

# KANSAS:

# Then *and* Now

Provided by  
**Kansas Secretary of State Kris W. Kobach**  
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So you're ready to learn about Kansas, huh? Well, let's get going! We've got lots to cover, including the State's **history, culture, geography** and **economy**. We'll also meet some of Kansas' most famous people - big thinkers like **James Naismith, Amelia Earhart** and **President Dwight D. Eisenhower**, and many more. So buckle your seat belt and get ready for a wild ride.

**You're going to learn a lot!**

# HISTORY

Kansas had a dramatic history even before it became the 34th state in 1861. In fact, Native Americans were in the area as early as 12,000 B.C. As a result, the history of the state is entwined with that of the Native Americans, whose culture and language have had enormous impacts on modern-day Kansas.

Between 1541 and 1739, explorers from Spain and France came to the area in search of gold, trade and knowledge. In 1803, Kansas became part of the Louisiana Purchase, and 51 years later, it was organized as a territory that included the eastern half of Colorado.



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

In the mid-1850s, conflict over the slavery question in Kansas led to bloody battles between freestaters and proslavery forces. The conflict earned the state the nickname "Bleeding Kansas."

At the election for a Territorial Legislature held March 30, 1855, armed men from Missouri occupied most voting places. While the census of the preceding month gave Kansas Territory 2,905 voters, the votes cast numbered 6,318. Clearly voter fraud has been a threat since before Kansas became a state.

By 1861, the slavery conflict ended with Kansas joining the Union as a free state and naming Topeka as the capital.

After the Civil War, the influx of white settlers and the large number of Native Americans created tension between the two groups, who were equally suspicious of each other. Military posts were built to protect both the settlers and the Indians. Small towns, schools, churches and industries soon followed the posts, and Kansas' population began to rise.

By 1870, the Kansas (now Union) Pacific Railroad reached the Colorado line, and the Santa Fe Railway followed two years later. With the railroads came the great cattle drives, turning towns like Dodge City, Abilene, Newton and Wichita into prominent shipping centers. The introduction of Turkey Red wheat by Russian Mennonites in 1874 was a milestone for Kansas agriculture, as the wheat was ideally suited to the climate and soon made Kansas one of the leading wheat producers in the nation.

In the late 1870s, black emigration from the South, also referred to as the "Colored Exodus," had reached its peak. Interested in bringing new settlers into the rugged, wind swept Kansas



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

plains, a white man, W.R. Hill, traveled throughout the South encouraging blacks to choose from new government lands. By the summer of 1877, actually before the Exodus began, 300 blacks were convinced to move from the South to Graham County and the new town site of Nicodemus was established. Today, it is the only remaining western town established by African Americans during the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War. In 1996 it was designated a National Historic Site.

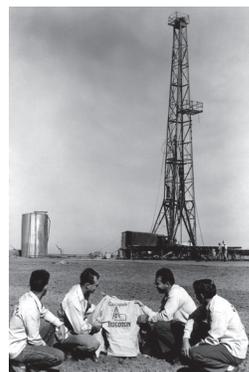


Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

The 1900s brought mining, oil production, the discovery of natural gas and helium fields, the meatpacking industry and airplane manufacturing plants. It was during this century that Kansas changed from being a cattle and wheat state to being a thriving industrial and diversified agricultural economy.

# IMPORTANT DATES IN KANSAS HISTORY

**1541:** The Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado becomes the first white man to enter present-day Kansas.

**1803:** The United States buys Kansas from the French as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

**1854:** Kansas is organized as a territory that includes much of present-day Colorado.

**1855-1861:** A brutal territorial conflict erupts between those who want Kansas to enter the Union as a free state and those who want Kansas to be a slave state. The tense period earns Kansas the nickname "Bleeding Kansas."

**1861:** Kansas becomes the 34th state to enter the Union and names Topeka its capital.

**1861-1870:** The era of railroad expansion and cattle drives begins in Kansas.

**1874:** Turkey Red wheat is introduced to Kansas, ushering in a new era of agriculture.

**1912:** Kansas voters adopt an amendment to the Kansas Constitution allowing women to vote, eight years before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution does so.

**1930s:** A devastating drought causes much of the state to become engulfed in the "Dust Bowl."

**1952:** Dwight D. Eisenhower, a native of Abilene, is elected the 34th President of the United States.

**1954:** The U.S. Supreme Court issues the famous *Brown vs. Topeka Board of*

*Education* decision, which declares segregation in schools unconstitutional.

**1978:** Nancy Landon Kassebaum is elected as the state's first female U.S. Senator.

**1990:** Joan Finney is elected as the state's first female governor.

**1996:** Bob Dole loses to Bill Clinton in the Presidential Election.

**2011:** Kansas becomes the first state in the nation to combine three major security measures to protect each vote. (See page 4)



# SYMBOLS

## FAMOUS KANSAS SYMBOLS

### State Motto

You'll need to know some Latin to understand the state motto, "Ad Astra per Aspera," which means "To the Stars through Difficulties." The phrase was first used by John J. Ingalls, who helped write the state's constitution prior to the Civil War. Ingalls believed that Kansans could realize the impossible if they worked through their difficulties. He stated the motto in Latin to give it dignity, and it stuck.

### State Capitol

Everybody needs a home, right? Well, the Kansas government's home is a building in Topeka called the Capitol.



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

The grand building with the dome is full of offices and meeting rooms, which are used by elected officials. The governor has an office on the second floor. The Kansas House of Representatives has a large meeting room in the west wing, and the Kansas Senate has one in the east wing. It's in these rooms that Kansas legislators make laws. Construction

on the Capitol began in 1866 and was finished 37 years later in 1903. In 2000, the Capitol underwent a facelift as both the exterior and interior received restoration and renovation.

