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ABSTRACT

This book, designed for grades four through eight, is a telecommunications resource that reviews and defines essential Internet terms, looks at critical goals of telecommunications, explains the role of the Internet as it relates to the curriculum, and provides teachers and students with a "road map" to electronic information for each of the 50 United States. The introduction discusses benefits of the Internet for education; equipment needs; accessing the Internet; navigating the monitor; searching Internet sites; and planning, procedural, and assessment suggestions for networking projects. Each state-specific entry includes four annotated listings of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) to World Wide Web sites highlighting that state's geography, geology, agriculture, industry, cultural and ethnic history, or tourist attractions. Following the listed sites for each state are several student activities that will enhance the Internet journey. An appendix includes a partial list of journals, organizations, and other resources that may prove useful when integrating the Internet or other technology into the curriculum. (AEF)

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Grades 4-8

Net America

Travel the 50 States on the Information Highway

ED 398 865



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By Gary M. Garfield and Suzanne McDonough

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NetAmerica

Travel the 50 States on the Information Highway

by

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Suzanne McDonough

GOOD APPLE

Editor: Susan Eddy



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INTRODUCTION

What Is *NetAmerica*?

NetAmerica: Travel the 50 States on the Information Highway is an exciting telecommunications resource that reviews and defines essential Internet terms, looks at critical goals of telecommunications, explains the role of the Internet as it relates to the curriculum, and provides teachers and students with a road map of the information highway for each of the 50 states.

A primary objective of *NetAmerica* is to guide students as they explore and discover the rich diversity of people and places in this amazing country. As their journeys progress, students may come to understand issues and concerns relative to all people, as well as specific regional issues. They will connect geography, demographics, government, and careers. They will visit the heartland and the islands to learn, share, discuss, and comprehend. You will find *NetAmerica* invaluable for both group and independent research and exploration. It will help take students on journeys that exemplify new and exciting ways of thinking, teaching, and learning as we embrace the new technological resources that are rapidly becoming available.

Education and the Internet

The Internet, a web of invisible electronic pathways stretching from hemisphere to hemisphere, was initially

established as a highly secure communications network for the U.S. government. Today, each destination or site, reached via computer, modem, and phone line, may provide Net travelers with vast amounts of information and interaction. Travelers may visit a site briefly or stay and explore such diverse areas as rain forests, archaeological sites, marine research vessels, movie theaters, museums, and classrooms. Thousands of new users join the on-line information revolution each week. In addition, new and varied sites continue to become available. Now you and your students can join the revolution as you become comfortable with this technology and your students become independent investigators and explorers.

The national movement in education to seek "infinite" resources through technology, telecommunications, and specifically the Internet focuses on curriculum materials that can be easily integrated into existing social studies programs. In *NetAmerica*, all ideas, procedures, activities, and uses of telecommunication within the classroom are discussed in terms *easily understood* by the novice computer-using educator. The mysteries of securing an Internet provider, costs, hardware, and software become clear. *NetAmerica* helps provide meaningful

integration of this powerful technology into the standard elementary school curriculum through nearly two hundred Internet subject-specific sites and more than two hundred hands-on classroom activities involving geography, history, math, art, and culture. Students may actually “visit” places and people that make this country great. Many state information sites are linked to related sites, demonstrating the power of this new information vehicle.

Securing the Necessities

You will need a computer with enough memory to navigate the Internet and a modem—the device that changes computer language into language that can pass along phone lines and then back into computer language at its destination. A dedicated phone line separate from the other school bundle lines is a necessity. In addition, you will need Internet software that will allow you to navigate from place to place. Finally, a printer is nice so that you will be able to print out and keep a record of what you discover while traveling along the information highway.

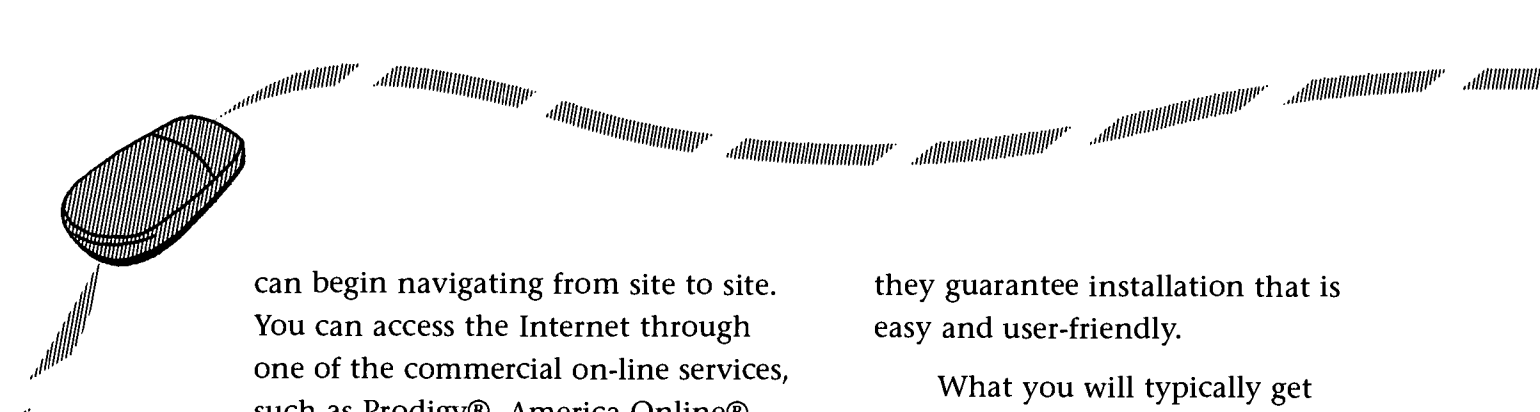
Since these necessities have not historically been an integral part of teacher allocations, it becomes incumbent upon the school faculty to promote the need for up-to-date technology as an essential part of the educational investment. In the event that all of your dreams don’t come true on

the first request, the following alternatives have been successful for some of our colleagues.

- Visit the superintendent and explain the objectives of your telecommunications project. If your project or proposal is an innovative one, your superintendent will want to be involved.
- Share your plans with your parent-teacher organization, which may be able to allocate funding to your project. The modem is approximately one hundred dollars and an Internet provider is only fifteen to twenty dollars a month. And as this field becomes more competitive, prices are sure to drop.
- Local businesses are often eager to form links with community schools. Visit the corporate headquarters, explain what you wish to do, and ask them to be a sponsor. Be sure to be publicly appreciative of their support.
- Perhaps your school has a yearly wish list that goes out to parents and the community. Explain what you are trying to accomplish and ask for donations specifically targeted to this project. You may wish to discuss the integrated nature of the project and explain how it will enhance all areas of learning.

Accessing the Internet

Accessing means connecting to the Internet via your provider so that you



can begin navigating from site to site. You can access the Internet through one of the commercial on-line services, such as Prodigy®, America Online®, CompuServe®, eWorld®, or Microsoft®. However, if one considers the time and cost involved for schools, a direct provider connection is usually the best access. Direct access to the Internet is accomplished through one of two methods.

- Public access is for teachers who have connections with universities or direct cables to county or state offices of education. Only a handful of school districts currently boast this capability, although many are moving in this direction.
- Subscribing to one of the many independent Internet providers is the more common method. If you are assigned the task of finding an Internet provider, you might begin (and end) your search in the Yellow Pages of your local phone directory. Check the listings under Computer Networks, The Internet, Computer Bulletin Boards, and Telecommunications. For additional listings, flip through your daily newspaper, where providers are often listed in the business or sports section. Ask pertinent questions relative to cost, educational discount, length of service, guarantees, trial period, full access, local connect charges, and customer support services. Be sure

they guarantee installation that is easy and user-friendly.

What you will typically get with a service is either unlimited or one hundred hours of on-line connect time per month plus the software to navigate in and around the Net sites. The service should also be willing to offer some basic instruction in *logging on* and simple navigation. Be sure you receive an educator's discount. This can be a significant savings—often up to fifty percent.

Navigating the Monitor

Before you are ready to begin, check to be sure the following steps have been taken.

- Your computer, modem, and dedicated phone line are in working order. Remember, this is *not* a school cluster line running through the office. If you are sharing the line, be sure to design a schedule so that you are not disconnected when another teacher picks up the phone (you actually do not need a phone instrument at all—just a live jack).
- You have signed up with an Internet provider (at a good educational discount), and the software has been installed in your hard drive. If you are not sure if your computer has enough memory to run the Internet software (usually Netscape™ or Mosaic™), ask the provider to assist you.

- You are able to successfully bring up the Internet software program to your screen or to “access the service.” If you are unsure, have your provider give you a quick demonstration. It is no different from bringing up any other program.

Here’s What You’ll See on the Monitor

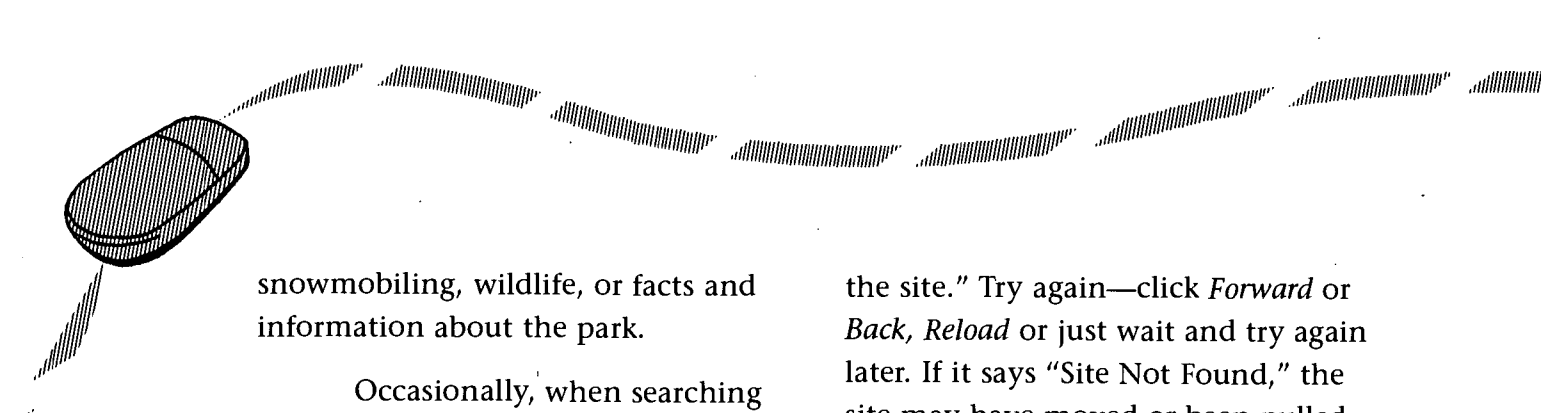
- A series of buttons at the top of your screen, such as *Back*, *Forward*, *Home*, *Reload*, *Open*, *Print*. These are self-explanatory—try them to see what will happen. You can’t hurt anything. The more exploration you do, the more comfortable you will become.
- A window marked *LOCATION* or *URL*, where you will type in the selected state site address exactly as listed in *NetAmerica*. You must enter the address or URL *exactly* as it is shown, or you will not arrive at your Internet destination. You will soon see that certain letter or icon combinations often follow one another—entering an address will become more natural each time you do it. All you have to do is determine which state you are going to, enter the *LOCATION ADDRESS*, and in seconds, you will be connected.
- Once connected to the *HOME PAGE* for the state site, you will notice a variety of both numbers and titles of *LINKS* to other places. These are “bridges” to related topics that link

to the original site. The links are the unknowns that make navigating the Net exciting and interesting.

Searching the Sites

Once on site, you may want information either not listed in the main *HOME* site or not indicated in one of the *LINKS*. The solution is to initiate your own search, using a *search engine* to locate a site from commonly used words and phrases. One popular search engine is WebCrawler®. It can be accessed by clicking on the *HOME PAGE* button entitled *Net Search*. Once the *QUERY BOX* comes up, you simply enter the word or words that best describe the site you wish to see. The more words you use, the more complex the search. Once your locator words are inserted in the box, hit *Return* and wait to see what choices you have in the subject index that appears. From this list, choose the topic that is most like the one you are looking for and click again. Your site of choice should appear.

For example, perhaps you are searching for information on Yellowstone National Park. Simply type *YELLOWSTONE* in the query box. The search will bring up scores of indexed sites related to the park, as well as other subjects that contain the key word *yellowstone*. Make a selection that seems to best suit your needs. You’ll find choices related to nature photography, earth science,



snowmobiling, wildlife, or facts and information about the park.

Occasionally, when searching for a site, you may receive a screen statement that indicates the site is “busy” or has “too many users on

the site.” Try again—click *Forward* or *Back*, *Reload* or just wait and try again later. If it says “Site Not Found,” the site may have moved or been pulled off the Net. We have tried, however, to list sites that are reliable and secure.

How to Use *NetAmerica*

NetAmerica offers a variety of strands to pursue. The Net traveler can simply type in the *URL* or site address in the main screen locator box. Click the mouse or hit *Return* and you arrive at your destination. You may visit each of the sites listed to glean new ideas and information about the fifty states. Following the listed sites for each state, you will find several student activities that will enhance the Internet journey. Invite your students to choose one or more of the accompanying enrichment activities to expand the study and further engage your students.

Planning, Procedures, Assessment

Your *NetAmerica* projects may require some planning and organization. Careful preparation can make all the difference between a successful telecommunications project and one that takes the teacher and students over the edge. Here are some suggestions.

- Cooperative grouping works well for many of these projects. Choose your groups as you would for any other

activity or subject area. Be sure to review with students both the objectives and etiquette for cooperative group projects. Or if you or the students prefer, projects may be assigned for independent work.

- Plan to dedicate at least forty-five minutes each day to your *NetAmerica* projects. This includes student planning, research, writing, and computer time. Keep in mind that students will be engaged in social studies, math, literature, language arts, and many other subjects both within the Internet component and in the more than two hundred extension activities. In addition, students will become computer researchers using on-line connections and CD-ROMS.
- Plan on setting up two groups on-line each day. This provides off-line time for related extension activities while still permitting adequate access time for hands-on practice of skills necessary in this exciting tour.
- Group progress reports are essential for building a sense of accomplish-

ment. The process of planned feedback to the class, facilitated by the teacher, also gives groups the opportunity to share their discoveries and excitement while receiving ideas and encouragement from their peers.

- Consider creating bulletin boards in the classroom or hallway as a way of sharing your project. Post the latest telecommunications and examples of related extension activities. Be sure to take photographs of your students in action at the computer or engaged in activities around the room. Students love to see themselves, and it goes without saying what parents want to see!
- Consider a classroom newsletter sharing this and other classroom activities and projects with parents. Families will learn more about what goes on behind school doors and you will be contributing to parent-child dialogue. Everyone benefits.
- Consider having your students connect up with other students in the states they are exploring. For greater ease in securing eager "e-pals," try the teacher bulletin boards on one of the on-line services. If no requests are listed, post your own. The directions are easy to understand.

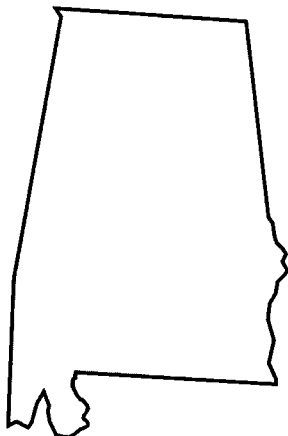
A Word of Caution

Content contributors to the Internet range from other students, formal organizations, and research institu-

tions to extremists. With such a variety of contributors, it is reasonable to assume that quality of content will vary. Much of the content related to your study of the U.S.A. will be guided initially by the sites listed in *NetAmerica*. However, it is inevitable that your students will soon be freely exploring and utilizing the Internet for individual as well as class projects. *There is some content on the Internet that you will not want your students to view. We caution teachers to make clear to your students what is acceptable and what is not.* Initially, you may wish to instruct students what sites they may visit. Be assured that the sites in this book are within acceptable public and private school standards. We recommend a discussion encouraging students who use this contemporary, independent research vehicle to make wise choices and decisions.

Your Tour Leaves Here!

Keep in mind that the Internet is an evolving system with limitless potential and few parameters. Expect and embrace the changes that occur. Each site listed in *NetAmerica* will no doubt offer new and different information a year from now than it currently provides. Any contributor may offer data to create a new site or enhance an existing one. So however long your visit may have been, be sure to return to the site at some point to see what's new. The journey never ends! Enjoy it.



ALABAMA

Alabama is the home of the first White House of the Confederacy and the Alabama Space and Rocket Center. It is also the state in which George Washington Carver conducted his major scientific work. Come to the Heart of Dixie!

Alabama Information Center

Gain an understanding of the sites, culture, and history of Alabama. Access the state archives, learn numerous facts, and explore the educational community.

<http://www.secis.com/home/ala.html>

Emblems and Symbols

A general reference page for quick facts and figures. Did you ever wonder what the state reptile or gemstone might be? Impress your friends by naming the species *basilosaurus cetoides* as the official state fossil. It's all here.

<http://www.asc.edu/archives/emblems.html>

Ivy Green

Ivy Green, in Tuscumbia, Alabama, is the birthplace of Helen Keller. Visit this beautiful southern home and learn more about the amazing life of an inspiring woman.

<http://www.the-matrix.com/keller/home.html>

ADAH

The Alabama Department of Archives and History offers a history access for the state. You will find on-line publications, state history, museum tours, genealogy links, and a variety of government information.

