Dedication

To Gerald, who loves to travel these United States as much as I do.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Maria Chang and June English for a crackerjack editing job, and my friend Yve Zinaman for her encouragement.
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Introduction

Did you know that the state of California is bigger than most countries in the world? And yet, it’s only the third-largest state in our country. Alaska, the largest state, has one of the smallest populations in the United States. Wyoming has the fewest number of people—in fact, cattle outnumber humans in this state.

These are only a few of the fascinating facts you and your students will read about in 50 Great States Read & Solve Crossword Puzzles. This book contains short, easy-to-read passages about each of the 50 states, plus our nation’s capital, Washington, D.C., followed by fun and easy crossword puzzles designed to assess students’ reading comprehension.

Packed with information, the narratives present each state in a unique light. Some offer a look at the state’s history, discussing how people and events helped shape the state and our country. Others give a glimpse of the state’s geography—breathtaking sights to see and fun places to visit. Taken as a whole, this book presents a broad range of topics that celebrates each and every one of our glorious states.

How to Use This Book

Reading about the states and then solving related crossword puzzles will help students build their reading-comprehension skills—a goal that is on every educator’s mind. The puzzles reinforce information kids have just finished reading. Almost every clue is answered directly in the text, although some answers require a bit of deductive reasoning. The passages also offer new vocabulary words that are defined in the text and repeated in the crosswords for reinforcement.

You can also use 50 Great States Read & Solve Crossword Puzzles to complement your lesson plan on the United States. There’s a lot of history in this book, so it’s easy to fit into your social studies curriculum. You might want to use the passages as stepping stones to ward in-depth discussions about complex issues: Why is it important for states to have their own rights? How valuable is a strong federal government? Why did killing buffalo herds kill the American Indians’ way of life? How did the boll weevil help the South’s economy?

However you decide to use this book, we hope you will enjoy exploring our wonderful United States of America with your class!
In Enterprise, Alabama, the Boll Weevil Monument celebrates the long-snouted beetle that almost destroyed Alabama’s all-important cotton crop. Why? The boll weevil forced Alabama to try other industries besides cotton farming.

The city of Birmingham, for example, is famous for its ironworks. The old Sloss Iron Furnaces are now a national historic landmark. Nearby a huge iron statue of Vulcan, the god of fire, stands atop Red Mountain. Birmingham is also home to the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, honoring Olympic great Jesse Owens, football hero Joe Namath, and baseball stars Willie Mays and Hank Aaron.

In Mobile, the Battleship Memorial Park features the U.S.S. Alabama and the U.S.S. Drum—a World War II ship and submarine. Mobile is Alabama’s only seaport, which sits on an inlet to the Gulf of Mexico.

Across the state in Huntsville, NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center develops space vehicles that transport astronauts into outer space. Near this futuristic space center stand historic antebellum mansions, built before the Civil War.

During the Civil War, Montgomery became the first Confederate capital, where Jefferson Davis served as Confederate President. The Confederate States consisted of 11 southern states that fought against the North about slavery. Many years later, Booker T. Washington, a former slave, founded Alabama’s Tuskegee Institute. Here, George Washington Carver, another former slave, developed more than 300 uses for peanuts, convincing southern farmers to grow this crop.

Despite these achievements, African-Americans were still segregated in the South. In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery. Her arrest sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Civil Rights Movement, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King won the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent civil-rights demonstrations.

If it’s peace you’re looking for, Alabama’s got it! Flowing rivers, waterfalls, lakes, and bayous offer the perfect getaway for sailors, kayakers, swimmers, and spelunkers (cave explorers).
ACROSS
4. The president of the Confederacy was _____ Davis.
6. Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus _____.
10. Alabama is sometimes known as the Heart of _____.
11. The _____ States fought against the northern states during the Civil War.
13. Alabama is the birthplace of the _____ Rights Movement.
15. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. won the Nobel _____ Prize.
17. The boll _____ destroyed cotton crops.
18. The _____ Iron Furnaces are a historical landmark.
19. The capital of Alabama is _____.

DOWN
1. NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center is in _____.
2. The _____ Hall of Fame is in Birmingham.
3. The city of Mobile is on the Gulf of _____.
5. The statue of Vulcan on Red Mountain represents the god of _____.
7. The ironworks are in the city of _____.
8. _____ mansions are pre-Civil War.
9. George Washington Carver found 300 uses for the _____.
11. A spelunker explores _____.
16. _____ farming was Alabama’s biggest industry.
When you think of Alaska, think BIG! Alaska is our country’s largest state by area. And yet it has one of the smallest populations—most likely due to its remoteness (it’s right across the Bering Strait from Russia) and freezing climate. Who would have thought when the territory was purchased from Russia in 1867 (for only two cents an acre) that Alaska would later become a much sought-after vacation destination?

Pristine (untouched) forests and spectacular waterfalls abound in this state. Glaciers—rivers of compacted ice—creak along Alaska’s waterways. Alaska boasts many natural resources, including minerals, timber, and petroleum. (The 800-mile Trans-Alaska pipeline transports oil to the lower 48 states.) Magnificent parks, like Denali, Wrangell, and Katmai, are home to numerous animals, including polar and grizzly bears, wolves, bald eagles, orcas (killer whales), puffins, and reindeer. At the Denali National Park, climbers scale tall mountains, including North America’s highest peak—20,320-foot Mount McKinley. The best time to enjoy these sights is during the summer, when the sun shines continuously all day and all night. When it gets dark, you can see the aurora borealis (northern lights)—a colorful “curtain” of light that streams through the sky.

Nature has also brought destruction to Alaska. In 1964, one of the largest earthquakes ever recorded destroyed Anchorage and raised a tsunami (giant wave) that crushed the town of Valdez. Trying to reach these devastated cities was quite difficult.

Even today, Alaska’s size and climate make transportation a challenge. Long ago sleds pulled by dog teams were the best way to travel for native Inuit people. (Dogsledding has since become a popular sport. The finish line for the famous Iditarod race is in Nome, Alaska.) During World War II, the 1,523-mile Alaska Highway was built, running from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, Canada, to Fairbanks. Roads are still scarce in Alaska. Much of the state can be reached only by air and sea. Pontoons (float planes) land on water and are a popular way to travel.
ACROSS
2. A _____ is a river of compacted ice.
5. A plane that lands on water is called a pontoon or _____ plane.
6. Alaska was purchased from _____.
11. Oil, minerals, and _____ are some of Alaska’s resources.
14. Some of the highest _____ can be found in Alaska.
18. The midnight _____ shines at night in summer.
19. Mount McKinley is located in _____ National Park.
20. The northern lights are also called _____ borealis.

DOWN
1. The Trans-Alaska _____ carries oil 800 miles.
3. Alaska is now a popular _____ destination.
4. Killer whales are called _____.
7. Dog _____ were once a common form of transportation in Alaska.
8. Alaska is the largest state by _____.
10. Alaska has many natural _____.
12. _____ eagles are abundant in Alaska.
13. The Alaska _____ was built during World War II.
15. The _____ race ends in Nome, Alaska.
16. A giant wave caused by an earthquake is called a _____.
17. Grizzly and polar _____ can be seen in Alaska’s parks.
Powerful natural forces shaped Arizona. The Grand Canyon, carved a mile deep over centuries by the Colorado River, is nearly 300 miles long. The Canyon attracts 5 million visitors each year. Some hike the grueling distance to the bottom. Others ride the Colorado rapids between the steep cliffs. Some just come to stare wide-eyed at one of the world’s greatest wonders.

Arizonans have tried to tame the forces that have shaped their state. They’ve built huge dams, such as the Hoover Dam and the recently completed Glen Canyon Dam, to control the Colorado River. Dams provide water storage, irrigation, hydroelectric power, flood relief, and recreation. The construction of the Hoover Dam created Lake Mead.

Even with all this water, about two-thirds of the state is made up of hot, dry desert. Many animals, such as the Gila monster (a poisonous lizard), have developed special adaptations to survive this sizzling environment. At Organ Pipe National Monument and Saguaro National Park you’ll also find exotic cacti. The blossom of the saguaro cactus is the state flower. Despite its arid climate, Arizona has more than 19 million forested acres, some of which surround the city of Flagstaff.

The citizens of Arizona include the Hopi, Navajo, and Apache Indians. Tribes make and enforce laws on their land. Reminders of centuries of Indian life can be seen throughout the state, especially in the Canyon de Chelly (pronounced d’Shay) and Monument Valley in Navajo Tribal Park where visitors can view cliff dwellings, sandstone towers, and mesas (flat-topped mountains). Apache chief Geronimo battled the U.S. Army in these lands for decades. The Apaches were the last tribe to surrender to the United States.

Legends of outlaws are part of Arizona’s lore. Tombstone, once a flooded mining village, has been lovingly restored as a Wild West Town. The famous shootout at the O.K. Corral between Wyatt Earp, his brothers, and the Clanton Gang is recreated here daily. Arizona keeps the old west alive, even as it has come to represent the new west.
ACROSS
3. The city of _____ is surrounded by forests.
5. Organ Pipe National Monument features exotic _____.
7. A _____ is a flat-topped mountain.
8. _____ make up about two-thirds of the state of Arizona.
10. Indian tribes make and enforce _____ on their land.
12. The blossom of the _____ cactus is Arizona’s state flower.
14. The river that cut the Grand Canyon is the _____.
16. One Indian tribe in Arizona is the _____.
17. A _____ monster is a poisonous lizard.
18. The dam that forms Lake Mead is called _____ Dam.

DOWN
1. The Grand Canyon attracts about 5 million _____ each year.
2. Two major _____ control the flow of the Colorado River.
4. Arizona has a generally _____ climate.
5. Canyon de _____ holds remnants of ancient Indian life.
6. Dams provide _____ storage.
9. _____ is the site of the shootout at the O.K. Corral.
11. The capital of Arizona is _____.
12. Wyatt Earp was in a _____ at the O.K. Corral.
13. _____ was a famous Apache chief.
15. The _____ was the last Indian tribe to surrender to the United States.
In 1975, a lucky prospector found a 16-carat gem in Arkansas’ Crater of Diamonds State Park. More than 70,000 diamonds have been discovered there, including a record-breaking 40-carat stone. (A carat is equal to 200 milligrams.) This park contains the only diamond mine in the United States.

Like the diamonds, Arkansas’s famous hot springs come from below the ground. Falling rain seeps deep into the earth. A natural stone catch basin collects the water, which is heated by hot molten rock near the earth’s surface. About 850,000 gallons of warm water a day bubble up from the sandstone in Hot Springs. The water is so pure that the first moon rocks were stored in it. Over the years people have journeyed to Arkansas to test the healing powers of this delightfully warm, perfectly sterile (bacteria-free) water. Long ago, the water was pumped into elegant bathhouses. The Fordyce Bathhouse in Hot Springs commemorates these bygone days.

Arkansas has other natural areas worth exploring. In the east, the state encompasses a portion of the Mississippi Delta. For many, Arkansas’s mountain areas—the Ouachita and the Ozarks—with their scenic isolation and pristine rivers are the state’s greatest natural assets.

Arkansas is divided into mountains and plains. This geographical divide caused friction during the Civil War, with many of the mountain dwellers siding with the North, even though the state itself was part of the Southern Confederacy. About a century later, another clash between races brought Little Rock to the forefront of the civil-rights struggle. Protesters tried to bar black students from attending an all-white public school.

Four decades later, the spotlight turned back to Little Rock when Governor Bill Clinton, born in Hope, became president of the United States. Another well-known Arkansas citizen is Sam Walton, who started a small store in Rogers in 1962. Today, Wal-Mart is the largest corporation in the United States. Arkansas continues to grow rapidly, attracting new high-tech industries.
ACROSS
3. _____ means bacteria-free.
5. Hot springs come from deep inside the _____.
8. Water from hot springs was pumped into _____.
11. Arkansas has the only _____ mine in the United States.
13. _____ rocks were preserved in water from Arkansas springs.
14. The capital of Arkansas is Little _____.
15. Arkansas is divided into mountain and _____ regions.
16. President Bill Clinton was born in _____, Arkansas.
18. The _____ mountains have many pristine rivers.

DOWN
1. A _____ is equal to 200 milligrams.
2. In the east, Arkansas forms part of the Mississippi _____.
3. Arkansas fought on the side of the _____ in the Civil War.
4. Hot Springs produces 850,000 _____ of water each day.
6. A _____ looks for precious stones and minerals.
7. Arkansas is attracting new high-tech _____.
8. At one time, _____ students were not allowed to attend the same schools as white students.
9. Arkansas was admitted to the _____ in 1836.
10. _____ Walton started the Wal-Mart chain of stores.
12. The _____ and the Ozarks are mountain ranges in Arkansas.
17. The largest diamond found in Arkansas weighed _____ carats.
California’s motto is “Eureka”—I have found it! Whatever you’re looking for, California probably has it. If you want entertainment, glitzy Los Angeles features Hollywood and several film studios. In addition to making films, Universal Studios runs an exciting theme park. World-renowned Disneyland is in Anaheim. In San Francisco, tourists can ride up and down steep hills in old-style cable cars. Nearby Monterey Bay is home to a spectacular aquarium and marine sanctuary.

Giant redwood trees, some thousands of years old, grow in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. On the western side of the Sierra Nevada mountains is Yosemite National Park, home to Bridal Veil Falls. But this scenic state also has its faults—breaks in the earth’s crust that cause massive earthquakes. A huge quake in 1906 destroyed San Francisco, and another hit the city in 1989. Volcanic craters litter Death Valley, one of the hottest places on earth.

How do all these places fit in one state? California is bigger than most countries in the world. All of Italy could fit inside this third-largest state with room to spare for Switzerland! And California has the largest population of all the states.

California was first inhabited by more than 100 Indian tribes. Spanish explorers arrived in the 1600s. Father Junipero Serra established 21 missions in California, including San Diego. Chinese immigrants came in the 1800s; many would help complete the transcontinental railroad. In 1848 gold was discovered at Sutter’s Mill, starting the 49ers Gold Rush. During the Great Depression in the 1930s, poor farmers fled to California to find work. Migrant (traveling) workers, many from Mexico, help in farming.

This wonderful mesh of cultures helps California stay on the cutting edge. San Bernardino was home to the first McDonald’s restaurant. Venice Beach is considered one of the best places for in-line skating. In the 1970s, Silicon Valley became home base to the exploding computer industry.
ACROSS

4. California has the largest _____ of any state.
9. Anaheim is home to _____.
13. California was first inhabited by more than 100 _____ tribes.
14. The word “_____” means “I have found it!”
17. _____ Studios operates a theme park.
19. Sequoia National Park has giant _____ trees.
20. Bridal Veil Falls is in _____ National Park.

DOWN

1. San Francisco features _____ cars.
2. Silicon Valley is the home of the _____ industry.
3. Gold was discovered at Sutter’s ______ in 1848.
5. The 49ers were people looking for _____.
6. _____ Beach is one of the best places for skating.
7. San Diego is one of the _____ started by Father Junipero Serra.
8. San Francisco was destroyed by an _____ in 1906.
10. During the Great Depression _____ fled to California.
11. A _____ is a break in the earth’s crust.
12. One of the hottest places on earth is _____ Valley.
15. Monterey has a famous _____.
16. Chinese immigrants helped complete the transcontinental _____.
18. Los _____ is home to several film studios.
The name Colorado comes from the Spanish word for “red rocks,” describing the canyons through which the Colorado River flows. Songwriter Kathy Lee Bates was inspired by the view from Pike’s Peak to pen the colorful phrase “for purple mountain majesties” in her song “America the Beautiful.” Many others have praised Colorado’s landscape, including singer John Denver, whose song “Rocky Mountain High” brought attention to this singularly beautiful state.

The Rocky Mountains—a chain that stretches from Alaska to New Mexico—is the center of attraction in Colorado’s Rocky Mountain National Park. About 55 peaks in this chain rise up to more than 14,000 feet above sea level. From here you can view the Continental Divide, the geological divider of the United States. Bighorn sheep thrive in this steep, rugged country. Unlike most visitors, they are acclimated (used to) the thin, low-oxygen air. Nestled amidst the mountains, the state’s capital, Denver, is known as the “Mile-High City.” Its altitude is close to 5,280 feet, or one mile.

The mountainous terrain of Colorado holds large stocks of minerals and ores. In 1858 gold lured prospectors to the state. Many traveled in wagons painted with the slogan “Pike’s Peak or Bust.” Titanic survivor, the “unsinkable” Molly Brown, made her fortune from Colorado silver. Leadville has produced more than $2 billion worth of silver, lead, copper, gold, and other valuable minerals. Denver is also home to one of the four U.S. mints; it produces 200,000 coins each day. Look for the letter D on some of your coins—that stands for Denver.

Colorado is also rich in ski resorts—some of the best ones in the nation, including Vail, Aspen, and Telluride (where Butch Cassidy held up his first bank). If skiing is not your style, you can watch cowgirls and cowboys ride broncos (untamed horses) and lasso steer at the Pro Rodeo Series in Durango. At Mesa Verde National Park, you can explore old Anasazi Indian kivas, or ceremonial rooms. You can also tour the stomping ground of some of Colorado’s earliest reptile residents at the Dinosaur National Monument.
ACROSS
5. The Rockies are home to the _____ Divide.
8. Wild horses are called _____.
9. Vale and Aspen are famous _____ resorts.
11. Leadville has produced two _____ dollars worth of valuable ores and minerals.
13. The United States has four _____ where coins are made.
15. At high altitudes the air has less _____.
17. One _____ is equal to 5,280 feet.
19. Butch Cassidy robbed a bank at _____.
20. The “Mile-High City” is _____.

