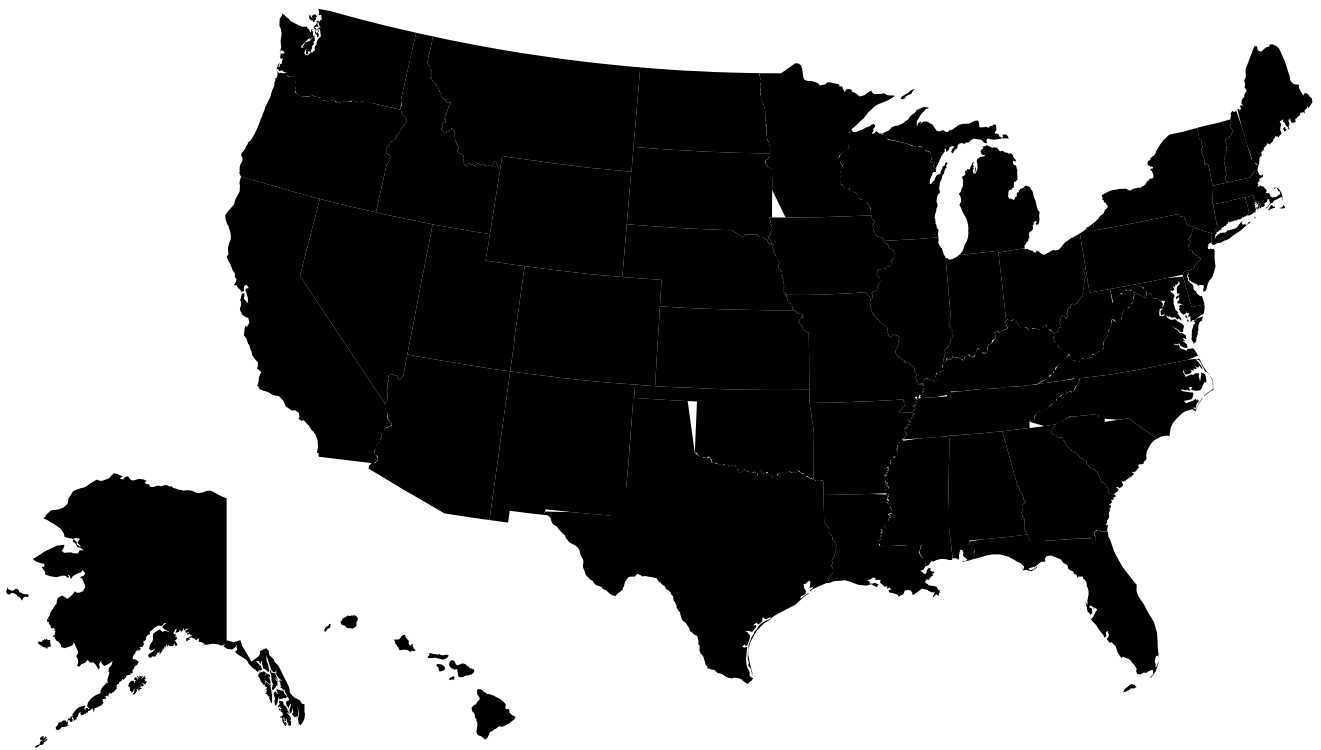


The Map Is Full of Things

A Ridge Riders illustrated shape hunt across the fifty states, in Foundations Cycle 3 order



Every state is hiding something. Not inside the outline — the outline is the thing. Once a child sees Oklahoma as a frying pan, they cannot unsee it, and they will never again confuse it with Kansas. That is the whole trick.

How to read this

1. Read the verse out loud. Let the child hear the object before they look for it.
 2. Say now find it and let them stare at the shape. Don't help yet.
 3. Then read the clue. The clue points at a real river, bay, or peninsula — that's the part that turns a rhyme into geography. Never skip it.
-

Bennett unrolled the map one night,
The lamp was low, the paper wide.
And Kodiak leaned in close and said,
“There's something in there. Something hides.”

Blaze put one paw on Tennessee.
“It isn't hidden. Look — it's plain.
The states aren't states at all,” she grinned.
“They're things. And I can prove it. Name a name.”

So Bennett pointed. Kodiak growled low.
And Blaze said, “Start out west, and go.”

Week 1

Maine · New Hampshire · Massachusetts · Rhode Island · Connecticut

Maine

capital Augusta

How to remember it

A gust of wind blows the lobster claw wide open. Au-GUST-a.

