

Making a US Map

1. Use the State Abbreviation Clues on the last page to label the states, oceans and US capitol.
2. **Water, Water Every Where:** Read each story below (or others of your choice) and label the waterways mentioned in each.

Paddle to the Sea (great lakes, Mississippi River)

Mail by the Pail (Great Lakes)

A Year in the Life of Alexander Henry, an MGA Resource (Michigan and the Great Lakes)

Grand Canyon by Jason Chin (Colorado River)

A Gila Monster Meets you at the Airport by Majorie Sharmat (Rio Grande and Gila River)

Great Salt Lake by Mary Schulte (informational Text Features)

2. **Mountains:** Read each story below (or others of your choice) and label the mountain range mentioned in each.

Rocky Mountain Night Before Christmas by Joe Gribnau

Appalachia: The Voices of the Sleeping Birds by Cynthia Rylant

Sierra by Diane Sebert

Fiddlin' Sam by Marrianna Dengler (Ozarks)

3. **Regions:** Have students color and label 7 regions of the US. This can be done as a class using the read aloud stories. You could also have student do a lit circle with one of the longer readings and then research the region it is set in.

Read Aloud:

Southwest: *A Gila Monster Meets You at the Airport* by Majorie Sharmat; *Coyote Christmas* by S.D Nelson; *The Legend of the Bluebonnet* by Tomi DePaulo; *Armadillo from Amarillo* by Lynne Cherry

New England: *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey; *Blueberries For Sal* by Robert McCloskey; *Big Jack* by Robert Candy; *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney; *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen

Midwest: *Going West, Prairie Day, Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder Adapted/Illustrated by Renee Graef; *Cowboy Slim* by Julie Danneberg; *Fiddlin Sam* by Marrianna Dengler

Great Lakes States: *Mail by the Pail* by Colin Bergel; *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder, adapted/illustrated by Renee Graef; *Just about anything* by Patricia Polacco

Pacific: *Three Bears of the Pacific Northwest* by Marcia K Vaughan or *the Tree* by Dana Lyons

South: *Carolina's Story: Turtles Get Sick Too* by Donna Rathmell; *Georgia Music* by Helen Griffith;

Mountain: *Who Pooped in the Park?* By Gary D. Robson; *Lewis and Clark's Bittersweet Crossing* by Carol Lynn Macgregor; *Rocky Mountain Night Before Christmas* by Joe Gribnau; *The Banshee Train* by Odds Botkins;

Literature Circles:

Southwest: *Down River* By Will Hobbs; *Runs with Horses* by Brian Burk; *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

New England: *Pollyanna* by Eleanor H Porter; *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott; *Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare

Midwest: *Little House on the Prairie/By the Shores of Silver Lake* etc. By Laura Ingalls Wilder; *Sarah Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan; *The Great Turkey Walk* by Kathleen Karr

Great Lakes States: *Robert Price* by Robert McCloskey; *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder; *Motor Boat Boys on the Great Lakes or Exploring the Mystic Isle of Mackinac* by Louis Arundel or *Brothers of the Heart: A Story of the Old Northwest, 1837-1838* by Joan Blos

Pacific: *There is an Owl in the Shower* by Jean Craighead George

South: *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor; *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor

Mountain: *Adaline Falling Star* by Mary Pope Osbourne; *The Dragon of Cripple Creek: A Novel* by Troy Howell; *The Great Turkey Walk* by Kathleen Karr

Books for each state: <http://www.carolhurst.com/subjects/uslit.html>

How to make a United States Map

Start by giving your map a title and a compass rose.

The Atlantic Ocean is to the East and the Pacific Ocean is to the West.

Label your state MI (Hint it looks like a mitten)

2 states share Michigan's southern border: IN to the West and OH to the East.

KY shares a border with Ohio, Indiana and IL

WV shares a border with both Kentucky and Ohio

North of Illinois is WI, which also has a coast line on Lake Michigan

MN borders Wisconsin and has some of Lake Superior's shore.

South of Minnesota, Land of 1000 Lakes, is IA, the Hawkeye State

MO is south of Iowa and is also known as the Show Me state

Two states are on Missouri's Western border: NE and KS

To the East of Montana there is a North and South pair: ND and SD

You can find the Gulf of Mexico by looking south of this boot shaped state: LA

Also on the Gulf of Mexico, to the East of Louisiana is MS, the most fun state to spell

Sandwiched between Mississippi and Kentucky is TN

The second largest state in the US, TX is on the Southern border with Mexico.

North of Texas, in Tornado Alley, is OK shaped like a pan

Just barely touching the Northern part of Oklahoma's panhandle, CO is known for its Rocky Mountain views

UT borders many mountain states including Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, and Nevada

Southwest states AZ and NM share a border with each other and Mexico

CA has the largest population in the US. Maybe because it has a long coast line on the Pacific Ocean?

This furthest west state, WA, shares a border with Canada.

Travel south from Washington or North from California and you will find OR.

ID is known for their potatoes and gives both Washington and Oregon their Western Border.

MT can look to the North and see Canada, and to the East and see North Dakota.

ME has the point that is the furthest North in the US

Southeast of West Virginia, is VA

Our second cardinal direction duo (NC and SC) both have coasts on the Atlantic Ocean and border on Georgia

The Eastern border of Ohio is mostly made by PA which is known for its steel production
South of Pennsylvania is a smaller state MD named for Queen Mary.

*** The capitol of the United States is located between Maryland and Virginia. Put a star and label it

Not to be confused with its Southern neighbor New Jersey, NY also borders Lake Ontario

3 states make up New York's Eastern border. From North to South they are VT, MA, and CT

Next to Connecticut is the smallest state in the nation RI

North of Connecticut and Rhode Island is MA, who is fun to say if not fun to spell

NH is a triangle shaped state with borders on Vermont, Maine and Massachusetts

DE is a small New England state touches Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

FL which is between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean is home to Disney World and Gatorland.

Want to hear a joke? What did Tennessee when it looked to the West? The same thing that AK

Between Utah and California, NV is a desert state

NJ is a small state on the Atlantic Ocean which is across the river from NY.

WY is a square shaped mountain state South of Montana

Like Florida is known for Oranges, GA to the North is known for its peaches.

AL is the last state on our list, but the first in the alphabet.