



On May 25, 1861, the legislators of Kansas established the **Great Seal** that the state uses to this day. In the resolution, they described it:

“The east is represented by the rising sun, in the right-hand corner of the seal; to the left of it, commerce is represented by a river and a steamboat; in the foreground, agriculture is represented as the basis of the future prosperity of the state, by a settler’s cabin and a man plowing with a pair of horses; beyond this is a train of ox-wagons, going west; in the background is seen a herd of buffalo, retreating, pursued by two Indians, on horseback.”

Kansas’ state motto, “ad astra per aspera” is Latin for “to the stars through difficulties,” and sits above 34 stars, which represents Kansas’ position as the 34th state to enter the Union.