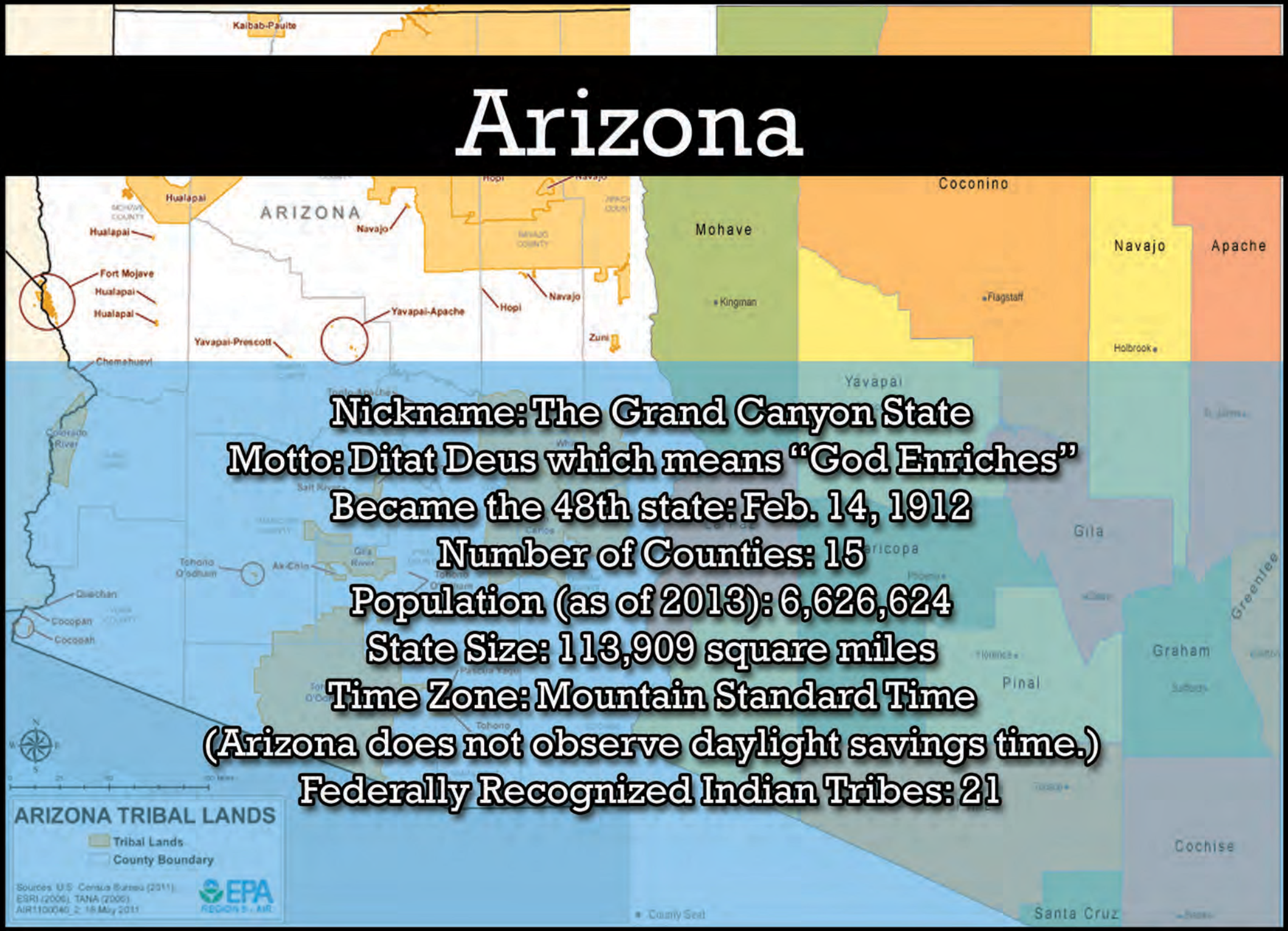
Arizona



Nickname: The Grand Canyon State

Motto: Ditat Deus which means "God Enriches"

Became the 48th state: Feb. 14, 1912

Number of Counties: 15

Population (as of 2013): 6,626,624

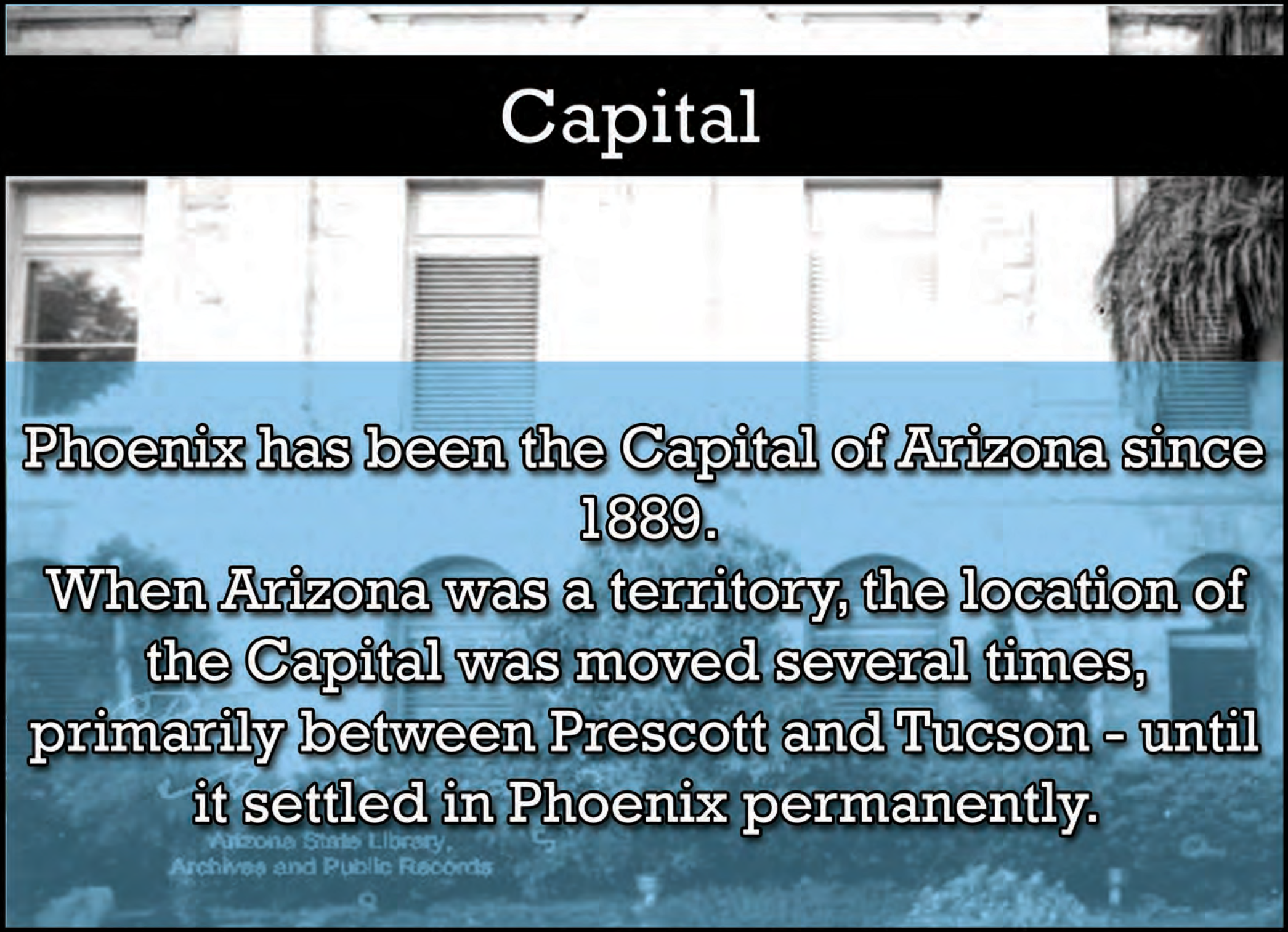
State Size: 113,909 square miles

Time Zone: Mountain Standard Time

(Arizona does not observe daylight savings time.)

Federally Recognized Indian Tribes: 21

Capital



Phoenix has been the Capital of Arizona since 1889.

When Arizona was a territory, the location of the Capital was moved several times, primarily between Prescott and Tucson - until it settled in Phoenix permanently.