DOWN
1. The _____ people made cliff dwellings in Mesa Verde.
2. The _____ Mountains stretch from Alaska to New Mexico.
3. _____ sheep like steep mountain slopes.
4. The name Colorado means _____ rocks.
6. The word _____ means to get used to something.
7. Molly Brown, _Titanic_ survivor, was nicknamed _____.
10. An Anasazi ceremonial room is called a _____.
12. A dinosaur is a giant _____.
14. Cowgirls and cowboys compete in _____.
16. “Pike’s Peak or Bust” was the slogan on wagons heading west to look for _____.
18. “America the Beautiful” was written on Pike’s _____.
What’s in a name? For Connecticut, a lot. The state name comes from the Algonquin word for “on the long river.” Because this state’s first laws served as a model for the U.S. Constitution, Connecticut was nicknamed the Constitution State. It was also called the Provision State because during the American Revolution Connecticut provided supplies to the army. The state’s early spice trade also earned it the nickname the Nutmeg State.

Connecticut could also be dubbed the Invention State. From pre-Revolutionary times, it was known for inventing and manufacturing useful items. These included Elias Howe’s sewing machine and Eli Whitney’s cotton gin (a machine that separated cotton seed from its fibers). Charles Goodyear developed a vulcanization process for rubber here. The vacuum cleaner, can opener, steamboat, Polaroid camera, helicopter, color TV, Frisbee, and lollipop came from Connecticut ingenuity. Hartford, Connecticut’s capital, is famous for developing the first insurance company. Today, insurance is the state’s biggest industry.

Connecticut also has strong educational and literary traditions. Yale University was established in New Haven in 1701. Revolutionary hero Nathan Hale, who was hanged by the British as a spy, was educated there. Noah Webster compiled his first dictionary in Connecticut. Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, lived next door to Mark Twain, author of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*.

Many stories could be written about Connecticut’s whaling adventures. Located on Long Island Sound, Connecticut’s ports saw sailors set out on long and dangerous whaling trips in the 1800s. Whale oil—used for oil lamps and other purposes—was very valuable. Today, Mystic Seaport recreates these times with ship models and *scrimshaw* (carvings on whale ivory).

Carrying on Connecticut’s seafaring tradition, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy is located in New London. The first nuclear-powered submarine, the *U.S.S. Nautilus*, is moored nearby at Groton. The *Nautilus* was launched in 1954 and was the first sub to journey underneath the polar ice.
ACROSS

2. The capital of Connecticut is _____.
5. The U.S. _____ was based on the laws of Connecticut.
9. Whales were hunted for their _____.
10. New London is the site of the U.S. Coast Guard _____.
12. Nathan _____ was a Revolutionary War hero.
16. Another nickname for Connecticut is the _____ State.
17. _____ Whitney invented the cotton gin.
18. Intricate carvings on whale ivory are called _____.
19. The British hanged Hale as a _____.

DOWN

1. A candy on a stick invented in Connecticut is called a _____.
2. Yale University is located in New _____.
4. The _____ Seaport recreates a seafaring town of the 1800s.
6. _____ is a big industry in Hartford.
7. Connecticut is located on Long _____ Sound.
8. Charles _____ invented a rubber process.
11. The name Connecticut comes from an _____ word.
15. The first nuclear-powered submarine is the U.S.S. _____.
As its nickname implies, Delaware was the first state to ratify (officially approve) the United States Constitution. Before the Constitution was written, Delaware’s John Dickinson helped draft the Articles of the Confederation, which served as the first basic charter (contract) of government. Interestingly, Dickinson had refused to sign the Declaration of Independence earlier, but two signers—George Read and Thomas McKean—hailed from New Castle, Delaware.

Delaware is famous not only for its historical connections but its business connections as well. Many of America’s largest companies incorporate (form legal corporations) here mainly because of the state’s easy business laws. Delaware also has no sales tax.

Delaware’s association with business started early. Fleeing from the French Revolution, Eleuthere Irenee (E.I.) Du Pont came with his two sons to found a utopia (ideal society). Instead, seeing the need for gunpowder, the family started producing the first barrels of Du Pont explosives. Du Pont became a major chemical firm, developing and patenting materials including cellophane, nylon, and Teflon. Today the company is still the main supplier of conventional explosives to the U.S. government. In addition to their impact on Delaware’s economy, the Du Ponts contributed much to the state’s artistic culture. You can visit the family’s Winterthur Museum, with its huge collection of decorative arts, and the Nemour Mansion and Gardens in Wilmington. Other famous houses in this city include the first log cabin. Wilmington is also a major market center because of its access to water transport.

Delaware has a long and beautiful coastline and some of the best beaches on the Atlantic. It is known for its delicious fresh seafood, especially crabs. The state also contains two national wildlife refuges, Primehook and Bombay Hook. The refuges shelter hundreds of thousands of snow geese and other migrating birds that populate the state every winter.
ACROSS

5. Many large U.S. companies _____ in Delaware.
9. _____ was home to George Read, who signed the Declaration of Independence.
10. Delaware is known for its delicious _____.
13. _____, where the Nemour Mansion and Gardens is located, is a city in northern Delaware.
15. Delaware was the first state to _____ the U.S. Constitution.
16. Wilmington is the site of the first log _____.
17. If you want to see decorative arts, go to the _____ museum.
18. The Du Ponts fled from the _____ Revolution.

DOWN

1. A _____ is an ideal society.
2. Delaware’s capital is _____.
3. Wilmington has good access to _____ transport.
4. Snow _____ migrate to Delaware every winter.
6. Du Pont developed several materials including _____.
7. Delaware has no sales _____.
8. E.I. Du Pont started out making gun _____.
11. John _____ helped write the Articles of the Confederation.
12. Delaware has a long and beautiful _____.
13. Primehook and Bombay Hook are _____ refuges in Delaware.
The Sunshine State’s warm climate beckons many vacationers each year, even though it is regularly hit by some of the country’s most ferocious storms—hurricanes. Lightning also strikes Florida more times than any other state.

Despite this, tourism remains Florida’s biggest industry. Lake Buena Vista in Orlando is home to the world’s number-one vacation destination, Walt Disney World. The resort boasts four theme parks: Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Disney-MGM Studios, and Animal Kingdom. Also nearby are Universal Studios and Sea World. East of Orlando lies Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Center, where NASA shuttle flights are launched, and a museum exhibits the history of space flight. For more earthbound history, St. Augustine, the oldest city in the United States founded in 1565, features beautiful churches and ancient buildings that reflect its Spanish heritage.

Other popular tourist attractions include Florida’s beaches and resorts. Daytona Beach hosts the Daytona 500 car races, which used to take place on the beach’s unusually hard sand. Now they are run at the Daytona International Speedway. Farther south, Fort Lauderdale, the “Venice of the United States,” has 165 miles of waterways to explore. At the end of the Atlantic coastline is Miami, a city that resonates with Cuban culture. Miami is gateway to the Florida Keys, home to impressive coral reefs and stunning sunsets.

Florida’s Gulf Coast has its own attractions. Tampa Bay is home to Busch Gardens, a large theme park that features an expansive animal safari. Two national refuges, Cedar Key and Lower Suwannee, offer a view of vibrant Gulf wildlife. The Everglades National Park features a 40-mile slow-moving river that was named “The Sea of Grass” by Native Americans. Alligators, crocodiles, and poisonous snakes, as well as endangered manatees and Florida panthers make their home here. Just north is Lake Okeechobee, the largest lake in Florida. There’s no shortage of places to visit and things to do in the Sunshine State.
ACROSS

2. _____ Gardens is located in Tampa.
6. The capital of Florida is _____.
11. Florida is the _____ State.
14. The Kennedy Space Center is in Cape _____.
16. The _____ is home to alligators, crocodiles, and other swamp creatures.
19. The Kennedy Space Center has a _____ devoted to space flight.
20. The panther and _____ are endangered animals in the Everglades.

7. Florida has more _____ strikes than any other state.
8. Lower _____ is one of the national wildlife refuges in Florida.
9. Walt Disney World is in Lake Buena _____.
10. Lake _____ is the largest lake in Florida.
12. _____ are major storms that occasionally hit Florida.
13. St. _____ is the oldest city in the United States.
15. Because of its inland waterways, Ft. Lauderdale is called the _____ of the United States.
17. _____ has hard beaches that cars used to race on.
18. The Everglades is also called the “_____ of Grass.”

DOWN

1. _____ culture can be found in Miami.
3. _____ is Florida’s biggest industry.
4. There are four _____ parks at Florida’s Walt Disney World.
5. If you like beautiful sunsets, visit the Florida _____.

10 Great States Read & Solve Crossword Puzzles © Silvia Charlesworth, Scholastic Teaching Resources
Georgia was named after King George II of England. Founded by General James Oglethorpe, it was the last of the 13 original colonies. The state’s two main cities, Savannah and Atlanta, represent much of Georgia’s identity and history. In 1863 during the Civil War, General William Tecumseh Sherman led his Union soldiers (fighting on the North’s side) on the “March to the Sea,” burning much of Georgia to the ground, including Atlanta.

Today, rebuilt Atlanta is a major transportation center and has become one of the fastest-growing cities in the nation. Home to more than 400 corporations, the city also serves as headquarters to 24-hour Cable News Network (CNN) and Coca-Cola. To accommodate the Olympic Summer Games in 1996, the city built the Centennial Olympic Park. Baseball fans regularly flock to Turner Field nearby to watch the Atlanta Braves.

Sports figures are not the only famous Georgians celebrated in Atlanta. Jimmy Carter, former U.S. president and peanut farmer, hailed from Plains, Georgia, but his library is located in Atlanta. *Gone With the Wind* author Margaret Mitchell’s house and museum can be seen on Peachtree Street. Civil-rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., was born in the Sweet Auburn section of Atlanta. He is buried there near the Ebenezer Baptist Church where he preached. Atlanta also honors its war heroes. Carvings of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson can be found at Stone Mountain, the largest granite monolith in the world. The Antebellum Plantation nearby features 19 restored pre-Civil War buildings.

After destroying much of Atlanta, General Sherman and his army reached Savannah, where they stopped. Impressed by its beauty, Sherman decided to leave the city intact. By 1955, however, Savannah was in ruins. Fearing the wrecking ball, a group of women began The Historic Savannah Foundation. Through their resourcefulness, the city was once again saved.
ACROSS
3. The _____ Savannah Foundation saved the crumbling city.
5. Margaret _____ wrote Gone With the Wind.
8. Georgia was named after _____ II of England.
9. _____ Olympic Park was built for the 1996 Summer Olympics.
12. Sherman burned the city of _____.
13. During the Civil War, _____ soldiers were from the North.
15. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached at the _____ Baptist Church.
18. Jimmy Carter was a _____ farmer before becoming president.
19. _____ stands for Cable News Network.
20. Near Stone Mountain, you can visit the Antebellum _____.

DOWN
1. The Atlanta _____ are the city’s baseball team.
2. _____ Jackson and Robert E. Lee were Civil War generals.
4. Coca-_____ has its corporate headquarters in Atlanta.
7. Atlanta is one of the fastest _____ cities in the U.S.
10. General William _____ Sherman led the “March to the Sea.”
11. President _____ was from Plains, Georgia.
16. Sherman stopped his “March to the Sea” when he reached _____.
17. _____ Mountain is a giant granite monolith.
The Hawaiian islands formed long ago when a rift opened at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean and a series of volcanoes emerged. Of the 132 islets that make up Hawaii, the eight major ones are: Hawaii, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Kahoolawe, Kauai, Lanai, and Niihau.

Hawaii, the largest island, is home to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Hawaii has two active volcanoes: Mauna Loa and Kilauea—home of Pele, goddess of fire. Tourists often can visit these volcanoes.

Mauna Loa, the largest volcano in the world, erupted in 1950, spewing enough lava to pave a four-lane highway that could circle the world four times. Lava spills build new land constantly. All this seismic activity makes Hawaii spectacular. Exotic reefs, black-sand beaches, snow-capped mountains, thundering waterfalls, and orchid-laced rain forests create a virtual paradise.

Honolulu, the state capital, is located on Oahu, Hawaii’s most populated island. It is the site of the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed the U.S. fleet stationed here. The U.S.S. Arizona took a direct hit and more than 1,000 men were killed instantly. This surprise attack forced the United States into World War II.

Long before Hawaii became part of the U.S., Maui was Hawaii’s center of government. From this island, Hawaiian leader Kamehameha III ruled until 1843. The United States annexed (took possession of) Hawaii in 1898. It became the 50th state in 1959.

Hawaii’s other islands include Molokai, which natives still consider to be “old Hawaii.” Kahoolawe, once used as a firing range, is now uninhabitable. Kauai was mostly destroyed by Hurricane Iniki in 1992, but has since recovered. Lanai is largely owned by the Dole Pineapple Company. Tiny Niihau is populated mostly by natives, who speak Hawaiian, an unwritten musical language derived from their Polynesian ancestors. Hawaii’s famed “hula” dances were a form of language used to tell stories and pass down history from generation to generation.
ACROSS
3. Modern Hawaiians have _____ ancestors.
6. More than a thousand men died instantly on the *U.S.S.* _____
8. _____ dances were used to tell stories in Hawaii.
10. The Hawaiian islands were formed when a rift opened in the _____ Ocean.
13. The most populated island in Hawaii is _____.
16. _____ Loa is the largest volcano in the world.
17. Hawaii _____ National Park is on the largest island.
18. The Dole _____ Company owns most of Lanai.

DOWN
1. The United States _____ Hawaii in 1898.
3. _____ Harbor was bombed by the Japanese on December 7, 1941.
4. _____ from volcanoes builds new land constantly.
5. _____ activity makes Hawaii spectacular.
7. Mauna Loa and Kilauea are _____ volcanoes.
8. _____ is the capital of Hawaii.
9. Kamehameha III governed Hawaii from the island of _____.
11. There are eight main _____ in Hawaii.
12. Niihau is populated mostly by _____ Hawaiians.
14. Hawaii is the _____ (number) U.S. state.
15. _____ is the goddess of fire.
**IDAHO (ID)**
Gem State

**Fast Facts**
- **State Capital:** Boise
- **Population:** 1,293,953 (Census 2000)
- **Land Area:** 82,747 square miles
- **Year Admitted to the Union:** 1890

Dominated by towering mountains and expansive forests, Idaho is the wildest of the 50 states. Place names evoke the untamed landscape: Lava Hot Springs, Sawtooth Mountains, the Seven Devils, Bitterroot Mountains, River of No Return, and Hell’s Canyon (America’s deepest gorge). Idaho’s Craters of the Moon National Monument is where astronaut Alan Shepard trained for his lunar landing.

High altitude and heavy snowfall provide the perfect training ground for skiers, including Idaho native and World Cup downhill skier Picabo Street. Author Ernest Hemingway loved Sun Valley ski resort and owned a ranch in nearby Ketchum. Cascading snowmelt from mountains rushes into streams and rivers, creating white-water rapids in which rafters revel.

People aren’t the only ones who appreciate the wilderness. Idaho is home to the largest concentration of **raptors**—birds of prey, such as hawks, eagles, and falcons. A center in Boise is devoted to these mighty birds. Idaho is also a haven for beavers, minks, otters, cougars, moose, and caribou (relative of the reindeer). Trout, salmon, and bass swim in the Salmon and Snake Rivers.

Where the Snake River joins Washington’s Columbia River, Idaho offers a passage to the Pacific Ocean. In 1805, President Thomas Jefferson appointed Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the northwest and search for such a passage. Sacagawea, a young Indian guide, helped guide them through the wilderness. Later, the French arrived in Idaho to trap and trade furs. They named local Indian tribes Nez Percé (pierced nose) and Coeur d’Alene (heart of an awl). A stunning lake, also named the Coeur d’Alene, is one reason Idaho is called the Gem State—star garnets have been found there.

If visitors to Idaho fail to find gems, they can always bring home a potato. Irrigated by the Snake River, the lower, wider part of the state is famed for its spud production. At the Idaho Potato Expo in Blackfoot, visitors can inspect the world’s largest potato chip—two feet by 14 inches!
ACROSS
2. _____ is the capital of Idaho.
3. _____, an Indian guide, led Lewis and Clark on their expedition.
8. _____ are related to reindeer.
9. President Thomas _____ ordered the Lewis and Clark expedition.
11. One of the bodies of water in Idaho is called the River of No _____.
13. The Idaho Potato Expo is held in _____.
15. _____ of the Moon National Monument is where astronaut Alan Shepard trained.
18. A _____ is a bird of prey.
20. Hell’s _____ is America’s deepest gorge.

5. The Snake and Columbia Rivers form a passage to the _____ Ocean.
6. _____ Street won the World Cup in downhill skiing.
7. Coeur d’Alene means “_____ of an a wl.”
10. Star _____ can be found near the Coeur d’Alene Lake.
12. Torrents of gushing waters create white-water _____.
16. The _____ River has the same name as the fish that swim there.
17. _____ Hot Springs is in Idaho.
19. Ernest Hemingway had a ranch in _____.

DOWN
1. Southern Idaho is noted for growing _____.
4. Coeur d’Alene were named by the _____.
Illinois is also called the Land of Lincoln because President Abraham Lincoln had a long career here as postmaster, lawyer, and legislator. As president, Lincoln fought against slavery. After his assassination in 1865, Lincoln was laid to rest in Springfield, Illinois. Author Carl Sandburg wrote a six-volume biography of Lincoln. Sandburg also wrote about his home state, Illinois.

For almost two centuries, Illinois has played a major role in transportation. Although not located in the middle of the country, Illinois—especially Chicago—was the connection between the East Coast and the western frontier in the early 1800s. With its western border on the Mississippi River and access to Lake Michigan (one of the Great Lakes) and other rivers, the state became a center for water transportation. It was also a major railroad center. Today, Chicago’s O’Hare is one of the busiest airports in the world.

Jutting out into Lake Michigan, Chicago is the third-largest city in the United States. Chicago’s Merchandise Mart is the biggest commercial building anywhere. The Loop, its downtown area, boasts elegant shops, hotels, and restaurants. Great museums abound and the city’s cafes and nightspots nurture its strong jazz and blues traditions, as well as rock and roll. The Chicago Cubs baseball team plays at Wrigley Field.

