

Tour of the Regions of the USA: A WebQuest for Grades 4-9

- **INTRODUCTION:** A group of foreign exchange students has been invited to spend a semester at your school. The students will tour the United States by car before arriving in your town. Because they won't have time to travel throughout the entire United States, they've decided to focus their tour on only one region of the country. They've asked your class to help them decide which region to explore.
- **TASK:** You and your classmates will work in teams to explore six regions of the United States: New England, the Mid Atlantic states, the South, Southwest, Midwest, and West. Each team will investigate one region's landmarks, monuments, and other areas of interest, and then create a brochure describing and illustrating an interesting and informative tour of that region.



The PROCESS

- **Step 1:** Have each team member choose one of the following roles:
 - **The team leader** will conduct team meetings and make final decisions and assignments in the event of disagreements among team members.
 - **The mapmaker** will create a map of the tour.
 - **The organizer** will compile all the elements of the brochure and combine them in the most logical order.
 - **The tour guide** will present the tour to the rest of the class.
- **Step 2:** As a team, study a map of the United States to familiarize yourselves with your assigned region.
- **Step 3:** Have each team member choose one or more states in that region. Be sure all the states in the region are included.
- **Step 4:** Have each team member use appropriate online resources as well as library resources, if available, to explore his or her states' landmarks, monuments, and other areas of interest.
- **Step 5:** Meet as a group to choose the 10 most interesting places of interest in the region. Try to include at least one place from each state.
- **Step 6:** Find on a U.S. map each of the places selected. Create a regional map showing those places and illustrating the route your tour will take.
- **Step 7:** Assign one or more of the selected locations to each team member. Have team members create a page for each of their assigned locations. Each page should include a picture of the location - either drawn or downloaded from the Internet -- as well as a brief description of the location's history and significance.
- **Step 8:** Present your brochure to your classmates. The brochure can be in PowerPoint form!

RESOURCES and EVALUATION

- **RESOURCES**

- http://www.dmoz.org/Regional/North_America/United_States/
- <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>
- <http://members.aol.com/bowermanb/US.html>
- <http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspage/stateknow/>
- http://directory.google.com/Top/Regional/North_America/United_States/
- <http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/es>
- <http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/es>
- http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/pdf/uscap_nl.pdf

- **EVALUATION**--Your grade will reflect:

- the accuracy of your research as demonstrated by the information in the brochure. (25 percent)
- the overall quality of the brochure. (20 percent)
- the quality of your group's final presentation. (30 percent)
- your contribution to the group process. (25 percent)

