

Facts & Information

Fish: Walleye

Fossil: Triceratops

Mineral: Rose Quartz

Gemstone: Fairburn
Agate

Soil: Houdek

Jewelry: Black
Hills
Gold

Slogan: "Great Faces.
Great Places."

Greeting: "How Kola!"
(Hello, Friend!)

Highest Point: Harney
Peak
(7,242 feet)

Lowest Point: Big Stone
Lake (962 feet)

Tree: Black Hills Spruce

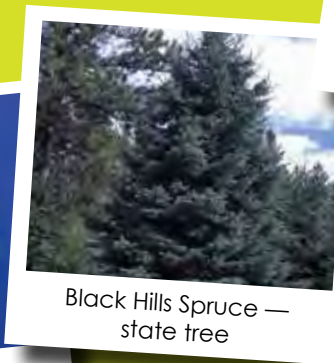
Nickname: Mount
Rushmore
State



Walleye — state fish



Triceratops — state fossil



Black Hills Spruce —
state tree



Rose Quartz — state mineral



Black Hills Gold —
state jewelry



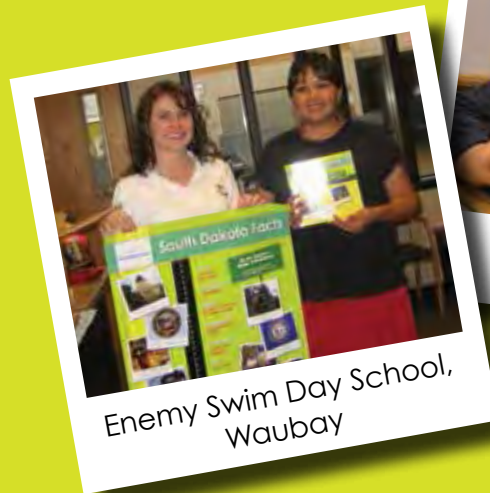
State flag

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This book presents generally known tourist attractions within South Dakota. They are operated independently of SDN Communications. Over time, management and physical facilities may change. For any questions about the sites, contact the location directly. All populations and land areas are estimates and were sourced from 2014 U.S. Census Bureau estimates and the Sioux Falls Planning Department.



McLaughlin School

Special Thank You

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Groton 4th grade

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Preface

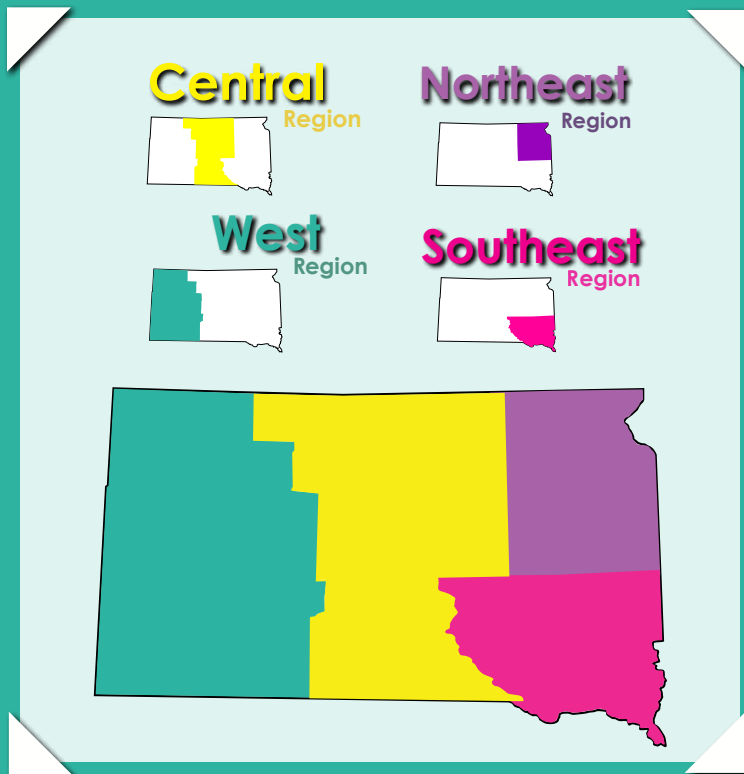
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When people need to get across South Dakota, they drive their cars on highways. When businesses need to send emails, use the Internet, or send other electronic information across the state, they use the Information Superhighway. SDN Communications and its owners—the 17 independent telephone companies of South Dakota—make up that electronic highway with their 30,000+ miles of fiber optic cable. That Information Superhighway connects the people of South Dakota to the world.

