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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The *U.S. Puzzle Map* was designed with continuous input from *Mary Helen Welsh* and *Diane Foster*, two very talented teachers at the Kentucky School for the Blind. The map’s beautiful color contrast and the presentation of Alaska and Hawaii (new puzzle pieces) are features greatly influenced by both teachers’ recommendations.

Within the American Printing House (APH), the expertise of *Will Evans*, *Fred Otto*, and *Eleanor Pester* was often sought as design decisions were needed. *Tuck Tinsley* (President of APH) and *Debbie Willis* (Director of Educational Research) were continually supportive, appreciative, and encouraging of the project leaders’ efforts.

Special thanks is extended to all those in APH’s production area, who regularly work “behind-the-scenes,” but are responsible for painting the map, collating and assembling the puzzle pieces, die-cutting the overlays, and printing and brailleing the accompanying documentation.
The U.S. Puzzle Map is a redesign of a take-apart map that was copyrighted in 1939 and available from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) until 1988. The many enhancements to the previous design include the following:

- Addition of the Alaska and Hawaii puzzle pieces
- More visually appealing and contrasting colors
- A frame with incised state boundaries and state abbreviations in braille
- Improved tactile indicators for the national and state capitals
- A modernized frame
- Masking overlays for assessment purposes
- Finger holes for easier removal of states
- Lighter-weight for portability
- An accompanying reference guide
- Greater affordability

Although the map is specifically designed for persons with blindness and visual impairments, it is certainly a valuable educational tool for anyone and any classroom.
The colors for the state puzzle pieces were chosen to provide optimal visual contrast for persons with low vision. Listed below are state groupings by color:

**Yellow States**
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Georgia
- Iowa
- Maine
- Montana
- Michigan
- Virginia

**Orange States**
- New York
- Tennessee
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wyoming
- Florida
- Idaho
- Indiana
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- South Dakota
- Vermont

**Purple States**
- Arizona
- Missouri
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Rhode Island
- Hawaii
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Nebraska
- Oregon
- South Carolina
- Texas
- Utah
- Wisconsin

**Green States**
- Delaware
- Illinois
- Kansas
- Louisiana
- Minnesota
- Nevada
- New Mexico


**Extra Puzzle Pieces**

For your convenience, extra puzzle pieces of small states are provided.

Rhode Island and Connecticut (joined)
New Jersey and Delaware (joined)
New Hampshire
Vermont
Massachusetts

**Tactile Indicators**

Two types of tactile indicators are encountered on the states of the *U.S. Puzzle Map*. A rounded tactile marker appears on each puzzle piece to indicate the location of the state’s capital; these indicators are painted black. In contrast to these bump-like indicators, a low cylinder or tower-like indicator painted white appears at the location of the national capital, Washington, DC.

**Rivers, Lakes, and Bays**

Listed below are major rivers, lakes, and bays that are painted on the *U.S. Puzzle Map.*

**Rivers**

Arkansas River
Colorado River
Columbia River
Delaware River
Green River
Hudson River
Mississippi River
Missouri River
Ohio River
Platte River
Potomac River
Red River
Rio Grande
Snake River

**Lakes**

Great Lakes
   Erie
   Huron
   Ontario
   Michigan
   Superior
Great Salt Lake
Okeechobee

**Bays**

Chesapeake Bay
Puget Sound
San Francisco Bay
Puzzle Frame

The frame of the *U.S. Puzzle Map* provides helpful information, including mileage scales, latitude/longitude lines, braille state abbreviations, incised state boundaries, portions of surrounding countries, and finger holes. Each of the frame’s features is described in more detail below.

Surrounding Countries

The surrounding countries of Mexico (northern portion) and Canada (southern portion) are painted light brown and permanently affixed to the frame of the map. Notice that the western edge of Canada is also shown next to the Alaska puzzle piece.

Latitude and Longitude Lines

The longitude and latitude lines are indicated in braille and raised print. These lines are incised to reduce tactile clutter on the map.

