

# Illinois Scavenger Hunt Activity

## Materials:

- 18 Illinois fact cards (pages 2–6)
- Illinois questions worksheet (pages 7–8)
- scissors
- scotch tape

## Preparation

Print the fact cards and cut them apart.

Make copies of the Illinois questions worksheet (2-sided). Each student will need his or her own copy.

Hide all 18 Illinois fact cards around your classroom where students will be able to find



**Preview**  
Please log in to download  
the printable version of this worksheet.

## Management tips

You may want to make this a silent activity so students don't share answers with each other.

You can have the kids work by themselves or with partners.

Don't be afraid to hide the facts in tough places. Kids think it's more fun when they have to search around a little.

## Examples of good hiding spots might include:

- sticking out of a book, like a bookmark
- the back of the classroom door
- lying flat on the classroom bookshelf
- on the side of the bookshelf
- on the back of the teacher's chair

*Have a plan for students who finish early. You may want to have an assignment for them to complete when they're done, or you may have them help other students find fact cards.*



### Scavenger Hunt

# Illinois

Fact Card

# 1



French explorers Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet were

the first known Europeans in Illinois. France later lost the land to Britain, then Britain lost it to the

### Scavenger Hunt

# Illinois

Fact Card

# 2



License plates in Illinois use its



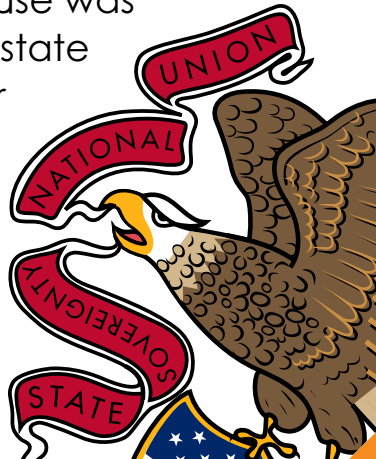
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# Illinois

# 3

Illinois's state motto is "State Sovereignty, National Union." Its first official use was in 1819 on the state seal. It calls for states' rights as well as togetherness as a country.



# Illinois

# 4

*Illinois* is a French spelling of a Native American word. Many now think it started as an Illini word that itself was borrowed by the Ojibwe (pictured).





### Scavenger Hunt

# Illinois

Fact Card

# 5



The capital of Illinois is Springfield

### Scavenger Hunt

# Illinois

Fact Card

# 6

Chicago is the most populous city in Illinois. About 2,650,000 people live in the city itself. In the United States, only New York, NY, and Los Angeles, CA, have more people!



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# Illinois

# 7

The second-most populous city in Illinois is Aurora. About 170,000 people live there.



# Illinois

# 8



The race for third-most populous city in Illinois is tight! Joliet, Naperville, and Rockford (pictured from top to bottom) all have about 150,000 people living within city limits.





### Scavenger Hunt

# Illinois

Fact Card

# 9



Abraham Lincoln moved to Illinois in 1830. It's where he became a lawyer, state government worker, and congressman. He lived there 31 years, only moving

### Scavenger Hunt

# Illinois

Fact Card

# 10



Illinois joined the United States as a free state. On February 1, 1865, it was the first state to sign the



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# Illinois

# 11



Most people agree Chicago's Home Insurance Building was the first skyscraper. The 10-story building opened in 1885. It used steel in new ways to support itself.

# Illinois

# 12



Illinois has no national parks, but it has nearly 70 state parks! Starved Rock State Park often gets more than 2 million visitors per year. That's more than most national parks!



### Scavenger Hunt

# Illinois

Fact Card

# 13



### Scavenger Hunt

# Illinois

Fact Card

# 14



The white-tailed deer is the official state animal of Illinois.



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# Illinois

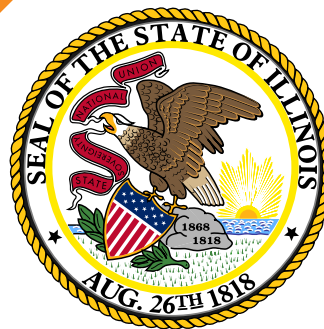
# 15



In 1907, Illinois was the first of four states to choose the violet as its official state flower.

# Illinois

# 16



The Illinois state seal shows three dates. August 26, 1818, is when the first state constitution was adopted. 1818 is the year Illinois became a state. 1868 is when the current seal was adopted.



### Scavenger Hunt

# Illinois

Fact Card

# 17



Illinois looks far inland, but it connects to the ocean! The

### Scavenger Hunt

# Illinois

Fact Card

# 18



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Illinois Scavenger Hunt

**Fact Card 1:** On what date did Illinois become the 21st state?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Fact Card 2:** What are two other official names for Illinois?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Fact Card 3:** When was Illinois's state motto first officially used?



**Fact Card 6:** Chicago has a larger population than all but which U.S. cities?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Fact Card 7:** About how many people live in Aurora?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Fact Card 8:** Which three Illinois cities each have about 150,000 residents?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Fact Card 9:** How long did Abraham Lincoln live in Illinois?

\_\_\_\_\_



# Illinois Scavenger Hunt

**Fact Card 10:** On February 1, 1865, Illinois became the first state to officially...

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**Fact Card 11:** How tall was the world's first skyscraper?

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**Fact Card 12:** Starved Rock State Park often has how many yearly visitors?

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**Fact Card 15:** What is the state flower of Illinois?

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**Fact Card 16:** What did Illinois adopt in 1868?

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**Fact Card 17:** Illinois directly connects to which two named bodies of salt water?

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**Fact Card 18:** How much of the world's canned pumpkin comes from Morton, IL?

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## Illinois Scavenger Hunt

**Fact Card 1:** On what date did Illinois become the 21st state?

**December 3, 1818**

**Fact Card 2:** What are two other official names for Illinois?



**Fact Card 9:** How long did Abraham Lincoln live in Illinois?

**31 years**

## Illinois Scavenger Hunt

**Fact Card 10:** On February 1, 1865, Illinois became the first state to officially...

ban slavery

**Fact Card 11:** How tall was the world's first skyscraper?

# Preview

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**Fact Card 18:** How much of the world's canned pumpkin comes from Morton, IL?

about 85-90%