With *My South Dakota Book*, SDN Communications and its member companies hope to connect students with their state and all the pleasures it has to offer.

South Dakota is a connected community. As both friends and neighbors, South Dakotans know how important it is to stay in touch with their heritage and each other. No one understands this more than SDN Communications and its owners—the 17 independent telephone companies of South Dakota. That's why we're proud to present South Dakota's students with *My South Dakota Book: Hometown Snapshots*. The areas featured in this book highlight the member communities of South Dakota's independent telephone companies. We believe this book will teach students about the lifestyle, culture, and livelihood of the towns in South Dakota we call home.

We hope this book will be a valuable tool to connect students to South Dakota's communities and each other.



fall pheasant hunt



Bear Butte State Park



Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

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tipi structure



bison



woolly sheep

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bean field



Sioux Empire Fair



bald eagle

Introduction



patriotism



Blue Star Memorial Highway



sunny South Dakota

In the next few pages, we'll explore your state — South Dakota. By traveling around the state you'll learn that heritage, family, and tradition connect South Dakota's residents and make the state great. From the early Indians to today's residents, people from all over the world have come to South Dakota to farm, ranch, and enjoy life.

My South Dakota Book: Hometown Snapshots is filled with interesting facts about cities in South Dakota. Connect with these communities as you read about what each city has to offer. These towns may not be large in size, but they are rich in culture and community, making them important parts of our state.

How to Use

How to use this book:

You probably already know much about South Dakota's largest communities either from reading about or visiting them. So on this literary road trip, we're making the larger cities "Rest Areas" for a quick stop full of fun facts you maybe didn't know. All "Rest Areas" have blue pages.

Most of this reading journey will concentrate on the best kept secrets of South Dakota—our small towns. In this book, they're organized by region and color. The colored bar on the right side of the page will indicate the town's region.



Color-coded guide to using this book:

Blue = Rest Areas

Pink = Southeast Region

Purple = Northeast Region

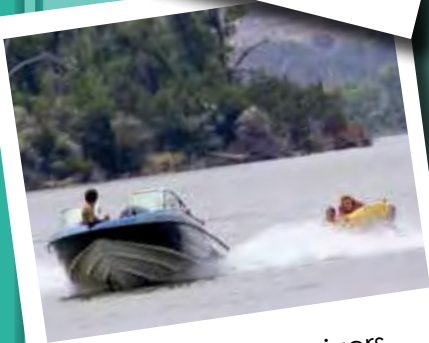
Yellow = Central Region

Green = West Region

About Me



family adventures



boating on the rivers



Hot Springs scenery

My South Dakota Book: Hometown Snapshots

1.) This book belongs to:

2.) I am _____ years old.

3.) I attend this school:

4.) My address is: _____

City: _____

County: _____

State: _____

ZIP Code: _____

Country: _____

5.) Date Received:

7.) My teacher's name:

8.) My favorite subject:

9.) My hobbies:

10.) I like to travel with these people:

11.) I have visited these South Dakota cities:



Place your
school photo here!



Southeast

Region



windmill in a field

Place your
own photo here!



My own road trip
to Sioux Falls

We'll begin our South Dakota journey in the Southeast region. Lewis and Clark first explored this section in 1804. Some people would even say this region marks the state's birthplace. This area was the first in the state to have railroads and concrete highways. The first capital of Dakota Territory was located in Yankton. Plus, the state built many of the first colleges and universities here. Today many residents of the Southeast live in Sioux Falls, but many other communities here have great things to offer. Let's start our road trip from Sioux Falls, the largest city in South Dakota!