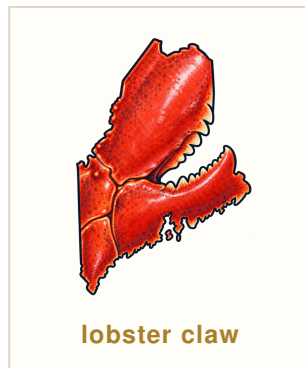
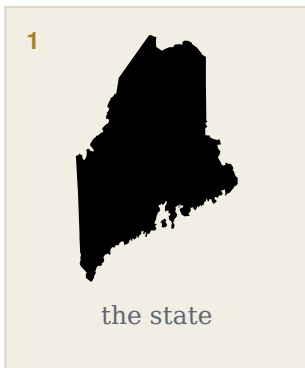
The Lobster Claw

A lobster claw held open wide,
All jagged edges, rough and
torn.

It's got the coldest water in it.
It's the first place to see the
morn.

Clue

The jagged east edge is the rocky coastline. Maine sees the sunrise before any other state.



New Hampshire

capital Concord

How to remember it

The whole tent is held up by one long cord. Con-CORD.

The Tent

A tent pitched with the point straight up,
The bottom staked out wide and flat.

Somebody's camping in the mountains.

The peak is where they hung their hat.

Clue

The point at the top is the narrow northern tip. The White Mountains are inside.



Massachusetts

capital Boston

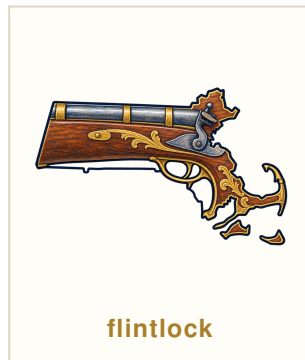
How to remember it

Whose flintlock is hanging there? The boss's — and it weighs a ton. BOSS-ton.

The Flintlock

An old flintlock above the door,
Its barrel aimed along the shore.

The grip curls out into the sea.
One shot from here set a country free.



Clue

The barrel is the long straight body of the state. The hook at the end is Cape Cod, curling north into the Atlantic — and Lexington and Concord are inside it.

Rhode Island

capital Providence

How to remember it

The tiny anchor provides for the whole coast — it's the only thing holding on. PROVIDE-nce.

The Little Anchor

The smallest anchor ever made,
Dropped in the corner, holding
tight.

It's tiny, but it holds the coast,
And it won't slip, and it won't
slide.

Clue

Narragansett Bay splits the middle,
making the anchor's shaft. Smallest
state, longest official name.



Connecticut

capital Hartford

How to remember it

A giant heart wades across a river
ford with the suitcase held over its
head. HART-ford.

The Suitcase

A suitcase packed and set down
flat,

A handle notched right in the
top.

It's small. It's neat. It's going
somewhere.

It's ready. Someone say when to
stop.

Clue

The notch in the top edge is the little
jog where Massachusetts pushes
down.



Week 2

Vermont · New York · New Jersey · Pennsylvania · Delaware

Vermont

capital Montpelier

How to remember it

Somebody is peeling the ice cream cone like a banana, up on a mountain. MONT-peeler.

The Ice Cream Cone

A cone tipped point-side down
and green,
Wide at the top where scoops
would sit.

It's melting slow in mountain
air.

There's maple syrup all through
it.

Clue

Wide north, narrow south. Vermont means green mountain — and it's the only New England state with no coast.



New York

capital Albany

How to remember it

The crouching cat's mouth is stuffed full of bunnies. ALL-BUNNY. — one of the thirteen that fool you. Give it triple the passes.

The Crouching Cat

A cat crouched low and ready, tense,

Its long tail flicked out to the east.

It's watching something in the harbor.

It hasn't blinked. It hasn't ceased.

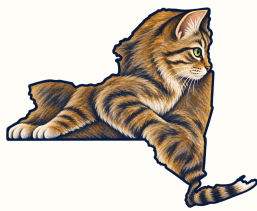
Clue

The tail is Long Island, stretching east. The head is up in the Adirondacks.

7



the state



crouching cat

New Jersey

capital Trenton

How to remember it

The pear finally drops — straight onto a train, and it weighs a ton. TREN-ton.

The Pear

A pear hangs from a slender stem,

Wide at the bottom, thin on top.

It's heavy. It's about to drop.

It's dangling and it will not stop.

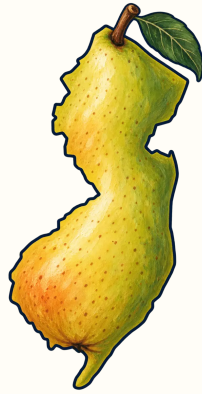
Clue

The stem is the narrow northern tip.
The wide bottom is the shore.

