

MICHIGAN

The Great Lakes State



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Michigan Discovered

Michigan was home to various Native American cultures before the first European explorers arrived in the area. The Anishnabe Indians were well-established in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula; the Ottawa lived primarily south of the Straits of Mackinac; and the Potawatomi were primarily in the southwest.

The first Europeans to reach what later became Michigan were those of Étienne Brûlé's expedition in 1622.

Jacques Marquette 1637–1675 Scott 1356 • 1968

Father Jacques Marquette was sent as a missionary to the Ottawa Indians, where he established the oldest permanent settlement in Michigan — Sault Sainte Marie. He heard rumors of a large river to the south and hoped this river would lead to the Pacific Ocean. In 1673 Father Marquette and five other men began an expedition that would take them down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. After his return from this expedition, Marquette made his home in Mackinac.

Landing of Cadillac at Detroit Scott 1000 • 1951

Detroit, Michigan, had its beginning in 1701 when the French, led by Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac established a fort to control the strategic trade routes into the West. Known as the "Motor City," Detroit celebrated its 250th anniversary in 1951.

Michigan Centenary Scott 775 • 1935

From 1787 until 1805, the land we now call Michigan was part of the Northwest Territory. In 1805 the Lower Peninsula and the eastern part of the Upper Peninsula became the Territory of Michigan. In 1837 Michigan became the twenty-sixth state to join the Union. This stamp was issued in advance of the state's 100th anniversary.

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Michigan Discovered



Jacques Marquette
Scott 1356 • 1968



Landing of Cadillac at Detroit
Scott 1000 • 1951



Michigan Centenary
Scott 775 • 1935



Symbols of Michigan

American Bicentennial:

State Flags
Michigan flag
Scott 1658 • 1976

In 1837 Michigan became the 26th state to join the Union. The state flag, which was adopted in 1911, shows a blue shield with the sun rising over a lake and peninsula. Also on the shield is a man with raised hand and holding a gun representing peace and the ability to defend his rights. An elk and moose on either side of the shield are symbols of Michigan, while the eagle atop the shield represents the United States.

Michigan Statehood

Scott 2246 • 1987

In 1835 the Michigan Territory petitioned the U.S. to become a state. After many roadblocks, a state constitution was drafted, and for a time, while the U.S. Congress debated their admission to the Union, Michigan governed itself. In 1837 Michigan finally became the 26th state.

State Birds and Flowers

Michigan
Scott 1974 • 1982

In 1897 Michigan designated the apple blossom as the official state flower. Apple trees add to the beauty of Michigan's landscape and the fruit plays an important part in the state's economy. In 1931 the robin was designated as the state bird. The legislation notes "the robin redbreast is the best known and best loved of all the birds in the state of Michigan."

Wildlife Conservation:

American Trees
White Pine
Scott 1765 • 1978

In the late 1800s and into the early 1900s, Michigan led the nation in lumber production. The eastern white pine is a symbol of the great industry. In 1955 the white pine was designated as Michigan's state tree.

American Wildlife

White-tailed Deer
Scott 1888 • 1981

Whitetail deer inhabit almost all of the contiguous 48 states. They are found from the big woods of Maine to the swamps of Florida to the cactus deserts of Texas. In 1997 the White-tailed deer was designated as the official state mammal of Michigan.

Flags of Our Nation III

Michigan
Scott 4298 • 2009

This stamp shows the Michigan flag, with the state's three mottos: "One Nation Made Up of Many States," "Tuebor (I will defend)," and "If You Seek a Pleasant Peninsula, Look Around." Alongside the flag is a ship like those commonly seen on the Great Lakes.

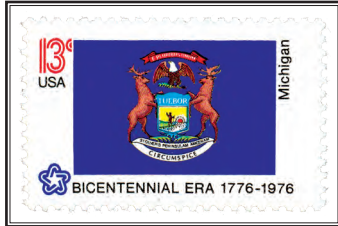
Greetings from America

Michigan
Scott 3582 • 2002

The "Greetings from America" stamp series features retro designs that mimic the popular tourist postcards of the 1930s and '40s. This Michigan stamp shows a sport-fishing boat. Buildings and the people-mover monorail of the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit are seen in the background.



Symbols of Michigan



American Bicentennial:
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Flags of Our Nation III
Michigan
Scott 4298 • 2009



Greetings from America
Michigan
Scott 3582 • 2002



Attractions in Michigan

Mackinac Bridge Scott 1109 • 1958

The Mackinac Bridge is a five-mile bridge that links Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas. There is evidence that newspapers and businessmen in Michigan were advocating for a bridge or tunnel as far back as 1884.