State Symbols

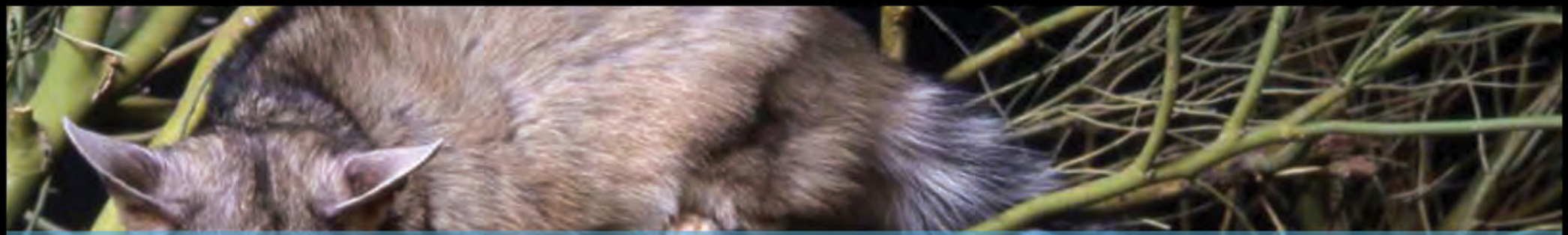
Flag: A copper star between a blue base and red and yellow rays, representing the sun. Arizona's state flag is divided into two halves. The top half consists of 13 alternating red and yellow rays which represent America's thirteen original colonies.

Because Arizona is a western state, the rays show a setting sun. The colors of the rays refer to red and yellow in the Spanish flags carried by Coronado when he came to Arizona in the 16th century.

The bottom half of the flag is a solid blue field, the same color as the blue in the United States flag.

A large copper colored star on the center of the flag signifies Arizona as the largest producer of copper in the United States.

State Symbols - Mammal: Ringtail Cat

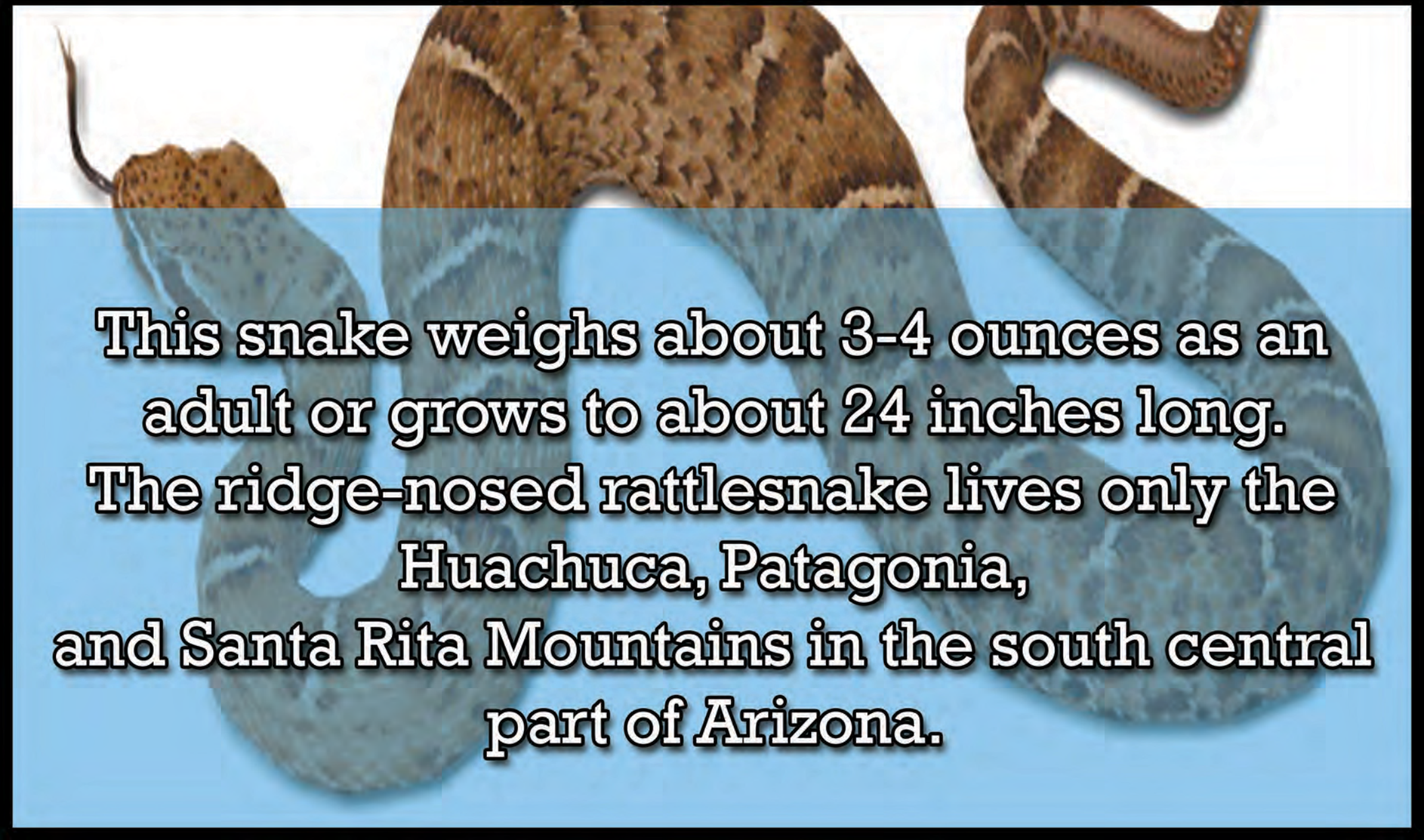


The ringtail is the state mammal; it is not really a cat but is related to the raccoon and coatimundi.

The ringtail is also known as the ringtail cat, miner's cat, and cacomistle.

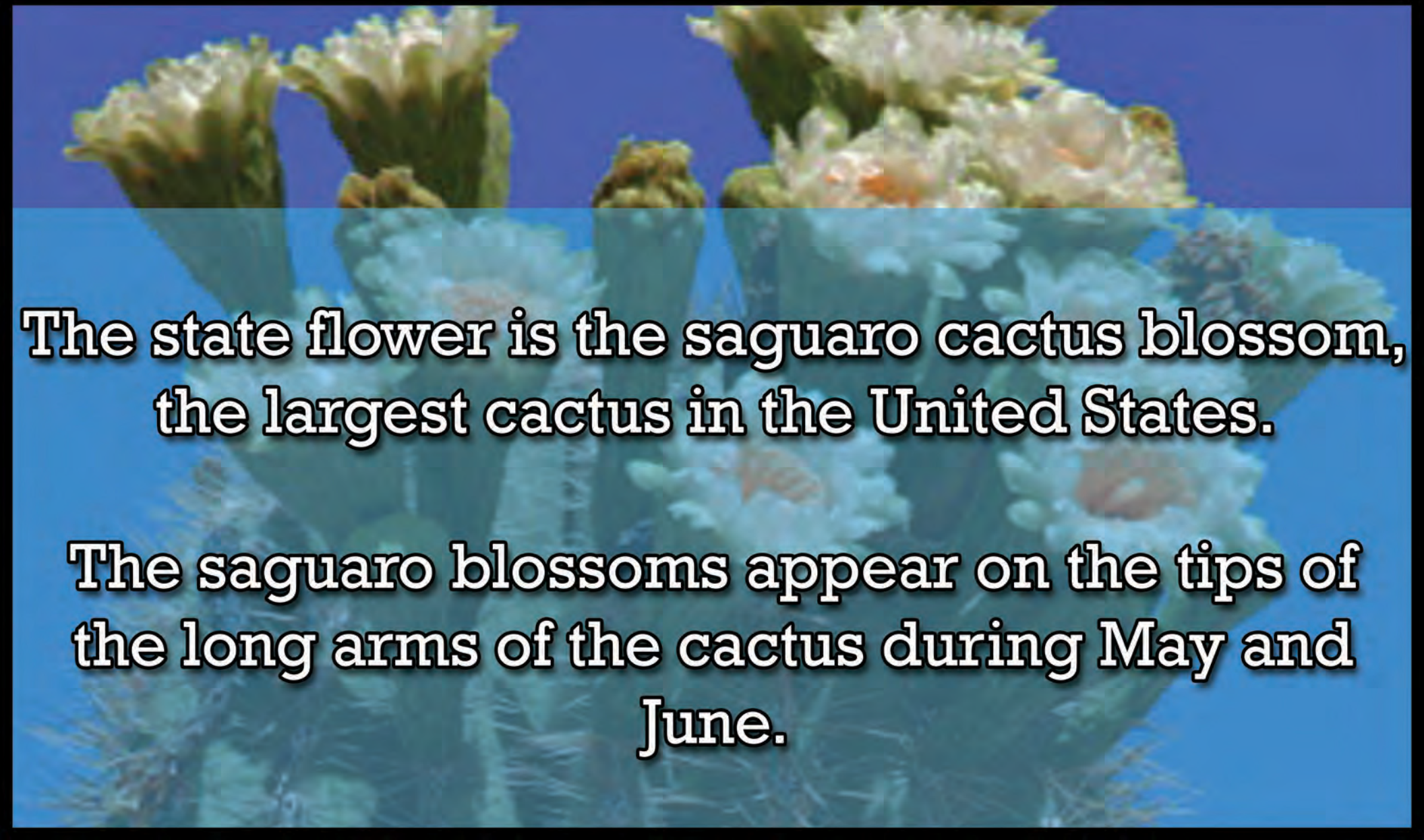
It was named the state mammal in 1986.

State Symbols - Reptile: Ridge-Nosed Rattlesnake



This snake weighs about 3-4 ounces as an adult or grows to about 24 inches long. The ridge-nosed rattlesnake lives only the Huachuca, Patagonia, and Santa Rita Mountains in the south central part of Arizona.