8



the state



pear

Pennsylvania

capital Harrisburg

How to remember it

The keystone sits in the arch of a castle that is covered head to foot in hair. HARRIS-burg. — one of the thirteen that fool you. Give it triple the passes.

The Keystone

A big flat stone above the door,
The one that holds the arch in place.

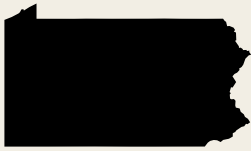
Take it out and down it all comes.

It's got a notch cut in one face.

Clue

The notch is the northwest corner reaching Lake Erie. Pennsylvania is the Keystone State.

9



the state



keystone

Delaware

capital Dover

How to remember it

The little mouse leaps clean over a door. DOVE-r.

The Little Mouse

A little mouse crept up the coast
And froze there, small and still
and gray.

It's easy to skip right past it —
But it was the first one, by the
way.

Clue

The rounded top edge is a true circle, drawn twelve miles out from New Castle. First state to ratify the Constitution.



Week 3

Maryland · Virginia · West Virginia · North Carolina · South Carolina

Maryland

capital Annapolis

How to remember it

A crab named Anna directs traffic in the middle of the bay. ANNA-police. — one of the thirteen that fool you. Give it triple the passes.

11



the state



crab

The Crab

A crab with one enormous claw
Held open, waiting, near the
sand.

The water cuts right through
the middle —

The claw's on one side, then the
land.

Clue

The water cutting through is the
Chesapeake Bay. Blue crabs are the
state's whole identity.

Virginia

capital Richmond

How to remember it

It's the richest slice of pie ever baked — a whole mound of it. RICH-mond.

The Slice of Pie

Another slice — but not like Nevada's.

This one points the other way.
With one small fork tip broken off

And floating out across the bay.

Clue

The broken-off fork tip is the Eastern Shore, cut away by the Chesapeake Bay.

12



the state



slice of pie

West Virginia

capital Charleston

How to remember it

The leaping frog lands on a hot charred stone and jumps again.
CHARRED-stone.

The Leaping Frog

A frog mid-jump, legs flung out wide,
No two edges quite the same.
It's all elbows, all knees, all bends,
The wildest shape that's got a name.

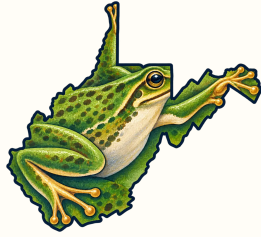
Clue

Almost no straight lines. Every border is a river or a mountain ridge.

13



the state



leaping frog

North Carolina

capital Raleigh

How to remember it

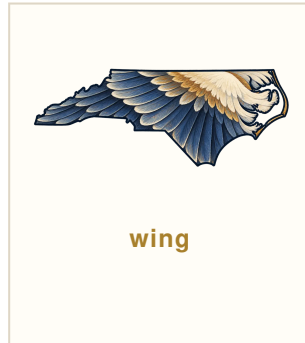
Every wing in the country rallies at
Kitty Hawk. RALLY.

The Wing

A wing stretched out from tip to
tip,
Long and thin and made to fly.
The trailing edge is ragged
there
Where sand and water meet the
sky.

Clue

The ragged trailing edge is the Outer
Banks. Kitty Hawk, where the first
plane flew, is on it.



South Carolina

capital Columbia

How to remember it

The sail is stitched to a tall stone column. COLUMN-bia.

The Sail

A triangle sail pulled taut and tight,
Leaning east to catch the wind.
The bottom edge is straight and true,
The point aimed where the boat has been.

Clue

Three sides. The rounded east side is the Atlantic coast; the point aims at Charleston.



Week 4

Georgia · Florida · Alabama · Mississippi · Louisiana

Georgia

capital Atlanta

How to remember it

The peach is hanging off a lantern. AT-A-LANTERN.

The Peach

A peach with one flat side
pressed in,
Round at the bottom, soft and
sweet.

It's sitting on a Southern sill
And ripening in all that heat.

Clue

The rounded bottom-right is the
Atlantic coast. The straight left side is
the Chattahoochee.



Florida

capital Tallahassee

How to remember it

That thumb belongs to a very tall lassie standing in the water. TALL-A-LASSIE. — one of the thirteen that fool you. Give it triple the passes.

The Thumb in the Ocean

A great big thumb hangs down and dips
Right in the water, testing it.
“Too warm,” it says. “Too warm by far.”
And leaves it hanging where you sit.