### Ad Astra Statue

What's atop the Capitol dome in Topeka? Before 2002, there was just a big light bulb up there. But today, a statue called Ad Astra is mounted on top. The statue depicts a Kansa warrior who is aiming his bow and arrow toward the North Star. The Kansa people lived in this place we call Kansas when explorers first visited.

Why is the warrior aiming his arrow toward the North Star? Well, in the old days, the North Star was important to explorers because it always pointed north and helped them find their way. The statue symbolizes the idea that Kansans always find their way if they aim for the stars. The statue's name, Ad Astra, comes from the state motto, "Ad Astra per Aspera."



### Did You Know?

The Ad Astra Statue is over 22 feet tall and weighs over 4,000 pounds.

# FACTS & SYMBOLS

## BASIC KANSAS FACTS

**Population:** Over 2.8 million

**Capital:** Topeka

**Largest City:** Wichita

**Size:** 411 miles long by 208 miles wide

**Number of Counties:** 105 (Barton County is the only county named after a woman - Clara Barton)

**State Nicknames:** Wheat State, Sunflower State, Jayhawker State

**State Motto:** "Ad Astra per Aspera"  
(Latin for "To the Stars through Difficulties")

**State Song:** "Home on the Range"

**State Animal:** American Buffalo

**State Insect:** Honeybee

**State Reptile:** Ornate Box Turtle

**State Amphibian:** Barred Tiger Salamander

**State Flower:** Sunflower

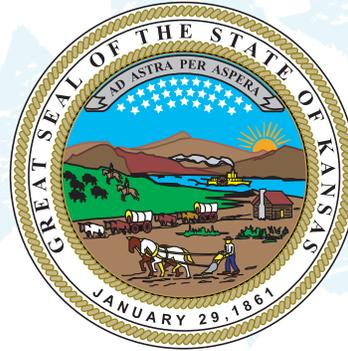
**State Soil:** Harney Silt Loam

**State Bird:** Western Meadowlark

**State Tree:** Cottonwood

**Highest Point:** Mount Sunflower (4,039 ft)  
in Wallace County

**Lowest Point:** The Verdigris River (680 ft)  
in Montgomery County



### Great Seal of the State of Kansas

The Great Seal of the State of Kansas tells the state's story in pictures. The east is represented by a rising sun. Industry is represented by a river and steamboat, while agriculture is symbolized by a settler's cabin and a man plowing the land. Beyond this

is a wagon train heading west and a herd of buffalo pursued by Indians on horseback. Across the top is the Kansas motto, "Ad Astra per Aspera." Beneath that is a cluster of 34 stars, which identify Kansas as the 34th state to enter the Union.

### Kansas State Flag

The Kansas State Flag, adopted by the Kansas Legislature in 1927, is a rectangle of dark blue with the state seal at its center. Above the seal is the state crest, a sunflower resting on a twisted bar of blue and gold, representing the Louisiana Purchase. The word "Kansas," added in 1961, is below in gold lettering.



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

### Tragic Prelude

Tragic Prelude is the most famous of the murals painted in the Kansas State Capitol by John Steuart Curry and is a vivid representation of the unrest that gripped Kansas in the years before the Civil War. Located in the Capitol's east wing, the mural centers on abolitionist John Brown and is loaded with symbolism. In Brown's left hand is the Bible, while in his right hand is a "Beecher's Bible" — better known as a rifle. Flanking him are contending abolitionist and pro-slavery forces, and at their feet, two figures symbolize the 1.5 million people killed or wounded during the Civil War.



Photo courtesy of David Mathias

### Did You Know?

A sunflower head is made up of 1,000 to 2,000 individual flowers, that are joined at the base. The large petals that are found around the edge are individual ray flowers, which do not develop into seeds.

# GOVERNMENT

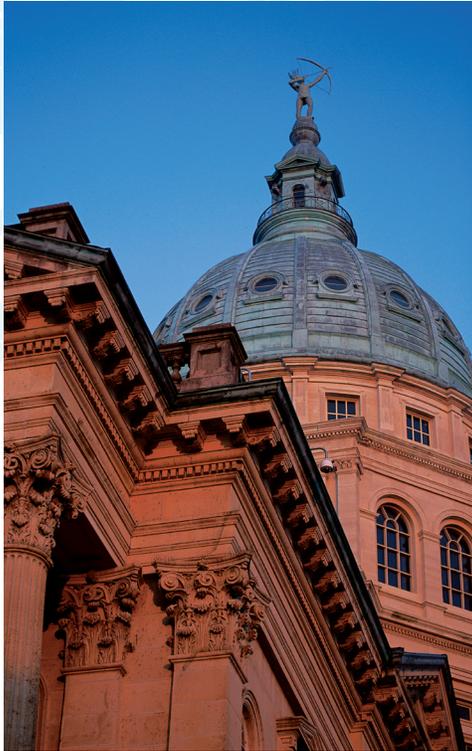


Photo courtesy of the Meredith Corporation©/Michael C. Snell

Kansas became the 34th state in the Union on January 29, 1861. The state government is based in Topeka, which has served as the capital since then.

Kansas leaders have never been afraid to try new things. The state pioneered the use of the direct primary election and also was one of the six states that led the nation in granting suffrage to women. In fact, the original state constitution guaranteed women equal privileges with men in the ownership of property and control of children, which was very uncommon at the time. In 2011, Kansas became the first state to combine three security measures for elections: photo ID to vote in person, similar security requirements to vote by mail, and proof of citizenship at the time a voter registers.

Kansas has three branches of government:

**The Executive Branch** enforces Kansas laws and includes elected state officers such as the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General and members of the State Board of Education. All serve four-year terms.

**The Legislative Branch** is the lawmaking branch. It is composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are 40 senators and 125 representatives, all elected by the voters of Kansas. Senators serve four-year terms and representatives serve two-year terms. The Legislature meets annually for three months starting in January.