Mackinac Bridge Scott 4438 • 2010

The five-mile Mackinac Bridge crosses the Straits of Mackinac between Mackinaw City and St. Ignace. To the people of Michigan, this structure is more than a bridge — it is a fulfillment of a dream of many generations for a physical link between the two portions of their state.

Soo Locks Scott 1069 • 1955

At one time ships were not able to navigate from Lake Huron into Lake Superior due to a 21-foot drop at the St. Mary's Rapids. This changed when the Soo Canal and Locks were completed in 1855, allowing ships to travel throughout the Great Lakes.

Presidential Libraries Scott 3930 • 2005

In 1955 Congress passed the Presidential Libraries Act, allowing each president to establish a library that would be administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. The Gerald R. Ford (Presidential) Library is located in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Wonders of America: Land of Superlatives Lake Superior Largest Lake Scott 4047 • 2006

Lake Superior borders on the north of Michigan's Northern Peninsula. This stamp depicts the waves crashing on the lake's shoreline, the largest lake in the U.S. — Lake Superior — also has the largest surface area of any freshwater lake in the world.

Great Lakes Lighthouses St. Joseph, Lake Michigan Scott 2970 • 1995

The first St. Joseph lighthouse was built in 1832. In 1846 a pier was constructed with a new lighthouse at the end of the pier. Then, in 1907 the pier was extended an additional 300 feet, at which time a new steel lighthouse was built with a powerful Fresnel lens. A catwalk was built above the pier, allowing access to the lights, even when the waters of Lake Michigan cover the pier.

Great Lake Lighthouses Spectacle Reef, Lake Huron Scott 2971 • 1995

Construction of the Spectacle Reef lighthouse was completed in 1874, complete with a Fresnel lens that was maintained by lighthouse keepers. In 1982 the lens was moved to a museum in Vermilion, Ohio. The lighthouse is now lit by a solar-powered optic.



Attractions in Michigan



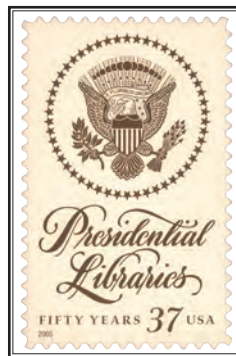
Mackinac Bridge
Scott 1109 • 1958



Mackinac Bridge
Scott 4438 • 2010



Soo Locks
Scott 1069 • 1955



Presidential Libraries
Scott 3930 • 2005



Wonders of America:
Land of Superlatives
Lake Superior • Largest Lake
Scott 4047 • 2006



Great Lakes Lighthouses
St. Joseph, Lake Michigan
Scott 2970 • 1995



Great Lake Lighthouses
Spectacle Reef, Lake Huron
Scott 2971 • 1995



Michigan's Great Lakes Dunes

Nature of America series
Great Lakes Dunes
Scott 4352a-j • 2008

Great Lakes dunes make up one of Earth's largest freshwater dune systems. These stamps feature the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, located on the northeast shore of Lake Michigan. Numerous birds, including the endangered piping plovers, have found a summer haven on the dunes.



GREAT LAKES DUNES

TENTH IN A SERIES



N A T U R E E R I C A

Nature of America series
Great Lakes Dunes
Scott 4352a-j • 2008



Michigan and the Auto Industry

Prominent American series

Henry Ford
1863–1947
Scott 1286A • 1968

Henry Ford was born in what is now Dearborn, Michigan, in 1863. In 1896 Henry Ford successfully tested his first car — the Quadricycle. In 1903 he established an automobile manufacturing company using interchangeable parts and methods of mass production.

Transportation Series

Electric Auto
Scott 1906 • 1981

This coil stamp features a 1917 Detroit Electric Auto with plush seats, curtains in the windows, and wooden spoke wheels. This vehicle could cruise at 25 miles an hour; however, its range was just 80 miles.

Wheels of Freedom

Scott 1162 • 1960

Detroit, Michigan, is a leading automotive production center in the U.S. This stamp was issued to honor the contributions of this industry to American life.

America on the Move:

50s Sporty Cars
Ford Thunderbird
Scott 3935 • 2005

The 1955 Ford Thunderbird featured a steel body, roll-up windows, interchangeable hard and soft tops, and an over-head-valve V8 engine. It was a “sports car with luxury.” The Ford Motor Company is a multinational corporation based in Dearborn, Michigan.

America on the Move:

50s Sporty Cars
Chevrolet Corvette
Scott 3934 • 2005

In 1953 Chevy introduced the Corvette — a fiberglass-bodied, two-seater vehicle that promised speed and high performance. All 300 models produced that year were hand-built, white with a red interior and black convertible top. The General Motors plant in Flint, Michigan, was one of the original producers of the Corvette.

