

# WE ARE ALL WEST VIRGINIA

## A Civics Education Program

By  
Secretary of State  
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## West Virginia Facts

- West Virginia is the only state in the Union to have acquired its sovereignty by proclamation of the President of the United States.
- In 1928 Minnie Buckingham Harper of Welch became the first black woman legislator in the U. S. She was appointed by the Governor to the House of Delegates to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband.
- Mother's Day was first observed at Andrews Church in Grafton on May 10, 1908.
- Architect Cass Gilbert used the design of West Virginia's Supreme Court chamber as the inspiration for the United States Supreme Court chamber. The U.S. chamber is almost an exact replica, only larger in size.
- The first brick street in the world was laid in Charleston, West Virginia, on October 23, 1870, on Summers Street, between Kanawha Blvd and Virginia Street.
- West Virginia University was established on February 7, 1867 under the name of "Agricultural College of West Virginia."



## Geography

- Ironical to its name, the New River is actually one of the oldest rivers in the World and flows south to north, opposite from most rivers because it was formed before the mountains.
- West Virginia is the only state created by carving out territory from another state, without that state's permission.

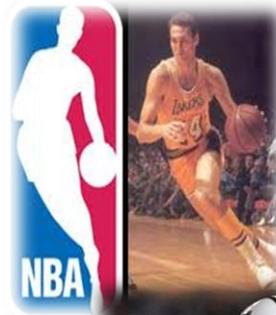


- The New River Gorge Bridge, in Fayetteville, is the longest steel-arch bridge in the United States spanning 1,815 feet across the New River Canyon.
- West Virginia has the highest average elevation of any state east of the Mississippi River, and the most irregular boundary of any state.
- Tourism is the state's leading industry. For many years, coal was the leading industry.

- The world's largest sycamore tree is located on the Back Fork of the Elk River in Webster Springs

## Famous West Virginians

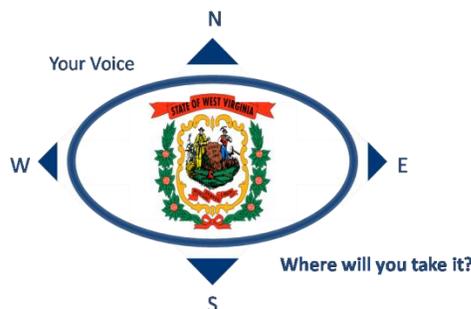
- Pearl Buck –author
- Anna Marie Jarvis-founder of Mother's Day Holiday
- Stonewall Jackson- General during Civil War
- Traveler-General Robert E. Lee's Horse
- Chuck Yeager -Test pilot /Air Force General
- Jerry West- Professional basketball legend
- Don Knotts -Actor
- Mary Lou Retton-Olympic gold medalist for gymnastics
- Cyrus Vance-Former U.S. Secretary of State
- Homer Hickam-author/NASA engineer
- John Nash-mathematician
- Sam Huff- Professional football player
- Randy Moss- Professional football player
- Jennifer Garner- Actress
- Steve Harvey- Comedian
- Bob Huggins- College Basketball Coach
- Nock Saban- College Football Coach
- Lou Holtz- College Football Coach/sportscaster
- Nick Swisher- Major League Baseball player
- Brad Paisley-Musician



## Sports

- West Virginia University played Pitt in the first football game ever broadcast on the radio, in 1921 on KDKA.
- On January 26, 1960 Danny Heater, a student from Burnsville, scored 135 points in a high school basketball game earning him a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.
- On December 21, 1984, West Virginia University player Georgeann Wells became the first woman to dunk a basketball in a college game. The ball is now in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts.

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