**The Judicial Branch** interprets laws enacted by the Legislative Branch and settles disputes. This branch includes the state's Supreme Court.

# COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Kansas has a diverse economy and is the home to many big companies. The state's two largest industries are aviation manufacturing and agriculture. Other major industries include traditional and renewable energy, life sciences, and animal health.

The variety of industry creates a healthy state economy and a good job market. Unemployment in Kansas is historically low. The state's central location makes it an ideal site for many businesses.



Photo courtesy of Spirit AeroSystems

How big is the Kansas airplane industry? Well, Kansas makes more airplanes than any other place on Earth! In fact, more than half of the world's general aviation aircraft are produced here, which means that the next time you fly on a plane, it will probably be a plane built in Kansas. Wichita is home to major aviation and aerospace companies that include Bombardier Learjet, Cessna, Hawker Beechcraft, Airbus and spirit AeroSystems. Thus, Wichita is known as the Air Capital of the World.

Kansas helps feed the world by being one of the nation's leading agricultural states. Nearly 50 million acres of Kansas land are

devoted to farming. Leading crops and livestock products are wheat, corn, soybeans, sugar beets, oats, cattle, sheep and hogs.

Kansas is the leading state in wheat production, growing nearly 15 percent of all wheat produced in the United States. In fact, it would take a train stretching from western Kansas all the way to the Atlantic Ocean to carry all the wheat grown annually in Kansas. That's a long train. And a lot of wheat!

Kansas is also one of the top three beef producers in the nation. So the next time you have a hamburger, there's a good chance it will be from a Kansas farm!

The biosciences are also big in Kansas. The biosciences are a combination of agriculture, medicine and science and include industries like animal and pet nutrition, pharmaceuticals and human health. In fact, Kansas State University in Manhattan is one of the leading bioscience research centers in the world.

## Did You Know?

*Kansas produces enough wheat each year to bake 36 billion loaves of bread and enough to feed everyone in the world, over six billion people, for about 2 weeks.*



# GEOGRAPHY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Why is Kansas called the nation's Heartland? Well, partly because Kansas is the exact geographic center of the contiguous 48 states. Kansas is 411 miles long and 208 miles wide, making it the 14th biggest state in the country. Its elevation ranges from 700 feet in the southeast to more than 4,000 feet in the west. Kansas has a great variation of climate, terrain, soil, plants and animals.

Kansas has more than 10,000 miles of streams and rivers open to the public, including three navigable rivers - the Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas (also called the Kaw) rivers. The state has 43 state fishing lakes (the largest being Milford Lake), 230 community lakes, 24 large federal reservoirs, 26 state parks and 104 wildlife areas.

Kansas has a unique feature that can be found nowhere else in the world. Ottawa county, in northern Kansas, has a five acre area of land that contains the largest concentration of sandstone boulders that were formed when Kansas was covered by water. Some of these boulders are as big as houses! Hence the name "Rock City."



Photo courtesy of [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

Kansas is home to the famous Flint Hills, which comprise the last tract of untouched tallgrass prairie in North America. Hundreds of years ago, this prairie extended across the entire continent and was loaded with buffalo. But today, all that

remains of the prairie is in Kansas, making the Flint Hills our state's proudest natural treasure.

Kansas has a varied climate with an average annual temperature of 56 degrees and average annual rainfall of 27 inches. Kansas enjoys nearly 300 sunny days each year and is also one of the windiest states. Dodge City has been ranked the windiest city in the nation by the National Climatic Data Center with an average wind speed of nearly 14 miles per hour. So hang on to your hat the next time you're in Dodge City!

Kansas ranks among the top mineral-producing states and leads the nation in the production of helium, which is the gas that makes balloons float. Kansas also produces petroleum, propane, cement, salt and natural gas.

The state is also great for hunting and fishing. Hunting enthusiasts enjoy a wide selection of game. In fact, Kansas boasts the largest flock of prairie chickens on the entire continent! In pheasant population, Kansas is second only to South Dakota. And for fishermen, Kansas has largemouth bass, bluegill, flathead catfish, Kentucky or spotted bass, striped bass and walleye. So cast your line and keep your eye on the bobber!



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Did You Know?

*Because of the flat landscape and generally breezy weather, Kansas has the 2nd highest wind energy potential in the nation. This means that Kansas could produce clean, renewable energy for much of the nation in the future.*



# PEOPLE

## FRONTIERSMEN & COWBOYS

### Wyatt Earp Dodge City

Wyatt Earp is best known as the fearless frontier lawman of Wichita and Dodge City and a survivor of the famous Gunfight at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona. Soft-spoken with nerves of steel, Earp survived countless gunfights due to his extraordinary patience and resolute manner. Thus, he was instrumental in maintaining the peace in Kansas' dangerous Wild West cattle towns. Perhaps the best evidence of his skill is that he died of natural causes at age 80 — a peaceful death typically not afforded to Wild West lawmen of his era.

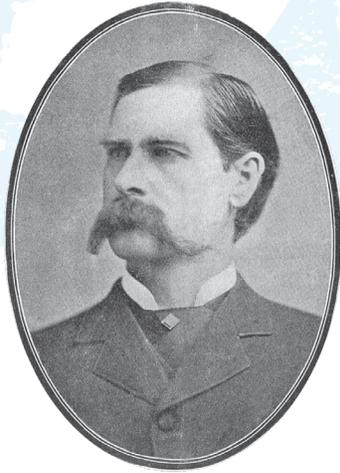


Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

### George Armstrong Custer Fort Riley

The end of the Civil War saw Fort Riley assume a big role in providing protection to railroad lines being built across Kansas. With this big role came a big name — Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer, the legendary Civil War commander, who arrived at the Kansas outpost to take charge of the newly created U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment.

