

Indiana Activities

What do you remember about the Hoosier State's symbols?

- White-tailed deer
- Cardinals
- Caves
- Covered bridges
- Capitals
- Angels
- Apples
- Airplanes
- Antique cars
- Amish buggies
- Sand dunes
- President Abraham Lincoln
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Football
- Flag
- Peony
- Paintings
- An Underground Railroad
- Raggedy Ann and Andy
- Santa Claus

Interesting Facts Found in Oliver's Journal

The Motto

What is the Hoosier State Motto?

Indiana, "The Crossroads of America."

Indiana has more miles of interstate highway per square mile than any other state. In the early 1800s, rivers served as highways, but early pioneers also cut down trees and moved boulders in order to create the east-west National Road and the north-south Michigan Road. At one time, twelve stagecoach lines ran along the National Road (now U.S. Interstate 40). By 1847, railroads began crisscrossing the state. Today, more major highways intersect Indiana than any other state.

The Tree

What is the Hoosier State Tree?

Hint: It is the favorite tree of Sabrina Squirrel.

Early pioneers found Indiana covered in thick forests. Before the mid-1800s, more than eighty percent of the land was wooded. Now trees cover only seventeen percent of the land here. Although more than 100 trees are native to Indiana, the tulip tree (also

known as the yellow poplar) was chosen as the state tree. It has large, broad leaves, yellowish tulip-shaped flowers with an orange stamen in the center, and long cone-shaped fruit. The twigs smell spicy, as Sabrina pointed out to Indy and Oliver. Carpenters like working with the yellow wood. Tulip trees can grow up to 200 feet tall, with a 10-foot-thick base. At one time, they covered all of North America and Europe, but now they are found only in the eastern half of our country and in China.

The State Bird

What is the Hoosier State Bird (the bird who saved Indy and Oliver from a terrible fall)?

Indiana's state bird wears a bright red coat and cap and a black crest—although females aren't as brightly colored, so they can blend into the colors of a thicket while sitting on nests. Cardinals mate for life, and the fathers help feed and protect the babies. Cardinals build cup-shaped nests in briars, bushes, or trees. The nests are woven with dry leaves, twigs, dry grass, and the stems of grape vines. The mother lays three or four pale blue-green spotted eggs; she'll sit on them until they hatch. The parents feed their newborn babies and teach them to fly. When happy, the bird sings "What-cheer? What-cheer? Cheer! Cheer! Cheer!" or "Purty-purty-purty." When they're angry, they call "Chip! Chip! Chip!" Cardinals have been known to dive at

birds who threaten their eggs or nestlings. A friend of buntings and sparrows, cardinals eat grapes, berries, and pulpy fruits. In the summer, they take dust baths on dirt roads.

The State Animal

What is the Hoosier State Animal?

Hint: Oliver often travels with them over long distances.

Two centuries ago, black bear, foxes, lynx, and cougars roamed Indiana's forests, but wildlife moved away as farms and cities took over their lands. Now the white-tailed deer are the largest native mammals found here. Four-footed, grown-ups stand three-and-a-half feet tall at the shoulder. They flash their white tails like a flag to warn of danger. Males have a rack of antlers. Females carry their babies for seven months and usually give birth to twins. Deer eat leaves and plants.

The State Capital

What is Indiana's State Capital? Oliver toured three cities, but where does the governor live now?

Originally called Fall River, the swampy little settlement on the shallow White River was renamed Indianapolis in 1821. "Polis" means city, so Indianapolis means "the city of Indiana." In 1825, nine years after Indiana entered the Union, the government moved to

the new settlement because it sat in the center of the state. Four wagons moved the entire government, including the treasury box, from Corydon to Indianapolis.

In its early days, the town didn't look different from every other wilderness settlement—until Alexander Ralston, who had helped design Washington, D.C., arrived to map the new town and design its early buildings.

In the center of the Corn Belt, at the crossroads of north-south and east-west roads, Indianapolis quickly became the state's largest city, thanks to the arrival of the National Road in 1834, the Central Canal in 1836, and the railroad in 1847.

Indianapolis is a beautiful city whose map looks like a wagon wheel, with the hub at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument. There are many fun places to visit, as Oliver and Indy learned.

The State Flag

Where did Oliver first see the State Flag flying?

In 1916, to celebrate Indiana's hundredth birthday, the Daughters of the American Revolution held a contest to design a state flag. Paul Hadley of Mooresville won the challenge with his blue and gold banner, which contains many symbols. The torch stands for liberty and enlightenment. Its rays represent liberty's far-reaching influence. The circle of thirteen stars re-

minds us of the thirteen original colonies that united to become the United States. The five stars in the outer circle symbolize the next five states to enter the Union. Look for the largest star, the nineteenth, which sits above the torch's flame; Indiana was the nineteenth state—the best and brightest star, in Hoosier eyes! Oliver first saw the flag flying over the capital building in Indianapolis!

The State Stone

What is Indiana's State Stone?

A rich bed of limestone runs beneath much of Indiana. Indiana's quarries provided limestone to build the Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center, the Pentagon and the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., and many state capital buildings. Oliver inspected limestone in his cave adventure.

The State Flower

What is the Hoosier State Flower?

The glorious, spicy scent of our state flower, the peony, fills the springtime air in Indiana. Related to the buttercup, peonies have glossy, divided leaves and large, beautiful, full flowers with five to ten petals and round, shiny black seeds. Peonies have single or double flowers—and their colors range from white to pink, purple-red, or blood-red.

Many early gardeners planted peonies in their flower beds, so in the spring, Indiana seems full of their rich colors and smells. Peony bushes usually grow to be three feet tall, but in some areas they've grown to twelve feet.

Did you know ...

- Most of the state's rivers flow south and west, eventually emptying into the Mississippi River. However, the Maumee flows north and east, its waters eventually reaching Lake Erie. Lake Wawasee is the state's largest natural lake.
- Neat-as-a-pin farms cover Indiana, many of them carved out of the forests nearly 175 years ago. The state's 63,000 farms are part of America's Corn Belt; their average size is 246 acres. Corn and soybeans are their leading crops. Orville Redenbacher used Indiana corn when he created his famous line of popcorn.