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.

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 1st 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:
  * Bauxite, Dolostone, Gypsum, Quartz, Soapstone, Tripoli, Cement rock, Gemstones, Limestone, Sandstone, Sulfur, Tuff, Clays, Glass/industrial sand, Novaculite, Slate, Syenite
* 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):
  1st in the production of bromine brine
  1st in the production of quartz crystal and lasca
  1st in the production of novaculite and silica stone
  2nd in the recovery of diamonds
  3rd in the production of tripoli
  4th in the production of kaolin and fire clays
  9th in the production of gypsum
  9th in the production of common clays

Arkansas Geological Commission, 1997