 **Look**
beyond the book

Southeast
Region

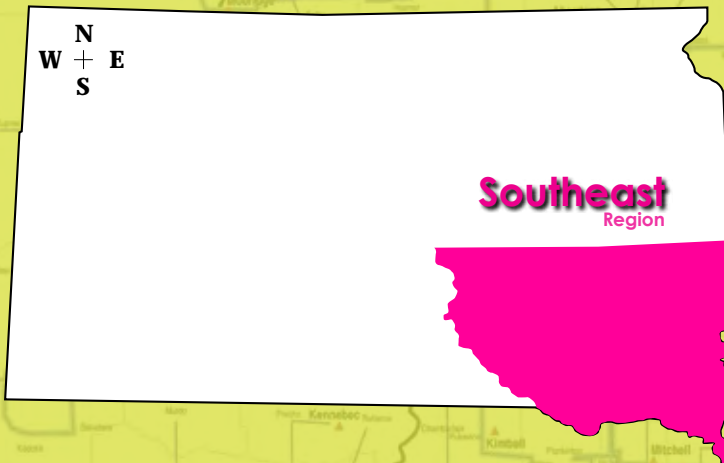


1.) How do you think Lewis and Clark described South Dakota in 1804?

2.) Why do you think citizens chose Yankton to be the capital of Dakota Territory?

My South Dakota Book - - - - -

Road Trip Tracker



Southeast Region

Rest Area

Sioux Falls



St. Joseph Cathedral



Falls Park



Washington Pavilion

Siuox Falls Facts:

- Over 159,908 people live in Sioux Falls, making it the largest city in South Dakota.
- The waterfalls in Sioux Falls formed nearly 14,000 years ago. Falls Park is now one of the most visited attractions in the state.
- At the Washington Pavilion of Arts & Science you can visit the Kirby Science Discovery Center, the Visual Arts Center, the Husby Performing Arts Center, or watch a movie in the Wells Fargo CineDome Theater.
- Interested in animals? Visit the Great Plains Zoo and Sertoma Butterfly House!

 Look
beyond the book

Southeast
Region



1.) Name the two major interstates that cross paths at Sioux Falls:

2.) Look on a map. Find the route from your house to Sioux Falls. How many miles is it?

