

# COLUMBUS REACHES INDIES

## LANDS ON UNKNOWN ISLAND

Barcelona, Spain, March 1493

Admiral Christopher Columbus and his daring crew have just returned from an uncharted island near the shores of India. The landing, which took place last October, is expected to open a new route to the Orient. He is seeking the support of Queen Isabella for a second voyage on which he hopes to establish a trade route.

**STORY ON PAGE TWO**



## Indiana!

**What is Indiana?** Write your answer below.

Did you say it is a state, your home, a part of America? Yes, if you live in Indiana, it is all of these. But it is more. Indiana is people, land, homes, farms, cities, schools, churches, and rivers. They are all parts of Indiana. What are some other parts of Indiana?

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So Indiana is not just a space on a map or a name on your address!

Have you been outside of Indiana? Have you been in any of these states? (Circle the ones that you have been in.)

Illinois	Ohio
Kentucky	Michigan

Look at a map of America. What is special about these states?

You are right if you said that they all touch Indiana. They are our neighbor states.

What about these? (Circle any you've been in.)

Alaska	Hawaii
California	Maine
Florida	Washington

Find them on your map? What is special about them?

They are far away from Indiana. In fact, two of these states are so far away that they may not be on your map! Which two are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

How are all of these states alike? (Mark 'X' by the right answers.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. They are part of America
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Everyone there is over 18 years old
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. People there love their families and state
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. They have a *history*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. They have jungles and swamps

If you marked 'X' on #1, #3, and #4, you are right. #2 is wrong because there are young people in every state. Why is #5 wrong?

## Indiana is part of America

While we live in Indiana and love Indiana, we also live in and love America. We are Indianans and Americans. We are proud of both.

In this newspaper you will learn about Indiana. You will learn about her past and the people here first. You will also study the land and how it was discovered and explored. You will learn what it was like then and what has happened since. It is the story of our Indiana *heritage*.

It is a tale of adventure filled with heroes and *villains*, good times and bad, success and failure. Sometimes we may wish we could change it, but we can't. If we pay close attention though, we can learn from it. Then maybe we can make the future better. Are you ready? Let's go.

## HEADLINE STORY FROM PAGE 1

## Short way to India!

It was 2:00 in the morning of October 12, 1492, when a crewman on the “Pinta” sighted an island off the southeastern coast of what is now America. A cannon shot announced the discovery and soon Columbus landed, threw himself to his knees, and returned thanks to God. He named the island “San Salvador.”

When Columbus returned and word of his discovery reached Spain, there was much excitement. He believed he had reached islands near Asia called the “Indies.” He thought he was close to the country of India where Spain traded for things not available at home. He was mistaken. Columbus had sailed west but had instead reached the farthest lands of the east!

Today the islands Columbus discovered are known as the “West Indies.” He never did see the mainland of America and he never did know he was still half way around the world from India!

Columbus returned three more times to look for India. Once he thought he was too far north so he sailed farther south. Finally he landed on the coast of **mainland** South America. He thought it was Asia.

## Understanding your world

For this lesson you need a globe. A globe is a model of the earth we live on. It is a *replica*, a likeness in small size. It is round like the earth is round. It has a map on it that shows where the land is and where the sea is. The sea is usually colored blue. The land is in many shapes and probably has countries marked in different colors. The different land shapes are called *continents*. The seas between them are the *oceans*.

Look at your globe. Can you find America? Turn the globe and look at the top half until you find it. Do you see how America fits into the middle of a large continent? Now look above America to find Canada. Next look below America to find Mexico.

Look left of Canada and find the state of Alaska. Look in the ocean below Alaska and find Hawaii. Alaska and Hawaii are two of our United States. What separates Alaska and Hawaii from our other states?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Photo of a globe showing North and South America and the Atlantic Ocean.

In the picture, Indiana is near the top of the globe and Spain is at the far right.



Altogether, America, Canada, and Mexico form most of the continent of North America.

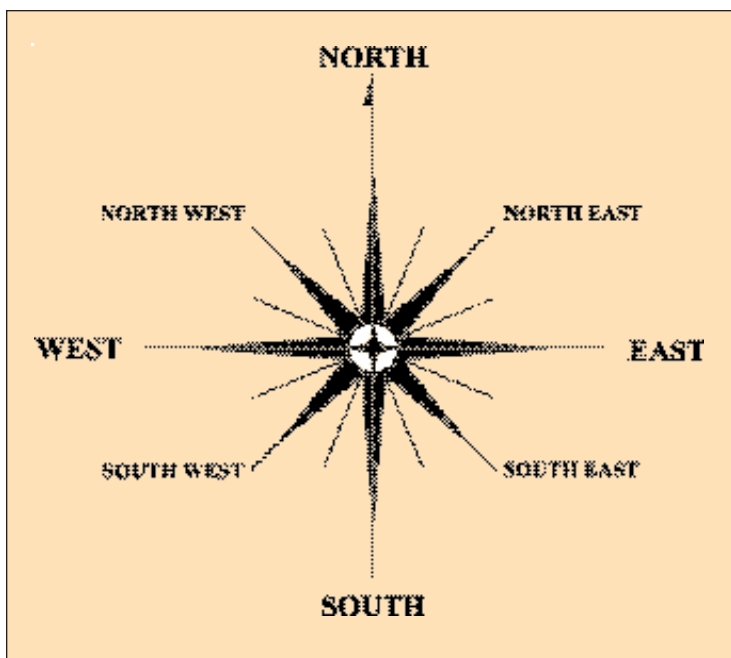
“North” is a direction. It means toward the top of the globe. “South” means toward the bottom of the globe. Since your globe probably tilts slightly, the top and bottom are really where the pole that the globe spins on sticks out. Find the north pole and the south pole. Spin the globe slowly. The line made by the pole through the globe is the *axis*. The world, like your globe, spins on its axis. It makes one full turn each day.

Look at the thin line of land below Mexico. Today this is called “Central America.” Follow it down and to the right until you come to the country of Colombia. Colombia is on another continent called “South America.” There are many countries on this continent. Find Brazil, the biggest country in South America. Why do we call this continent “South America” and our own “North America?” Yes, because one is south and the other north.

Set your globe on a table. Look for a doorknob in the room. Imagine the doorknob is the sun. Turn the globe slowly so that North America moves to your right. (This is toward the east.)