Clue

The thumb hangs south from the panhandle. The nail is the Keys, curving off the tip.



Alabama

capital Montgomery

How to remember it

The rocket can't launch — there's a mountain of gum stuck to the pad.
MONT-GUM-ery.

The Rocket

A rocket standing on the pad,
Two fins spread out along the
base.

It's narrow up, it's wide below.
It's pointed straight at outer
space.

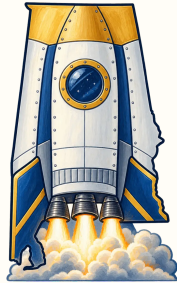
Clue

The fin at the bottom left is the
Mobile corner reaching the Gulf.
Huntsville, up top, built the rockets
that went to the moon.

18



the state



rocket

Mississippi

capital Jackson

How to remember it

You need a jack to pull that tall boot off. JACK's son.

The Tall Boot with the Wavy Lace

A tall boot standing straight and thin,

The lace all wiggled down one side.

It hasn't got a foot inside.

It's waiting for the river's tide.

Clue

The wavy west edge is the Mississippi River. The state is named for it.

19



the state



tall boot with the
wavy lace

Louisiana

capital Baton Rouge

How to remember it

In the armchair sits a man waving a bright red baton. BATON, ROUGE for red.

The Big Armchair

An armchair, comfortable and wide,
A footstool sitting to the side.
The bottom's soft and spreading out
Where all the water pushes out.

Clue

The spreading bottom is the Mississippi Delta, where the river dumps into the Gulf.



Week 5

Michigan · Ohio · Indiana · Kentucky · Tennessee

Michigan

capital Lansing

How to remember it

The mitten snatches a lance right out of the air. LANCE-ing. — one of the thirteen that fool you. Give it triple the passes.

The Mitten and the Hound

A mitten dropped beside the water,

Thumb held out to catch the rain.

And up above — look up — a hound

Is sniffing north across the plain.

Clue

Two pieces. The mitten is the Lower Peninsula; the thumb is Saginaw Bay. The hound is the Upper Peninsula.

21



the state



mitten and the
hound

Ohio

capital Columbus

How to remember it

Columbus sails his ship straight
through the middle of the heart.
COLUMBUS.

The Heart

A heart, a little lopsided,
Tipped over, resting on its side.
It beats right in the middle
there.

It's why they call it Heart-of-
Everywhere.

Clue

The bottom curve is the Ohio River.
The top edge is Lake Erie.



Indiana

capital Indianapolis

How to remember it

A freebie — the torch's city has the state's own name inside it. INDIANA-polis.

The Torch

A torch held up above the crowd,
Flame at the top, burning proud.
The handle narrows going down
Until it touches river ground.

Clue

The narrowing bottom is the Ohio River. The torch is on Indiana's own state flag.

23



the state



torch

Kentucky

capital Frankfort

How to remember it

It isn't chicken on that drumstick, it's
a frankfurter, locked inside a fort.
FRANK-fort.

The Drumstick

A drumstick, meaty, thick, and
long,
The bone stuck out toward the
west.
Somebody's dinner, still not
eaten,
Left out on the mapping desk.

Clue

The thin western bone is the Jackson
Purchase, wrapped by the Mississippi
River.

24



the state

Kentucky state
silhouette
transformed
into drumstick

drumstick

Tennessee

capital Nashville

How to remember it

The guitar's strings are nailed flat to the neck. NASH-ville.

The Guitar Neck

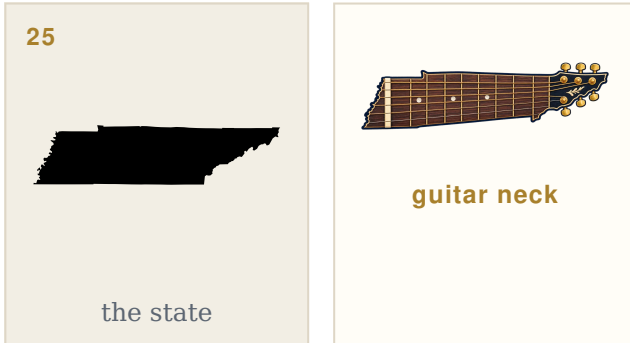
A guitar neck laid flat and long,
The frets marked out in straight-line rows.

Run one finger down the length
—

That's how the whole state's
music goes.

Clue

Long and straight, east to west. The frets are the state lines; eight states touch it.



Week 6

Wisconsin · Illinois · Iowa · Missouri · Arkansas

Wisconsin

capital Madison

How to remember it

The rabbit sitting up is a mad rabbit — the March Hare himself. MAD-ison.