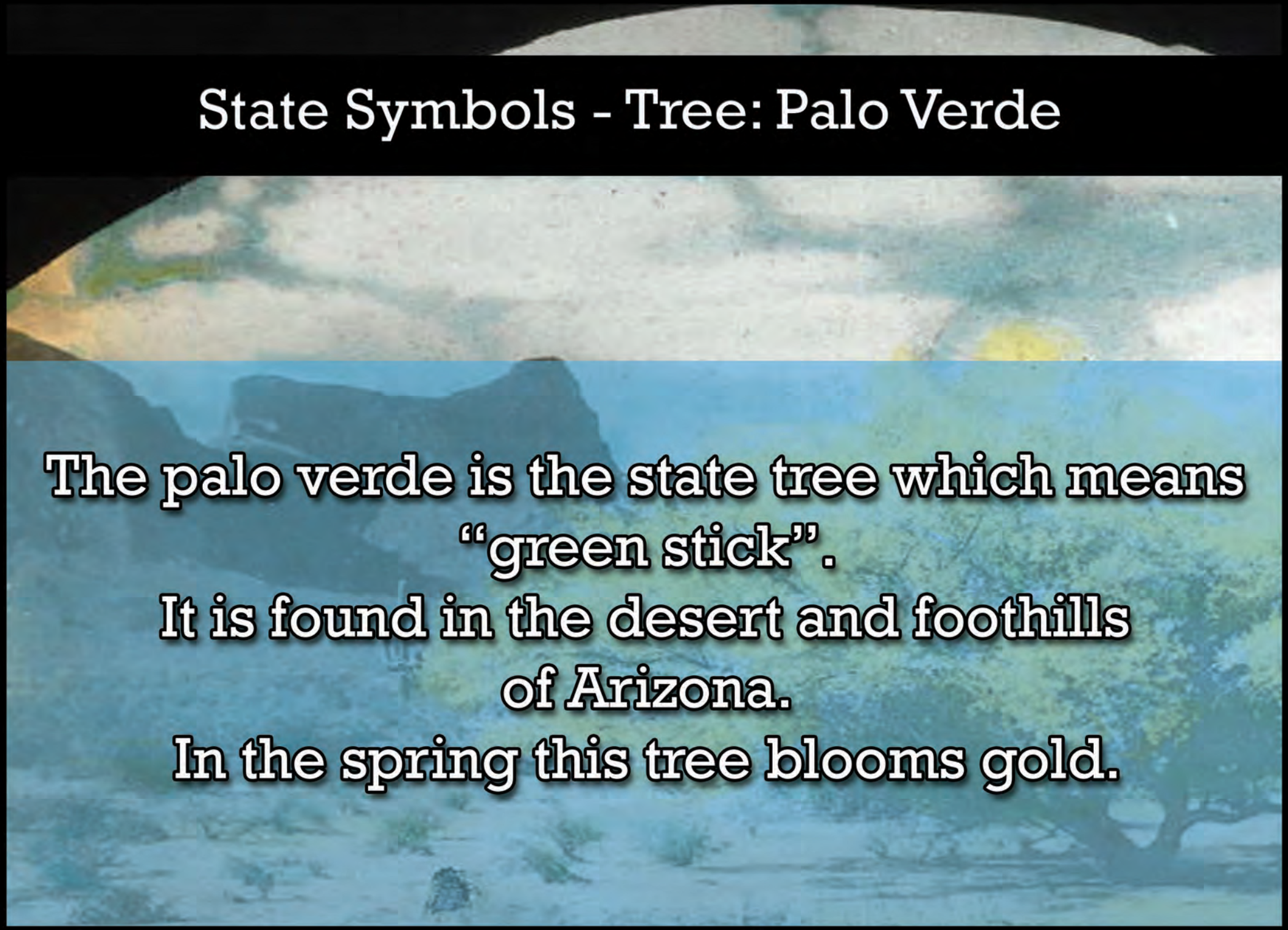
State Symbols - Flower: Saguaro Blossom



The state flower is the saguaro cactus blossom, the largest cactus in the United States.

The saguaro blossoms appear on the tips of the long arms of the cactus during May and June.

State Symbols - Tree: Palo Verde



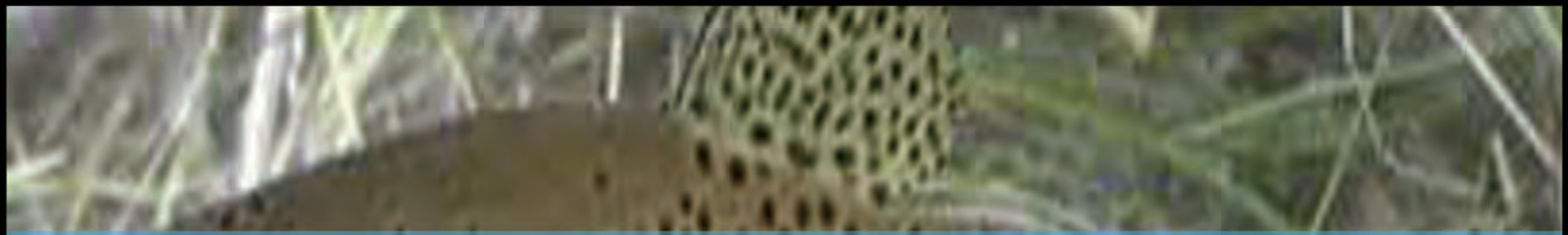
The palo verde is the state tree which means
“green stick”.
It is found in the desert and foothills
of Arizona.
In the spring this tree blooms gold.

State Symbols - Bird: Cactus Wren

The state bird is brown with a spotted white chest.

The Cactus Wren grows to be about 7-8” long.

State Symbols - Fish: Apache Trout



The Apache Trout is yellow and pink in color with spots throughout.

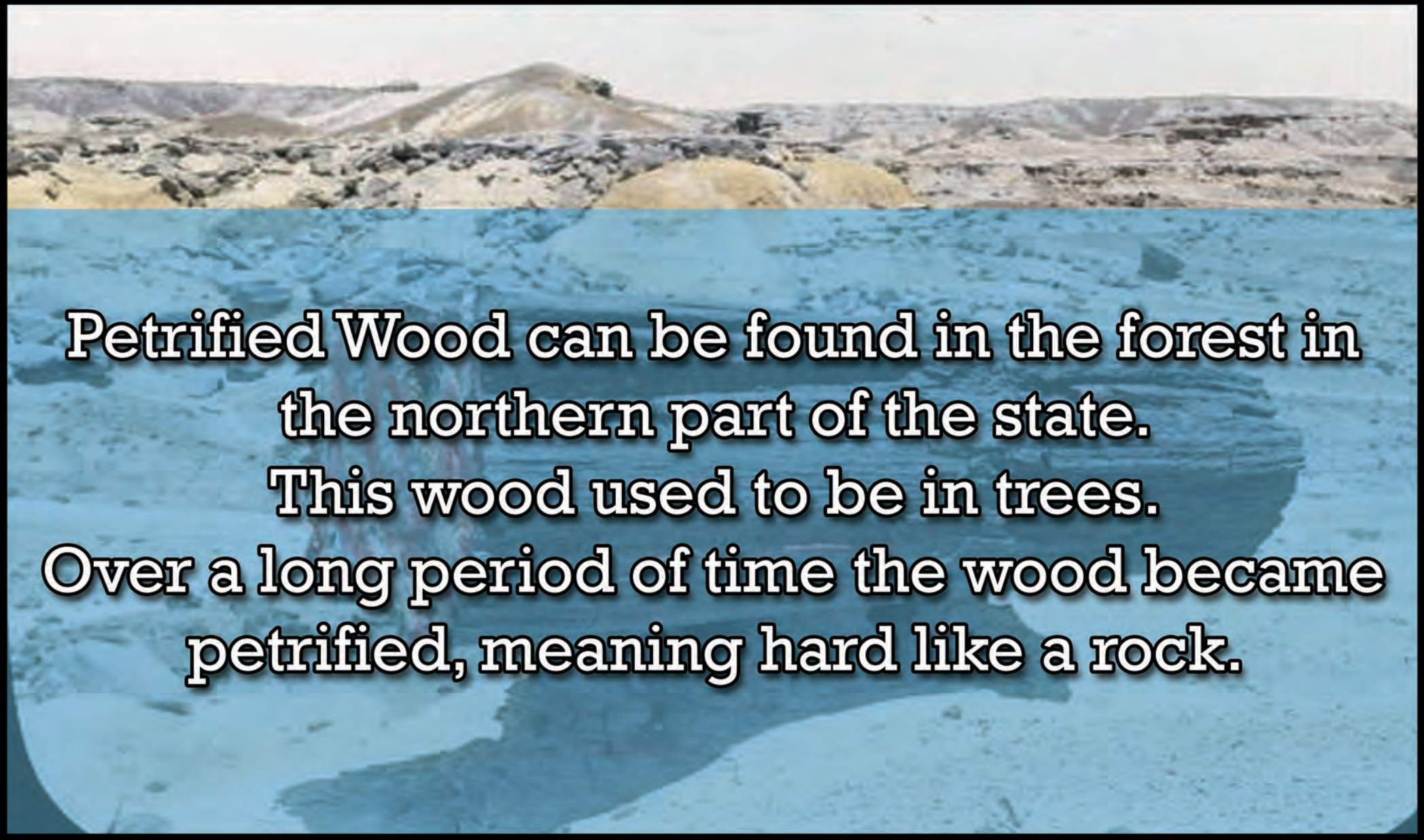
The trout can be found in Arizona's rivers.