As you turn it, imagine you are standing on the globe in the middle of Indiana like you are standing on the earth. Imagine looking for your doorknob-sun. Sometimes you will face toward it. Other times you will face away. Our earth is just like that and that is why we have day and night.

Look again at your globe. Below Mexico is the nation of Brazil. It is in South America. Mexico is north of Brazil, but not directly north. Directly north of Brazil is an ocean. Find its name. It is the Atlantic Ocean. America is left of the Atlantic Ocean. We call this direction “west.” The Atlantic Ocean is right of America. We call this direction “east.” So Brazil is south and east of Mexico.



Compass illustrating the 16 points.

To tell directions we use these four names: north, south, east, and west. These are called the “*cardinal directions*.” They are the four basic directions.

Sometimes we use them together for a direction in between. If we use two of them together, we always use the north or south name first.

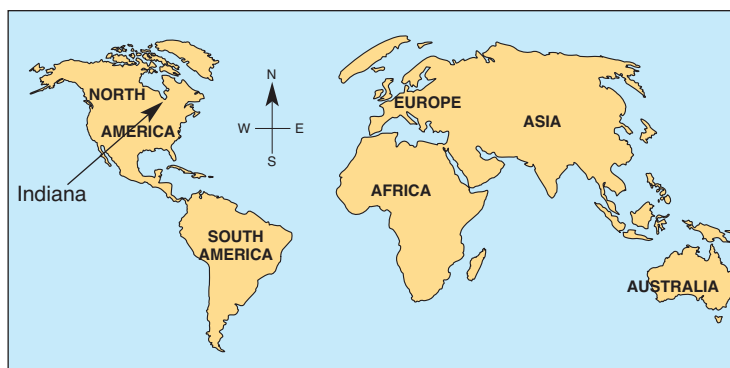
We may even use three together. For example, the direction between north and northeast is called north-northeast. These directions are called the “16 points of the compass.” Look in the box above. Count them. You should find sixteen.

## Where is Indiana?

Look again at your globe and find Indiana. It is south of the five “Great Lakes” that appear near the Canadian border. What part of America is it in? We say it is in the “middle west” or “*midwest*.” When you look closely you can see that it is not really in the middle. We will learn more about this as we continue our study.

Find California. It is far west of Indiana, by the Pacific Ocean. Find the state of Washington, north of California. What part of America is it in? Look in the southeast and find Florida. Now find Spain. It is not in America. It is on another continent.

To find Spain, from Florida go straight east on your globe, across the Atlantic Ocean. When you come to land you should be in Morocco on the continent of Africa. North of Morocco is Spain. It is in the southwestern part of the continent of Europe.



Spain is where Christopher Columbus lived. It is far east of America, across the Atlantic Ocean. No one in Spain had ever crossed that ocean. Some even thought it was flat and that if you sailed far enough, you would go right off the edge. They imagined demons and dragons out there.

Columbus believed they were wrong. He believed he could sail all the way around the world and come back to Spain. He thought he would get to India and China that way. But Columbus didn't realize how far it was and he didn't know North and South America were in the way! No one knew that but the people living there. Who were they?

Yes, the *Native Americans*, the Indians. (In coming issues, you will learn about these interesting people.)

But the Indians didn't know about the people in Spain either! They were an *isolated* people. Neither people knew or understood the other.

So why was Columbus looking for a shorter route to India? The answer is “trade.” This word is important because trade is very important to us.

## Trade

Many people lived in Europe. Some were farmers. Others worked in factories. There were fishermen, miners, lumbermen, and many other *trades*. Some countries raised lots of food, while other countries had extra coal. People in one country needed what people in other countries produced. So they would buy what they needed. Likewise, those other countries needed products too and they would buy them. This buying and selling between countries is called “trade.”

But there were some things that couldn't be found in Europe. There were spices and tea from India and silk cloth from China. *Caravans* would go all the way to India and China to deliver goods from Spain and come back with goods from China.



On your globe, east of Spain, find India. The first trade routes to India were over land. Then ships began to sail there. How could ships sail between Spain and India?

Today the Suez Canal goes between the Mediterranean and Red Seas. On your globe, find the Suez Canal in eastern Egypt. Why is this canal so important?

## BULLETIN

*Calicut, India, May 20, 1498*

Vasco da Gama arrived today by sea from Portugal. He plans to establish a factory and conduct trade with Europe.

## Sailing around Africa!

While Columbus was looking for a route to India by sailing west, the Portuguese were exploring routes around Africa sailing south and east. No one had yet gone all the way around Africa.

On July 9, 1497, Vasco da Gama sailed from Portugal with a fleet of four ships. They went down, along the west coast of Africa, around the southern tip, and up the east coast to where Kenya is now. There he found *mariners* who knew the course to India. He sailed east and completed the journey 315 days later.

With your finger, trace his course on a world map or globe. When you get to Kenya, what is the ocean you cross to reach India?

## CABOT RETURNS SAFELY CLAIMS VAST AREA FOR CROWN

*Bristol, England, August 1497*

John Cabot has returned from his second voyage to the New World. He reports great fishing and has claimed all of the coastal lands for our great King Henry VII.

## Cabot explores Newfoundland

While da Gama was sailing east to India, the first English explorer sailed west. Until then, it seemed only Spain cared about the New World. When John Cabot sailed to the northern coast, he found a great island and named it Newfoundland. See how the name describes what he discovered!

Even though he had reached America, he did not land on the North American continent, nor did he know where he really was.

In May 1498, Cabot departed Bristol, England, with four other ships on a return voyage. A short time later, one of the ships returned. Cabot and the other four ships were never seen again!

## The final voyage of Columbus

In 1502 Columbus sailed along the coast of Central America. He was still looking for India. Then a terrible storm struck. It almost destroyed his small ship. After the storm passed, he took haven in a harbor near what is now one end of the Panama Canal. This is as close as he ever came to India or Asia.

Today the Panama Canal allows ships to sail from ocean to ocean without the long trip around South America. Locate the Panama Canal on your globe. Why is it so important?

How is it similar to the Suez Canal?

## Roman Numerals

In this issue we have used a different way of writing numbers. It was common in those years and we still use it sometimes today. They were called *Roman numerals* because they were used in Rome. (They were used in many other places too.)

Do you know the first ten Roman numerals? They are I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, and X. What do they mean?

When we read about King George III, we are reading about the third king named George. Who was Louis XIV? (Hint: Add the last two letters to the first one.)