Sioux Falls

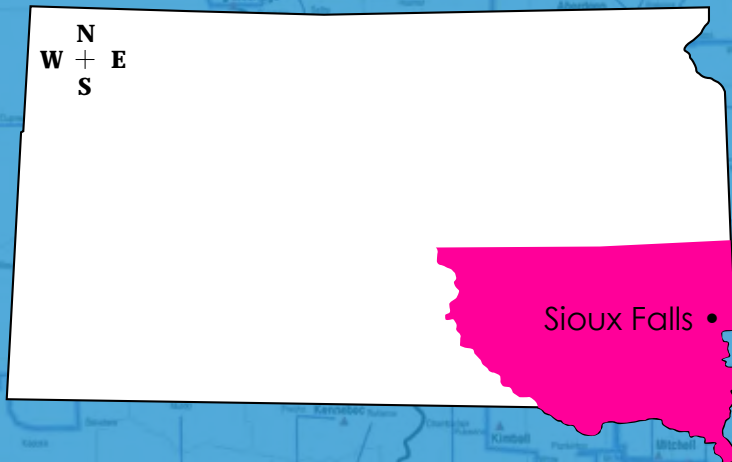
Population: 159,908

Land area: 73.4 sq. miles

Counties: Minnehaha & Lincoln

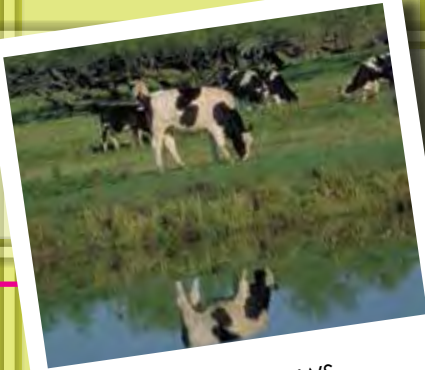
My South Dakota Book

Road Trip Tracker



Brandon

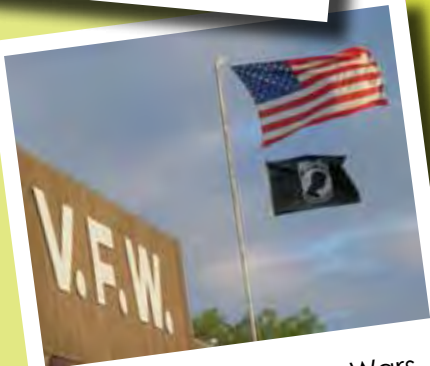
South Dakota



grazing cows



Brandon fire truck



Veterans of Foreign Wars

Fire trucks zoom around the corner with their sirens blaring and lights flashing. Welcome to Brandon, a city with its very own fire truck manufacturer! A company here builds fire trucks and sends them all over the United States so they can put out fires, save lives, and protect homes. These trucks range from mini rescue vehicles to massive tankers that can hold up to 3,500 gallons of water! Many states across our nation order their fire trucks from right here in South Dakota.

How much water is 3,500 gallons? Imagine watering your lawn for 24 hours straight!

Southeast Region



You smell the smoke,
you feel the heat,
and you see the flames.
FIRE!



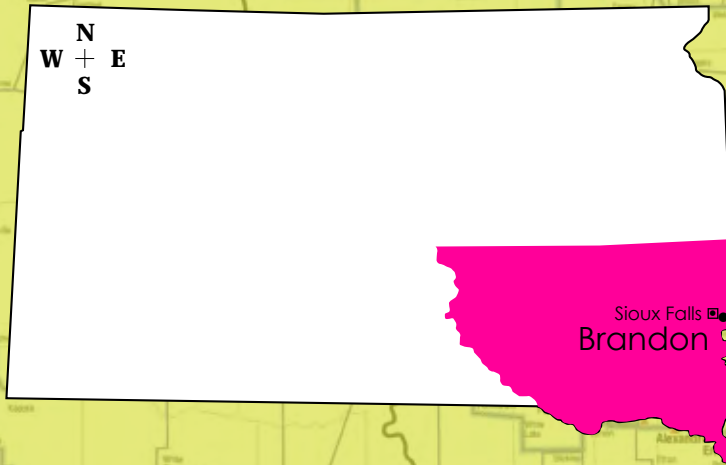
Brandon

Population: 9,286
Land area: 5.4 sq. miles
County: Minnehaha



farm land

My South Dakota Book Road Trip Tracker

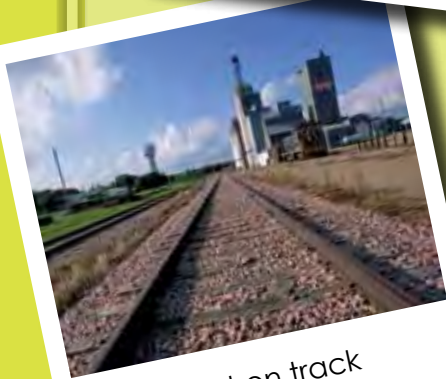


Beresford

South Dakota



railroad depot



right on track



Beresford railroad

In the past, railroads connected many towns and made travel faster across the country. Without the railroad, many South Dakota towns would not exist. Beresford was named after Lord Charles Beresford, a man who invested money into building the railroad. After the railroad was built, the town started to form. A saloon was the first building to be put up, followed by banks, homes, and the town's first general store. Today Beresford offers many more stores and opportunities for recreation. Visitors can golf, camp, hunt pheasants, or participate in the Frostbite Four Road Race in January.

Southeast Region



CHOO CHOO!



