ABOUT ARKANSAS, DID YOU KNOW?

GEOGRAPHY

Area – 53,182 square miles, making Arkansas larger than half of the world's 195 countries
Highest elevation – 2,753 feet above sea level (Magazine Mountain)
Lowest elevation – 54 feet above sea level (Ouachita River at Arkansas/Louisiana state line)
Irrigated land – 14 percent of the state (by area), Arkansas has an abundance of water
Navigable length of major rivers – *Arkansas River – 308 miles, Ouachita River – 128 miles, Mississippi River – 321 miles,* and *White River – 255 miles*

GENERAL GEOLOGY

Oldest known mapped geologic formation - Collier Shale (about 520 million years old)
Oldest known surface rock - an altered igneous body, Saline County (about 1.025 billion years old)
Six most abundant sediments – ***sand, clay, silt, gravel, marl,*** and ***chalk***
Most abundant sedimentary rocks – ***shale***, ***sandstone***, ***dolostone***, ***limestone***, and ***chert***
Most abundant igneous rock – ***syenite*** (resembles granite, but contains less quartz – < 10%)
In recent years, an average of 44 earthquakes per year occurred in Arkansas. Modern era "earthquake swarms" have occurred in ***Enola (1982-83)*** and ***Guy/Greenbrier (2010-11)***. These swarms produced as many as ***20,000 earthquakes*** in a year with magnitudes up to ***4.7***
Fourteen meteorites are known to have been found in Arkansas

MINERALS & FOSSIL FUELS

Arkansas had the **1st** ***diamond mine*** in the United States. It is the only place where the general public can find (and keep) a diamond. Arkansas led the nation in the recovery of diamonds for over 50 years
The two largest ***diamonds*** discovered in North America came from Arkansas
Arkansas led the nation in the production of ***barite*** for over 30 years
Arkansas' value of mineral and fossil-fuel production per year is more than $1,000,000,000
Arkansas' 5 most valuable non-fuel mineral resources, based on annual production, are:
bromine, ***crushed stone***, ***sand/gravel***, ***clays***, and ***limestone***
Three fossil fuels – ***natural gas***, ***oil,*** and ***coal*** – are produced in Arkansas today
Huge reserves of another fossil fuel – ***lignite*** – are essentially untouched
As of 2016, there were about 356 oil and 150 gas fields producing in Arkansas
In 2016, ***oil*** production was about 5,470,000 barrels or 15,000 barrels per day
In 2016, ***gas*** production was about 820,000,000 mcf or roughly 2,250,000 mcf per day
The deepest well ever drilled in Arkansas – 20,661 feet (a test well for ***gas/oil*** in Yell County)

Rocks and minerals currently produced/recovered in Arkansas:

Bauxite	***Dolostone***	***Gypsum***	***Quartz***	***Tripoli***	***Shale***
Cement rock	***Gemstones***	***Limestone***	***Sandstone***	***Sulfur***	***Tuff***
Kaolin	***Sand***	***Novaculite***	***Slate***	***Syenite***	***Common Clays***

In 2013, 28% of the world's ***bromine*** was produced by the U.S., all of it from Arkansas.
More ***bauxite*** and ***vanadium*** ore has been mined in Arkansas than in all other states combined.

In production among the 50 states, Arkansas currently ranks (as of 2013):

1st in ***bromine brine***
1st in ***quartz crystal*** and ***lasca***
1st in ***novaculite*** and ***silica stone***
1st in the recovery of ***diamonds***
3rd in ***tripoli***

4th in ***kaolin***
5th in ***industrial sand and gravel***
6th in ***cement***
6th in ***gypsum***
6th in ***common clays***

For more information: www.geology.ar.gov, (501) 296-1877