America on the Move:

50s Fins and Chrome
Cadillac Eldorado
Scott 4353 • 2008

The 1950s was a period of extravagant styling, with cars’ tailfins that seemed to grow bigger each year. The first generation of the Cadillac Eldorado was assembled in Detroit, Michigan.

America on the Move:

50s Fins and Chrome
Pontiac Safari
Scott 4355 • 2008

The Pontiac Safari featured sport-coupe front doors and sliding rear seat windows. Extra chrome adorning the tailgate and interior made it a sporty wagon. The Pontiac was first produced and named after the city of Pontiac, Michigan.

America on the Move:

50s Fins and Chrome
Lincoln Premiere
Scott 4356 • 2008

The Lincoln Premiere was a luxury car sold by Ford Motor Company. It was known for its high-grade interior and stylish exterior. The Ford Motor Company’s Lincoln headquarters is located in Dearborn, Michigan.

America on the Move:

50s Fins and Chrome
Chrysler 300c
Scott 4357 • 2008

The Chrysler 300 “letter series” were high-performance luxury cars. For the first time, in 1957 the 300c was available in a convertible model, with a wide front grille and fins. The Chrysler headquarters is in Auburn Hills, Michigan.



Michigan and the Auto Industry



Prominent American series
Henry Ford
Scott 1286A • 1968



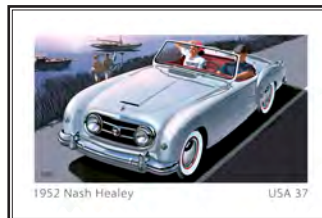
Transportation Series
Electric Auto
Scott 1906 • 1981



Wheels of Freedom
Scott 1162 • 1960



America on the Move:
50s Sporty Cars
Ford Thunderbird
Scott 3935 • 2005



America on the Move:
50s Sporty Cars
Chevrolet Corvette
Scott 3934 • 2005



America on the Move:
50s Fins and Chrome
Cadillac Eldorado
Scott 4353 • 2008



America on the Move:
50s Fins and Chrome
Pontiac Safari
Scott 4355 • 2008



America on the Move:
50s Fins and Chrome
Lincoln Premiere
Scott 4356 • 2008



America on the Move:
50s Fins and Chrome
Chrysler 300c
Scott 4357 • 2008



Michigan in the World of Sports

Baseball's Legendary Playing Fields Tiger Stadium, Detroit Scott 3511 • 2001

Tiger Stadium opened in 1912 as Navin Field. The stadium was named Briggs Stadium from 1938-1960, and finally Tiger Stadium. Baseball's Detroit Tigers played their last game in the stadium on September 27, 1999. The stadium was demolished in 2009.

Baseball Sluggers Hank Greenberg 1911-1986 Scott 4081 • 2006

Henry "Hank" Greenberg is remembered as one of the all-time greatest right-handed batters. During his time with the Detroit Tigers, "Hammerin' Hank" led the American League in home runs and in RBIs four times each. He was twice named Most Valuable Player, and in 1956 became the first Jewish player elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Legends of Baseball Ty Cobb 1886 -1961 Scott 3408d • 2000

Ty Cobb spent 22 seasons with the Detroit Tigers. Cobb set records for the highest career batting average and the most career batting titles, hits, runs, most played games and at bats. In 1936 Cobb was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Legends of Baseball Mickey Cochrane 1903-1962 Scott 3408g • 2000

Mickey Cochrane began his professional baseball career with the Philadelphia Athletics. When the team disbanded, Cochrane moved to the Detroit Tigers. He is considered one of the best catchers in baseball history, winning the Most Valuable Player Award in 1934. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1947.

Sugar Ray Robinson 1921-1981 Scott 4020 • 2006

Sugar Ray Robinson held the world welterweight championship in boxing from 1946 until 1951. He then held the world middleweight championship in 1951-52, 1955, 1957, and 1958-60. Robinson grew up in Detroit, Michigan.

Joe Louis 1914-1981 Scott 2766 • 1993

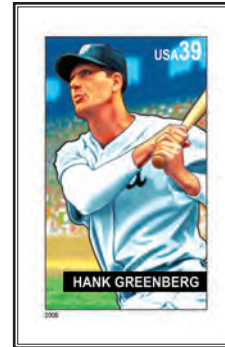
Joseph Louis Barrow (Joe Louis) was the world heavyweight boxing champion for 140 consecutive months, from 1937 to 1949. He is one of the first African Americans to become a nationwide hero within the United States. Louis, who in 2005 was named the greatest heavyweight of all time by the International Boxing Research Organization, was raised in Detroit, Michigan.