State Symbols - Amphibian: Tree Frog

Arizona tree frogs can be green or gold in color, with black spots.

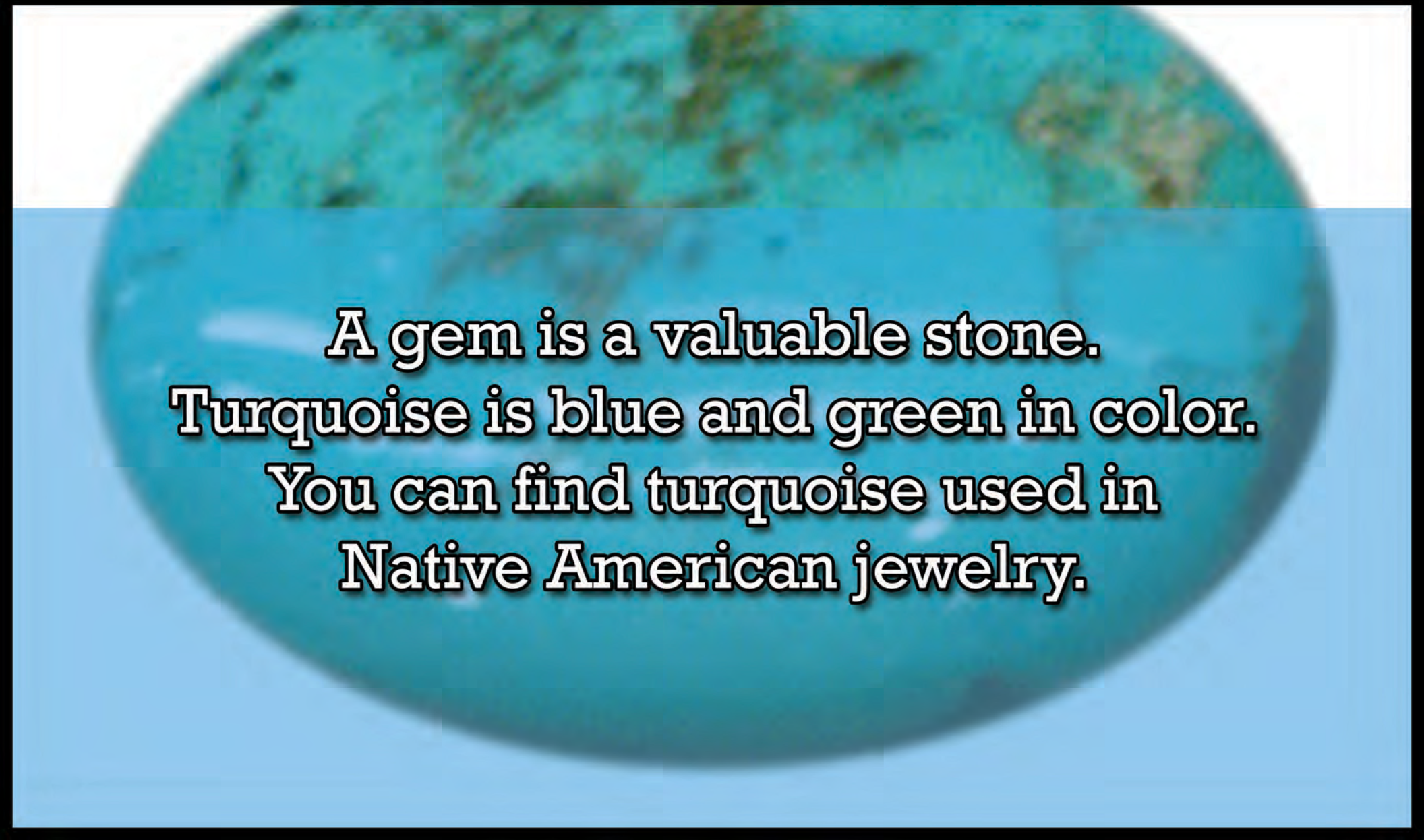
They are very small in size, only ¾ to 2 inches in length.

State Symbols - Fossil: Petrified Wood



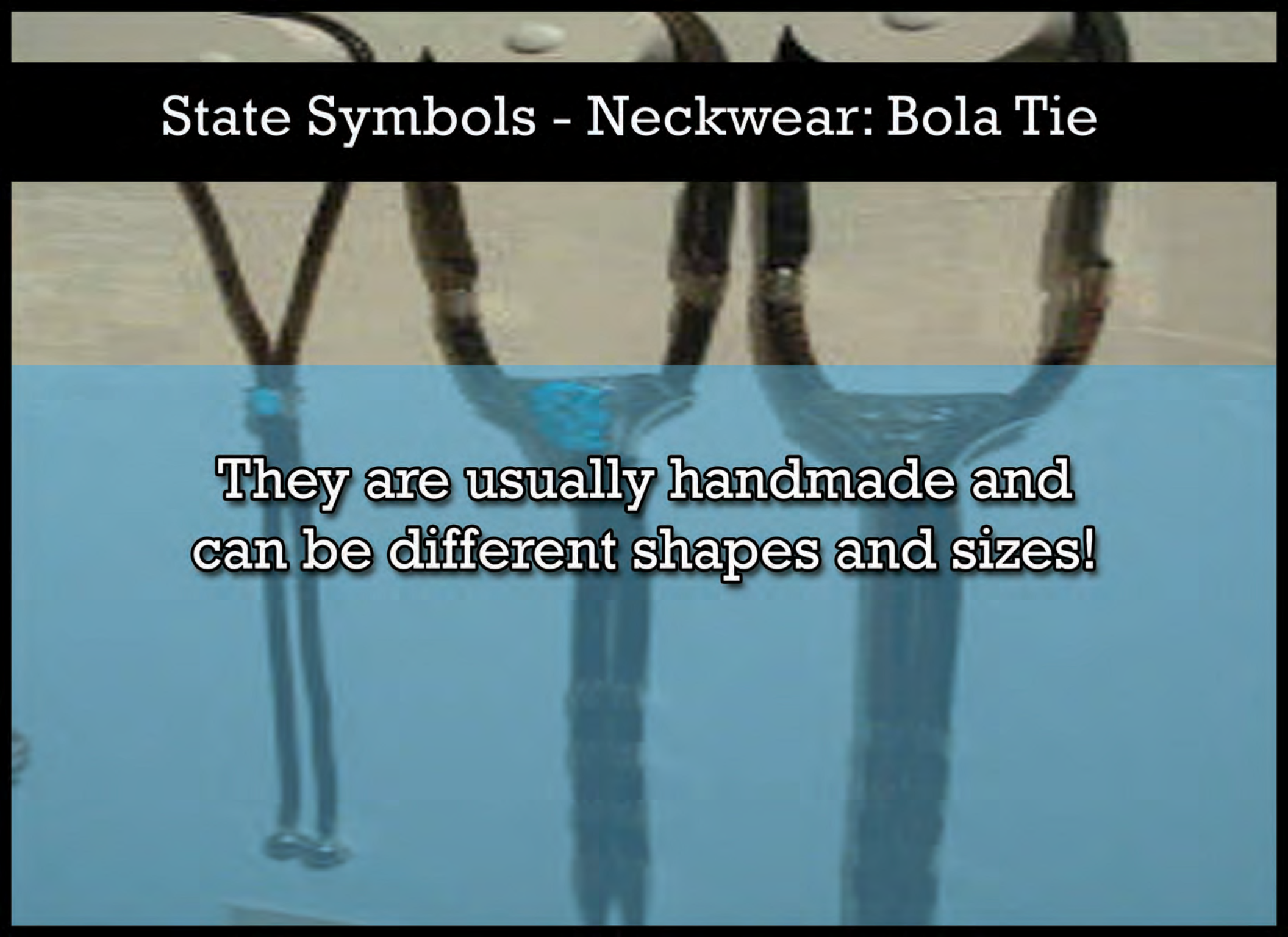
Petrified Wood can be found in the forest in the northern part of the state.
This wood used to be in trees.
Over a long period of time the wood became petrified, meaning hard like a rock.

