Quick Iowa Facts
From the State Historical Society of Iowa

Highest point above sea level, 1,670 feet.
One of the world's deepest fresh-water lakes.

Formed when melting glaciers left behind a fine-grained quartz silt that erosion has shaped into hills. Iowa has the most extensive deposits of loess in the world except for the Yellow River Valley in China.

Highland Mounds
West Okoboji Lake

Effigy Mounds National Monument
coldwater caves

Dyersville

Mesquakie Indian Settlement

President Herbert Hoover birthplace.

Each year more than 1 million tourists visit the 7 historic Amana villages, founded in 1855 by German immigrants.

Lowest point above sea level, 477 feet.

LAND AREA:
56,275 square miles

POPULATION:
2,776,755 (1990 federal census)

BORDERS:
Minnesota (north) Missouri (south)
Mississippi River (east) Missouri River (west)
Big Sioux River (northwest)

State motto:
“Our Liberties We Prize And Our Rights We Will Maintain”

State symbols:
flower – wild rose
bird – eastern goldfinch (also known as American goldfinch)
tree – oak
song – “The Song of Iowa”
rock – geode

Capital:
Des Moines

Sites of national significance:
Herbert C. Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, West Branch
Herbert C. Hoover Birthplace, West Branch
Amana Colonies, Iowa County
Living History Farms, Urbandale
Effigy Mounds National Monument, near Marquette

Sites that people like to visit in Iowa:
Amana Colonies
Covered bridges of Madison County
“Field of Dreams” movie-filming site near Dyersville
“Albert the Bull” at Audubon
“Pocahontas” at Pocahontas
Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad, in Boone County
Garden Grove and Mount Pisgah Mormon camp sites
Lake Rathbun, Lake Red Rock, Saylorville Lake, Coralville Lake
Iowa State Fair in Des Moines
Villages of Van Buren, in Van Buren County
Mesquakie Pow Wow near Tama
Midwest Old Threshers Reunion, Mount Pleasant
Hobo Days, Britt
U.S. presidents born in Iowa:
Herbert Clark Hoover, president from 1929 to 1933

U.S. vice-presidents born in Iowa:
Henry Agard Wallace, vice president from 1941 to 1945

Iowans who have served on the United States Supreme Court:
Samuel Freeman Miller, served from 1862 to 1890

Iowans of national recognition:
Norman Borlaug, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1968
Carrie Lane Chapman Catt, leader in the campaign for woman suffrage
James Van Allen, nuclear physicist, discovered the Van Allen Belt
John L. Lewis, labor leader, organized the Congress of Industrial Organizations
Jessie Field Shambaugh, originator of the 4-H Club movement
Grant Wood, artist, best known for the painting “American Gothic”
George Washington Carver, African-American agricultural scientist, educated at Simpson College and Iowa State University
Nellie Verne Walker, noted sculptor, created the statue of Keokuk
Mary Louise Smith, first woman to be chairperson of a national political party
George Gallup, creator of the polling technique that bears his name
Annie Turner Wittenmyer, leader of the Sanitary Commission during the Civil War
William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody, scout, hunter, and creator of the “Wild West Show”
Abigail Van Buren (Dear Abby) and Ann Landers, widely-read advice columnists in newspapers

Native American Indian groups who have lived in Iowa:
Ioway – various areas within what is now Iowa
Mesquakie – moved in from eastern areas and lived along the Mississippi River; settlement in Tama
Sac – moved in from eastern areas and lived along the Mississippi River
Winnebago – moved in from Wisconsin and lived in northeast Iowa
Pottawattamie – moved in from Michigan and lived in southwest Iowa
Sioux – moved in and out of northwest Iowa