<http://sgisrvr.asc.edu/archives/egis.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Paper

Alabama leads the nation in the manufacturing of paper. Create a diorama celebrating an event in the state's history using only scissors, glue, and paper. Enlarge a blackline of the state seal and add small pieces of paper to construct a collage. Make the state flag using red and white construction paper. Create a camellia, the state flower, from tissue paper.

The Boll Weevil

In the center of the town square in Enterprise, Alabama, stands a monument erected in honor of the boll weevil. Discover why a monument exists in honor of an insect with such destructive capability. Then read the Newbery Award-winning book *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* by Paul Fleischman, which celebrates the insect world. Write a poem about the boll weevil that requires two voices.

Swing Your Partner

Square dancing is popular in Alabama. Go to your school or community library and check out their selection of music

appropriate for square dancing. Learn some of the calls such as *swing your partner*, *promenade*, *form a star*, and *circle right or left*. Plan a barn dance as a culminating activity for your class. Have them come in costume and teach them to square dance.

We Can All Communicate

Helen Keller, born in Alabama, conquered severe physical handicaps. Her goal was to better conditions for the blind and deaf. Do some research on Helen Keller and the tools of communication for the deaf, mute, and blind. Learn sign language, the manual alphabet, and Braille and demonstrate them for the class.

ACCESSING the INTERNET

ALASKA

On March 30, 1876, Alaska was purchased from Russia for \$7,200,000. Many consider the state of Alaska one of the last frontiers where the pioneer spirit still endures.

Join us in a northern adventure.

Information About Alaska

General facts and information about the great northern state of Alaska. Search and you will find interesting links to other people and places.

<http://inforalaska.edu:70/1s/Alaska>

Alaskan Rain Forest Eco-Region

Explore the fascinating and beautiful Alaskan rain forest. Learn why it is crucial to save this critical world resource. Pictures, facts, and links deep within the ecoregion.

<http://www.sierraclub.org/ecoregions/alaska.htm>

North to the Future

This fact-filled Alaska site explores the last frontier, offering an abundance of information about this rich land.

<http://www.state.ak.us/>

U.S. Geological Survey—Alaska

Explore with the U.S. Geological Survey the ups and downs, ins and outs of our northernmost state. See volcanoes, lakes, mountains, fjords, and more.

<http://www-ak.wr.usgs.gov/>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

How Much Is \$7,200,000?

Use your math and inquiry skills to identify ten things that today cost what was paid for Alaska in 1867. Mix them up in a list that includes things that do not cost this amount. Test your classmates to see if they can find the ten items worth over 7 million dollars.

Feeling Is Believing!

Build a map of Alaska using flour, salt, and water. Begin with a drawing on matboard or tagboard that outlines the state and identifies the geographical contours. The clay mix is used to build the relief map. Once the map is dry, paint the surfaces.

This Land Is My Land!

Do some research and then debate the legitimate right of ownership of native lands and fishing grounds in Alaska. Do these lands belong to native Alaskans or new settlers? Remember, you must be able to justify your opinions.

How High and How Far?

Determine the height of Mount McKinley (Mt. Denali) in feet and meters. Then research and calculate the distance

covered by the Alaska Oil Pipeline in miles and kilometers. What was required to complete this engineering phenomenon? What were the consequences of its construction? What is its significance to Alaska?

Carving Through History

Simulate the popular Alaskan art of bone and soapstone carving by carving animals indigenous to Alaska from bars of soap or from blocks of plaster of Paris hardened in half-pint milk cartons. Plastic knives work well with either medium, or you may wish to use sculpting or dental tools for more detailed work.



ARIZONA

Arizona is a state of many contrasts and cultures. In Tucson, thirty major telescopes are situated on mountain peaks as observation platforms to the stars. Can you guess why? Come visit Arizona and experience the land and her people.

Surfing the Arizona Sunsets

Discover the enchanting wonders of Arizona. Visit the Grand Canyon, learn about Arizona's Native American population, and gather fascinating trivia guaranteed to stump the experts.

<http://www.primenet.com/~kentr/>

Arizona Photographers Gallery

Still-image photography captures the majestic grandeur of Arizona. From the desert floor to the mountain streams, view the extraordinary natural beauty of this state.

<http://www.amdest.com/az/AZPhoto.html>

Grand Canyon National Park

Explore the grandest canyon of them all without the mule ride. Discover the history, view the images, and study the wildlife.

<http://kbt.com/gc/>

Southwestern Archaeology

Here you will uncover information on southwestern archaeology, reading lists, Route 66 information, and the Colorado Indian Tribes Museum. Discover projects related to Native Americans in the Southwest and Arizona in particular.

<http://seamonkey.ed.asu.edu/swa/az.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Desert Sunset

Capture some of Arizona's beauty by creating sunsets with colored chalk. You will need two sheets of 9" × 12" (22.5 × 30 cm) white drawing paper. One will be the base. From the other, tear three 3-inch (7.5 cm) strips that run the width of the paper. Select appropriate colors of chalk—one for each torn strip. Rub color A on the torn edge of strip A and place about an inch from the top of the base sheet. With a tissue and a sweeping, upward motion, transfer the chalk onto the base paper. Remove strip A and set aside. Repeat for colors B and C, each time positioning the strip about an inch below the previous color. Continue until the base paper is covered with chalk. From a piece of black or purple construction paper, cut the silhouette of a saguaro cactus, the state flower of Arizona, and glue over the "sunset."

Colors of the Sand

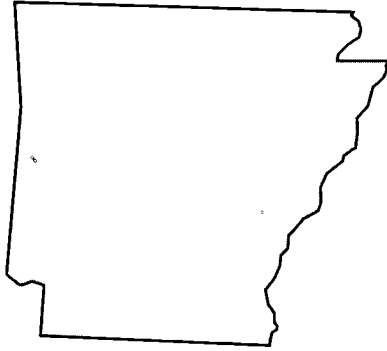
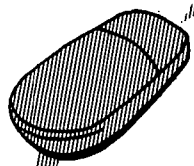
The subdued pastel colors of the Painted Desert are forever changing, bringing beauty to the solitude of the picturesque landscape. From traditional Hopi sand paintings to a sand-filled glass dome that re-creates the Painted Desert, colored sand has many interesting possibilities. Color some sand using powdered tempera paint or alcohol tinted with food coloring (you'll have to let it dry). Then use the sand for a creative art project of your own design.

Grand Canyon

What is sedimentary rock? Where will you find it? In the Grand Canyon you can see layers and layers of sandstone, limestone, and shale. Do some research to find out how this sedimentary rock was formed. Build a model of the Grand Canyon using plaster of Paris, cardboard, and paint. Be sure to show the various rock formations and layers of sediment.

Petrified!

Trees grew in Arizona over 225 million years ago. Today in the picturesque Painted Desert lies the Petrified Forest National Park. Visitors can see the remains of six forests that have turned to stone. Read *Fossils Tell of Long Ago* by Alike. Do some research to determine how living things become fossils. What can fossils tell us?



ARKANSAS

A land of mountains, valleys, forests, and plains, this state is a favorite of vacationing tourists. Called the Land of Opportunity, Arkansas is rich in natural resources, mines, farms, and factories. Come take a look!

Arkansas Home Page

This should be your first stop—the Arkansas Web Site has lots of new and exciting information about this great state. You'll find information on parks and places to visit, learn about state government, and explore the many resources available to the *NetAmerica* traveler.

<http://www.state.ar.us/>

State of Arkansas Fact Sheet

Another good resource for facts about Arkansas. Get a close-up look at the state flag, the state capitol, and the state emblem.

<http://w3spd.state.ar.us/state.htm>

National Forests of Arkansas

Fifty-one percent of Arkansas is forested. Learn about the trees that produce some of the country's finest hard and soft woods. Visit the sandy soils of the Ouachita region and the hot springs.

http://www.gorp.com/gorp/resource/us_national_forest/ar.HTM

Red Basin River Forecast Center

This weather-related site tracks the area stretching from the Colorado Rockies west of Pikes Peak to Pine Bluff, Arkansas. View radar images of precipitation and other hydrometeorological information. A good site for students to estimate, chart, graph, and report on weather data.

<http://info.abrfc.noaa.gov/>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Listen to the Mockingbird

The mockingbird is the state bird of Arkansas. This bird is famous for its ability to re-create the sounds of other birds. Find out more about this fascinating bird and prepare an illustrated report. Why does it mimic other birds? Explain your theory.

Cyber-views

There are many myths about the Ozarks that have been perpetuated in films and cartoons. List these myths or misconceptions. Then contact people on-line who live in this region. Post inquiries on electronic bulletin boards. Conduct cyberspace interviews with government officials and just plain folks. Share the results of your interviews.

Would It Be Wood?

In the Ozark Plateau region of northern Arkansas, woodcarving is a traditional craft. Create an original balsa wood sculpture with your cooperative group or design and construct a bridge out of

toothpicks or craft sticks. If you own a wood-burning set and have your family's permission, bring the tools to school and demonstrate the craft.

Women Rule!

In 1932, Hattie Caraway of Arkansas became the first woman elected to the United States Senate. Since then, women have won an increasing number of high-level political offices. Research and report on a woman who has played an important role in American politics. Explain the reason for your choice.

CALIFORNIA

Roaring surf along the Pacific Ocean, snow-capped mountains of the Sierra Nevada, fertile lands stretching the length of the Central Valley, ominous deserts of the Mojave region—this state is as diverse as its geography, history, culture, and people.
California, here we come!

California Home Page

Informative links provide a brief overview of California. From living, learning, and working in California to the history, culture, and economy, all the basic information you need is right here.

<http://www.ca.gov/>

Shake, Rattle, & Roll

California Institute of Technology
Seismological Laboratory

Find the answers to your earthquake-related questions here.

<http://www.gsp.caltech.edu/seismo/seismo.page.html>

Prospecting for Gold

In 1848, gold was discovered along the American River, in California. News of the discovery spread rapidly and people rushed to California. Become part of the prospecting adventure as you “stake” this site.

<http://www.klws.com/gold/gold.html>

Virtual Tourism

Visit California on-line services, events, pictures, maps, images, and other West Coast on-line resources. You can even visit California universities and a number of school districts.

<http://www.research.digital.com/SRC/virtual-tourist/California.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

The Ocean and the People

The Pacific Ocean washes the California coastline. Twenty miles out to sea lie the Channel Islands. In the days before the Spanish settlers, isolated Indian tribes flourished on these islands. Read about the life of one Native American girl in the Newbery Award-winning novel *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell. Then choose one of the following activities: bring in some shells and determine various uses these might have for decoration or survival; compare the methods of fishing in the novel to modern methods; discuss the topics of survival and being alone.

Regional Maps

California has four distinct regions: the coast, the mountains, the Central Valley, and the desert. Create a map that clearly shows these areas, using the media of your choice. Materials might include beans of different types and colors, construction paper, papier mâché, or markers. Label the natural and political boundaries. Be sure to include a legend and a compass rose.

Stars on Hollywood Boulevard

Aspiring actors and actresses once flocked to Hollywood in search of fame. Many who achieved it are represented

by stars bearing their names along the famous Hollywood Boulevard. Make "stars" of the members of your group and create a classroom display featuring your stellar qualities. Include interviews, a picture gallery of photos, and comments and observations by friends.

The Mission Trail

In the early days of California, Spanish missionaries established the mission system in hopes of bringing the Catholic religion to the native people. Strategically placed up and down the coast, these missions were built approximately thirty miles apart so that travelers could stop for rest. Simulate a walk along El Camino Real, from one mission to the next. Determine the perimeter of your playground or gym. Walk this route daily as a group and record the distance covered as well as the elapsed time.

COLORADO

Colorado or "color red" got its name from the Colorado River, which flows through canyons of red stone and sand, giving it a reddish hue. Visit Colorado, a state of astounding space and diversity.

Color Colorado

This is the official *Home page*, providing a visitor's guide, government page, education information, list of groups and organizations, Colorado news, weather conditions, and a chance to have the *NetAmerica* traveler sign the official state guest book!

<http://www.state.co.us/>

Pikes Peak

Visit Pikes Peak on-line. Or if you're in the neighborhood, you can reach this Colorado pinnacle on foot, by car, cog railway, or on horseback. It is interesting to note that thirty of Colorado's peaks are actually higher than this one.

<http://electricstores.com/pikes-peak/default.htm>

Ski Colorado

The Rocky Mountain ski page offers sights from mountains and ski resorts. A new feature is "Summertime in the Rockies." Schuss on in to this site and prepare for a white-powder ride!

<http://www.aecon.com:80/ski/>

Mesa Verde Cliff Dwellings

These spectacular cliff dwellings constructed and occupied hundreds of years ago by early Pueblo Indians are an archaeological treasure. Learn more about the place, the people, and the period at this Net site.

<http://www.swcolo.org/Tourism/Archaeology/MesaVerde.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Colorado Red

It isn't only the Colorado River that features the color red. Colorado Red is also the name for one of the best chili recipes this side of the Mississippi (actually, on either side of the Mississippi). Find the recipe and mix up a kettle of the chili for your class.

Wildflowers

Many varieties of wildflowers grow on the slopes and meadows of the great Rocky Mountains. Do some research to find out what they are and prepare an illustrated report on at least three species. If any of them grow in your state, try to get a sample of the real thing.

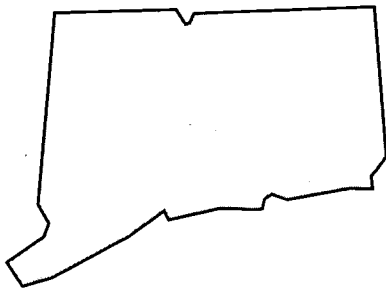
The Anasazi

The early Pueblo Indians who inhabited the cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde National Park were called the Anasazi. Find out as much as you can about these Native Americans and construct a three-dimensional model of their dwellings. If possible, construct a cutaway version, showing the interior as well.

In Mint Condition

The Denver Mint is one place where U.S. coins are produced. Find out the steps involved in designing and manufacturing a coin. Then design a coin celebrating either Colorado or your home state. Be ready to justify your choice of design elements. Assign your coin a value for which there is no coin currently. Why do we need a coin of this new value? Be prepared to defend your choice.

CONNECTICUT



Connecticut, the Constitution State, is home to many fine colleges and universities. The first American cookbook was written here, as well as Webster's first dictionary. Come to New England and experience colonial history as well as the beautiful changes of season.

Welcome to the Best of Connecticut

Features information on trails, rivers, historical sites, and sightseeing. Even family vacation planning with recreation, night life, family fun, camping, and sports. Don't forget to join the Connecticut photo tour.

<http://www.csiworld.com/ct.htm>

First in Manufacturing

Connecticut has led the nation in mass-production manufacturing, a major innovation in its period. Eli Whitney, famous for the cotton gin, was the inventor of mass-production technology related to the armament industry. This site will give you more information about this important industrial development.

<http://www.csiworld.com/manufact.htm>

Mystic Seaport

Mystic Seaport is a living museum of what life was like in the mid-1800s along the rivers and shorelines of Connecticut. Whaling ships and local merchants live on in this reconstructed waterfront village. Come look around.

<http://www2.northstar.k12.ak.us/schools/upk/mystic/mystic.html>

The Guide

The Connecticut Guide provides good information on tourism, census, economy, government, weather, and lots of Connecticut facts. This site is growing and changing all the time.

<http://ctguide.atlantic.com/intro.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Extra, Extra!

Since colonial times, Connecticut has been at the crossroads of information and innovation. The state boasts approximately eighty newspapers. The *Hartford Courant* began publishing in 1764 and is the oldest continuously-published paper in the nation. Design and publish an issue of your own colonial newspaper that reflects the style and events of the time.

Colt 45

Samuel Colt invented the first successful repeating handgun, which was patented in 1836. The Colt Patent Firearms Company continues to manufacture weapons in its Hartford factory. What is your opinion of gun control? With your cooperative group, prepare a report that presents both sides of the issue.

Cooking in Connecticut

The first recorded American cookbook was published in Connecticut. With your group, compile and design an original

cookbook. Have each group member submit three recipes—ask relatives and friends for original and unusual ones. Invite other classmates to submit recipes as well. Think of a clever title and design a cover. *Bon appétit!*

Whale Watch

Do some research into old whaling ships and the voyages they undertook. Then either render a scale drawing or create a scale model of an old whaling ship, such as one you might see in Mystic Seaport.

DELAWARE



The first log cabins in the country were constructed in Delaware, the first American state. The craft of log-cabin building was brought to America by immigrants from northern Europe, where this form of housing was common.

Link-All Delaware

If it's happening in Delaware, it is on this site page—or linked to one that is. You'll find information on schools, libraries, universities, government, interest groups, transportation, tourism, accommodations, clubs and organizations, religion, television and radio stations, computing, corporations, and more.

<http://www.dtcc.edu/delaware/>

Delaware Facts

A great "who's who" in local, state and national government—and how to find them. The newest button will take you to "Delawareans who made a difference."

<http://www.state.de.us/facts/intro.htm>

History and Where It's At

Descriptions and photos of spots of historical significance. Delaware is full of history, and only on the Internet can you see and visit these fascinating places instantly.

<http://www.state.de.us/tourism/attrinto.htm>

A Polymeric Amide?

Nylon was invented in the state of Delaware by the chemical giant DuPont. This man-made fiber changed the way people lived, played, and worked. Find out more about this twentieth-century development at this unique Net site.

<http://www.lexmark.com/ptc/bz-d.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Why Is It So Small?