Before Chicago became such a hot spot, it was on fire. Legend has it that in 1871, Mrs. O’Leary’s cow kicked over a lantern, starting a fire that destroyed much of the city. Chicago was rebuilt as an architectural jewel. Skyscrapers first appeared here and the city’s Sears Tower was the world’s tallest building until 1996, when it was surpassed by Malaysia’s Petronas Towers. Frank Lloyd Wright, America’s premier architect, designed astounding buildings in Chicago. Around the city, sculptures by prominent artists—including Chagall, Calder, and Picasso—are on public display. While the “Windy City” retains its old-fashioned quality, it stays on the cutting edge, renewing itself for the next century.
ACROSS

2. Illinois is the _____ State.
4. The _____ Mart is the largest commercial building in the world.
7. The western border of Illinois is on the _____ River.
9. Illinois is a major _____ center.
12. Illinois is also called the Land of _____.
17. _____ is one of the world’s busiest airports.
18. _____, very tall buildings, first appeared in Chicago.

DOWN

1. In the 1800s, Illinois connected the East Coast to the western _____.
3. Chicago is nicknamed the “_____ City.”
4. Lake _____ is a Great Lake.
5. According to legend, a _____ set Chicago on fire.
6. President Lincoln is buried in the state capital of _____.
8. The Chicago Cubs play at _____ Field.
9. Chicago is the _____ (number) largest city in the United States.
10. Frank Lloyd Wright was a famous _____.
11. Chagall, Calder, and _____ are artists on public display in Chicago.
13. The _____ is the downtown area of Chicago.
15. Author Carl _____ wrote about Illinois.
16. _____ Tower in Chicago is one of the tallest buildings in the world.
Every May, more than 400,000 spectators gather at the state’s capital to watch the Indianapolis 500. This famous auto race is the largest sporting event in the world. Its race-track was built in 1909 as an auto testing ground for the blossoming Indiana auto industry.

Car racing is not Indiana’s only favorite sport. The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame pays tribute to hoopsters Larry Bird, Oscar Robertson, and Coach John Wooden. The Indiana Pacers bring unending excitement to basketball fans. South Bend is the site of the National College Football Hall of Fame. University of Notre Dame’s Fighting Irish, as well as the National Football League’s Indianapolis Colts are sources of intense pride.

Famous Hoosiers include TV journalist Jane Pauley and late-night TV host David Letterman. Pop star Michael Jackson and his brothers started out here as the Jackson Five. Also born here was Virgil “Gus” Grissom, the second astronaut in space, who died tragically when his space capsule caught fire. Infamous gangster John Dillinger, who terrorized the Midwest in 1933 and was dubbed “public enemy number one” by the FBI, is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Indiana is no stranger to notoriety. The state played a role in the Indian Wars. (Indiana means “land of the Indians.”) The Miami Indians twice defeated U.S. troops here. At Tippecanoe (near West Lafayette), General William Harrison defeated Tecumseh’s Indian Confederation in 1811. Tippecanoe Battlefield Park marks the scene of this decisive victory. Harrison later went on to become the 9th U.S. President, but died one month after catching a cold at his inauguration. President Abraham Lincoln also grew up in the state, and Benjamin Harrison, William Harrison’s grandson and the 23rd president, practiced law here.

With such political connections, it may not be surprising that Indiana should develop a unique form of government for its state capital. Called Unigov, this system requires both the city and county to cooperate in running the city of Indianapolis. This joint effort has created a clean and safe city, featuring excellent museums, including the world’s largest children’s museum.
ACROSS
2. Indianapolis has a city-county cooperative government called _____.
3. Gangster John Dillinger was known as “_____ enemy number one.”
6. The world’s largest children’s museum is in _____.
11. _____ led an Indian Confederation that was defeated in 1811.
12. The Indy 500 occurs every _____ (month).
15. President Abraham _____ grew up in a log cabin in Indiana.
16. No one is exactly sure why Indiana is nicknamed the _____ State.
18. President William Henry _____ died one month after his inauguration.
19. The Indianapolis 500 draws more than 400,000 _____.
20. The _____ Indians defeated the U.S. army twice in Indiana.

DOWN
1. Indiana means “land of the _____.”
4. Indiana boasts two Halls of Fame—one for _____ and another for college football.
5. A decisive defeat of the Indians is marked by _____ Battlefield Park.
7. The Fighting _____ is a college football team.
8. The University of _____ Dame is located near South Bend, Indiana.
9. Indiana has a professional basketball team named the Indiana _____.
10. TV host David _____ hails from Indiana.
13. _____ is another name for a basketball player.
14. Gus _____ was the second astronaut in space.
17. The Indianapolis 500 is an _____ race.
The state’s nickname honors a Sauk Indian chief named Black Hawk. In 1830, Black Hawk objected to a treaty that forced his people to give up all land east of the Mississippi River and move west. During the Black Hawk War in 1832, he led his tribe back and fought ferociously to regain his territory, but was defeated. The Hawkeye State still celebrates his bravery.

American Indians were Iowa’s original inhabitants. The Indian Mound Builders created prehistoric mounds in the shapes of animals and birds, that can still be seen at Effigy Mounds National Monument near Marquette. American Indians also cultivated corn (maize) long before Europeans appeared on the continent.

Corn comes from the family of grasses. The grain has been cultivated for so long it can’t return to its wild state. Iowa has one-quarter of all top-grade farmland in the United States and corn is one of its major crops. Along with Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana, and Nebraska, Iowa makes up the U.S. Corn Belt. Most of Iowa’s corn is grown for animal feed. Iowa is also the pig-farming capital of the world and a major producer of pork and beef. The World Pork Expo is held every year in Des Moines.

As if to reinforce its relationship with food, Iowa is the headquarters for Amana, a major manufacturer of kitchen appliances. (The Amana Colonies, seven communal villages, were founded by a religious sect from Germany in the 1850s. People in the colonies worked, worshipped, and ate together. Ironically, there were no kitchens in the individual homes.) Iowa is known for other home appliances. F. L. Maytag invented a hand-cranked washing machine in Newton. Today the Maytag Company manufactures state-of-the-art washers and dryers.

Iowans don’t just manufacture, they create. Some of the nation’s finest writers have studied at The Writer’s Workshop at the University of Iowa. Grant Wood, painter of the famous American Gothic, taught there. The five Ringling Brothers began their backyard circuses in McGregor, and John Wayne (Marion Robert Morrison) was born in Winterset.
Iowa Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

2. F. L. Maytag invented the _____ machine.
3. Iowa grows more _____ than any other state.
5. Chief Black Hawk objected to moving his people west of the _____ River.
8. Most corn in Iowa is grown for animal _____.
10. The _____ Brothers began their circuses in McGregor, Iowa.
11. _____ is another name for corn.
14. American Gothic is a famous _____ by Grant Wood.
15. Iowa is nicknamed the _____ State.
17. Iowa is a state in the Corn _____.
18. Corn has been _____ for so long it can’t return to its wild state.

DOWN

1. Corn belongs to the family of _____.
3. Black Hawk was a famous Indian _____.
4. The seven communal villages founded in the 1850s are called the _____ Colonies.
6. The World _____ Expo is held every year in Des Moines.
7. In the Amana colony, there were no _____ in the individual homes.
11. John Wayne’s birth name was ______ Robert Morrison.
12. Des Moines is the _____ of Iowa.
13. Iowa is a big producer of pork and _____.
16. Iowa State University has a famous _____ Workshop.
Kansas (KS)
Sunflower State

Fast Facts

State Capital: Topeka
Population: 2,688,418 (Census 2000)
Land Area: 81,815 square miles
Year Admitted to the Union: 1861

Signs all over Kansas proclaim: “Every Kansas farmer feeds 75 people—and you.” This state is the largest producer of wheat in the United States, and is often called “The Breadbasket of America.” Tall, yellow flowers have also lent the state its more popular nickname: the Sunflower State.

Kansas is the geographical center of the 48 contiguous (touching) states. Because of its location, the state was a bustling crossroads. The Pony Express sped through Kansas on its rounds. Texas Longhorns (cattle) were driven up to Kansas along the Chisholm Trail. General George Custer’s 7th Cavalry picked up buffalo meat at Fort Hays. Soldiers stationed at Forts Dodge, Riley, and Leavenworth (now a prison) protected pioneer wagons going west. It wasn’t easy. Kansas was then the Wild West. At one time Dodge City was called “the Wickedest Little City in America.” It took peace officers Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson to settle down things. Outlaws were buried in Boot Hill (still wearing their boots). In 1892, Coffeyville witnessed the shoot-out with the notorious Dalton Gang.

Kansas has produced its share of strong characters, including famous flyer Amelia Earhart and editor William Allen White of the Emporia Gazette. Dwight David Eisenhower, 34th U.S. President and Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces during World War II, grew up in Abilene. The Eisenhower Center is located there. Eisenhower led the D-Day invasion of France in June 1944 that led to the defeat of dictator Adolf Hitler and Germany. Back home, the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed segregation in public schools in 1954, in the landmark decision Brown vs. the Topeka Board of Education.

Kansas weather is just as intense as its history. Powerful tornadoes often cause havoc in this Midwest state. Remember the Wizard of Oz? This is the state where a twister whisked Dorothy and Toto off to a magical place. But just as Dorothy said when she wanted to return to Kansas, “There’s no place like home.”
ACROSS
3. Outlaws were buried at _____ Hill in Kansas.
6. The U.S. Supreme Court outlawed _____ in public schools.
10. _____ is the capital of Kansas.
12. Alaska and Hawaii are not part of the 48 _____ states.
14. _____ Earp was a frontier law officer.
15. “Every Kansas _____ feeds 75 people—and you.”
16. The _____ Gang had a big shoot-out in Coffeyville.
17. Texas _____ were driven along the Chisholm Trail.
18. Dorothy’s dog in the Wizard of Oz was named _____.
19. The Pony _____ was a mail system that went through Kansas.

DOWN
1. The D-Day invasion led to the defeat of _____ and Germany.
2. Kansas is the largest producer of _____ in the U.S.
3. General Custer’s men picked up _____ meat at Fort Hays.
4. General Custer led the 7th _____, troops who fought on horseback, through Kansas.
5. In 1861, Kansas became the 34th state admitted to the _____.
7. William Allen White was the editor of the _____ Gazette.
8. At one time, _____ City had a lot of outlaws.
9. President Dwight _____ grew up in Abilene, Kansas.
11. The famous flyer Amelia _____ was born in Kansas.
13. Kansas is called the _____ State.
KENTUCKY (KY)
Bluegrass State

Fast Facts
State Capital: Frankfort
Population: 4,041,769 (Census 2000)
Land Area: 39,728 square miles
Year Admitted to the Union: 1792

The unusual color of Kentucky bluegrass appears mostly during the blooming season in late May. This calcium-rich grass provides perfect grazing for the state’s famous thoroughbred horses. Kentucky’s Calumet Farms alone has produced nine Kentucky Derby winners including Citation and Whirlaway. The Derby, with a purse (prize) of $600,000, takes place in Louisville on the first Saturday in May. Run continuously at Churchill Downs since 1875, the race covers 1.25 miles and is finished in a very exciting two minutes. It is the first leg of horse racing’s Triple Crown.

Horses probably ran wild in Kentucky back when it was a hunting and trapping area for eastern Indian tribes, before Europeans arrived. In 1750, explorer Thomas Walker discovered the Cumberland Gap through the Cumberland Mountains. The gap had actually been known to Native Americans who followed deer and buffalo trails. In 1775, Daniel Boone blazed (marked) the Wilderness Trail through the Cumberland Gap, allowing more than 200,000 pioneers to go west through the Appalachians. The Cumberland Gap National Historical Park was formed around this famous trail.

Another national park surrounds Mammoth Cave, the largest known cave system in the world. There are 350 miles of explored passages here, and perhaps as many still unexplored. Mighty calcite deposits hang from the ceiling (known as stalactites) and rise from the floor (stalagmites). Shaped like massive icicles, these deposits are formed when mineral-rich water seeps through the earth from the hardwood forest above.

Kentucky’s wonders are well represented in song. In 1852, Stephen Foster, wrote “My Old Kentucky Home”—now Kentucky’s state song. Several famous country singers were born here including Dwight Yoakam, Patty Loveless, and Loretta Lynn. Lynn’s life story, Coal Miner’s Daughter, was made into a movie in 1980. But perhaps the most well-known song written in this state is the often-sung “Happy Birthday to You!”
ACROSS

1. Kentucky bluegrass is rich in _____.
3. A prize in horse racing is known as a _____.
5. Loretta Lynn is known as the _____ Miner’s Daughter.
6. _____ on the cave floor are formed by slowly dripping, mineral-rich water.
11. The Indians used Kentucky for hunting and _____.
12. The capital of Kentucky is _____.
16. More than 200,000 _____ passed through the Appalachians to go west.
18. The Wilderness Trail passed through the _____ Gap.

DOWN

1. The Kentucky Derby is run at _____ Downs.
2. The largest cave system in the world is at _____ Cave National Park.
4. Daniel Boone blazed the _____ Trail.
7. The Kentucky Derby race lasts about _____ minutes.
8. The Cumberland _____ was discovered by Thomas Walker in 1750.
9. A _____ is a calcite deposit that hangs from the ceiling of a cave.
10. _____ is one of the many famous Derby winners.
13. The abbreviation for Kentucky is _____.
14. Calumet _____ has raised nine Kentucky Derby winners.
15. Louisville is the home of the Kentucky _____.
17. Kentucky _____ grass shows up in blooming season late in May.
LOUISIANA (LA)
Pelican State

State Capital: Baton Rouge
Population: 4,468,976 (Census 2000)
Land Area: 43,562 square miles
Year Admitted to the Union: 1812

Louisiana and its surrounding areas were purchased from France in 1803. President Thomas Jefferson arranged the Louisiana Purchase for $15 million, doubling the size of the United States at that time. Spared the earlier American Revolution, Louisiana played a role in the War of 1812 when the United States again opposed the British. General Andrew Jackson defeated the enemy at the Battle of New Orleans. The British were sent running back to their ships through the alligator-infested bayous and swamps.

One of the nation’s largest ports, New Orleans offers access to the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Five feet below sea level, the city is protected from flooding by levees (mounds of dirt built to hold back water). With its seaside location, Louisiana often catches the highest volume of fish, crab, and shrimp of any other state. To supplement its economy, Louisiana also grows cotton and sugar cane, and is a major oil producer. Louisiana’s greatest source of wealth, however, may be its vibrant people.

The Acadians or Cajuns live in the southern part of the state. These descendants of French-speaking Canadians were set adrift by the British and found refuge in Louisiana’s swamps. (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the poem “Evangeline” about this tragic event.) African-Americans make up a third of the state’s population; some immigrated from Caribbean islands, while others descended from slaves. In the southeast, the celebrated and sassy Creoles (French and Spanish colonial descendants) thrive in and around New Orleans. Their cooking is part of the city’s legendary hot and spicy cuisine.

New Orleans is also known for its music, especially jazz. Trumpet player Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong has a park named in his honor. The Marsalis family is known as “the first family of jazz.” Father Ellis plays jazz piano, and sons Branford and Wynton play saxophone and trumpet. Nicknamed “The Big Easy,” New Orleans celebrates almost all year long. At Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), the party reaches its peak and thousands of tourists pack the town. As the French say, “Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler!” Let the good times roll!
ACROSS
4. French and Spanish colonial descendants are called _____.
5. The capital of Louisiana is _____ Rouge.
7. President Thomas Jefferson negotiated the Louisiana _____.
10. Louisiana produces shellfish such as crab and _____.
12. In the War of 1812, the United States fought the _____.
13. The poem _____ by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was about the French expulsion from Nova Scotia.
14. Lots of sugar _____ is raised in Louisiana.
16. _____ Americans make up a third of Louisiana’s population.
17. New Orleans cuisine is hot and _____.
19. General Andrew _____ defeated the British at the Battle of New Orleans.
20. Louis Armstrong is nicknamed _____.

DOWN
1. _____ are mounds of dirt built to stop flooding.
2. President Thomas Jefferson bought Louisiana from the _____.
3. The Louisiana Purchase _____ the size of the U.S. at the time.
6. Mardi Gras means Fat _____.
8. Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler means “Let the good times _____!”
9. Jazz musician Wynton _____ plays the trumpet.
11. The port of New Orleans lies on the Gulf of _____.
15. New Orleans is nicknamed the “Big _____.”
18. Acadians expelled from Canada are called _____ in Louisiana.
Like Massachusetts, its neighbor state, Maine has a rich Revolutionary history. The first naval battle of the American Revolution took place in Machiasport in 1775 when Maine colonists managed to capture the English warship, the *Margaretta*.

The craggy, rocky, and wild coast of Maine is one of the state’s most stunning features. With its numerous coves and harbors, Maine’s 3,000-mile coastline is longer—if stretched out—than California’s coastline. More than 60 lighthouses, including one at Pemaquid Point, have historically guided ocean-faring ships to safe harbor. Maine’s closeness to the ocean has made the state a haven for fishermen and seafood lovers. The state is famous for the lobsters that thrive in its frigid seas.

Inland, more than 90 percent of the Pine Tree State is forested. Not surprisingly, timber production is a big industry here. Maine boasts several national forests and parks, which are rich in wildlife such as moose and bear. At Baxter State Park, Maine’s tallest mountain, Mount Katahdin, stands 5,267 feet and is the official end of the Appalachian Trail. The path follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains more than 2,000 miles to Spring Mountain in Georgia. Thousands hike the trail each year. The second most visited park in the U.S. is the Acadia National Park, located on Mount Desert Island (so-named by French explorer Samuel de Champlain because of its rocky and bare hilltops). The park’s treasures include stunning beaches and stands of wild blueberries. Sharing the island is Bar Harbor, a once-famous resort with mansions owned by wealthy Americans, such as John D. Rockefeller and J.P. Morgan. A fire in 1947 destroyed many of these magnificent houses.

