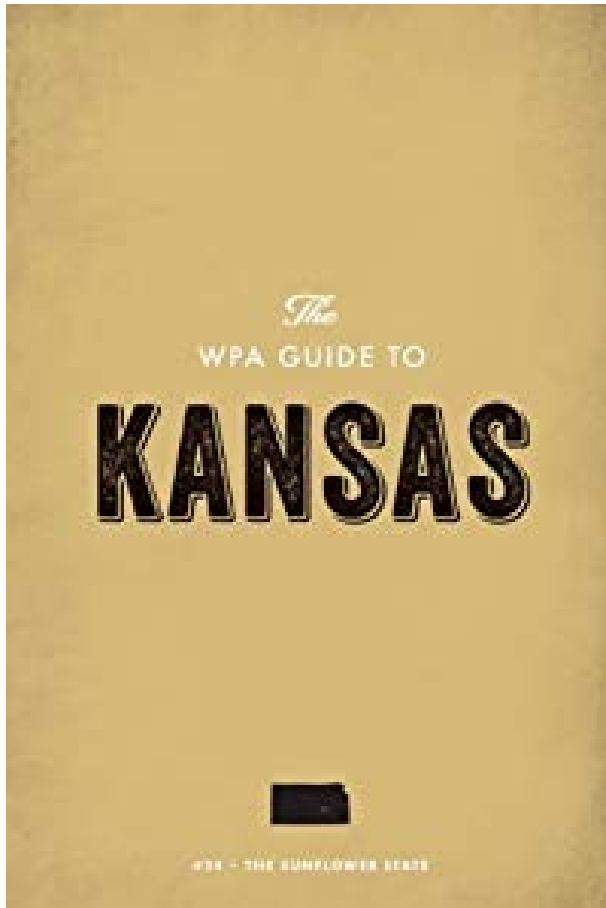


# The WPA Guide to Kansas: The Sunflower State



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During the 1930s in the United States, the Works Progress Administration developed the Federal Writers' Project to support writers and artists while making a national effort to document the country's shared history and culture. The American Guide series consists of individual guides to each of the states. Little-known authors—many of whom would later become celebrated literary figures—were commissioned to write these important books.

John Steinbeck, Saul Bellow, Zora Neale Hurston, and Ralph Ellison are among the more than 6,000 writers, editors, historians, and researchers who documented this celebration of local histories. Photographs, drawings, driving tours, detailed descriptions of towns, and rich cultural details exhibit each state's unique flavor. America's Heartland is well depicted in this WPA Guide to Kansas, originally published in 1939. Kansas, also nicknamed the "Sunflower State" because of its rich agricultural roots and the "Jayhawker State" because of its distinct role in the American Civil War, has a diverse and extensive history.