

Arkansas State Symbols Discovery Box and Guidebook Index

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Arkansas State Symbols

Description of Discovery Box Contents

Artifacts

Much descriptive information taken from the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/>

	<p>1. Honeybee: The honeybee is the State Insect of Arkansas. The honeybee was adopted as the Arkansas State Insect in 1973. Honeybees carry pollen from flower to flower. The bees also produce honey which is collected and sold by beekeepers. An old fashioned dome beehive is one of the symbols on the Great Seal of Arkansas</p>
	<p>2. Butterfly: On February 28, 2007, Act 156 of the Arkansas General Assembly designated the Diana fritillary (<i>Speyeria diana</i>) as the official State Butterfly due to the butterfly's beauty, educational importance, and impact on tourism in Arkansas. The Diana fritillary is among the most spectacular of the 132 resident species of butterflies found in Arkansas. Diana was the Roman goddess of light and life later known as the goddess of the moon and hunting, and as a protector of women. Fritillary is derived from the Latin word fritillus, meaning "dice-box," probably referring to spot patterns on the wings.</p>
	<p>3. Wooden Mockingbird with stand: Commonly seen throughout the state, the mockingbird was adopted as the State Bird in 1929. The Mockingbird can imitate the songs of many other birds. <i>This replica was hand-carved by Shiloh Museum volunteer Jim Langford. It is fragile, so please be careful with it!</i></p>
	<p>4. Tomato and 5. Big Smith Tomato Label: The South Arkansas Vine Ripe Pink Tomato is the State Fruit and Vegetable, adopted in 1987. The tomato is officially defined as a fruit but is commonly used as a vegetable. Tomatoes became a commercial success in the twentieth century, particularly in the southeastern regions of the state. Bradley County earned the reputation as the "tomato capital" of the state, and is known for their pink tomatoes. They hold the annual Pink Tomato Festival.</p>
	<p>6. Quartz Crystal, Hot Springs "Diamond:" On February 22, 1967, Governor Winthrop Rockefeller signed Act 128, an omnibus measure designating the diamond as the State Gem, quartz crystal as the State Mineral, and bauxite as the State Rock. Murfreesboro, Arkansas has the only active diamond mine in the United States.</p>



7. Quartz: The quartz crystal is Arkansas' **State Mineral**. Quartz Crystal is mined in the Ouachita Mountains. Quartz is used in computers, radios, watches, and jewelry, and is sold to visitors in our state as a souvenir. The quartz crystal was adopted as the Arkansas State Mineral in 1967. Sometimes called "Arkansas diamonds", quartz crystals are not true diamonds.



8. Bauxite: Bauxite is the **State Rock** of Arkansas. It is the most common ore of aluminum, a metal used to make many different items from soda cans to airplanes and aluminum foil. Bauxite was adopted as the Arkansas State Rock in 1967. Arkansas has the largest bauxite deposits in the United States.



9. Deer Antler: The white-tailed deer is the **State Mammal** of Arkansas. There are one million white-tailed deer in Arkansas which can be seen in many parts of the state. A white-tailed deer will raise its tail when frightened which shows the white underside of its tail. Young white-tailed deer have a white-spotted red coat which changes to brownish gray before it is one year old. The white-tailed deer was adopted as the Arkansas State Mammal in 1993.



10. Pine Cone and needles: The pine cone grows on a pine tree, which is the **State Tree** of Arkansas. The loblolly and short leaf are the most common pine trees found in Arkansas. Both varieties may grow to be 100 feet tall and can be found in the Ouachita National Forest and the Ozark St. Francis National Forest. Pine trees are mostly grown for the large timber industries located in south Arkansas. The pine tree was officially adopted as the state tree in 1939. The resolution did not specify a particular native pine species, but reference is often made to either the southern shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) or the loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*).



11. Apple and Apple Blossom: The apple blossom is the **State Flower** of Arkansas. It is a beautiful flower, with pink and white petals. In Northwest Arkansas, early travelers would have seen apple blossoms and apples everywhere, so Arkansas became known as the "Land of the Big Red Apple". The apple blossom was adopted as the state flower in 1901. Today, the town of Lincoln in Washington County hosts the annual Arkansas Apple Festival.



