

ARIZONA A to Z

Celebrating the Centennial of Arizona. A supplement to the Symbols of Arizona worksheet and crossword puzzle. Grade 3+



A is for Pronghorn Antelope. Males have prongs on each horn which are shed each year in the winter. They have a tan body with white markings on the head and neck, and a large white rump patch. Pronghorn antelopes like grasslands and are active day and night. They are inexhaustible runners and can maintain speeds of 30 mph for 15 miles and peak at 70 mph during short bursts. Their incredible eyes can detect movement up to four miles away. Their white rump hairs stand on end when there is danger as a warning to others in the herd.



B is for Bobcats found throughout Arizona. The most populous wild felines in North America, they even frequent our backyards sometimes! Bobcats have tufted ears and faces, and bobbed (short) tails. Black markings can be seen on their fur. They can be active day or night. They adapt easily to many habitats while making a den in hollow logs, thickets, caves and other sheltered areas. The bobcat is a carnivore and consumes the complete body of its small prey.



C is for Cinco De Mayo. Cinco De Mayo commemorates the victory of the Mexicans over the French forces in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. It has evolved into a day to celebrate Mexican culture and heritage in many areas of the United States, including Arizona.



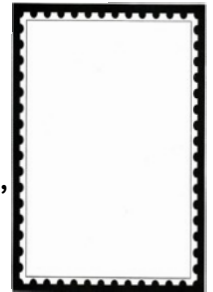
D is for Dr. Walter Reed, who was stationed at Camp Lowell (Tucson) in 1876 and later at Fort Apache. He spent time in garrisons in the frontier taking care of soldiers and advocating for better health conditions on Native American reservations. His research on malaria helped save many lives during the building of the Panama Canal.



E is for Explorers who came through Arizona. One was Conquistador Francisco Vázquez de Coronado whose expedition traveled north through Arizona in 1540 in the search of the Seven Cities of Cibola, which he never found. His men were the first Europeans to see the Grand Canyon.



F is for the Forests of Arizona. Yes, Arizona has forests! Arizona has almost 73 million acres of land and about 27% or 19.4 million acres is forest land. The most abundant trees on Arizona forest land are two-needle pinyon, ponderosa pine, and Gambel oak. Arizona has six national forests: Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Tonto, Coronado, Kaibab, and Prescott. They are wonderful places to hike and camp!



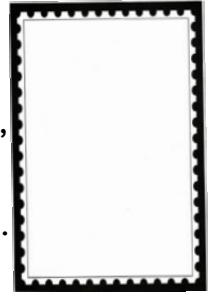
G is for Gadsden Purchase. In 1853, the United States sent William Gadsden to Mexico to negotiate the purchase of land along the southern boundary of the New Mexico territory. The U.S. wanted this land because of the interest in building a transcontinental railroad along the southern boundary of the U.S. Also there were still some border conflicts with Mexico at the time. The Gadsden Purchase was ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1854 for the price of ten million dollars. After the purchase, towns such as Bisbee, Bowie, Willcox, Tucson, Sierra Vista, Yuma, and Nogales were part of the United States of America!



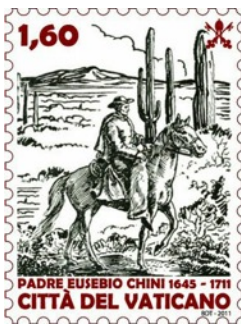


H is for the Hoover Dam, originally known as Boulder Dam. This arch-gravity dam in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River began operation in 1936. The purpose of the dam was to control flooding and provide irrigation water and hydroelectric power to the people of Nevada, Arizona, and California. This dam created Lake Mead. When driving to Las Vegas from Arizona, people now cross on the new four-lane concrete and steel arch bridge bypass above the dam.

I is for Iwo Jima. Iwo Jima was the last Japanese island to be captured by the U.S. during World War II. Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona, was one of the six men who raised the flag during the battle to take the island. Hayes, along with two others, survived the battle and war. It took 36 days for the Americans to capture the island. The U.S. lost over 6,000 soldiers and the Japanese lost over 18,000. Iwo Jima was strategic as it provided a much-needed air base for long-range bombing flights to mainland Japan.



J is for Jack Rabbit. The Black-tailed jack rabbit is also known as the American desert hare. It is the third largest hare in North America. These rabbits prefer mixed shrub-grassland terrains. Females give birth in very shallow depressions in the ground. The young are born with fur and open eyes. They are mobile within minutes of birth and are well camouflaged. In warmer climate, females can give birth to several litters a year. Two to seven young can be born per litter.



