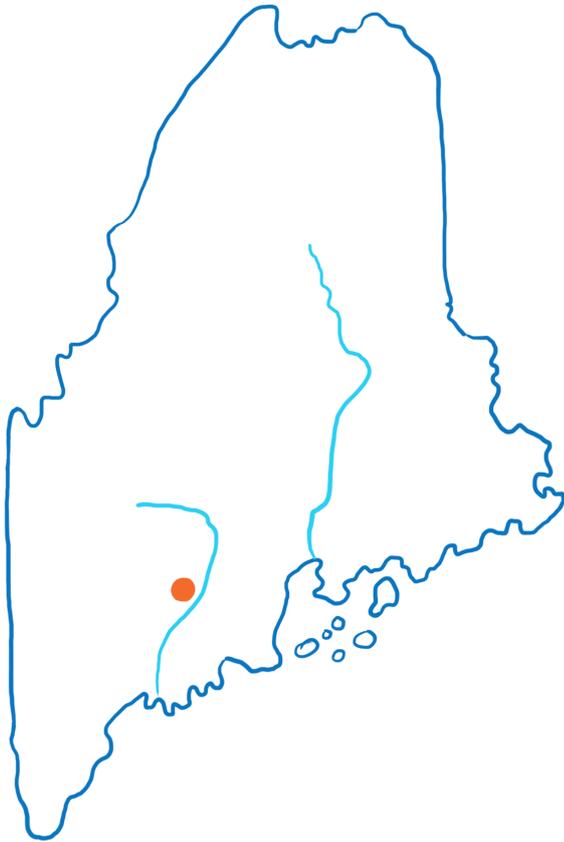
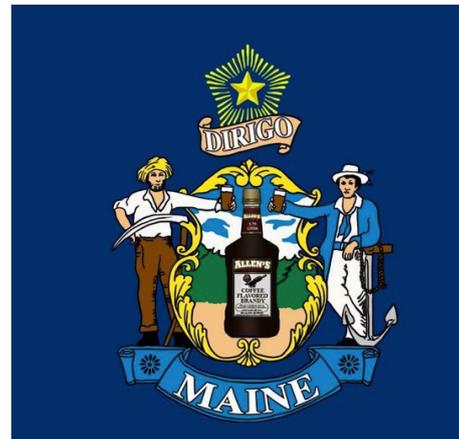




Maine



Pine Tree State
 Capital: Augusta
 Flower: white pine cone, tassel
 Tree: white pine
 Bird: chickadee
 Main river: Penobscot
 Motto: "Dirigo," meaning "I direct."
 23d state: March 15, 1820



Maine is nicknamed "The Pine Tree State." The tree appears on the state flag, and, as of 2012, a full 83 percent of the state was covered in forest, making it the second most tree-covered state in the lower 48 states (New Hampshire was first with 89 percent).





Maine is responsible for almost 90 percent of the United States' lobster supply. The people of Maine take lobsters so seriously, the University of Maine even has its own Lobster Institute, dedicated to learning more about the animals. Founded in 1987, its primary purpose is to support the state's lobster industry, and to help lobstermen around the world develop sustainable practices.

Maine produces 99% of all the blueberries in the country making it the single largest producer of blueberries in the United States.



The official state insect of Maine is the honeybee. The state has a rich beekeeping culture.

The official state animal of Maine is the moose. The state is home to the highest moose population in the lower 48 states. Not surprisingly, moose-watching is a popular tourist activity.



Maine used to be part of Massachusetts. The former Massachusetts province spent decades after the American Revolution campaigning for independence, and finally gained official statehood in 1820.

One of the ten coldest states, Maine has long been famous for its harsh winters and chilly springs.



The Maine Coon Cat, which is the official state cat of Maine, is the largest domestic cat breed—and with their thick, layered fur coats, they're perfectly adapted for Maine's snowy winters.

Founded in 1794, Bowdoin College is the oldest college in Maine. Its famous alumni include renowned poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and writer Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote her anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in Brunswick, Maine, during the 1850s. The house where she worked on the novel is now a museum.

Most of horror writer Stephen King's books are set in Maine. A native Mainer, King has set novels like *Pet Sematary*, *It*, and *Salem's Lot* in small Maine towns. He wrote his first novel, *Carrie*, while working as a teacher in Bangor, Maine.



Lighthouses warn boats of perils on the rocky shores.

Maine is the only state in the United States whose name has one syllable.

Maine is the only state that shares its border with only one other state.

*Source: 50states.com
mentalfloss.com*