



Flag:

[Alaska adopted the flag for official state use in 1959.](#) The blue field represents the sky, the sea, and mountain lakes, as well as Alaska's wildflowers. Emblazoned on the flag are eight gold stars: seven in the constellation Ursa Major, or the Big Dipper. The eighth being the North Star, representing the northern most state.



Alaska (no official nickname)

Alaska has no official nickname although, when it joined the union in 1959 a number of suggestions were made. The 49th State is the most obvious, and ***Great Land*** was also suggested. It was also suggested that it be known as the ***Sourdough State***, as well as the ***North Star State*** (this name also being claimed by Minnesota). It was even at one time referred to as ***Up Over*** (in comic opposition to New Zealand and Australia, which are "Down Under"). Various facetious nicknames were also applied, including ***Seward's Ice Box*** and ***Seward's Folly***, after William Henry Seward who bought Alaska from the Russians in 1867. However, Alaska is more commonly (but unofficially) known as ***The Last Frontier***, or ***The Land of the Midnight Sun***. Alaska licence plates display ***North to the Future***

Economy:

Agriculture: Seafood, nursery stock, dairy products, vegetables, livestock.

Industry: Petroleum and natural gas, gold and other mining, food processing, lumber and wood products, tourism