## REACTION TIME

1. What is the world?
2. When the sun "comes up," what really happens?
3. Why did people think the world was flat?
4. How do you know it is not?
5. Why didn't Columbus reach India?
6. Why is trade important to you?
7. What do you think happened to John Cabot and his four other ships?

# LA SALLE TO INDIANA

*Fort Saint Joseph, Michigan, December 31, 1679*

Indian traders appearing here today report that Robert La Salle and his men recently portaged to a new river they have found in Indiana. They call it the Kankakee. They say it goes to the mighty river explored by Marquette and Jolliet.

## France arrives!

### Jolliet and Marquette

Before La Salle's journey, French explorer Louis Jolliet had entered Indian country. With a missionary to the Indians, Father Jacques Marquette, he traveled by canoe from Green Bay on Lake Michigan and up the Fox River in Wisconsin. At the head of the river, they *portaged* to the Wisconsin River and followed it west. ("Portage" is explained in the box on the next page.) This river led them to the mighty Mississippi that De Soto discovered in 1541!

Jolliet and Marquette entered the Mississippi near its *source*. They went down it to the Arkansas River. This was more than halfway to the Gulf of Mexico! They were the first white men to do this.

Then they turned around and went back by a different route: up the Illinois River. At Illinois Town (near today's Utica), they started the first mission to the Indians of Illinois.

Near the source of the Illinois River they portaged again. This time they crossed to the Chicago River and came out at the south end of Lake Michigan. At the end of August 1673, they traveled along the west shore of the lake returning to their point of departure by mid-October.

### René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle

La Salle may have had the longest name of any explorer! How would you like to write that on your homework? Actually, the last part of his "name" was his title. We just know him as "La Salle."

He came to New France (Canada) in 1666 with a plan to find a route to China. Here La Salle formed a party of explorers to go down the Mississippi. He thought it might flow to the Pacific Ocean.

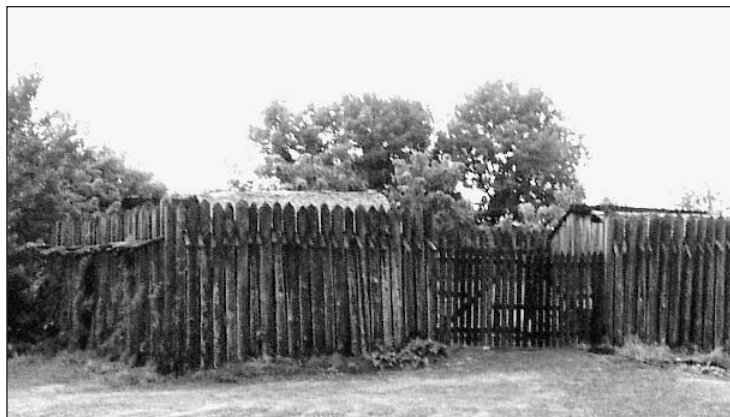
He had a very hard time putting his plan to work. He found a loyal friend in a man named Henri Tonty. In 1679 they went down Lake Michigan and built a fort on the St. Joseph River near the border of Indiana and Michigan. Then they went up the river and portaged across to the Kankakee, which flows into the Illinois River. They were the first white men we know to have entered what is now our state of Indiana.

Map showing the travels of Jolliet, Marquette, and La Salle.



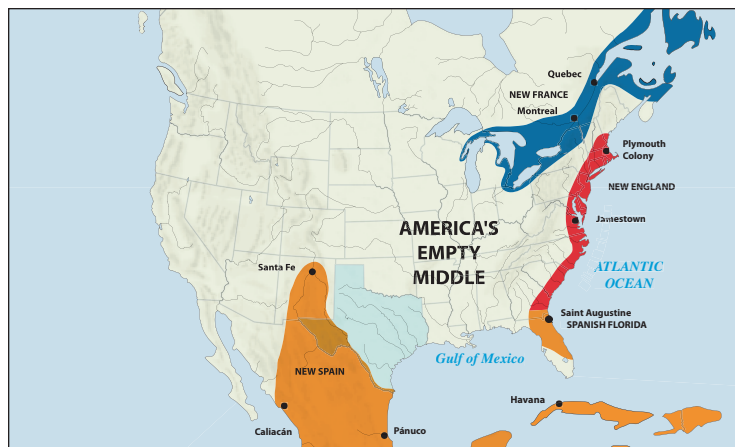
----- Jolliet and Marquette 1673  
—— La Salle 1682

As they went down the Illinois, they came to an Illiniwek Indian village. They built a fort there and called it Fort Crèvecoeur. It is near where Peoria stands today.



The reconstruction of Fort Crèvecoeur as it appears today. It is near Peoria, Illinois.

They were low on supplies so La Salle left Tonty at the fort and returned to Canada to get more. Tonty remained with a small number of men and waited for his friend to return in the spring.



Approximate limits of European settlement by 1700.

## America has a middle!

By 1670, colonial settlement of America had begun. Jamestown in Virginia, Plymouth in Massachusetts, and St. Augustine in Florida were growing colonies in the east. (Locate them on the map above.) Many other small communities had also begun.

In the west, Santa Fe had been settled in New Mexico along with other communities there. In Canada, Montreal and Quebec were the centers of new settlements. Around these colonies hunters, trappers, and adventurers were moving farther and farther into the wilderness. (Locate these colonies on the map as well.)

Between the colonies there was a big uncharted area. Only Indians lived there. Settlers called it “Indian Country.” It was the empty middle of

### THE “PORTAGE”

Do you notice how many times we have used this word? It was very important to explorers in many parts of the midwest.

Think about this very carefully: Rivers drain rain water and melting snow into other rivers, seas, and lakes. They flow from higher points to lower ones. On the plains, they usually flow slowly so it is easy to go up and down them by boat.

If you go up one river by boat to where it begins, you can expect to find another river going down the other way. By carrying your boat and walking, you can get to the next river and go down it. This is a good way to get from one river to the next. It is what we call a “portage.”

There was also a problem with a portage. Can you think what it is? It has to do with the things you have in your boat. Perhaps you are carrying a load of fur pelts to trade. What would you have to do with them in order to portage?

America.

The west was dry, *arid* plain. Down the middle ran the great river De Soto had discovered. But no white man had yet traveled all the way up or down the great river. This was La Salle’s goal.

