

# ABOUT ARKANSAS, DID YOU KNOW....?

## GEOGRAPHY

- \* Area – 53,182 square miles, making Arkansas larger than half of the world’s 189 countries
- \* Highest area – 2,753 feet above sea level (Magazine Mountain)
- \* Lowest elevation – 54 feet above sea level (Ouachita River at Arkansas/Louisiana state line)
- \* Owing to an abundance of **water**, 18 percent of the state (by area) is irrigated land.
- \* Navigable length of major rivers: *Arkansas River – 308 miles, Ouachita River – 128 miles, Mississippi River – 321 miles, and White River – 255 miles*

## GENERAL GEOLOGY

- \* Oldest known mapped geologic formation (Collier Shale) about 520,000,000 years
- \* Oldest known surface rock (an altered igneous body, Saline County) about 1,025,000,000 years
- \* Six most abundant sediments – **sand, clay, silt, gravel, marl, and chalk**
- \* Most abundant sedimentary rocks – **shale, sandstone, dolostone, limestone, and chert**
- \* Most abundant igneous rock– **syenite** (resembles granite, but rarely contains quartz)
- \* In recent years, an average of 44 earthquakes per year, occurred in Arkansas. However, from Jan. 12, 1982 to Jan. 12, 1983, a swarm of nearly 20,000 small earthquakes occurred in Faulkner county.
- \* Fourteen meteorites are known from around Arkansas.

## MINERALS & FOSSIL FUELS

- \* Arkansas: had the 1<sup>st</sup> **diamond mine** in the United States, is the only place where you can find (and keep) a diamond, and led the nation in the recovery of diamonds for over 50 years.
- \* The two largest **diamonds** discovered in North America came from Arkansas.
- \* Arkansas led the nation in the production of **barite** for over 30 years.
- \* Arkansas’ annual value of mineral and fossil-fuel production is more than \$1,000,000,000.
- \* Arkansas’ 5 most valuable non-fuel mineral resources, based on annual production, are:  
**bromine, crushed stone, sand/gravel, clays, and limestone.**
- \* Three fossil fuels – **natural gas, oil, and coal** – are produced in Arkansas today.
- \* Hugh reserves of another fossil fuel – **lignite** – are essentially untouched.
- \* As of 1997, there were about 200 oil and 80 gas fields producing in Arkansas.
- \* In 1997, about 8,600,000 barrels of **oil** were produced in Arkansas – about 23,500 barrels per day.
- \* As of 1997, about 214,000,000 mcf of gas were produced in Arkansas (over 586,000 mcf per day).
- \* Deepest well ever drilled in Arkansas – 20,661 feet (a test well for **gas/oil** in Yell County)
- \* Rocks and minerals currently produced/recovered in Arkansas:

<b>Bauxite</b>	<b>Dolostone</b>	<b>Gypsum</b>	<b>Quartz</b>	<b>Soapstone</b>	<b>Tripoli</b>
<b>Cement rock</b>	<b>Gemstones</b>	<b>Limestone</b>	<b>Sandstone</b>	<b>Sulfur</b>	<b>Tuff</b>
<b>Clays</b>	<b>Glass/industrial sand</b>	<b>Novaculite</b>	<b>Slate</b>	<b>Syenite</b>	

- \* Annually, 40 percent of the world’s **bromine** is produced in Arkansas.
- \* More **bauxite** and **vanadium** ore has been mined in Arkansas than in all other states combined.
- \* Among the 50 states, Arkansas currently ranks (as of 1996):
  - 1<sup>st</sup> in the production of **bromine brine**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> in the production of **quartz crystal** and **lasca**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> in the production of **novaculite** and **silica stone**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> in the recovery of **diamonds**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> in the production of **tripoli**
  - 4<sup>th</sup> in the production of **kaolin** and **fire clays**
  - 9<sup>th</sup> in the production of **gypsum**
  - 9<sup>th</sup> in the production of **common clays**