Delaware is the second smallest state in the United States. Why is this? Who decides how big a state shall be? Why is California so big and Delaware so small? Is it fair? See if your group can come up with some answers. What would our map look like if all the states were exactly the same size (in square miles)? How big would each state be?

Durability and Utility

Since the inventors of nylon were trying to find a fabric that was strong, light-weight, and had other unique qualities, thorough laboratory testing was crucial. In your classroom, devise a test for fabric strength and test a minimum of five fabrics for strength; weight; maintenance of temperature; and under proper supervision, flame retardancy. Keep careful records of your findings.

What's It Like to Be First?

Delaware was the first state in the Union. How do you think the residents of this colonial territory felt about their new status? Pretend you are a Delaware resident and write an article for the local paper about Delaware's new statehood. Be sure to include the five Ws— who, what, when, where, and why.

Logs to Build With

Celebrate the first log houses in America by building a miniature cabin in the classroom with an interior area of exactly 36 square inches (225 square cm) using rolled tagboard or tightly rolled newspaper to make logs. Allow for a chimney, door, and windows. Be sure to develop a set of plans and measure carefully before you begin.

Hail, Caesar!

On July 5, 1776, Caesar Rodney made a trip from Dover, Delaware, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Find out the reason for his important ride and draw a map of the route he took.

FLORIDA

Visit our southernmost state, where land, people, history, and the future all come together. The location, weather, geography, habitat, people, and industry make the Sunshine State a fascinating and popular spot to visit. If you've never been here, now's your chance.

Finding Florida

Florida facts, tourism, highways, travel—this site even takes visitors to the 100,000 campsites scattered throughout this diverse southern state.

http://www.florida.com/fl_fact.htm

Everglades

This site explores the Everglades ecosystem and examines the ongoing destruction and attempted rehabilitation. Swamps, waterways, and rivers of grass are all open to the Cyber visitor. Join us at this marvel of nature.

<http://geog.gmu.edu/gess/Everglades/pract.html>

NASA Kennedy Space Center

From this site you can access the Kennedy Space Center and discover what's new in the space program, as well as other interesting topics related to NASA. Good links to Space Shuttle Missions.

<http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/ksc.html>

Florida Sesquicentennial

Be a part of Florida's 150th anniversary celebration. Peruse the Florida State Archives, find a short guide to Florida's past, celebrate the art of Florida, and read 150 great Florida Facts.

<http://199.44.58.12/sesqui/FL-sesq.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Water, Water, Everywhere!

Florida has an extensive coastline. It seems likely that wherever you are in Florida, water is close by. As a mapping activity, calculate the miles of shoreline that surround this state. Then “stretch” the shoreline out straight and see how far it would extend from the east coast to the west.

Alligator Math

Do some research on the number of alligators believed to be inhabiting inland Florida. Based on current trends, antipoaching laws, and other environmental protection information, how many alligators do you estimate will remain in Florida by the year 2010?

Everglade Terrarium

Collect plants that will flourish in a humid environment and make an Everglades terrarium. What geographical factors have come together to create such an environment in Florida? Learn what is unique and special about the Everglades habitat. Will your plants grow and flourish? Alter the variables and record your findings.

A Man on Mars?

Man has landed on the moon. Will we make it to Mars? What goals does NASA have that may be met in your lifetime? And how does NASA justify the expense of space ventures? Find out more about NASA's program for the future. Prepare a five-minute talk that either supports or negates the goals and expenses of our space program.

GEORGIA



Welcome to the Peach State. Georgia is a state rich in pride, passion, and history. Come to the heart of the Old South and check it out.

Georgia Web Guide

This site leads Georgia visitors to a huge variety of topics—general sites, regional areas, entertainment, music, media, interest groups, education, sports, and of course, state government, to name just a few.

<http://www.ajc.com/atl/gaweb.htm>

Peanuts! Get Your Fresh Peanuts!

All you ever wanted to know and more about the fabulous peanut. Take a tour of the peanut plant, receive peanut recipes, see the Peanut Gallery, find out how peanut candy is made, and how peanuts are roasted in the shell. You can even buy peanuts on-line.

<http://www.nando.net/peanut/peanut.html>

A Mountain of Stone

The giant expanse of granite, magnificent Confederate memorial carvings, and the surrounding 3,200-acre park at Stone Mountain are the results of both natural and historic events. Come see how man and nature worked together to bring you this unique travel experience.

<http://www.gatech.edu/3020/stone/MAIN.HTM>

A World in Harmony

Coca Cola™ is a name recognized in almost every language. Find out more about this soft drink and the culture that accompanies it. Coca Cola™ even has its own museum! Pop open this site for a different kind of fun.

<http://www.cocacola.com/>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Jimmy Carter

Recognized by many as a great statesman and humanitarian, former President Jimmy Carter of Georgia continues his work today as a peacemaker and home builder. Find out more about this interesting man and his work with Habitat for Humanity. Is there a Habitat for Humanity chapter near you?

Making Peanut Butter

Making fresh peanut butter is easy to do. Find your own recipe or use ours—plain peanuts, no sugar, a wee bit of salt. Grind by hand or use a food processor or blender. Spread the fresh peanut butter on toast, add some honey, and dig in. If your group is ambitious, bake bread to spread the peanut butter on!

Stone Mountain Revisited

Find out whose faces are carved on Stone Mountain and why. Then do some research and come up with three more people you think should be represented there. Defend your choices in a written and illustrated report.

Girl Scouts Forever

Juliette Low, founder of the Girl Scouts, was born in Savannah. Find out about her life and why she was inspired to create the Girl Scouts. How do today's Girl Scouts compare to the original ones? Create a Venn diagram comparing Girl Scouts of old and those of today.

HAWAII

Hawaii is currently the only state not attached to the North America mainland. It is a unique and special state in many other ways as well. Is it the paradise we all dream of visiting? Take a look!

Aloha

With your arrival lei around your neck, your first stop should be either the beach or the visitors' bureau. Let's explore some information about this wonderful state from this introductory site for Hawaii visitors. We'll head for the beach later.

<http://www.hawaii.edu/hawaiihome/vis.html>

Hawaii the Volcano

The Hawaiian Islands were formed by volcanoes rooted in the depths of the sea. Over the years, molten rock has been transformed into a tropical paradise. But fire and rock continue to impact these beautiful atolls.

<http://bookweb.cwis.uci.edu:8042/Books/Moon/volcanoes.html>

More Volcano Questions

Almost everyone is fascinated by volcanoes. The Hawaii Volcanoes

National Park is the site for even more information.

http://volcano.und.nodak.edu/vwdocs/HawaiiQuest/hawaii_quest.html

Culture and Myth

The Hawaii Resource Library holds information about people, culture, villages, urban centers, and industry, on this unique land on the sea.

<http://hawaii-shopping.com/~sammonet/hrlhome.html>

In Remembrance

On December 7, 1941, the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii, was attacked by the military forces of Japan, plunging the United States into the war in the Pacific. This site pays tribute to those who died and those who survived. It offers silent hope for world peace.

<http://www.execpc.com/~dschaaf/>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Volcanic Islands

Investigate the formation of islands from volcanoes. How does it occur and how long does it take? Create a series of illustrations or models that clearly depict the formation of an island from a volcano. Label the approximate elapsed time for each stage.

Volcanic Myths

Hawaii has many myths and legends surrounding the creation of the islands and the volcanoes themselves. Become familiar with some of these legends. Then write one of your own that explains volcanic eruptions or some other unique custom or feature of the state.

Aloha!

The Hawaiian alphabet has considerably fewer letters than the English alphabet. Find out what these letters are. Then create an illustrated dictionary for your classmates that contains at least fifteen Hawaiian words and at least five sentences. Include a pronunciation guide.

Day of Infamy

The attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 took place on what has become known as the "Day of Infamy." What is infamy? Who named this day? Prepare a five-minute presentation that explains the significance of Pearl Harbor in U.S. history and the reason for the title, Day of Infamy.

IDAHO



Idaho is one of the majestic Rocky Mountain states. Its natural resources are its richest assets. Visit Idaho and experience the beauty of one of our least-populous states.

The Gem State

This site includes facts concerning Idaho's government, technology, academia, cities, recreation, travel, and extraordinary natural resources.

<http://www.cs.uidaho.edu/~beers/Idaho/>

Home on the Web

Before you can sing "Home on the Web," you'll be right in the middle of this Idaho home site. Here are history, attractions, climate, recreation, geography, geology, state parks, and other information about the "undiscovered America."

<http://www.state.id.us/>

One Potato, Two Potato

Idaho produces more potatoes than any other state. This site has all the potato information you'll ever need.

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/~amyl/recipes/vegetables/potato/index.html>

The Nez Percé

The name *Nez Percé* is a misnomer given by the interpreter of the Lewis and Clark expedition team. The French translate this as *pierced nose*, although the Nez Percé did not practice nose piercing. The pierced-nose people lived on the lower Columbia River and throughout other parts of the Northwest. At this Net site, you will find descriptions of the life, landmarks, and legends of the Nez Percé.

<http://www.uidaho.edu/~pond9313/>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

The Appaloosa

Nez Percé territory included approximately 17 million acres. The Nez Percé traveled with the seasons in search of food. They were known for their breeding of the appaloosa—a horse that would prove to serve them well. Research the appaloosa (on the Internet, search for *equine*) and learn about this special breed. Prepare an illustrated report on the development and characteristics of the appaloosa.

Forest Primeval

National forests cover many acres in Idaho. Their preservation is a topic of continuing interest and debate. Find out how much of Idaho is currently forested. How much was forested 50 years ago? Debate the topic of national forest preservation in your group. Share the results with the class.

Potato Power

The delicious and nutritious potato is valued around the world. Although we have poked fun at this nutritious spud,

we continue to create culinary delights from this unassuming vegetable. List as many ways to prepare potatoes as you can think of. Then poll the class to see which are their favorites. Graph the results.

Touring Idaho

Idaho's natural beauty makes it an easy draw for tourists. Find out more about opportunities for tourists in Idaho. Decide on a place you would like to visit and design a travel brochure that would interest other students in going there.

ILLINOIS

Located in the midwestern United States, Illinois is known for its rich farmlands. This agricultural state makes up a significant part of the Corn Belt. Come see Illinois, birthplace of many famous Americans.

State of Illinois

Collect general information about the state of Illinois at this site. Discover a wide variety of libraries and museums, visit educational institutions, and learn about Illinois' capital and government.

<http://www.state.il.us/default2.htm>

City of Chicago

Located in northeastern Illinois, Chicago is a leading industrial center. Here you will find information and references about the diverse and exciting Windy City, most of which was destroyed by fire in 1871.

<http://cpl.lib.uic.edu/004chicago/004chicago.html>

The Field Museum

The Field Museum of Natural History, in Chicago, is an educational institution concerned with the diversity and relationships in nature and among cultures. Visit this site for outstanding virtual exhibits. Admission is free.

<http://www.bvis.uic.edu/museum/>

Springfield—City That Lincoln Loved

Known as the Land of Lincoln, Illinois is proud of the history associated with the 16th President of the United States. Visit the state capital and the place where Lincoln was laid to rest.

<http://www.uis.edu/~www/pages/spfld.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Illinois Inventors

Manufacturing is a principal industry of Illinois, and John Deere and Cyrus McCormick are two important figures in the history of manufacturing here. Find out why. What were their contributions, and how did they change the lives of people in agriculture? What other names are prominent in the field of manufacturing in Illinois and what were their contributions?

Chicago, Chicago

Chicago is a fascinating and multifaceted city. The fire supposedly started by Mrs. O'Leary's cow in 1871 necessitated the rebuilding of much of it. Do some research to find out how pre-fire Chicago differed from the city of today. Compare and contrast the two. How is it the same and how is it different?

Skyscrapers

The Sears Tower, in Chicago, is currently the world's tallest building. Standing 110 stories high, it is a monument to engineering know-how. Using encyclopedias

and the Internet, collect the names of at least five additional skyscrapers. Illustrate the buildings and compare their heights on a bar graph. Is it possible to construct a skyscraper of 220 stories? Why or why not? What *one* invention needed to be designed before the skyscraper was born?

Field Museum

Explore this Net site to get a sense of the mission of this museum. Write for more information if necessary. Then be curators by designing and illustrating a new exhibit for the museum that would appeal to you and your peers. Be sure it is authentic and accurate in every detail.

INDIANA

Part of the Corn Belt, Indiana's fertile plains produce corn, soybeans, and hogs. The Indianapolis 500 auto race attracts millions (via television satellite) each year to watch this ever-faster event. Come visit this land of contrasts that was first inhabited by prehistoric Indian Mound Builders over 1,000 years ago.

Indiana State Library

For 170 years this library has served Indiana. Now in the age of technology, it is open to the world. Access Indiana State archives, read on-line newspapers, and learn about the state and federal government. This outstanding selection of jump sites is always open!

<http://statelib.lib.in.us/>

What's a Hoosier?

While you're trying to figure out where the term *Hoosier* came from, check out the Indiana state flag, flower, seal, bird, constitution, and song.

<http://www.spcc.com/ihsww/what.htm>

The Corn Growers Guidebook

Corn is one of Indiana's most valuable agriculture products. Learn information pertinent to the corn management system in Indiana and other states of the Corn Belt. Work your way to the Maize World Wide Web resources and find out how a corn plant develops.

<http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agronomy/cornguid.htm>

Indianapolis Motor Speedway

The Indianapolis 500 is one of the most famous and popular auto races. Visit the speedway and then motor down the information highway to other racing pages.

<http://www.io.org/~raceweb/ntinin.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Mr. Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln grew up on the wild Indiana frontier. Today in Fort Wayne, you will find the Lincoln Library and Museum, which houses a large collection of Lincoln memorabilia, paintings, and photographs. Do some research on both Lincoln and the Indiana frontier. With your group, develop a short skit or presentation that shows how Lincoln's Indiana boyhood affected the man he later became.

It's All in the Design

Cars that run the Indianapolis 500 have sleek aerodynamic designs that enable them to move fast. How much faster do they move now than they did in the first Indy race? Do some research that will enable you to prepare a line graph depicting the winning speed of the Indianapolis 500 each year since the first race.

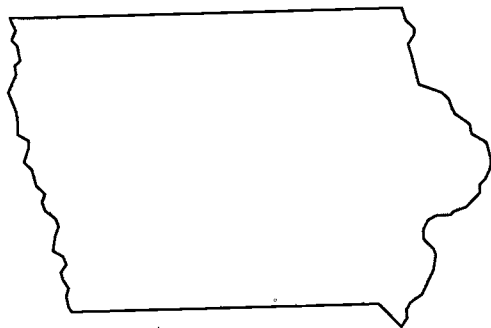
Corn

Corn is an American tradition. Corn and its byproducts are used in a variety of ways—not all of them food-related!

Find out how corn grows and prepare an illustrated poster that explains the process. How many nonfood uses for corn can you dig up? See if anyone in your class can list ten or more.

Hoosier Poet

James Whitcomb Riley is an Indiana poet who wrote many poems in the Hoosier dialect of his home state. Find out the derivation of the word *Hoosier*. Then with your group, select a poem of Riley's to present as a choral reading in this dialect.



IOWA

Large and small farms reach to the horizon throughout the rural landscape of Iowa, the Hawkeye State. Once a land of wild grass-covered prairies, Iowa's rich soil has transformed it into the nation's leading farming state.

Welcome to Iowa

From Iowa colleges and universities to the Iowa League of Women Voters, you'll learn about the people and the places of this great state. Discover how state government works and useful public resources available to all on-line.

<http://www.state.ia.us/>

Des Moines

Des Moines is the capital of Iowa. As the chief manufacturing center of the state, it is also the heart of business. Discover the rich heritage and beauty of this Iowan city.

<http://www.ioweb.com/desmoines/>

Prairie Wildflowers

Before farmland took over, wildflowers covered the prairies of Iowa. Visit this growing site to find out about native plants of Iowa and see pictures of endangered and unusual prairie plants.

<http://www.netins.net/showcase/bluestem/>

Geology, Geography, and Geodes

See Iowa first from a satellite and then head for Earth to learn about geology, geography, and geodes. This site has links to fossils, geodes, meteorites, and other geological phenomena. Be sure to dig a little deeper to find fascinating information from archaeological sites and ancient cultures.

<http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/htmls/browse/browse.htm>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Pressed Flowers

The prairies of Iowa were once alive with wildflowers, which bloomed upon its fertile soil. Farming has taken over their habitat, and many species have become endangered. Identify several species of endangered Iowa wildflowers and illustrate them. How can these species be preserved? Is it important to preserve them? Why or why not?

Today and Yesterday

Farming today is much different from the plowing and planting done by the pioneer farmer. Modern technology and science have led to hybrid products and high yields. Make an illustrated list of tools used in the early days of farming. Then illustrate their modern-day counterparts. How do the problems of pioneer farmers resemble or differ from the problems faced by farmers of today?

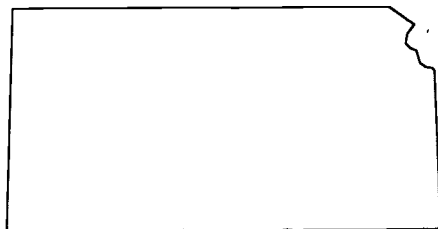
Grant Wood, Painter

Grant Wood was an American painter who depicted life in Iowa and the rural Midwest. Perhaps his most famous painting is *American Gothic* which depicts a typical midwestern farm couple.

