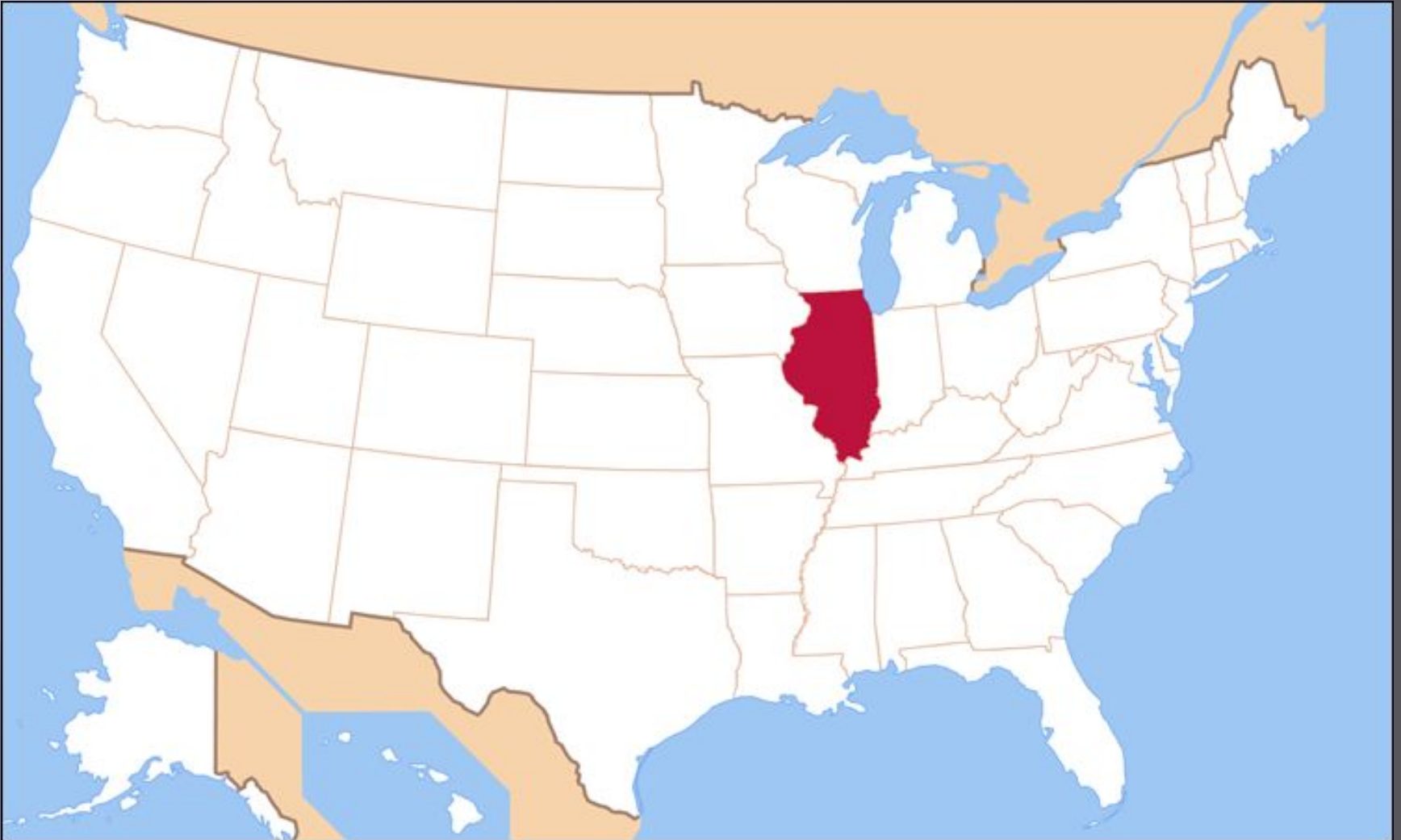


ILLINOIS





The capital of the State of Illinois - Springfield

The largest city in the state of Illinois - Chicago

Date of formation of Illinois - December 3, 1818

The population of the State of Illinois - about 12 million people (5 in the USA)

1 Flag of the State of Illinois

2 Seal of Illinois

Motto - State sovereignty,
national union



According to different versions, the word "Illinois" is derived either from the Illiniwek, which means "tribe of higher people" or from irenwewa, which translates to, "he says, as always."



Symbols of Illinois:

Tree Illinois - white oak

Flower of Illinois - violet

Bird of Illinois - Red Cardinal

Illinois Fish - Bluegill

Illinois Butterfly - Monarch





In the south of the state a lot of forests, here is one of the largest protected forest in the United States - Shawnee National Forest. In this forest you can see oaks, maples, also deer, foxes, muskrats, raccoons and many other animals.

Illinois is typical for a humid continental climate with hot summers and cold winters.