East of the Mississippi almost to the Atlantic Ocean, was wilderness, mostly unexplored. It was the heart of Indian country. (Part of it would later be called Indiana.) There were dense forests and brush lands, rivers and lakes, dangerous wild animals, poisonous insects and snakes, and, of course, Indians.

But there was also *fertile* land on which crops could grow. There was lots of wildlife so there were lots of furs. The lakes and rivers were full of fish. The forests could be cut for cabins. But what would the Indians do if settlers came? There was great opportunity, but there was also great danger.

At this time and into this wilderness came a few great explorers and many brave men, women, and children. At first, they hunted and trapped and fished their way across the wilderness. Then they developed trade between the colonies and the Indians. As they explored the land, a few stayed to settle it. It was a brave and courageous time.

## Illinois Confederation

Like the Iroquois, the Illiniwek had formed a confederation. It was made up of the Cahokias, Kaskaskias, Mitchigamies, Peorias, and Tamaroas. Together they were called the “Illinois [Illiniwek] Confederation.”

Between the Illinois and the Iroquois were other Indian tribes. They did not belong to either confederation. They included the Delaware, Erie, Shawnee, Potawatomi, and Miami Indians. (See the map in issue #6.)

Do you remember the Iroquois Confederation?

### URGENT BULLETIN

*Illinois Town, Illinois, September 18, 1680*

It now appears that the Iroquois war party which has been approaching along the river is ready to attack. All women and children of the Illinois Confederation are ordered to leave.

(See issue #4.) By now the Iroquois had made peace with the Hurons, but they still wanted the hunting grounds of other Indians. They swept across Ohio defeating the other Indian tribes. Soon they came



across Indiana and Illinois. As they came near Illinois Town where Tonty was awaiting La Salle's return, they sent a party of about 500 warriors to attack. (See the map in issue #6).

When Tonty saw them coming, he knew his small band of Frenchmen could not fight them off. He also knew the Illinois would not be able to win. So he made a peace agreement with the Iroquois but it did not last.

Finally, he took his men and left to find La Salle. Most of the Indians also left and went west to the Mississippi River. But the Tamaroas remained. 700 of them were captured by the Iroquois. About half of those captured were killed and burned. It was a terrible defeat.

Now the Iroquois Confederation controlled almost all of the Indian Country. But there was too much country and there were too few Iroquois so they took the captive Indians as slaves and slowly returned east.

Soon the beaten tribes returned as well. They would rebuild their villages and await the next invasion which was certain to come.

## LA SALLE AT THE GULF

*Mississippi Delta, Louisiana, April 9, 1682*

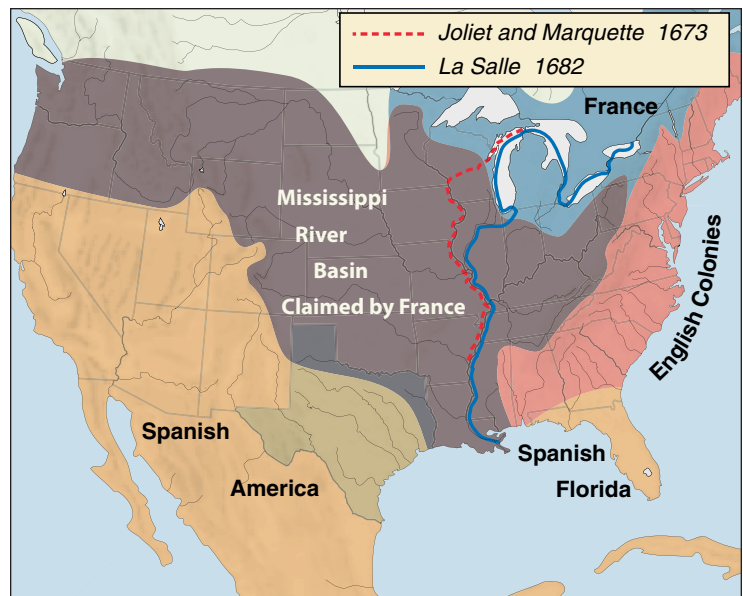
René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle today claimed all of the Mississippi River basin for France.

## La Salle claims "Louisiana"

In 1682, La Salle returned with Henri Tonty. This time they came to the site of Chicago and portaged from the Chicago River to the Des Plaines River. They followed it to the Illinois River. When they came to Illinois Town, they found it destroyed and the Indians gone. They continued their journey down the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.

On April 9, 1682, La Salle's party arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi. La Salle claimed all of the river *basin*. (Do you remember what we said about claiming rivers? See issue #3.) He said it should belong to France.

The Ohio and Missouri Rivers drain into the Mississippi. Many other large rivers also feed it. La Salle's new claim extended from the gulf into Canada and from the Appalachian Mountains on the east to the Rocky Mountains on the west. He called it "Louisiana" in honor of the King of France, Louis XIV. La Salle's Louisiana included most of Indiana.



Map showing the approximate area claimed for France by explorer La Salle. (The route he took is shown on the first page of this issue.)

With the claim of the Louisiana Territory for France, the land now occupied by America was split into three parts each belonging to different countries. Look at the map above. England possessed the east. Spain possessed the west and southeast. With La Salle's claim, France now possessed what had been the empty middle! France and England both had claims in Canada.

In Europe, these countries were almost always fighting over something. Now they would begin fighting over their claims in America.

Each colonial *empire* was big enough. There was so much wilderness and so much room, they should not get in each other's way. But Spain was afraid that France was planning to move in on New Spain.

### Fort Saint Louis

After La Salle reached the gulf he returned to Illinois. He decided a better fort was needed and built Fort St. Louis on top of Starved Rock. From this point he could see approaching warriors.

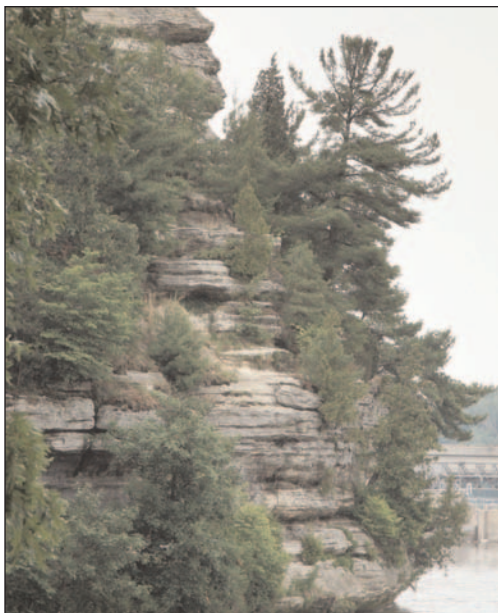
La Salle also built a Fort St. Louis in Texas. This meant France faced Spain on the west and England on the east. France was caught both in the middle of America and between Spain and England!