Obtain a print of this painting—the Internet would be a good place to look for one. Prepare a presentation for the class in which you discuss Grant Wood's style as it relates to *American Gothic*. In particular, how does his style suit his subject matter? What can you learn from this picture?

Buffalo Bill

Scott County, Iowa, was the birthplace of "Buffalo Bill" Cody. Do some research on the life of this man and his famous Wild West shows. Gather enough information to create a mobile depicting Cody's Wild West. Try for at least eight items on your mobile in at least three different levels of balance.



KANSAS

The state with the "golden waves of grain" is also affectionately known as the Wheat State or the Breadbasket of America. For many others who remember, Kansas is simply the beginning of the Yellow Brick Road! Ease on down!

The Sites of Kansas

Are we there yet? Yes! We have arrived in Kansas, and we will stop in at this exploratory site to see what to do here and where to do it.

<http://falcon.cc.ukans.edu/~nsween/europa.html>

Sunny Side Up

Kansas is the Sunflower State and this page tells you all about the marvelous sunflower. Learn about its development, byproducts, and how to grow your own. You'll be amazed at how much there is to learn about this majestic flower.

<http://www.northcoast.com/unlimited/news/ncjournal/garden.8-95.html>

OWK: Old West Kansas

An interesting look into the Kansas of the past. Depiction of the Kansas Pioneers, Old West Trails, a heritage tour, and towns that have come and gone. A great taste of history.

http://history.cc.ukans.edu/heritage/old_west/old_west.html

Irrigation, Windmills, Raindrops, and Plows

Welcome to the Kansas Agriculture site. From earthworms to the country's largest wheat harvest, from wind power to tractor pulls, it's all here in the great state of Kansas.

http://www.weru.ksu.edu/pics/general_ag/

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

The Humble Tractor

Tractors and related agricultural machines are critical to this wheat-producing state. Find out exactly how machines aid in the planting and harvesting of wheat. Prepare a presentation (illustrated or with models) that will explain to your classmates exactly how these machines take the wheat from seed to bread.

Click Your Heels Three Times . . .

Dorothy and Toto were carried off a Kansas farm by a cyclone. Exactly what is a cyclone? Is it different from a tornado? Why don't all states experience cyclones? Prepare an illustrated chart that will answer these questions for the class.

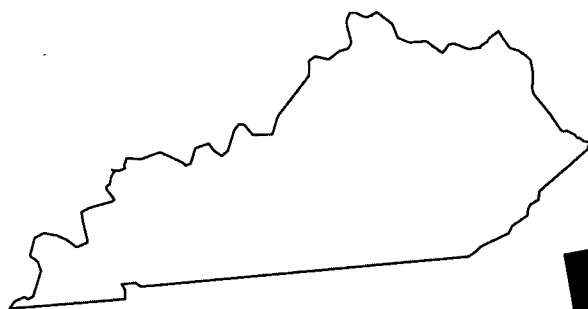
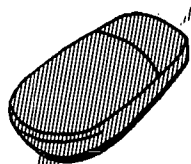
The Old West

Dodge City played an important role in the history of Kansas and continues to be important to the state today—in a different way. Find out about the Dodge

City of old and perform a skit with your group reenacting a bit of life in the Old West.

Fibonacci Series

Sunflowers contain examples of Fibonacci series—a fascinating natural phenomenon. What is a Fibonacci series? Find out and demonstrate it for the class, using an illustration of a sunflower—either original or photocopied.



KENTUCKY

Kentucky is a southern state of proud traditions, bluegrass, and Thoroughbred horses. Join us in our tour of this lush state where the Derby runs and residents are proud to sing, "My Old Kentucky Home."

This Is Kentucky

Join in on the Commonwealth of Kentucky World Wide Web Server. This is the general information page for new visitors who wish to learn about and find resources related to the state of Kentucky.

<http://www.state.ky.us/>

Horse Sense

A great collection of equine information resides here. You can tour the International Museum of the Horse, the Horses Hotlist, and Kentucky horse area map; or visit such educational programs as Equine Education or the American Academy of Equine Art. For the real horse lover, use Equine Links to visit your favorite four-legged friend.

<http://www.state.ky.us/horsepk/hp1.htm>

In Case You Want to Sing

For those who watch the Derby and wish to sing along, check out this page of "My Old Kentucky Home" from 1853. It was adopted as the state song in 1928.

<http://www.uky.edu/KentuckyAtlas/ky-bardstown.html>

Mammoth Caves

Whether you are a spelunker or not, you may wish to explore these world-renowned caves. The caves contain fascinating scientific information that aids in assembling our knowledge of this planet. Check it out here.

<http://www.wku.edu/~jaspejd/center.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Horse Center of America

A certain city in Kentucky claims the above title. Find out which city it is and why it claims this title. Are there other cities in Kentucky that are horse centers as well? What are they? Create a map of Kentucky on posterboard, showing each city that might be called a "horse center."

Kentucky Derby

Few horse races are as famous as the Kentucky Derby. Do some research on this race—an event loaded with tradition. Choose at least five Derby traditions to symbolize on a mobile. Be prepared to explain these traditions to the class.

There's Gold in Them Thar Buildings!

Fort Knox is a federal government facility. What's it for? Do some research to find out the significance of this famous spot and how it relates to the U.S. monetary system. Follow the price of gold on-line—graph the rise and fall over two weeks' time.

Attention, Spelunkers!

Caves are unique and fascinating natural formations. But how do they form? And how long does it take? Re-create a cave environment or create a model cave in media of your choice. Prepare a demonstration for the class showing how caves are formed. You may wish to play some bluegrass music while you work!



LOUISIANA

Where the mighty Mississippi River empties into the Gulf of Mexico, you'll find Louisiana, the Pelican State and home of the Creoles and Cajuns. Unique in people, language, food, and culture—this is a must-see place. Come experience Louisiana!

Crayfish & Tabasco

Two products the world knows well come from this southern state. Ninety-eight percent of the world's crayfish are produced in Louisiana. And to ensure a hot time wherever you may be, there's tabasco sauce from Avery Island, off the coast. Join the people, places, and traditions of the 18th state of the Union.

<http://www.state.la.us/>

Mardi Gras Madness

For well over 100 years, Mardi Gras has been celebrated for 12 days a year in the colorful old city of New Orleans. Learn about this Louisiana tradition—see the pictures, learn the terminology, and take part in this unusual event. Don a mask and join the fun!

<http://uuneo.neosoft.com/citylink/mardigr/default.html>

What Is a Crayfish?

Before you visit this part of the country, you better know what a crayfish is. At this real museum site, you can find out everything you ever wanted to know about that strange-looking water creature, including how to say its name!

<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/tnhc/.www/crayfish/Astacidea/crayhome.html>

Gumbo

Gumbo is a special regional dish served in Louisiana and elsewhere throughout the world. Part of the Cajun tradition, this is a taste experience worth savoring.

<http://www.webcom.com/~gumbo/>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Mardi Gras!

Learn the many colorful traditions of this unique southern celebration. Then choose two or three aspects that are appropriate and fun and plan a mini-Mardi Gras for your class. What does *mardi gras* mean? Be sure to find out!

Spices and Rices

There are loads of regional dishes available in Louisiana. Gumbo is only one! Natives of the state swear there's no food like the food in Louisiana. Choose a regional recipe and prepare it with your group. Be sure to calculate enough ingredients to feed your entire class. Before you all dig in, share with the class the history of the dish you have chosen to prepare.

Ancient Bay

Marshes and cypress swamps form a fascinating habitat in the southern part of the state. Louisiana is known both as the Pelican State and the Bayou State. Find out why. Study this ecosystem and create a mural that depicts the plant and animal life along the Louisiana coast.

Rice Rice Rice

Rice is a major agricultural crop from Louisiana. In Crowley, Louisiana, they celebrate the rice harvest with an annual

festival. Find out what makes Louisiana geographically and climatically ideal for rice growing. Then devise a display that will explain the process of rice production, from planting to packaging.

The Cradle of Jazz

Louisiana is known as the cradle of jazz—a unique and perhaps the *only* truly American musical form. What is jazz? What is improvisation, and what is its significance to a jazz performance? Do some research that will help you choose two or three jazz musicians whose performances you can share with the class. Be prepared to share some information about each musician and his or her particular contribution to jazz in America.

ACCESSING the INTERNET



MAINE

Maine's rocky shores along the Atlantic coast beckon visitors to its peaceful seaside and fishing villages. Follow the flickering beams of historical lighthouses as we explore the splendor and bounties of Maine.

Maine: The Way Life Should Be

Maine is a wonderful place for recreation, exploration, and relaxation at all times of the year. Visit the coastal lowlands, view spectacular photographs, learn state facts, and bone up on state government at this site.

<http://www.state.me.us/decd/tour/>

The Lighthouse Collection

Want to learn more about lighthouses and their history? Here's the site to visit. Discover how these structures served as navigational aides to the early mariners along the Atlantic coast. View photographs of the many fine examples on Maine's offshore islands.

<http://gopher.lib.utk.edu:70/0/Other-Internet-Resources/pictures/lights/>

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was one of the most famous American poets of the 1800s. Born in Portland, Maine, his poems are among the best known in American literature. Read about his life and download some of his most famous works, such as "The Village Blacksmith."

<http://www.auburn.edu/~vestmon/longfellow.html>

Maine Natural Areas Program MNAP

Great information and fine pictures of rare species and natural areas of Maine. See the "Lost Plants of Maine" and the "Gallery of Natural Areas Images."

<http://www.state.me.us/doc/mnap/home.htm>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Light From the Shore

For years, lighthouses have warned the sailors of impending danger in the fog and on misty coastal nights. They have told the seaworthy traveler that land was near at hand. Research the five types of lighthouse signals and the factors that impact the light beams. Discover the mechanisms and lenses that enhance the intensity of the light. Then create an illustrated chart or poster that will explain the information you uncover.

Red as a Lobster

If you've eaten lobster in a restaurant, chances are it came from Maine, where the fishing industry is critical to the economy. Do some research on Maine's lobstering history. How have things changed for the Maine lobsterman? How has the industry itself changed? Prepare a presentation that includes some predictions for the future of the lobster and the lobsterman. Be sure to include some visual aids.

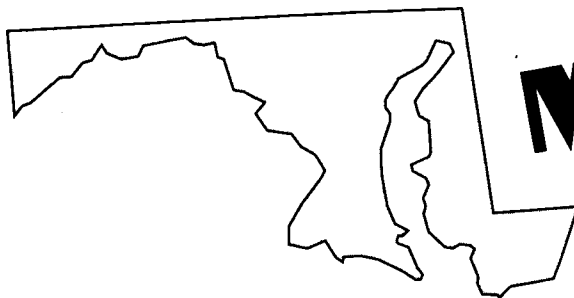
Poetry

The narrative style and descriptive passages in the works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow have become part of the

American tradition. Familiarize yourselves with one of Longfellow's poems and prepare a choral reading of the poem or a portion of the poem for the class. Or choose an aspect of Maine life and write a poem in Longfellow's style to share.

Be Seaworthy, Me Mates!

Shipbuilding and sailing were a way of life in the early days of Maine, and shipbuilding was Maine's first industry. A steady ship, charts, navigation instruments and a ship's log were all part of the sailor's life. Create a model or detailed illustration of one of Maine's early clipper ships. If possible, draw or build to scale.



MARYLAND

Old mansions, historic sites, and a long, diverse shoreline offer visitors to Maryland many opportunities—even the option of taking in a jousting tournament! Come take a look at Maryland, the Old Line State.

Welcome to Maryland

Maryland is one of the original thirteen states. Home to the Chesapeake Bay, the largest bay in the continental United States, Maryland has a rich maritime history. Sail across the Internet to learn more about this Middle Atlantic state.

<http://www.maryland.umd.edu/>

Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay divides Maryland into two parts. Many rivers empty into this major waterway. Learn about the bay's wildlife heritage, read fishing reports, and learn about the environmental issues facing the state.

<http://mdsg.umd.edu/MDSG/CBSites.html>

Francis Scott Key

During the War of 1812, as the British bombarded Fort McHenry, in Baltimore, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the verses that later became America's national anthem. Learn more about the man and the events described in "The Star-Spangled Banner."

<http://asimov.elk-grove.k12.il.us/usflag/francis.scott.key.html>

A Landscape Divided

Maryland's diverse geography and natural resources provide varied opportunities for enjoyment of the rich landscape. This site presents Maryland's four regional areas (central, eastern, southern, and western) for observation and information. Fine pictures and connections to many good links.

<http://www.gacc.com:82/ALL>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Raised Everywhere

Could it have been a rainy morning back in 1828 when the first umbrella factory in the United States opened its doors in Baltimore? With the umbrella came the catchy slogan, "Born in Baltimore, raised everywhere." What other interesting facts can you dig up about historic Baltimore? This is a city with a long and interesting history. Share some of it with the class in an illustrated poster or time line.

Our National Anthem

Francis Scott Key's words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" were inspired by the sight of America's flag flying over Fort McHenry. How did the song become a national anthem? Do you think the song was a good choice for a national anthem? Has America inspired other songs that might qualify? Study Key's words (all verses). Prepare a handout of the words for the class, as well as a group interpretation of their meaning. Then sing the song with new understanding.

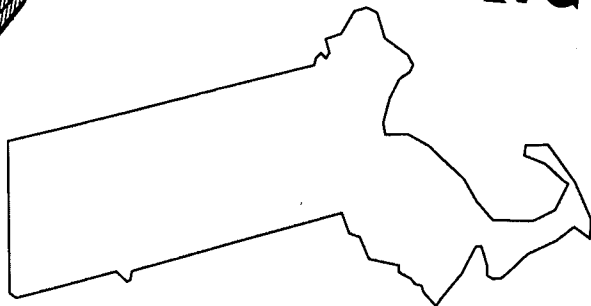
All Steam

The first American steam locomotive, the *Tom Thumb*, began operation in Baltimore in 1830. The coal-burning steam engine was a major breakthrough in the harnessing of power not generated

by man, beast, water, or wind. Study the concept of using steam to generate power. What makes a steam engine work? How is the steam harnessed? Design an illustrated chart or make a model that clearly demonstrates the process. Who built the *Tom Thumb*?

String That Wire

The first American telegraph line was opened when its inventor, Samuel F. B. Morse, sent a message from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore, Maryland, in 1844. Research the history of the telegraph, the man who invented it, and the code that bears his name. Look at the importance of this invention for long-distance communication. Prepare a handout defining each letter of the Morse Code for the class and send a message to the class from your group. Who can translate it first?



MASSACHUSETTS

From Plymouth to presidents, Massachusetts has been a leading state in a variety of areas throughout the history of the United States. Come take a look at this splendid and historic New England state.

Massachusetts Government Network

The Massachusetts state constitution is among the oldest in the nation. Adopted during the Revolutionary War, its amended version is still used. Visit this site to learn more about the government, the financial budget, and how it all works.

<http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/>

Henry David Thoreau

One of the great American authors, Henry David Thoreau wrote and lived by his ideals. Read and download some of his most famous works, including *Walden*.

http://nifty.bookstore.uidaho.edu/Philosophy/Thoreau, Henry_David/Default.htm

Boston: Historical Sites and History

Boston is one of the nation's oldest cities and boasts a rich history. Visit the many famous landmarks and relive her exciting story. Take a cyber-walk along Boston's Freedom Trail and Black Heritage Trail. Read Longfellow's famous "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere."

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/phad/bostlcs.html>

<http://ftp.std.com/NE/boshistory.html>

Emily Dickinson

The poet maiden of Amherst, Massachusetts—Emily Dickinson—is spotlighted through 100 selected poems compiled by Project Bartleby of Columbia University.

<http://www.ece.ucdavis.edu/~darsie/dickinson.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Walden Pond

Henry David Thoreau moved to Walden Pond, just outside of Concord, Massachusetts, and lived in isolation for two years. During that time he wrote about his experience as well as the nature around him. Learn about Thoreau and his Walden experience. Create a collage similar to one Thoreau might have created, containing meaningful items from nature.

Taxes

The Boston Tea Party was a colonial rebellion against tea taxes. Today, citizens are still required to pay government, state, and local taxes—although they don't like it any better than they did in 1773. Dramatize the Boston Tea Party for the class. Be sure your presentation includes a clear explanation of the issues, as well as both British and colonial points of view.

The Post Office

The first post office in the colonies was established in Boston in 1639 to send mail to and from England. Will we still

need post offices in the twenty-first century? Find out as much as you can about the first post office and the methods of mail delivery. Then predict how mail will be delivered in the year 2025.

The First Shot

The American Revolution began in Massachusetts in 1775 with the battle of Lexington and Concord, and much of the early fighting occurred in this state. Create a map of Massachusetts detailing the sites of revolutionary battles, as well as other sites important to the struggle. Be sure to include significant dates in the headings on your map.

MICHIGAN

Michigan boasts some of the country's most beautiful land, as well as a strong manufacturing industry. Known as the Automobile Capital of the Nation, Michigan touches four of the five beautiful Great Lakes and is named for one of them.

Michigan State Government

Explore this state site and see government in action. Review Michigan's constitution, contact the governor's office, or just check out the Legislative Committee meeting schedule. Try branching off and see what's happening at the executive, legislative, and judicial levels.

<http://www.migov.state.mi.us/>

Great Lakes Information Network

Michigan's shores touch four of the five Great Lakes. Her name derived from the Chippewa Indian word *michigama*, which means "great lake." Come visit these spectacular bodies of water and learn about the region. From the Great Lakes' ecosystem to the people who call the lakes home, this site is worth wading into.

