

## Oklahoma Trivia & Facts

- On November 16, 1907, Oklahoma became the 46<sup>th</sup> state.
- Oklahoma's population is 3,980,783 (2019 estimate).
- Oklahoma is comprised of 77 counties.
- Oklahoma covers 69,919 square miles.
- Oklahoma has 12 ecoregions.
- Guthrie was the first state capital of Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma's state capitol is the only one in the world with an oil well drilled beneath it.
- Oklahoma is the third-largest gas-producing state in the nation.
- The world's largest air materiel center is Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City.
- Sylvan Goldman of Oklahoma created the first rolling supermarket cart.
- The world's first parking meter was created in Oklahoma and installed in Oklahoma City on July 16, 1935.
- Oklahoma is the winter quarters for more circuses than any other state.
- Oklahoma's average annual temperature is a pleasant 60.5 degrees.
- Oklahoma has four mountain ranges: Ouachita, Arbuckle, Wichita and Ozark.
- Forests cover 24 percent of Oklahoma.
- The Poteau River is the only river in Oklahoma that flows north.
- The world's largest single deposit of pure alabaster is found in the Alabaster Caverns near Freedom, Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma is linked to the world's waters by the McClellan-Kerr Navigation System, which flows on the Arkansas River through Arkansas to the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico.
- The highest elevation in the state is Black Mesa, at 4,978 feet, in far northwestern Oklahoma.
- The lowest elevation in the state is in the southeastern corner near Idabel, at 324 feet.
- Oklahoma has the distinction of having the tallest hill in the world, Mount Cavanal, at 1,999 feet.
- Oklahoma has more man-made lakes (200) than any other state, more than 1 million surface-acres of water and 2,000 more miles of shoreline than the Atlantic and Gulf coasts combined.
- The largest lake in Oklahoma is Lake Eufaula, covering 102,000 surface acres of water.
- Oklahoma's name is derived from two Choctaw words - "okla" meaning people, and "humma" meaning red.
- The "Trail of Tears" began in the 1830s. It was the journey of the Five Civilized Tribes from the southeastern United States to Indian Territory. The relocation was forced.
- The Five Tribes attempted statehood in 1905 under the name Sequoyah.
- There are 39 tribal nations headquartered in Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma has the second largest Native American population (2010 Census). Many of the 320,000 Native American residents are descendants of the original 67 tribes who lived in Indian Territory.