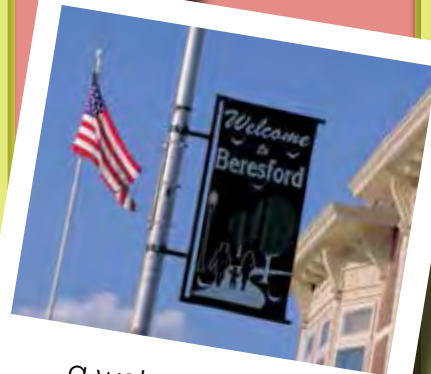
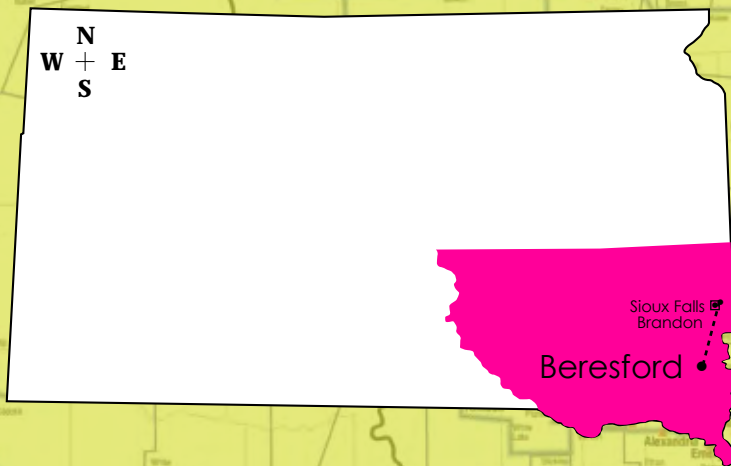
The Beresford railroad is coming!

Beresford

Population: 2,040
Land area: 1.78 sq. miles
Counties: Union & Lincoln

My South Dakota Book

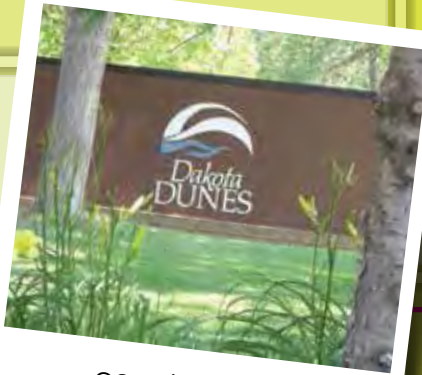
Road Trip Tracker



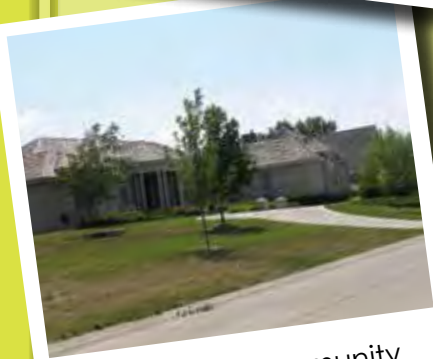
a welcoming city

Dakota Dunes

South Dakota



country club



planned community



country setting

Dakota Dunes developed in 1988 when an energy company decided to build a **planned community** (**pland kum- yoo- nih- tee**) [page 102]. The majority of South Dakota towns started out in the 1800s near rivers, lakes, and railroads with only a few settlers and main roads. However, Dakota Dunes was planned before the residents even moved in! Planners designed all the streets, parks, and buildings in advance. Now Dakota Dunes is a family-friendly community nestled between the Missouri and Big Sioux Rivers.

What year was your hometown started? What was happening during that time in history?

Southeast Region



Most towns in South Dakota
are over **100** years old,
but not Dakota Dunes!



