

# ABOUT ARKANSAS, DID YOU KNOW?

## GEOGRAPHY

- Area – 53,182 square miles, making Arkansas larger than half of the world's 195 countries
- Highest elevation – 2,753 feet above sea level (**Magazine Mountain**)
- Lowest elevation – 54 feet above sea level (**Ouachita River at Arkansas/Louisiana state line**)
- Irrigated land – 14 percent of the state (by area), Arkansas has an abundance of water
- 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 million years old)
- Oldest known surface rock - an altered igneous body, Saline County (about 1.025 billion years old)
- 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 contains less quartz – < 10%)
- In recent years, an average of 44 earthquakes per year occurred in Arkansas. Modern era “earthquake swarms” have occurred in **Enola (1982-83)** and **Guy/Greenbrier (2010-11)**. These swarms produced as many as **20,000 earthquakes** in a year with magnitudes up to **4.7**
- Fourteen meteorites are known to have been found in Arkansas

## MINERALS & FOSSIL FUELS

- Arkansas had the **1<sup>st</sup> diamond mine** in the United States. It is the only place where the general public can find (and keep) a diamond. Arkansas 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’ value of mineral and fossil-fuel production per year 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
- Huge reserves of another fossil fuel – **lignite** – are essentially untouched
- As of 2016, there were about 356 oil and 150 gas fields producing in Arkansas
- In 2016, **oil** production was about 5,470,000 barrels or 15,000 barrels per day
- In 2016, **gas** production was about 820,000,000 mcf or roughly 2,250,000 mcf per day
- The deepest well ever drilled in Arkansas – 20,661 feet (a test well for **gas/oil** in Yell County)

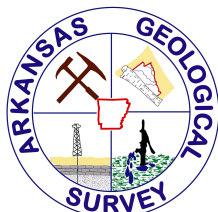
Rocks and minerals currently produced/recovered in Arkansas:

<b>Bauxite</b>	<b>Dolostone</b>	<b>Gypsum</b>	<b>Quartz</b>	<b>Tripoli</b>	<b>Shale</b>
<b>Cement rock</b>	<b>Gemstones</b>	<b>Limestone</b>	<b>Sandstone</b>	<b>Sulfur</b>	<b>Tuff</b>
<b>Kaolin</b>	<b>Sand</b>	<b>Novaculite</b>	<b>Slate</b>	<b>Syenite</b>	<b>Common Clays</b>

In 2013, 28% of the world's **bromine** was produced by the U.S., all of it from Arkansas.  
More **bauxite** and **vanadium** ore has been mined in Arkansas than in all other states combined.

In production among the 50 states, Arkansas currently ranks (as of 2013):

- 1<sup>st</sup> in bromine brine**
- 1<sup>st</sup> in quartz crystal and lasca**
- 1<sup>st</sup> in novaculite and silica stone**
- 1<sup>st</sup> in the recovery of diamonds**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in tripoli**



- 4<sup>th</sup> in kaolin**
- 5<sup>th</sup> in industrial sand and gravel**
- 6<sup>th</sup> in cement**
- 6<sup>th</sup> in gypsum**
- 6<sup>th</sup> in common clays**