<http://www.great-lakes.net:2200/0/glinhome.html>

Henry Ford Museum Online

In 1903, Henry Ford organized the Ford Motor Company. Michigan has been the automotive center of the nation ever since. Visit this on-line museum and view a grand collection of photographs, vehicle specifications, and other highlights from automobile history.

<http://hfm.umd.umich.edu/>

Home Is Where You Post Your Page!

This Great Lakes State site takes visitors to Michigan's wilderness areas and rivers and all her lighthouses. You'll be able to get the Great Lakes marine forecasts, as well as sports and entertainment.

<http://kalamazoo.inetmi.com/mihmpg.htm>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Constitutional Convention

In 1961 the voters of Michigan decided that their constitution of 1908 was outdated and voted to revise it. Do some research to determine the chief provisions of the new constitution that was adopted in 1963. When was your state's constitution adopted? Are there any outdated portions you feel need updating? Travel through the home site of your own state and see what you can find.

Land of Natural Beauty

Michigan offers many enticing opportunities for the tourist who loves the out-of-doors. Do some research into some of these enticements and choose a spot in Michigan you would like to visit. Then design a brochure that will tell others about the spot. Be sure it also tells what to bring along in the way of outdoor gear.

The Assembly Line

In the early day of automotive production all cars were one color . . . black. What if all cars were black today? What problems or benefits can you see? Learn about the assembly-line method of production and the reasons for its development. Then choose something that can be produced on a student assembly line.

Conduct an experiment to determine whether assembly-line production is faster than having each individual construct the entire item alone. Graph your findings and share them with the class.

Pass the Cereal, Please

Battle Creek, Michigan, is called the Cereal Bowl of America. Here such cereal giants as W. K. Kellogg and Charles W. Post first created the ready-to-eat breakfast revolution. Breakfast cereals have come a long way since the first corn flakes were packaged. Find out what the very first cold breakfast cereal was called. How are these cereals manufactured? Survey your classmates and find out their favorite cold cereals. Is it manufactured by Kellogg's or C. W. Post?

MINNESOTA



Minnesota, the Gopher State, is a state of shimmering beauty, luminous lakes, and wooded lands. The Twin Cities, Minneapolis and St. Paul, are major centers for commercial and cultural activities. Sometimes known as the Bread and Butter State, Minnesota has many dairies and flour mills.

Welcome to Minnesota

Explore Minnesota on this interactive trip. Find out what is happening today and what might be in store for the future. For the citizen who wants to participate in government or the tourist dropping in for a visit, this site offers good information and useful Web links.

<http://www.state.mn.us/welcome.html>

The Mayo Clinic

The Mayo Clinic is one of the largest and most famous medical centers in the world. Established in 1889 by Dr. William W. Mayo and his sons, it continues to care for thousands of patients each year. Learn more on the Internet about this remarkable facility.

<http://www.mayo.edu/menu.html>

The Raptor Center

The Raptor Center is an educational and medical facility devoted to the study of birds of prey. Here you can find general information about birds of prey, discover birds of the Minnesota region, and visit its multimedia site, where you can download images and sound.

<http://www.raptor.cvm.umn.edu/>

Minnesota Historical Society

A few of the Minnesota historical sites available here include "Lake Superior Shipwrecks," "Minnesota Archaeology," "Underwater Cultural Resources," and "History Where It's Happening."

<http://www.umn.edu/nlhome/g075/mnshop/index.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Good Health

The Mayo Clinic has treated over 4 million patients since it was established in 1889. The clinic is a noted center for medical research. Find out what areas are currently under investigation at the Mayo Clinic. In addition, find out what breakthroughs have taken place here. What seems to be the most promising area of research at the moment and how is this research being done?

The Gopher State

Minnesota has two nicknames—the Bread and Butter State and the Gopher State. The second name has an interesting history associated with it. Discover as much information as you can about the derivation of the name *Gopher State*. Try to find copies of documents, names of individuals, and facts that will support your findings and share what you learn with the class.

A Tall Tale

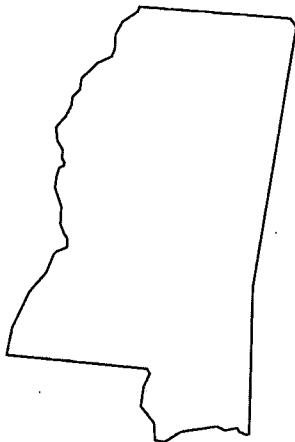
The legendary Paul Bunyan and his blue ox, Babe, are a beloved part of Minnesota heritage. Where did these

characters come from? See what you can find out. Then create a new tall tale to add to the collection of Paul Bunyan folklore. Illustrate the tale, design a cover, and place it in the school library. Be sure your story is accurately set in the wilds of Minnesota.

Ol' Man River

The source of the Mississippi River was discovered in Minnesota in 1832. Where is it exactly? Who discovered it? Create a U.S. map that includes every state through which the Mississippi flows—beginning, of course, with Minnesota.

MISSISSIPPI



Sitting on the Gulf of Mexico, Mississippi, the Magnolia State, takes us back to the days of the Old South. From plantations of old to the factories of today, Mississippi possesses a combination of stately and modern charm.

Welcome to Mississippi

Visit antebellum plantations, see forests, admire monuments, and travel to the national parks. You'll even find some of the best restaurants in Mississippi here.

<http://www.travel.org/mississi.html>

Images of the Mississippi River

View an image of the Mississippi River taken by the Spaceborne Imaging Radar-C/X-band Synthetic Aperture System, which has flown on two space shuttle missions. Information on how to read the data presented in the image is given.

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/sircxsar/mississippi.html>

The Soybean Industry

Soybeans are a major source of vegetable oil and protein meal for livestock. No wonder it is one of Mississippi's most valuable crops. This site provides information about the soybean industry.

Here you will find the research, the resources, and the experts in the field.

<http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/~stratsoy/>

Eclectic Photo Tour

A photo gallery of Mississippi miscellanea. Watch this photo gallery evolve as new works are added by a local photographer. Catch the culture of this southern state through the camera's eye.

<http://www2.netdoor.com/~bills/>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Riverboat

Picture a sternwheeler riverboat slowly making its way down the Mississippi River. You can almost hear the river rushing through the paddles of the sternwheeler. Discover why these flat-bottomed boats were used on the Mississippi River. Determine the purpose of the sternwheeler. Prepare an illustrated report or presentation on transportation and trade along the over 2,000 miles of the Mississippi River.

The Bayou

French settlers along the Mississippi used the term *bayou* to describe the sluggish, marshy channels that empty the shallow lakes and swamps. It is a term generally used only in the South. Learn more about the bayous by researching the ecosystem and discovering what kinds of plants, animals, and insects inhabit the region. Each member of your cooperative group may choose one species to report on.

A Jumbo Shrimp Industry

The shrimp industry thrives in Mississippi, and Biloxi hosts an annual Shrimp Festival. Shrimp are a highly prized, tasty, though expensive, treat. Find out why conditions are so perfect

for shrimp in the waters of Mississippi. Get a few whole, raw specimens from a seafood store as well as several cooked, peeled shrimp. Prepare a report on the life cycle of the shrimp or the shrimp industry in Mississippi. Offer a few taste treats to your classmates.

Antebellum Splendor

There are many stately old homes in Mississippi, such as Stanton Hall, in Natchez—reminders of life before the Civil War. Do some research to find pictures of as many of these homes as you can. Note the distinctive architectural style of these gracious buildings. Then design a home of your own reflective of this distinctive style. If you wish, include an interior floor plan.

MISSOURI



The two largest rivers of the nation, the Mississippi and the Missouri, grace Missouri, the Show Me State. Come along and see where they take us.

The Show Me State

Visit this site to learn about the culture, state government, and universities of this midwestern farming and industrial state.

<http://www.ecodev.state.mo.us/mohome.htm>

Missouri Weather and River Conditions

The Missouri River has three main parts—the upper, middle, and lower sections. Each segment is unique in itself. One part might be generally slow and muddy, while another might be clear and rapid. For the latest up-to-date information on the river, the weather, and forecasts, click on this site.

<http://www.liebe.com/weather.html>

Mark Twain Resources on the World Wide Web

America's beloved humorist and author is immortalized in Cyberspace. This page provides an extensive listing of resources by and about Mark Twain. From scholarly studies to teacher resources, discover an extensive and provocative analysis of this complex man.

<http://web.syr.edu/~fjzwick/twainwww.html>

Botanical Gardens

While your *NetAmerica* tour is in Missouri, be sure to spend some quiet time in the colorful and informational Missouri Botanical Gardens. Take a stroll along the paths of this very special on-line garden.

<http://www.mobot.org/info.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

The Changing Rivers

The Missouri and the Mississippi rivers run the width and the length of the state of Missouri. Conditions on these rivers are forever changing. Using the resources available on the Internet, in daily newspapers, or on the nightly news, record and plot changes in water level, ecological conditions, and weather for a period of two weeks.

Board Games

Become familiar with the life of Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, who grew up in Hannibal, Missouri. Get to know some of the characters from his stories as well, such as Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer. As a group, create a board game for 4–6 people, accurately based on a situation from one of Twain's stories. Demonstrate the game for the class and write clear directions so that others may play.

Wanted: Jesse James

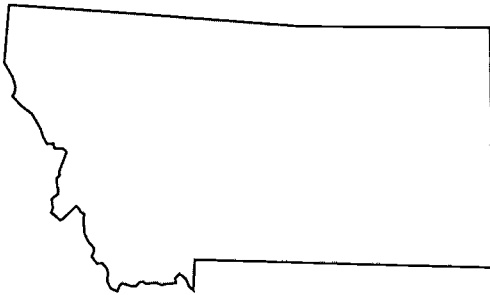
The famous robber Jesse James terrorized the state of Missouri for close to 16 years, along with his brother, Frank, and his gang. Do some research into the life and times of this infamous and

dangerous bandit. What features of Missouri life in the 1800s made it possible for the James gang to flourish? How was Jesse finally captured? Report your findings to the class.

Faster Than the Pony Express

Faster than any other service of its day, the Pony Express was a revolutionary concept for sending mail quickly across the country. Mail could be delivered from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California, in as little as eight days. Map the route of the Pony Express and calculate the distance. Find out how the deliveries were accomplished. How long was it in existence, and what replaced it?

MONTANA



Beautiful sunsets, majestic mountains, lakes, rivers, and wildlife—Montana, the Treasure State, is a naturalist's dream. Come visit the fourth largest state in the Union and one of the least densely populated.

Finding Out More

This practical government-sponsored site offers the Net traveler easy access to lots of information about Montana—perfect for the young *NetAmerica* explorer who wants to know more about this magnificent state. What is Missoula? You'll find out here.

<http://www.mt.gov/>

The Mountain Is Montana

Welcome to a state whose name says it all. If you don't know the derivation of the name *Montana*, your research begins here. For great adventures in mountains, rivers, and lakes, access this interesting site. For people who enjoy fishing and the outdoors, click open *Peaks Magazine* for a closer look. In winter or summer, it's still "cool."

<http://www.cyberport.net/peaks/v01i03/peaks.html>

National Lands: Preserved Forever

The national forest lands in Montana contain some of the most beautiful mountain scenery you will see anywhere in the world. Come join us for a Net walk through this special landscape.

http://www.gorp.com/gorp/resource/us_national_forest/MT.HTM

Finding Your Way

Maps of Montana is a good site for map skills practice. Learn about Montana through maps of counties, cities, lakes, and streams. You'll also see state highways, railroads, Indian reservations, national parks, and population density.

<http://nris.msl.mt.gov/gis/mtmaps.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

A Majestic National Park

Glacier National Park lies in northwestern Montana and includes over 50 glaciers within its boundaries. On a map of Montana, indicate where Glacier National Park is located. Then prepare a presentation based on your research of glacier formation that will explain to the class how these glaciers were formed. Include information about the park as well.

George A. Custer and the Nez Percé

The famous battle known as Custer's Last Stand was fought near the Little Bighorn River, in Montana. Do some research into the circumstances and events leading up to this battle. Then stage a debate arguing for both sides. Poll your classmates to see which side they support.

Bear Necessities

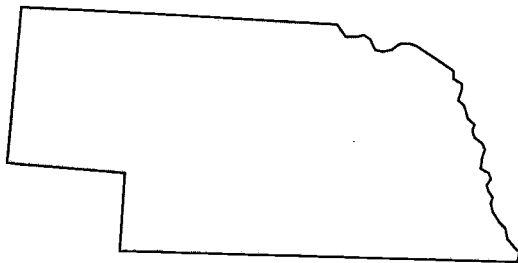
Start planning and problem solving for a group camping trip in the wilds of Montana. What will you need to make your trip pleasant, and what will you need if an emergency arises? Choose a site or sites you would like to visit and plan a complete list of supplies for a one-week stay. Figure out the total weight of your supplies and be sure that there

are enough people in your group to carry it all. If not, you'll have to leave something behind!

Protected Forever?

We take great pride in the unspoiled beauty of states like Montana. Students should understand how and why national parks preserve such land for future generations to see and enjoy. Nature may have created our parks, but we will have to protect them. Or do we need this land for housing and manufacturing? Learn about the national parks system, including which President began this legacy. Then debate the future of our parks. As the country becomes increasingly populous and people need places to live and work, should we continue to protect our national parks?

NEBRASKA



Nebraska, the Cornhusker State, is named after the Oto Indian word *nebrathka*, which means "flat water." Come to the American heartland and learn more about a state that is one of the leading farming states in the country as well as the nation's telemarketing center.

Did You Know . . .

. . . that the state of Nebraska has a greater percentage of farmland than any other state in the Union? This is the site to visit in order to learn more about the tough pioneering farmers that inhabited this state and their descendants. But everything isn't about farming in Nebraska. This site will tell you about the state's other features as well.

<http://www.state.ne.us/>

The National Grasslands System

Grass is an important factor in maintaining an ecological balance on the land. This site tells an interesting story about the land, people, and the role the grasslands play in maintaining a suitable life for all.

<http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~bdp/index.html>

Arbor Lodge State Historical Park

Learn about Nebraska's Morton family and the beginning of the event we call Arbor Day. How many trees do you estimate have been planted on Arbor Day since its inception in 1885?

<http://ngpsun.ngpc.state.ne.us/parks/arbtor.html>

Spring Migration

The spring migration of water birds through Nebraska is said to be unmatched in any other place in North America. Gorgeous photos of birds in their natural habitat await the *NetAmerica* traveler at this site.

<http://ngpsun.ngpc.state.ne.us/wildlife/homesprg.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Politically Unique

Nebraska is the only state in the United States that has a *unicameral* legislature. Explore this interesting phenomenon further—what is the reason for its existence in Nebraska? What might be the positive and negative features of such a legislature? Do you think all states should follow this model or should Nebraska change to a *bicameral* legislature? Present both sides to the class in a format of your choice.

Grazing Lands and More

Create a physical map of the state of Nebraska using a three-dimensional form, such as papier mâché. Be sure to clearly delineate the different land regions of the state. Use this map to report to the class on the importance to Nebraska's cattle and farm industries of maintaining the ecological balance. Explain how it all works.

Hug a Tree

Find out about the beginning of the Arbor Day tradition and the person responsible for it. Then plan a fund-raiser for

your class or school that will result in the purchase and planting of a tree on the school grounds. Try to make this an annual tradition.

Soddies

Very few trees grew on the prairie when homesteaders arrived, so they built their homes out of sod, using either earth blocks or earthen walls set up against rolling mounds. These became known as *soddies*. In your group, construct a miniature soddie either by using real sod (do some research to find out what this is) or by mixing straw and mud and forming it into small blocks. Can you think of any advantages to this type of home?

NEVADA

Nevada, the Silver State, gets less rainfall than any other state and has one of the smallest populations. The state boasts many diverse tourist attractions.

University of Nevada

The University of Nevada, at Reno, was founded in 1874. Today you can stroll the campus right here on the Internet. By accessing many of the university's departments, you will find jump sites that will lead you to many other interesting parts of the state.

<http://www.scs.unr.edu/unr/index.html>

Las Vegas

In the middle of a large and lonely desert lies Las Vegas—city of neon lights, casinos, and gambling. Once only a watering hole, the city has become one of the most popular vacation destinations in the country. Learn the history of this lively and fascinating city, and its efforts to reinvent itself as a family-centered vacation spot.

<http://www.intermind.net/im/lasvegas.html>

Web Elements

Nevada is a leading mineral-producing state. Have a copy of the periodic table handy.

<http://hydrogen.cchem.berkeley.edu/Table/>

Major Mines of Nevada

Here you will find information about major mining sites in Nevada, as well as production figures.

<http://www.nbmjg.unr.edu/majormines/mm.html>

Hoover Dam

In 1928 the government appropriated \$165 million for the Boulder Canyon Project, and thousands of Depression job seekers flocked to Nevada to participate in its construction.

<http://www.vegas.com/vegas/outdoors/hoover.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Early Explorations

John C. Frémont and Kit Carson are two important figures from Nevada's early history. Find out about their contributions to present-day Nevada by re-creating their work in the format of your choice.

City Lights

Lining the Las Vegas Strip and adjacent parts of the city are stores, hotels, restaurants, and casinos—all brilliantly lit in multicolored neon. It's an amazing sight. Much of what pays the electric bill comes from the proceeds from legalized gambling, which is allowed in most forms throughout the state. What is your opinion of legalized gambling? Do some research on its benefits to Nevada. You may also wish to include Connecticut and New Jersey in this research, which permit limited gambling in certain cities. Debate the issue and poll your classmates to determine their opinions as well.

