

**North American Division  
Mission Posts and Fast Facts  
Fourth Quarter 2024**

**U.S.A.**

1. The United States is in the North American Division (NAD) and is made up of eight union conferences. It has 5,262 churches, 799 companies, and 1,089,385 members. In a population of 332,903,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 306 people.
2. The NAD was founded in 1913, and shared the same building as the General Conference until 2017, when it moved to a new location in Columbia, Maryland.
3. The NAD oversees the church's work in the United States, Canada, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Bermuda, Guam, Wake Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.
4. In May 1863, a meeting of Adventists gathered in Battle Creek, Michigan, to form what is now called the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
5. The first Adventist missionary was J. N. Andrews, who was sent to England and Switzerland in 1874 to assist Sabbath-keepers there.
6. Desmond Doss joined the U.S. Army in World War II, but because of his personal beliefs as a Seventh-day Adventist he refused to purposely kill others or carry a weapon, and he became a combat medic. During the Battle of Okinawa, he saved the lives of at least 75 soldiers, which earned him the Medal of Honor. He was the only noncombatant to receive this honor.
7. Dr. Ben Carson is a renowned American Seventh-day Adventist neurosurgeon who, in 1987, was the first to successfully surgically separate twins conjoined at the head.

\*\*\*\*\*

8. The capital of the United States is Washington, D.C.
9. The unit of currency is the U.S. dollar. Each denomination shows one of the founding fathers of the U.S.A. on the front, and a famous landmark on the back.
10. The United States does not have an official language. More than 350 languages are spoken in the country, with the most common being English (245 million/78.5%) and Spanish (41.3 million/13.2%).
11. The national flag of the United States has 13 stripes, representing the 13 British colonies, and 50 white stars on a dark blue background, representing the 50 U.S. states.
12. The motto of the United States is "In God We Trust."
13. The U.S. national animal is the American bison, the national tree is the oak, the national bird is the bald eagle, and the national flower is the rose.
14. The border between the United States and Canada is the longest international border in the world at 5,525 miles (8,891 km) long.
15. The U.S. borders Canada in the north and Mexico in the south. On the east is the Atlantic Ocean and on the west is the Pacific Ocean.
16. The Missouri River is the longest river in the United States, and is 2,341 miles (3,767 km) long. It flows through seven states: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri.

17. The hottest place in the U.S.A. is Death Valley, and the Badwater Basin, a massive salt flat, is the lowest point on the North American continent, with an elevation of 282 ft (86 m) below sea level.
18. The U.S. national holiday is Independence Day (commonly called Fourth of July), celebrated on July 4, and commemorates the day that the British colonies signed the Declaration of Independence from Britain in 1776.
19. The first permanent settlement of the British in America was in Jamestown in the Colony of Virginia in 1607.
20. As Europeans settled North America, they pushed the indigenous peoples further and further west, meeting resistance with violence, and forcing them onto reservations, often in the most inhospitable areas of the country and hundreds of miles from their ancestral lands.
21. Among the most visited tourist sites and landmarks in the U.S.A. are the Empire State Building in New York, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California, and Mount Rushmore in Keystone, South Dakota.
22. The U.S.A. is the third-largest country by land area, after Russia and Canada, and is the third most populated country, after China and India.
23. America has the largest coal reserves in the world.
24. By 1860, nearly 4 million enslaved African people were living in the United States, mostly working in the South, where their free labor in the sugar, cotton, and tobacco industries made those industries flourish and their owners wealthy.
25. Between 1861 and 1865, a Civil War was fought in the U.S. between people who wanted to end slavery and those who wanted to keep slaves. President Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous Emancipation Proclamation speech in 1863 that legally freed every slave in the country, and the war was won two years later.
26. The largest land carnivores in the United States are black bears, grizzlies, and polar bears, which live in Alaska.
27. The United States is the only country that contains all five of Earth's climate zones: dry, continental, polar, temperate, and tropical.
28. Lake Superior, on the border of the U.S. and Canada, is the largest freshwater lake in the world by surface area, covering 31,700 square miles (51,016 sq km).
29. Americans were the first, and so far the only, people to have walked on the Moon's surface.
30. The United States is home to nearly 45 million immigrants — more than any other country in the world.
31. More than nine in every 10 Americans have eaten pizza in the last month. Every day, Americans eat the equivalent of about 100 acres (40 hectares) of pizza, or about 75 American football fields.
32. There are an estimated 75.8 million dogs in the United States, more than double the number in Brazil, the country with the second-most dogs.