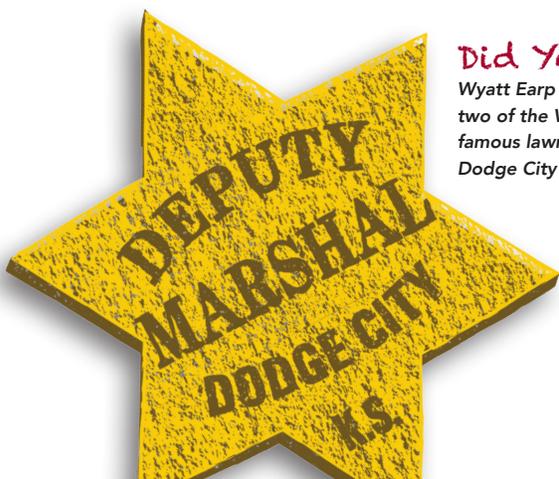
Based out of Fort Riley, Custer and the 7th embarked on a campaign in Kansas and eastern Colorado. The expedition was strategically uneventful but resulted in Custer's court martial at Fort Leavenworth and one-year suspension from the Army, in part for returning to Fort Riley to see his wife without permission. Custer left Kansas soon after and was eventually defeated and killed at the famous Battle of the Little Bighorn, which has been enshrined in history as "Custer's Last Stand."

### Other frontiersmen and cowboys of note include:

William Tecumseh Sherman, Buffalo Bill Cody, Wild Bill Hickock, Bat Masterson and Carrie Nation.

### Did You Know?

Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson, two of the Wild West's most famous lawmen, served in Dodge City at the same time.



## CIVIC LEADERS

### Dwight D. Eisenhower Abilene

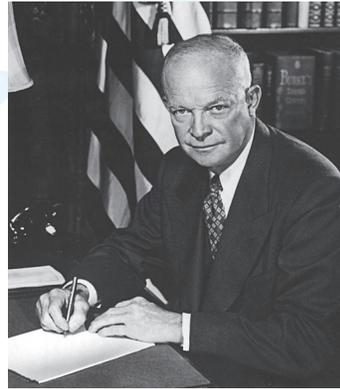


Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

Dwight D. Eisenhower was a five-star general in the U.S. Army and later the 34th President of the United States. He served as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II and orchestrated the D-Day invasion of France that rescued the continent from Nazi control. Nicknamed "Ike," Eisenhower was elected President in 1952 and served two terms in the White House. As President, Eisenhower oversaw the cease-fire of the Korean War, kept pressure on the Soviet Union during the Cold War, made nuclear weapons a defense priority, launched the Space Race and began the Interstate Highway System.

### Bob Dole Russell

With a record of public service spanning more than 60 years, Bob Dole stands among the most enduring and respected statesmen in American history. His legacy includes a 28-year run in the U.S. Senate, which ended in 1996 when he resigned to run as the Republican presidential nominee. Dole was twice the Senate Majority Leader and once the Minority Leader, providing him a platform to fight for the disabled, farmers and a more fiscally responsible government.

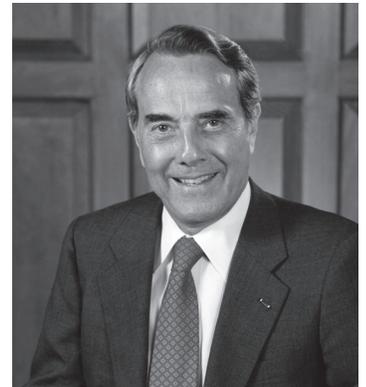


Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

### David Brewer Leavenworth

Few Kansans have earned more respect and admiration for public service than Supreme Court Justice David J. Brewer. Brewer came to Kansas Territory in 1858 and established his law practice in Leavenworth. His lengthy judicial career began in 1861 with an appointment as Commissioner of the Federal Circuit Court and led to his appointment in 1889 as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

His judicial philosophy was described as "moderate conservative." Justice Brewer often voted with the court's majority in striking down progressive laws restricting property rights, but he wrote the court's opinion on the famous Muller vs. Oregon case which upheld the constitutionality of a law limiting working hours for women in industry. His cases illustrated his strong commitment to protection of individual liberties as well as international peace.

# PEOPLE

## CIVIC LEADERS, CONT.



**Charles Curtis**  
*Topeka*

Born of American Indian ancestry, Charles Curtis' early life was spent on a Kaw Indian Reservation near Council Grove and later in Topeka. As a youth, Curtis worked at various occupations but eventually became an attorney. He first ventured into public service when he was elected county prosecutor in 1884 and was known for his strict enforcement of the prohibition law.

Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

Curtis rose to national prominence with his election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1892 and would serve on the prestigious House Ways and Means Committee and Committee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands. He would later be elected as a U.S. Senator. At the 1928 Republican convention, Curtis was nominated as Herbert Hoover's vice presidential running mate and the team was elected to one term from 1929 to 1933.

**Alfred Landon**  
*Independence*

Originally born in Pennsylvania, Landon moved with his family to Independence, Kansas when he was 17 years old and would later graduate from the University of Kansas with a law degree.



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

Having earned the respect of the progressive arm of the Republican party, Landon became a leader in the state's progressive faction and in 1928 won election to the state Republican chairmanship. He ran a successful campaign for Kansas governor in 1932 and was the only Republican west of the Mississippi River to win a gubernatorial contest during the Great Depression. Landon was selected as the Republican party's nominee for the 1936 presidential election, but was ultimately defeated by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

**Richard B. Myers**  
*Merriam*

Perhaps nobody has had a tougher first day on the job than Richard Myers. On Oct. 1, 2001 – less than one month after the September 11 attacks – the Merriam native took over as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, making him the nation's highest-ranking military officer and the lead advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense and the National Security Council while the nation entered an era of previously unthinkable security concerns. Myers served as Chairman until his retirement in 2005.

