



TENNESSEE

10 weird things you probably don't know about Tennessee

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1. Tennessee is tied for the state with the most borders

Tennessee borders eight other states, tied for most in the nation.

The two states with the most state borders are Tennessee and Missouri, which is one of the eight states Tennessee touches. The other seven are Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama.

2. A Tennessee lake was created by an earthquake

Reelfoot Lake, located in Lake and Obion counties, was created by a series of violent earthquakes on the New Madrid fault zone in late 1811 and early 1812, according to the state encyclopedia.

3. Kingston was the state capital for one day

In 1807, Kingston was named the state capital for one day. That's because the general assembly met there in order to fulfill a treaty obligation made with the Cherokee, according to the state encyclopedia.

4. Tennessee has 10 state songs

Tennessee has not one, not two, but 10 state songs. Here they are in order of adoption:

1925: "My Homeland, Tennessee," by Nell Grayson Taylor and Lamont Smith

1935: "When It's Iris Time in Tennessee," by Willa Waid Newman

1955: "My Tennessee," by Frances Hannah Trantum

1965: "Tennessee Waltz," by Redd Stewart and Pee Wee King

1982: "Rocky Top," by Boudleaux and Felice Bryant

1992: "Tennessee," by Vivian Rorie

1996: "Pride of Tennessee," by Fred Congdon, Thomas Vaughn and Carol Elliot

1996: "Tennessee Bicentennial Rap," by Joan Hill Hanks

2010: "Smoky Mountain Rain," by Kye Fleming & Dennis Morgan

2012: "Tennessee," by John R. Bean

5. Tennessee is the birthplace of the tow truck

Ernest Holmes, of Chatanooga, invented the vehicle in 1916.

6. Aside from the White House, Graceland is the most-visited home in the country

In 2016, Elvis Presley's mansion celebrated its 20 millionth visitor.

7. Of all Southern states, Tennessee provided the most soldiers to the Union

Actually, Tennessee provided more soldiers to the Union than all Confederate states combined. Around 31,000 Tennesseans joined the federal forces, according to the state encyclopedia.

8. Coca-Cola owes much of its success to Tennessee

According to the company's website, the beverage was created in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1886 and was sold as a fountain drink for years. But it wasn't until 1899 that two Chattanooga attorneys had the idea of starting a bottling company. They pitched the idea to the Coca-Cola president, who gave the attorneys the bottling rights for \$1. The dollar never was collected, but the first bottling facility later opened in Chattanooga.

9. Mini golf was patented in the Volunteer State

Although the game was not invented in the state, Tennessee resident Garnet Carter got the first mini golf patent in 1927 for his Tom Thumb golf courses. However, the course was constructed at his Fairyland Inn in Lookout Mountain, Georgia, less than a mile over the Tennessee state line, according to The Smithsonian Magazine.

10. Tennessee has a few weird speed limits

According to Google Maps, a street in Collierville has a speed limit of 19 mph, while Trenton has multiple signs that are 31 mph.