State Symbols - Gem: Turquoise



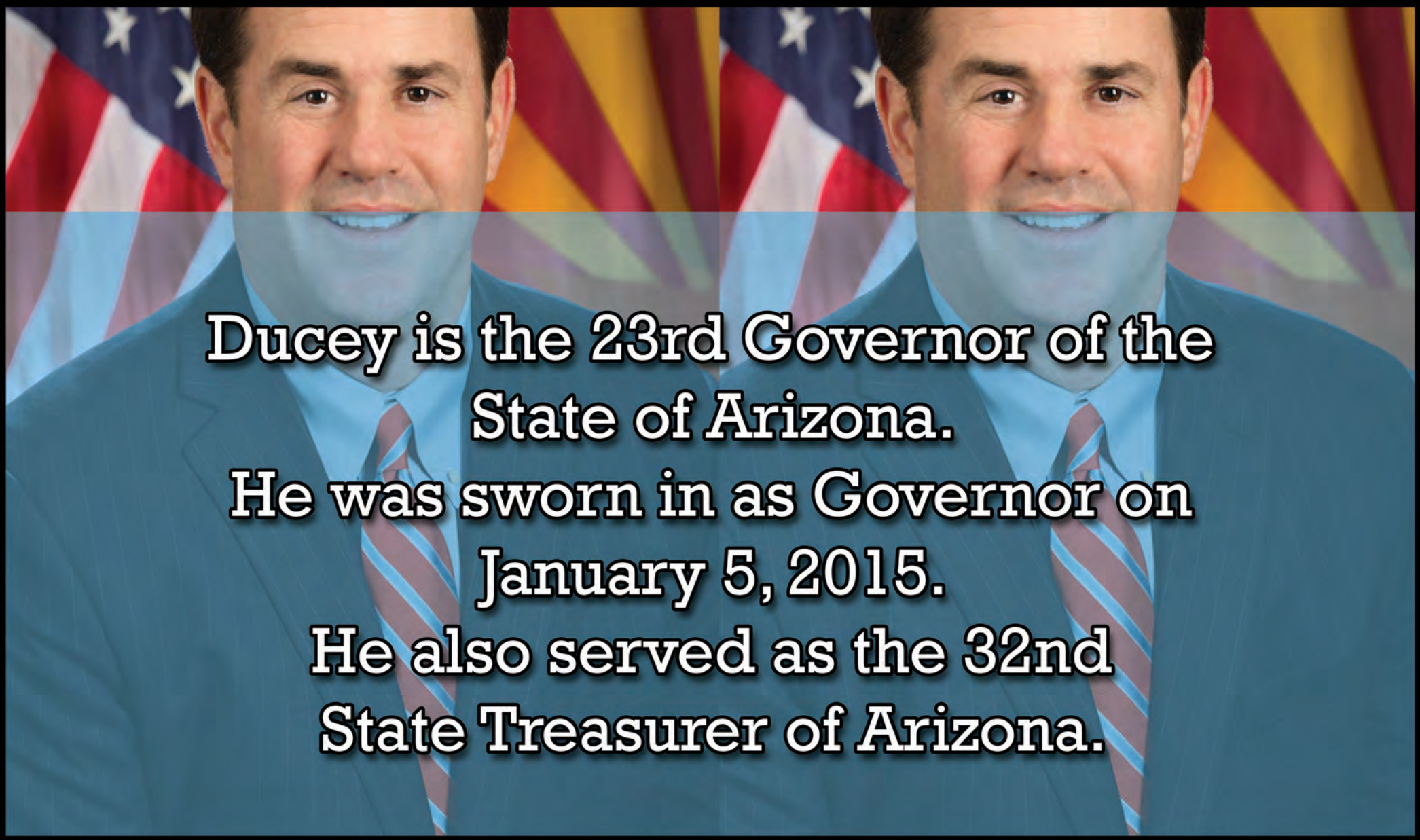
A gem is a valuable stone.
Turquoise is blue and green in color.
You can find turquoise used in
Native American jewelry.

State Symbols - Neckwear: Bola Tie

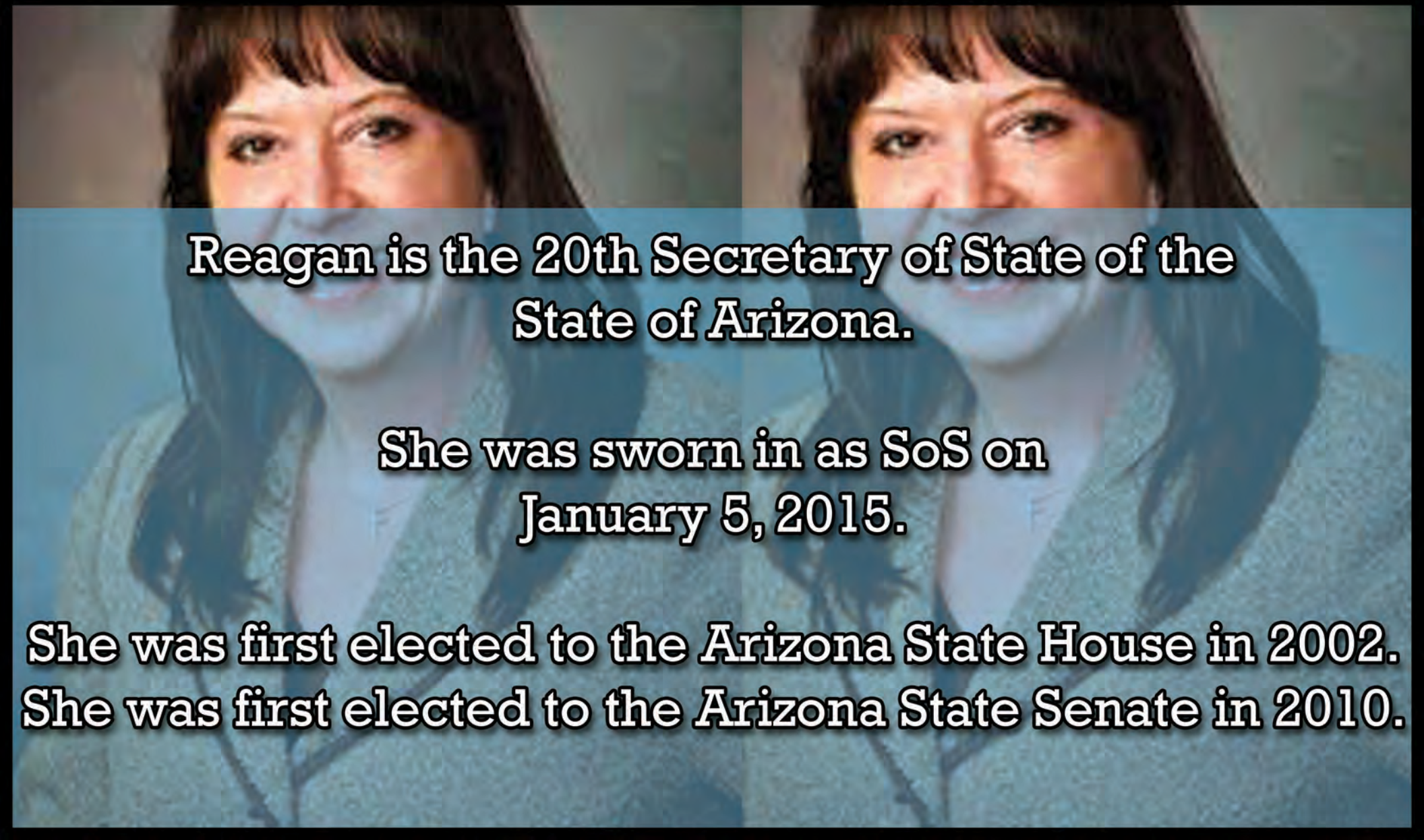


They are usually handmade and
can be different shapes and sizes!