## INVENTORS & PIONEERS

**Amelia Earhart**  
*Atchison*

When 10-year-old Amelia Earhart saw her first plane at a state fair, she was not impressed.

But the Atchison native soon changed her tune. In 1921, she took her first flying lesson and bought her first airplane. In 1932, she became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Three years later, she became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean.



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

In 1937, Earhart attempted to become the first woman to fly around the world. On June 1, Earhart and her navigator departed from Florida and began the 29,000-mile journey. But on July 2, with just a few thousand miles left on their trip, the pair vanished over the Pacific Ocean and were never found. Since that fateful voyage, Earhart has been remembered for her courage and achievements in aviation and for women.

**Jack Kilby**  
*Great Bend*

It's ironic that Jack Kilby's desire to make things smaller improved the world in such enormous ways. In one of the most influential technological breakthroughs in history, Kilby in 1958 unveiled the world's first microchip, thus laying the foundation for the entire field of modern microelectronics and high-speed computers of today's Information Age.

Although it was his Nobel Prize-winning brilliance that made him famous, it was his modesty that won the hearts of friends and colleagues. "For guys like me," he said, "the prize is seeing a successful solution." From cell phones to iPods to computers, Kilby's solutions are everywhere.

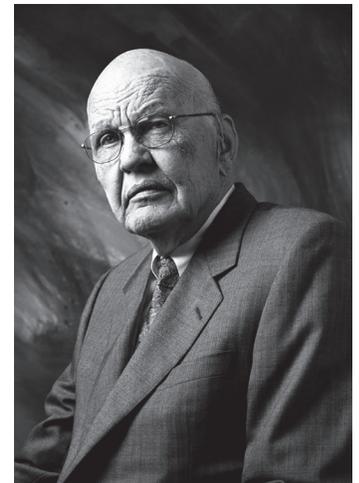


Photo courtesy of Texas Instruments

**Dan Carney**  
*Wichita*

In 1958, Dan Carney and his brother borrowed \$600 from their mother to open a pizza parlor in their hometown of Wichita. It was a gutsy move for the brothers, who weren't even sure how to make a pizza, let alone run a pizza business. Almost 50 years later, Carney today is credited with developing a Pizza Hut empire that boasts stores in more than 80 countries and territories around the

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world, making it the largest and most successful pizza franchise on Earth. "I think I'm an entrepreneur," Carney once said. "I enjoy building things up or trying to build them up."

## Other inventors and pioneers of note include:

Ron Evans, Joe Engle, Walter P. Chrysler, Steve Hawley and Edward J. Dwight Jr.

## ATHLETES & COACHES

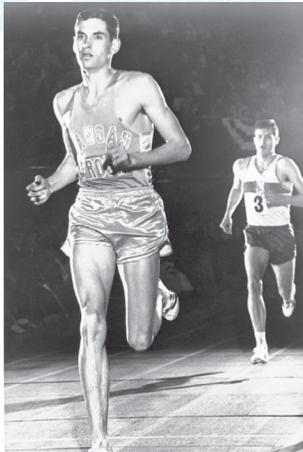


Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

### Jim Ryun Wichita

Jim Ryun's athletic career didn't exactly start with a bang. Hampered by a hearing impairment and asthma, the self-described nerd was cut from the church baseball team and the junior high track team and was the last person chosen for the high school track team. But Ryun soon emerged as a gifted runner, and in 1964, the lanky Wichita native became the first prep runner to run

the mile in less than four minutes, notching a time of 3:59. A year later, he set the high school and U.S. open-mile record of 3:55.3, a mark that stood for 36 years.

Ryun went on to compete at the University of Kansas as the nation's top amateur runner. He participated in three Olympic Games, winning a silver medal in the 1500 meters in 1968. Ryun also held the world record in the mile, 1500 meters and 880 yards.

After retiring from racing, Ryun operated Jim Ryun Sports and traveled as a public speaker. In 1996, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Kansas' 2nd Congressional District, and served five terms.

### Gale Sayers Wichita

Gale Sayers' nickname said it all. Dubbed "The Kansas Comet," the Wichita native used his blinding speed and elusiveness to become an All-American football player at the University of Kansas and an eventual Hall of Fame halfback for the Chicago Bears. When a series of knee injuries prematurely ended his NFL career in 1971, the Jayhawk alumnus embarked on an equally successful career in athletic administration and sports marketing. In 1984, he launched a computer supply business that became an industry leader in the distribution of high-tech products and services. Sayers is also a noted philanthropist and a popular public speaker.



Photo courtesy of University of Kansas Athletics

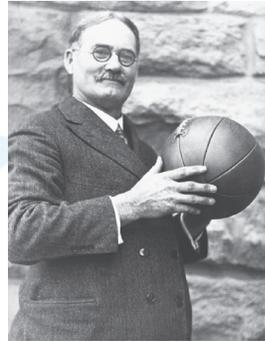


Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

### James Naismith Lawrence

In 1891, while working at a YMCA in Springfield, Mass., a young physical education instructor named James Naismith devised a game to relieve his students' boredom during indoor winter classes. The game involved a ball and peach baskets and would soon evolve into the sport now known as basketball. In 1898, Naismith

moved to the University of Kansas to become a professor and the first basketball coach at the school, which went on to develop one of the nation's most storied basketball programs.

## Other athletes and coaches of note include:

Barry Sanders, Lynette Woodard, Jackie Stiles, Clint Bowyer, Phog Allen, Adolph Rupp, Dean Smith, John Riggins, Jordy Nelson and Walter Johnson.

