

Welcome To Michigan

I live in Michigan. It is a state in the Midwest. Michigan is famous for The Great Lakes, cars, apples, cereal, fishing, and nature. It is the 11th largest state. That makes it one of the biggest. It is 8th in population, which also makes it one of the biggest in this respect. You might know some of the major cities, like Detroit, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, or even Battle Creek, the original home of Kellogg's, Post, and Ralston Cereals. The state capital is Lansing, and it is nicknamed *The Great Lakes State*. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Michigan, let me tell you a little more about my state.

Michigan is one of the northern states in our country, one of about a dozen that border Canada. There are several places you can get to Canada from Michigan by boat or by car. Michigan is pretty interesting because it is a divided state. The Lower Peninsula is the bigger half. It looks a lot like a mitten, on account of its shape. The Upper Peninsula is surrounded by three of the Great Lakes. You can take ferry boats across the water to go from one peninsula to the other, or you can drive across the Mackinac Bridge. Built over 50 years ago, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world for quite a while. It's pretty nice to see.

Because of its location on the Great Lakes, Michigan is pretty important for shipping. Many things go by boat from Michigan to the rest of the country. If you get on a boat in Michigan, you can go all the way down the St. Lawrence River and out into the Atlantic Ocean! The Great Lakes are five very large lakes. Together, they are the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world. They have about 20% of the world's fresh water. Four of them surround Michigan's two peninsulas. They are Lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan, and Erie. Lake Ontario is the only one of the Great Lakes not touching Michigan.



If you visit Michigan, you can see a lot of outdoor charm. It has four seasons, and all of them can be pretty. There are copper and iron mines in the Upper Peninsula, and there is a lot of fishing, camping, and swimming to be done! You can also ski, snowmobile, and sled in the winter. There really is something to do in every season in Michigan.

You can also visit the Motor City. Detroit is important because of the car companies. There is a lot of automotive history there! General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler all have history there. The Big Three American car companies used to make most of their cars in Detroit and ship them to the rest of the country on trains! That is why Detroit is still known as the Motor City. It has pro sports teams in Detroit for ice hockey, baseball, and football.

Now that you know a little more about Michigan, are you thinking about visiting? It is a great place to spend some time outdoors. Hope to see you soon!

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

1. What is Michigan's population ranking?

- A. 1st
- B. 9th
- C. 8th
- D. 7th

2. True or False: Michigan has two peninsulas.

- A. True
- B. False

3. Which of these is Michigan famous for?

- A. mountains
- B. The Great Lakes
- C. forests
- D. food

4. Which of these car companies is NOT from Michigan?

- A. Honda
- B. Chrysler
- C. General Motors
- D. Ford

5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Michigan? Why or Why Not?

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