Michigan in the World of Sports



Baseball's Legendary
Playing Fields
Tiger Stadium, Detroit
Scott 3511 • 2001



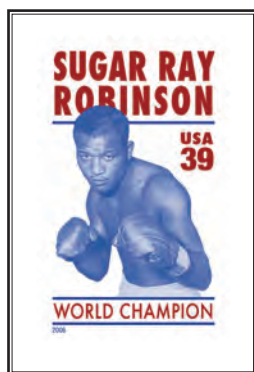
Baseball Sluggers
Hank Greenberg
Scott 4081 • 2006



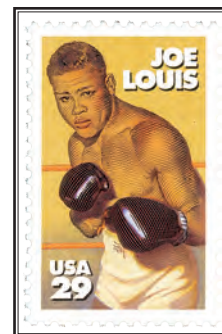
Legends of Baseball
Ty Cobb
Scott 3408d • 2000



Legends of Baseball
Mickey Cochrane
Scott 3408g • 2000



Sugar Ray Robinson
Scott 4020 • 2006



Joe Louis
Scott 2766 • 1993



Famous Michiganians

Gerald R. Ford
1913–2006
Scott 4199 • 2007

Gerald Ford, the 38th president of the United States, was raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1973 Ford was chosen to fill the office of Vice President after Spiro Agnew resigned that position. Less than a year later President Richard Nixon resigned as the U.S. President, making Gerald Ford the only non-elected President in the history of the U.S.

Black Heritage series
Malcolm X
1925–1965
Scott 3273 • 1999

Malcolm X was one of the most controversial African-American leaders of the 1960s. A minister of the Nation of Islam, he fiercely condemned the oppression of blacks. His remarks intensified the civil rights debate in the U.S. After converting to orthodox Islam, he began to turn from hatred and toward the possibility of reconciliation between the black and white races.

National Postal Museum issues
Biplane, Charles Lindbergh
1902–1974
Scott 2781 • 1993

Charles Lindbergh, born in Detroit, Michigan, became an author, inventor, explorer, and social activist. However, he is probably best remembered as the U.S. Air Mail pilot who gained world fame for his solo non-stop flight from Long Island, New York to Paris, France, in a single-engine monoplane — the Spirit of St. Louis. A U.S. Army reserve officer, Lindbergh was awarded the nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his historic flight.

Thomas Edison
1847–1931
Scott 945 • 1947

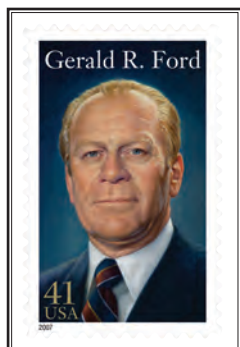
One of the most famous inventors of all time, Thomas Alva Edison acquired 1,093 patents. He is credited with inventing the incandescent light bulb, the phonograph, and the motion picture camera, as well as making improvements to the telephone and telegraph. Edison was raised in Port Huron, Michigan.

Great Americans series
Ralph Bunche
1904–1971
Scott 1860 • 1982

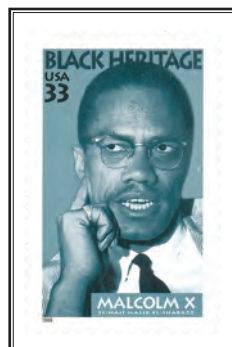
Ralph Bunche played a key role in the development of the United Nations where he served as undersecretary for sixteen years. In 1950 Bunche became the first African American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, being honored for his work on the Arab-Israeli dispute. Ralph Bunche was born in Detroit, Michigan.



Famous Michiganians



Gerald R. Ford
Scott 4199 • 2007



Black Heritage series
Malcolm X
Scott 3273 • 1999



National Postal Museum issues
Biplane, Charles Lindbergh
Scott 2781 • 1993



Thomas Edison
Scott 945 • 1947



Great Americans series
Ralph Bunche
Scott 1860 • 1982



More Famous Michigianians

Distinguished Americans

Edna Ferber
1885–1968
Scott 3433 • 2002

Author Edna Ferber was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Several of her novels were made into theatrical and film productions, including *Show Boat*, *Ice Palace*, and *Cimarron* which won an Oscar. In 1925 she won the Pulitzer Prize for her book *So Big*, which went on to be made into a silent film, then remade in 1932 into a talking movie, and again remade in 1953 into the version we most often see today.

