

Montana State Flag

Treasure State • Capital: Helena • Statehood: 1889

Overview

The flag of Montana sets its seal on a deep blue field. At the centre, the state seal depicts snowy peaks, forests and the Missouri's falls, all under a radiant sun. A pick, shovel and plough quietly recall the labour of mining and farming. The motto, Oro y Plata, “Gold and Silver”, speaks of mineral wealth, while “The Treasure State” and “Big Sky Country” remain Montana's fond sobriquets.

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1905-02-27
Designer: Legislative adoption
Ratio: 2:3
Blue field with Montana state seal and word 'MONTANA' above.

Colors

   
#002D72 #008000 #FFD700 #FFFFFF

Symbolism

state seal	Depicts mountains, forests, and rivers.
plow and shovel	Symbolize agriculture and mining.
motto	'Oro y Plata' means 'Gold and Silver.'

Historical timeline

- 1889: Montana admitted as 41st state.
- 1905: Official flag adopted.

Notable facts

- Montana's motto emphasizes mining heritage.
- The word 'MONTANA' was added in 1981 for identification.
- The state seal is the central feature of the flag.
- The motto 'Oro y Plata' means 'Gold and Silver.'
- The seal depicts mountains, plains, and the Great Falls of the Missouri River.
- A plow and pick symbolize agriculture and mining.
- The flag uses a blue field similar to many western states.
- The original flag design dates back to 1905.

Seal deep dive

stateSeal
The Montana state seal centered on a dark blue field.
Meaning: Agriculture, mining, natural landscapes, and frontier industry

tools
A plow crossed with a pickaxe and shovel in the foreground.
Meaning: Montana's farming and mining foundations

landscape
Mountains, river, and open plains forming the background scene.
Meaning: The vast and rugged natural environment of Montana

stateName
The word 'MONTANA' displayed above the seal.
Meaning: Clear labeling of the state

Vexillology notes

Design type: State seal on blue field

Complexity: 9/10

Readability: 3/10

Printable reference sheet for classroom use.