Mining

Nevada, home of the Comstock Lode, is still an important mining state. Gold, copper, silver, mercury, iron, and lithium are just a few of the resources. Do some

research on the old mining towns and camps that sprang up in Nevada and re-create one in a diorama. Include a mine in your reconstruction as well.

Hoover Dam

The Hoover Dam was built with a number of purposes in mind—the generation of power, flood control, and irrigation. Like many dams, it serves to hold water back and control its flow. Although all dams serve basically the same purpose, there are many different types (overflow dams, diversion dams, rock-fill dams, gravity dams). With your group, construct a model of the Hoover Dam. Use it as a visual aid to explain to the class exactly how it works and what purposes it serves.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Granite State attained statehood on June 21, 1788. Alan B. Shepard, Jr., a native of New Hampshire, became the first American to travel in space.

A Virtual Welcome

This welcoming site will record the number of cyber-visitors and will also send you to many interesting and wonderful places in the state. Tour this gorgeous New England state. Once you do, you may want to come in person!

<http://www.plymouth.edu/new-hampshire/nh-home.html>

Life Histories, Private Stories

This unusual New Hampshire site records personal accounts of life in New Hampshire. Some local history subjects include vital records, politics, local newspapers, female newspaper editors, and Prohibition. Ethnicity/Immigration includes Greek customs, French Canadians, social activities, and language. Industry/Occupations describes textile mills, child labor, and a number of famous people.

<http://rs6.loc.gov/wpaintro/nhcat.html>

Are There Mountains in New Hampshire?

Of course there are! Visit Mount Washington, the highest peak in the northeastern United States and site of the first cog railway. Mount Washington has the world's highest recorded wind speed. Check out incredible views that draw hikers and drivers alike.

<http://www.weatherman.com/mtwashwl.htm>

Views From the Top

Exquisite pictures of New Hampshire's beauty await you here. Gaze upon the lakes or magnificent peaks of the White Mountains or explore the weather links. Check out the Higher Summits Forecast, Mt. Washington, New England Regional Radar, Channel 7 Weatherman, and the windchill chart.

<http://www.homesmag.odc.com/NH/index.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

First in Independence

The state of New Hampshire actually achieved independence before any of the other original colonies. Do some research to find out what circumstances led to this occurrence. Reenact the event in a group skit.

The Great Stone Face

When you visit New Hampshire, you will see the famous granite outcropping some 40 feet high which has been dubbed the "Old Man of the Mountain" through Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story, "The Great Stone Face." Write an original legend that might explain the significance of this "old man" in relation to New Hampshire history. Who might this old man be? Share your legend or story with the class.

What's a Cog?

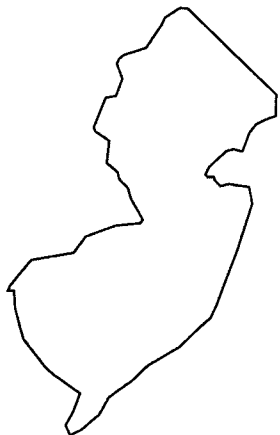
You've heard the term *cog railway*, but the term has little significance unless you know what a cog is! Research this special type of railroad, which was first

constructed in New Hampshire. What are the common characteristics of the places in which this railroad is used? Build a model that will demonstrate to the class how a cog railway works.

Strawbery Bankes Forever

In addition to spectacular mountain scenery, New Hampshire boasts numerous other beautiful regions. Find out where in the state Strawberry Banke is located. What region does it represent? Illustrate a scene you would expect to see if you visited Strawberry Banke today.

ACCESSING the INTERNET



NEW JERSEY

New Jersey may be small (46th in size), but it stands proud in population, education, agriculture, industry, beauty, and the arts. Stop at the third state to join the Union and learn more about this highly underrated and misunderstood state.

Jersey Web Sites

Interesting links to sites all over the state. Visit businesses and organizations, universities and colleges, and discover activities of special-interest groups.

<http://www.ezweb.com/njvisit.html>

Princeton University

Some of the most famous political leaders of the United States have walked through the halls of Princeton University—the fourth oldest institution of higher learning in the country. Visit this beautiful and prestigious university.

<http://www.princeton.edu/>

The Real Cranberry Home Page

New Jersey is one of the leading producers of cranberries. Discover the nutritional

value of this tiny red fruit. Learn about the farming techniques that ensure a healthy crop. Most of all, peruse the exhaustive list of delicious recipes.

<http://www.scs.carleton.ca/palepu/cranberry.html>

The Garden State

This is a general information site related to New Jersey. Although New Jersey is the fifth smallest state, it is one of the most densely populated, making for a place where a lot is going on. You'll visit links to museums, essential state services, facts, physical characteristics, and demographics.

<http://www.bergen.gov/NewJersey/GeneralInfo/NewJerseyGeneral/InfoIndex.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Just Passing Through

New Jersey is often referred to as a *corridor state*. Study a map of the east coast of the United States and explain the meaning of this term. From your research on New Jersey, provide detailed examples that explain how its location in relation to neighboring states and cities has influenced its development and industry.

An Inventive State

The inventors Thomas Edison, Samuel F. B. Morse, and John P. Holland are all associated with the state of New Jersey, among others. Choose one of these inventors and with your group create a model of the invention that, in your combined opinion, was his most important. Demonstrate it for the class.

Tomatoes I Have Grown

The tomato is a major agricultural product of New Jersey, the Garden State. Jersey tomatoes are of legendary flavor and are eagerly sought all over the country during the tomato season. But New Jersey produces and exports many other products as well. Create a map of the state and indicate where these products are grown or manufactured. Find out the names of some of the nationally-famous food processors located here.

The College of New Jersey

Princeton University has had two names and three locations. It is a place

rich in history relating to the Revolutionary War, and one of its buildings was actually occupied by the British. List the famous names in America's early history that are linked with Princeton and note their relationships to the site. Then prepare a report on the battle of Princeton—called by many a turning point in the Revolution.

Cranberries

New Jersey ranks as a leading producer of cranberries—a rather specialized fruit associated by many only with the holidays. But cranberries have many appealing year-round uses, and more and more cranberry-based products are being developed. Find out how cranberries are grown and harvested and prepare an illustrated chart explaining the process. Choose a food item *other than cranberry sauce* to share with the class that shows off this tasty treat. Then create an original recipe, using cranberries in an entirely new way.

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico truly lives up to its name—The Land of Enchantment. With a modern flavor and rich past, the old and new, native and migrant, New Mexico is one of the greatest blends of culture in the nation.

Viva New Mexico!

Welcome to New Mexico and all it has to offer for the visitor. On your initial visit you'll find out what's new and receive an introduction to the abundance of art, books, events, and culture found here.

<http://www.viva.com/nm/nmhome.html>

Bat-er Up!

Thousands of bats inhabit the dark oasis of the Carlsbad Caverns. Bats are not blind, they are not rodents, and they don't get caught in your hair. Bats are gentle and beneficial. To find out more, enter this unusual and informative site.

<http://www.batcon.org/>

Pueblos

To explore the historic First Nation communities of the Native Americans of New Mexico, begin at the Pueblo Cultural Center, where you may learn about 19 Pueblos. You'll want to return again and again.

<http://hanksville.phast.umass.edu/defs/independent/PCC/PCC.html#toc>

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Join the fun of the annual hot-air balloon festival in New Mexico. Have you ever looked down on a sky filled with multicolored balloons? You will here! Launch yourself into this unique Net site now.

<http://www.rt66.com/aibf/home.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

El Camino Real

The oldest road in the United States, El Camino Real, is found in New Mexico. What does its name mean? What is its history, and where exactly is it? Find out the answers to these questions with your group and create a map of the state, showing the location of El Camino Real.

Stacked Enchiladas

To taste the food of the Southwest is to love it. The culinary delights offer insights into the people and culture as well. So prepare a sample of the robust foods of New Mexico for your classmates. Find a recipe you can all agree on and multiply the ingredients to be sure it will feed your entire class. Before the class digs in, be sure to relate how the dish you have chosen reflects local customs and cultures.

The Pueblo

Most Pueblo people in the United States live in villages in New Mexico. Their communities and customs have changed little since the 1500s. The Pueblo culture is rich in tradition and is a fascinating area for research. As a group, choose some areas of Pueblo life

and lore to depict for your classmates. You may wish to demonstrate some Pueblo crafts or their adobe housing or share some of their legends.

Carlsbad Caverns' Resident Bats

Explore the subject of the much-maligned bat, many thousands of which dwell in the Carlsbad Caverns. Before you begin, write down everything you presently know about bats. At the conclusion of your research, write down what you have learned. Why are Carlsbad Caverns home to so many?

NEW YORK



A leading center of commerce, communication, finance, culture, and the arts—New York, the Empire State, welcomes you.

Look It Up!

This will connect you to the State Library of New York, and there's no telling what you will find there. Libraries are wonderful places to explore. Begin your journey here.
<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov>

It's All Here in New York

Enter New York and go to the index of sites that's right for you. Remember, this is a big place and getting there is half the fun. The routes aren't crowded, it doesn't take long, and it's not expensive—at least not on the Net!

<http://www.nuwebny.com/nywwwsts.htm>

Higher Learning and Information

Universities and colleges are natural places from which to link to other sources of interest. Entry to the branches of the State University of New York will

get you into higher learning in a big way. Check it out.

goher://swis.sunycentral.edu

I Love New York

Here you'll find great information and graphics related to this bustling state. Look for Boscobel's Gardens on the Hudson, the state's motto, bird (see the picture, hear the sound), flag, fruit, tree, flower, and more. Just click and learn.

<http://nysernet.org/about-nys/iony.html>

On and Off Broadway

Here you'll be transported via dance, drama, and song to the On Broadway WWW Information Page. Listings of shows, reviews, and links to miscellaneous information related to the thriving theater life of New York City.

http://artsnet.heinz.cmu.edu:80/OnBroadway/on_bway_index.html

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Only Invest What You Can Afford to Lose

New York City is a center of finance and the home of Wall Street and the New York Stock Exchange. How does the stock exchange function? Use Net research and some personal interviews to find out. Then choose a stock to follow for two weeks (or have each group member choose one). Did you make a profit or loss?

From a Distant Land

Although it was not the only port of entry for immigrants, Ellis Island has come to represent immigration to America. Find out why and report your findings to the class by describing what a trip in *steerage* might have been like, as well as the immigration process on Ellis Island.

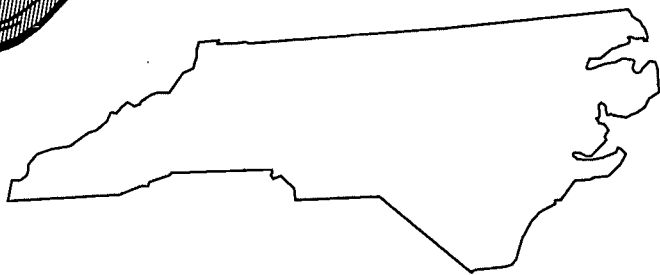
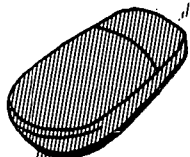
On Broadway!

Theater and the arts flourish in New York City. Many artists of all persuasions feel that they have not really “made it” until they have performed

or exhibited in New York. What’s playing on Broadway now? Read the reviews and choose the show you’d like to see. Find out the story line and design a poster for the show that will make others want to see it, too.

Stories of Washington Irving

The famous “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and story of “Rip Van Winkle” are set in New York’s beautiful Hudson River Valley. Read one of Irving’s stories and write a sequel that takes place in another part of the Empire State—perhaps in the Howe Caverns, the New York City subway, or in the Adirondacks.



NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina, the Tar Heel State, has some of the world's most treacherous coastline and is home to Cape Hatteras—Graveyard of the Atlantic. It is a booming state rich in history, tradition, and geographical diversity.

What's New in North Carolina?

To find out more about this southern coastal state, begin on the Public Information page. General and state government information includes human services, education, and links to other agencies, including the United Nations.

<http://www.sips.state.nc.us/nchome.html>

The Outer Banks

The North Carolina Outer Banks site takes the Net traveler to the shores of this great state. For fun and relaxation, lighthouse information, special postcard collections, history, and legends, as well as weather and storm watch services, this is the stop.

<http://www.outer-banks.com/>

Rich in History

From the native Iroquois or Algonquian tribes to manufacturing in the twentieth century, these North Carolina history pages will add depth and interest to your study of the United States. Fly with the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk or travel back in time to the Sons of Liberty, who demonstrated against higher taxes imposed by England.

<http://hal.dcr.state.nc.us/NC/HISTORY/HISTORY.HTM>

N.C. Encyclopedia

The North Carolina Encyclopedia gives an overview of the people, government, history, and resources of North Carolina. Categories listed have links to more specific information. Try looking in at the 400 years of the North Carolina history or visit one of many historic sites.

<http://hal.dcr.state.nc.us/nc/cover.htm>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Tobacco: Right or Wrong?

North Carolina leads the states in tobacco production, and the industry contributes enormously to the economy of the state. Stage a debate between representatives of the tobacco industry and the medical establishment. Remember—an important objective is to learn to understand the viewpoints of both groups.

A Visit to Kitty Hawk

Most people are aware that the Wright brothers took the first airplane flight at Kitty Hawk in December 1903. How long was that first flight? How did their plane work and what did it look like? Build a model of the plane and present it to the class. Why do you think the Wright brothers chose Kitty Hawk for their flight?

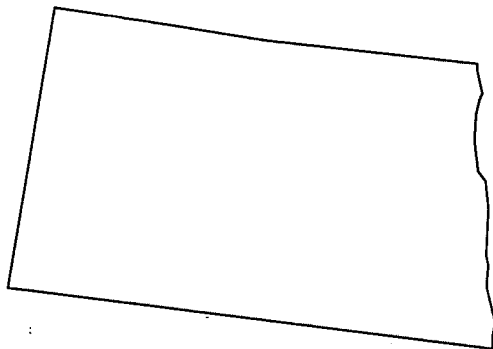
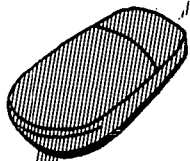
Shipwrecked

Study Cape Hatteras—Graveyard of the Atlantic—and learn what makes this and other portions of the Outer Banks

so dangerous. Report your findings to the class, using charts, graphs, or other visual aids.

The Lost Colony

A fascinating ongoing mystery is the story of the Lost Colony of Roanoke Island. Research the mystery that has gone unsolved for more than 400 years and form your own theory of what might have happened. Present your solution to the class. Be sure your theory is based on fact!



NORTH DAKOTA

Welcome to the Flickertail State in the center of North America, where the land is king! A rich soil and other vast natural resources have built a strong economy in a state named for the Sioux word for *friend*—*Dakota*.

Discover the Spirit

North Dakota is truly north—right on the Canadian border. For a better look and some fun facts, check in at the North Dakota Home Page listed here. Remember—these introductory pages are like the lobby of a giant office building. You enter, check the directory, and proceed to your destination.

<http://www.state.nd.us/>

It's a Beautiful Place

For pictures and information of some of the most important wildlife preserves in the United States, this page is a must-see. It is everyone's responsibility to know about and take responsibility for wildlife and the environment. This page will help.

http://www.gorp.com/gorp/resource/us_wilderness_area/fws_reg6.htm

The Great Sioux Nation

The Sioux called themselves *Lakota* or *Dakota*, meaning "allies" or "friends." The history of the Sioux is worth studying and understanding, as images depicted in motion pictures and television may be misleading. Like all Native Americans, the Sioux have a fascinating story. Everyone should listen.

<http://www.state.sd.us/state/executive/tourism/sioux/snmap.htm>

Reptiles and Amphibians of North Dakota.

A nontechnical guide useful to anyone who wants to learn more about reptiles and amphibians. Most kids love this one!

<http://164.159.215.66/resource/distr/herps/amrepond/amrepond.htm>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Dancing Speaks in Any Language

Cultural understanding may often be communicated through arts, such as music, painting, crafts, singing, and dance. Re-create or learn to perform an example of Sioux art or craft for presentation to the class. Explain how your example is reflective of the Sioux culture.

North Dakota Wildlife

Quantities of fur-bearing animals live in North Dakota, including the animal that gives the state its nickname. What is that animal? Write an illustrated report or create a diorama showing the animal's habitat. List at least a dozen other fur-bearing animals that call North Dakota home.

A Good Life in the Badlands?

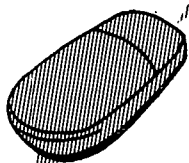
Colonies of prairie dogs make their home in the Badlands. Where are the Badlands and why are they so named? Once you have answered these questions, create a three-dimensional model

of a prairie dog colony. If possible, include a cutaway view of the inside of a prairie dog mound.

Pass the Pasta

North Dakota is the leading producer of an essential pasta ingredient. Find out what this is. Then create a circle or pie graph of North Dakota's agricultural products that shows what part of the total agricultural picture this pasta ingredient occupies.

ACCESSING the INTERNET



OHIO

“The Heart of It All” is a phrase that Ohio folks attribute to their state. They are proud of the fact that the Buckeye State is the home of 7 presidents and 21 astronauts—more than any other state. Let’s take a look.

Begin Your Tour Here

Ohio is a state with a rich past and a bright future. This site has links to government offices that will provide answers to your questions and research.

<http://www.odn.ohio.gov/odn/ohiolinks.htmlx>

Looking Up

Get information about one source of state pride as you connect to the Ohio Astronauts. Find out who these men and women are and what they have accomplished in the U.S. space program.

http://www.lerc.nasa.gov/Other_Groups/PAO/html/ohioast.htm

But Will It Fly?