Elected Officials - Governor: Doug Ducey



Elected Officials - Secretary of State

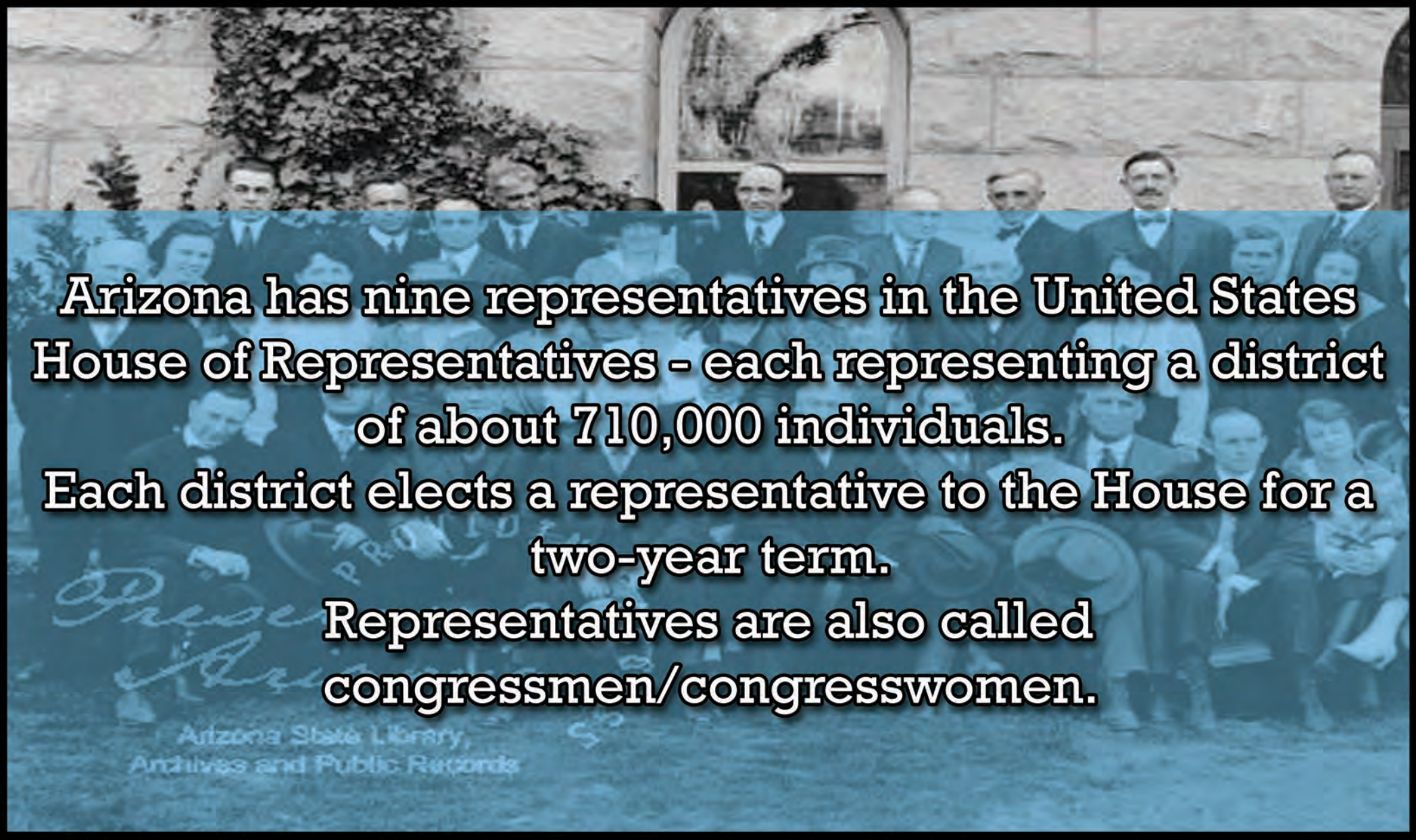


Reagan is the 20th Secretary of State of the State of Arizona.

She was sworn in as SoS on January 5, 2015.

She was first elected to the Arizona State House in 2002.
She was first elected to the Arizona State Senate in 2010.

Elected Officials - Arizona U.S. Representatives

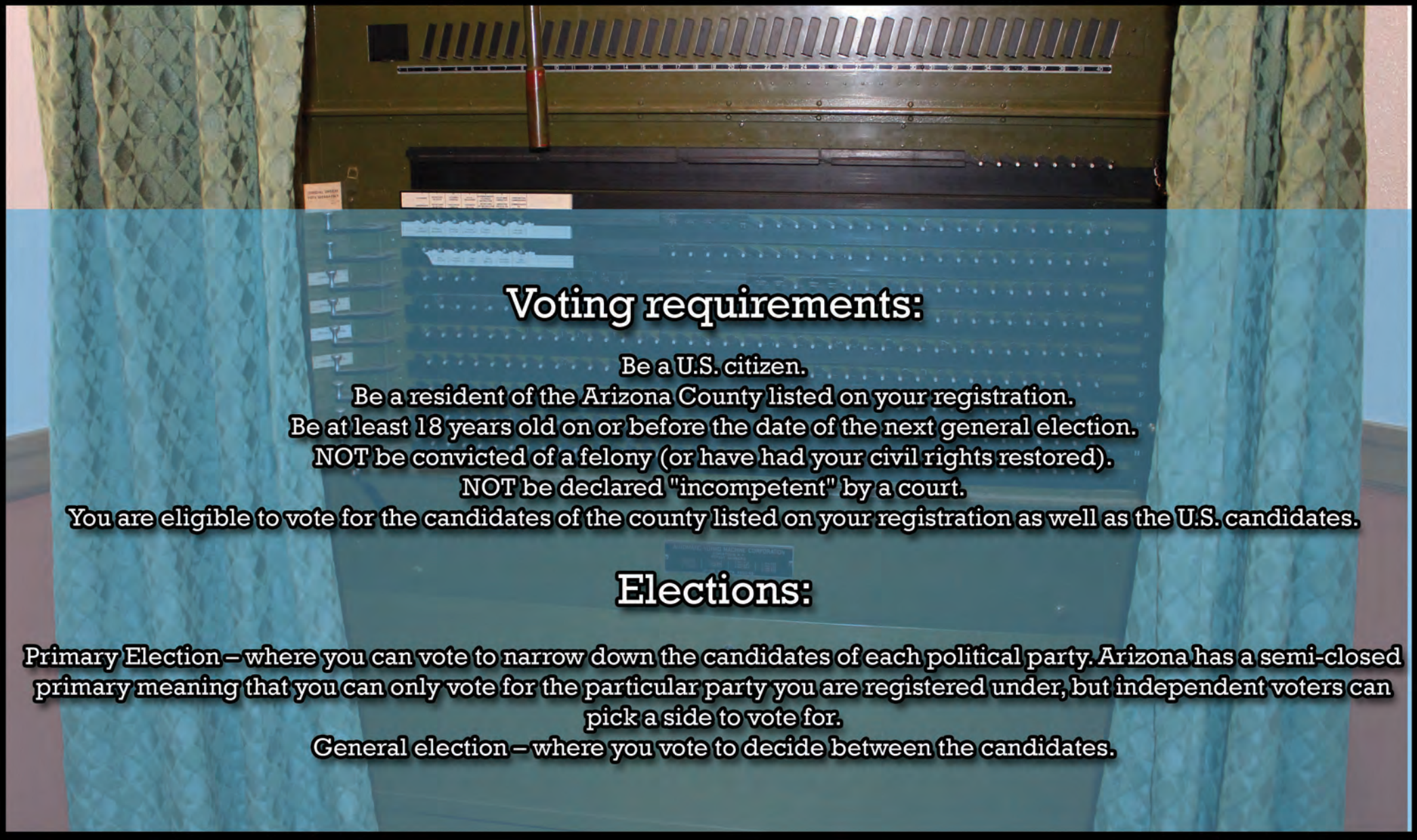


Arizona has nine representatives in the United States House of Representatives - each representing a district of about 710,000 individuals.

Each district elects a representative to the House for a two-year term.

Representatives are also called congressmen/congresswomen.

Arizona Voting



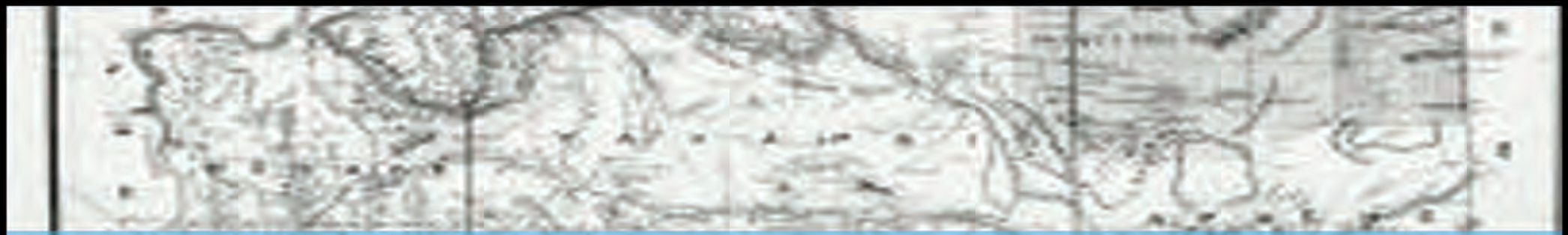
Voting requirements:

Be a U.S. citizen.
Be a resident of the Arizona County listed on your registration.
Be at least 18 years old on or before the date of the next general election.
NOT be convicted of a felony (or have had your civil rights restored).
NOT be declared "incompetent" by a court.
You are eligible to vote for the candidates of the county listed on your registration as well as the U.S. candidates.

Elections:

Primary Election – where you can vote to narrow down the candidates of each political party. Arizona has a semi-closed primary meaning that you can only vote for the particular party you are registered under, but independent voters can pick a side to vote for.
General election – where you vote to decide between the candidates.

Arizona History



Until the U.S. won the Mexican-American war, the Southwest was a part of Mexico, and the territory of Arizona did not exist. Following the win, the U.S. also decided to purchase the bottom piece of what is now Arizona from Mexico to help build a railroad across the U.S. The people living in Arizona wanted to have some rights, so during the Civil War, the Confederate side of the war offered Arizona only the bottom piece of what we now know as the state. They allowed Arizona to be a territory, meaning they had to follow the rules of the President Jefferson Davis.

Quickly after, Arizona decided to become a territory under the Union's side instead. This time following the rules set out by Abraham Lincoln, who appointed all of the territory's governors.

