



About West Virginia *for Kids*



STATE SYMBOLS

Official Day

West Virginia officially became a state on June 20, 1863. "West Virginia Day" became a legal holiday on March 8, 1963. It is the only state born out of the Civil War and established by a Presidential Proclamation of Abraham Lincoln.

Great Seal of West Virginia



The Great Seal of West Virginia was adopted by the Legislature on September 26, 1863. The large stone in the center represents strength. The date on which West Virginia was admitted to the Union can be seen on the stone. The farmer with his axe represent agriculture while the miner and his pick represent industry. In front of the stone are two crossed rifles. On top of the rifles is the cap of liberty, which represents that freedom and liberty were won by force of arms.

State Flag

The state flag was officially adopted by the Legislature on March 7, 1929. The flag contains the Great Seal of West Virginia and is surrounded by a blue border.



Official Colors

Old gold and blue were designated as official state colors on March 8, 1963

State Songs

"The West Virginia Hills," "This Is My West Virginia," and "West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home," were designated as the official State Songs of West Virginia on February 28, 1963. In 2014, "Take Me Home, Country Roads" by John Denver was added.

State Animal

The Black bear was selected as the official State Animal of West Virginia in 1973. It is the only species of bear found in the state.



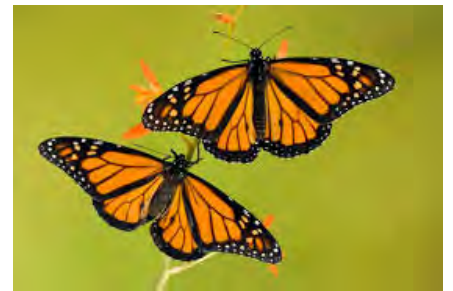
State Bird



The Cardinal was made West Virginia's official bird on March 7, 1949.

State Butterfly

The Monarch butterfly was declared the official butterfly of West Virginia on March 1, 1995.



State Fish



The Brook trout was designated the state fish in 1973. It is a West Virginia native species.

State Flower

The Rhododendron was made the official State Flower of West Virginia on January 29, 1903. It can be recognized by its large evergreen leaves and light pink or white blooms.



State Fruit



The Golden Delicious Apple was selected as the official state fruit on February 20, 1995. This particular type of apple was discovered in Clay County.

State Gem

The state gem is technically not a gemstone, but a fossil coral. *Lithostrotionella* was chosen as the State Gem on March 10, 1990. It is often used to make jewelry.



State Soil

The state soil is silt loam and was selected in 1997. West Virginia was the 12th state to have an official state soil.

State Tree



The Sugar Maple was made West Virginia's official tree on March 7, 1949. They can grow to be anywhere from 70 to 120 feet high and produce two to three pounds of sugar.

WEST VIRGINIA COUNTIES

West Virginia has fifty-five counties, each with their own local government. Each county has a county seat where a courthouse is located and local government resides. Residents of each county elect a county sheriff, a county clerk, a county assessor, a county prosecutor, a circuit clerk, three county commissioners, and five members of the board of education. The four counties that represent the furthest points in West Virginia are:

North - Hancock

South - McDowell

East - Jefferson

West - Wayne



Word Search

WMUNPTJSBLRKPYPJPONB
IJACCFRTL CWAOTAMYMWU
TWUAROSEUVLUTYCEHIMF
XHBRKGA AEOZDOWKIBKOB
RLRDESLMRGWFMMSJKRUM
DNCIJUEBILEFAZOPMUNK
HODNTGNODEUWCONW IETF
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TOHARPERS FERRY LNTCOU
VDFUELABRAHAMLINCOLN
IEIOSEVCIVILWARMXRHL
RNSJTMNLCASSRAILROAD
GDHWS CIIJWFZGEE XEBQI
IRINEWRIVERGORGEGEICTM
NONHQWYDYAPPALACHIAN
INGBBLACKBEARQUSNCFJ
AWLLBIAZNBARP KLTZXIU

