Montana State Facts
By Fancy, 7th grade

Montana has a number of interesting facts. It entered the union, officially becoming a state November 8, 1889. It is bordered by Idaho on the west, Wyoming to the south, North Dakota and South Dakota to the east, and Canada along the state’s northern border.

Montana is known to be the 4th largest state in the United States. The “Treasure State” is Montana’s state nickname. Its name “Montana” came from the Spanish word meaning “mountains.”

Montana is filled with 43 state parks and 25 scenic byways. There are total of 56 counties in Montana. The state’s official animal is the grizzly bear. It is the home of the world’s shortest river, the Roe River, located in Great Falls.

Montana holds the record of the coldest temperature in the 48 contiguous states on January 20, 1954, it was -70 degrees Fahrenheit in Roger’s Pass, Montana. A temporary white house was created for President Teddy Roosevelt in Cinnabar, Montana, when he traveled in he state during 1902.

Much of Montana’s early history was concerned with mining, with copper, lead, zinc, silver, coal, and oil as principal products. Butte is the center of the area that once supplied half of the U.S. copper.

Fields of grain cover much of Montana’s plains. It ranks high among the states in wheat and barley, with rye, oats, flaxseed, sugar beets, and potatoes as other important crops. Sheep and cattle raising make significant contributions to the economy.

Tourist attractions include hunting, fishing, skiing, and dude ranching. Glacier National Park, on the Continental Divide, has 60 glaciers, 200 lakes, and many streams with good trout fishing.

I think that Montana’s scenery is very interesting and many people should visit the scenic area. My favorite fact about Montana is that we are the fourth largest state and we don’t have a very big population.
For this article, I wanted to show what it is like to live in Montana in 2009. You might think we don’t have what people have in other states, like stores, universities, and you might think we still ride horses. We still have ranches in Montana and people do still ride horses, but we don’t ride horses into town like how it once was. We have so much more like colleges and major and minor airports. We have the same technology that is available everywhere else, people use it in their jobs and school. There are also many tourist attractions that many people come to visit every year. Some of the universities we have today are Flathead Valley Community College, Dawson Community College, Montana State University in Bozeman, and University of Montana in Missoula. Montana’s three largest commercial airports serve Bozeman, Billings, and Missoula. There are smaller airports in Great Falls, Kalispell, Helena, and Butte. Eight smaller communities have airports designated for commercial service, Lewis and Clark once visited Montana for their journey and carved their names into a rock. The location is called Pompey’s Pillar National Monument. This is right outside of Billings where I live. Many people like to visit there today. I have been there and I must say, it’s quite interesting to see where they traveled and to believe that they were actually there. Pompey’s Pillar became a National Monument on January 17, 2001.

Montana has the largest migratory elk herd in the nation. Montana is the only state with a triple divide allowing water to flow into the Pacific, Atlantic, and Hudson Bay. This phenomenon occurs at Triple Divide Peak in Glacier National Park.

Montana is a large state with a variety in geography, and so the climate is equally varied. The state spans from ‘below’ the 45th parallel to the 49th parallel, and elevations range from under 2,000 feet to almost 13,000 feet above sea level. The density of the state is six people per square mile and the largest cities in Montana are Billings, Great Falls, Butte, Missoula, and Helena. Montana is a nice place to live and I really enjoy it here.
Tourism of Montana
by Eric, 7th grade

Montana's number one industry is tourism. We have a lot of great places to visit and enjoy. Montana is a fun place to live and to visit. Here are two main parks in Montana; Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park.

Established in 1872, Yellowstone National Park is America's first national park. Located in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, it is home to a large variety of wildlife including grizzly bears, wolves, bison, and elk. Preserved within Yellowstone National Park is Old Faithful, a collection of the world's most extraordinary geysers and hot springs, and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, according to the National Park Service.

Glacier National Park has glaciers, pristine forests, alpine meadows, rugged mountains, and spectacular lakes. With over 700 miles of trails, Glacier is a hiker's paradise for adventurous visitors seeking wilderness and solitude. Relive the days of old through historic chalets, lodges, transportation, and stories of Native Americans. Explore Glacier National Park and discover what awaits you according to the National Park Services. Glacier is named for its rivers of ice that continue to carry its spectacular alpine glacier. It continually ranks as the most pristine of America's national parks and the one people would most likely revisit.

The same remote quality that makes Glacier hospitable to these solitary species makes it less accessible than other national parks; a visit to Glacier demands a bit more effort before it surrenders its charm. But it won't take long for you to discover that this is one of the park system's true gems, according to GORP.

I have visited Yellowstone National Park when I was very little. I remember many parts of that trip including, watching old faithful, seeing my first bison, and watching a bald eagle feed her babies. I would really like to go to Glacier National Park, because it would be a very good experience.
Montana History
by Mandy, 7th grade

Montana was founded by the French government in 1818. It became a state on November 8, 1889. Montana means mountain and it's capital Helena originally was named Crab Town. It’s motto is Oro y Plata which is Spanish for gold and silver.

Montana’s state bear is a grizzly bear and Montana’s state song is "Montana, Montana glory of the West, of all the states, from coast to coast, you're easily the best. Montana, Montana where the skies are always blue, M-O-N-T-A-N-A, I love you.”

Montana is not my hometown, I am originally from North Carolina. I like Montana, it's weather is very different from North Carolina because of the winter out here it usually gets like 4 feet of snow and in North Carolina your lucky if it even snows half of a centimeter. I have lived in Montana for about 3 years now and I had seen most of it's beauty.
The following poems were written by 3rd graders at Billings Christian School. They are cinquains about Montana.