Maine was also part-time home to painters Winslow Homer and Andrew Wyeth. Artists flock to the state, inspired by its beauty. A large artists’ colony exists at Ogunquit. People from all over come to Maine for a look at its unspoiled beauty and a glimpse of an America from long ago.
ACROSS
2. Every year thousands of hikers follow the _____ Trail.
8. Maine fought in the American Revolution along with its neighboring state _____.
10. In 1775, the colonists captured the British warship, the _____.
12. _____ is the capital of Maine.
14. Maine was admitted to the _____ in 1820.
15. _____ percent of Maine land is forested.
17. Acadia National Park is located on Mount _____ Island.
18. Wild animals, such as _____ and bear, live in Maine’s forests.
19. There are more than 60 _____ in Maine.
20. Maine is known as the _____ Tree State.

DOWN
1. Maine’s tallest mountain, Mount _____, is 5,267 feet tall.
3. _____ thrive in Maine’s frigid waters.
4. _____ is the home of an artists’ colony.
5. _____ State Park is the location of Mount Katahdin.
6. A famous lighthouse sits on _____ Point.
7. Andrew _____ was an artist who painted in Maine.
9. When stretched out, Maine has a longer coastline than _____.
11. _____ National Park is the second most visited national park in the United States.
16. _____ production is a big industry in Maine.
MARYLAND (MD)
Old Line State

Fast Facts
State Capital: Annapolis
Population: 5,296,486 (Census 2000)
Land Area: 9,774 square miles
Year Admitted to the Union: 1788

The Old Line State carries a powerful legacy from the American Revolution. While no battles were fought in Maryland, the bravery of its line troops outside the state won Maryland its nickname. During the War of 1812, Maryland troops held off a British attack on Baltimore. (The British had already burned the White House and looted Washington, D.C.) Watching the bombing of Fort McHenry, Francis Scott Key, a young lawyer held captive on a British ship, penned the words to “The Star-Spangled Banner,” our national anthem. During the Civil War, the battle at Antietam on September 17, 1862, was the single bloodiest day of the long conflict.

Fort McHenry, which sits on an inlet of the Chesapeake, has guarded Baltimore’s harbor ever since the American Revolution. Lord Baltimore gave his name to Maryland’s largest city, as well as the state bird, the Baltimore oriole. The city’s baseball team, which shares this brightly colored bird’s name, plays at Camden Yards, the first retro baseball field designed with old-fashioned ballpark features, but with thoroughly modern facilities. Baltimore’s Inner Harbor Development was one of the most successful waterfront restorations in the country. The National Aquarium here houses 10,000 specimens of marine life. Nearby waterfront restaurants feature Maryland seafood, including spicy blue crabs caught from Chesapeake Bay. Maryland has more than 400 miles of rivers and tributaries that feed into the Chesapeake, which in turn opens onto the Atlantic Ocean.

Annapolis, the state’s capital, sits on the Chesapeake. It is one of the oldest cities in the country. (Annapolis was the nation’s capital in 1783–84.) The city has a large concentration of Georgian-style buildings, including the homes of the four Maryland signers of the Declaration of Independence. Annapolis is also home to the U.S. Naval Academy. Across the bay, the Chesapeake Maritime Museum is located near Easton. The popular resort town of Ocean City lies on a 10-mile-long barrier island. South of the resort is Assateague Island National Seashore, home to wild Chincoteague ponies.
ACROSS

4. Four signers of the Declaration of _____ had homes in Annapolis.
7. The Baltimore Orioles play at _____ Yards.
8. The bloodiest day of the Civil War was at the battle of _____.
11. In 1788, Maryland was the seventh _____ admitted to the Union.
13. Ocean City is on a _____ island.
14. Annapolis was once the nation’s _____.
15. Maryland is called the Old _____ State.
16. The word _____ means something in the past or old-fashioned.
17. Lord _____ gave his name to Maryland’s largest city.
18. Annapolis sits on _____ Bay.

DOWN

1. The _____ of Maryland in 2000 is 5,296,486.
2. Annapolis has many _____-style buildings.
3. Francis Scott _____ wrote the lyrics to “The Star-Spangled Banner.”
4. Assateague _____ is home to wild horses.
5. Maryland is famous for its blue _____.
6. Fort _____ was bombarded during the War of 1812.
8. The National _____ is in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.
9. Chesapeake Maritime Museum is located near _____.
10. Maryland troops were known for _____ during the American Revolution.
12. The U.S. Naval Academy is in _____.
Massachusetts is the home of the American Revolution. Colonists, frustrated with the heavy hand of the British Crown, rose against its soldiers. In 1770 British troops fired into a Boston mob, killing five people including Crispus Attucks, the first African-American killed in the Revolution. This event became known as the Boston Massacre. Three years later, resentful citizens dumped a load of British tea into Boston harbor. This Boston Tea Party enraged the British. In 1775 the Redcoats (British soldiers) killed eight American minutemen (armed men that supposedly can be ready to fight in a minute) on Lexington Green. Silversmith Paul Revere gave warning to his fellow citizens that the British were now on their way to nearby Concord. When they arrived, the Massachusetts militia (citizens’ army) was ready.

Evidence of the Revolution can be found everywhere in Boston. At the Old Granary Burial Ground, John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence, is buried with his fellow patriots, Samuel Adams and Paul Revere. Faneuil Hall, where Adams argued for liberty, is still bustling with activity. Docked at Charlestown Harbor is the U.S.S. Constitution (“Old Ironsides”), a frigate from the War of 1812.

Massachusetts is more than just a historical place. It is home to more than 50 colleges and universities, including the nation’s first, Harvard University. The University of Massachusetts houses the library of President John F. Kennedy, who was born in Brookline. North of Boston is Gloucester with its Fishermen’s Memorial, honoring more than 10,000 fishermen from the area who have lost their lives at sea. South of Boston, extending like a fishhook out into the Atlantic, is Cape Cod. A ferry from Falmouth goes to Martha’s Vineyard or Nantucket, two picturesque vacation spots. From Provincetown, whale-watching vessels journey out to watch humpback whales. South of the Cape is Plymouth, where the Mayflower Pilgrims first established a colony in 1620.
ACROSS
2. From Provincetown small vessels go out to watch _____.
3. John _____ was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence.
4. The Fishermen’s Memorial is in _____.
10. “Old _____” is the nickname for the U.S.S. Constitution.
12. A _____ is a private citizen’s army.
15. Massachusetts is the _____ State.
16. President John F. _____ was born in Brookline.
17. Crispus _____ lost his life during the Boston Massacre.
18. In 1620, the Pilgrims arrived at _____ aboard the Mayflower.
19. Paul Revere is buried at the Old _____.

DOWN
1. Paul _____ warned colonists that the British were coming.
3. _____ was the first university in the U.S.
5. The University of Massachusetts houses President John F. Kennedy’s _____.
6. The British were met by the citizen’s army when they reached _____.
7. The Boston _____ Party was one of the events that led to the American Revolution.
8. _____ were so-called because they could be ready to fight in one minute.
9. British soldiers during the American Revolution were called _____.
11. From Falmouth on Cape Cod, ferries go to _____.
13. At _____ Green, British troops killed eight minutemen.
14. Samuel Adams spoke at _____ Hall.
MICHIGAN (MI)
Wolverine State

**Fast Facts**
- **State Capital:** Lansing
- **Population:** 9,938,444 (Census 2000)
- **Land Area:** 56,804 square miles
- **Year Admitted to the Union:** 1837

Michigan’s two peninsulas are bordered by four of the five Great Lakes—Superior, Huron, Michigan, and Erie—all except Ontario. The larger and more populated Lower Peninsula contains the cities of Detroit, Lansing, Flint, and Grand Rapids. To the north is the wild and rugged Upper Peninsula, home to Isle Royale National Park, where wolves, moose, and deer live. Michigan’s two peninsulas come together at the Mackinac (MACK-i-naw) Bridge, one of the largest suspension bridges in the world. Close by is Sault Ste. Marie (Soo-Saint-Marie). Here, visitors can take a boat ride through the Soo Locks, which lift ships 21 feet up from Lake Huron to Lake Superior.

Michigan’s largest city, Detroit, is called “Motor City.” Henry Ford invented the assembly line here. This method allowed the car frame to move on a conveyor belt past workers. By doing the same task over and over at a fast pace, workers were able to put together a car inexpensively. Ford paid his employees enough so they could afford the Model T car.

Another businessman who found opportunities in Detroit was Berry Gordy, who started Motown Records. With singers such as Diana Ross and the Supremes, Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder, and the Jackson Five, the “Motown Sound” dominated pop music in the sixties.

Battle Creek is the site of another innovation. The Kellogg brothers, working in the kitchen of a sanitarium, accidentally developed corn flakes. A different kind of innovator who lived in Battle Creek was Sojourner Truth. Born Isabella Baumfree, she was an abolitionist (a person who fought against slavery) who worked for educational opportunities for blacks.

In Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan, you can visit the homes of inventors, such as Thomas Edison and the Wright Brothers. Their homes, along with more than 100 authentic houses, have been brought here as part of an exhibit showcasing technological advances in the past 300 years.
ACROSS

1. _____ Village features more than 100 authentic homes from all over America.
4. Michigan is divided into an Upper and Lower _____.
6. The _____ Bridge is one of the largest suspension bridges in the world.
9. Michigan is the _____ State.
10. _____ is the capital of Michigan.
11. Michigan’s Upper Peninsula is wild and _____.
12. Diana Ross performed with the _____.
16. The Motown Sound dominated pop music in the _____.
17. The city of Grand _____ is in Michigan’s lower Peninsula.

DOWN

2. Wolves, moose, and deer live on Isle _____ National Park.
3. _____ is the “Motor City.”
5. _____ Truth worked for educational opportunities for black people.
7. Battle Creek is the birthplace of _____ Corn Flakes.
8. Henry Ford invented the _____ line.
12. Michigan’s land area is 56,804 _____ miles.
13. Henry Ford’s workers were able to buy _____ T cars.
15. Only one of the Great Lakes does not touch Michigan—Lake _____.
16. The _____ Locks enable ships to move between Lakes Huron and Superior.
The name Minnesota comes from the Sioux language and means “clouded water.” Squeezed out by the eastern Ojibwe Indians and white settlers, the Dakota Sioux staged a violent uprising at Lake of the Woods in 1862 for lack of food and money, but they were driven out for good. The American Indian presence, however, is still strong in Minnesota’s Pipestone National Monument, where only Indians are allowed to quarry the soft red clay called pipestone to make their ceremonial Indian pipes.

The Voyageurs National Park protects a large portion of forested wilderness along the Canadian border, including about 100 lakes. Minnesota, also called Land of 10,000 Lakes, actually has more than 15,000 of them. Lake Itasca was once thought to be the source of the Mississippi River, but geographers now say the real source are the streams that flow into the lake. Duluth, one of the largest freshwater ports in the world, sits on Lake Superior and has access to the Atlantic Ocean via the St. Lawrence Seaway. Minnesota uses its water access to transport iron ore, which is used to make more than 50 percent of the nation’s steel.

On the west bank of the Mississippi River, the sleek, modern city of Minneapolis sits across the river from its twin city of St. Paul. Minneapolis is the largest city in the state, and is proud of its art and museums. The Mall of America, the largest mall in the United States is in Bloomington, about 10 miles from the Twin Cities. Built on 78 acres, the mall houses an amusement park, a walk-through aquarium, and tons of shops and restaurants.

If it’s food you’re looking for, try Spam. Before this word meant unwanted e-mail, it meant food to millions of soldiers during World War II. Spam is an abbreviation for “spiced ham,” a product of the Hormel Company located in Austin. In nearby Rochester, you can visit the Mayo Clinic, which has treated more than 4 million patients from all over the world. Minnesota knows how to make people feel good.
ACROSS
5. St. Paul’s twin city is _____.
6. Spam is a condensed form of the words “_____ ham.”
7. Minnesota iron ore is used to make more than half of the nation’s _____.
10. Minneapolis emphasizes art and has many _____.
12. Lake _____ was once thought to be the source of the Mississippi.
13. The _____ of America covers 78 acres.
14. Lake Superior has access to the Atlantic through the St. Lawrence _____.
16. The largest mall in America is in _____.
18. St. _____ is the capital of Minnesota.
19. The _____ National Park protects about 100 lakes.

DOWN
1. _____ means “clouded water” in the Sioux language.
2. Dinner during World War II might have been a can of _____.
3. To quarry means to _____.
4. The Twin Cities are on opposite sides of the _____ River.
8. _____ is one of the largest freshwater ports in the world.
9. Indians made ceremonial pipes from red clay found in _____ National Monument.
11. Duluth is located on Lake _____.
13. Many people come to be treated at the famous _____ Clinic.
15. The _____ Indians staged a violent uprising at Lake of the Woods in 1862.
17. “Land of 10,000 Lakes” refers to Minnesota’s more-than-15 _____ lakes.
MISSISSIPPI (MS)
Magnolia State

Fast Facts
State Capital: Jackson
Population: 2,844,658 (Census 2000)
Land Area: 46,907 square miles
Year Admitted to the Union: 1817

In the Algonquian language, Mississippi means “father of waters.” The Mississippi River is a fickle river that changes its course at will, drowning cities and leaving port towns high and dry. Greenville was once underwater for 70 days. The Army Corps of Engineers has attempted to control the river with dams and levees, but the “Mighty Mississippi” refuses to be mastered.

The state’s fate has always been linked to this powerful river that borders it. During the Civil War, President Lincoln told General Grant that controlling the Mississippi port of Vicksburg was the key to winning the war. When the Union (northern) soldiers captured Vicksburg, the Confederacy (southern states) was cut in half, and the state of Mississippi suffered severe destruction.

Perhaps these challenges contributed to the rich literary and musical life of Mississippi. Author William Faulkner, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, lived in Oxford, home of “Ole Miss”—the University of Mississippi. Playwright Tennessee Williams, native of Columbus, crafted masterful portrayals of southern women. Other Mississippi writers include Shelby Foote, Eudora Welty, John Grisham, and Richard Wright. Avid-reader Oprah Winfrey also hails from Mississippi.

Writing isn’t the only way Mississippians express themselves. Originators of the “Delta Blues,” musicians such as Bessie Smith, B.B. King, and Muddy Waters put the state on the map with their original sound. Rock-and-roll king Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, in a “shot-gun house” (a shot through the front door would exit the back door having passed through every room). Mississippi has also produced country singers LeAnn Rimes, Tammy Wynette, and Charley Pride. Opera singer Leontyne Price also calls the state home.

If you prefer the sound of waves crashing on the beach, visit Biloxi near the Gulf of Mexico. This resort town has superb beaches and excellent fishing. Mississippi is the “catfish capital of the world.” Boats go out to Gulf Islands National Seashore, which includes three Mississippi barrier islands. Horn and Petit Bois are wildlife refuges, but the Davis Bayou Area is open to the public.
ACROSS
1. Musician B.B. King is one of the originators of _____ Blues.
2. Tennessee Williams was a famous _____ from Mississippi.
3. William Faulkner won the Nobel Prize for _____.
4. Mississippi means “_____ of waters.”
5. _____, a beach resort, lies on the Gulf of Mexico.
6. Mississippi is the _____ capital of the world.
7. Petit Bois Island is a wildlife _____.
8. “_____ Miss” is the nickname for the University of Mississippi.
9. William Faulkner lived in _____.
10. The Mississippi River once flooded the city of _____.
11. The Army Corps of _____ has tried to contain the Mississippi.
12. President Lincoln wanted Grant to gain control of _____.
13. The _____ War was very destructive to Mississippi.
14. _____ Welty was a famous Mississippi writer.
15. _____ is the capital of Mississippi.
16. Presley was born in _____, Mississippi.
17. _____ Presley was the “King of Rock-and-Roll.”
18. In a _____ house, a bullet through the front door would exit straight through the back door after going through every room.

DOWN
1. Musician B.B. King is one of the originators of _____ Blues.
2. Tennessee Williams was a famous _____ from Mississippi.
3. William Faulkner won the Nobel Prize for _____.
4. Mississippi means “_____ of waters.”
5. _____, a beach resort, lies on the Gulf of Mexico.
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12. President Lincoln wanted Grant to gain control of _____.
13. LeAnn Rimes is a _____ singer.
14. _____ Welty was a famous Mississippi writer.
15. _____ is the capital of Mississippi.
16. Presley was born in _____, Mississippi.
17. _____ Presley was the “King of Rock-and-Roll.”
18. In a _____ house, a bullet through the front door would exit straight through the back door after going through every room.
MISSOURI (MO)
Show Me State

Fast Facts
State Capital: Jefferson City
Population: 5,595,211 (Census 2000)
Land Area: 68,886 square miles
Year Admitted to the Union: 1821

The Gateway Arch in St. Louis, with its tram to the top, is the largest monument in the United States. The arch pays tribute to the many settlers who passed through the state on their way west. The Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails all began in Missouri.

Missouri has connections in modern history as well. Missouri native Harry S Truman became president following the sudden death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1945. Truman oversaw the end of World War II, approving the use of atomic weapons against Japan. Truman’s library and home is located in Independence where he was born. Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who led Britain’s war effort, made his famous “Iron Curtain” speech in Fulton. Churchill warned of the impending “Cold War” with the Soviet Union. Tons of crushed stone from the 1940 London Blitz (night bombing by the Germans) have been assembled in Fulton as a memorial to Churchill. Also displayed are sections of the Berlin Wall, which divided the cities of East and West Berlin, Germany—a powerful reminder of the Cold War.

On a lighter note, Missouri is well-known for jazz and blues music. Scott Joplin invented ragtime here, and musicians Chuck Berry, Duke Ellington, and Miles Davis played clubs in the big cities. Branson, the “Country Music Capital of the World,” is nestled in the beautiful Ozark Mountains.

The Ozarks area also boasts thousands of caves, including the one where Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher got lost (in the book Tom Sawyer). Its author, Mark Twain (whose real name was Samuel Clemens), grew up in Hannibal. At one time he was a pilot on a Mississippi steamboat. The name Mark Twain means “two fathoms,” indicating a safe river depth for steamboats. Twain’s boyhood home is open to visitors.