The Rabbit Sitting Up

A rabbit sat up straight to see,
One ear stuck out toward the
lake.

He's watching something.

Watching hard.

He'll bolt the moment branches
break.

Clue

The ear is the Door Peninsula,
reaching northeast into Lake
Michigan.



Illinois

capital Springfield

How to remember it

A coiled spring bursts out of the stocking and lands in a field. SPRING-field. — one of the thirteen that fool you. Give it triple the passes.



The Stocking

A stocking hung up by the fire,
Long and tall and getting
higher.

The toe points down, the top is
wide.

Something big got stuffed
inside.

Clue

The wide top corner is Chicago. The whole east edge is the Wabash and the Ohio River.

Iowa

capital Des Moines

How to remember it

The piglet lets out one long moan.
Duh-MOAN.

The Piglet

A piglet, plump and pink and round,
Two rivers washing either side.
It wiggles left, it wiggles right,
It's fat with corn and full of pride.

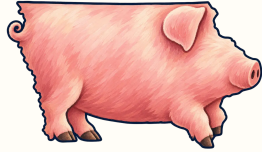
Clue

Wavy on both sides — the Missouri River west, the Mississippi River east.

28



the state



piglet

Missouri

capital Jefferson City

How to remember it

The boot that stomped is Jefferson's —
he bought all this land. JEFFERSON.
— one of the thirteen that fool you.
Give it triple the passes.



The Stomping Boot Heel

A boot came down and stomped
the ground
And left the heel print sticking
out.

It's off the bottom, on the right.
Once you have seen it, there's
no doubt.

Clue

It is actually called the Bootheel — a
square of land hanging off the
southeast corner.

Arkansas

capital Little Rock

How to remember it

A diamond is just a little rock. LITTLE ROCK.

The Diamond

Turn it. Tip it. Squint your eye.
A diamond glitters, dropped and dry.
And here's the thing that no one knows —
There's real ones buried down below.

Clue

Roughly square, tilted. Crater of Diamonds is the only public diamond mine in America.



Week 7

Minnesota · North Dakota · South Dakota · Wyoming · Nebraska

Minnesota

capital St. Paul

How to remember it

Paul Bunyan walks up and the wolf lies down at his feet. St. PAUL.

The Wolf's Head

A wolf looks west with jaw held wide,
One ear stuck up above his eye.
He doesn't blink. He doesn't move.
Ten thousand lakes reflect the sky.

Clue

The jaw is the Arrowhead, jutting into Lake Superior. The ear is the Northwest Angle, that little box on top.



North Dakota

capital Bismarck

How to remember it

Someone left a biscuit on the sled, and
it left its mark. BIS-MARK.

The Sled

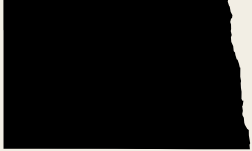
A sled left flat out in the snow,
Straight on the top, straight
down below.

It waits all winter, still and wide,
For somebody to take a ride.

Clue

The Red River makes the wavy east
edge — the only bend on an
otherwise flat sled.

32



the state



sled

South Dakota

capital Pierre

How to remember it

The rug's frayed edge is a pier
sticking out over the water. PIER.

The Torn Rug

A rug pulled straight across the
floor,

But something chewed the
bottom door.

The top is neat. The bottom's
frayed.

Look close — there's faces in
the shade.

Clue

The frayed bottom is the Missouri
River. The faces are Mount
Rushmore, off in the west.

33



the state



torn rug

Wyoming

capital Cheyenne

How to remember it

Shy Anne wipes her feet on the welcome mat and won't come in. SHY-ANNE.

The Welcome Mat

Four corners cut with perfect care,
No bumps, no bends, no wiggle there.

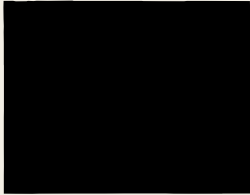
A mat laid flat outside the door
—

Wipe both your boots, then two feet more.

Clue

No rivers, no coastline. Every border is a straight line drawn with a ruler.

34



the state



welcome mat

Nebraska

capital Lincoln

How to remember it

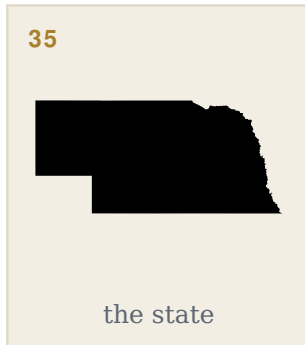
The sitting hen isn't on eggs — she's on a nest of Lincoln Logs. LINCOLN.

