

Facts

Statehouse Capitol

- **Nickname:** Mt. Rushmore State / Coyote State
- **Motto:** Under God the People Rule.
- **Statehood:** November 2, 1889 (39th or 40th -- Admitted the same day as ND.)
- **Origin of State's Name:** Dakota is a Sioux Indian word for "friend."
- **State Capital:** Pierre
- **Largest Cities:** Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Watertown, Brookings
- **Border States:** Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wyoming
- **Land Area:** 75,898 sq. mi., 16th largest
- **Highest Point:** Harney Peak, 7,242 feet
- **Population:** 754,844
- **State Song:** *Hail, South Dakota*
- **State Animal:** Coyote
- **State Bird:** Chinese ring-necked pheasant |
- **State Fish:** Walleye
- **State Insect:** Honey bee State
- **State Flower:** Pasque
- **State Tree:** Black Hills spruce
- **State Soil:** Houdek
- **State Fossil:** Triceratops
- **State Mineral:** Rose quartz
- **State Gemstone:** Fairburn agate
- **State Dessert:** Kuchen
- **State Sport:** Rodeo