State Abbreviations and Boundary Lines

The postal abbreviation of each state appears in braille within the incised state boundary lines or area. Because of space constraints, the two-letter state abbreviations for Rhode Island and Delaware are not included and only a one-letter abbreviation is included for the states of Vermont (V), New Hampshire (H), and New Jersey (J). For correct state abbreviations, see section of Reference Guide on “Facts About the States.”

Mileage Scales

Three mileage scales appear on the map’s frame—one for the main map, one for Hawaii, and one for Alaska. The contiguous states and Hawaii are presented in the same scale. Alaska, however, is *not* in the same scale as the main map. While studying the map, keep in mind the following about Alaska and Hawaii:

1. Although it may not appear so on the *U.S. Puzzle Map*, Alaska is by far the largest state (656,424 square miles) in the Union with regard to area; it is over twice the size of Texas! If Alaska were represented in the same scale as the main map, including its Aleutian Islands
(which are not completely shown on the puzzle piece), the state would stretch from Los Angeles, California to Washington, DC, the nation’s capital.

2. Although Hawaii is really a long chain of separate islands that stretch far into the North Pacific Ocean, it is usually considered to be a cluster or group of main islands. These islands are represented on the *U.S. Puzzle Map* in the same scale as the mainland and are grouped together on one puzzle piece, but are painted separately.

**Finger Holes**

Four finger holes are located on the map’s frame and aid in the removal of puzzle pieces. These finger holes are located in Alaska, Texas, Montana, and Florida. Simply reach under the frame and push the desired puzzle piece and/or masking overlay out of the frame (see description of “Masking Overlays”).

**Masking Overlays**

Three reusable masking overlays are provided for assessment purposes. Simply insert the white styrene overlays into the frame of the puzzle to “mask” or hide the braille state abbreviations and incised state boundaries. Without access to the frame’s visual and tactile clues, assembling the puzzle map will be more challenging and a true test.
ALABAMA

The Yellowhammer State

State Abbreviation: AL
Capital: Montgomery
Statehood: 22nd State/ December 14, 1819
Major Cities: Birmingham, Mobile, Huntsville
Major Rivers: Tombigbee, Alabama, Coosa, Tennessee, Chattahoochee, Black Warrior
Bordering States: FL, GA, MS, TN
State Bird: Yellowhammer
State Flower: Camellia
State Tree: Southern Pine

ALASKA

The Last Frontier

State Abbreviation: AK
Capital: Juneau
Statehood: 49th State/ January 3, 1959
Major Cities: Anchorage, Fairbanks
Major Rivers: Yukon, Kuskokwin
Bordering States: Alaska does not border any state.
State Bird: Willow Ptarmigan
State Flower: Forget-me-not
State Tree: Sitka Spruce
ARIZONA

The Grand Canyon State

State Abbreviation: AZ
Capital: Phoenix
Statehood: 48th State/
February 14, 1912
Major Cities: Tucson, Mesa, Scottsdale, Tempe
Major Rivers: Gila, Colorado, Salt, Verde
Bordering States: CA, CO, NV, NM, UT
State Bird: Cactus Wren
State Flower: Saguaro Cactus Blossom
State Tree: Palo Verde

ARKANSAS

The Natural State

State Abbreviation: AR
Capital: Little Rock
Statehood: 25th State/June 15, 1836
Major Cities: Fort Smith, Fayetteville, North Little Rock
Major Rivers: Arkansas, Mississippi, White
Bordering States: LA, MS, MO, OK, TN, TX
State Bird: Mockingbird
State Flower: Apple Blossom
State Tree: Pine
**CALIFORNIA**

The Golden State

State Abbreviation: CA  
Capital: Sacramento  
Statehood: 31st State/September 9, 1850  
Major Cities: Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland, Long Beach  
Major Rivers: Sacramento, San Joaquin, Colorado  
Bordering States: AZ, NV, OR  
State Bird: California Valley Quail  
State Flower: Golden Poppy  
State Tree: California Redwood