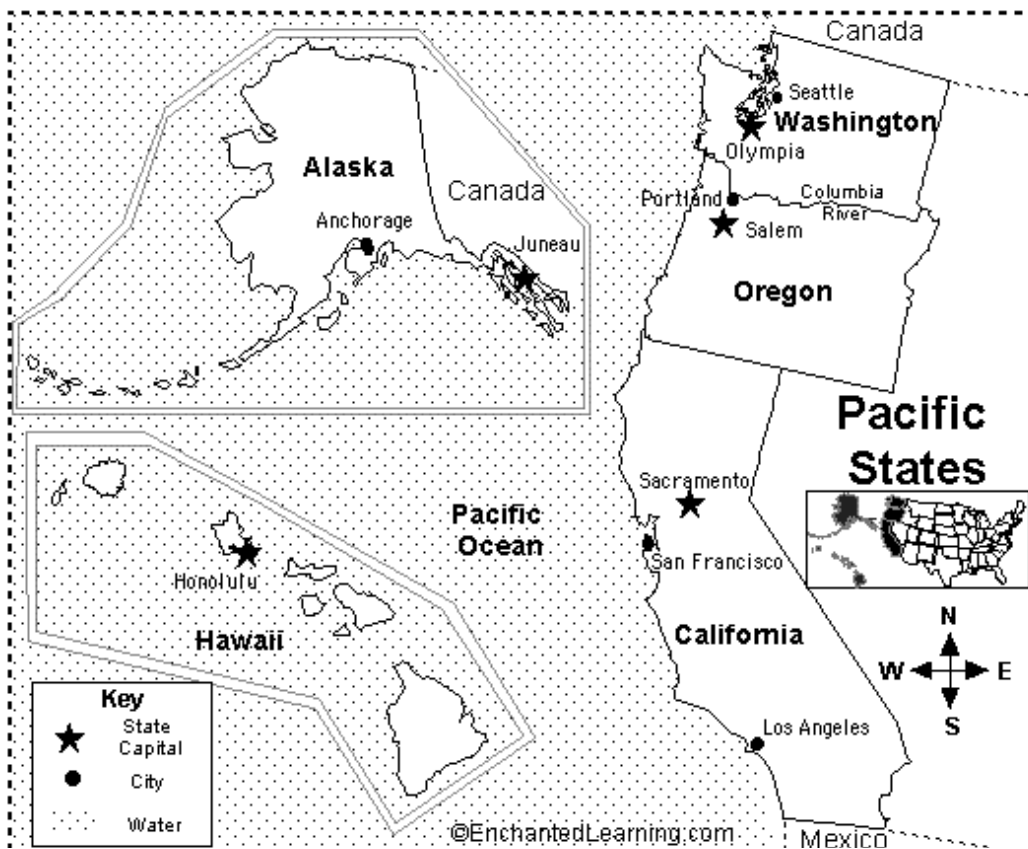
- **CONCLUSION:**

- Use what you've learned about U.S. landmarks to plan your own tour of the United States. Describe the places you would visit and draw a map of your proposed route. How many miles would you travel? How long would your tour take?

Extension Activity: Learn more about U.S. Regions!

The following worksheets can be completed in association with the U.S. Regions Webquest activity. Complete the worksheet for the region which your group has been assigned and use it as a guide for your presentation! Your audience should be able to follow along with your presentation and complete their worksheets as you present!





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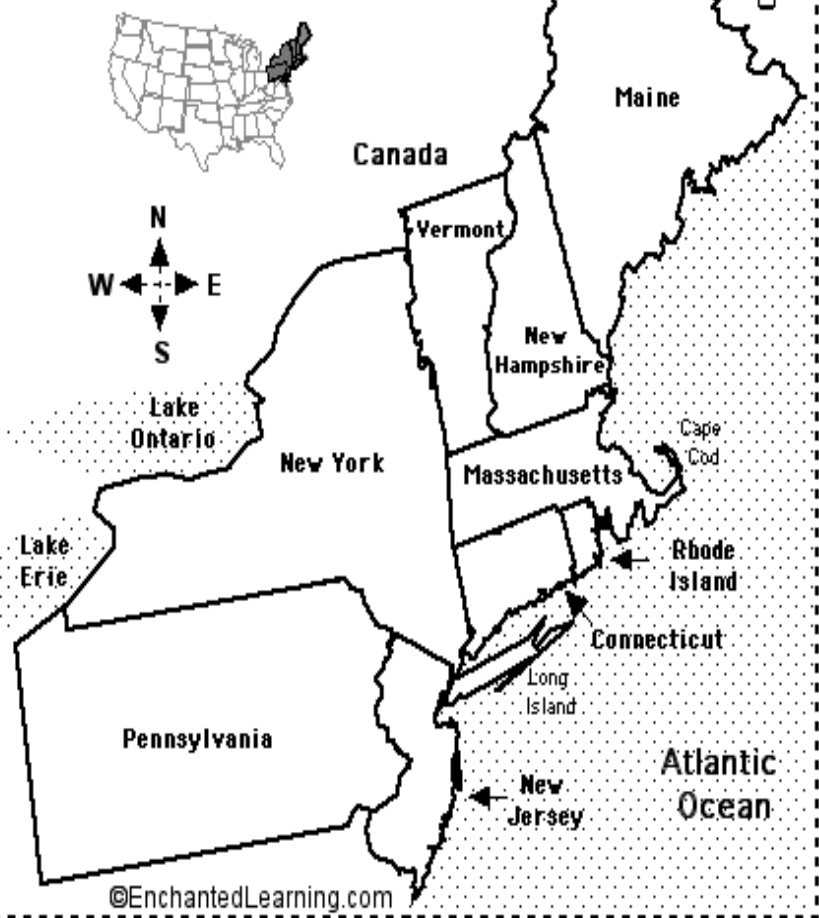
1. What large body of water do all of the Pacific states border? _____
2. What country is north of Washington (and east of Alaska)? _____
3. What country is south of California? _____
4. What state is composed only of islands (and what is its capital)? _____,