## ARTISTS, WRITERS & POETS

### Gordon Parks Fort Scott

Gordon Parks was a groundbreaking photographer, filmmaker, writer and composer best known for chronicling the experience of black Americans in the postwar era. Parks was the first black staff photographer for *Life* magazine and the first black to produce and direct a major Hollywood film, *The Learning Tree*, in 1969. By the time he was 50, he ranked among the most influential image makers of his generation. In 1970, he helped found *Essence* magazine and was its editorial director from 1970-73.



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

### William Allen White Emporia



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

For nearly 50 years, when William Allen White had something to say, Kansans listened. Born in 1868 in Emporia, White worked for newspapers in Topeka and Kansas City before purchasing the *Emporia Gazette* in 1895 and building a reputation as one of the most revered newspapermen in the country. White's output was astounding, with his countless articles, editorials and books earning him the title "The Sage of Emporia." White was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1923 for his editorial *To an Anxious Friend*.

## Other artists of note include:

Langston Hughes, Elizabeth "Grandma" Layton, John Stuart Curry and Birger Sandzen.

# PEOPLE

## TELEVISION & MOVIES

### **Steve Doocy** *Abilene*

Steve Doocy, a University of Kansas graduate, serves as one of FOX News Channel's co-anchors for its top-rated morning show *FOX & Friends*. Before joining Fox News Channel in November 1996, he was co-anchor for WCBS-TV's *Early Morning Newscast*. Prior to his stint with WCBS-TV, Doocy hosted *Wake Up America*, a daily program on NBC's *America's Talking*. From 1990 to 1994, Doocy was host of *Not Just News*, FOX's children's newsmagazine and was also host of NBC's nationally syndicated program *House Party* from 1989 to 1990.

Throughout his career, Doocy has received 11 local EMMY Awards for feature coverage, as well as the Associated Press' Feature Reporter of the Year Award. Recently he served as the national spokesman for the March of Dimes' Walk America campaign. He is also an author having published two books.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Nicholson

### **Eric Stonestreet** *Kansas City*

Born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas, Eric Stonestreet grew up far from the bright lights of Los Angeles. As a young man raising pigs, he never would have imagined that he would end up in Los Angeles as an actor. A graduate of Piper High School in Wyandotte County, he attended Kansas State University, studying to be a prison administrator.

While there a friend dared Eric to audition for the play *Prelude to a Kiss*. As fate would have it, Eric was cast in the play (in the smallest role) and was, as they say, bitten by the bug.

Stonestreet has built an impressive resume creating memorable characters on television shows including: *Dharma & Greg* (1999), *Malcolm in the Middle* (2000), *Spin City* (2000), *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* (2001-2005), *Pushing Daisies* (2008) and *The Mentalist* (2008) to name a few. Stonestreet's biggest success to date has been playing the role of Cameron Tucker on the hit show *Modern Family* (2009-Present) for which he won a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series in 2010 and 2012.

### **Paul Rudd** *Overland Park*

From the University of Kansas drama department to the big screens of Hollywood, actor Paul Rudd has won over countless audiences with his thespian talents and boyish good looks. Raised in Lenexa, Rudd studied theater in Lawrence before attending Pasadena's American Academy of Dramatic Arts on a Spencer Tracy Scholarship. He also spent a semester at Oxford's

British Drama Academy, where he appeared as Hamlet in scenes directed by Ben Kingsley. Since returning to the United States in 1990, he has appeared in a number of big-screen hits, including *Clueless* (1995), *The Cider House Rules* (1999), *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy* (2004), *Knocked Up* (2007), *I Love You Man* (2009) and *Dinner for Schmucks* (2010).

### **Hattie McDaniel** *Wichita*

Hattie McDaniel was born in 1895 in Wichita and went on to become one of the greatest entertainers of her time. She was the first black performer to win an Academy Award, being named Best Supporting Actress for her role in *Gone with the Wind* (1939). She was also the first black woman to sing on the radio.



Photo courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

McDaniel appeared in over 300 films during her career and has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame – one for her contributions to radio and one for motion pictures. In 1975, she was inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame and in 2006 became the first black Oscar winner honored with a U.S. postage stamp.

### **Other actors of note include:**

Dennis Hopper, Vivian Vance, Don Johnson, James Reynolds, Kirstie Alley and Buster Keaton.

## MUSICIANS

### **Martina McBride** *Sharon*

While it wasn't until 1992 that Martina McBride exploded on the country music scene, Kansans knew about the little woman with the giant voice long before that.

Raised in the Kansas town of Sharon, McBride's career began at age 7 when she performed at local dances with her dad's band. Since then, she's become one of the biggest names in music, racking up 22 Top 10 hits, six No. 1 singles and 10 albums, seven of which are certified platinum or higher. She has won the Country Music Association's Female Vocalist of the Year four times and the Academy of Country Music's Top Female Vocalist award three times.

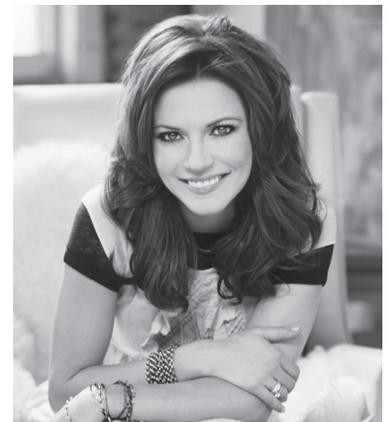


Photo courtesy of Andrew Southam

Known for her angelic soprano voice, McBride's hits include *Independence Day*, *Whatever You Say* and *This One's For the Girls*. Paying tribute to her Kansas roots, McBride's live shows often include a tear-jerking rendition of *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*.