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**COLORADO**

The Centennial State

State Abbreviation: CO  
Capital: Denver  
Statehood: 38th State/August 1, 1876  
Major Cities: Colorado Springs, Aurora  
Major Rivers: Arkansas, Rio Grande, Colorado, South Platte  
Bordering States: KS, NE, NM, OK, UT, WY, AZ  
State Bird: Lark Bunting  
State Flower: Rocky Mountain Columbine  
State Tree: Colorado Blue Spruce
**CONNECTICUT**

The Constitution State  
**State Abbreviation:** CT  
**Capital:** Hartford  
**Statehood:** 5th State/January 9, 1788  
**Major Cities:** Bridgeport, New Haven, Stamford, New London, Waterbury  
**Major Rivers:** Housatonic, Connecticut  
**Bordering States:** MA, NY, RI  
**State Bird:** American Robin  
**State Flower:** Mountain Laurel  
**State Tree:** White Oak

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**DELAWARE**

The First State  
**State Abbreviation:** DE  
**Capital:** Dover  
**Statehood:** 1st State/December 7, 1787  
**Major Cities:** Wilmington, Newark  
**Major Rivers:** Delaware  
**Bordering States:** MD, NJ, PA  
**State Bird:** Blue Hen Chicken  
**State Flower:** Peach Blossom  
**State Tree:** American Holly
FLORIDA

The Sunshine State

State Abbreviation: FL
Capital: Tallahassee
Statehood: 27th State/March 3, 1845
Major Cities: Jacksonville, Miami, Tampa, St. Petersburg, Pensacola
Major Rivers: Suwanne, Apalachicola, St. Johns, Kissimmee
Bordering States: AL, GA
State Bird: Mockingbird
State Flower: Orange Blossom
State Tree: Sabal Palmetto

GEORGIA

Empire of the South

State Abbreviation: GA
Capital: Atlanta
Statehood: 4th State/January 2, 1788
Major Cities: Columbus, Savannah, Macon
Major Rivers: Chattahoochee, Savannah, Altamaha, Flint
Bordering States: AL, FL, NC, SC, TN
State Bird: Brown Thrasher
State Flower: Cherokee Rose
State Tree: Live Oak
HAWAII

The Aloha State

State Abbreviation: HI
Capital: Honolulu
Statehood: 50th State/August 21, 1959
Major Cities: Hilo, Kailua, Kaneohe, Pearl City, Waipahu
Major Rivers: Wailuku
Bordering States: Hawaii is only surrounded by the Pacific Ocean.
State Bird: Nene (Hawaiian Goose)
State Flower: Yellow Hibiscus
State Tree: Kukui (Candlenut)

IDAHO

The Gem State

State Abbreviation: ID
Capital: Boise
Statehood: 43rd State/July 3, 1890
Major Cities: Pocatello, Idaho Falls
Major Rivers: Snake, Salmon
Bordering States: NV, UT, WY, MT, WA, OR
State Bird: Mountain Bluebird
State Flower: Syringa (Mock Orange)
State Tree: Western White Pine
ILLINOIS
The Prairie State
State Abbreviation: IL
Capital: Springfield
Statehood: 21st State/December 3, 1818
Major Cities: Peoria, Rockford, Chicago
Major Rivers: Mississippi, Kaskaskia, Illinois, Ohio, Wabash
Bordering States: KY, IN, WI, IA, MO
State Bird: Cardinal
State Flower: Native Violet
State Tree: White Oak

INDIANA
The Hoosier State
State Abbreviation: IN
Capital: Indianapolis
Statehood: 19th State/December 11, 1816
Major Cities: Fort Wayne, Evansville, Gary, South Bend
Major Rivers: Wabash, Ohio, Kankakee
Bordering States: KY, IL, MI, OH
State Bird: Cardinal
State Flower: Peony
State Tree: Tulip Tree
IOWA

The Hawkeye State

State Abbreviation: IA
Capital: Des Moines
Statehood: 29th State/December 28, 1846
Major Cities: Sioux City, Cedar Rapids, Davenport
Major Rivers: Des Moines, Mississippi, Missouri, Big Sioux
Bordering States: NE, SD, MN, WI, IL, MO
State Bird: Eastern Goldfinch
State Flower: Wild Rose
State Tree: Oak