## BULLETIN!

*Versailles, France, July 23, 1698*

France has decided to settle the lower Mississippi River in order to provide direct access to fur traders of Illinois. A first colonial party will leave France this fall.

The name Starved Rock comes from an Indian legend. It tells about a band of Illiniwek Indians who were being chased by a band of Ottawa and Potawatomi Indians. The Illiniwek went to the top of the rock for safety. But their enemies surrounded it. The Illiniwek could not get food or water. Rather than surrender, they starved on the rock!



## France in Indiana

France now owned the Mississippi River all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. This meant furs could be taken by boat down this great river. Other boats could take them to Europe. They would not have to portage from river to river and carry the furs. They could also bring trade goods up the river. It was decided that this route should be developed for future trade.

Indiana was deep in the middle of the middle! Only small numbers of French trappers and traders entered Indiana. They came up the rivers from the south. Some came to Indiana along the Ohio River while others came up the Wabash.

Here and there they would settle. Often they would build a crude log cabin, stay a few years to trap and trade, and then move on.

Usually the Indians were friendly and they lived together in peace. But life was hard and many trappers disappeared into the wilderness never to be seen again.

## Weather and climate

One difficulty the trappers faced was the winter *climate* of Indiana. This is one of two very important words. The other is “weather.” What do they mean? How do they differ?

Things like temperature, cloudiness, rain, snow, fog, wind, and air pressure define weather. It is the description of what it is like outside today.

Climate is what it is usually like at any given time in the year. For example, Indiana is usually

warm and humid in August. It is usually very cold in winter. These are examples of climate.

But if it is warm and humid on some day in January, that does not change the climate. We may just say “the weather is sure unusual today.”

Knowing what kind of weather to expect is important. Why do you suppose that knowing about the weather was so important to the Indians? (Circle the one best answer.)

To plan picnics

To know when to plant crops

To know what to wear

To know if the roof leaks

The Indians did not have any fine weather instruments. They didn’t even have thermometers. They had to rely on what they saw. They learned that when the days were long (as in summer) the sun rose farther to the north, it was warmer, and plants grew. They watched the horizon to see where the sun came up each day. From that, they figured out what time of year it was.

Woodhenge (we read about it in issue #6) was an example of how some Indians observed the sun’s movement.

They also knew the moon changed. Sometimes it was big and round. We call it a “full moon.” So they counted time by days and moons.

Using these tools, Indians predicted when to plant their crops. Some migrated to warmer climates as the seasons changed.

Telling what the weather will be has always been difficult. Even today, with all of our tools and satellites, weather *forecasting* is very difficult. Lots of jokes are told about the weather and the weather forecasters.

In our next issue we will study weather forecasting. Maybe some day you will want to be a *meteorologist*!

### REACTION TIME

1. Was the middle of America really empty?
2. Discuss the meaning of the word portage. Why is this important to our study?
3. Why was Spain worried about the French claim to the Mississippi River basin?
4. What is the weather like inside a building?
5. Describe the climate of Indiana in the winter?



# NEW FORT ON WABASH

## CALLED “FORT OUIATENON”

*Fort Ouiatenon, Indiana, 1720*

Braving the dangers of Indian raids, French soldiers have established the first fort in Indiana Country. It bears the name of the Indian village which has long stood at this site.



All that remains of Ft. Ouiatenon is this reconstructed block house. You will learn more about the design of forts in future issues.

## Early French settlements

The river trade route to the Gulf of Mexico opened Indiana to further settlement. French traders and trappers were soon joined by families wishing to settle the Louisiana Territory. They began building towns along rivers and trade routes which gave trappers, or “mountain men”, a trading and supply base. But each new village would need protection. So new forts were needed as well. The first major fort in Indiana was built where West Lafayette stands today.

### Geography and settlement

When we studied the first settlements, we saw one of the best examples of how geography affects us. In issue #5 we planned our own colony. Do you remember some of the things we said we needed? Review that lesson now. Examine the list of basic necessities. What are they?

When the French first settled Indiana, they located their towns along rivers. The rivers were important because they provided transportation. The river towns served as ports. Food, clothing, tools, and other necessities could be brought into the town at the port.

## Indiana- hills & prairies

If you drive the length of our state north and south, you will find it is almost as if there were two Indianas. One, in the north, is flat and grassy and you can see for miles and miles. This is a *plain*. The other, in the south, is a land of hills and valleys.

These are words we use for “geography.” They describe the land we live on. In this issue we are going to study the geography of Indiana and some of the other midwestern states.

### What is geography?

“Geography” is one of those subjects that sounds hard to study. Some people say, “Oh, I don’t want to study THAT!” But geography is all around us. It is our land, our rivers, our lakes. Even playgrounds are part of our geography! That’s okay to study, isn’t it?

In *My Indiana* we have lessons about both history and geography. When we study history, we study our place in time. When we study geography, we study our place in space.

Much of the midwest is included in the map on page two. It shows different kinds of geography such as mountains, hills, valleys, rivers, prairies, lakes, and plains.

In this issue of *My Indiana*, we are going to study some of these kinds of geography. We also want to think about how geography affects us.

We have already studied one effect of geography. What was it?

### How our geography affects us

If you lived in a desert, finding water would be very important. There is not much water there. If a river flows through your desert, you might be



able to get water from it. Certainly this would affect you. We have already seen how rivers gave access to boats and how they were used for trade. These are good examples of how important geography can be.

### Many kinds of geography

On this page we see a geographic map of the midwest. We call the different kinds of geography “features.” Different features make up our land. Rivers are one such feature.

## Geography of Indiana

See the map above. It shows the geography of our state along with some other states of the middle-west. Look at it and find Indiana.

There are many geographic features we can name. Some, like mountains, do not occur in Indiana. But we will see that even these are important to Indiana.

### Mountains

Everyone knows what a mountain is, but not everyone has seen a mountain. If you live in Indiana for example, you may not have seen a mountain! But mountains played an important part in Indiana’s history anyway.