- **Big Sky**
  Hunting deer
  Fishing for trout
  Peaceful, calm, quiet state
  Yellowstone
  - By Lexi

- **Montana**
  Running free
  Through the creeks
  Feeling a breeze passing by
  Free
  - By Alison F.

- **Treasure State**
  Hunting silently
  Big State Country
  Excitement by a waterfall
  Mountains
  - By Coby

- **Montana**
  Hunting, fishing,
  People are hiking
  Happy when I camp
  Mountains
  - By Caleb

- **Montana**
  Rushing creeks
  Cold, big, waterfalls
  Snowy, winter dogs hunting
  Treasure State
  - By Amanda
We are called the Warriors at Billings Christian Schools. We have a variety of sports that include: basketball, football, soccer, volleyball, and track and field. These sports are allowed to be played by 5th through 12th graders. Every year the school gets with other schools and sets up games and tournaments.

I like to play basketball, but I also play volleyball. Because we are a small school we only get to play 9 different teams. Playing sports with my friends is fun and a great way to be active.

BCS’ Favorite Hot Lunches
By Eric & Fancy

At Billing Christian School we took a survey to see what the favorite hot lunch is at our school. We only get two choices a day. Either hot lunch or cold lunch. This is the results of the survey.

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Popular Montana Recipes
by Mandy, 7th grade

According to the Montana official state travels site here are some popular recipes native to Montana. The native ingredients in the recipes below are huckleberries and rainbow trout. Huckleberries cost about $25 to $60 per pound, and are grown in the North West United States and Canada. They have a very sweet rich taste, and are very dangerous to pick because of the bear attacks. Rainbow trout is the number one game fish in Montana, the average size is 10 pounds. Most people believe the best eating ones are around 1 pound.

• **Melt-In-Your-Mouth-Huckleberry Cake**
  - 2 eggs, separated
  - 1 cup sugar
  - 1/4 tsp. salt
  - 1/2 cup butter
  - 1 tsp. vanilla
  - 1 1/2 cup sifted flour
  - 1 tsp. baking powder
  - 1/3 cup milk
  - 1 1/2 cup fresh huckleberries

  Beat 1/2 cup butter or margarine in large bowl until creamy; add 1 cup white sugar and beat until fluffy. Beat in egg yolks and vanilla until light and creamy. Add sifted dry ingredients alternately with the milk. Fold in beaten egg whites. Fold in the fresh berries. Shake a little of the dry ingredients over the berries, before adding them to the mix so the berries won’t sink to the bottom. Turn into a greased 8 by 8-inch pan. Sprinkle top of the batter lightly with granulated sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes.

  • This recipe comes from Jean McGrath in the Butte Heritage Cookbook.

• **Pan-Fried Trout (for camp or kitchen)**
  - To prepare fresh brook or other pan-sized trout, clean and scale if necessary, soak in salted water for 1/2 hour to remove film from fish. Rinse thoroughly and remove head (optional). Dry. Dip in beaten egg and roll in rich cracker crumbs sprinkled with seasoning salt. Fry in hot fat. When golden brown on one side, turn and brown on the other. Turn only once. These are especially good, fresh caught, cooked over a campfire in a heavy skillet, using the grease from fried bacon strips. Fire should be hot but not flaming so fish will not cook too fast or burn. Cook only until they flake easily when tested. Top with crisp bacon.
Montana Word Search
by the 7th grade class

basketball  glacier  snowy
big sky  grizzly bears  taco
billings  helena  tourism
bison  horses  treasure state
cinquin  huckleberry  trout
cold  hunting  warriors
cowboy  montana  waterfall
elk  pizza  yellowstone
There are some laws that are unique to Billings and Montana that seem silly and outrageous. After researching some of these laws on the internet Billings Christian School’s 5th and 6th graders made a brief comment regarding these local or state laws.

**Helena law:**
It is illegal to annoy passerby on sidewalks with a revolving water sprinkler.
  – What about a regular hose? Michelle, 5th grade
It is illegal to throw an item across the street.
  – Wow, that’s really interesting. Sarah H, 6th grade

**Billings’ law:**
No person shall raise pet rats.
  – Are people afraid to get fleas? Morgan H, 5th grade
It is illegal to use speed dial in the city phone system.
  – I wonder why? Morgan F, 5th grade
Hard objects may not be thrown by hand.
  – You can’t throw a ball?
  – What if you were going to play baseball?
  – You can’t play baseball? Zachary, 5th
Worrying squirrels will not be tolerated.
  – How would you know the squirrels worried? It would freak out. Benjamin S, 6th grade
  – How do you know that it has been tolerated? Adam, 5th grade

**Facts:**
The largest snowflake ever observed was 38 cm wide and was recorded in Montana on Jan. 28, 1887. That is almost 15 inches!
  – Were all the snow flakes that big?
  – Really, where was it found in Montana? Chris, 5th grade
  – Wow that’s big. Kaitlyn, 5th grade
It is a felony for a wife to open her husband’s mail.
  – What if the husband told the wife to get the mail and read it? Jake, 6th
The world’s largest steer can be found in Montana weighs 3,980 pounds and is 5’9” tall and 10’4” long.
  – What has it been eating? Jalen, 6th grade
It is illegal to have a sheep in the cab of your truck without a chaperone.
  – I think that that’s a good law but what is the chaperone is it a other sheep or a person? Andrew, 5 grade.
Cartoon About Yellowstone Park

Yogi Bear is a cartoon character written by Hanna Barbara. The cartoon takes place in fictional Jellystone Park which is a take off of Yellowstone Park, according to online wikipedia.