Nearby, barges roll by on the muddy, mighty Mississippi—Missouri’s eastern border. In 1993, the famous Mississippi flooded, bringing destruction to Missouri and other states.
ACROSS

1. Missouri has thousands of _____, especially in the Ozarks.
2. _____ is the Country Music Capital of the World.
5. Musician Duke _____ played in clubs in Kansas City and St. Louis.
7. Missouri is called the _____ Me State.
8. The Cold War was waged between the former _____ Union and the United States.
14. _____ was invented by Scott Joplin.
15. A _______ goes to the top of the Gateway Arch.
18. The Oregon _____ began in Missouri.
19. Samuel Clemens wrote under the pen name Mark _____.

DOWN

1. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill gave a speech about the “Iron _____.”
3. The _____ Wall was a symbol of the Cold War.
4. Franklin _____ was president before Harry Truman.
9. Mark Twain means “two _____.”
10. The _____ Arch honors the settlers who traveled west from Missouri.
11. President Harry S _____ was born in Independence.
12. _____ City is the capital of Missouri.
15. During the London _____ in World War II, Germany bombed the city at night.
17. Missouri is known for its jazz and _____. 
If you divide Montana’s population by its square miles, you get the average number of people living in each square mile of Montana—about six. In contrast, New Jersey has about 1,100 people per square mile. This difference is one of the many features that draw people to “The Big Sky Country.” Montana (Spanish for “mountain”) has lots of exhilarating space.

The hardy residents of Montana are outnumbered by animals. Almost all species of mammals in the U.S. can be found in Glacier National Park, home to 50 glaciers and 200 lakes. The park’s Going-to-the-Sun Highway is a wild ride with sheer drop-offs and hairpin curves. The road ascends 6,680 feet to the Continental Divide at Logan Pass.

In Missoula, home of the University of Montana, the U.S. Forest Service maintains its Smokejumper Base. In the summer of 2000, smokejumpers were called to aid firefighters in battling one of the worst forest fires in U.S. history.

Nearby Helena was once named “Last Chance Gulch.” Four discouraged prospectors found gold there, on what is now Main Street. The discovery of copper in Butte made the city and “Copper King” W.A. Clark rich. His 32-room mansion is now a national landmark. The Capitol building has murals depicting Montana’s history, including “Lewis and Clark Meeting Flathead Indians at Ross Hole” by painter Charles M. Russell.

Relationships between American Indians and Montana’s settlers and the U.S. Army were not always peaceful. The Bozeman Trail, a route used to reach Montana and Idaho’s gold mines, went through Indian lands guaranteed by treaties. Indians rose to defend their territory, killing several travelers and Bozeman himself. Similar hostilities led to “Custer’s Last Stand.” General George Custer attacked the Sioux Indians and lost his life. Montana’s Little Bighorn National Monument commemorates the battle.
ACROSS
2. The Helena Capitol building has _____ depicting Montana’s history.
4. “Last Chance _____” was once a name for the city of Helena.
5. W.A. _____ was known as the “Copper King.”
6. New Jersey has many more _____ per square mile than Montana.
7. The battle that ended Custer’s life was fought at Little _____.
8. The _____ Indians defeated General Custer’s forces.
9. Montana has more _____ per square mile than people.
11. _____ are trained firefighters that parachute into fire areas.
14. Montana is known as “Big _____ Country.”
15. _____ is the capital of Montana.
16. More than 200 _____ can be found in Glacier National Park.

DOWN
1. Montana’s nickname is the _____ State.
2. The University of Montana is in _____.
3. The U.S. _____ Service trains smokejumpers.
5. In Glacier National Park, the _____ Divide is found at Logan Pass.
7. The _____ Trail went through Indian lands.
10. Butte is famous for its _____ mines.
11. The Going-to-the-_____ Highway rises to 6,680 feet.
12. In Spanish, Montana means _____.
13. Charles M. _____ was a noted painter of the American West.
Nebraska comes from the Indian word *nebrathka*, meaning “flat water.” The name refers to the Platte River, which cuts across the state. Pioneers followed the Oregon, California, and Mormon Trails along the river as they trudged westward. The ironclad wheels of Conestoga wagons cut deep grooves into the earth that still can be seen today. The vehicles were also called *prairie schooners*—the white-topped wagons looked like sailing ships on an ocean of prairie grass.

Under a treaty in 1834, Nebraska was Indian territory—closed to white settlers. Indian chief Red Cloud fought against the United States, successfully closing the Bozeman Trail, which cut through Indian land. (The city of Red Cloud is named after him.) The Homestead Act of 1862, however, drew even more pioneers to Nebraska. The government gave settlers 160 acres of land for a small sum, if they could successfully farm for five years.

Today, Nebraska’s fertile prairies produce wheat, corn, and fodder for cattle. Nebraskan J. Sterling Morton contributed much to the state’s agriculture and soil conservation. Morton, who was Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland, encouraged tree planting on the dry, dusty plains. In 1885 he started Arbor Day, which is celebrated by planting trees.

In contrast to its expansive flat plains, Nebraska has interesting geological features such as Chimney Rock, which marks the start of rough terrain, and Scotts Bluff National Monument, called the “Lighthouse of the Plains.” The Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha boasts the largest indoor rain forest in the world. Farther west, Kearney has one of the largest migrating bird flyways anywhere. Sandhill and whooping cranes, eagles, geese, and ducks abound.

Some of Nebraska’s attractions are human-made. The Strategic Air Command Museum in Bellevue exhibits B-52s and the SR-71 Blackbird planes. Carhenge features 36 cars painted gray and implanted in the earth, mimicking England’s Stonehenge monument. Who needs to travel abroad when you can find such wonders right here?
ACROSS

2. Sandhill and whooping _____ gather in Kearney, Nebraska.
4. The Carhenge monument features _____ planted in the earth.
5. Scotts Bluff is called the “_____ of the Plains.”
6. The Henry _____ Zoo features a large indoor rain forest.
7. The _____ Act attracted many settlers to the west.
9. Settlers could stay in Nebraska if they could successfully farm for _____ years.
11. _____ Day is celebrated by planting trees.
13. _____ is the capital of Nebraska.
14. Nebraska was originally designed to be _____ territory.
15. Nebraska is known as the _____ State.
16. J. Sterling Morton encouraged the planting of _____.
17. Chief Red Cloud successfully closed the _____ Trail.
18. The _____, California, and Mormon Trails ran beside the Platte River.

DOWN

1. Nebrathka means “_____ water.”
2. The city of Red _____ is named after an Indian chief.
3. Prairie _____ were wagons that took pioneers westward.
8. The _____ River cuts across Nebraska.
9. Nebraska has _____ prairies, good for farming.
10. The SR-71 _____ can be seen at the Strategic Air Command Museum.
12. _____ wagons had ironclad wheels.
Nevada means “snow-covered” in Spanish and refers to the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Nevada’s temperature, however, is seldom brisk. In July, the average daily temperature in Las Vegas is 105 degrees. Nevada relies heavily on air-conditioning. Essential hydroelectric power is created at Hoover Dam, which controls the Colorado River. In 1931, work started here in brutally hot weather. It took five years and 6.6 million tons of concrete to complete the dam. Lake Mead, created by the dam, has six recreational areas. Today, the Colorado River makes the desert “bloom.”

Among the things that have bloomed is the state’s population. According to the 2000 Census, Nevada’s population grew a whopping 66.3 percent over the last 10 years. Most of the state’s population lives in Las Vegas and Reno.

Glitzy Las Vegas features more big hotels, casinos, and shows than any place on earth. (Gambling was legalized in Nevada in 1931.) Carson City, the capital of Nevada, is named after Indian fighter, Kit Carson. The city’s Capitol building features a silver dome. Silver found in the Comstock Lode turned Virginia City into a bustling town. Today it is a ghost town, drawing 1.5 million tourists each year. Many abandoned mines and ghost towns surround Ely, which is still a major mining center near the Utah border. (Nevada was once part of Utah territory.) Also near the border is the Great Basin National Park, home of impressive mountain peaks and a small glacier. On the opposite side of the state near Reno is Lake Tahoe, which Nevada shares with California.

Two special roads go through Nevada. State Road 375 is called the “Extraterrestrial Highway” because of numerous UFO sightings along its length. Rumors say that extraterrestrials are bunked around Area 51, where new military aircraft are tested. (Nearby Fallon is the home of the Navy’s “Top Gun” Flight School.) Nevada’s Route 50 is called the “Loneliest Road in America.” Drivers can travel for hours without any road services, following the old Pony Express Trail.
ACROSS

6. Many people have reported UFOs on the “_____
   Highway.”
8. The capital of Nevada is named for _____ Carson.
10. _____ is still a major mining center.
11. Lake _____ is shared by California.
14. The Capitol building in Carson City has a _____ dome.
16. The Hoover Dam was built to control the _____ River.
17. Hoover Dam supplies _____ power to Nevada.
19. Legalized _____ is a major industry in Nevada.

DOWN

1. Silver made _____ City a bustling town.
2. Nevada used to be part of the _____ Territory.
3. There is a small glacier in Great _____ National Park.
4. Area 51 is where new military _____ are tested.
5. The Navy’s “Top Gun” _____ School is in Fallon, Nevada.
6. “The Loneliest Road in America” follows part of the old Pony _____ Trail.
7. Nevada means “snow-covered” in _____.
9. The _____ Nevada mountain range are covered in snow.
12. _____ Dam took five years to build.
13. Lake _____ was created by Hoover Dam.
15. Since the 1990 Census, Nevada’s _____ has grown 66 percent.
18. The _____ Lode was full of silver.
“Live Free or Die” is New Hampshire’s motto. The state was the first colony to break free from England and establish a provisional (temporary) government. Because it was the ninth state to ratify (officially approve) the U.S. Constitution, it assured the creation of the United States of America. (Nine of the 13 colonies were required to ratify the Constitution.) Continuing its strong political heritage, New Hampshire holds the first presidential primary every four years.

New Hampshire has produced its own noteworthy citizens. First American in space Commander Alan B. Shepard, Jr. grew up in Derry. Christa McAuliffe, the first civilian in space, was a social studies teacher in Concord. Tragically, space shuttle Challenger exploded in 1986, killing her and six other astronauts onboard.

Long before people even dreamed of going to space, New Hampshire was covered by a huge ice sheet. When it retreated, it left giant mountain ranges with notches cut by glaciers. The “Old Man of the Mountain” is a natural rock formation that looks like a man’s profile. The Presidential Range features the highest mountain in the northeast—Mount Washington (6,288 feet). The peak has a climate similar to Antarctica and the highest wind speed ever recorded on earth—231 miles per hour. Visitors can drive to the top, take the cog railway, or walk. But sudden changes of weather can drop temperatures below freezing, even in August.

More forests cover New Hampshire today than in the early days of our country. Farmers had cleared trees for fuel and to make room for farmland. As the nation expanded, farms moved to the more fertile Midwest. Forests reclaimed their territory, offering some of the best recreational areas. Other favorite tourist spots include the Flume, along the side of Liberty Mountain, with its cascading streams and waterfalls. Lake Winnipesaukee (meaning “smile of the Great Spirit”) boasts almost 300 inhabitable islands. Whichever place you decide to visit, you’re sure to be wowed by the beautiful scenery.
ACROSS
3. Mount _____ is the highest peak in the northeastern United States.
6. New Hampshire was the first _____ to break free from England.
8. The first presidential _____ takes place in New Hampshire.
9. _____ means “smile of the Great Spirit.”
12. “Live _____ or die” is the motto of New Hampshire.
14. The _____ Range has the highest mountain in the northeast.
16. You can reach the top of Mount Washington by cog _____.
17. _____ Alan B. Shepard, Jr. was the first American in space.
19. Christa McAuliffe, the first civilian in space, was from _____.

DOWN
1. _____ cut notches in New Hampshire’s mountain ranges.
2. The space shuttle _____ exploded upon take-off in 1986.
4. New Hampshire has more _____ today than it did in the early days of the U.S.
5. When New Hampshire ratified the Constitution, the _____ States was born.
7. The highest wind _____ was recorded on top of Mount Washington.
10. Long ago New Hampshire was covered by an _____ sheet.
11. The top of Mount Washington has a climate like _____.
12. In the early days of the U.S. forests were cleared for _____.
13. The _____ is located on Liberty Mountain.
15. New Hampshire is the _____ State.
18. _____ states were required to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
New Jersey (NJ)
Garden State

Fast Facts

State Capital: Trenton
Population: 8,414,350 (Census 2000)
Land Area: 7,417 square miles
Year Admitted to the Union: 1787

The U.S. Mint produced new quarters to honor every state’s adoption of the Constitution. New Jersey’s coin bears an appropriate slogan: Crossroads of the Revolution. On December 26, 1776, General George Washington secretly crossed the Delaware River from Pennsylvania to British-occupied Trenton. His troops surprised a garrison of Hessians, German mercenaries (hired soldiers) fighting for Britain. Shortly thereafter, Washington defeated General Charles Cornwallis at the Battle of Princeton. At the Battle of Monmouth, Molly Pitcher became famous by replacing her fallen husband on the battle lines.

New Jersey’s historical connections continued with the opening of Ellis Island in 1892, welcoming more than 12 million immigrants until 1924. New Jersey, in fact, is the most densely populated state in the country. One of its famous residents was physicist Albert Einstein, who worked at Princeton University and urged President Franklin D. Roosevelt to develop the atomic bomb before Germany. New Jersey’s Thomas Alva Edison, “the Wizard of Menlo Park,” invented the incandescent lightbulb and phonograph. He held more than 1,000 patents for his inventions.

Northern New Jersey is the industrial and transportation center of the state. The Garden State, however, has extensive farmland and more than 125 miles of public beaches along the Atlantic, from Sandy Hook in the north to Victorian-style Cape May at the southern tip. Atlantic City’s street names were made famous by the game Monopoly. This city, which originated the boardwalk and picture postcard, is now known for casino gambling (introduced in the 1970s).

Another state attraction is the Pine Barrens, where a mass of scrub pines and bogs grow cranberries and blueberries. Carnivorous plants (which eat insects), ventriloquist tree frogs, exotic orchids, and the legendary winged creature called the “Jersey Devil” make the Barrens their home.
ACROSS

2. Atlantic City built the first _____ along the beach.
6. Edison invented the _____ lightbulb.
9. Cape May is a _____-style town.
12. _____ tree frogs live in the Pine Barrens.
17. New Jersey’s industry is in the _____ part of the state.
18. The U.S. Mint issued a new _____ to honor New Jersey.
19. General George Washington crossed the _____ River to Trenton.
20. New Jersey is known as the _____ State.

DOWN

1. _____ plants trap and absorb insects.
3. Molly _____ fought in the Battle of Monmouth.
4. Atlantic City is known for _____ gambling.
5. The Wizard of Menlo Park was Thomas _____.
7. A _____ is a soldier hired for the job.
8. The board game _____ uses street names from Atlantic City.
10. _____ and cranberries grow in Pine Barrens.
11. New Jersey has more than 125 miles of sandy beaches on the _____ coast.
13. Part of _____ Island is in New Jersey.
14. The capital of New Jersey is _____.
15. New Jersey is the most densely _____ state.
16. Albert Einstein worked at _____ University.
True to its nickname, New Mexico is the land of enchantment. This fifth-largest state offers tall mountains and awe-inspiring deserts, luring writer D.H. Lawrence to a ranch near Taos and artist Georgia O’Keeffe to Abiquiu. At White Sands National Monument, dunes of sparkling white gypsum sand cover the Tularosa Basin. In the Cibola National Forest, visitors can ride the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway for a 2.7-mile spectacular view of the deep canyons and surrounding terrain of the Sandia Mountains. At sunset in Carlsbad Caverns National Park, about a quarter of a million bats fly out of the Bat Cave to feast on insects. The park has one of the largest cave systems in the world.

New Mexico’s cities offer attractions, too. In October, Albuquerque hosts the International Balloon Fiesta, where brightly colored hot-air balloons float to the skies. The city’s Old Town is centuries old. Its adobe buildings (made with sun-dried bricks of earth, charcoal, sand, and grass) now contain shops, restaurants, and galleries. Santa Fe has great museums, especially the Museum of International Folk Art and the Santa Fe Children’s Museum. The Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe is the oldest public building in the United States. Built in 1610 of adobe, it was the seat of government until 1909, and is now a museum. The front portal provides shade and shelter for American Indians selling their wares.

Ancient churches such as the Mission of San Miguel in Santa Fe attest to its Spanish history. Taos Pueblo, an Indian community, has been continuously occupied for thousands of years. Eight million acres in New Mexico belong to the Pueblo, Apache, and Navajo Nations.

New Mexico and its native people played an important role during World War II. The first atomic bomb was detonated at Trinity Site outside Alamogordo in 1945. During the war, the Navajo language was used as a secret military code, which the Germans could never break. Here is one Navajo word you can learn and use—“Hagoonee” (ha-go-NAY). It means “good-bye.”
ACROSS

3. Some bats feast on _____.
5. Sun-dried bricks made from earth, sand, charcoal, and grass are called _____.
6. _____ are flying mammals.
7. The Tularosa Basin consists of white _____ sand.
10. The Museum of _____ Folk Art is in Santa Fe.
12. _____ Fe is the capital of New Mexico.
14. _____ Caverns National Park has one of the largest cave systems in the world.
18. The _____ language was used as a secret code in World War II.
19. Adobe brick buildings make up Albuquerque’s Old _____.

2. New Mexico is the _____ largest state in area.
4. The _____ Peak Aerial Tramway travels 2.7 miles.
5. The International Balloon Fiesta is held in _____.
8. New Mexico is the Land of _____.
9. The oldest public building in the U.S. is the _____ of the Governors.
11. Tribal lands in New Mexico belong to the Pueblo, Navajo, and _____ Indians.
13. The Mission of San Miguel in Santa Fe is an _____ (very old) church.
15. D.H. Lawrence lived on a _____ near Taos.
16. In 1945, the first atomic bomb was exploded at Trinity _____.
17. Artist Georgia O’Keefe lived and worked in _____.