# PEOPLE

## Charlie Parker

Kansas City

Born in Kansas City, Kansas, Charlie "Yardbird" Parker was a jazz saxophonist and composer and considered one of the greatest jazz musicians of all time. Parker played a leading role in the development of bebop, a form of jazz characterized by fast tempos, virtuoso technique and improvisation based on harmonic structure. Parker's innovative approaches to melody, rhythm and harmony exercised enormous influence on his contemporaries, and his music remains an inspiration for musicians in many genres.



Photo courtesy of [www.allofjazz.wordpress.com](http://www.allofjazz.wordpress.com)

After three semesters, Etheridge decided to drop out of Berklee and head to Los Angeles to attempt a career in music. In 1985, her debut album *Melissa Etheridge* was an underground hit, and the single, *Bring Me Some Water*, a turntable hit, was nominated for a Grammy.

In 1992, Etheridge released her third album *Never Enough* which gave Etheridge her first Grammy for Best Rock Vocal Performance, Female for her single *Ain't It Heavy*. Etheridge earned her second Grammy for Best Rock Vocal Performance, Female in 1994 for her single *Come to My Window*. She also garnered two additional nominations in the Best Rock Song category for *I'm the Only One* and *Come to My Window*.

Etheridge wrote *I Need to Wake Up* for the film documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, which won the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 2006. She received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2011

### Other musicians of note include:

Kerry Livgren, Coleman Hawkins, Gene Clark, Joe Walsh, Chely Wright and the band *Kansas*.

## Melissa Etheridge

Leavenworth

Born in Leavenworth, Etheridge's interest in music began early. She picked up her first guitar at age 8. She began to play in all-men country music groups throughout her teenage years, until she moved to Boston to attend Berklee College of Music. While in Berklee, Etheridge played the club circuit around Boston.

# TRIVIA

## FOLLOW THE RAINBOW

Do you remember the saying, "There's a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow"? Near the town of Offerle, in Edwards County, there is a legendary pot of gold that was buried in 1850. The legend goes that a caravan of people, returning to Massachusetts from the California gold rush, were attacked by Indians along the way. Out of fear, the travelers put their gold in an iron pot and buried it near Offerle for safe keeping. Unfortunately, all of the travelers were killed except for a young girl who was taken captive. She eventually escaped and told her story, causing treasure hunters to search the area for two months in 1888. The treasure was not found and remains a mystery today. So if you're near Offerle and see a rainbow, look to see where it ends. You may strike it rich!

## A LA NO!

Ice cream and cherry pie are staples of the dessert menu for many Americans. But did you know that at one point in time it was actually illegal to put a scoop of ice cream on top of a piece of cherry pie in Kansas? Sounds ridiculous, right? The origin of this weird, old law is unknown or if it is still in effect, but you shouldn't worry about the police knocking on your door and writing you a ticket for your renegade ice cream placement.

## KA-CHOW!

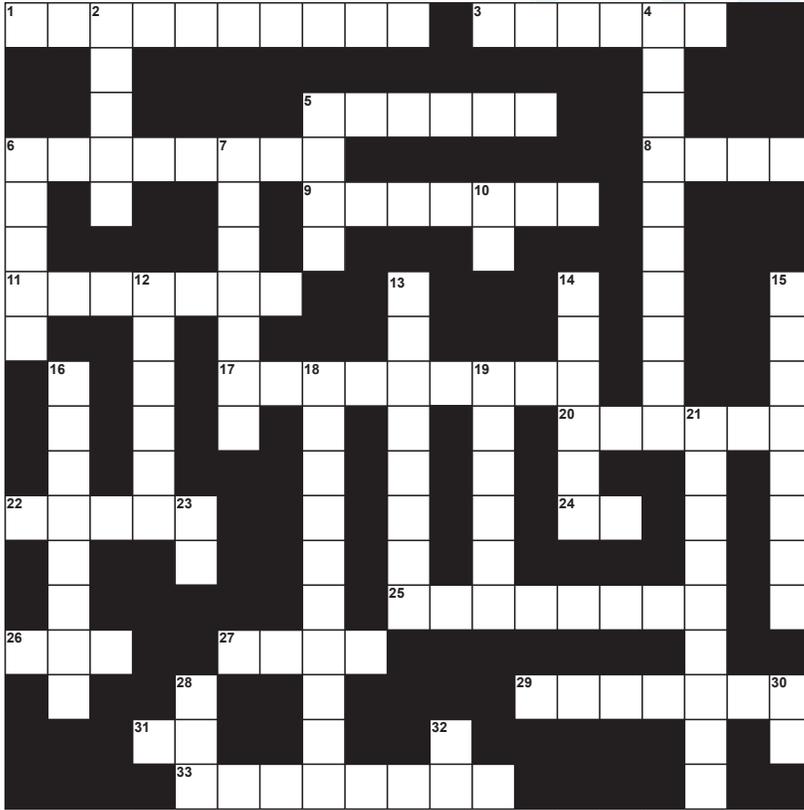
We've all heard of Route 66, the historic highway from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California. Cherokee County, in southeast Kansas, has the state's only 13.6 miles of the famous road. Kansas was the first state to pave all of its portion of the historic "Mother Road" Route 66 in 1929. Route 66 was featured in the 2006 animated movie *Cars*, but did you know that the movie animators got some of their inspiration for the fictional town of Radiator Springs from the town of Galena in Cherokee County? Also, the character "Tow Mater" was inspired by a 1951 International boom truck that sits next to the old Kan-O-Tex service station in Galena. So the next time you're in southeast Kansas, swing over to Galena and check out the real life "Mater."



# GAMES

Let's test your knowledge on Kansas history. See if you can fill in the squares with the correct answer. Here's a hint: most of the answers can be found within this magazine or online at

[WWW.CYBERCIVICS.KS.GOV](http://WWW.CYBERCIVICS.KS.GOV).