### WHAT IS THE “MIDWEST”?

At many points in our study we use the name “midwest” or “middle-west.” (They mean the same thing.) It is a good idea that we think about this.

We know that the real middle of America is west of the Mississippi River. If you look at your globe, you see that the real middle runs through states like Nebraska and Kansas.

But in 1750, France owned the land west of the Appalachian Mountains. People who lived east of those mountains thought of our area as “The West.” Later, when America grew to reach the Pacific, the land beyond the plains became “The West.” Then places like Indiana became part of the “middle west.”

In our study of Indiana, we include five states as part of the “middle west.” In addition to Indiana, they are Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ohio. But other states are often also called “midwestern.”

On the map, find the Appalachian Mountains. See how they form a boundary line between the coastal states and the midwest. They were a *barrier* to exploration and settlement because they are covered with dense forests that made them hard to cross. Therefore, the English colonists could not easily get to Indiana.





The photo to the left is of the Appalachian Mountains at Rainy Blue Ridge. Can you see the difference between the Appalachians and Rocky Mountains shown below?



Mountains are made by the movement of Earth's *crustal plates*. These plates are what we live on but they actually "float" on a sea of *molten* rock, or *magma*, inside the earth! As these plates collide they make mountains. This can be very hard for us to imagine.

Sometimes the molten rock in that sea breaks through the hard rock above it and explodes into the air. Then it can build a new mountain. We call this kind of mountain a *volcano*. The scientists who study volcanoes and the movement of the plates are called *geologists*.

Because the earth's surface is like a carpet on an ocean of magma, it moves. Land sections, the crustal plates, push and pull against each other in a process called *plate tectonics*. They move very, very slowly so we cannot see it happening, but over many years this movement sometimes pushes ridges up.

Imagine a rug on the floor. If you push on one side of the rug, what happens? Probably it makes bumps! The bumps are mountains in the rug just like our mountains are bumps in the carpet of our earth.

Over very long periods of time (we call them *ages*) the wind and rain wear the mountains down and may make hills where the mountains were.

The Appalachian Mountains are older than the Rockies of western America. They are more worn down from the *erosion* of rain and wind over many centuries.

Have you been to the mountains? \_\_\_\_\_

## Plains and prairies

A plain is a very broad, flat land area. On a clear day, you can see for miles and miles across a plain. Plains are often known by special names like "Great Plains" and "High Plains." The Great Plain is America's biggest plain. It is so big that it goes all the way from near the Gulf of Mexico to Canada! The farther you go from the gulf on this great plain, the higher it gets. Still it is very flat. Indiana lies near the eastern edge of this plain.

Another word often used for a plain is prairie. Usually we think of this as land that is slightly hilly. Prairies are often open grassland. They are gently rolling. When you drive around much of Indiana you see many miles of plains and prairies.

## Rivers and river valleys

We have already studied many rivers. We saw why they were so important as they are one of the better examples of how geography affects us. We often build our cities on rivers. We run roads along side rivers. We ship goods and travel in boats on rivers. Rivers may give us water to drink and to use on our farms. We catch fish in them for food.

River valleys are formed over very long periods of time. With too much rain or melting snow, rivers flood. As they wash land away along their banks, the valleys become wider. Some valleys become many miles wide! The valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers are like that.

## Wabash, White, and Ohio Rivers

These are Indiana's most famous rivers. They form the southern and part of the western borders. They are large rivers formed from melting *glaciers*. Today they drain the water that falls in the form of rain and snow all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

This is an aerial photograph of the Wabash and Ohio river Confluence.

If you look carefully not only can you see the individual squares of farm land, but also the rivers' flood banks and many other geographic features (like oxbow lakes).





Many smaller rivers flow into these big rivers. We call them *tributaries*. There are many important tributaries to our Indiana rivers including the Tippecanoe, Eel, Patoka, and Whitewater.

### Glaciers and our Great Lakes

Many of our rivers were formed by glaciers. Long ago, over periods of thousands of years, much of the midwest was covered by a series of glaciers. They occurred during long times of colder climate. Now we do not have any glaciers in the midwest, but someday, a long time from now, they may return.

However, the glaciers left their footprints! As glaciers move they *scour* the earth, ripping up and transporting rocks many miles away. During this transport, some of the rocks break apart, even to the size of gravel! Then, as the glaciers begin to melt, they deposit large ridges, hills, or mounds of rocks that are far from their source. These features are called *moraines*.

In addition, as the climate warms and glaciers melt they form rivers along their edges. Sometimes giant lakes are left behind, like our “Great Lakes.”

Have you been on a Great Lake? \_\_\_\_\_

### Limestone beds



This photo from Greenland, shows a terminal moraine, or a moraine that is located at the front edge of a glacier. Can you imagine this in Indiana?

Great ages of time have passed since the glaciers moved across Indiana. But even long before the glaciers, all of the middle of America was covered by a great sea. In that sea lived many kinds of shellfish. As they died, their shells gathered on the sea floor. Over those ages, the shells were packed down under more and more shells until they became hard as stone.

Slowly the land rose and sea levels dropped as Earth’s climate changed exposed layers of rock-solid shells that had been pressed into stone. Today we call this “limestone.”

In this picture we see a modern highway cutting through the limestone beds near Madison, Indiana. The layers of stone are made of ancient sea shells pressed into rock.



Since limestone can be cut into good blocks for building, Indiana limestone is very important. Many great buildings have been made from it. For example, the state capitol building in Indianapolis and the Empire State Building in New York City are made from limestone *quarried* near Bedford, Indiana.

Have you seen the state capitol? \_\_\_\_\_

### Caves

Because limestone is made from shells, it can be dissolved easily with slightly *acidic* water. When water runs through cracks in the rocks under Indiana, it dissolves some of the stone and makes caves. Limestone caves can be very pretty. The water makes all kinds of pretty shapes, almost like statues.

There are many limestone caves under Indiana. You might say they are “inside” Indiana! There are also many caves in our neighbor states. One, in Kentucky, is so big it is called “Mammoth Cave.”

Have you been in a limestone cave? \_\_\_\_\_

### Faults and earthquakes

We don’t think much about earthquakes in Indiana but a big one happened near here. (We study it in issue #16.) It was caused by movement on a *fault* in the earth. A fault is a kind of break in the earth’s hard surface. Land moves along faults. Sometimes it moves over or under. Sometimes it slides sideways. When it moves quickly, the earth shakes. We call this an earthquake. A big earthquake can do a lot of damage and kill many people.