KANSAS

The Sunflower State

State Abbreviation: KS
Capital: Topeka
Statehood: 34th State/January 29, 1861
Major Cities: Wichita, Kansas City
Major Rivers: Arkansas, Kansas, Smokey Hill, Republican, Missouri
Bordering States: OK, CO, NE, MO
State Bird: Western Meadowlark
State Flower: Native Sunflower
State Tree: Cottonwood
**KENTUCKY**

The Bluegrass State

State Abbreviation: KY

Capital: Frankfort

Statehood: 15th State/June 1, 1792

Major Cities: Louisville, Lexington

Major Rivers: Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Cumberland

Bordering States: OH, WV, VA, TN, MO, IL, IN

State Bird: Kentucky Cardinal

State Flower: Goldenrod

State Tree: Tulip Poplar

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**LOUISIANA**

The Pelican State

State Abbreviation: LA

Capital: Baton Rouge

Statehood: 18th State/April 30, 1812

Major Cities: Shreveport, New Orleans

Major Rivers: Red, Sabine, Ouachita, Mississippi, Pearl

Bordering States: TX, AR, MS

State Bird: Eastern Brown Pelican

State Flower: Magnolia

State Tree: Bald Cypress
MAINE

The Pine Tree State

State Abbreviation: ME
Capital: Augusta
Statehood: 23rd State/March 15, 1820
Major Cities: Lewiston, Portland
Major Rivers: Kennebec, Penobscot, St. Croix, Androscoggin, St. John, Allagash
Bordering States: NH
State Bird: Chickadee
State Flower: White Pine Cone and Tassel
State Tree: White Pine

MARYLAND

The Free State

State Abbreviation: MD
Capital: Annapolis
Statehood: 7th State/April 28, 1788
Major Cities: Baltimore, Frederick
Major Rivers: Potomac, Patuxent
Bordering States: VA, WV, PA, DE
State Bird: Baltimore Oriole
State Flower: Black-eyed Susan
State Tree: White Oak
MASSACHUSETTS
The Bay State
State Abbreviation: MA
Capital: Boston
Statehood: 6th State/February 6, 1788
Major Cities: New Bedford, Springfield, Worcester
Major Rivers: Housatonic, Connecticut, Charles
Bordering States: RI, CT, NY, VT, NH
State Bird: Chickadee
State Flower: Mayflower
State Tree: American Elm

MICHIGAN
The Wolverine State
State Abbreviation: MI
Capital: Lansing
Statehood: 26th State/January 26, 1837
Major Cities: Detroit, Dearborn, Grand Rapids, Flint
Major Rivers: Muskegon, Menominee
Bordering States: WI, IN, OH
State Bird: Robin
State Flower: Apple Blossom
State Tree: White Pine
MINNESOTA

North Star State

State Abbreviation: MN
Capital: St. Paul
Statehood: 32nd State/May 11, 1858
Major Cities: Rochester, Minneapolis, Duluth
Major Rivers: Minnesota, Mississippi, Red
Bordering States: IA, SD, ND, WI
State Bird: Common Loon
State Flower: Pink and White Lady’s Slipper
State Tree: Red Pine

MISSISSIPPI

The Magnolia State

State Abbreviation: MS
Capital: Jackson
Statehood: 20th State/December 10, 1817
Major Cities: Meridian, Biloxi
Major Rivers: Yazoo, Mississippi, Big Black, Pearl
Bordering States: LA, AR, TN, AL
State Bird: Mockingbird
State Flower: Magnolia
State Tree: Magnolia
MISSOURI

The Show Me State

State Abbreviation: MO
Capital: Jefferson City
Statehood: 24th State/August 10, 1821
Major Cities: Springfield, Kansas City, St. Louis, Independence
Major Rivers: Missouri, Mississippi, Grand
Bordering States: OK, KS, IA, IL, KY, TN, AR, NE
State Bird: Bluebird
State Flower: Hawthorn
State Tree: Flowering Dogwood