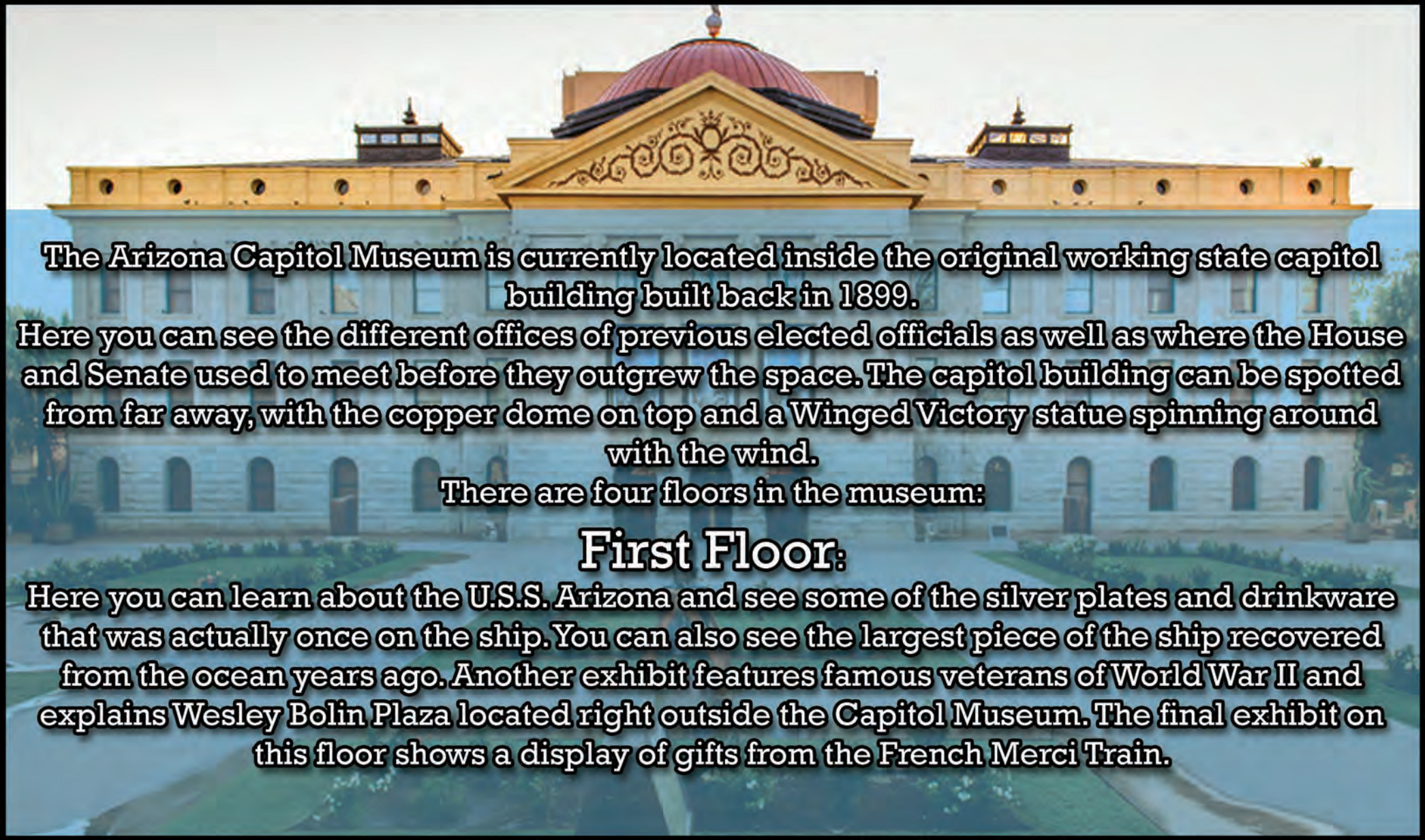
Arizona wanted to be a state so the people could elect their own officials and make their own rules. To do this, they had to follow a set of guidelines demanded by the new President, President Taft. Once Arizona followed his rules, and wrote their own constitution, Arizona finally was declared a state on February 14th, 1912.

Arizona Landmarks

Arizona has many nationally recognized Historical Landmarks, including:

The Grand Canyon
El Tovar Hotel
The Hoover Dam
Snaketown,
Taliesin West
Lowell Observatory
& many more !

Arizona Capitol Museum



The Arizona Capitol Museum is currently located inside the original working state capitol building built back in 1899.

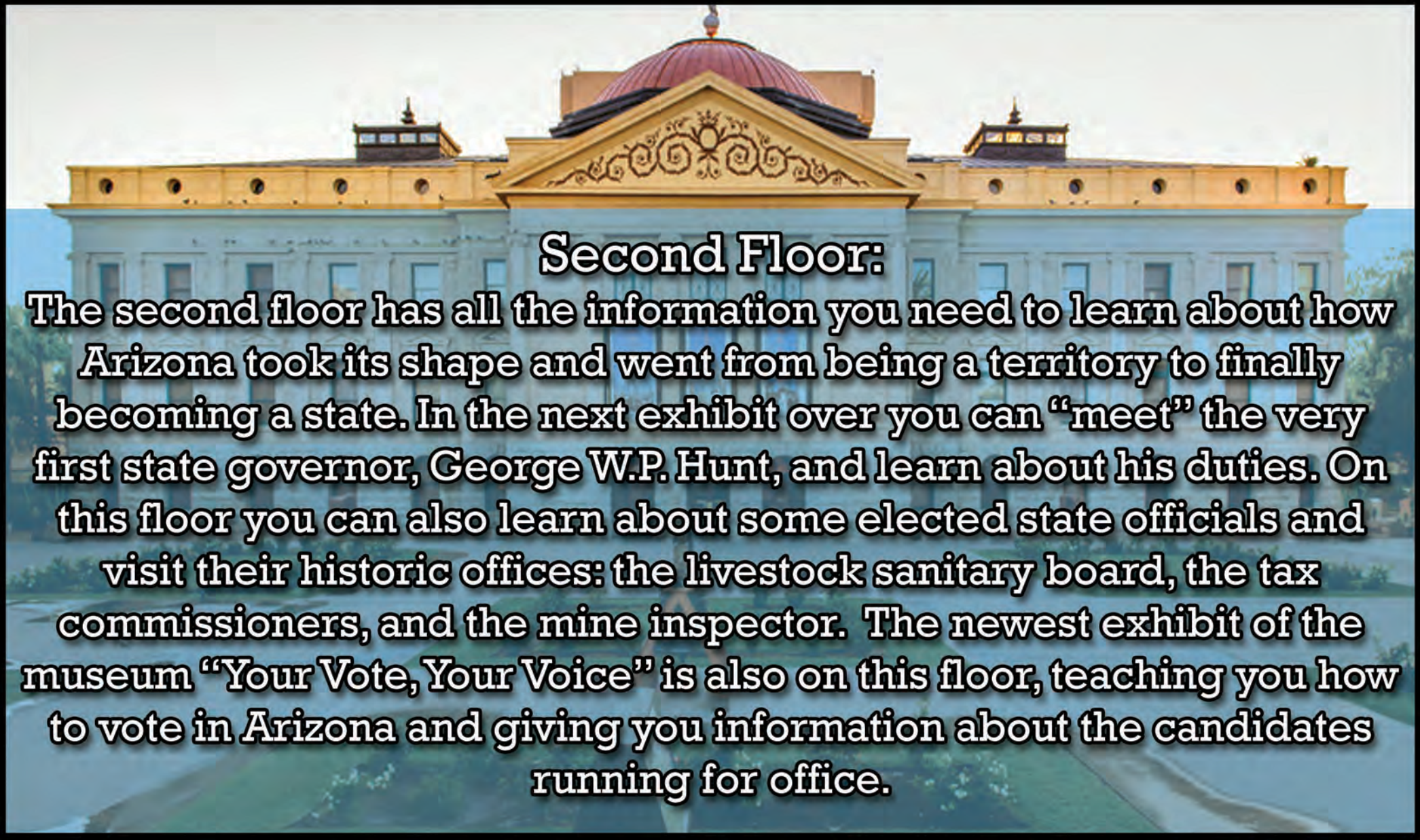
Here you can see the different offices of previous elected officials as well as where the House and Senate used to meet before they outgrew the space. The capitol building can be spotted from far away, with the copper dome on top and a Winged Victory statue spinning around with the wind.

There are four floors in the museum:

First Floor:

Here you can learn about the U.S.S. Arizona and see some of the silver plates and drinkware that was actually once on the ship. You can also see the largest piece of the ship recovered from the ocean years ago. Another exhibit features famous veterans of World War II and explains Wesley Bolin Plaza located right outside the Capitol Museum. The final exhibit on this floor shows a display of gifts from the French Merci Train.