5. If you crossed the Columbia River from Washington, what state would you be in (and what is that state's capital)?
_____, _____
6. In which state is the city of San Francisco (and what is the capital of this state)? _____,

7. Which state borders Canada but does not border any US states (also, what is that state's capital)?
_____, _____
8. In which state is the city of Seattle (and what is the capital of this state)? _____,

9. Is Oregon north or south of California? _____
10. Is Anchorage southeast or northwest of Juneau? _____

The Northeast



1. What country borders the Northeastern states to the north?

2. What large body of water borders this region on the east?

3. Which of these states extends farthest north and east?

4. Which of these states extends the farthest southwest?

5. What is the smallest state in the Northeast (and the smallest state in the entire USA)? _____

6. Which two Northeastern states do not border the Atlantic Ocean?

_____ and _____

7. Which of the Great Lakes border the Northeastern states?

_____ and _____

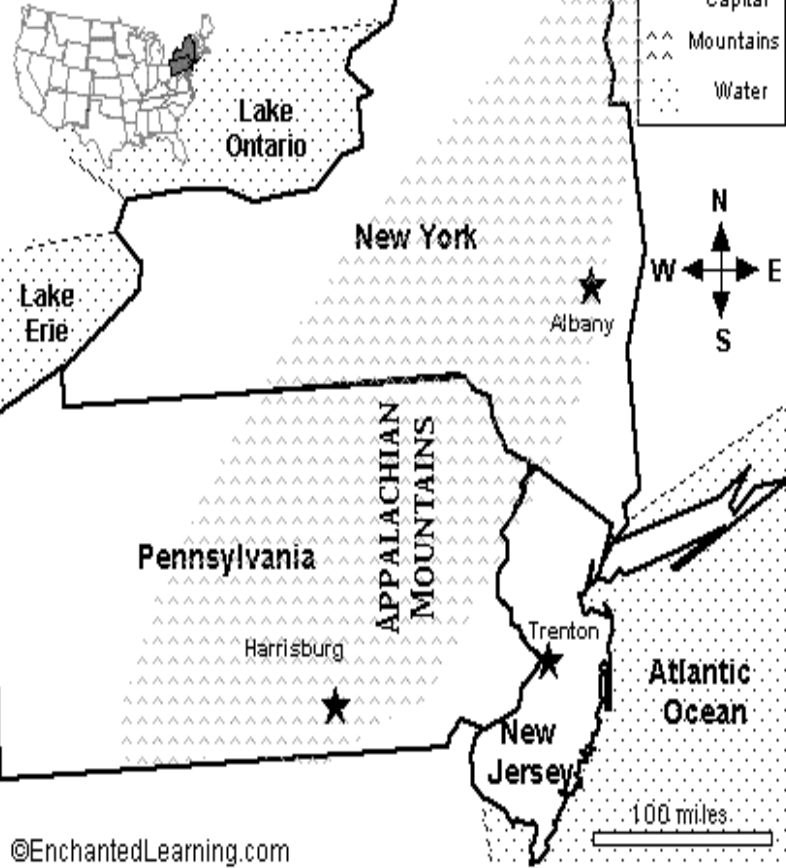
8. Which of the Northeastern states has the longest cape extending into the ocean (and what is the name of this cape)? (This is the cape where the Mayflower first landed)

_____;

9. Which Northeastern state is located between Vermont and Maine? _____

10. Which Northeastern state is located north of Pennsylvania and west of Massachusetts? _____

Middle Atlantic States



1. In which part of the USA are the Middle Atlantic states located: the northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest or central?

