

Michigan State Flag

Great Lakes State • Capital: Lansing • Statehood: 1837

Overview

On dark blue, the state coat of arms with eagle, elk, and moose around a shield showing lake, man and rising sun. Latin mottoes abound: E pluribus unum, Tuebor (“I will defend”), and Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice, “If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you.” A grand layering of symbols.

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1911-08-01
Designer: Based on state coat of arms
Ratio: 2:3
Blue field with full Michigan coat of arms centered.

Colors

    
#002D72 #FFD700 #FFFFFF #B22234 #008000

Symbolism

elk and moose	Supporters symbolizing Michigan’s wildlife.
eagle	Represents the United States.
mottoes	‘E Pluribus Unum,’ ‘Tuebor’ (I will defend), and ‘Si Quaeris Peninsulam Amoenam Circumspice.’

Historical timeline

- 1837: Michigan admitted as 26th state.
- 1911: Current coat of arms design adopted.
- 1865 — Earlier military-style flags with state seal.

Notable facts

- Michigan’s flag carries three mottoes in Latin.
- The coat of arms emphasizes defense, unity, and natural beauty.
- The eagle symbolizes the United States.
- An elk and a moose support the shield.
- The shield depicts a man with a raised hand and a rifle.
- The Latin motto ‘Si Quaeris Peninsulam Amoenam Circumspice’ means ‘If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you.’
- The flag features the state coat of arms on a blue field.
- The current design was officially adopted in 1911.

Seal deep dive

stateSeal

The Michigan state seal centered on a dark blue field.
Meaning: National authority, natural abundance, and Michigan’s place within the Union

animals

An elk and a moose flanking the central shield.
Meaning: Michigan’s wildlife, strength, and connection to the natural environment

mottoes

Three mottoes displayed on ribbons: ‘E Pluribus Unum’, ‘Tuebor’, and ‘Si Quaeris Peninsulam Amoenam Circumspice’.
Meaning: Unity, defense, and pride in Michigan’s peninsulas

Vexillology notes

Design type: State coat of arms on blue field

Complexity: 9/10

Readability: 3/10

Printable reference sheet for classroom use.