

American Indian Place Names—States in the United States

State Name	Meaning of Name
Alabama	From Alibamu, the name of a Muskogean tribe, meaning “those who clear land for agricultural purposes.”
Arizona	From the Papago word “airzoniae”, which probably means “small springs.”
Arkansas	From Akansea, a tribe whose name means “downstream people.”
Connecticut	Meaning "river whose water is driven by tides or winds"
Dakota	(North and South) – Tribal name of the Sioux, meaning “allies.”
Idaho	From a Shoshone word meaning “sun coming over the mountains.”
Illinois	Meaning “Men”, the name of a confederacy of Algonquian tribes.
Iowa	The name of a tribe meaning “sleepy ones.”
Kentucky	Said to be derived from the word “Kenta”, meaning “field” or “meadow.”
Massachusetts	Name of an Algonquian tribe meaning “at or about the Great Hill.”
Michigan	From the Indian word “Michigamea” meaning “Great Water.”
Minnesota	A Dakota word meaning “whitish or sky tinted water.”
Mississippi	Algonquian word “misi” meaning “great” and “sipi” meaning “water.”
Missouri	From the name of a tribe meaning “Great Muddy”, which refers to the river.
Nebraska	From an Oto word meaning “broad water.”
New Mexico	Name of an Aztec god name Meritli.
Ohio	Iroquios word meaning “Beautiful River.”
Oklahoma	A Choctaw word meaning “Red People.”
Tennessee	The name of a Cherokee settlement, the meaning unknown.
Texas	The name of a group of tribes meaning “friends” or “allies.”
Utah	From the tribal name of the Ute, the meaning unknown.
Wisconsin	The name of a group of tribes living on the Wisconsin River.