Have you been in an earthquake? \_\_\_\_\_

### REACTION TIME

1. Review and name the key geographic features of your part of Indiana.
2. Describe one in detail.
3. What were the effects of glaciers on Indiana.
4. What geographic features may have caused your town to be located where it is?
5. What is Indiana’s most important geographic feature? Why?

# STATEHOOD!

## INDIANA NOW 19<sup>th</sup> STATE

Washington, D.C., December 11, 1816

Another new star for our flag! President Madison has signed the resolution admitting Indiana into statehood.

This beautiful tree-shaded building in Corydon served as Indiana's capitol until 1825.

Photo courtesy of W. Marsh.



## Indiana statehood

By 1812, Indiana was growing fast. After the losses by Little Turtle, Pontiac, Tecumseh, and The Prophet, settlers were less afraid to come to Indiana. They had heard about the good farmland, and now they would come to build their homes on it.

Indiana was sure to have 60,000 people soon. Congress was asked to approve statehood, but the War of 1812 delayed the act.

By the end of June 1816, a constitution had been drafted. Statehood was approved. On December 11 Indiana became America's 19th state.

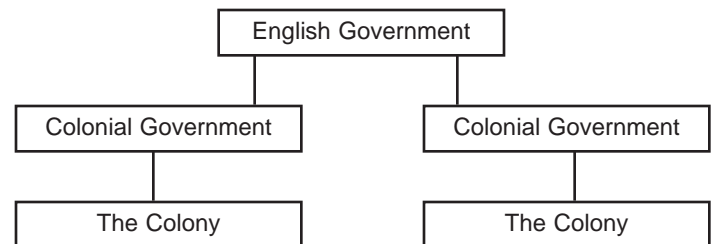
## What is a “state?”

Think about that question. It is not so easy to answer. We say Indiana is a state, but what do we mean?

## Colonial America

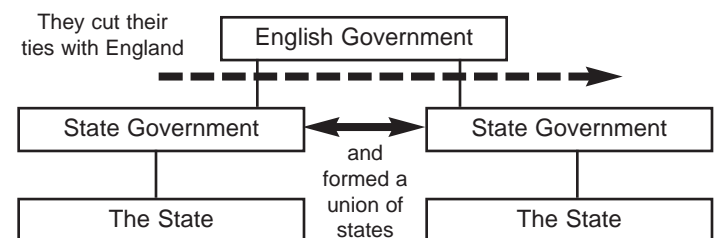
When the first settlers came to America they formed colonies. A colony is a settlement of people living and working together. Each of the thirteen American colonies was ruled by the government of England. But that government was far away across the ocean. It took a month or more for a ship to go each way! So the British government was too far away to make day-to-day decisions for the colonies. For government to work, it needs to be closer to the people. (Remember we also studied this in issue #14.)

So the king appointed people in each colony to make daily decisions. This became the colonial government. Here is a simple diagram of colonial government:



Each of the 13 colonies had its own government but was subject to the same government in England.

As the colonies grew, they became harder to govern. In the Revolutionary War they cut their ties with England and formed a union of colonies which they called “states.”



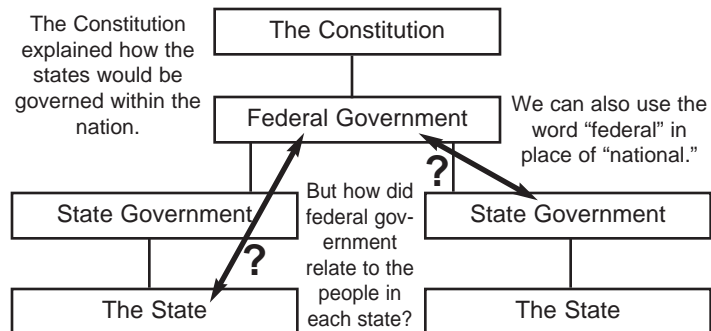
Now each of the 13 states had its own government but was united with the other states as the United States of America.

Then they had a new problem to solve. The problem was finding a way that each state could govern itself and still be “united” as part of the new nation.



## The Constitution

The Constitution was written to create a united government. It defined the states and made rules telling what each level of government was to do.



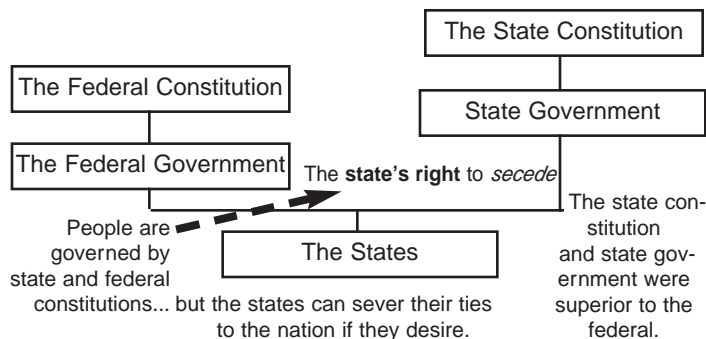
Should state government be under the federal government? This question had to be answered.

Another word we can use for “national” is “federal.” Our federal government governs our nation.

## States’ Rights

Soon there was another problem: Which was more important, the state or the nation? Some said the state government was more important. They believed this was necessary for the independence and self-control of each state. They were supporters of strong “states’ rights.”

This is how **some people** looked at it:



Others believed the federal government should be stronger. They said this was necessary in order for the nation to be strong. They were called “federalists.”

While America called herself the “United States,” the states were not united on this subject.

## States’ Rights and Slavery

Slavery caused the biggest division over the rights of the states. Slave states wanted to protect their right to have slaves. Free states wanted to outlaw slavery.

The slave states threatened to secede (leave the union) if the federal government declared slavery *unconstitutional*.

## A festering sore

While slavery was not the only issue that divided the states, it was the most obvious. It was like a wound that would not heal. Congress argued over it again and again. Later we will see how it led to the Civil War.

## What is government?

In the Indian villages of Indiana, life had been very simple. Each person had certain things to do each day. What each person did was decided by custom and culture. (We studied these in #4.)

Another word we could use for “decided” in that sentence is governed. What they did was governed by custom and culture.