DOWN

1. The Taos _____ has been occupied for more than a thousand years.
New York spans from the Great Lakes Erie and Ontario to the Atlantic Ocean. The city of Buffalo, known for its heavy snowfalls, sits on Lake Erie. Just north lies Niagara Falls, shared by the United States and Canada. Here the *Maid of the Mist*, a boat filled with tourists in slickers, hovers close to the foot of the cascading Niagara Falls.

Toward the east are New York’s Finger Lakes, a series of 11 long, deep lakes. At Massena on the St. Lawrence Seaway, huge locks carry ships down an 80-foot drop, allowing them to pass between the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes. Slightly to the south are the Adirondack Mountains, 6 million acres of land with 45 peaks over 4,000 feet. Lake Placid was the site of the Winter Olympics in 1932 and 1980.

In the southern part of the state is New York City. Five boroughs make up the Big Apple—Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and the Bronx. The Bronx is home to baseball’s Yankee Stadium while the New York Mets play at Shea Stadium in Queens. (The National Baseball Hall of Fame is in Cooperstown, near Albany.)

New York City is the largest city (by population) in the United States. In the past, New York has been a gateway for many immigrants. Ellis Island (shared with New Jersey) has an American Immigrant Wall of Honor remembering those who passed through early in the century. The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, is another famous icon celebrating immigration. The Empire State Building, built in 1931, was the world’s tallest building at the time it was completed, and stayed that way for many years. At Grand Central Station, thousands of commuters pass through every day. New York City’s Central Park contains ponds, statues, a children’s zoo, two outdoor skating rinks, and a carousel on 840 acres of land. Visitors also stop by the city’s many ethnic neighborhoods, including Chinatown, Little Italy, and Little Odessa (Russian), which help make New York home to the world.
ACROSS

6. The Baseball Hall of Fame is in _____.
8. The Statue of Liberty was given to the United States by _____.
9. The city of _____. is located on Lake Erie.
11. The Maid of the _____. takes tourists near the Niagara Falls.
12. _____. Italy is one of the many ethnic neighborhoods in New York City.
16. _____. is the capital of New York.
17. The _____. Lakes are long, deep bodies of water in New York.
19. In the _____. Mountains, 45 peaks exceed 4,000 feet.
20. New York has been a _____. for many immigrants.

DOWN

1. The locks at _____. move ships across an 80-foot drop.
2. New York _____. has the largest population of all U.S cities.
3. _____. Park has a carousel and zoo as well as other attractions.
4. New York City is known as the Big _____.
5. The five boroughs of New York City are: Manhattan, Queens, the _____., Brooklyn, and Staten Island.
7. Erie and _____. are the Great Lakes touching New York.
10. New York is the _____. State.
13. The American Immigrant Wall of Honor is on _____. Island.
14. Lake _____. was the site of two Winter Olympic Games.
15. Niagara Falls is shared by _____. and the United States.
18. In the winter, Buffalo gets lots of _____.
North Carolina’s Outer Banks, a 125-mile chain of barrier islands including Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout National Seashores, helps protect the mainland from the fierce onslaught of hurricanes, winds, and waves. Those same Carolina winds helped Orville and Wilbur Wright launch their first power-driven airplane at Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk in 1903.

Off the coast is Diamond Shoals, the “Graveyard of the Atlantic,” where more than 600 ships have sunk. Notorious pirate Blackbeard preyed on ships along the Atlantic coast from North Carolina in the 18th century. His ship, the Queen Anne’s Revenge, sank off the state’s coast.

Ships were not the only things that disappeared in North Carolina. Mystery still surrounds “The Lost Colony” of Roanoke Island. In 1587, a group of English settlers, led by John White, established a colony on the island. In that same year, Virginia Dare became the first English child to be born in America. White sailed back to England for supplies, but when he returned in 1590, the entire colony had vanished.

It’s no mystery why people love to visit North Carolina. The Blue Ridge Parkway, one of the country’s most scenic roads, joins Shenandoah National Park in Virginia to North Carolina’s Great Smoky Mountains. President Franklin D. Roosevelt started the parkway in 1935 to create jobs during the Depression. At Blowing Rock in the Blue Ridge Mountains, snow can fall upward and objects thrown off the cliff sometimes return in the wind. Near the Smoky Mountains in Asheville, the Biltmore Estate stands as the largest private home in the United States, with 250 rooms and a 75-acre garden.

North Carolina has the eleventh-largest population in the U.S., mostly concentrated in its cities. Charlotte, on the southern border, is a major financial center, while the center of North Carolina is home to America’s largest think tanks. North Carolina State University (in Raleigh), Duke University (in Durham), and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill form the Research Triangle.
ACROSS
2. The city of _____ is a major financial center.
8. _____ was a pirate who preyed on ships along the Atlantic coast.
9. Virginia _____ was the first child of English parents born in America.
10. _____ Devil Hills is where the Wright Brothers flew their airplanes.
11. The “_____ Colony” was founded on Roanoke Island.
12. North Carolina is the _____ largest state in population.
14. Many 18th-century sailors feared the sight of the Queen Anne’s _____.
15. Snow falls upward at Blowing _____.
16. The Outer Banks is a chain of barrier _____.
17. Diamond Shoals is called the “_____” of the Atlantic.
18. North Carolina is the _____ State.

DOWN
1. _____ University is located in Durham.
3. _____ with high winds often hit the coast of North Carolina.
4. _____ is the capital of North Carolina.
5. During the _____, President Roosevelt created jobs by building highways.
6. _____ and Wilbur Wright first flew near Kitty Hawk.
7. The Research _____ includes Durham, Chapel Hill, and Raleigh.
8. The _____ mansion has 250 rooms.
13. Shenandoah National Park is in _____.
14. The Blue _____ Parkway joins Shenandoah National Park to the Great Smoky Mountains.
North Dakota’s mostly flat plains were once full of American bison (incorrectly known as buffalo). The Indians lived off these cow-like, shaggy animals. Bison supplied meat, leather, snowshoes, tents, and sinews for bowstrings. Buffalo chips—dried manure—were burned for fuel. Before the Homestead Act of 1862 brought large numbers of settlers to the state, bison population (including those in the Great Plains) was about 30 million. Hunted throughout the 1800s—“Buffalo Bill” Cody killed 4,000 in one year—the bison were eventually brought to the edge of extinction. Today its population is slowly climbing to around 50,000 in various reserves and ranches around the country.

As more people settled in the state, President Benjamin Harrison signed North and South Dakota into states in 1889. President Theodore Roosevelt later lent his name to a national park. A forward-thinking conservationist, Roosevelt is the only person who has a national park named after him. The park is located in an area called the Badlands, where lightning set exposed coal veins on fire, burning for years and baking sand and clay to red scoria (cinders). For Roosevelt, however, the rugged quality of the land cemented his character and strengthened his spirit.

Another of North Dakota’s main attractions is the International Peace Garden. Here 150,000 flowers are planted annually to celebrate our country’s peaceful relations with Canada. Manitoba, Canada, shares the garden with the United States. In Jamestown, a 60-ton concrete likeness of a buffalo calls attention to the National Buffalo Museum and Visitor Center. Visitors here can see a rare albino (white) buffalo, sacred to the Indians. Today buffalo have returned in large numbers to North Dakota. Buffalo meat is lean and lower in cholesterol than beef. It has gained popularity in today’s food market.
ACROSS
2. The National Buffalo Museum is in _____.
5. President Theodore Roosevelt was a great _____.
6. The _____ Act was enacted in 1862.
7. Exposed _____ veins were set on fire by lightning in the Badlands.
9. North Dakota is also known as the _____ state.
12. The International Peace Garden is shared by North Dakota and _____, Canada.
15. After settlers arrived in North Dakota, bison became almost _____.
16. The only person to have a national _____ named after him is Theodore Roosevelt.
17. _____ is the capital of North Dakota.
19. North Dakota’s landscape is mostly flat _____.

DOWN
1. Thousands of _____ are planted in the International Peace Garden each year.
3. There used to be about 30 _____ bison in the U.S.
4. _____ are incorrectly known as buffalo.
5. Buffalo meat is lower in _____ than beef.
8. The _____ or white buffalo is sacred to the Indians.
10. Buffalo _____ were once burned for fuel.
11. Benjamin _____ was U.S. president when North Dakota became a state.
13. North and South Dakota were _____ to the Union on the same day.
14. When the buffalo disappeared, so did the traditional _____ way of life.
18. “Buffalo Bill” _____ was a noted buffalo hunter.
Ohio has produced a number of notable people, including eight U.S. presidents and two Civil War generals: Ulysses S. Grant (who later became president) and William Tecumseh Sherman. The state also offered twice its share of volunteers to fight for the Union (North side) during the war. Oberlin was an anti-slavery town and a major stop on the Underground Railroad—a series of escape routes that runaway slaves used to travel from the South to northern states. During a demonstration against the Vietnam War, four Kent State University students were killed by National Guardsmen.

Among its outstanding citizens are two famous astronauts. In 1962, John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the earth. In 1998, Glenn returned to space on the shuttle Discovery at age 76. On July 20, 1969, millions of TV viewers watched Neil Armstrong take his first steps on the moon.

For more earthbound adventures, try Ohio’s two large amusement parks filled with thrilling, stomach-churning rides. The Son of Beast at Paramount’s Kings Island in Cincinnati is currently the world’s only wooden roller coaster with a loop. Cedar Point in Sandusky is the largest amusement ride park in the world with 14 roller coasters, including the Millennium Force—“the tallest, fastest, steepest roller coaster on the planet” in 2000.

Ohio is also a transportation and industrial giant with a number of dynamic cities. Ohio’s biggest cities are the three C’s: Cleveland (on Lake Erie, with its Rock and Roll Hall of Fame), Columbus (the state capital, which sits on the Mason-Dixon Line—the boundary between the country’s North and South), and Cincinnati (on the Ohio River, once called the Queen City of the West). Canton, a smaller “C” city, is home to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Another sight worth seeing is the Great Serpent Mound near Hillsboro. Built around 800 B.C., this large prehistoric American Indian mound is in the shape of a snake swallowing an egg. There’s a lot to see in the Buckeye State!
ACROSS
2. Several _____ from Ohio fought for the Union.
3. Ohio is nicknamed the _____ State.
6. Oberlin was an anti-_____ town and an Underground Railroad stop.
7. Neil _____ was the first person to step on the moon.
12. The city of _____ is on the Ohio River.
13. _____ is one of Ohio’s cities near Lake Erie.
14. If you like to ride _____ coasters, go to Ohio.
15. Kent State students were killed during a protest of the _____ War.
17. _____ of Ohio’s principal cities begin with the letter C.

DOWN
1. The _____ of Ohio in 2000 is 11,353,140.
4. Former astronaut John _____ returned to space at age 76.
5. The Son of Beast is the only _____ roller coaster with a loop.
8. Great _____ Mound is a prehistoric American Indian site.
9. Ohio native Ulysses S. _____ was a Union general and president of the United States.
10. Eight _____ of the United States were from Ohio.
11. William Tecumseh _____ was a famous Union general from Ohio.
12. The Pro Football Hall of Fame is in _____.
13. The capital of Ohio was named for explorer Christopher _____.
16. The _____-Dixon Line separates the nation’s North and South.
18. The Rock and _____ Hall of Fame is in Cleveland.
In 1832, President Andrew Jackson relocated the Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Seminole Indians from the southeastern United States to Oklahoma. This forced march, known as the “Trail of Tears,” was brutal, killing thousands of people. (Tahlequah is currently the capital of the Cherokee Nation.)

Cowboys herded their cattle from Texas through Indian Territory along the Chisholm Trail to the markets in Kansas. Oklahoma’s National Cowboy Hall of Fame commemorates those who rope, brand, handle, and drive cattle to market. Today, the country’s largest live-cattle auction happens twice a week in Stockyards City.

On April 22, 1889, the Oklahoma land rush began. Would-be landowners lined up along the border to stake claims in Oklahoma Territory. A few hours after the border opened at noon, Guthrie and Oklahoma City grew from open field to cities of 10,000 people. Some settlers, called the “Sooners,” staked land illegally even before the border was opened.

The state prospered up to the 1920s, thanks to oil. By the 1930s, however, the Great Depression (a worldwide economic slump) and the Dust Bowl (destructive wind and dust storms) forced whole communities to flee to California. John Steinbeck memorialized these starving “Okies” in his book, The Grapes of Wrath. After the state became more economically stable, renowned architect I. M. Pei redesigned Oklahoma City in 1964. But the city reeled again in 1999 when it was struck by a deadly tornado.

Perhaps because of its hardships, Oklahoma has fostered many American legends. Newscaster Walter Cronkite hails from Oklahoma, as did cowboy Gene Autry and Indian Olympian Jim Thorpe. Born in 1879, Will Rogers was a good-natured philosopher known for the line, “I never met a man I didn’t like.” Folk singer Woody Guthrie penned “This Land Is Your Land” and other songs that gave a voice to the nation.
ACROSS
1. Cowboys once herded cattle through the _____ Trail.
5. On April 22, 1889, the Oklahoma land _____ began.
6. _____ City is the state’s capital.
8. Jim _____ was a famous Indian athlete.
11. _____ is the Cherokee Nation’s capital.
13. A _____ was a person who illegally staked land before the Oklahoma land rush began.
15. Cowboys sold their cattle in markets in _____.
16. Woody _____ wrote the song “This Land is Your Land.”
19. Oklahoma was once known as _____ Territory.

DOWN
1. The National _____ Hall of Fame is in Oklahoma.
2. John Steinbeck wrote about Okies in The Grapes of _____.
3. Drought and bad farming practices caused the _____ Bowl in the 1930s.
4. Philosopher Will _____ was born in Indian Territory in 1879.
7. The Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw, Seminole, and _____ tribes were moved to Oklahoma.
9. _____ brought prosperity to Oklahoma through the 1920s.
10. I. M. _____ redesigned Oklahoma City.
12. Legendary newscaster Walter _____ is an Oklahoman.
14. _____, destructive whirling windstorms, are common in Oklahoma.
17. President Andrew Jackson ordered the “Trail of _____” march.
18. Live _____ auctions happen in Stockyards City.
In 1843, about 1,000 pioneers, 120 wagons, and 5,000 heads of livestock left Independence, Missouri, to make their way to Oregon. Over a span of 30 years, 300,000 people would brave the Oregon Trail. One out of 10 would not survive the journey. Some were killed by American Indians, but most were overcome by diseases (such as cholera), grass fires, storms, and floods. Travelers even had to float their wagons down the treacherous Columbia River to move west.

Settlers were drawn to the Oregon Territory principally for gold. The precious metal was discovered first in Baker City, which today displays a gold nugget weighing 80.4 ounces. Oregon’s gold mines eventually ran out, however, and Oregon settlers discovered the vast natural resources the territory had to offer.

These include a 400-mile coastline of unmatched beauty and a huge variety of sea life. To this day, Oregon’s entire beach area is publicly owned. Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area has sand dunes to explore and trails for horseback riding. Due to the effects of wind, the dunes vary in height from day to day, sometimes reaching as high as 500 feet. Sea lions in their natural habitat are on display at Sea Lion Caves near Yachats.

The Cascade Range contains the huge Willamette and Fremont National Forests. Columbia River has cut a scenic gorge in both Oregon and Washington states. The confluence (flowing together) of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers created water deep enough for an inland port. The city of Portland lies in the shadow of snow-capped Mount Hood. Portland, the “City of Roses,” features 200 parks.

One of Oregon’s most stunning sites was created by a volcanic explosion. Mount Mazama blew up 7,700 years ago, creating a giant caldera, a crater caused by the collapse of the volcano’s core. Rain filled this deep hole creating a sapphire-blue lake. Today Crater Lake is a national park.
ACROSS
2. A _____ is a crater left after a volcanic explosion.
4. Snow-capped Mount _____ can be seen from Portland.
5. The volcano Mount Mazama erupted, creating _____ Lake.
8. The _____ of Oregon is about three and a half million.
9. _____ changes the shape of the Oregon Dunes every day.
10. Baker City has an 80.4-ounce gold _____ on display.
11. Near Yachats, you can watch sea _____ in their natural habitat.
13. The capital of Oregon is _____.
14. _____ was the reason many settlers came to Oregon.
15. _____ is called the “City of Roses.”
17. In 1843, about 1,000 settlers traveled to Oregon with 120 _____.
18. The _____ of Oregon is 400 miles long.

DOWN
1. Oregon’s _____ areas are publicly owned.
3. Oregon _____ can be explored while horseback riding.
5. Diseases, such as _____, killed pioneers traveling to Oregon.
6. The Cascades contain the Willamette and Fremont National _____.
7. In Portland, the Columbia and _____ Rivers come together.
9. The Columbia River cuts a gorge through Oregon and _____ states.
12. The postal abbreviation for Oregon is _____.
16. The Oregon _____ went from Missouri to Oregon.
In 1681, England’s King Charles II granted William Penn, a prominent British Quaker, land in America. Penn used Quaker principles of tolerance to guide the new colony of Pennsylvania (Penn’s woods). He made treaties with American Indians and kept them. He also named Philadelphia—the fifth largest city in the U.S. today—the “City of Brotherly Love.”

Philadelphia’s Independence Hall witnessed the birth of the United States of America. On July 4, 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence at this state capitol and the Liberty Bell was rung.

Nearly 100 years later, Pennsylvania played a significant role in the war that almost divided the nation. On three days in July 1863 during the Civil War, Union soldiers successfully defended Gettysburg from the Confederate army. On November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln dedicated a national cemetery at Gettysburg and delivered his famous speech: “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

Pennsylvania is proud to be the first state to abolish slavery. It was also in Pennsylvania that Dr. Jonas Salk developed his first polio vaccines. Little League Baseball was first established at Williamsport. Pennsylvania also developed chocolate (Hershey) “kisses,” Philly cheese steaks, and hoagies (submarine sandwiches). Famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright designed Fallingwater, the first house built around a waterfall, in Mill Run.

For energy, the first oil well was drilled in Titusville. Pittsburgh, once the world’s leading steel producer, is still a center for coal production. Nearly all of the U.S. anthracite coal is mined in Pennsylvania. In 1979, a nuclear plant at Three Mile Island became the site of the nation’s worst nuclear accident.