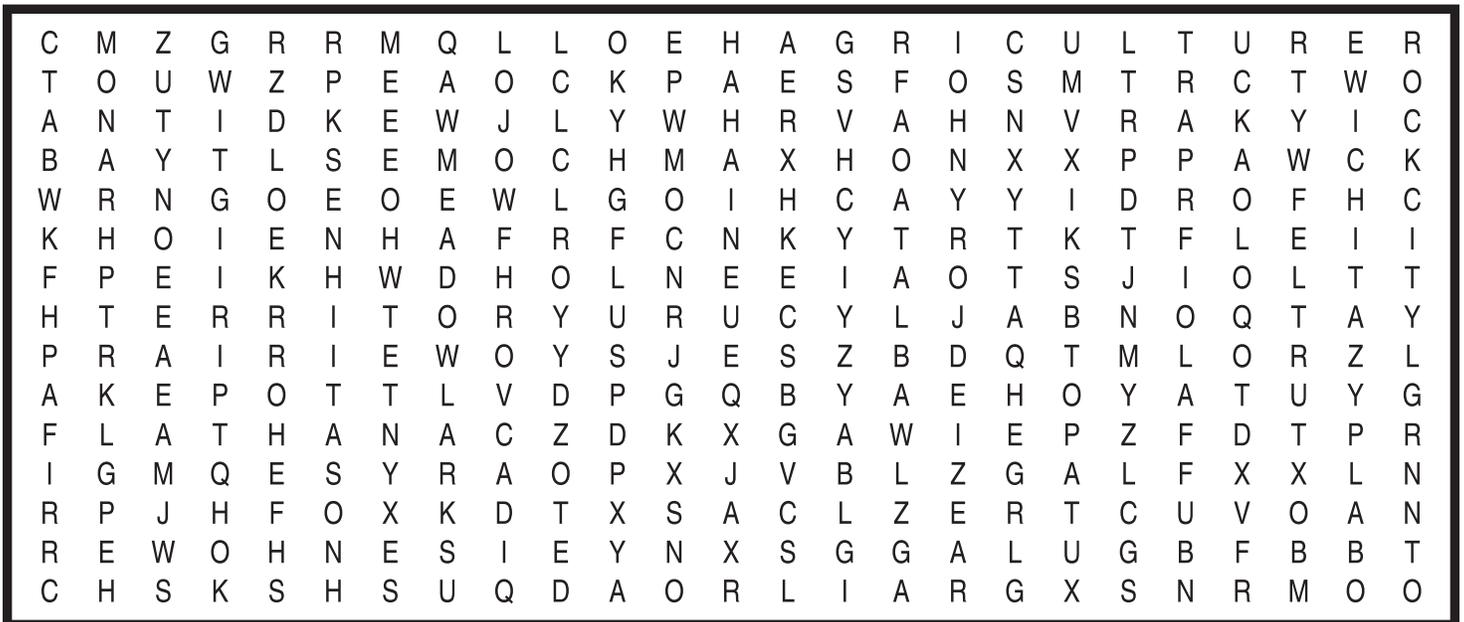
## ACROSS

1. County in northern Kansas that shares its name with our first president
3. NASCAR driver born in Emporia: Clint \_\_\_\_\_
5. Woman from Wichita who was the first African-American actress to win an Academy Award: \_\_\_\_\_ McDaniel
6. First white man to enter present-day Kansas
8. Town in southeast Kansas that shares its name with a Great Lake
9. Largest lake in Kansas
11. Hometown of U.S. Senator Bob Dole
17. Town in western Kansas founded by former African-American slaves
20. \_\_\_\_\_ Red wheat brought to Kansas by Russian Mennonites in 1874
22. Indian tribe for whom Kansas was named
24. Abbreviation for the county in northeast Kansas that is home of the oldest division in the Army
25. Home of the Jayhawks
26. Kansas sits on one of the largest deposits of natural \_\_\_\_\_ in the world
27. Kansas was engulfed in the "Dust \_\_\_\_\_" in the 1930s
29. State animal of Kansas
31. Abbreviation for the county in western Kansas that contains the highest point in Kansas
33. Mascot of Kansas State University

## DOWN

2. Kansas state motto: "To the \_\_\_\_\_ through difficulties."
4. Man who began the Interstate Highway System
5. Kansas state song: "\_\_\_\_\_ on the Range"
6. Last name of the painter of the mural Tragic Prelude in the Capitol building
7. Rough and tumble cow town that was home to a president
10. Abbreviation for the county that features "Rock City"
12. Last name of person nicknamed "The Kansas Comet"
13. Branch of Kansas government that includes the state's Supreme Court
14. Man stationed at Ft. Riley who commanded the doomed 7th Cavalry Regiment
15. Man from Ellis, Kansas who created an automobile line
16. Great Bend got its name for its location on this river that stretches through central and western Kansas
18. State tree of Kansas
19. State bird of Kansas: Western \_\_\_\_\_ lark
21. Kansas' first female U.S. Senator
23. Abbreviation for the county where Amelia Earhart grew up
28. Another name for the Kansas River
30. Kansas is sometimes referred to as "The Land of \_\_\_\_\_"
32. Abbreviation for the only county in Kansas named after a woman

Can you find all of the words that are associated with Kansas?



AD ASTRA  
AGRICULTURE  
BOX TURTLE  
BUFFALO  
CAPITOL

COTTONWOOD  
DODGE CITY  
EARHART  
EISENHOWER  
FLAG

FLINT HILLS  
HELIUM  
HONEY BEE  
JAYHAWK  
MEADOWLARK

PRAIRIE  
RAILROAD  
ROCK CITY  
SEAL  
SHOCKERS

SUNFLOWER  
TERRITORY  
TOPEKA  
WHEAT  
WICHITA