The Wright Brothers may have succeeded in North Carolina but they were born in Ohio. This site provides fascinating information about tests of aerodynamics that paved the way to the first successful manned flight.

<http://hawaii.cogsci.uiuc.edu/invent/airphotos.html>

Come, Josephine, in My Flying Machine

If you want to see early photos of the Wright Brothers and their flying machine, aim and click on this site.

<http://hawaii.cogsci.uiuc.edu/invent/airphotoes.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Fly Me to the Moon

Would you like to be an astronaut? Find out about one of Ohio's many astronauts, including the education and training required for the space program.

What are the pros and cons of joining the space program? List both and make your decision based on careful consideration of both lists.

Test Your Wings

With your group, create a way to demonstrate Bernoulli's principle to the class. Don't know what it is? Better find out first! Then design an original model plane that incorporates this principle in flight. If you wish, create individual designs and see which one flies the farthest. Can you outdo the Wright Brothers' first timed flight?

Rolling on Rubber

In 1870, B. F. Goodrich began manufacturing products that led to an enormous and important industry still thriving in Akron, Ohio. What did he produce, and what does Akron produce now? Find out and devise a presentation that will explain to the class the steps in producing these items today.

It Can't Be Dead

Lake Erie, the body of water that forms the northern border of Ohio, was once

feared "dead." How can a lake be dead? Can it be brought back to life? After reading and researching the plight of Lake Erie, devise a program or series of laws that would prevent the "death" of America's lakes.

Seven Is a Lucky Number

Find out which seven presidents came from Ohio and devise a word find or crossword puzzle that includes their full names. Make copies for everyone in the class and see who can come up with all seven full names first. For an extra challenge, you may wish to separate first names from last names in your puzzle—classmates will have to link them up on their own.

OKLAHOMA

Food and fuel are two words that describe the abundance found in the state of Oklahoma. Oil and natural gas fields provide a stark contrast to the fields of grazing cattle and swaying grain. Welcome to Oklahoma, the Sooner State.

The Olive Branch and Peace Pipe

These symbols on the state flag represent cooperation among all people. The Oklahoma State Government Information Server provides samples from State and U.S. Capitals, Science and Technology, State Budget, Arts, Tourism, Recreation, and other points of interest.
<http://www.oklaosf.state.ok.us/>

"My Ancestors didn't come over on the Mayflower, but they met 'em at the boat."

An interesting site about Will Rogers, "Indian Cowboy" from the Cherokee Nation and beloved American entertainer. An expert rider and rope twirler, he could tell a story like few others.
<http://ionet.net/~jellenc/rogers.html>

From Here to There on Route 66

Travel Route 66, one of the most famous roads in the nation, as it cuts across Oklahoma. See the sites through photos taken on the road.
<http://www.cs.kuleuven.ac.be/swa/route66/oklahoma/photo.html>

Black Gold

Oil exploration and production have played an important role in the development of Oklahoma. This site provides an array of information related to this natural resource sometimes referred to as "black gold."
http://www.chevron.com/chevron_root/index.html

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Migration From Oklahoma

Study the events of the 1930s that led to the migration of farmers from Oklahoma and gave birth to the term *dust bowl*. Draw or paint a mural depicting the events of this difficult time that forced so many to endure tragedy and seek new lives in new homes far away.

"As Long As Grass Shall Grow . . ."

The Trail of Tears was the route taken by five tribes of Native Americans as a result of forced relocation from the southeast regions of the country to the then nearly unoccupied territory of Oklahoma. Many of these once proud people found death along the road west, and the sad procession became known as the Trail of Tears. What tribes were involved? Why did this occur? And what happened to the tribes in their new homes? Create a map of Oklahoma that will help tell the story.

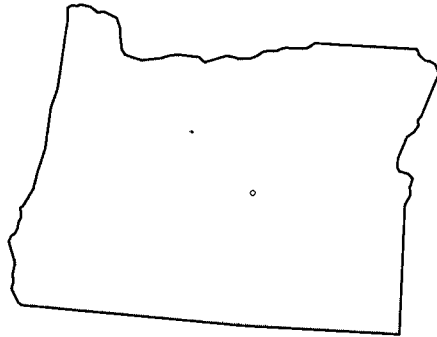
We Struck Oil!

You are a newspaper person writing an article for your home paper in the days of the early oil boom in Oklahoma. Your readers know very little about Oklahoma or about the discovery of oil. Write an

article explaining the importance of the discovery to the economy of Oklahoma. Be sure to include the five Ws—who, what, when, where, and why.

Storytelling

Will Rogers often used stories from the daily newspaper or current events as topics when entertaining friends or audiences. He often performed rope tricks as he spoke. Become familiar with the Will Rogers storytelling style, which involved shrewd observation and biting wit. Then choose a current event or news story and write up a Will Rogers-type commentary. Deliver it live to the class.



OREGON

Oregon is a heavily forested state filled with incredible natural beauty and great pride. There is a spirit in this state perhaps reminiscent of the pioneers who reached the Pacific in search of a new life. Jump aboard the Oregon Trail alongside the Information Highway and see the sites in the Beaver State.

Welcome to Oregon On-line!

Begin your journey in Oregon with a side trip on this introductory page. Find out about community resources, education, government, and gain access to a vast collection of research material.

<http://www.state.or.us/>

End of the Oregon Trail

This virtual exhibit houses information related to the historic Oregon Trail. Students of all ages will find this a suitable site for a continuing study of our nation on the move. Like so many Net sites, new events will be added to the end of the trail. Don't be caught on the sidelines for this one.

<http://www.teleport.com/~sligard/trail.html>

Salmon Smarts

In Oregon the salmon fishing is so good and the salmon are so smart that you can even find a salmon page on the Internet. Some would say that's pretty fishy, but try casting off from here for some new and interesting information.

<http://www.riverdale.k12.or.us/salmon.htm>

Gophers and Webs

A great list of government-related sites. Collect information about agriculture, archives, forestry, treasury, scholarships, and the arts. Access the state's agencies and discover who's who in the Oregon legislature.

<http://www.state.or.us/governme.htm>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Which Way to the Pacific?

Many pioneers in covered wagons followed the Oregon Trail to the Willamette Valley. What were they seeking there? What's it like today? Create a map of Oregon showing the state's portion of the trail. Then prepare a report on the enduring virtues and importance of the Willamette Valley.

Salmon Ladders

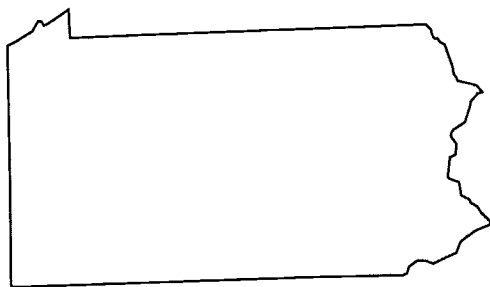
What are salmon ladders and why have they been constructed? How do they work? Prepare a presentation that includes your choice of visual aids and that answers these and other questions of your choice. Include details about the salmon itself.

Save the Spotted Owl

Issues of conservation and ecology often have two valid yet opposing points of view. The saving of one species may present hardships for others. Learn about one or more ecological preservation efforts in Oregon and their impact on other animals, the community, and the economy. Discuss or debate the issues. Try to see the "big picture." Is compromise always possible?

National Forest Preserves

Find out how much of Oregon is forested. What percentage of the state is forest land? How many square miles of forests are there? Then compare this to your own state. What percentage of your state is forested? How many square miles or acres? Use fractions or percentages to compare Oregon's forest lands to those of your state. How do Oregonians protect and preserve their forests?



PENNSYLVANIA

See the Liberty Bell or visit the site of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Walk along the road with the Amish elders or visit the historic Gettysburg battlefields. Welcome to Pennsylvania, the Keystone State.

Philadelphia

Take a virtual tour of historic Philadelphia and visit rich sites from the nation's past, including the Arch Street Meeting House, Betsy Ross's House, Congress Hall, Declaration Hall (Graff Hall), and Penn's Landing—to name a few.

<http://www.libertynet.org/iha/index.html>

Chocoholics Unite!

This is what you've been waiting for—the virtual tour of the Hershey Foods Corporation. At this interesting and delicious site, you can turn a few pages in the on-line Hershey's cookbook.

<http://www.microserve.net/~hershey/welcome.html>

Amish

The Amish teach separation from the world. Their doctrine requires farming and personal simplicity as a way of life. They till the soil with horses and are forbidden to use electricity, telephones, and other modern conveniences. Learn more about these unusual and committed people.

http://www.usfca.edu/usf/hollja01/my_amish.html

Gettysburg Address

The battle of Gettysburg was considered the turning point in the War between the States. Lincoln delivered his famous speech from Gettysburg on November 19, 1863. Now you can be there, too.

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/G.Address/ga.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Betsy Ross and Her Flag

Visit the home of Betsy Ross and find out more about the legend behind the woman. Use felt, fabric, or construction paper to make a model of the flag she was thought to have sewn. Which parts of the story are fact, and which are supposition?

Chocolate On-line

Walk into a chocolate factory and check out the many chocolate recipes. Are there any suitable for classroom cooking? Create an illustrated chart that explains the process of manufacturing chocolate. Then follow one of the recipes with your group and treat your classmates.

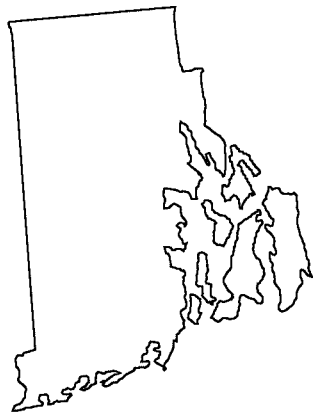
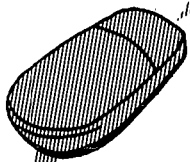
Amish Life

In your group, brainstorm all the items of modern technology in your daily lives, such as phones, stoves, automobiles, electric lights, radios, CD players, and hair dryers. For one day, try not to use any of these items as you go about your work and school. Keep a journal of your day. Relate how it felt to do without these items and how you replaced

them. How do you feel about the Amish doctrine of simplicity?

Four Score and Seven Years Ago . . .

The short, powerful speech delivered by Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg has become a beloved document in American history. Find out why. Read and reread the speech Lincoln gave. What is he saying? What made the speech so compelling? Try to memorize the speech and deliver it to the class.



RHODE ISLAND

Affectionately known as Little Rhody, this is the smallest of the 50 states. Its location makes it a great vacation spot, but Rhode Island is an important industrial state and is historically significant as well.

Rhode Island On-Line

Join us for a visit to the smallest state, beginning with the R.I. Main Page. Here you will be introduced to information on business, government, entertainment, local weather, and other local attractions. Come by often!

<http://www.ids.net/ri/ri.html>

The Chicken Coop

Celebrate the state bird, the Rhode Island Red. This site is also for all fanciers of fine feathered poultry. Be sure not to fly the virtual poultry coop—open the gate carefully and come on in.

<http://www.transport.com/~1hadley/poultry.html>

Born in 1764

Brown University, in Providence, Rhode Island, is one of the oldest institutions

of higher learning in the United States. Visit the campus, check out the various departments, and look for links to other places and people in Rhode Island. Consider using the e-mail connection (under a teacher's supervision) and chat with a Rhode Island resident. An excellent source of firsthand information.

http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Rhode_Island/welcome.html

More About Rhode Island

Here you will find events and activities going on in and about Rhode Island. This is a link from Brown University, which will probably be updated regularly. Rhode Island may be small but its connection with the world is growing. Join the Ocean State on-line.

http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Rhode_Island/welcome.html

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

How Small Is Small?

Compare the size of Rhode Island with six other states in the Union, including your own. Devise at least four different ways of depicting these size comparisons and present them to the class. Invite classmates to vote on which method most clearly portrays the size differences. Be sure at least two of your methods are pictorial rather than verbal.

A State Chicken?

Learn about the history of the Rhode Island Red—there are good reasons for it being the state bird. What is the state bird where you live? Why was it chosen? Which do you think is more appropriate, your state's bird or Rhode Island's? Why do you think so?

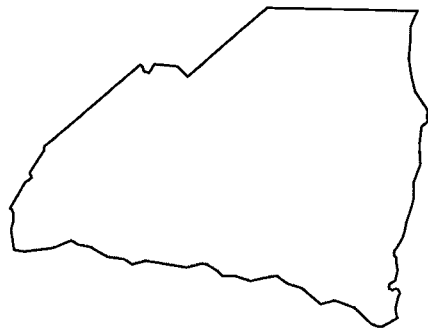
Silver and Gold

The jewelry industry has a long history in the state of Rhode Island and thrives there today. Research the origins of this industry in Rhode Island. Then prepare a presentation explaining the path that either gold, silver, or gems must take from the mine to jewelry. Include illustrations in your report.

A Cottage in Newport

In addition to being the site of the oldest synagogue still standing in the United States, Newport, founded in 1639, is also home to many "summer cottages"—mansions of up to 70 rooms built by some of America's wealthiest families in the late 1800s, which are open to tourists today. Many other colonial buildings in Newport date from the 17th and 18th centuries—over 300 in all. Both types of buildings are fascinating relics of days long gone. Choose one such building to research, illustrate, and report on to the class.

SOUTH CAROLINA



Situated in the Deep South, South Carolina still has many reminders of life before the Civil War. Sprawling plantations and beautiful gardens still stand in this state, an important producer of textiles, tobacco, and peaches.

Welcome to South Carolina

Take the opportunity to communicate and access information while participating in the state government. Send messages to the governor, discover South Carolina "firsts," and read about what is going on at model schools throughout the state.

<http://www.state.sc.us/>

A Visual Tour of the State

A picture is worth a thousand words—come view the many images from the state of South Carolina. Walk the coast, pull into railroad stations, and breathe the fresh rural air. You can be there in the click of a mouse.

<http://www.sunbelt.net/cni/statesc/scvtour.htm>

Pirates

The history of piracy would not be complete without stories of the infamous Blackbeard. For two years this murderous pirate terrorized the coasts of Virginia and North and South Carolina. Read about his colorful past and find out other facts about pirates.

<http://tiger.cc.uic.edu/~toby-g/pirates.html>

Ten Regions of South Carolina

Via a clickable map or hypertext, the *NetAmerica* traveler can tour the ten regions of South Carolina. See the unique character of each region through beautiful photographs and text—an enjoyable experience for any virtual tourist.

<http://www.sccsi.com//sc/>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

What's In a Name?

South Carolina is known as the Palmetto State. Where does this nickname come from? Beautifully landscaped gardens are tourist attractions all over the state. Design a garden of plants and trees that thrive in South Carolina. Refer to photographs of existing gardens for some ideas. Color and mount your design.

The Civil War

The first shot of the Civil War was fired on April 12, 1861, when Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor, now Fort Sumter National Monument. With that shot began the bloodiest war in this nation's history. Have the issues that led to the conflict been entirely resolved? Using books, photographs, and Net references, create a model of Fort Sumter and Charleston Harbor. Position the Confederate troops as well.

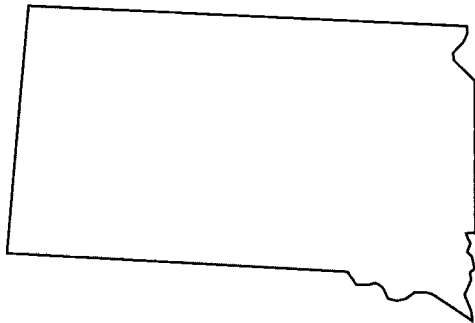
Treasure Hunt

Legend has it that pirates would attack and rob ships and then bury the treasure. Learn about the adventures of the notorious Blackbeard. With your group,

write and perform a skit in costume in which you reenact one of Blackbeard's exploits. If you prefer, videotape the skit outside of school and present the video in class.

Historic Charleston

The city of Charleston is South Carolina's second largest and contains many beautiful homes in the Old Charles Town waterfront area that date from the 1700s and 1800s. Study photographs of these buildings, taking note of the features that add to their graciousness and charm. Then design a home that might have been built in Charleston in the late eighteenth century.



SOUTH DAKOTA

Come visit South Dakota, often called the Land of Infinite Variety. Find out why the Mount Rushmore State has this second nickname.

Welcome to South Dakota

Here you'll find an overview of this fascinating state, as well as information about people, places, and what's happening in South Dakota's Great Introductory site. Many links to other hot spots as well.

<http://www.state.sd.us/sdmap.html>

Rush to Mount Rushmore

This site offers a link to the four 60-foot carved faces of U.S. Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, and Lincoln, carved in granite in the Black Hills. Join us for an interesting look at art, engineering, and history.

<http://www.state.sd.us/tourism/rushmore/rushmore.html>

The Great Sioux Nation

Visit a proud people rich in art, history, and culture. You'll find information on the people, milestones, legends, art, powwows, points of interest, and specific tribes of these First Nation peoples.

<http://www.state.sd.us/state/executive/tourism/sioux/sioux.htm>

Landmarks and Legends

Visit the Black Hills, Sica Hollow, the Badlands, Crazy Horse Memorial, and Bear Butte—all legendary, all fascinating.

<http://www.state.sd.us/state/executive/tourism/sioux/landmark.htm>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

New Places, New Faces

Find out how the four presidents whose faces appear on Mount Rushmore were selected. Then decide on a fifth president to add to the memorial. In a well-reasoned paragraph, state the reason for your choice and make an illustration of the fifth face as it would appear on the mountain.

