

Nevada Information

State Symbols

An official act of the legislature is required to designate official features and emblems of the state. The first legislative act of this type was the designation in 1953 of the single-leaf Pinion pine as Nevada's official state tree.

Nevada State Symbols (details):

A photograph, a brief description of the symbol, additional links about that state symbol, and the NRS associated with each symbol. [Nevada Legislature State Symbols](#) and [Nevada-history.org](#).

State Reptile



State Flag



***Did you know?** The State of Nevada does not recognize a state insect.*

***Did you know?** Nevada does not have an Official State Food, however, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout are our State Fish and are native to the area and were eaten by Native Americans and settlers.*

***Did you know?** Nevada has three nicknames: **Battle Born**-because Nevada joined the union during the civil war; **Sagebrush State**-because it is our state flower and symbolizes the great basin region of central Nevada; **Silver State**-because silver is one of our state colors, and it is the state mineral, symbolizing the granite composition of the Sierra Nevada mountain range and the silver country of northern Nevada. In 2002, 7.7 million ounces of gold and 13.6 million ounces of silver were mined in Nevada.*



The **Tule Duck is Nevada's State Artifact** and was created by early Nevadans almost 2,000 years ago. Discovered by archeologists in 1924 during an excavation at Lovelock Cave, the 11 decoys are each formed of a bundle of bullrush (tule) stems, bound together and shaped to resemble a canvasback duck.

[NRS 235.085](#)

[The Guide 2007 - 2008 \(pdf\)](#) see page 31

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The **Desert Bighorn Sheep** is Nevada's state animal. It is a beautiful animal and well-suited for Nevada's mountainous desert country because it can survive for long periods without water. It is smaller than its Rocky Mountain cousin but has a wider spread of horns. The large rams stand about 4 1/2 feet tall and can weigh as much as 175 pounds.

1973 *Ovis canadensis nelsoni*
[NRS 235.070](#)
[The Guide 2007 - 2008](#) (pdf) see page 28



The **Mountain Blue Bird** is Nevada state bird. It lives in the Nevada high country and destroys many harmful insects. It is a member of the thrush family and its song is a clear, short warble like the caroling of a robin. The male is azure blue with a white belly, while the female is brown with a bluish rump, tail, and wings.

Bird: [Mountain Bluebird](#) or [50 States List](#)
[NRS 235.060](#)
[The Guide 2007 - 2008](#) (pdf) see page 28



Note: This photo is not representative of a normal sized specimen

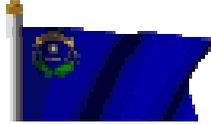
The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout is **Nevada's state fish**. A native trout found in 14 of the state's 17 counties, is adapted to habitats ranging from high mountain creeks and alpine lakes to warm, intermittent lowland streams and alkaline lakes where no other trout can live. The biggest cutthroat ever caught in Nevada's Pyramid Lake was 3 feet long and weighed 41 pounds.

Fish: [Lahontan Cutthroat Trout](#) or [NRS 235.075](#)
[The Guide 2007 - 2008](#) (pdf) see page 31



Nevada's state flag has changed 3 times. The **official flag of the State of Nevada** is hereby created. The body of the flag must be of solid cobalt blue. On the field in the upper left quarter thereof must be two sprays of sagebrush with the stems crossed at the bottom to form a half wreath. Within the sprays must be a five-pointed silver star with one point up. The word "Nevada" must also be inscribed below the star and above the sprays, in a semicircular pattern with the letters spaced apart in equal increments, in the same style of letters as the words "Battle Born". Above the wreath, and touching the tips thereof, must be a scroll bearing the words "Battle Born." The scroll and the word "Nevada" must be golden-yellow. The lettering on

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the scroll must be black-colored sans serif gothic capital letters.

[NRS 235.020](#)

[The Guide 2007 - 2008 \(pdf\) see page 27](#)

Click here for a view of [Nevada County Flags](#)

[When is a State Flag Official?](#)

Nevada's state flower is sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). It has small yellow and white flowers in the spring grow abundantly in the deserts of the Western United States. A member of the wormwood family, sagebrush is a branching bush (1 to 12 feet high) and grows in regions where other kinds of vegetation cannot subsist. Known for its pleasant aroma, its gray-green twigs, and pale yellow flowers, sagebrush is an important winter food for sheep and cattle. Native Americans used sagebrush leaves as medicine and sagebrush bark for weaving mats. Adopted March 20, 1917.