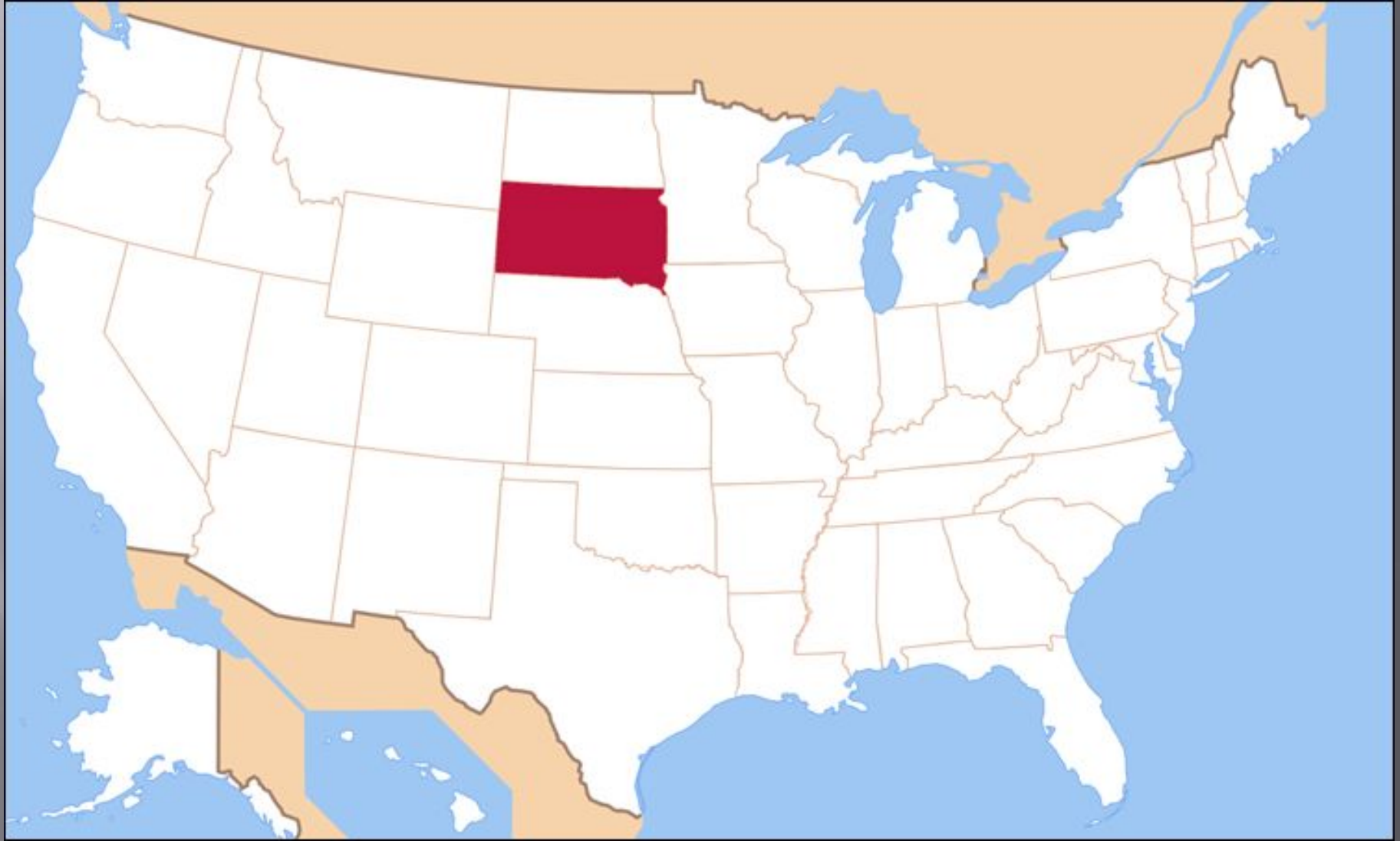
St. Patrick's Day in Chicago



National Park Indiana Dunes - one of the finest places in the state. It is more than forty kilometers of dunes that were formed naturally under the influence of winds from Lake Michigan. In addition to the incredibly beautiful scenery here you can find a variety of unusual plants that do not grow anywhere else in the world. Here, at the same time you can see the tundra berry bushes, pine. This is one of the most photogenic landscapes, which is very often used in the American film industry to film Westerns.



South Dakota



The capital of South Dakota - Pierre

The largest city - Sioux Falls

Date of formation - November 2, 1889

The population— about 840 000 people

The motto - Under God the people rule

Nickname - "Mount Rushmore State"



Long before the advent of Europeans in America, in what is now South Dakota lived the indigenous inhabitants of the continent - the Indians.

And today, the population of South Dakota is relatively a lot of indigenous peoples. In the state there are several large Indian reservations, it is the third largest in the United States by number of Indians



Tree South Dakota - spruce
Beast of South Dakota - Coyote
Bird of South Dakota - pheasant
Fish South Dakota - walleye
South Dakota State insect - honey bee



For South Dakota is characterized by a continental climate with long cold winters, hot summers and short, but pronounced in spring and autumn.

The eastern part of South Dakota is located on the "tornado alley", there are often up to thirty times per year



Mount Rushmore



In the south-west of the state of South Dakota, in the mountains of the Black Hills, the majestic monument - "Mount Rushmore National Memorial." Here, from the granite rock carved huge images of four Presidents of the United States: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

Construction of the monument began October 4, 1927 and ended on 31 October 1941, in the construction take part hundred workers, manually minced granite.