MONTANA

The Treasure State

State Abbreviation: MT
Capital: Helena
Statehood: 41st State/November 8, 1889
Major Cities: Great Falls, Billings, Butte
Major Rivers: Missouri, Yellowstone, Clark Fork
Bordering States: ID, ND, SD, WY
State Bird: Western Meadowlark
State Flower: Bitterroot
State Tree: Ponderosa Pine
NEBRASKA

The Cornhusker State

State Abbreviation: NE
Capital: Lincoln
Statehood: 37th State/March 1, 1867
Major Cities: Grand Island, Omaha
Major Rivers: South Platte, North Platte, Missouri
Bordering States: KS, CO, WY, SD, IA, MO
State Bird: Western Meadowlark
State Flower: Goldenrod
State Tree: Cottonwood

NEVADA

The Silver State

State Abbreviation: NV
Capital: Carson City
Statehood: 36th State/October 31, 1864
Major Cities: Las Vegas, Reno
Major Rivers: Colorado, Humboldt
Bordering States: CA, OR, ID, UT, AZ
State Bird: Mountain Bluebird
State Flower: Sagebrush
State Tree: Single-leaf Piñon and Bristlecone Pine
NEW HAMPSHIRE
The Granite State
State Abbreviation: NH
Capital: Concord
Statehood: 9th State/June 21, 1788
Major Cities: Manchester, Nashua
Major Rivers: Connecticut, Merrimack
Bordering States: ME, MA, VT
State Bird: Purple Finch
State Flower: Purple Lilac
State Tree: White Birch

NEW JERSEY
The Garden State
State Abbreviation: NJ
Capital: Trenton
Statehood: 3rd State/December 18, 1787
Major Cities: Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, Elizabeth
Major Rivers: Delaware, Hudson
Bordering States: DE, PA, NY
State Bird: Eastern Goldfinch
State Flower: Purple Violet
State Tree: Red Oak
NEW MEXICO

The Land of Enchantment

State Abbreviation: NM
Capital: Santa Fe
Statehood: 47th State/January 6, 1912
Major Cities: Albuquerque, Roswell
Major Rivers: Rio Grande, Pecos, San Juan
Bordering States: TX, AZ, CO, OK, UT
State Bird: Roadrunner
State Flower: Yucca
State Tree: Piñon

NEW YORK

The Empire State

State Abbreviation: NY
Capital: Albany
Statehood: 11th State/July 26, 1788
Major Cities: Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse
Major Rivers: St. Lawrence, Hudson, Mohawk
Bordering States: PA, NJ, CT, MA, VT
State Bird: Bluebird
State Flower: Rose
State Tree: Sugar Maple
NORTH CAROLINA

The Tar Heel State

State Abbreviation: NC
Capital: Raleigh
Statehood: 12th State/November 21, 1789
Major Cities: Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Charlotte
Major Rivers: Roanoke, Neuse, Cape Fear
Bordering States: SC, TN, GA, VA
State Bird: Cardinal
State Flower: Flowering Dogwood
State Tree: Longleaf Pine

NORTH DAKOTA

The Flickertail State

State Abbreviation: ND
Capital: Bismarck
Statehood: 39th State/November 2, 1889
Major Cities: Fargo, Minot, Grand Forks
Major Rivers: Missouri, Red, Little Missouri
Bordering States: SD, MT, MN
State Bird: Western Meadowlark
State Flower: Wild Prairie Rose
State Tree: American Elm
**OHIO**

The Buckeye State

**State Abbreviation:** OH  
**Capital:** Columbus  
**Statehood:** 17th State/March 1, 1803  
**Major Cities:** Akron, Cleveland, Dayton, Toledo, Cincinnati  
**Major Rivers:** Ohio, Scioto, Great Miami, Muskingum  
**Bordering States:** WV, KY, IN, MI, PA  
**State Bird:** Cardinal  
**State Flower:** Scarlet Carnation  
**State Tree:** Buckeye

