

# IDAHO (ID)

## Gem State

### Fast Facts

**State Capital:** Boise

**Population:** 1,293,953 (Census 2000)

**Land Area:** 82,747 square miles

**Year Admitted to the Union:** 1890



State Flag



**D**ominated by towering mountains and expansive forests, Idaho is the wildest of the 50 states. Place names evoke the untamed landscape: Lava Hot Springs, Sawtooth Mountains, the Seven Devils, Bitterroot Mountains, River of No Return, and Hell's Canyon (America's deepest gorge). Idaho's Craters of the Moon National Monument is where astronaut Alan Shepard trained for his lunar landing.

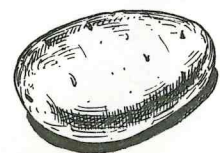
High altitude and heavy snowfall provide the perfect training ground for skiers, including Idaho native and World Cup downhill skier Picabo Street. Author Ernest Hemingway loved Sun Valley ski resort and owned a ranch in nearby Ketchum. Cascading snowmelt from mountains rushes into streams and rivers, creating white-water rapids in which rafters revel.



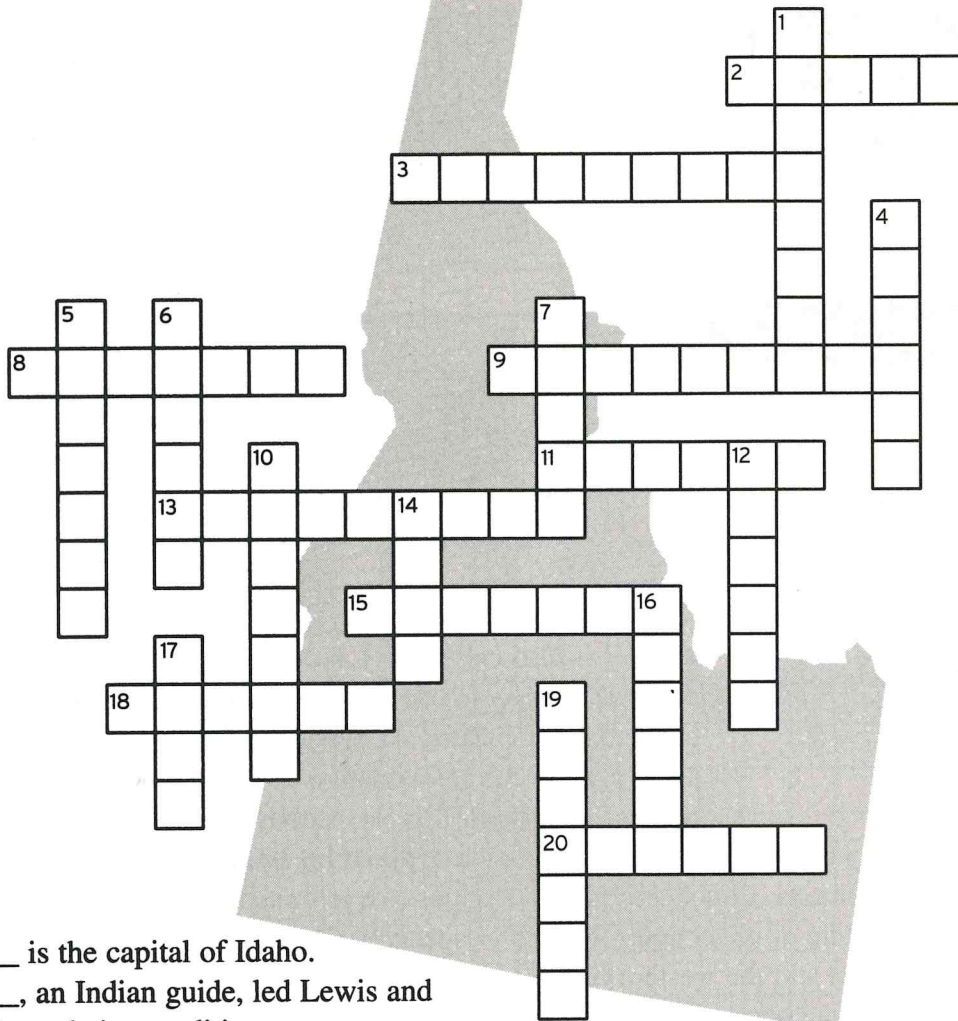
People aren't the only ones who appreciate the wilderness. Idaho is home to the largest concentration of *raptors*—birds of prey, such as hawks, eagles, and falcons. A center in Boise is devoted to these mighty birds. Idaho is also a haven for beavers, minks, otters, cougars, moose, and caribou (relative of the reindeer). Trout, salmon, and bass swim in the Salmon and Snake Rivers.

Where the Snake River joins Washington's Columbia River, Idaho offers a passage to the Pacific Ocean. In 1805, President Thomas Jefferson appointed Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the northwest and search for such a passage. Sacagawea, a young Indian guide, helped guide them through the wilderness. Later, the French arrived in Idaho to trap and trade furs. They named local Indian tribes Nez Percé (pierced nose) and Coeur d'Alene (heart of an awl). A stunning lake, also named the Coeur d'Alene, is one reason Idaho is called the Gem State—star garnets have been found there.

If visitors to Idaho fail to find gems, they can always bring home a potato. Irrigated by the Snake River, the lower, wider part of the state is famed for its spud production. At the Idaho Potato Expo in Blackfoot, visitors can inspect the world's largest potato chip—two feet by 14 inches!



## Idaho Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the capital of Idaho.
3. \_\_\_\_\_, an Indian guide, led Lewis and Clark on their expedition.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ are related to reindeer.
9. President Thomas \_\_\_\_\_ ordered the Lewis and Clark expedition.
11. One of the bodies of water in Idaho is called the River of No \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The Idaho Potato Expo is held in \_\_\_\_\_.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Moon National Monument is where astronaut Alan Shepard trained.
18. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a bird of prey.
20. Hell's \_\_\_\_\_ is America's deepest gorge.
5. The Snake and Columbia Rivers form a passage to the \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Street won the World Cup in downhill skiing.
7. Coeur d'Alene means "\_\_\_\_\_ of an awl."
10. Star \_\_\_\_\_ can be found near the Coeur d'Alene Lake.
12. Torrents of gushing waters create white-water \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The French trapped and traded \_\_\_\_\_ in Idaho.
16. The \_\_\_\_\_ River has the same name as the fish that swim there.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Hot Springs is in Idaho.
19. Ernest Hemingway had a ranch in \_\_\_\_\_.

### DOWN

1. Southern Idaho is noted for growing \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Coeur d'Alene were named by the \_\_\_\_\_.