Dakota Dunes

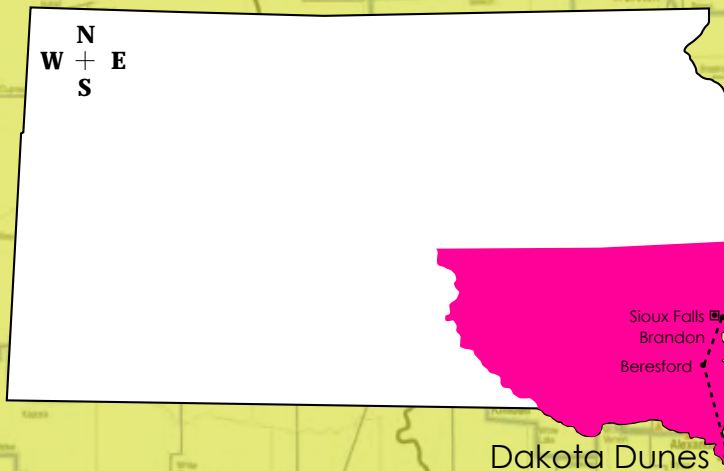
Population: 2,569

Land area: 2.27 sq. miles

County: Union

South Dakota Book

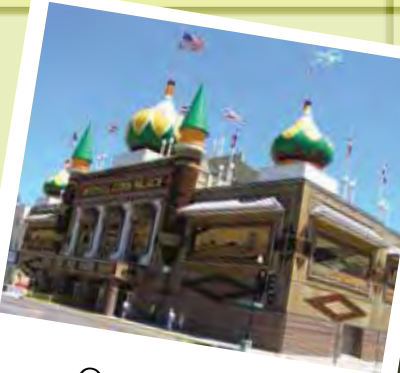
Road Trip Tracker



signs of a new city

Mitchell

South Dakota



Corn Palace



a heavenly sight



crafts inside the palace

As we stop in Mitchell, you can see the Mitchell Corn Palace. This Corn Palace is actually the third one built since 1892. Settlers built the first two palaces to show the importance of **agriculture** (**ag-rih-kul-cher**) [page 100] in South Dakota.

Huge designs made of corn decorate the palace's outside walls. These large pictures are called **murals** (**myur-els**) [page 101]. Each year a new local artist designs them, making sure to show an important part of South Dakota life. Thousands of bushels of corn, grain, rye, and wheat are used each year. Birds love the Corn Palace because it gives them plenty of food to eat—like a giant bird feeder!

Southeast Region



A building made of corn?
Believe it!

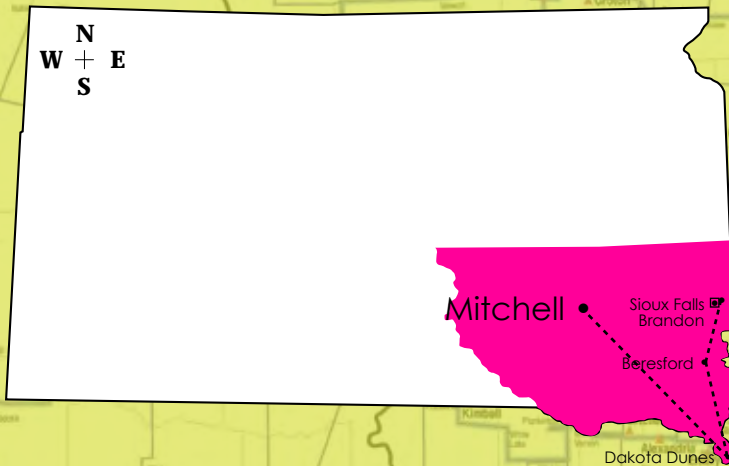


Mitchell

Population: 15,484
Land area: 12.14 sq. miles
County: Davison

My South Dakota Book

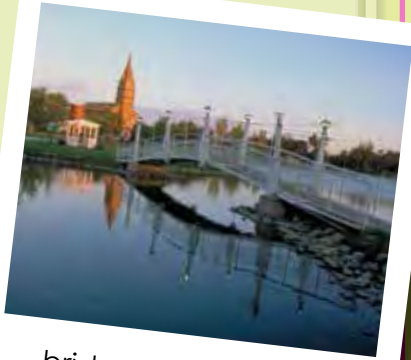
Road Trip Tracker



corn mural

Woonsocket

South Dakota



bridge to the church



melon stand



passing the time

The city of Woonsocket began in 1883 at the junction of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and Saint Paul Railroads. The town grew so quickly that it was called “Boomstrucket.”