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**OKLAHOMA**

The Sooner State

**State Abbreviation:** OK  
**Capital:** Oklahoma City  
**Statehood:** 46th State/November 16, 1907  
**Major Cities:** Tulsa, Norman, Lawton  
**Major Rivers:** Arkansas, Red, Canadian  
**Bordering States:** TX, KS, MO, AR, NM, CO  
**State Bird:** Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
**State Flower:** Mistletoe  
**State Tree:** Redbud
OREGON
The Beaver State
State Abbreviation: OR
Capital: Salem
Statehood: 33rd State/February 14, 1859
Major Cities: Portland, Eugene
Major Rivers: Snake, Columbia, Willamette
Bordering States: CA, NV, ID, WA
State Bird: Western Meadowlark
State Flower: Oregon Grape
State Tree: Douglas Fir

PENNSYLVANIA
The Keystone State
State Abbreviation: PA
Capital: Harrisburg
Statehood: 2nd State/December 12, 1787
Major Cities: Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Allentown
Major Rivers: Susquehanna, Monongahela, Ohio, Allegheny, Delaware
Bordering States: MD, WV, OH, NY, NJ, DE
State Bird: Ruffed Grouse
State Flower: Mountain Laurel
State Tree: Hemlock
RHODE ISLAND
The Ocean State
State Abbreviation: RI
Capital: Providence
Statehood: 13th State/May 29, 1790
Major Cities: Newport, Pawtucket, Warwick
Major Rivers: Blackstone, Providence, Pawtuxet, Pawcatuck, Blackstone
Bordering States: CT, MA
State Bird: Rhode Island Red
State Flower: Violet
State Tree: Red Maple

SOUTH CAROLINA
The Palmetto State
State Abbreviation: SC
Capital: Columbia
Statehood: 8th State/May 23, 1788
Major Cities: Greenville, Charleston
Major Rivers: Savannah, Saluda, Santee, Pee Dee, Congaree
Bordering States: GA, NC
State Bird: Carolina Wren
State Flower: Yellow Jessamine
State Tree: Palmetto
**SOUTH DAKOTA**

Mount Rushmore State  
State Abbreviation: SD  
Capital: Pierre  
Statehood: 40th State/November 2, 1889  
Major Cities: Sioux Falls, Rapid City  
Major Rivers: Missouri, White, Grand, James, Big Sioux, Cheyenne  
Bordering States: NE, WY, MT, ND, MN, IA  
State Bird: Ring-necked Pheasant  
State Flower: Pasque Flower  
State Tree: Black Hills Spruce

**TENNESSEE**

The Volunteer State  
State Abbreviation: TN  
Capital: Nashville  
Statehood: 16th State/June 1, 1796  
Major Cities: Knoxville, Memphis, Chattanooga  
Major Rivers: Tennessee, Mississippi, Cumberland  
Bordering States: MS, KY, VA, NC, GA, AL, AR, MO  
State Bird: Mockingbird  
State Flower: Iris  
State Tree: Tulip Poplar
TEXAS
The Lone Star State
State Abbreviation: TX
Capital: Austin
Statehood: 28th State/December 29, 1845
Major Cities: San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth
Major Rivers: Rio Grande, Colorado, Sabine, Red, Pecos, Brazos
Bordering States: NM, OK, AR, LA
State Bird: Mockingbird
State Flower: Bluebonnet
State Tree: Pecan

UTAH
The Beehive State
State Abbreviation: UT
Capital: Salt Lake City
Statehood: 45th State/January 4, 1896
Major Cities: Provo, Ogden
Major Rivers: Colorado, Green, Sevier
Bordering States: NV, ID, CO, AZ, NM, WY
State Bird: California Gull
State Flower: Sego Lily
State Tree: Blue Spruce
VERMONT

The Green Mountain State

State Abbreviation: VT
Capital: Montpelier
Statehood: 14th State/March 4, 1791
Major Cities: Rutland, Burlington, Brattleboro
Major Rivers: Connecticut
Bordering States: NY, MA, NH
State Bird: Hermit Thrush
State Flower: Red Clover
State Tree: Sugar Maple