## Alaska

1. Alaska is in the North Pacific Union Conference, which has 448 churches, 61 companies, and 102,187 members. With a population of around 15,767,000, that is one Adventist for every 158 people.
2. The church in Barrow, Alaska, is the farthest north of any Adventist church in the world.
3. Jasper N. Sylvester, grandfather of H.M.S. Richards, Sr. (founder of the Voice of Prophecy), was a blacksmith in Skagway, Alaska, and one of the first Adventists in the territory.

\*\*\*\*\*

4. The largest U.S. state by land area is Alaska. Alaska is more than twice the size of Texas, the next-largest state.
5. Seventeen of the 20 highest peaks in the United States are in Alaska. Denali (formerly called McKinley), the highest peak in North America, is 20,320 ft (6,190 m) above sea level. Denali, the Native Alaskan name for the peak, means “The Great One.”
6. Alaska has about 100,000 glaciers. Five percent of the state, or 29,000 square miles (46,670 sq km), is covered by glaciers. The largest, the Malaspina, covers 850 square miles (1,368 sq km).
7. In 1959, Alaska became the 49th state in the U.S.A.
8. The Aleut word *alYESka*, or *aláxsxaq*, meaning “great land,” gives Alaska its name.
9. Indigenous people, including the Aleuts, Athabascans, Haida, Inuit, Tlingit, and Yupik, still live in Alaska.
10. Big mammals that can be found in Alaska include black bears, caribou, moose, musk oxen, and the world’s largest brown bear, the Kodiak, as well as polar bears, beluga whales, and walrus found on the coast.
11. *Aquaque* is Eskimo ice cream, made of seal oil, animal fat, snow, and wild Alaskan berries.
12. The coldest temperature ever recorded in the United States was in northern Alaska in 1971, when it dropped to -80°F (-62°C).
13. St. Lawrence Island is located west of mainland Alaska in the Bering Sea and is closer to Russia than to North America. The predominantly Siberian Yupik villages of Gambell and Savoonga, the two main settlements on the island, together own the island.
14. The Siberian Yupik are known for their intricate carvings of walrus ivory and whale bone, as well as the baleen of bowhead whales.
15. The Saint Lawrence Island shrew (*Sorex Jackson*) is native to St. Lawrence Island.
16. Fairbanks is the largest city in inland Alaska and is the second-largest in the state, after Anchorage.
17. Fairbanks is extremely far north, and the white night phenomenon occurs here on the summer solstice, when enough natural light remains in the sky at night that artificial light in towns and cities is not needed.

## Arizona

1. Arizona is part of the Pacific Union Conference, which has 724 churches, 88 companies, and 218,489 members. With a population of around 54,594,000, there is one Adventist for every 250 people.
2. The Arizona Conference has six Native American churches: Chile, Holbrook, Kinlichee, Maricopa Village, Page All Nations, and Window Rock.
3. The Arizona Conference has three Native American schools: Chile Adventist Elementary School, Maricopa Village Christian School, and Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School.
4. Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School's stated aim is to "provide a safe space for students to learn and grow in the Creator while also preserving and celebrating their Native culture."