K is for Father Kino who explored and mapped southern Arizona and introduced cattle to the Native Americans. Kino started many missions among the Native American villages and introduced many new crops including winter wheat. He is known as the first rancher of Arizona. The Tohono O'odham loved him because he respected their culture and advocated for them against the Spanish government.



L is for Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. Percival Lowell founded this research institution in 1894. Telescope domes like the one pictured on this stamp are a common sight at this Registered National Historic Landmark. Lowell Observatory has played an important role in the the field of astronomy including the discovery of Pluto and its atmosphere.

M is for the Mountains of Arizona. Many people in the United States think that Arizona is only desert but we know better. There are many beautiful mountain ranges with various spectacular characteristics. Examples are the "Land of Standing Up Rocks" of the Chiricahuas appropriately named by the Apaches in the southeast region of the the state, to the ancient strata-volcano San Francisco Peaks of which Humphrey's Peak rises 12,637 ft above the city of Flagstaff in northern Arizona. Plenty of hiking and skiing can be done in the various mountain ranges found in Arizona!





N is for Navajo weaving. These textiles were originally made for robes, wrap dresses, saddle blankets, belts and other personal items. In the 16th century the Navajos acquired the Iberian Churra breed of sheep from Spanish explorers. These sheep were developed into the Navajo Churra breed of sheep which has long, dense wool. Navajo rugs, which are very popular among tourists, can take from two months to many years to complete. These beautiful geometric textiles are very popular among those who collect Native American art.

O is for Overland Mail. The Butterfield Overland Mail route was a stagecoach line that connected St. Louis, Missouri, and Memphis, Tennessee, to San Francisco from 1858-1861. This southern "OxBow" route was suggested by the postmaster general, Aaron Brown, as a way to avoid the winter snows of a northern route. It took about 25 days and 2,795 miles to travel the route. Delivering mail and passengers was very important to the growth of the United States and the communication between the west and east coasts. Southern Arizona, then New Mexico Territory, had several stagecoach stops along this route such as Fort Yuma and Tucson.



P is for the Powell Expedition. John Wesley Powell, a Civil War veteran, came out west because he loved geology, nature and exploring nature. While in the west, he enjoyed meeting, working with, and studying several indigenous cultures. With nine other men in 1869, Powell traveled down the Green River (Wyoming), joined the Colorado River, passed through the Grand Canyon, and three months later arrived at the Virgin River in Nevada. Several times he and his men had to carry their boats around treacherous rapids to get to calmer parts of the river. This is called portage. He was the first known person to explore and record his travels in the Grand Canyon.

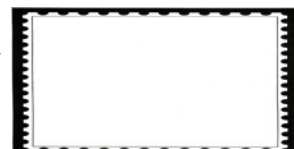


Q is for Quail Gambel's quail, named after the famous naturalist William Gambel, is very common and popular among the residents of Arizona. It is a ground feeder and usually can be seen in the morning and late afternoon. Both the male and female have teardrop top knots. The quail like brushy and thorny desert vegetation. They usually spend the night in a tree or tall bush. Sometimes they gather together in "coveys" which is the word for a group of 20 or more quail. They prefer to run and seldom fly more than 200 ft.



R is for Rattlesnake. Arizona is home to 13 species of rattlesnakes. The Western diamondback rattlesnake pictured here is the largest rattlesnake in the West. They can grow up to 66" long. Rattlesnakes use the "loreal pit," a heat-sensing organ between the nostril and eye to locate prey and potential predators. According to Arizona Poison Control, less than 1% of all rattlesnake bites result in death, but the Western diamondback is the deadliest.

S is for Silver mining. Silver mining was the first industry in Arizona. After the Gadsden Purchase, American prospectors started mining silver deposits originally found by the Spanish in southern Arizona. Tombstone was the "claim" name of the greatest silver strike in Arizona in 1877. It grew to be the most productive silver mine in Arizona history. Many of the other mines such as Bisbee and the Silver King in Superior, which originally mined silver, converted to mining copper by 1888.



T is for Wild Turkey.

Arizona has two native turkey sub-species: Merriams and Gould. The Merriams prefer the ponderosa pine areas of northern Arizona, and a small number of Goulds can be found in the southern mountain ranges of the state. Most of the Goulds were hunted by early settlers and miners for the dinner table between 1865 and 1920. Gould turkeys can stand up to four feet tall and weigh 25 pounds. The hens lay eight to twelve eggs. The chicks are taken care of by the hen.