VIRGINIA

The Old Dominion

State Abbreviation: VA
Capital: Richmond
Statehood: 10th State/June 25, 1788
Major Cities: Norfolk, Virginia Beach
Major Rivers: James, Potomac, Rappahannock
Bordering States: NC, TN, KY, WV, MD
State Bird: Cardinal
State Flower: Dogwood Blossom
State Tree: Dogwood Tree
WASHINGTON
The Evergreen State
State Abbreviation: WA
Capital: Olympia
Statehood: 42nd State/November 11, 1889
Major Cities: Spokane, Seattle, Tacoma
Major Rivers: Columbia, Snake
Bordering States: OR, ID
State Bird: Willow Goldfinch
State Flower: Western Rhododendron
State Tree: Western Hemlock

WEST VIRGINIA
The Mountain State
State Abbreviation: WV
Capital: Charleston
Statehood: 35th State/June 20, 1863
Major Cities: Huntington, Wheeling
Major Rivers: Ohio, Potomac, Kanawha, New
Bordering States: KY, OH, PA, MD, VA
State Bird: Cardinal
State Flower: Rhododendron
State Tree: Sugar Maple
WISCONSIN

The Badger State

State Abbreviation: WI
Capital: Madison
Statehood: 30th State/May 29, 1848
Major Cities: Milwaukee, Racine, Green Bay
Major Rivers: St. Croix, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Menominee
Bordering States: IL, IA, MN, MI
State Bird: Robin
State Flower: Wood Violet
State Tree: Sugar Maple

WYOMING

The Equality State

State Abbreviation: WY
Capital: Cheyenne
Statehood: 44th State/July 10, 1890
Major Cities: Casper
Major Rivers: North Platte, Bighorn, Green
Bordering States: ID, MT, SD, NE, CO, UT
State Bird: Meadowlark
State Flower: Indian Paintbrush
State Tree: Cottonwood
▲ Find the location of a variety of topographical landmarks on the map and identify them, e.g., rivers, mountains, peninsulas, islands, etc.

▲ Review the Great Lakes and find their locations.

▲ Use the map to enrich history lessons, such as Civil War battles, home states of American presidents, Lewis and Clark Expedition, etc.

▲ Review the location of the 13 original American colonies.

▲ Find the most mountainous states.

▲ Enrich current events by finding the location of states, cities, etc., mentioned in the news.

▲ Find the states that border the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Arctic Ocean.

▲ List the states that are most recognizable by their shape. What features make them easy to identify?

▲ Estimate distances between various states using the mileage scale.

▲ Note if the location of a state can be guessed by its physical size or shape. Where do smaller states seem to be located? Where do rectangular states tend to be located?

▲ Talk about regions of the United States, such as southwestern states, mid-Atlantic states, etc. Insert only the states that make up each region discussed.
▲ Research additional facts about each state using a variety of sources, including the Internet. [See References on page 37 for examples of helpful books and websites.]

▲ Review directional concepts such as north, south, east, west, e.g., Which state is north of your home state?

▲ Review travel routes for vacation trips. For example, “How many states would you travel through to get from Kentucky to Florida in the shortest distance?”

▲ Review locations of where natural disasters such as volcanoes, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, etc., are likely to occur.

▲ Review the locations of famous trails: Oregon Trail, Mormon Trail, Santa Fe Trail, etc.

▲ Insert only the states that border Canada.

▲ Insert only the states that border Mexico.

▲ Research national parks (e.g., Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, etc.) and find their approximate location on the map.

▲ Discuss state climates. Which states usually have the warmest or coldest temperatures?

▲ Which states are known for being popular vacation destinations?

▲ Place states onto the map, one at a time, according to their statehood date (first to last) or state size (largest to smallest). [Keep in mind that some states are joined on the same puzzle piece.]

▲ Which latitude lines are visible on the map? Which longitude lines?

▲ Identify capitals of each state and locate them.

▲ Find the location of Washington, DC.

▲ Research the highest and lowest point of each state.

▲ Research the origins of state names.


Contact the American Printing House for the Blind about other available geography-related products including:

The Globe: Tactile and Visual
Relief Map for Desk Use
Outline Maps of the United States in Braille and Large Type
Adaptation of *Brain Quest®: Geography* (Large Type/Braille Edition)