Another small town in Pennsylvania becomes the center of attention every year on February 2nd. That’s when groundhog Punxsutawney Phil lets the world know when spring will arrive.
ACROSS
2. _____ Phil comes out on Groundhog’s Day.
3. _____ are a kind of submarine sandwich.
9. _____ is a famous house built by Frank Lloyd Wright.
11. A decisive battle at Gettysburg took place during the _____ War.
13. Philadelphia is called the “City of Brotherly _____.”
14. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln gave a speech at _____.
15. Philadelphia is known for its _____ steaks.
17. The U.S. anthracite _____ supply comes from Pennsylvania.
19. _____ means Penn’s Woods.
20. William Penn had strong beliefs built on his _____ religion.

DOWN
1. Little _____ baseball began in Williamsport.
4. The Declaration of _____ was signed in 1776.
5. Pennsylvania was the first state to _____ slavery.
6. King _____ II gave what is now Pennsylvania to William Penn.
7. The fifth largest city in the United States is _____.
8. _____ is the capital of Pennsylvania.
10. The _____ Bell rang out on July 4, 1776.
16. Pittsburgh was once the world’s biggest _____ producer.
18. Dr. Jonas _____ developed the polio vaccine.
Roger Williams founded the Rhode Island Colony in 1636. He bought the land from the Narragansett Indians. Williams had been banished from Massachusetts because of his religious beliefs and his insistence that the lands of Massachusetts and Plymouth really belonged to the Indians. People searching for religious freedom flocked to the state, including Jewish immigrants. Touro Synagogue in Rhode Island is the oldest Jewish house of worship in the United States.

Insisting on the rights of the individual, Rhode Island was the first colony to declare its independence against Britain and the last (or 13th) to ratify the Constitution. Rhode Islanders refused to consent until the Bill of Rights was included. These ten amendments provide for individuals’ freedom of religion, speech, and the press. The Bill of Rights also allows citizens to assemble and protest peaceably, to bear arms, and other legal rights.

Rhode Islanders helped influence the development of our nation. Brothers Oliver and Matthew Perry were U.S. naval heroes. During the War of 1812, Oliver defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie. In 1853, Matthew sailed into Tokyo Bay and, with a show of force, prompted Japan to open its doors to U.S. trade and diplomatic relations.

It’s no surprise that Rhode Island has a long maritime history. With its islands, nooks, and crannies, Rhode Island—the smallest state—has 400 miles of coastline. Narragansett Bay provides shelter for ships sailing the Atlantic. (Pirates took advantage of the location until 1723 when the British hanged 23 of them.) From 1936 to 1983 Rhode Island was home to America’s Cup, an international yachting competition. Besides being a sailing and naval center, Newport is noted for its mansions built during the Gilded Age, when the U.S. was experiencing rapid industrialization after the Civil War. One such home is the Breakers, the 70-room Vanderbilt estate on the Cliff Walk, overlooking Rhode Island Sound.
ACROSS
2. _____ is the capital of Rhode Island.
6. Roger Williams was banished from _____.
12. Rhode Island was the _____ (number) state to ratify the Constitution.
15. Rhode Island is on _____ Bay.
17. The first ten _____ to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights.
20. The _____ family owned a house in Newport called the Breakers.

DOWN
1. Oliver Perry fought the _____ navy during the War of 1812.
3. Matthew Perry forced _____ into establishing trade with the United States.
4. Rhode Island is called the _____ State.
5. The America’s _____ is an international yachting competition.
7. Newport is a _____ and naval center.
8. Rhode Island would not ratify the Constitution without the Bill of _____.
9. Historically, Rhode Island attracted people seeking religious _____.
10. The Bill of Rights protects citizens’ rights to bear _____.
11. Rhode Island once belonged to the Narragansett _____.
13. Touro _____ is the oldest Jewish house of worship in the U.S.
14. _____ once preyed on ships near Rhode Island.
16. The Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of religion, press, and _____.
18. Mansions in _____ were built during the Gilded Age.
19. The _____ Walk overlooks Rhode Island Sound.
South Carolina fought more battles during the Revolutionary War
than any other state. At Kings Mountain, pro-Revolution mountain
men defeated local Tories (those who sided with Britain). Later, a
smashing American victory at the Battle of Cowpens turned the tide
of the war, preparing the way for British defeat.

Showing its independence, South Carolina was the first state to
secede (withdraw) from the Union in 1860. South Carolina’s economy was founded on the
plantation system, which used slave labor to do manual work in the fields and households.
Abolitionists (mostly northerners) felt slavery violated the U.S. Constitution, and wanted it
outlawed. The other Deep South states (Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana,
and Texas) joined South Carolina in secession. Together with Virginia, Tennessee, North
Carolina, and Arkansas, they formed the Confederate States of America. Jefferson Davis
became the Confederate President. In April 1861, Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter,
a Union garrison off the South Carolina coast, starting the Civil War. This “War Between
the States” took more lives than any other U.S. war.

Union General William Sherman burned much of South
Carolina in the following years. After the war, during
Reconstruction, more hardship fell on the state.

Today, Fort Sumter has become a national park
open to tourists. Along the coastline, popular resorts line
the Grand Strand from Little River near North Carolina to
the Santee River (60 miles south). Myrtle Beach offers swimming, fishing, surfing,
amusement parks, and 100 golf courses. Nearby Murrells Inlet, named for a pirate, serves
great seafood. On Pawleys Island, visitors can sample a handmade hammock. An exotic look
into the nation’s African-American past can be found at Hilton Head Island, where the Gullah
culture and language (a mix of English and African) are still alive.
ACROSS
2. South Carolina was the first state to _____ or withdraw from the Union.
3. _____ language can be found in Hilton Head, South Carolina.
6. The _____ was the time when southern states were recovering from the Civil War.
11. South Carolina is one of the states considered the _____ South.
13. Revolutionary forces defeated the _____ at King’s Mountain.
17. North _____ is located above South Carolina.
18. There were a total of _____ (number) states in the Confederacy.
19. The Grand Strand stretches from Little River to the _____ River.

DOWN
1. _____ Inlet was named after a pirate.
2. General William _____ burned much of South Carolina.
4. _____ Beach, South Carolina, is a popular resort.
5. Americans defeated the British at the Battle of _____.
7. _____ is the capital of South Carolina.
8. The Grand _____ is a 60-mile stretch of South Carolina coastline.
9. The War Between the States is also called the _____ War.
10. _____ wanted to outlaw slavery.
12. South Carolina’s early economy was founded on the _____ system.
15. The first shots of the Civil War were fired on Fort _____.
16. On _____ Island, you can buy a handmade hammock.
South Dakota’s Black Hills were so-named because the dense ponderosa pine trees made them seem black from a distance. The Sioux (or Lakota) Indians hold the Hills sacred. They gained the land here by treaty in 1868 after defeating U.S. forces. When gold was discovered in the hills, though, settlers and the 7th cavalry, led by General George Custer, poured into the territory in a gold rush. Chief Crazy Horse and the Sioux fought hard for their land, killing Custer at Little Bighorn. In the end, however, the Sioux were defeated and confined to reservations. In 1890 the U.S. Army massacred 200 Sioux Indians, including women and children, at Wounded Knee. Until the 1940s, it was illegal to teach—or speak—Sioux language. Sioux culture and history were completely suppressed. In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement occupied Wounded Knee for 70 days to protest Indian treatment.

Today the Black Hills are a popular tourist spot. The Hills are home to Mount Rushmore, where Presidents George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and Theodore Roosevelt’s images are carved in the face of the mountain. Gutzon Borglum designed and oversaw the creation of the sculpture from 1927 to 1941. South Dakota soon will have another sculpture, the largest in the world—a tribute to Crazy Horse and American Indians everywhere. Still under construction, the face of the great warrior alone will stand nine stories high.

Many legendary figures once roamed the Dakota Territory, including frontier marshal Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane, a frontierswoman who often dressed as a man. Both frequented Deadwood, a gold-rush town in the Black Hills Region. Hickok was shot in the back here while playing poker.

Southeast of the Black Hills are the Badlands, which offer one of the strangest landscapes on the continent. About half of the area is located on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation. Inhabited by snakes and, some say, spirits, the Badlands is a very dry region filled with gullies, spires, canyons, and pinnacles—a virtual “moonscape.” Fossils of ancient mammals have been found in this national park.
ACROSS
1. Wild Bill _____ was killed in Deadwood.
2. The _____ Hills got their name because the dense forests made them look dark.
7. After the battle between the Sioux and U.S. soldiers, the Indians were moved to _____.
12. The _____ Indians are also known as the Sioux.
15. About half of the Dakota Badlands is located on the _____ Ridge Reservation.
16. At Wounded Knee, Lakota Indians were _____ in 1890.
18. _____ was discovered in the Black Hills in the 19th century.

DOWN
1. The Black _____ are sacred to the Indians of South Dakota.
3. _____ of mammals that lived long ago have been found in the Badlands.
4. When completed, the _____ Horse Monument will be the largest sculpture in the world.
5. _____ Jane spent time in South Dakota.
6. In 1973, the American Indian Movement staged a protest at _____ Knee.
8. Mount _____ features the sculpted images of four U.S. presidents.
9. Gutzon _____ was the sculptor who created Mount Rushmore.
10. President Theodore _____ is one of the faces on Mount Rushmore.
11. The _____ are inhabited by large snake populations.
13. General _____ led the 7th cavalry in a fight against the Sioux.
14. _____ was a gold-rush town.
15. _____, the capital of South Dakota, is pronounced “Peer.”
17. A gold _____ caused the U.S. to break its treaty with the Sioux Indians.
TENNESSEE (TN)
Volunteer State

Fast Facts
State Capital: Nashville
Population: 5,689,283 (Census 2000)
Land Area: 41,217 square miles
Year Admitted to the Union: 1796

The “Volunteer State” got its nickname because so many Tennessee men volunteered to fight in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Civil War. (Tennessee was the last state to secede from the Union, and the first to rejoin it.) One of the most famous Tennessee soldiers was Quaker Alvin York, who asked for conscientious objector status—given to those who refuse to bear arms for religious or moral reasons. The request was denied, and York went off to World War I, single-handedly capturing 132 Germans.

During World War II, uranium for the first atomic bomb was prepared at Oak Ridge. The state later dabbled in nuclear power under the supervision of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Developed in 1933 as part of the New Deal (President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s plan to improve economic conditions during the Great Depression), the TVA extends over seven states to control flooding on the Tennessee River, promote navigation, and generate electrical power. Chattanooga, along the Tennessee River, serves as headquarters for the TVA.

Chattanooga was also the staging area for the Cherokee’s Trail of Tears march to Oklahoma. (The Cherokees once inhabited the Great Smoky Mountains—named for their blue-gray haze—which straddles Tennessee and North Carolina.) Chattanooga is also where Union General William Sherman began his legendary March to the Sea, burning down Confederate cities during the Civil War.

The city of Nashville, Tennessee’s state capital, is known as “Music City, USA.” The Grand Ole Opry, the oldest continuing live radio show (which began in 1925), is located here. So is the Country Music Hall of Fame. Another city known for its music is Memphis. W.C. Handy, the originator of the “blues,” put Beale Street in Memphis on the map. Memphis’ Sun Studio developed the singing careers of Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, B.B. King, Roy Orbison, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley. Graceland, the mansion of the rock-and-roll “king,” is still a major Memphis attraction.
ACROSS
1. North Carolina and Tennessee share the Great _____ Mountains National Park.
3. Uranium for the first _____ bomb was produced at Oak Ridge.
4. Music City, USA, is the nickname for _____.
5. _____ was Elvis Presley’s home in Memphis.
8. _____ Street in Memphis is known for its “blues” music.
9. The Great Smoky Mountains are covered in a blue-gray _____.
10. Tennessee is called the _____ State.
13. One who does not want to bear arms for religious reasons is a _____ objector.
18. The Grand Ole _____ started as a live radio show in 1925.
19. General Sherman’s March to the _____ began in Chattanooga.

DOWN
1. The TVA generates electricity for _____ states.
2. Elvis Presley is the “_____ of rock and roll.”
6. The Trail of Tears began in _____.
7. The Tennessee Valley Authority was created in 1933 as part of the New _____.
11. Sergeant Alvin _____ was a hero from World War I.
12. Tennessee was the last state to _____ from the Union and the first to rejoin it.
14. Tourists can visit the _____ Music Hall of Fame in Nashville.
15. The abbreviation for Tennessee Valley Authority is _____.
16. Many recording stars got their start at _____ Studio.
17. Dams are used to control _____ on the Tennessee River.
Texas is the second largest state—only Alaska is roomier. Texas also has plenty of people—only California is more populated. It’s hard to believe that longhorn cattle once outnumbered people in Texas 9 to 1.

Today, Texas cities are booming. The city of Dallas forms a major transportation hub. Austin is a bustling state capital. Houston straddles a port on the Gulf of Mexico and is home to NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

Texas boasts a variety of landscapes and natural areas. Sandw iched between Oklahoma and New Mexico is the Texas Panhandle—arid and flat as a pancake. Cut across the state to Corpus Christi to ride the waves at Padre Island National Seashore. Big Bend National Park on the Rio Grande is so big, it could hold the entire state of Rhode Island. Galveston, a barrier island, was almost wiped out in 1900 in the worst hurricane in U.S. history!

Across from El Paso lies Ciudad Juarez in Mexico. Texas was part of Mexico until 1836, when it declared its independence. Mexican leader Santa Anna crushed the rebellion, killing 200 defenders—including Davy Crockett—at the Alamo mission in San Antonio. Sam Houston later defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto, and Texas became a U.S. state in 1845.

Texas has contributed much to U.S. politics, including father-and-son presidents. Former Texas governor George W. Bush moved to the White House with his wife Laura in 2001. He is the son of former president George Herbert Walker Bush. Former President Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) also hailed from Texas. LBJ took office after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas in 1963. Johnson’s wife, Lady Bird, became famous for beautifying U.S. highways. In spring, Texas roadsides are carpeted with bluebonnets, the state flower.
ACROSS
2. George Herbert Walker and George W. _____ are father-and-son presidents.
8. The state flower of Texas is the _____.
10. Padre Island National Seashore is near _____ Christi.
11. Only California is a bigger state (by population) than _____.
14. Big Bend National Park is named for a large curve on the _____ Grande River.
15. El Paso is near Ciudad _____, Mexico.
16. In 1900 a major hurricane hit _____.
19. _____ Bird Johnson helped beautify highways across the nation.
20. When JFK was assassinated, _____ (initials) was sworn in as president.

DOWN
1. _____ is the capital of Texas.
3. The NASA Space Center is located in _____.
4. Texas is the Lone _____ State.
5. Only _____ is a bigger state (by size) than Texas.
6. Sam Houston defeated _____ at San Jacinto.
7. At one time, _____ cattle outnumbered people in Texas.
9. The Texas _____ lies between New Mexico and Oklahoma.
12. Davy _____ was a hero who was killed at the Alamo.
13. _____, a major transportation center, is near Fort Worth.
18. All the defenders of the _____ mission were killed in the Mexican battle.
When Brigham Young saw the Great Salt Lake Valley, he declared, “This is the place.” He and his fellow settlers were followers of Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) in 1830. Driven from Missouri and Illinois (where Smith was killed by an angry mob), Young led many Mormons to Utah. There the church followers “made the desert bloom.” They worked hard—“Industry” is the Beehive State’s motto—and created a thriving community where there once had been nothing. Utah’s population grew even more when the railroads were built. A golden spike marks the point in Promontory, Utah, where the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads met.

Many visitors come to Utah to see its natural wonders. Five national parks grace the state, which has huge amounts of public land, both state and federal. Arches National Park has towers, pinnacles, and near-perfect arches, all shaped by wind and weather. Canyonlands National Park has three distinct areas—the mesa (flat-topped elevations), spires and meadows, and the rugged backcountry. Capitol Reef National Park boasts the Waterpocket Fold, which shows how the earth’s strata (layers) were formed. Bryce Canyon National Park features hoodoos—fantastically shaped, delicate rock spires that seem to grow up from the canyon floor. Perhaps Utah’s most incredible landscape is Zion National Park. (Zion means “promised land.”) Here, the desert exhibits sculpted rock formations in astonishing colors.

Another Utah wonder is the Great Salt Lake, one of the most saline (salty) bodies of water in the world—much saltier than the oceans. Freshwater runs into the lake from surrounding mountains, but there are no outlets for it to escape. Instead, the water evaporates in the heat, leaving a heavy concentration of minerals. In 2002, many people will get a chance to admire this wonder when Salt Lake City hosts the Winter Olympic Games.
ACROSS
3. Utah has lots of _____ land, not privately owned.
4. There are _____ (number) national parks in Utah.
6. Joseph _____ founded the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints.
8. _____ runs into Salt Lake from the surrounding mountains.
11. Zion National Park has colorful, sculpted _____ formations.
12. The capital of Utah is Salt Lake _____.
14. _____, the name of a national park, means “promised land.”
16. “_____” is Utah’s state motto.
18. Not even the _____ are saltier than the Great Salt Lake.
20. Followers of Joseph Smith are called _____.

DOWN
1. Brigham Young called Salt Lake Valley “the _____.”
2. The Mormons are known for making “the _____ bloom.”
5. Salt Lake has a very heavy concentration of _____.
7. The Waterpocket Fold shows how the earth’s layers or _____ were formed.
9. _____ transported settlers to Utah and the west.
10. _____ means salty.
13. The _____ Pacific and Central Pacific Railroads met at Promontory, Utah.
15. _____ Young led his followers to the valley of the Great Salt Lake.
17. Utah is called the _____ State.
The name Vermont means “green mountain” in French. Vermont forests, covering more than four and a half million acres of the state, always appear lush and green. The trees were a good haven for Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, a military force that protected the land from greedy New Yorkers. Later, Allen’s Green Mountain Boys were enlisted to fight in the Revolutionary War. They fought alongside Benedict Arnold (an American general who later proved to be a traitor by offering to hand over West Point to the enemy) to defeat the British in the battle for Fort Ticonderoga. The British suffered another loss at the Battle of Bennington. During a later fight with the British in the War of 1812, U.S. naval commander Thomas MacDonough overpowered the enemy fleet on Lake Champlain. (This large lake, which borders New York and Quebec, was discovered by French explorer Samuel de Champlain in 1609.)