U is for the U.S. Air Force.

Arizona is the home to two Air Force bases: Luke Air Force Base in Glendale and Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson. The Barry M. Goldwater range is used by the marines and air force for bombing practice. The 355th Fighter Wing Division is the host of Davis-Monthan AFB. It is a pilot training and support facility for the A-10 Thunderbolt II. Davis-Monthan is also the sole boneyard for excess military and government aircraft. The host command at Luke AFB is the 56th Fighter Wing. Luke AFB provides training for F-16 pilots and in the future for the F-35 Lightning IIs.



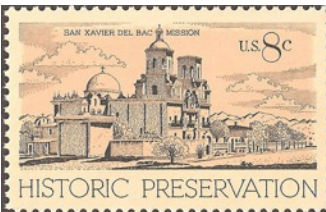
V is for Monument Valley.

Monument Valley is located in the Four Corners area of northern Arizona with the southern border of Utah. The Navajos call it the "Valley of the Rocks." This beautiful siltstone area has a cluster of huge buttes and rock formations. The red color of the rocks and sand comes from iron oxide. The area has been a favorite backdrop for many western movies over the years and a popular tourist destination. This valley is on the Navajo Reservation.



W is for Frank Lloyd Wright

One of the greatest American architects was Frank Lloyd Wright who lived in the Phoenix area from 1937 to 1959. He built his winter home and architect school in the desert area which is now known as Scottsdale, Arizona. The name of his home and school is Taliesin West. Today you can take tours and it is still a school of architecture. The Gammage Auditorium at Arizona State University was designed at Taliesin West.

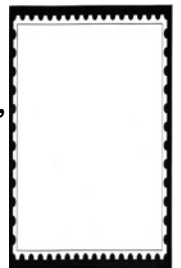


X is for San Xavier del Bac.

Today this mission is considered one of the finest examples of Spanish mission architecture in the United States. Father Kino laid the foundation in 1700 but never built it. The Franciscans designed and built the current mission with native labor from 1783-1797. It is on the Tohono O'odham San Xavier Indian Reservation. In 1963 the mission became a national historic landmark.

Y is for MCAS Yuma.

Marine Corp Air Station Yuma is currently the busiest air station in the Marine Corps because of excellent year-round flying conditions and thousands of acres of open terrain for air-to-ground weapons testing. One of the groups, Marine Fighter Training Squadron 401, is a Marine Air Reserve squadron containing both active duty and Selected Marine Corps Reservists, providing aerial adversary/aggressor and dissimilar air combat training (DACT) for all US military services. Nearby is the Yuma Proving Ground, one of the largest military installations in the world where the Army tests military equipment and systems.



Z is for Babe Zaharias.

This famous female athlete won two gold and one silver track and field medals at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1932. She was also accomplished in basketball and many other sports. She is most famous for her golf career. Between 1940 and 1950 she won every women's golf title possible. In 1945 she was the first female to make the cut and finish two men's (PGA) tournaments in Phoenix and Tucson.

Arizona A to Z

This worksheet is designed for use with **Arizona A to Z , Symbols of Arizona**, and any textbooks or information off the Internet. Also, students working in groups should be able to provide most of the answers.

A. List five examples of each category below found in the state of Arizona.

<u>Wild Mammals</u>	<u>Native Trees and Plants</u>	<u>Native Birds</u>	<u>Minerals mined in AZ</u>
1.	1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.	5.

B. Look closely at the stamp of John Wesley Powell on page three. What is missing in the picture? _____

How did he lose it? _____

Are you brave and strong enough to follow your life plan no matter what happens to you in the future like Mr. Powell? _____

C. There are many Native Americans in Arizona. List at least five tribes found in AZ.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What percent of the population are Native Americans in the state of Arizona? _____

E. The Overland Mail route went through what is today, southern Arizona. Look up the route on the Internet and list four towns other than Tucson along the route.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How many days did it take mail to get from St. Louis to San Francisco? _____

D. One of the five Cs of Arizona is CLIMATE. Because of the wonderful climate, people can participate in many activities outside most of the year. List six healthy things to do outside in our wonderful state.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

F. Why do you think there are several military bases in Arizona?

G. The Spanish have greatly affected the history of Arizona. Write a short essay explaining the many ways the Spanish have influenced what has become the land, economics, and people of our state. Continue your writing on the back page.
