Pennsylvania has many official “mascots.” Each of these symbols is connected to history, honors a native species, or recognizes a product of importance to Pennsylvania’s economy. Read on to find out more about our state symbols.

State Song
The official state song of the Commonwealth, “Pennsylvania,” by Eddie Khoury and Ronnie Bonner, was adopted by the General Assembly in 1990.

PENNSYLVANIA
Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania,
Mighty is your name,
Steeped in glory and tradition,
Object of acclaim.

Where brave men fought the foe of freedom,
Tyranny decried,
’Til the bell of independence filled the countryside.

Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania,
May your future be
filled with honor everlasting
as your history.

Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania,
Blessed by God’s own hand,
Birthplace of a mighty nation,
Keystone of the land.

Where first our country’s flag
unfolded,
Freedom to proclaim,
May the voices of tomorrow
glorify your name.

Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania,
May your future be
filled with honor everlasting
as your history.

State Flag
Pennsylvania’s most well recognized symbol is the state flag, which is blue and features the state coat of arms. The ship, plow and sheaves of wheat found in the coat of arms are drawn from the colonial-era coats of arms of three Pennsylvania counties.

The first state flag bearing the coat of arms was authorized by the General Assembly in 1779. During the Civil War, many Pennsylvania regiments carried flags modeled after the United States flag, but substituted Pennsylvania’s coat of arms for the field of stars.

On June 13, 1907, the General Assembly passed a law standardizing the flag and requiring that the blue field match the blue of Old Glory.

Today, the Pennsylvania flag is flown from all state buildings and can be seen at many other public places throughout the Commonwealth.

The State Seal
The state seal is stamped on official Commonwealth documents to certify their authenticity.

When Pennsylvania was still a province of England, its seals were those of William Penn and his descendants. By 1778, a seal similar to the modern one was in use. The obverse face, or front, features a shield emblazoned with a sailing ship, plow and sheaves of wheat. Surrounding the shield are a stalk of Indian corn, an olive branch and the inscription “Seal of the State of Pennsylvania.”

The reverse features a woman, representing liberty, who is trampling upon a lion, which represents tyranny. The design is encircled by the words “Both Can’t Survive.”

The Coat of Arms
Pennsylvania’s coat of arms first appeared on paper money issued in 1777; a revised design today adorns the state flag.

The original coat of arms was designed by Caleb Lownes of Philadelphia, but the Legislature changed it several times before settling on the current design, which is similar to Lownes’. This design features a shield supported by two horses. On the shield are the emblems of the state seal – a ship, plow, sheaves of wheat, an olive branch and cornstalk.

At the bottom is the motto “Virtue, Liberty and Independence.”
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State Flag

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State Song

The official state song of the Commonwealth, “Pennsylvania,” by Eddie Khoury and Ronnie Bonner, was adopted by the General Assembly in 1990.

Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, Mighty is your name, Steeped in glory and tradition, Object of acclaim.

Where brave men fought the foe of freedom, Tyranny decried, ’Til the bell of independence filled the countryside.

Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, May your future be filled with honor everlasting as your history.


Where first our country’s flag unfurled, Freedom to proclaim, May the voices of tomorrow glorify your name.

Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, May your future be filled with honor everlasting as your history.
1 State Animal
WHITETAIL DEER – Pennsylvania settlers used this plentiful deer as a source of food and clothing. Whitetail, which can run 40 mph in short bursts, maintain speeds of 25 mph for longer periods, and jump obstacles up to nine feet high.

2 State Tree
RED OAK – Many Pennsylvania pioneers used hemlocks to build sturdy cabins. The thick foliage of hemlock trees also provides shelter for birds and other animals and keeps forests cool in summer. Hemlock block sewage, too, making it easier for deer to move about during harsh winters.

3 State Fish
BROOK TROUT – Pennsylvania’s 4,000 miles of cold-water streams provide the perfect habitat for this fish, the only trout native to the Commonwealth. Brook trout are also called speckled trout, squawtrout, or just “brookies” by anglers.

4 State Reptile
BLUE JAY – The blue jay, with its blue-gray body and white underside, is a common sight in Pennsylvania forests and parks. It is known for its loud, penetrating call and its playful behavior.

5 State Bird
RUFFED GROUSE – Sometimes called the partridge, this plump, red-brown bird with feathery legs was once a main source of food for Pennsylvania settlers. The ruffed grouse, which thrives on snowy winters and cold conditions, owes its name to the long, shiny neck feathers that are most prominent on the male.

6 State Flower
BLUEBELLS – These blue wildflowers are often found in Pennsylvania’s forests and meadows, adding a splash of color to the spring landscape.

7 State Tree
REDWOOD – Pennsylvania’s state tree, the redwood, is known for its massive size and durability. It is one of the tallest trees in the world, reaching heights of up to 350 feet.

8 State Bird
MOURNING DOVE – The mourning dove, with its distinctive call of “coo-coo-coo-coo,” is a common sight in Pennsylvania’s countryside.

9 State Fish
ALLEGHENY TROUT – Pennsylvania’s state fish, the Allegheny trout, is found in a variety of freshwater bodies, from streams to lakes. It is known for its golden-brown color and distinctive markings.

10 State Flower
MOUNTAIN LAUREL – These pink flowers, also known as Kalmia latifolia, are often found in Pennsylvania’s woodlands and mountains. They are a symbol of strength and resilience.

11 State Bird
SANDPIPER – The sandpiper is a small, graceful bird that can be found along the state’s coasts and beaches. It is known for its quick, darting movements and its bright colors.

12 State Tree
HICKORY – Pennsylvania’s state tree, the hickory, is known for its hard, durable wood and its great value to Pennsylvania’s economy. It is often used in the making of furniture and flooring.