Now farmers near Woonsocket grow thousands of watermelons, muskmelons, and pumpkins each year. These melons are sold all over the region. In addition to watermelons, this community is also known for its water. Woonsocket is nicknamed “The Town with the Beautiful Lake” and is world famous for its **artesian wells** (ar-tee-shun welz) [page 100]. In the early 1900s, one huge well shot water hundreds of feet into the air! There are around 15,000 artesian wells in South Dakota.

Southeast Region



Enjoy
some
juicy
Woonsocket
watermelon!

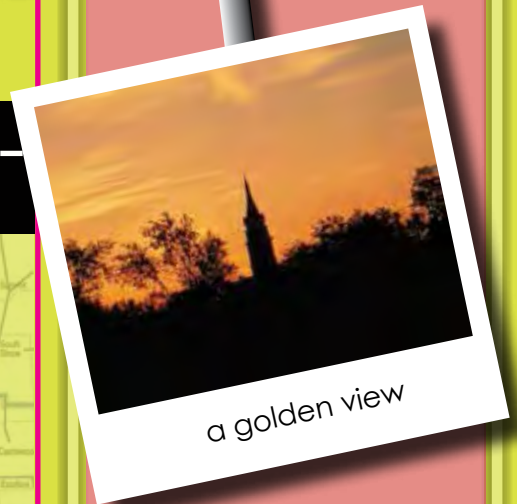
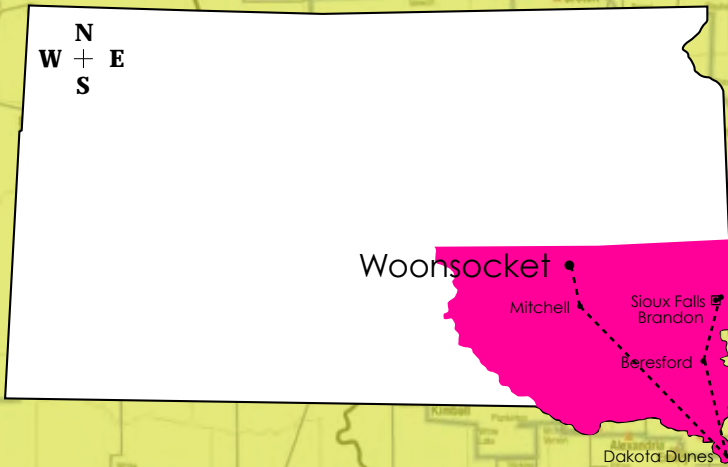


Woonsocket

Population: 646
Land area: 0.79 sq. miles
County: Sanborn

My South Dakota Book

Road Trip Tracker



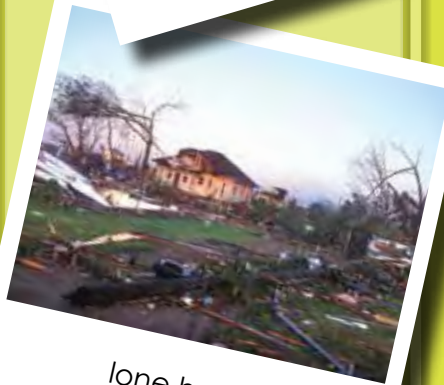
a golden view



a peek at Spencer



tornado damage



lone house

Spencer

South Dakota

In South Dakota, tornadoes are common. Usually they are small and cause little damage, but in 1998 a tornado hit the town of Spencer in a big way. In fact, this was one of the most powerful tornadoes in South Dakota history! **Meteorologists** (mee- tee- or- oll- o- jists) [page 101] say that during the storm, winds reached speeds of up to 246 miles per hour!

