state. The state abbreviation for Michigan is MI.

Michigan’s economy leads in advanced manufacturing, information technology, and life sciences. The state is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> nationally in high-technology employment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Activities

### **Activity A:** Multiple Choice:

1. Michigan is nicknamed all of the following EXCEPT:
  - a. The Wolverine State
  - b. The Lighthouse State
  - c. The Automotive State
  - d. The Great Lakes State
  
2. Michigan was the \_\_\_\_\_ state admitted to the Union:
  - a. thirteenth
  - b. sixth
  - c. twenty-sixth
  - d. twenty-second
  
3. The state bird of Michigan is the:
  - a. cardinal
  - b. wren
  - c. crow
  - d. American robin

### **Activity B:** Fill in the Blanks:

1. The Capitol of Michigan is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Henry Ford's first automobile plant was in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Michigan's state flower is the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The highest point in the state of Michigan is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Activity C:** True or False:

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Residents of the Upper Peninsula are typically called "Yoopers."
- \_\_\_\_ 2. A peninsula is a piece of land that is completely surrounded by water.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key

### Activity A

1. Michigan is nicknamed all of the following EXCEPT:
  - a. The Wolverine State
  - b. **The Lighthouse State**
  - c. The Automotive State
  - d. The Great Lakes State
2. Michigan was the \_\_\_\_\_ state admitted to the Union.
  - a. thirteenth
  - b. sixth
  - c. **twenty-sixth**
  - d. twenty-second
3. The state bird of Michigan is the:
  - a. cardina
  - b. wren
  - c. crow
  - d. **American robin**

### Activity B

1. The Capitol of Michigan is \_\_\_\_\_ Lansing \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Henry Ford's first automobile plant was in \_\_\_\_\_ Highland Park \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Michigan's state flower is the \_\_\_\_\_ apple blossom \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The highest point in the state of Michigan is \_\_\_\_\_ Mount Arvon \_\_\_\_\_.

### Activity C

- T 8. Residents of the Upper Peninsula are typically called "Yoopers."
- F 9. A peninsula is a piece of land that is completely surrounded by water.