1959 *Artemisia tridentata* or *trifida*

[NRS 235.050](#)

[The Guide 2007 - 2008 \(pdf\) see page 29](#)

Ichthyosaur became a state symbol in 1977 as the **state fossil**. It was found in Berlin, east of Gabbs. Nevada is the only state to possess a complete skeleton (approximately 55 feet long) of this extinct marine reptile.



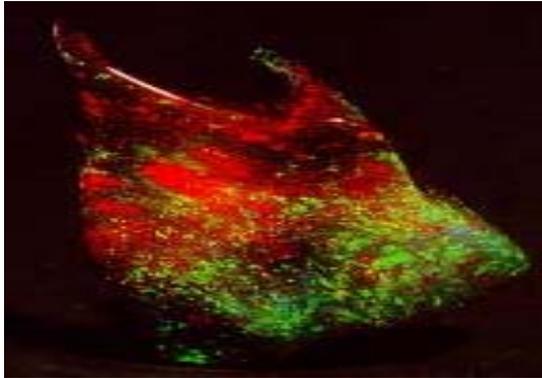
-[Dinosaur & Palentology Dictionary](#)
Ichthyosaur - [Enchanted Learning Software](#)
-[New Exhibit at Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park](#)
-[Nevada Ichthyosaur Trip](#)
-[Homepage - Ichthyosaur](#)

1977 genus *Shonisaurus*

[The Guide 2007 - 2008 \(pdf\) see page 30](#)

[NRS 235.080](#)

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Nevada's state precious gemstone is the black fire opal. Considered one of the most beautiful of Nevada's gemstones, Virgin Valley black fire opal was designated the precious gemstone. Northern Nevada's Virgin Valley is the only place in North America where black fire opal is found in any significant quantity. Nevada adopted an official precious and semi-precious gemstone on May 27, 1987.

Virgin Valley, Nevada: [BLACK FIRE OPAL](#) or [BLACK FIRE OPAL](#) or [BLACK FIRE OPAL](#) - Giant Size [BLACK FIRE OPAL](#)

[NRS 235.100](#)



Our **state grass**, [Indian Rice Grass](#), was once a source of food for Native Nevada Indians. [Indian Rice Grass](#) now provides valuable feed for wildlife and range livestock. This tough native grass, which is found throughout the state, is known for its ability to reseed and establish itself on sites damaged by fire or over grazing.

[Food of the Desert Culture](#)
[The Guide 2007 - 2008](#) (pdf) see page 31
[A Living Desert](#)

[NRS 235.055](#)

photograph from [Plant Pages](#)



The desert tortoise, our **state reptile**, is the largest reptile in the southwestern United States. The largest reptile in the Southwestern United States lives in the extreme southern parts of Nevada. Its hard, dome-shaped shell ranges from tan to black in color. This reptile spends much of its life in underground burrows to escape the harsh summer heat and winter cold. The desert tortoise can live to be more than 70 years old.



[Desert Tortoise Council](#)
[A Brief History of the Desert Tortoise](#)
[CARE OF DESERT TORTOISES](#)
[Desert Tortoise Diet Sheet](#)
[The Guide 2007 - 2008](#) (pdf) see page 30
[1989 Gopherus agassizii](#)
[NRS 235.065](#)

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The **state rock** is sandstone. Sandstone, in its more traditionally recognized form or as quartzite, is found throughout the state. In areas such as the Valley of Fire State Park and Red Rock Canyon Recreational Lands, both near Las Vegas, it provides some of Nevada's most spectacular scenery. The State Capitol, and the former United States Mint, are built of sandstone. Students at Gene Ward Elementary School in Las Vegas came up with the idea of making sandstone our state rock.

Famous Nevada buildings built from local Nevada Sandstone:

EUREKA COUNTY COURTHOUSE Built in 1879-80

NEVADA STATE CAPITOL

STATES MINT AT CARSON CITY, NV

STEWART-NYE RESIDENCE

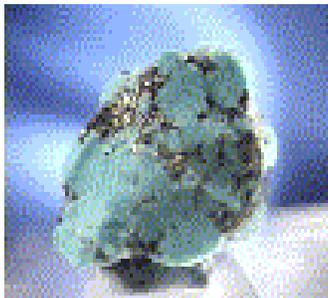
THE WARMS SPRINGS HOTEL

NEVADA STATE PRINTING

1987 Sandstone

NRS 235.120

The Guide 2007 - 2008 (pdf) see page 30



Turquoise is our **state's semi-precious gemstone**. Sometimes called the "jewel of the desert," Nevada turquoise is found in many parts of the state. Long popular as jewelry among Native Americans, turquoise is also a state symbol of Arizona and New Mexico. Nevada's designation was made on May 27, 1987.