The Sitting Hen

A hen sat down and tucked her feet,
Her tail feathers long and neat.
She won't get up. She won't be moved.
There's something under her
she's proved.

Clue

The tail feathers are the Nebraska Panhandle, sticking west into Wyoming's corner.



Week 8

Kansas · Oklahoma · Texas · Colorado · New Mexico

Kansas

capital Topeka

How to remember it

A bird pecked the top of the bread.
That's the bite. TOP-PECK-a.

The Slice of Bread

A slice of bread, still soft and
square,
But someone took a nibble there
—

One corner gone, one small bite
missing.

A mouse got in. You'll hear it
hissing.

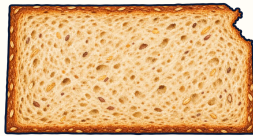
Clue

The notch in the northeast corner is
where the Missouri River bends
around.

36



the state



slice of bread

Oklahoma

capital Oklahoma City

How to remember it

A freebie — the frying pan's city has the state's own name inside it.

OKLAHOMA CITY.

The Frying Pan

A frying pan laid on its side,
The handle long, the pan part
wide.

Whoever cooked here cooked a
lot —

And left the handle out to rot.

Clue

The long thin handle to the west is
the Oklahoma Panhandle. Say it: pan
— and handle.

37



the state



frying pan

Texas

capital Austin

How to remember it

One spoonful of that chili and you are all stung. AW-STIN. — one of the thirteen that fool you. Give it triple the passes.

The Pot of Chili

A great big pot, still on the flame,
Its handle poking up the same.
It's twice as wide as any pot,
And everything inside is hot.

Clue

The handle is the Panhandle. The point at the bottom is where the Rio Grande turns south.



Colorado

capital Denver

How to remember it

Stack the bricks a mile high and that's the city. DEN-ver, the Mile High City.

The Brick

A brick. That's it. A solid brick.
No curve, no coast, no
wandering nick.

But stand it up and look inside
—

The mountains split it, side to
side.

Clue

Straight lines on all four sides. The
Rockies run down the middle, north
to south.

39



the state



brick

New Mexico

capital Santa Fe

How to remember it

Who else delivers a wrapped present?
SANTA Fe.

The Wrapped Present

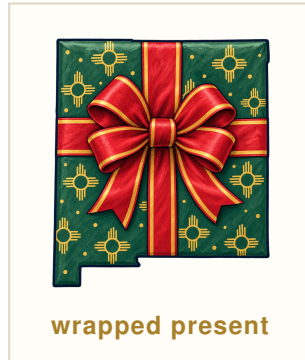
A present wrapped in paper
square,
No bow, no name, no ribbon
there.

It's plain outside. But shake it —
hear?

The whole desert is in there.

Clue

Nearly a perfect square. The only
nick is the small step in the
southwest corner.



Week 9

Utah · Arizona · Nevada · California · Hawaii

Utah

capital Salt Lake City

How to remember it

Set the stool down right beside a great salty lake. SALT LAKE CITY.

The Stool

A three-legged stool, but something's wrong —
A square chunk missing all along

The upper right, like someone ate it.

Sit down slow. Don't overweight it.

Clue

The missing chunk is the corner Wyoming takes out of the northeast.

41



the state



stool

Arizona

capital Phoenix

How to remember it

Open the treasure chest and a phoenix bursts out of it. PHOENIX.

The Treasure Chest

A chest set down with lid ajar,
The bottom scraped and split
and scarred.

Whatever's in it, dry and old —
The scratch across is worth its
gold.

Clue

The jagged lower-left scar is the
Colorado River — and the Grand
Canyon is inside.

42



the state



treasure chest

Nevada

capital Carson City

How to remember it

The slice of pie arrives by car, driven by somebody's son. CAR-SON. — one of the thirteen that fool you. Give it triple the passes.

The Slice of Pie

Somebody cut a slice too thin,
Then tipped the plate and slid it
in.

Wide at the top, sharp at the
toe,

The driest slice you'll ever know.

Clue

The sharp point at the south is where the Colorado River carves the corner away.

43



the state



slice of pie

California

capital Sacramento

How to remember it

The long bent arm reaches down and grabs a sack of mints. SACK-ra-MENTO. — one of the thirteen that fool you. Give it triple the passes.



The Long Bent Arm

An arm reached down along the sea,
Bent at the elbow, long and lean,
It dipped its fingers in the waves
To hold the ocean, cold and green.

Clue

The elbow bends near Cape Mendocino. The fingertips are San Diego.

