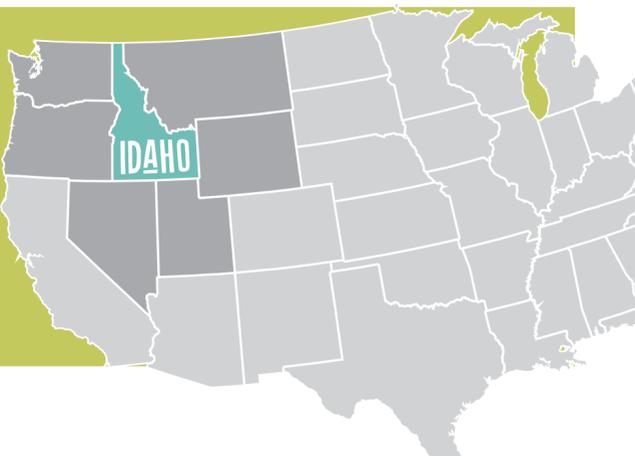


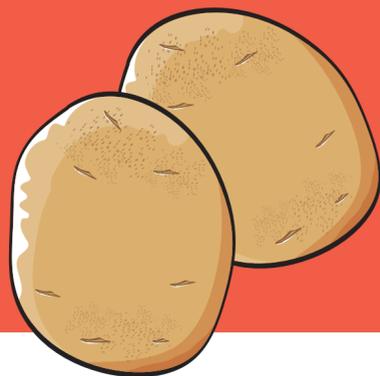
LIVING IN IDAHO

1 IT'S IN THE MIDWEST

Okay, so there are a lot of midwestern states that start with the letter "I." And yes, Idaho and Iowa do sound somewhat alike. But Idaho is actually in a region of the United States known as the Intermountain West, not the Midwest. Its neighbors include Washington, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming, as well as a little bit of Canada.



2 WE HAVE THE BEST POTATOES



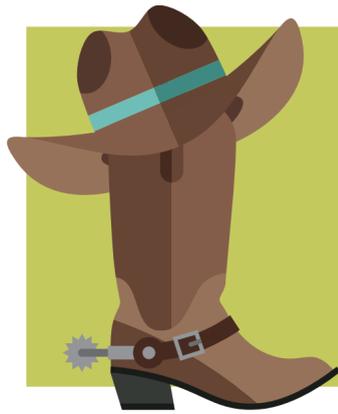
This is a pretty valid misconception, because we are extremely proud of our potatoes. Even our license plates boast our "famous potatoes." However, while we do grow some of the best potatoes here in Idaho, we export most of them out of state. This means, unfortunately, that most of the potatoes you'll actually find in Idaho are not true, authentic, gastronomically superior Idaho potatoes. Disappointing, I know.

3 THERE'S NOTHING TO DO HERE

Now, this does somewhat depend on what you define as "something to do." If you are at all outdoorsy, Idaho is the place to be. With close proximity to Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park, as well as a host of other parks, forests, ski resorts and hiking trails, Idaho is an ideal state for both winter and summer outdoor activities. Nature lovers will never be bored here, and for people who prefer to stay indoors, Idaho's cities are constantly growing, with more new restaurants, stores and activity centers popping up every year.



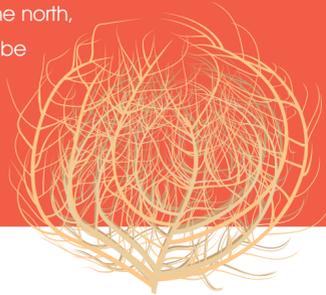
4 WE ARE ALL A BUNCH OF COWBOYS



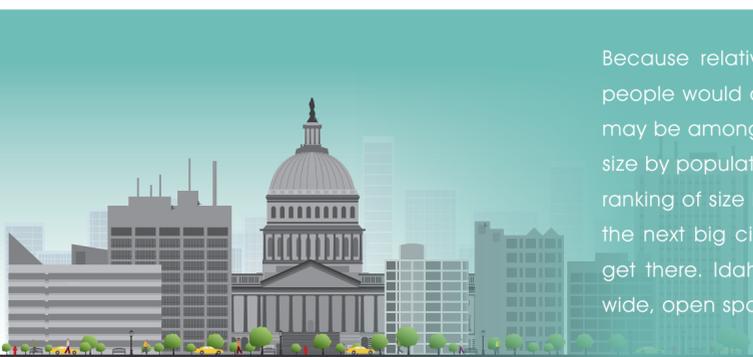
Horses, rodeos and the word "Yee-haw!" are all important to Idaho culture, but the state is not defined by its "wild" western identity. And while Idaho may not be the first place that comes to mind when people think about moving away from home, industries like INL welcome employees from all over the nation and the world, and cities like Idaho Falls and Boise have seen their populations grow rapidly in the last few years. Furthermore, "cowboy" in Idaho is not just a character trope, but also a specific occupation. While we do have our fair share of ranchers and farmers, we also have our fair share of people who have never touched a pair of cowboy boots in their lives.

5 IDAHO IS A NEVER-ENDING EXPANSE OF NOTHINGNESS

Yes, it sometimes takes hours to get between major towns, even on highways and interstates. And sometimes, the scenery is so homogenous that it's hard not to fall asleep on the road. There are only so many tumbleweeds and potato fields even native Idahoans can handle before getting bored on their drives. But between the Snake River, the Tetons and Rocky Mountains, the forests of the north, and the deserts of the south, Idaho boasts a fairly diverse landscape. We may be landlocked, and you'll probably never find someone more fascinated by the beach than an Idahoan, but for being out in "the middle of nowhere, USA," we're surprisingly well-equipped with most of the major land features that you learn about in Earth Science class.



6 IT'S SMALL



Because relatively few people live in Idaho, most people would describe the state itself as tiny. Idaho may be among the last fifteen states in a ranking of size by population, but it soars to the top fifteen in a ranking of size by land mass. So if your friend lives in the next big city over, expect an hour-plus drive to get there. Idaho is pretty much the definition of a wide, open space.