2. What is the northernmost state of the Middle Atlantic states (and what is its capital)?

3. Which of the Middle Atlantic states extends farthest south (and what is its capital)?

4. Which of the Middle Atlantic states extends farthest west (and what is its capital)?

5. What large body of water borders the Middle Atlantic states on the southeast?

6. Which of the Great Lakes borders both Pennsylvania and New York?

7. Which of the Great Lakes borders only New York and Canada?

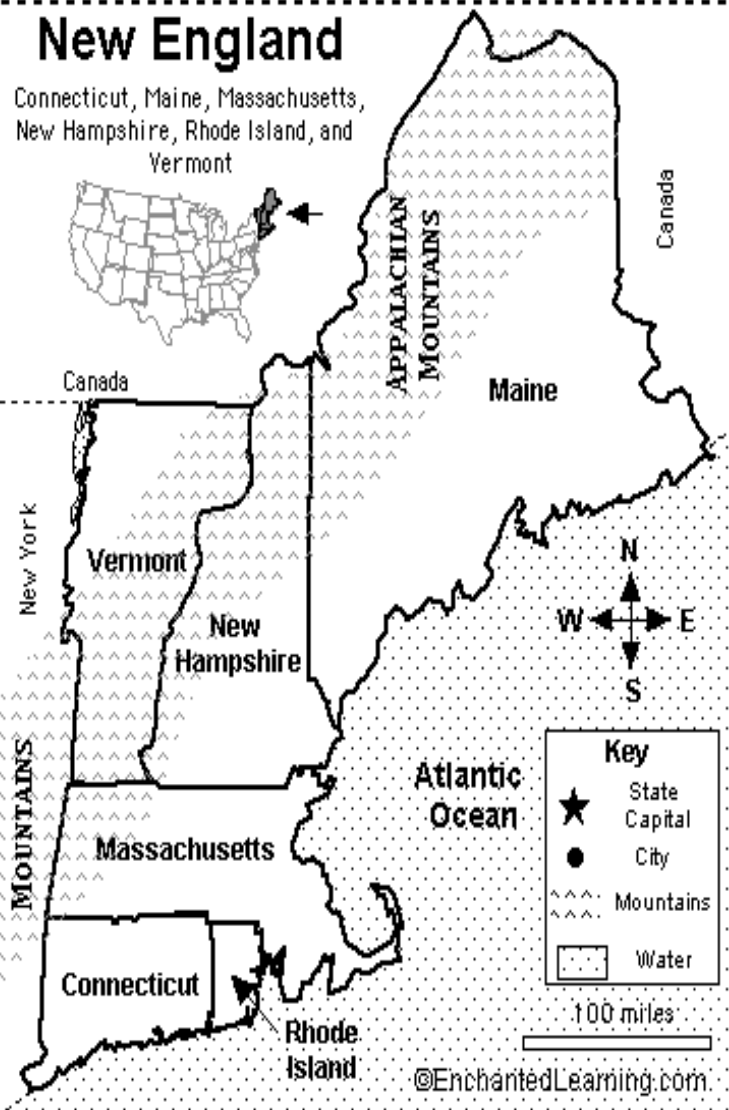
8. What is the name of the mountain range that runs through this region?

9. What country borders this region to the north?

10. Approximately how wide is the state of New Jersey (east to west): 500 miles, 50 miles, or 5 miles?

New England

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts,
New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and
Vermont



1. In which part of the USA is New England located: northeast, northwest, southeast, or southwest? _____
2. What country borders New England on the north?

3. What US state borders New England on the west?

4. What oceans borders New England on the east?

5. What mountain range runs through much of New England?

6. What state in New England is both the farthest north and east?

7. What state in New England is the farthest south and west?

8. What is the name of the smallest state in New England?

9. What is the name of state in New England that has a long, curving cape that juts into the ocean?

10. What are the two New England states located west of Maine and east of New York? _____ and



1. What large river runs north to south through the midwest, from Minnesota and Wisconsin to Missouri and Illinois (and eventually to the Gulf of Mexico)? _____

2. What large river runs northwest to southeast, through North Dakota, South Dakota, and other states until it flows into the Mississippi River? _____