Hawaii

capital Honolulu

How to remember it

You hand somebody the lei and say
hello to Lulu. Ho-no-LULU.

The Lei

A necklace slipped from
someone's hand
And scattered flowers, strand by
strand.
They floated out, they didn't
sink,
Eight blossoms strung on
ocean's link.

Clue

Eight main islands, curving southeast
to northwest like beads on a broken
string.



Week 10

Montana · Idaho · Washington · Oregon · Alaska

Montana

capital Helena

How to remember it

The bison's name is Helen. HELEN-a.

The Bison Head

A bison lifts his shaggy crown,
One horn hooked up, one
shoulder down.

He's wide across, he's built to
last,

He faces west against the blast.

Clue

The hooked horn is the northwest corner, where the Rockies push up into Glacier.

46



the state



bison head

Idaho

capital Boise

How to remember it

It takes two boys to lift that axe. BOY-see.

The Axe

An axe head, heavy, wide, and low,

A handle rising through the snow.

It leans against the mountainside.

Don't touch the blade. It's sharp. It's wide.

Clue

The handle is the narrow northern panhandle. The head is the wide south.

47



the state



axe

Washington

capital Olympia

How to remember it

The bite out of the apple was taken by an Olympian. O-LYMPIA. — one of the thirteen that fool you. Give it triple the passes.

The Apple with a Bite

Someone was hungry. Someone bit.

They took a chunk right out of it.

An apple, sitting on the shelf,
With one bite gone — go look
yourself.

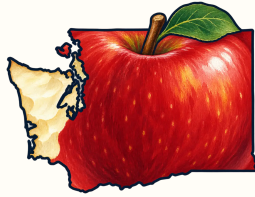
Clue

The bite is Puget Sound, a great arm of the sea chewed inland from the west.

48



the state



apple with a bite

Oregon

capital Salem

How to remember it

The beaver slaps its flat tail and sails 'em all downstream. SAIL-'em. — one of the thirteen that fool you. Give it triple the passes.

The Beaver's Flat Tail

A beaver slaps and dives from view

And leaves his flat tail lying through.

The top edge ripples, wet and thin —

That's water where the tail dips in.

Clue

The rippled top edge is the Columbia River, running the whole northern border.

49



the state



beaver's flat tail

Alaska

capital Juneau

How to remember it

D'you know there's a woolly mammoth up here? JUNE-oh. — one of the thirteen that fool you. Give it triple the passes.

The Woolly Mammoth

A mammoth stomped up to the top
And got so cold it couldn't stop.
Its trunk swings out, its tail
hangs down,
Its long hair trails and drags
around.

Clue

The trunk is the Alaska Peninsula.
The tail is the Panhandle. The trailing
hair is the Aleutian Islands.



Bennett rolled the map back up.
The lamp burned low. The night was deep.
And Kodiak said, “Well? What'd you find?”
And Bennett grinned. “I couldn't sleep.”

“There's fifty things out there,” he said.
“A mitten. A pan. A wolf. A pear.
And now I've seen them, that's the thing —
I can't unsee them. They're all there.”

Blaze curled up. The fire went out.
Outside, the country lay flat and wide.
Fifty shapes across the dark,
Each with something tucked inside.

I will fear nothing. He is with me.

Back matter

The shape hunter's checklist

Print this page and tape it inside the binder. Check them off as they're found.

#	Wk	State	Capital	Hidden thing	
1	1	Maine	Augusta	The Lobster Claw	☐
2	1	New Hampshire	Concord	The Tent	☐
3	1	Massachusetts	Boston	The Flintlock	☐
4	1	Rhode Island	Providence	The Little Anchor	☐
5	1	Connecticut	Hartford	The Suitcase	☐
6	2	Vermont	Montpelier	The Ice Cream Cone	☐
7	2	New York	Albany	The Crouching Cat	☐