Ernest Hemingway
1899–1961
Scott 2418 • 1989

In his writings, American author and journalist Ernest Hemingway presented characters whose courage and honesty are set against the ways of modern society. In 1954 he won the Nobel Prize in Literature “for his mastery of the art of narrative...” Although he lived in Illinois, Hemingway spent his youthful summers on Walloon Lake, near Petoskey, Michigan.

American Architecture

Dulles Airport
By Eero Saarinen
1910–1961
Scott 2022 • 1982

Eero Saarinen immigrated to the United States of America in 1923 and grew up in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. A successful architect, his first major work was at the General Motors Technical Center in Warren, Michigan. Other famous works include the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (Gateway Arch) and the main terminal of the Dulles International Airport as shown on this stamp.

Legends of American Music:
Rock & Roll/Rhythm & Blues
Bill Haley
1925–1981
Scott 2725 • 1993

Bill Haley was born at Highland Park, Michigan. As a child he sang and played guitar at variety shows and later, in his teenage years, worked at local amusement parks that featured live entertainment. He is credited with popularizing rock and roll in the early 1950s with his group Bill Haley & His Comets and their hit song “Rock Around the Clock.”

Harry Houdini
1874–1926
Scott 3651 • 2002

Harry Houdini was the greatest escape artist in history. He was chain shackled, bound in straitjackets, even chained and suspended upside down inside a padlocked, water-filled glass cabinet — and always escaped. Houdini's last performance was at the Garrick Theater in Detroit, Michigan.

Comedians Booklet
Edgar Bergen & McCarthy
1903–1978
Scott 2563 • 1991

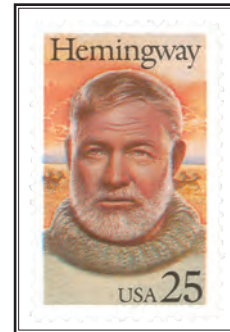
Ventriloquist Edgar Bergen, with his dummy sidekick named Charlie McCarthy, made his first performances in Vaudeville. Soon he began acting, and in 1939 created the comic strip Martimer & Charlie. Bergen, who grew up in Decatur, Michigan, was elected to the Radio Hall of Fame in 1990.



More Famous Michiganians



Distinguished Americans
Edna Ferber
Scott 3433 • 2002



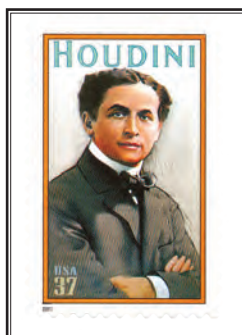
Ernest Hemingway
Scott 2418 • 1989



American Architecture
Dulles Airport
By Eero Saarinen
Scott 2022 • 1982



Legends of American Music:
Rock & Roll/Rhythm & Blues
Bill Haley
Scott 2725 • 1993



Harry Houdini
Scott 3651 • 2002



Comedians Booklet
Edgar Bergen & McCarthy
Scott 2563 • 1991



More Stamps of Michigan

Land-Grant Colleges Scott 1065 • 1955

Michigan State College and Pennsylvania State University, both chartered in 1855, were the first two land-grant colleges to benefit under the Morrill Act of 1862. This law allocated federal land to each state and directed the states to sell the land and use the proceeds to establish a college dedicated to the agricultural and mechanical arts. Most of the 53 Land-grant colleges have grown to rank high among the largest and best-known universities in the world.

Energy Conservation Scott 1547 • 1974

This public service stamp, which thematically highlights a major challenge facing the nation, was released in Detroit, Michigan. The stamp marked the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the World Energy Conference, an international organization that in 1974 was comprised of organizations from 69 countries with a common goal of energy conservation.

American Folk Art: Lacemaking Scott 2351–2354 • 1987

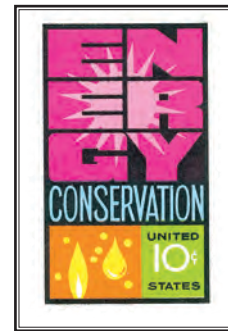
The art of lacemaking was first introduced in America by early English and Spanish settlers. The designs on these stamps were based on the works of Michigan members of the Great Lakes Lacers Group. The lace shown in the upper left design was crated by Ruth Maxwell of Dearborn; the lower left by Leslie K. Saari of Cadillac; upper right by Mary McPeck of Ann Arbor; and the lower right design features lace created by Trena Ruffner of Grosse Pointe Park.



More Stamps of Michigan



Land-Grant Colleges
Scott 1065 • 1955



Energy Conservation
Scott 1547 • 1974



American Folk Art:
Lacemaking
Scott 2351-2354 • 1987









THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

A special thank you to Chuck Hirschert, Dottie Winter, and Harry Winter for their assistance in identifying the stamps related to the state of Michigan.

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