

1. Hawaii's nickname is the "Aloha State." The word *aloha* is derived from the Proto-Polynesian, *alofa*, and its meanings include "love," "compassion," and "mercy." *Aloha* is used both as "hello" and "goodbye."
2. Hawaii is the only state that is not geographically located in North America, is completely surrounded by water, and does not have a straight line in its state boundary.
3. Born in Hawaii, Barack Obama is the only president from outside the continental United States.
4. Hawaii has two official languages, Hawaiian and English, though Pidgin, Samoan, and Tongan are also spoken.
5. Only two types of mammals are native to Hawaii: the hoary bat and the monk seal.
6. The word *Hawaii* is from the Proto-Polynesian *hawaiki*, meaning "place of the gods" or "homeland."
7. There are only 12 letters in the Hawaiian alphabet. Vowels: A, E, I, O, U Consonants: H, K, L, M, N, P, W
8. Hawaii is America's youngest state, entering the nation on August 21, 1959.
9. Ancient Hawaiians believed that the heavier a woman, especially a chieftess, the more beautiful she was.
10. There are just over 7,000 inhabitants on the island of Molokai, probably most famous for its past as a leper colony.
11. Captain Cook initially called Hawaii the "Sandwich Islands" after his English patron, the Earl of Sandwich. In 1819, King Kamehameha renamed the islands the Kingdom of Hawaii.
12. Surfing, or *heenalua*, was invented thousands of years ago by the Polynesians who first settled Hawaii. Their boards weighed more than 150 pounds and measured up to 20 feet.
13. Hawaiians considered the shark (*mano*) a god and treated it with great respect.
14. The highest sea cliffs in the world are on Moloka'i.
15. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was directly responsible for the United States' entry into WWII. More than 2,400 of Hawaii's soldiers and residents died in the attack.
16. Hawaii is the most isolated population center on the face of the earth. Hawaii is 2,390 miles from California; 3,850 miles from Japan; 4,900 miles from China; and 5,280 miles from the Philippines.
17. The state of Hawaii consists of eight main islands: Niihau, Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe and the Big Island of Hawaii.
18. There are four counties in Hawaii (Kauai; city and county of Honolulu; Maui; and Hawaii). Each city has a mayor and council in charge.
19. Kilauea Iki is the world's most active and largest volcano.
20. The island is the worldwide leader in harvesting macadamia nuts and orchids.

1. Outsiders first discovered Alaska in 1741 when Danish explorer Vitus Jonassen Bering sighted it on a voyage from Siberia.
2. In 1867 United States Secretary of State William H. Seward offered Russia \$7,200,000, or two cents per acre, for Alaska.
3. Joe Juneau's 1880 discovery of gold ushered in the gold rush era.
4. Alaska officially became the 49th state on January 3, 1959.
5. Alaska's most important revenue source is the oil and natural gas industry.
6. The fishing and seafood industry is the state's largest private industry employer.
7. Most of America's salmon, crab, halibut, and herring come from Alaska.
8. The wild forget-me-not is the official state flower. The Territorial Legislature adopted it in 1917.
9. The willow ptarmigan is the official state bird. The Territorial Legislature adopted it in 1955.
10. Dog mushing is the official state sport. The Alaska Legislature adopted it in 1972.
11. In 1926 13-year-old Bennie Benson from Cognac, Alaska designed the state flag.
12. Alaska's Constitution was adopted in 1956 and became effective in 1959 making it the 49th state.
13. The discovery of gold in the Yukon began a gold rush in 1898. Later gold was discovered at Nome and Fairbanks.
14. The state's coastline extends over 6,600 miles.
15. Alaska is the United State's largest state and is over twice the size of Texas. Measuring from north to south the state is approximately 1,400 miles long and measuring from east to west it is 2,700 miles wide.
16. 17 of the 20 highest peaks in the United States are located in Alaska.
17. The state's largest city is Anchorage; the second largest is Fairbanks.
18. Alaska's name is based on the Eskimo word Alakshak meaning great lands or peninsula.
19. The Tongass National Forest is the largest national forest in the United States.
20. Alaska's largest lake, [Lake Iliamna](#), is roughly the size of Connecticut.