#	Wk	State	Capital	Hidden thing	
8	2	New Jersey	Trenton	The Pear	☐
9	2	Pennsylvania	Harrisburg	The Keystone	☐
10	2	Delaware	Dover	The Little Mouse	☐
11	3	Maryland	Annapolis	The Crab	☐
12	3	Virginia	Richmond	The Slice of Pie	☐
13	3	West Virginia	Charleston	The Leaping Frog	☐
14	3	North Carolina	Raleigh	The Wing	☐
15	3	South Carolina	Columbia	The Sail	☐
16	4	Georgia	Atlanta	The Peach	☐
17	4	Florida	Tallahassee	The Thumb in the Ocean	☐
18	4	Alabama	Montgomery	The Rocket	☐
19	4	Mississippi	Jackson	The Tall Boot with the Wavy Lace	☐
20	4	Louisiana	Baton Rouge	The Big Armchair	☐
21	5	Michigan	Lansing	The Mitten and the Hound	☐
22	5	Ohio	Columbus	The Heart	☐
23	5	Indiana	Indianapolis	The Torch	☐
24	5	Kentucky	Frankfort	The Drumstick	☐
25	5	Tennessee	Nashville	The Guitar Neck	☐
26	6	Wisconsin	Madison	The Rabbit Sitting Up	☐
27	6	Illinois	Springfield	The Stocking	☐
28	6	Iowa	Des Moines	The Piglet	☐
29	6	Missouri	Jefferson City	The Stomping Boot Heel	☐
30	6	Arkansas	Little Rock	The Diamond	☐
31	7	Minnesota	St. Paul	The Wolf's Head	☐

#	Wk	State	Capital	Hidden thing	
32	7	North Dakota	Bismarck	The Sled	☐
33	7	South Dakota	Pierre	The Torn Rug	☐
34	7	Wyoming	Cheyenne	The Welcome Mat	☐
35	7	Nebraska	Lincoln	The Sitting Hen	☐
36	8	Kansas	Topeka	The Slice of Bread	☐
37	8	Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	The Frying Pan	☐
38	8	Texas	Austin	The Pot of Chili	☐
39	8	Colorado	Denver	The Brick	☐
40	8	New Mexico	Santa Fe	The Wrapped Present	☐
41	9	Utah	Salt Lake City	The Stool	☐
42	9	Arizona	Phoenix	The Treasure Chest	☐
43	9	Nevada	Carson City	The Slice of Pie	☐
44	9	California	Sacramento	The Long Bent Arm	☐
45	9	Hawaii	Honolulu	The Lei	☐
46	10	Montana	Helena	The Bison Head	☐
47	10	Idaho	Boise	The Axe	☐
48	10	Washington	Olympia	The Apple with a Bite	☐
49	10	Oregon	Salem	The Beaver's Flat Tail	☐
50	10	Alaska	Juneau	The Woolly Mammoth	☐

A note on Washington, D.C.

It's on the map, between Maryland and Virginia — a small diamond bitten out of Maryland's side. It isn't a state, so it isn't a shape in this book. But a sharp child will find it and ask. The answer is: it's the buckle, and the map is the belt.

Five days, one week of memory work

Five states a week, ten weeks, matching the Cycle 3 sequence. Week 11 leaves the states behind for the Appalachians.

1. **Sing.** Read the week's five verses aloud. Child repeats. Nothing else.
2. **See.** Blank outline map. Child draws the object inside each state from memory, then adds the capital's star.
3. **Read.** Read the clues. Find each feature on a real physical map. Name the river, the bay, the peninsula.
4. **Do.** Child picks one state and invents their own hidden thing. If it beats the one in the book, it replaces it. This is the step that makes it stick.
5. **Check.** Press Cover the names at the top. Shapes only. Child names the state.

Add capitals in a second pass, after the shapes are solid. Not both at once.

The thirteen that fool you

New York (Albany), Pennsylvania (Harrisburg), Maryland (Annapolis), Florida (Tallahassee), Michigan (Lansing), Illinois (Springfield), Missouri (Jefferson City), Texas (Austin), Nevada (Carson City), California (Sacramento), Washington (Olympia), Oregon (Salem), Alaska (Juneau).

In every one of these, the capital is not the city the child has heard of. That is where essentially every wrong answer comes from. Teach them as a named set — knowing which ones are booby-trapped is itself a memory aid, and he'll enjoy being in on it.

Making the capital links stick

Three rules, and they matter more than the links themselves. The object has to be in the picture — if he pictures a spring in a field with no stocking, the chain breaks at the first link. Use motion, not portraits: a mitten snatching a lance beats a mitten holding one. And his own image always beats mine, so give him the pun and let him build the picture out loud.

Then make him retrieve it cold. Reading a link again is not practice. Covering the page and pulling it out of nothing is. Space it: same day, two days, a week, a month.

Where the shapes are honest and where they're a stretch

Michigan's mitten, Oklahoma's pan, the Massachusetts flintlock, and Florida's thumb are real — a child sees them instantly. Nebraska as a sitting hen and Connecticut as a suitcase are forced. Have him redraw those. The ones he invents himself are the ones he'll still have at forty.

Outlines drawn from U.S. Census boundary data. Every shape on these pages is geographically true — none were stretched to fit the object.