Even before Europeans arrived in Vermont, American Indians had been tapping the region’s sugar maple trees to produce syrup. To this day, Vermont is the biggest producer of pure maple syrup in the United States. Late winter or early spring is sugaring time in the northeast. Two or three holes are drilled into the tree trunks and spouts are pushed into the holes. The sap drips into buckets or storage tanks, then the sweet liquid is boiled down to make syrup. A big tree produces about 8 gallons of sap. It takes about 30 to 50 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. Vermont also specializes in another sweet treat—Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream. Their factory in Waterbury is a major attraction.

Another state industry is granite and marble cutting, centered around Barre. The Appalachian Mountains, known as the Green Mountains in Vermont, are the source for these valuable rocks. The mountain chain runs down the center of the state like a backbone. Its highest peak is Mount Mansfield. Vermont’s snow-capped peaks attract skiers. Killington, Stowe, and Mount Snow are some of Vermont’s exceptional ski resorts.
ACROSS
4. Late winter or early spring is _____ time in the northeast.
6. Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys helped defeat the British at Fort _____.
7. Military academy West _____ almost fell into British hands.
9. The granite center of Vermont is in _____.
10. Lake _____ is named for the Frenchman who explored it.
15. Vermont has four and a half million acres of _____.
16. Before fighting in the Revolutionary War, the Green Mountain Boys fought _____.
17. Lake Champlain borders New York and _____, Canada.
18. Benedict Arnold was a _____ to his country.

DOWN
1. Vermont means “green mountain” in _____.
2. A popular ski resort in Vermont is _____.
3. The capital of Vermont is _____.
4. Maple syrup comes from the _____ of sugar maple trees.
5. The _____ Mountains are part of the Appalachian chain.
8. Thomas _____ defeated the British on Lake Champlain in 1814.
9. The Battle of _____ in Vermont was an American victory.
11. Mount _____ is the tallest peak in Vermont.
12. In _____, visitors can tour the Ben and Jerry’s Ice Cream plant.
13. One large tree produces about _____ gallons of sap.
Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the United States, was founded in Virginia in 1607. It was here that Pocahontas, daughter of a Powhatan Indian chief, supposedly saved the life of Captain John Smith. Nearby Williamsburg became a booming town in the 18th century. Today, Colonial Williamsburg recreates the lifestyle of two centuries ago.

Virginia, often called Mother of Presidents, was the birthplace of eight of this country’s leaders. George Washington’s home, Mount Vernon, and Thomas Jefferson’s home, Monticello, are located here. Virginia played a major role in both the American Revolution and the Civil War. Passionate orator Patrick Henry gave his famous “Give me liberty or give me death” speech on the floor of the Virginia assembly in 1775. A year later, Virginia put forward the resolution that the American colonies “are and ought to be free.” This prompted Thomas Jefferson to draft the Declaration of Independence. The American Revolution ended at Yorktown in 1781, when General George Washington trapped the British against the sea. Virginia became the tenth state to join the Union in 1788.

During the Civil War, Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy. The Confederacy’s commanding general, Robert E. Lee, was also a Virginian. The first real battle of the Civil War was fought in Manassas. In 1865, Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House.

Lee’s estate was confiscated by the U.S. government. It is now Arlington National Cemetery, where row upon row of white headstones mark the graves of war veterans. An eternal flame marks the gravesite of President John F. Kennedy. His brother Robert and wife Jacqueline are buried nearby. At the Tomb of the Unknowns, an unidentified veteran from each U.S. war is laid to rest.
ACROSS

4. _____ National Cemetery contains the graves of veterans of U.S. wars.
6. Patrick Henry said, “Give me _____ or give me death.”
9. At Colonial _____, you can see life as it was lived during colonial times.
12. Robert E. _____ led the Confederate forces in the Civil War.
13. _____ was from the Powhatan tribe.
14. John F. Kennedy’s grave has an eternal _____.
18. The first major battle of the Civil War was fought at _____.
20. Virginia is the birthplace of eight _____.

DOWN

1. Thomas Jefferson’s home is called _____.
2. _____, Virginia, was the site of the final British surrender.
3. The _____ of the Unknowns is in Arlington National Cemetery.
5. Thomas _____ drafted the Declaration of Independence.
7. Virginia is called _____ Dominion.
8. _____ was the site of the first permanent English settlement in this country.
10. _____ was the capital of the Confederacy.
11. _____ Smith’s life was supposedly saved by the daughter of a Powhatan chief.
16. Virginia was the _____ state admitted to the Union.
17. The Revolutionary _____ was fought against the British.
19. Patrick _____ spoke at the Virginia Assembly.
The Cascade Mountain Range cuts across Washington from north to south. The range is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, which spawns volcanoes and earthquakes. On May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens blew its top, leaving a crater a mile wide and two miles long. The shock of the explosion flattened trees and caused the mountain’s Spirit Lake to rise more than 200 feet.

Another volcanic peak in the range is Mount Rainier, which is currently dormant (inactive). Rainier—called Tahoma by Indians—is home to several glaciers. Climbers training to ascend Mount Everest, the world’s tallest mountain, practice here. Meadows covered with alpine flowers grace the mountain. Thousand-year-old trees grow in its Grove of the Patriarchs.

North Cascades National Park is home to mountain goats, deer, black and grizzly (related to brown) bears, cougars, and wolverines. Near the Pacific coast, Olympic National Park contains the Hoh rain forest, one of the few temperate rain forests in the world. (Most rain forests are in the tropics.) Olympic also has glaciers and beaches along the coast.

Many places in Washington have Indian names including Spokane, Walla Walla, Wenatchee, and Yakima. Seattle is named after Chief Seattle, a great speaker and environmentalist. The city is long and narrow, hemmed in by Puget Sound and Lake Washington. Seattle has steep streets, despite the fact that huge areas have been filled. After a disastrous fire in 1889, the streets were raised as much as 35 feet, creating an underground city, which visitors can explore. The Space Needle, built for the 1962 World’s Fair, is a favorite attraction. So is Pike Place Market, which has been operating since 1907. The market sells a wide variety of meat, fish, vegetables, and fruits, including all types of apples. Washington is the biggest apple producer in the country.

From Seattle, ferries go out every day into Puget Sound and the beautiful San Juan Islands. A ferry in Bellingham travels along the Alaska Marine Highway, which goes all the way to the 50th state.
ACROSS

4. The ferry that goes on the Alaska Marine Highway leaves from _____.

7. The capital of Washington is _____.

8. The _____ bear is part of the family of brown bears.

10. No state grows more _____ than Washington.

11. Washington is the _____ State.

14. _____ is the temperate rain forest in Olympic National Park.

15. Olympic National Park has beaches along the _____ Ocean.

17. Ferries from _____ go out into Puget Sound.

18. There are many places in Washington that have _____ names.

19. The _____ Mountains run north to south in Washington.

DOWN

1. The Pacific Ring of Fire produces many _____ and earthquakes.

2. _____ Place Market has been operating for almost 100 years.

3. The Grove of the _____ has ancient trees.

5. Mountain _____ make their home in the North Cascades.

6. Seattle suffered through a serious _____ in 1889.

9. Washington is named after the first _____ of the United States.

12. The Space _____ in Seattle was built for the 1962 World’s Fair.

13. Indians call Mount Rainier _____.


16. Seattle was named after an Indian _____.
The Appalachian mountains dominate large areas of West Virginia. The region was sparsely settled until after the American Revolution. West Virginia was originally part of Virginia. However, the people who lived in the mountainous west were not in favor of slavery and did not secede (withdraw) from the Union during the Civil War. Instead, they petitioned to be separated from Virginia and became a state in 1863.

Emotions about slavery ran high in West Virginia. John Brown, a fanatic supporter of abolition (ending slavery), and his followers tried to steal weapons from the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry in 1859. He succeeded in taking over the garrison, but was later captured by Colonel Robert E. Lee. John Brown was hanged for treason and became a martyr for northern abolitionists. This incident contributed to the beginning of the Civil War.

Long before the war, many West Virginians made a living as coal miners. West Virginia has huge deposits of coal and natural gas. Coal formed from decayed vegetation that had fallen into shallow swamps. Over millions of years, layers of rock accumulated on top of the vegetation, which hardened and changed under the increasing pressure. The resulting coal can be burned for energy. In the old days underground coal mining was a dangerous occupation. Cave-ins, explosions, and polluted air killed many miners. Others fell ill from black-lung disease after years of breathing coal dust. Miners fought long and hard for better working conditions through the 20th century. In 1920, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) tried to organize miners in Matewan to fight for safer conditions. Today, “open-pit” mining is highly mechanized and a safer alternative.

West Virginia’s rural areas offer great recreational opportunities. Tourism has become a big industry. White-water rafters, hikers, and spelunkers (cave explorers) all find a haven in the state. People who enjoy warm mineral springs journey to Berkeley and White Sulphur Springs for their healing waters. West Virginia also is known for its fine glassware. Beauty is everywhere in West Virginia.
1. In 1920, mine workers trying to organize into a union gathered in _____.
8. _____ are people who are against slavery.
12. White-water _____ is a big sport in West Virginia.
14. Black _____ disease is caused by breathing coal dust.
16. _____ is decayed matter compressed for millions of years.
17. West Virginia became a _____ in 1863.
18. The capital of West Virginia is _____.
19. The postal abbreviation for West Virginia is _____.
20. John Brown led a raid on the federal arsenal at _____ Ferry.

2. Because West Virginia is so beautiful, _____ is a big industry.
3. Coal and natural _____ are plentiful in West Virginia.
4. West Virginia separated from Virginia during the Civil _____.
5. The United Mine _____ of America was a labor organization.
6. Berkeley is known for its _____ springs.
7. _____ mining is a dangerous occupation.
9. Colonel Robert E. Lee arrested John _____.
10. The Mountain State is home to the _____ Mountains.
11. West Virginia used to be part of _____.
13. West Virginia is known for its fine _____.
15. West Virginia refused to _____ from the Union during the Civil War.
The state of Wisconsin has almost as many cows as people. Called America’s Dairyland, Wisconsin produces more milk, butter, and cheese than any other state. In fact, the biggest cheese ever was made here. It weighed 345,910 pounds—bigger than three elephants.

Wisconsin is bordered on the east by Lake Michigan and on the north by Lake Superior. More than 15,000 lakes are distributed throughout the state. Lake Superior is home to Wisconsin’s Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, which includes 21 islands and 12 miles of shoreline. Sandy beaches and exotic sea caves are only part of the Apostle’s charms. Black bears and bald eagles as well as other wildlife inhabit the island forests. The Apostle Islands have one of the largest collections of lighthouses in the nation.

Green Bay, which is part of Lake Michigan, is home to the National Football League’s Green Bay Packers. This football team’s fans are very proud to be called “cheeseheads.” Devout fans wear “cheesy” headgear when cheering on their team. The Packers had one of the most famous coaches of all time, Vince Lombardi. As head coach and general manager of the Packers from 1959–67, he imposed a strict training regimen on his players. As a result, the Packers won five NFL championships and two Super Bowls during his tenure.

The 30th state admitted to the Union, Wisconsin has a strong political history. The Republican Party began in Ripon, Wisconsin, in 1854. Nicknamed the Grand Old Party (GOP), it was formed to oppose the expansion of slavery. (Modern Republican and Democratic parties now support different issues.) The GOP won its first election when Abraham Lincoln became president. The party won the presidency in 14 out of the next 18 elections. Wisconsin has tended to be a progressive state. Many social programs, including assistance for the disabled and unemployment compensation, began here.
ACROSS
1. Assistance for the _____ was first introduced in Wisconsin.
5. Wisconsin has tended to be a _____ state.
8. Wisconsin was the _____ state admitted to the Union.
11. Fans of the Green Bay _____ are known as “cheeseheads.”
13. The capital of Wisconsin is _____.
15. Bald _____ live at Apostle Islands.
16. Wisconsin has more than 15,000 _____.
17. The Packers are part of the National _____ League.
18. Wisconsin started many _____ programs.
19. In 1854, the Republican Party formed in _____, Wisconsin.

DOWN
1. Wisconsin is also called America’s _____.
2. Exotic sea caves can be found at the _____ Islands.
3. Wisconsin has almost as many _____ as people.
4. Green Bay is part of Lake _____.
6. Milk, butter, and _____ are dairy products.
7. The largest cheese ever produced weighed more than three _____.
9. Green Bay Packers’ most famous coach was Vince _____.
10. The first Republican president was Abraham _____.
12. Wisconsin is bordered by Lake Michigan and Lake _____.
14. GOP means _____ Old Party.
Wyoming is a rugged mountainous state with more cattle than people. Much of America’s Wild West mythology was born here. During the Frontier Days at the end of July, visitors can enjoy rodeos, mock shoot-outs, and other Wild West fare in the capital city of Cheyenne.

Wyoming is a frontier state in more ways than one. In 1869, the Equality State became the first to allow women to vote. This right was extended to the rest of U.S. women in 1920 when the 19th amendment was passed. The state also elected the first woman governor, Nellie Tayloe Ross.

Wyoming also has the first national monument—Devil’s Tower. This curiously shaped mountain is sacred to local tribes. Indian legend says that the tower was created when seven sisters were chased by a bear. They ran to a tree stump and prayed for help. The Great Spirit raised the stump up to the sky and turned it to rock. The girls were transformed into stars in the Big Dipper. The deep grooves on the side of the rock are the bear’s claw marks.

In 1872, Yellowstone became the first national park in the U.S. This huge park is the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined. John Colter, an explorer with the Lewis and Clark expedition, was asked to meet with the Indians in the Yellowstone River area in 1807. He returned describing fantastic boiling mud and steaming geysers. He was subjected to ridicule, and the region became known as Colter’s Hell. Volcanic activity is still evident in this park, which sits on a high plateau built up by a giant eruption. Old Faithful’s geyser shoots 5,000 to 8,000 gallons of spray and steam into the air every 30 to 90 minutes. Yellowstone is home to bison, elk, deer, antelopes, and gray wolves (introduced in 1995). A huge area of the park burned in 1988 after a lightning strike. Not far from Yellowstone is Grand Teton National Park and Jackson Hole, which is a long valley between the Gros Ventre and Teton Ranges.
ACROSS
3. During the _____ Days in July, visitors can relive the old Wild West.
5. The _____ amendment to the Constitution gave women the right to vote.
10. _____ Tower is sacred to American Indians.
12. Yellowstone National Park was built by _____ activity.
13. Wyoming ranks 50th or _____ in population.
14. The Yellowstone region was once called Colter’s _____.
16. _____ is the capital of Wyoming.
18. Yellowstone is the size of _____ Island and Delaware combined.
19. Old Faithful is a _____.

DOWN
1. Wyoming was the first state to give women the right to _____.
2. In 1995, gray _____ were introduced to Yellowstone National Park.
4. The Big _____ is a constellation.
6. Wyoming is the _____ State.
7. Jackson _____ is the valley between two mountain ranges.
8. Yellowstone was the first _____ Park.
11. John Colter was an _____ with the Lewis and Clark expedition.
15. Grand _____ National Park is near Yellowstone.
16. Wyoming has more _____ than people.
17. Nellie Tayloe _____ of Wyoming was the first woman governor in the U.S.
The District of Columbia occupies the same space as the city of Washington. After much Congressional debate, George Washington picked this location—close to his home in Mount Vernon—for the capital of the United States. While Maryland and Virginia donated the land, the District of Columbia is considered a federal district not under the jurisdiction of any state. The city was designed by Pierre L’Enfant.

Washington, D.C., houses all three branches of the U.S. government. The executive branch is centered at the White House. The president is elected every four years for a maximum of two terms. As Chief Executive, the president is responsible for executing or carrying out the law and commanding the Armed Forces. The legislative branch, housed in the Capitol Building, is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Together, the Congress makes laws, regulates taxation and spending, declares war, and more. Two senators are elected from each state every six years, and representatives, based on the state’s population, are elected every two years. The judicial branch—the Supreme Court—is composed of eight justices plus a chief justice. They interpret the U.S. Constitution (and its amendments), assuring that the laws made and enforced are legal. Supreme Court Justices are appointed by the president for life, subject to the approval of the Senate.

The District of Columbia contains our most honored structures. At the Lincoln Memorial, a brooding Abraham Lincoln sits surrounded by excerpts of his speeches. The Washington Monument is a 555-foot-tall marble obelisk (four-sided shaft). On the Potomac River, the memorial to Thomas Jefferson features a standing Jefferson with quotes and excerpts from his writings. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Korean War Veterans Memorial are tributes to those who fought in these conflicts. A World War II memorial is scheduled to be completed in 2004. The Smithsonian Institution, containing 16 museums and a zoo, is also centered in Washington.
ACROSS
2. The name District of _____ comes from Christopher Columbus.
4. The _____ consists of 16 museums altogether.
7. Congress meets in the _____ Building.
9. A state’s population determines how many _____ it has in the House.
15. George Washington’s home is in Mount _____.
19. The _____ of Columbia is the patriotic center of the nation.
20. A World War II _____ is scheduled to be completed in 2004.

8. The _____ branch is formed by the two houses of Congress.
10. Supreme Court Justices are appointed by the _____.
11. There are a total of _____ justices in the Supreme Court.
12. The Supreme Court interprets the Constitution and its _____.
14. In the _____, two members come from each state.
16. The president heads the _____ branch of government.
17. The Washington Monument is a 555-foot-tall _____.
18. It is Congress’s responsibility to declare _____.

DOWN
1. The Jefferson Memorial is on the _____ River.
3. Pierre _____ designed the capital.
5. _____ is the capital of the United States.
6. Maryland and _____ donated land for Washington, D.C.