TURQUOISE - The US Geological Survey

The Mineral TURQUOISE

NRS 235.110



"Battle Born", our state slogan, was adopted on March 26, 1937. It means Nevada became a state during the Civil War. The Battle Born slogan is printed on our state flag. The slogan is located above the wreath, and touching the tips of the spray, must be a scroll bearing the words "Battle Born."

NRS 235.020

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The pinon pine was the first tree adopted as our **state tree**. The Single-Leaf Pinion (*Pinus monophylla*) is an aromatic pine tree with short, stiff needles and gnarled branches. The tree grows in coarse, rocky soils and rock crevices. Though its normal height is about 15 feet, the single-leaf pinion can grow as high as 50 feet under ideal conditions. It is one of the most common trees found in Nevada and can grow in the dry, rocky ground of our desert.

Pinon Pine

1953 *Pinus monophylla*
NRS 235.040

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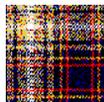


Students from Ely, Nevada had the bristlecone pine adopted as a symbol for our state. The bristlecone pine is the oldest living thing on Earth, with some specimens in Nevada more than 4,000 years of age. The tree can be found at high elevations. Normal height for older trees is about 15 to 30 feet, although some have attained a height of 60 feet. Diameter growth continues throughout the long life of the tree, resulting in massive trunks with a few contorted limbs.

The Ancient Bristlecone Pine

1987 *Pinus aristata* var. *longaeva*
NRS 235.040

The Guide 2007 - 2008 (pdf) see page 29



The **Nevada State Tartan** was designed by Richard Zygmunt Pawlowski. The colors and design of the tartan represent the following features that make Nevada a unique and bountiful state:
NRS 235.130

Blue - represents one of the state colors of Nevada, the pristine waters of Lake Tahoe and the mountain bluebird, the official state bird.

Silver - represents the other state color, the official state mineral, the granite composition of the Sierra Nevada mountain range and the silver country of northern Nevada;

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Red - represents the Virgin Valley black fire opal, the official state precious gemstone, and the red rock formations of southern Nevada;

Yellow - represents sagebrush, the official state flower, and symbolizes the great basin region of central Nevada;

White - represents the name of this state meaning snow-covered, which is the translation of the Spanish word "Nevada",

The crossing of the yellow and red stripes represents the different colors of Nevada sandstone, the official state rock;

The white intersection on the silver field stands for the snow-capped peaks of granite mountains, which make up the Sierra Nevada mountain range;

The four blue lines represent the four main rivers of Nevada which are the Colorado River, Truckee River, Humboldt River and Walker River;

The intersecting blue lines in the silver field represent the Colorado River as it meets Hoover Dam and creates Lake Mead;

The small solid 'boxes' of silver and blue number 8 by 8, or 64, to signify the year (1864) that Nevada was admitted into statehood;

The 13 solid-colored intersections of the small stripes represent Boundary Peak, the highest point in Nevada, which stands at an elevation of 13, 143 feet; and

The 16 solid silver intersections and the solid white intersection in the center of the tartan represent the 16 counties and the one consolidated city-county government of Nevada.

"Home Means Nevada"



Our state song₁ was written by an immigrant, Mrs. Berta Raffetto. While living in Reno, Mrs. Raffetto was asked to write and sing a song about Nevada for a picnic. It was adopted later as our state song. [NRS 235.030](#)

Click here for [Music and Lyrics to Nevada's state song, "Home Means Nevada"](#)

[Click here for vocal/piano/musical score](#)

Nevada's State Motto: "All for our Country".

In mid-1864, Nevada's Constitutional Convention adopted a description of the features to be placed on Nevada's Great Seal. The Territorial Legislature had approved the description of the seal for the Territory of Nevada on November 29, 2861. The Territorial Seal included the motto "Volens et Potens", which means "Willing and Able", expressing the ideas of loyalty to the Union and the mineral wealth to sustain it.

On February 24, 1866, the Legislature changed the motto on the seal to "All For Our Country." In 1969, this measure was amended to make the legal

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description conform to the actual features of the seal. This provision is now found in [NRS 235.010](#).

[2007-2008 The Guide](#) (pdf), published by The Nevada Legislature. See page 26.

[Nevada Statistical Information](#) (Dept. of Administration)

Nevada Trivia:

[100 Things Every Reno-Sparks Resident Should Know](#)

[Nevada Fast Facts & Trivia](#)

[Nevada Fun Facts](#)

[Nevada Movies](#)

Nevada Weather:

[Nevada Weather](#) (Wunderground.com)

[Nevada State Office of Energy](#) (Western Regional Climate Centers)