Sometimes we must allow other people to decide what we can and cannot do. The job of deciding what should be done and how it should be done is called “Government.” The people who do this “work for the government.” We are governed by them. But who chooses them?

Our government in America is “elective.” That means that we choose the people who run our government. We choose most of the people who do the deciding by voting in an election.

There are places in the world where government is not elective. In those places, people do not choose who runs their government. Some governments are run by kings others by dictators. Sometimes those systems cause many problems because their people did not choose those leaders and cannot replace them. Spain, France, and England were once like this.

## State government

The Indiana state government is much like the national government. It has three special branches. This is called a “balance of powers.” The branches are:

1. The *Executive*
2. The *Legislative*
3. The *Judicial*

## Executive Branch

This is headed by the **governor**. Who is the Governor of Indiana now?

Sometimes we think governors run states. But this is not really true. Governors direct them; they do not make the laws. They make suggestions and appoint many other people who also make sugges-





Left

The Indiana State Capitol building in Indianapolis. Construction of today's Indiana state capitol began in 1878 and took ten years to complete. It is topped by a copper dome which is 72 feet in diameter and 234 feet high. The walls are made of Indiana limestone quarried near Bedford.



Right

The Soldiers & Sailors Monument across from the capitol in Indianapolis.

tions. Many of these people direct certain parts of the government. Governors are elected to their job. Our governor must be at least 30 years old, an American citizen, and a resident of Indiana for at least five years.

Elective offices in our government are open to men and women of any race, color, and religion. There is no special test nor is there any special school you must go to to be *eligible*. But you must be elected.

This means people must believe that you will do a good job. Usually the voters want people who are well trained and have enough experience to show that they have good judgement.

Other elective offices in the Executive Branch of Indiana government are:

### **Lieutenant Governor**

Second to the governor and acts as governor whenever needed. Directs various constitutionally assigned government agencies.

### **Secretary of State**

Certifies all official acts of the government. Records the decisions of the Legislature. Responsible for the conduct of elections.

### **Treasurer**

The state's banker! Sells state bonds and keeps the state's valuables.

### **Auditor**

Responsible for collection of all money owed to the state. Supervises the spending of the state's money and makes official reports on the state's financial condition.

### **Attorney General**

The chief law officer of the state. Represents the state in lawsuits involving the state.

### **Superintendent of Public Instruction**

Chairman of the State Board of Education and Director of Indiana Department of Education.

### **Clerk of Supreme & Appellate Courts**

Receives and keeps records of cases in the state high courts and oversees practice of attorneys in Indiana.

### **Legislative Branch**

This is the part of our government that makes most of the laws. It is called the "State Legislature." It is composed of the **Senate** and the **House of Representatives**. There are 50 *Senators*. Half of them are elected every two years. They serve for four years so their terms overlap.

There are 100 Representatives. They are all elected every two years and serve for two years.

The Legislature assembles in "session" in Indianapolis. It begins session no later than the second Monday in January of each year. It meets for no more than 61 working days in odd-numbered years and no more than 30 working days in even-numbered years.

It is also possible for the Governor to call a "Special Assembly" if he thinks one is necessary.

The Legislature passes laws and makes decisions that govern the way we live. If the governor does not like these decisions, he can *veto* them. But if more than half of the elected legislators in each house vote to *override* the governor, the law is passed anyway. The legislature can also remove people from government. This is called *impeachment*. You see why the Legislature is so important?

### **The Judiciary**

These are the judges and the courts that interpret the laws. They also interpret the state constitution. They do not make the laws and they do not enforce them, but they make sure that the government is fair to the people.

Some of the courts that make up the judiciary are listed in the box below.

### SUMMARY OF THE AMERICAN JUDICIARY

#### Federal courts

By the American constitution, the federal courts have the most power. The most powerful court of all is the "Supreme Court." It is in our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. This court tells us what the U.S. Constitution says about questions brought to it.

#### State courts

Each state has courts too. The state court with the most power is the "State Supreme Court." This court rules according to the state's constitution. But if you don't like the ruling, you can *appeal* the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court. Then that court decides whether or not to "hear your *appeal*."

#### Lower courts

There are other state courts as well. There are superior courts, county courts, circuit courts, municipal courts, a court of appeals, and probate courts. Each court has a job to rule on questions brought to it. If you don't like the ruling, you can usually appeal it to a higher court. But the U.S. Supreme Court is the highest. It has the last say.

#### Judges and justices

At the top of each court is a judge or justice. They are similar. We may say a judge *sits* on the court alone while justices work together. In this case, a judge may work with a *jury* to make a decision. Justices may work together and then vote on the decision.

## Can it go wrong?

### Yes, sometimes it does

Just as there are students who cheat on their tests, there are people who cheat on their jobs. You wouldn't cheat on a test, would you? Well, you wouldn't want to cheat on your job either. But the people who do, make trouble for all of us. They are cheating us too.

Sometimes people in government cheat us. We call it *corruption*. Say that word. Say cor-RUP-tion. Doesn't it sound like cheating? I think it sounds like ripping and tearing! Corruption can rip and tear up our government.

The way we prevent it is by electing good, honest people. That is why it is so important to vote. If you don't vote (when you're old enough, of course), how can **YOU** be sure to have an honest government?

## Why we have laws

What is a law?

That's not such an easy question, is it? There are very many laws. But why do we have them?

We usually think of laws as "limits." But not all laws are limits. Some tell us what we must do. Here are eight possibilities. Put a check mark on the line by each that is **against** the law.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ To drive as fast as I want to
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ To use any brand of toothpaste
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Not to pay taxes I owe
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ To change the color of my hair
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ To drive a car without a license
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ To buy drugs
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ To go to my own church
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ To take my teacher's notebook

Most of the laws you marked are limits. They say what we must not do. One possibility above is not a limit. Which is it? \_\_\_\_\_

Look back at the list of laws. Most laws are made for a good reason. Choose the good reasons in the list in the column below.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ So that you won't have fun
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ So that you know who is boss
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ To be fair to everybody
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ So that you don't hurt someone
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ So that you will be afraid
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ So that you won't get hurt

### REACTION TIME

1. Discuss states' rights. Do you think Indiana should have the right to secede from the union? Why?
2. Which is more important, state government or federal government? Why?
3. How do you think the southern states felt about federalism?
4. Which of the three branches of government is most important and why?
5. What is corruption? Explain some examples.
6. What are some other reasons we have laws?