Studying these tornadoes will help scientists warn people about future tornadoes. Fortunately, people from all over the state helped the town of Spencer clean up the damage.

In 2003, 67 tornadoes hit eastern South Dakota in one night. It was named “Tornado Tuesday.”

Southeast Region



Spencer

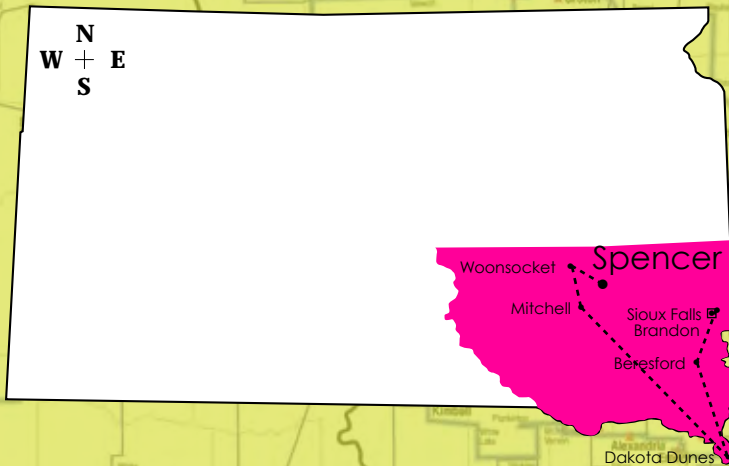
Population: 154
Land area: 0.26 sq. miles
County: McCook



The winds are picking up, and the sky is dark. A **tornado** is on the way!

My South Dakota Book

Road Trip Tracker



home run!

Garretson

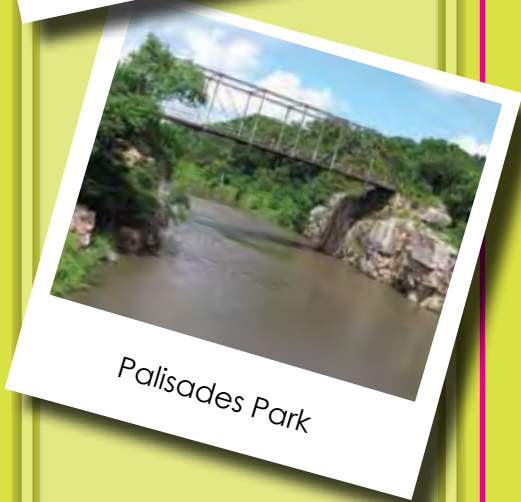
South Dakota



Devil's Gulch



canyon escape



Palisades Park

Near Garretson, we can see Devil's Gulch, where Jesse James made a daring escape in 1876. After James robbed a Minnesota bank, an angry mob chased him to Devil's Gulch in South Dakota, where he made a risky jump across the canyon and escaped. After the escape, James hid out in Palisades State Park, which is now a popular spot for camping, hiking, and rock climbing.

Many **geologists** (jee- ol- oh- jists) [page 101] also study the rocks in the park's 50-foot vertical peaks and quartzite cliffs. This park is one of few areas in the nation where pipestone rock is found.

Southeast Region

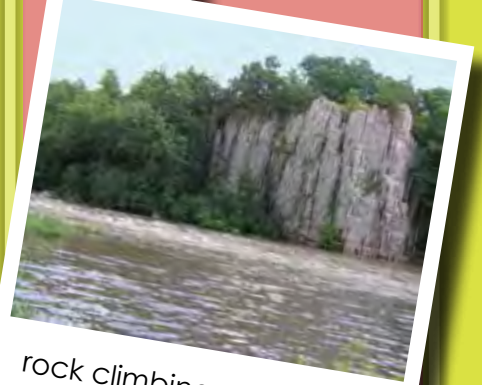


A reckless **outlaw**,
a daring **escape**,
and a legendary **tale**.



Garretson

Population: 1,207
Land area: 1.49 sq. miles
County: Minnehaha



rock climbing opportunity

My South Dakota Book

Road Trip Tracker