3. What country borders the midwestern states on the north? _____

4. Which midwestern state is farthest east (and what is its capital)? _____,

5. Which midwestern state is farthest northwest (and what is its capital)? _____,

6. Which midwestern state is farthest south (and what is its capital)? _____,

7. What state is just south of Nebraska (and what is its capital)? _____,

8. Which state is divided into two separate parts (and what is its capital)? _____,

9. What state is just west of Indiana (and what is its capital)? _____,

10. What state is between Minnesota and Missouri (and what is its capital)? _____,



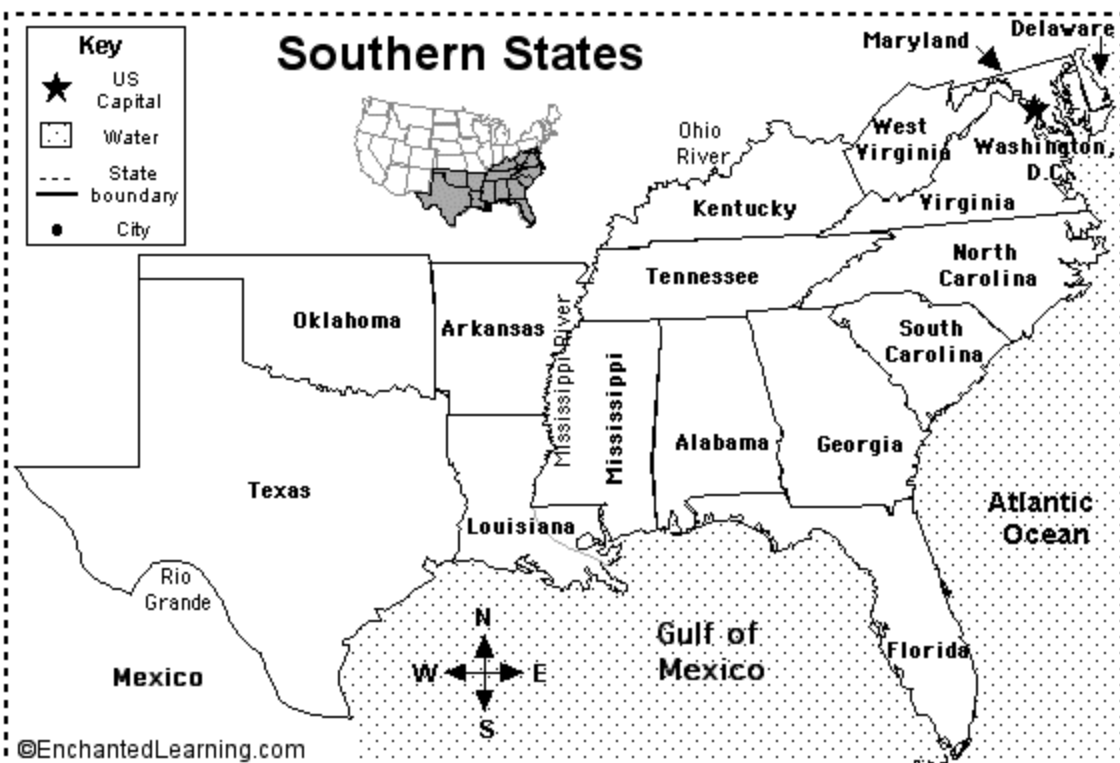
1. What country is north of the Northwestern states? _____
2. What ocean is west of this area? _____
3. In which Northwestern state do the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers flow (and what is this state's capital)?

4. What state is located between Montana and Washington (and what is its capital)? _____
5. Which state borders Washington, Idaho, Nevada, California, and the Pacific Ocean (and what is this state's capital)?

6. Which state would you be in if you crossed the Columbia River from Oregon (and what is the capital of this state)?

7. Which state borders Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, and Idaho (also, what is that state's capital)?

8. Does the Yellowstone River originate in Wyoming, Idaho, or Washington? _____
9. Is Wyoming north or south of Montana? _____
10. Is Idaho east or west of Oregon and Washington? _____



1. What large body of water borders the Southern states on the east? _____
2. What large body of water borders this area to the south? _____
3. What country borders this area on the southwest? _____
4. What major river runs north to south through the center of this region? _____
5. What major river runs along the southwestern border of this area? _____
6. The capital city of the U.S.A., Washington, D.C., is located between which two states? _____ and _____
7. In this area, which state is the farthest southeast? _____
8. In this area, which state is the farthest southwest? _____
9. What is the name of the river that forms the northern border of Kentucky and that flows into the Mississippi River?