12. Apple blossom festival pin: Arkansas was once known as, “The Land of the Big Red Apple”. The first Rogers Apple Blossom Festival was held in 1924 and featured a parade with floats from schools, clubs, civic organizations, and businesses. The 1926 festival drew over 30,000 people, many traveled to Rogers from nearby cities on special trains. The festivals were canceled after 1927 mostly due to rain. From 1932 to 1942, the *South West Times Record* of Fort Smith (Sebastian County) sponsored apple blossom pilgrimages. The paper distributed road maps to orchard locations. Over 1,080 automobiles were counted passing a checkpoint near Rogers in 1934, and 540 cars from Fort Smith made the trip on Highway 71. The town of Lincoln revived the festival feature and has had a fall Arkansas Apple Festival every year since 1976.



13. Square Dance Article, Dress, and Photos: The square dance is the state American Folk Dance of Arkansas. The square dance was adopted as the Arkansas **State American Folk Dance** in 1991. There is a long history of “cued” dancing in Arkansas, beginning with settlers who brought the dance to the United States from England and France. Square dancers perform a variety of steps which are usually told to them during the dance by a person known as a square dance caller. It is called “cued” dancing because the caller gives the dancers directions, or cues. This box contains an article and photos of square dancing, as well as the dress worn in the photos.



14. Rice: Rice is a large crop in Arkansas. Arkansas became the **State Grain** of Arkansas in 2007. Arkansas is the nation’s top rice-producing state with almost half of all American rice grown here. Most of the state’s rice farms are in the eastern half of the state. They grow about 240 million bushels of rice each year, which means \$1.55 billion and 20,000 jobs for the state’s economy.



15. Arkansas State Flag: Designed by Miss Willie Hocker of Wabbaseka, the State Flag was adopted in 1913. The diamond symbolizes the fact that Arkansas is the only diamond-producing state in the Union. The 25 stars around its border show that Arkansas was the 25th state admitted to the United States. The three stars below the name show that Arkansas has belonged to three nations (France, Spain, and the U.S.), and also that it was the third state formed from the Louisiana Purchase. The single star above the name commemorates Arkansas being part of the Confederate States of America.



16. Milk bottle caps: In 1985, the Arkansas General Assembly designated milk the **State Beverage**. Reasons offered for the designation included milk's healthfulness, the desirability of encouraging milk consumption, and the importance of the dairy sector in Arkansas. The legislation did not specify a type or grade of milk, leaving it up to Arkansans to consume the variety of their choice. Dairy production was long a mainstay of Arkansas farming.



17. Milk bottle: Milk bottles are bottles used for milk. They may be reusable glass bottles used mainly for doorstep delivery of fresh milk by milkmen. Customers are expected to rinse the empty bottles and leave on the doorstep for collection. The standard size of a bottle varies with location; common sizes are 1 pint or 1 quart, although cream may be delivered in smaller bottles.






18. Grapes: In 2009, the Arkansas General Assembly designated the Cynthiana, a native grape, as Arkansas's official **State Grape**. Cynthiana (*vitis aestivalis*) is the oldest native North American grape in commercial cultivation today. It was first identified as early as 1770, and one nineteenth-century authority suggested that it was native to Arkansas. The Cynthiana, sometimes referred to as the "Cabernet of the Ozarks," is almost identical to the Norton grape, refined and cultivated by Virginia physician Dr. Daniel Norborne Norton and commercially available by 1830.



19. Fiddle, bow & case: On February 28, 1985, the Arkansas legislature approved Act 277, designating the fiddle as the official **State Musical Instrument**, because the instrument was "most commonly associated with the musical education and entertainment of the pioneer families of Arkansas and...continues as a dominant musical instrument in the culture...of the people of Arkansas." The words "fiddle" and "violin" describe the same instrument, the highest-pitched of the viol family of unfretted stringed instruments.



20. Dutch oven: The Dutch oven was designated the **State Cooking Vessel** of Arkansas in 2001. Like the ax and rifle, the Dutch oven was a basic necessity for early American settlers.

	<p>21. Stuttgart soil Book: Stuttgart soil series is an officially designated state symbol, the State Soil of Arkansas. Stuttgart soils are named for the City of Stuttgart in southeast Arkansas. They are used primarily for crops, mainly rice, soybeans, small grains, and corn.</p>
	<p>22. Arkansas quarter: The Arkansas state quarter was the twenty-fifth of fifty state quarters to be issued by the U.S. Mint. The Arkansas state quarter, designed by Dortha Scott of Mount Ida (Montgomery County), was issued in October 2003. The design features a large diamond, which represents Crater of Diamonds State Park. Stalks of rice, representing Arkansas's status as the leading rice producer in the United States, are to the left of the diamond, and a mallard duck in flight above a body of water with a forest in the background represents Arkansas's abundant natural resources and national reputation for outdoor sporting activities.</p>
	<p>23. Ruler with Arkansas symbols & governors</p>