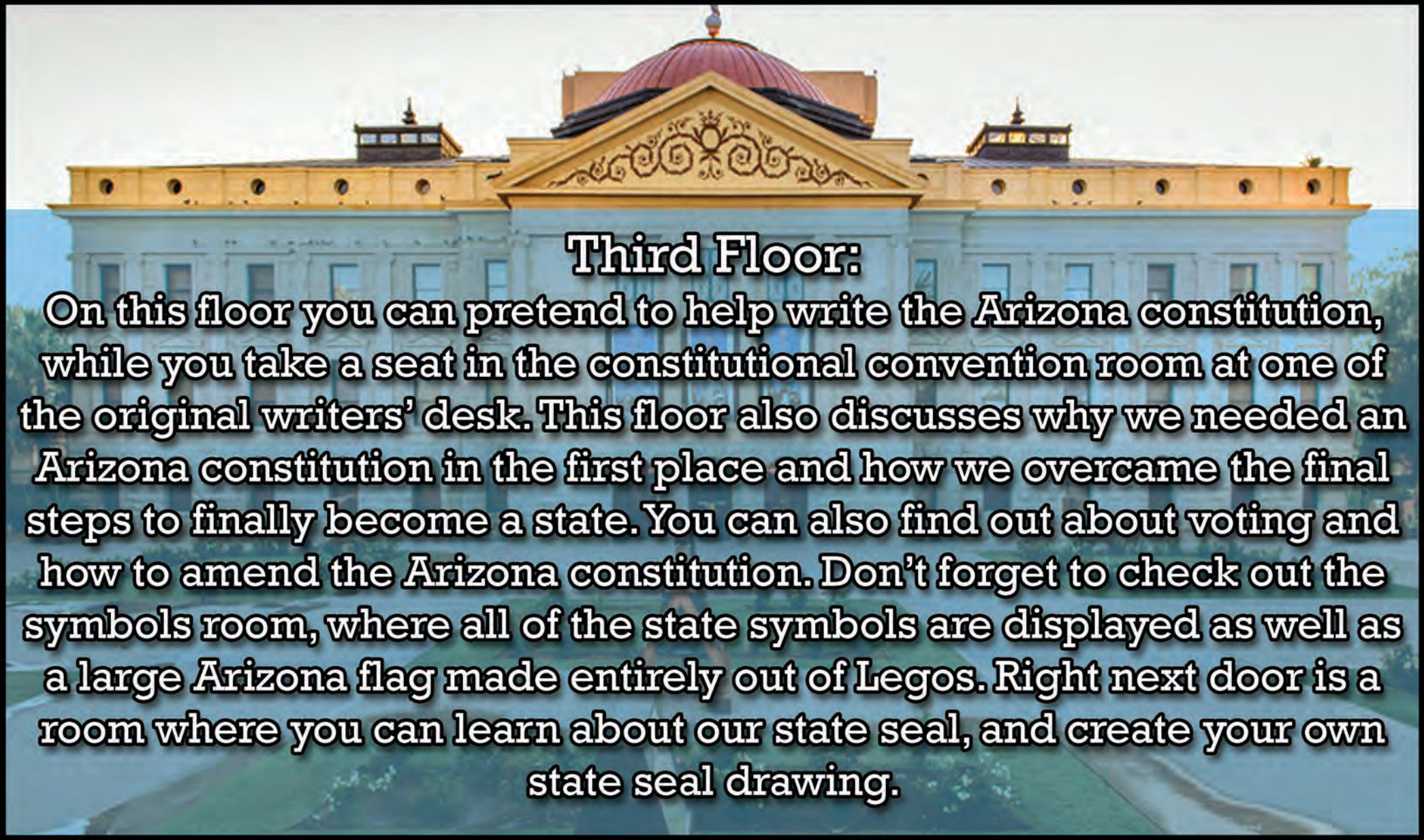
Arizona Capitol Museum



Second Floor:

The second floor has all the information you need to learn about how Arizona took its shape and went from being a territory to finally becoming a state. In the next exhibit over you can "meet" the very first state governor, George W.P. Hunt, and learn about his duties. On this floor you can also learn about some elected state officials and visit their historic offices: the livestock sanitary board, the tax commissioners, and the mine inspector. The newest exhibit of the museum "Your Vote, Your Voice" is also on this floor, teaching you how to vote in Arizona and giving you information about the candidates running for office.

Arizona Capitol Museum



Third Floor:

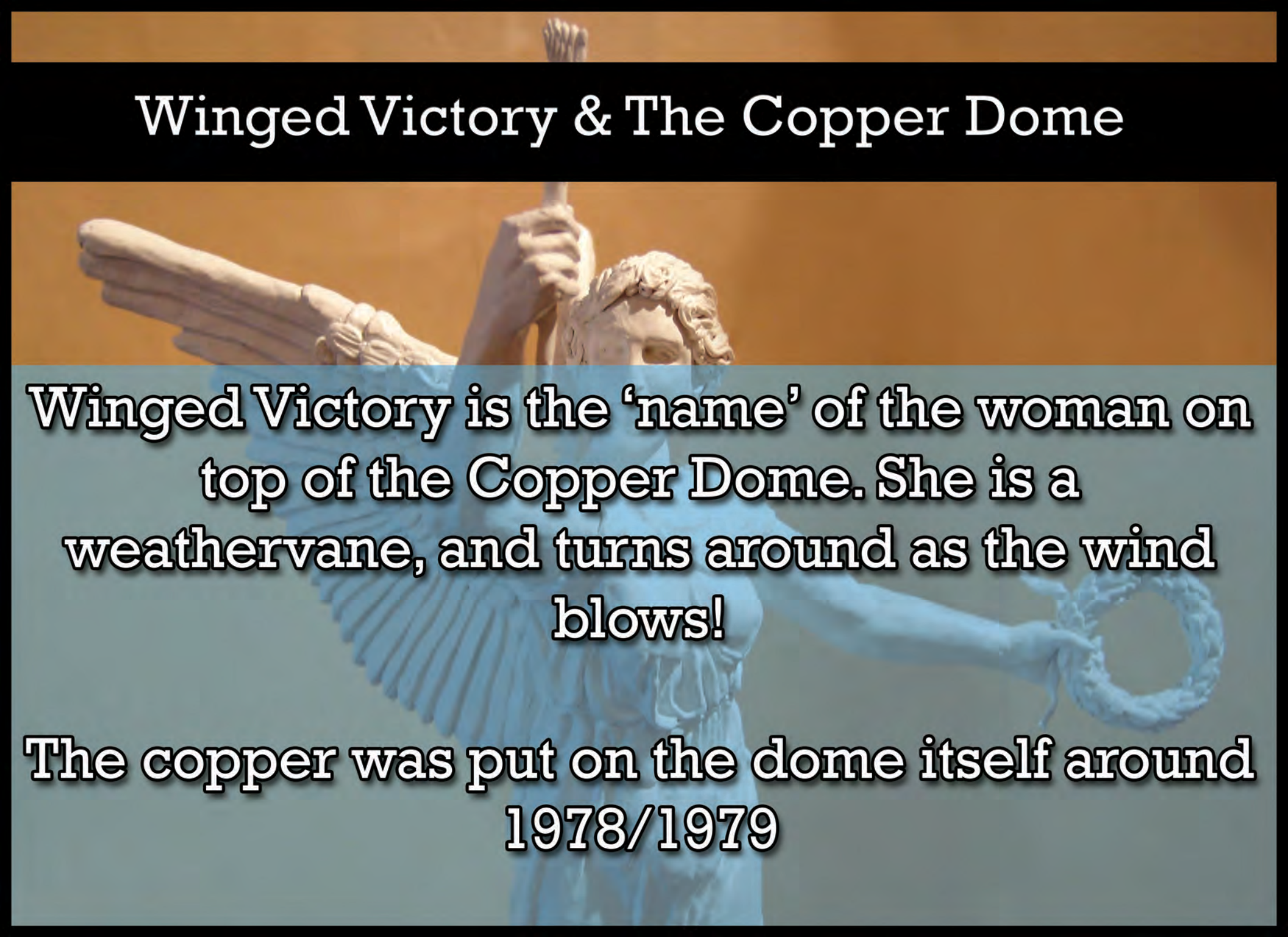
On this floor you can pretend to help write the Arizona constitution, while you take a seat in the constitutional convention room at one of the original writers' desk. This floor also discusses why we needed an Arizona constitution in the first place and how we overcame the final steps to finally become a state. You can also find out about voting and how to amend the Arizona constitution. Don't forget to check out the symbols room, where all of the state symbols are displayed as well as a large Arizona flag made entirely out of Legos. Right next door is a room where you can learn about our state seal, and create your own state seal drawing.

Arizona Capitol Museum

Fourth Floor:

The top floor holds a great view of the copper dome and Winged Victory.
Here you can see the historic House and Senate chambers via the Gallery,
as well as information regarding the capitol buildings framework and architecture.

Winged Victory & The Copper Dome



Winged Victory is the 'name' of the woman on top of the Copper Dome. She is a weathervane, and turns around as the wind blows!

The copper was put on the dome itself around 1978/1979

State Symbols - Metal: Copper

Our newest State Symbol in 2015 is our official State Metal: Copper!

Senate Bill 1441 was sponsored by State Senator Steve Smith after a fourth-grade class at Copper Creek Elementary School in Tucson had the idea and reached out to him about it.