10. In which part of the country is this area: the northeast, northwest, southeast, or southwest? _____



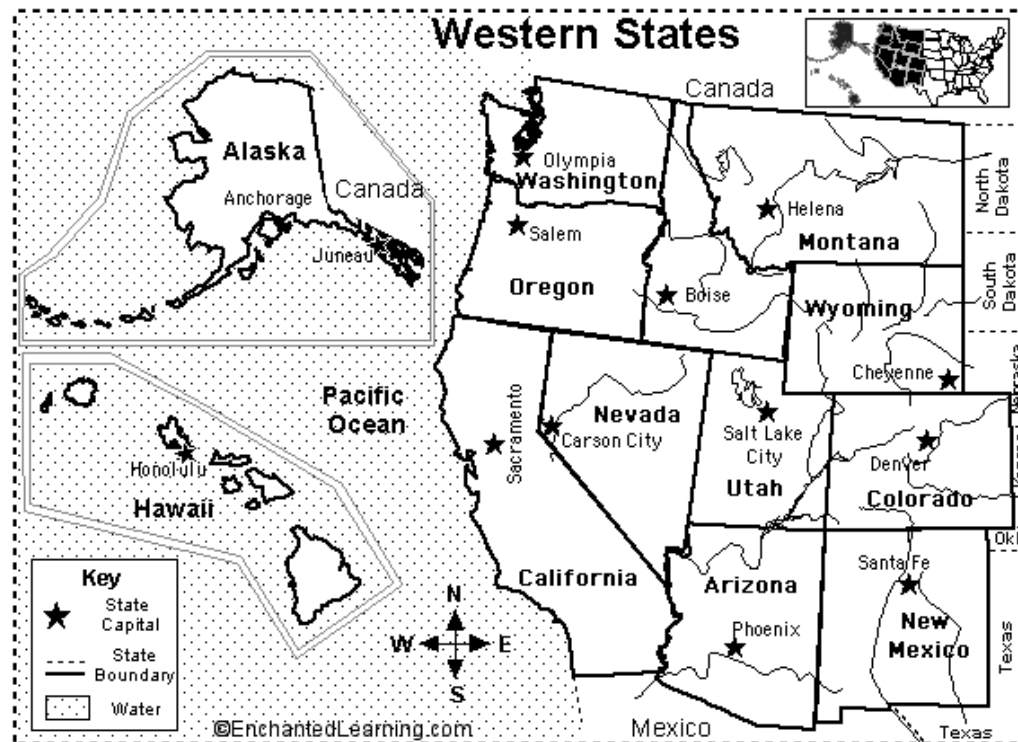
1. What large body of water borders the southwestern US on the west? _____
2. What country borders this area on the south? _____
3. Which state is just south of Utah (and what is this state's capital)? _____ ,

4. Which state is the farthest southwest both in this area and in the continental US (and what is the capital of this state)?
_____ , _____
5. Santa Fe is the capital of what state? _____
6. Which state is east of Nevada and west of Colorado (and what is this state's capital)? _____ ,

7. Which state is just north of New Mexico (and what is this state's capital)? _____ ,

8. Which state borders California, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, and Arizona (and what is this state's capital)?
_____ , _____
9. In the southwest there is one place where four states meet - it is called the Four Corners. What four states meet there?
_____, _____, _____, and

10. If you wanted to travel from Carson City, Nevada, to Denver, Colorado, in which direction would you head: north, south, east, or west? _____



1. What large body of water borders Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, and California?

2. What country is north of Washington, Idaho, and Montana (and east of Alaska)? _____
3. What country is south of California, Arizona, and New Mexico? _____
4. Which state is the farthest northwest in the continental US (and what is the capital of this state)?
_____, _____
5. Which state is the farthest southwest in the continental US (and what is the capital of this state)?
_____, _____
6. There is one place in the USA where four states touch - it is called the Four Corners, and is in the Western USA. What are the four states that touch? _____, _____, _____, and _____
7. Which state borders Canada but does not border any US states (also, what is that state's capital)?
_____, _____
8. Which state is composed of a series of islands in the Pacific Ocean (and what is the capital of this state)?
_____, _____
9. Helena is the capital of which state? _____
10. If you wanted to travel from Phoenix, Arizona, to Salt Lake City, Utah, which direction would you head: north, south, east, or west?