\*\*\*\*\*

5. Arizona's nickname is the "Grand Canyon State."
6. In 1912, Arizona became the 48th state of the U.S.A.
7. The capital and biggest city of Arizona is Phoenix.
8. The state flower of Arizona is the saguaro cactus blossom, and the state bird is the cactus wren.
9. People lived in the area that is now Arizona before written history, but around the 1200s, this civilization disappeared, probably due to a drought. Later, Native American tribes such as the Hopi, Zuni, Navajo, and Apache lived on the land.
10. Arizona contains a major portion of the largest Native American reservation in North America, the Navajo Nation, with over 25,000 square miles (40,000 sq km).
11. Today, 22 tribes live on reservations in Arizona, and a total of over 425,000 Native American people live there — 6 percent of the state's population, occupying a quarter of its land area.
12. Arizona's name may have come from the explorer Juan Bautista de Anza, who may have called it "place of oaks," or from Papago Native American words that translate to "place of the young spring."
13. Arizona is famous for the breathtaking Grand Canyon, a steep-sided canyon carved by the Colorado River. It is 277 miles (446 km) long; at its widest it is 18 miles (29 km) across; and it reaches more than a mile in depth (6,093 feet, or 1,857 meters).
14. Black bears, desert bighorn sheep, and mountain lions can be found in Arizona, as in many of the western states. But there are more unusual animals too, like the coatimundi (a raccoon relative with a tail striped like a lemur's), the pig-like javelina, and a small wild cat called a jaguarundi.
15. Arizona produces the most copper in the United States, and in the early 1900s, copper helped build Arizona's railroads. The star on the Arizona flag is colored copper, to represent its importance to the state.
16. Arizona was home to the famous Apache warrior Geronimo, as well as the civil rights activist and farm rights worker Cesar Chavez, and jazz performer Charles Mingus.
17. The O.K. Corral, where Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday survived the famous shootout, is in Tombstone, Arizona.

## The United States

Color the rectangle in the top left dark blue, leaving the stars white. Starting at the top, color every other stripe red. Leave the rest white.



## Alaska

Color the flag dark blue. Color the stars yellow.



## Arizona

Color the bottom half dark blue. Color the star copper. Starting from the left, color every other ray of the star red and the rest of them yellow.



## **Crafts**

### **Sand Painting**

#### *Equipment*

Empty jars or plastic containers  
Powdered tempera paint in a variety of colors  
Sand  
Paper, pencils, and glue  
Plastic spoons

#### *Instructions*

Draw out a simple picture on your paper.

Pour some sand into an empty container. Choose a color of powdered paint and mix a little bit into the sand. Experiment to see how much tempera you need. For more vibrant colors add more tempera. Mix up several colors.

Working on one small section at a time, decide where the color is going, put an even layer of glue on the paper, and then pour some colored sand onto the glue using a plastic spoon. Repeat until the entire drawing is covered.

Let the sand painting dry, and then seal it by spraying it with a mixture of glue and water (80 percent glue, 20 percent water), or with hairspray.

## **Recipes**

### **Cornbread (Southwestern United States)**

Native people in the Americas began using corn (maize) as food thousands of years ago. In the American colonies, cornbread was simply ground cornmeal and water stirred together and baked over a fire. Now there are many variations of cornbread. Some use coarse cornmeal and are dense and savory; others use fine cornmeal and sugar and are almost as sweet as cake.

#### **Ingredients**

1 cup (120 g) flour  
1 cup (160 g) yellow cornmeal  
3 tablespoons sugar  
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup (235 ml) milk  
1/4 cup (60 ml) oil  
1 large egg, lightly beaten

#### **Directions**

Heat oven to 400° F (200° C). Spray a 9-inch (22 cm) square baking pan with non-stick cooking spray.

Mix the flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl and set it aside.

In a separate smaller bowl, whisk together milk, oil, and egg. Pour the wet ingredients over the dry and stir until just combined. Do not overmix.

Spread the batter evenly in the pan and bake it for 20 to 25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cut into squares or wedges and serve immediately. It is particularly nice with butter on it.

## **Games**

### **Ring-and-Stick Game**

Native American children played this game as a popular pastime.

#### **What you need**

A stick about 1 foot (30 cm) long

Heavy cardboard

String – 2–3 feet (60–80 cm)

A craft knife or box cutter

#### **Instructions**

Cut a circle about 6 inches (15 cm) across out of the cardboard. Cut a circle about 3 inches (7 cm) across out of the middle of it to create a hoop. Wrap one end of the string several times around one side of the hoop and tie a knot to secure it. Then wrap the other end of the string several times around one end of the stick, an inch or two (3-5 cm) from the end, tying a knot to secure it.

Holding the stick, flip the hoop of cardboard up and try to catch it on the stick. To make it a little more difficult for older children, you can make the hole in the center smaller.

### **Running Game**

This game was played by the children of the Klamath tribes in the northwest part of the United States.

Make a starting line with some string or chalk. Players line up behind this, take a deep breath, and run as far as they can while yelling loudly. When they run out of breath they must stop and stand still. The player who runs the farthest before running out of breath is the winner.