Abraham Lincoln

New River Gorge

West Virginia

Jacksons Mill

Harper's Ferry

Cass Railroad

Rhododendron

Appalachian

Blue Ridge

Mountains

Civil War

Black Bear

Cardinal

Oglebay

Potomac River

Sugar Maple

Steamboat

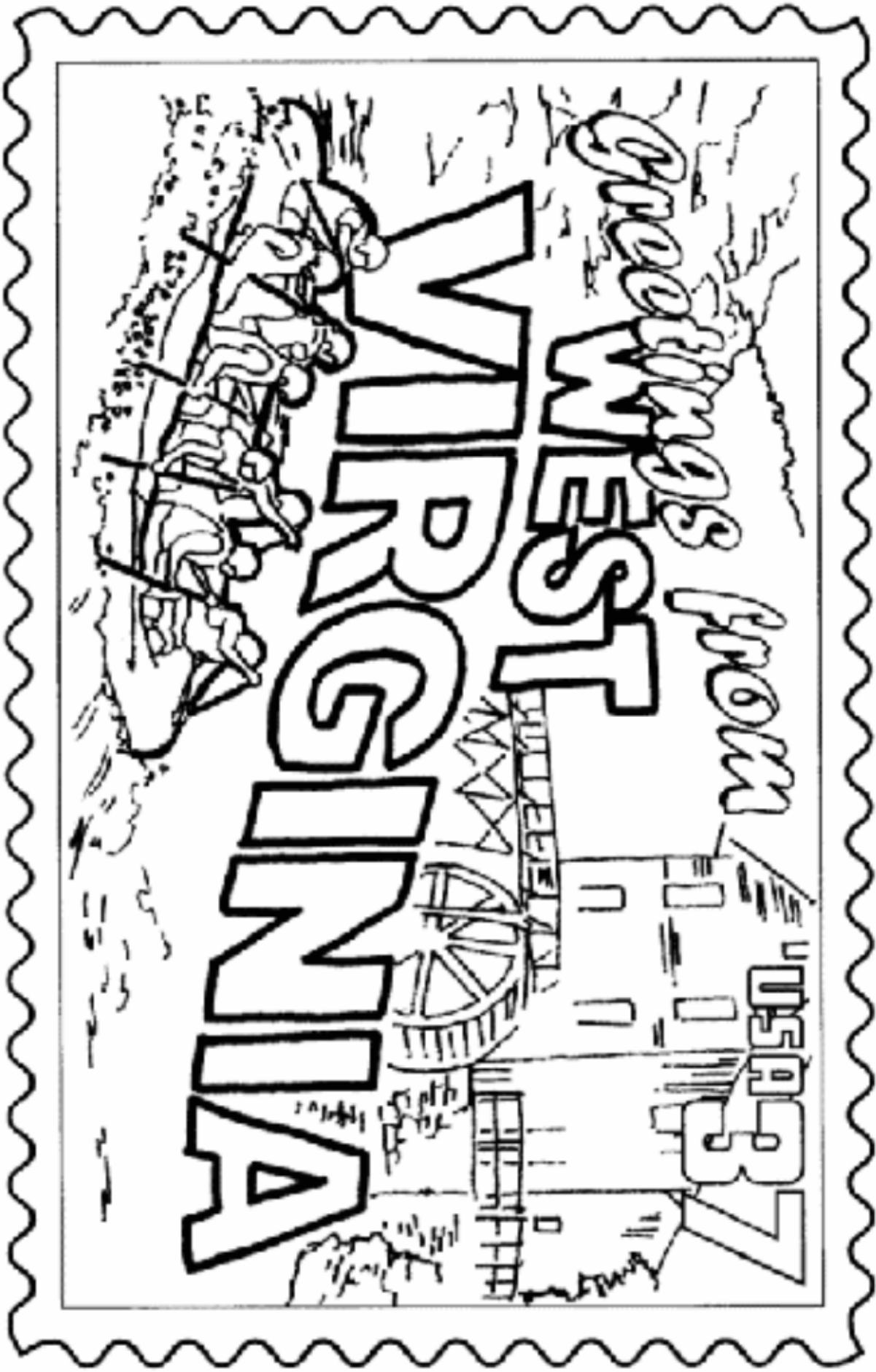
Fishing

Forests

Energy



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