



## COLORADO “THE CENTENNIAL STATE” AND DENVER “THE MILE HIGH CITY”



*The official state flag of Colorado was adopted on June 5, 1911. It was designed by Andrew Carlisle Johnson. The white in the flag symbolizes Colorado's snowcapped mountains, the blue symbolizes the clear blue skies, the red symbolizes the reddish colored soil, and the gold represents the Sun.*

### *Interesting Facts about our City*

- Denver is one of the few cities in American history that was not built on a road, railroad, lake, navigable river or body of water when it was founded. It just happened to be where the first few flakes of gold were found in 1858.
- Denver has been referred to as the Gateway to the Rockies, the Queen City of the Plains, and most commonly the Mile High City. The 13th step of the state capitol building in Denver, is exactly one mile high at 5,280 feet.
- The US Mint in Denver produces 1 million coins per day, each one stamped with a little 'D' for Denver.
- The first permanent structure in Denver was a saloon. Today, there are more microbreweries per capita in Colorado than any other state. Denver brews more beer than any other city with 80 different beers brewed daily.
- Denver International Airport—DIA is the largest airport in the US at 53 square miles.
- The cheeseburger was invented in Denver.
- Denver is a huge sports town— we have six professional sports teams; football, baseball, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, and basketball.

### A few notes ABOUT US..... **Colorful Colorado**

- Denver, capitol of the state is its largest city. It is the commercial, financial, and cultural center of the Rocky Mountain region and the home of numerous federal government agencies and offices. The city's dry, sunny climate is favored by tourists. Denver is known as the *Mile High City*, a nickname it was given because a spot on the state capitol steps is at an elevation of 5,280 ft. (1,609 m), exactly one mile above sea level.
- The name *Colorado* is of Spanish origin, meaning “colored red.” It came into use because of the red sandstone soil of the region. The name was chosen for Colorado, a Territory, by Congress in 1861. Colorado is also called “Colorful Colorado” because of the magnificent scenery of mountains, rivers and plains.
- The climate in Colorado is considered *high-plains desert* and it is very dry here. Use lots of lotion while you visit here. The sun shines over 300 days per year in Colorado.
- Colorado is called the *Centennial state*, since Colorado became a state in 1876, the Centennial year. We are the 38th state admitted into the union. Major cities are: Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and Fort Collins.
- Our state is almost perfectly square. We have seven states surrounding our borders; including Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah & Wyoming.