The Very Long Winter

Three of the books in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House* series are set in South Dakota. Which three are they and in what town do they take place? Read one of these three books. Then with your group, create a series of dioramas illustrating a portion or portions of the book.

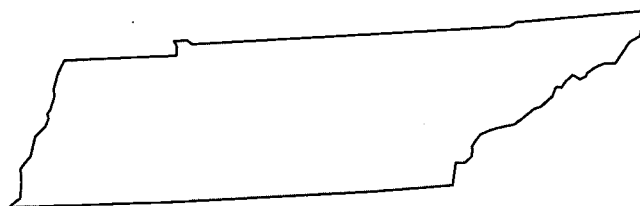
From Hunkesni to Sitting Bull

South Dakota is the home of the great Sioux Nation. Sitting Bull, medicine man and leader of the Hunkpapa Sioux, was born and died in South Dakota, although he did not spend his entire life there. Learn about the life and death of Sitting Bull and with your group, write a narrative poem describ-

ing what you have learned. Read it to your classmates, seated in a circle on the floor, as the Sioux would do.

Welcome to South Dakota

You have been commissioned by the governor to design a tourist brochure entitled "South Dakota Today." The brochure should entice tourists to visit this fine state. Study the examples of tourist brochures your teacher provides. Then design and produce one for South Dakota, taking care to include a wide variety of information that will appeal to an equally wide variety of tourists.



TENNESSEE

Tennessee, originally a part of the British colony of North Carolina and then a U.S. territory, became the 16th state of the Union in 1796. Let's find out why Tennessee is known as the Volunteer State.

You're Home in Tennessee

Visit the Tennessee Home Page and begin your travels through a unique and beautiful part of the nation. A state that links the North with the South, Tennessee has long been, in many ways, a mixture of both. Come find out why.

<http://www.state.tn.us/>

Walking My Horse

The famous Tennessee walking horse is a product of the Thoroughbred, Standardbred, Morgan, and the American Saddlebred bloodlines. Learn all about this pride of Tennessee—an exciting horse with a smooth and unusual gait.

<http://www.iea.com/~adlinkex/HP/695articles/twunique.html>

Nature and Tennessee

Lying on the border between the North and the South, Tennessee boasts a diversity and abundance of natural beauty. This sight takes the *NetAmerica* traveler to some of the most outstanding spots in the state.

<http://www.inaugural.state.tn.us/hp/sundquist/nature.html>

It's Nashville

When in Tennessee, take a trip to Nashville—country music capital of the world. Walk down these streets and hear songs of the heartland being sung and strummed. Come on along to Net Nashville.

<http://online.music-city.com/>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Answer My Questions

Find out how many people visit Tennessee via computer. Compare this to the number of tourists who visit annually. Create some challenging math problems for your classmates, using these figures and other population figures of your choice.

Building a Barn for a Tennessee Walker

Your cooperative group has received a contract from a horse breeder to design and build a barn big enough to house his four champion Tennessee walking horses. The barn should include stalls, an area for washing and grooming the horses, a tack room, and a small bedroom and bathroom. Do a little research on the needs of these special animals. Then design both an interior floor plan and exterior "elevation." Include all dimensions.

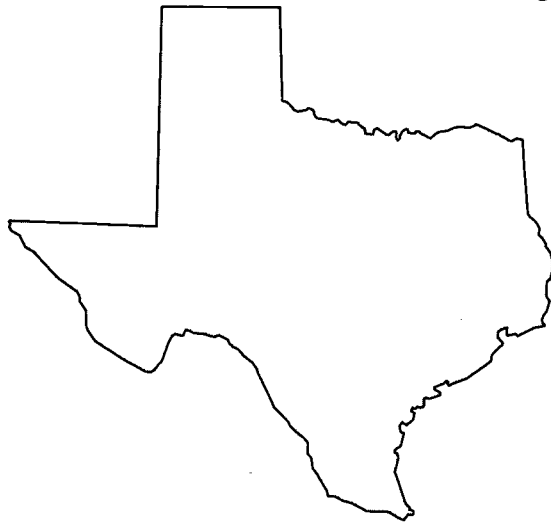
Country and Western

For lovers of country and western music, Opryland and the Grand Ole Opry House, outside Nashville, are where it's at. Listen to some examples of current country and western music

by artists who live or perform in Tennessee. How is the music reflective of the area of the country that gave birth to the genre? How would you describe the music?

Born on a Mountaintop in Tennessee . . .

Davy Crockett is an important figure in Tennessee history. Learn about the life of this colorful figure and create a mobile displaying at least eight elements representative of his life and accomplishments. Be prepared to explain to the class the significance of each element. Elements should hang on at least three separate balancing sections of the mobile.



TEXAS

Second only to Alaska in size, the Lone Star State has flown the flags of six nations throughout its history. Come visit the home of the Johnson Space Center and the King Ranch, the Alamo and the Texas Longhorn.

Home Page on the Range

This introductory site brings to the visitor what Texas is all about—colorful history, individuality, and variety. Begin your search here to find out more about the Lone Star State.

<http://www.texas.gov/tih.html>

The Alamo

The Alamo was the Spanish mission San Antonio de Valero. It went down in history in 1836 when 189 defenders held the site against 4,000 Mexican troops for 13 days before it finally fell. This Net site commemorates the people and place that live on in the hearts of Texans. Visit the Alamo for information and pictures.

http://www.dcci.com/San_Antonio/Alamo.html

Longhorn

Practically a Texas institution, the longhorn is descended from cattle brought in by Spanish settlers. It has adapted to the American environment and is considered by some Texans to be a national treasure. This wonderful site will tell you more about the great Texas longhorn and other beef cattle—Texas's largest source of income.

<http://www.okstate.edu/~animsci/breeds/beef/texaslh/texaslh.html>

What's New in Texas?

This Texas site is almost as big as the state! Visitors may click to any of the many new information topics, most of which are government related.

http://www.state.tx.us/texas_whatsnew.html

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Texas Red

Texas chili takes its name and spirit from the days when cowboys rode the trails, drove cattle, and ate dust. But Texas chili is better than dust. Find a recipe for authentic Texas chili to prepare for the class. Multiply the amounts necessary so that the recipe will feed everyone—careful with the chili powder, though.

Remember the Alamo!

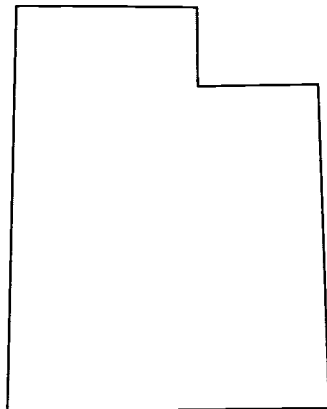
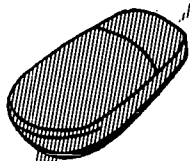
Read about this famous mission and the battle that occurred there. Prepare a presentation to the class explaining the positions of the two sides involved. Create a time line detailing Texas's colorful history until it became a state in 1845.

The Legend of the Bluebonnet

Growing wild in and among the rolling hills, the bluebonnet is the state flower of Texas. Its elegant beauty is thought to resemble the bonnets worn by the women of early pioneer days. However, long before the covered wagons rolled across the plains, Indian legend told of its origin. In *The Legend of the Bluebonnet*, Tomie dePaola brings the legend to life. Read this story and discuss the themes of sacrifice, faith, and courage with the members of your group.

Branding Art

Ranchers developed cattle brands to help them distinguish roaming members of their herds from those of others. The designs were simple and easy to identify, usually based on initials or symbols. Find some examples of Texas brands and create an illustrated poster of the brands. Post a separate list of the ranches they represent. Challenge your classmates to match ranch names with the brands on the poster.



UTAH

The Beehive State is an important mining center. Mormon pioneers led by Brigham Young settled Utah in 1876, and Mormons still make up a large percentage of the population. Salt Lake City's Temple Square is an important tourist attraction.

Utah: A Land of Contrasts

Deep river gorges, green forests, blue lakes, red rock deserts, and snowcapped mountains—all these and more await you in Utah. This site takes you on your introductory tour of information resources available on the Internet.

<http://www.state.ut.us/>

How Salty Is It?

Of course we are talking about the Great Salt Lake, located in the upper part of the state. You'll find information on scenic wonders, history, cultural attractions, family adventures, natural attractions, climate, wildlife, and much more at this Net site.

<http://www.netpub.com/utah/regions/saltlake/sltoc.htm>

Dinosaur National Monument

Dinosaur National Monument, a preserve of the lost world of dinosaurs, has revealed many secrets of the past. In the rocks beneath those containing dinosaur fossils are fossils of sea creatures two to three times older than those of the dinosaurs. A paleontological playground and the perfect site for budding scientists and paleontologists.

http://www.gorp.com/gorp/resource/us_nm/co_dinm.htm

Natural History

One of the widest links of natural history resources anywhere! Let yourself loose in these Cyber museums and see what you can come up with without a guide. Net travelers have access to museums throughout the world.

<http://ucmp1.berkeley.edu/subway/nathist.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

A Rainbow Bridge or Bobbing Boat?

When the Colorado River was dammed to create the Glen Canyon Recreation Area and Lake Powell, two things happened. A huge and beautiful lake was formed, offering startling contrasts with the surrounding desert, and a magnificent canyon of natural monuments disappeared forever beneath a crystal sea of man's own making. Given the story and rationale for building this and other dams (harness water for drinking, control annual floods, regulate use for agricultural irrigation and recreational use), research and debate this issue. Should we change the course of rivers and nature by building huge dams? Remember to consider what happens to both nature and people downstream when the flow of water is slowed or curtailed.

Could I Ever Sink?

Those who have floated in the Great Salt Lake notice immediately that they seem especially buoyant. The Great Salt Lake is four to seven times as salty as any ocean. Try some experiments using water with different saline levels and items of various weights and densities. State your hypotheses, use the scientific method of experimentation, and see if your hypotheses prove correct. Why is it so easy to float in the Great Salt Lake?

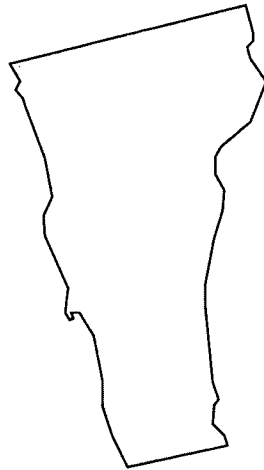
Dinosaur National Monument

Colorado and Utah share the Dinosaur National Monument. Find out more about this national monument, including what dinosaurs have been discovered there. What does the presence of sea creatures tell us about prior conditions here? Turn the information you uncover into an illustrated time line.

Transcontinental Railroad

Promontory was the site of the linking of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads, an event which led to a boom in railroad building in the state. How long did it take for the transcontinental railroad to become a reality? Collect data that will tell you at what rate the building of the railroad advanced and what distance the railroad covered. Then create a map showing the complete transcontinental railroad of 1869.

VERMONT



The Green Mountains characterize the natural beauty of this New England state. The name comes from the French for green mountain, *ver mont*. It gets pretty cold here—a record -50° F. was recorded at Bloomfield on December 30, 1933. Come enjoy the scenery of this rugged state.

Welcome to the State of Vermont

This site provides general information and statistics on the state of Vermont. A good source of general information.
<http://www.cit.state.vt.us/index.htm>

Making Maple Syrup

Understand the process that converts sap into maple syrup. Learn some interesting facts about this sweet and delicious natural treat.

<http://www.pbpub.com/vermont/maple1.htm>

A Whale in Vermont?

The bones of a marine whale were found in a rural field in Vermont. Visit the University of Vermont to find the answers to this and other perplexing mysteries. The page also provides many good link sites for further exploration.

<http://mole.uvm.edu/Vermont/vttres.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Mmm, Good!

The sugar maple is the state tree of Vermont. Sap from these trees is collected during the cold sapping season. Research the process of collecting and refining maple sap. Discover why the sapping season lasts only a few weeks. How do rising and falling temperatures cause sap to run? The entire refining process can be turned into a lesson on sequencing of events. Prepare a series of pictures that illustrates the entire process. Have your teacher duplicate the pictures—one set for every other cooperative group or student. See who can order them correctly the fastest.

It's In the Leaf

With the onset of autumn, the picturesque landscape of Vermont takes on an aura of yellow, red, purple, and orange. How does this occur? Why do some trees turn some colors, others still different colors, while some turn directly from green to brown? And why is Vermont foliage so spectacular? Prepare an illustrated presentation that answers these questions.

The Town Meeting

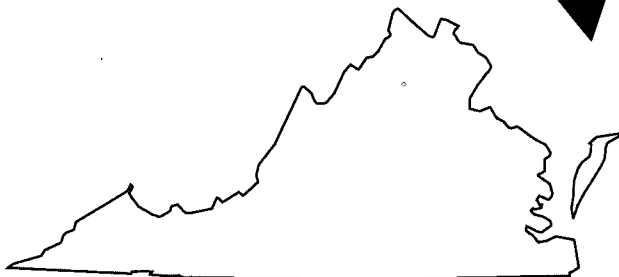
In Vermont, local government still uses the town-meeting forum. Citizens become a direct link to selection of offi-

cials and passage of local law. How is this different from your state? Or isn't it? Find out how local government functions where you live and compare your state with Vermont on a Venn diagram.

Green Mountain Boys

Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys played an important role in the Revolutionary War. What was the date and site of their involvement? With your cooperative group, create a mural illustrating the adventures of Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys during the revolution.

VIRGINIA



Virginia is a state rich in heritage and extraordinary natural beauty. It is the site of some of the most important events in American history and tourists come in vast numbers to see and appreciate these sites. Now it's your turn to visit.

Virginia

Take a trip through Virginia's communities. Find up-to-date information on weather, road conditions, and seasonal recreation reports. Learn about state and local government and technology resources.

<http://www.state.va.us/>

Williamsburg On-Line

Take a guided tour through Virginia's past. Discover the attractions and activities on-line in colonial Williamsburg, Yorktown, and Jamestown.

<http://www.williamsburg.com/wol/tour/tour.html>

The University of Virginia: The Papers of George Washington

Five series of letters and documents written by George Washington give insight into the man and the leader.

<http://poe.acc.virginia.edu/~gwpapers/GWhome.html>

Virginia A to Y?

A quick reference index to all sites related to Virginia. Start with A for "Agencies" and move on down to Y for "Yahoo Search" facility.

<http://www.state.va.us/index.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Mother of the Presidents

More Presidents have been born in Virginia than any other state. Discover who these eight Presidents are. Create a time line showing when these men lived, when they governed as President, and their significant accomplishments. Include all eight men on one time line so that overlapping life spans may be seen.

Colonial Architecture

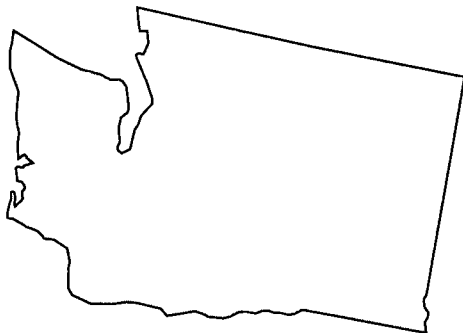
Colonial architecture is distinctive in style and symmetry. Study some of the famous buildings in Williamsburg, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and George Washington's Mount Vernon. Choose the building you find most appealing and illustrate it. Then design an original building in the colonial style.

Fact or Fiction

The first permanent English settlement was established in Jamestown in 1607. The stories of John Smith, Pocahontas, and John Rolfe of Jamestown have been the subject of books, poems, and film—some have taken some creative liberties with the facts. Do some research on the events surrounding the settling of Jamestown. Make two lists: one of facts that are known without question and one of suppositions and theories. Which is longer?

Home on the Potomac

George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, attracts thousands of visitors each year. Washington died in 1799 in the home he had owned and loved for 40 years. Read about Washington the child, the man, the soldier, and the President. Divide these four aspects among members of your cooperative group. Write a script to be read or recited by group members that will acquaint your class with notable elements of Washington's life.



WASHINGTON

The only state named for a President, Washington is an outdoor-lover's paradise. From the famous Washington apples to its charming fishing harbors to the Space Needle or the infamous and ferocious power of Mount St. Helens, visit Washington and see one of the most diverse states in the nation.

The Evergreen State

Come to Washington via this site and find out about business, education, the environment, recreation, technology, transportation, and more. Information is provided from both public and private agencies.

<http://olympus.dis.wa.gov/www/wahome.html>

Mount St. Helens

This volcano has fascinated scientists and students alike since its historic eruption in 1980. This site chronicles the events before and after—a truly explosive site. See all of nature's power in words and pictures.

<http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/Volcanoes/MSH/framework.html>

Crack Crunch

A crisp bite of a Washington Apple is music to the ears of an apple connoisseur. If you want to find out about the apples that are the pride of Washington, come along to this site. Become an expert on the Red Delicious, Fuji, Gala, and other varieties. Find out why Washington grows 'em great!

<http://www.globalnet.org/apples/apples.htm>

Travel

This travel-related industry site for the state of Washington has links to other areas of interest, too—including one of the most beautiful photo galleries. Enjoy your travels in Washington State.

<http://www.travel-in-wa.com/>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Lewis and Clark

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led an exploration of great national significance that ended in Washington in 1805. Who was responsible for the commissioning of this exploration and what was its purpose? What were the results of their trip? Create a map showing the entire route of their exploration and explain its significance. Who was Sacagawea and what role did she play?

Apple Tasting

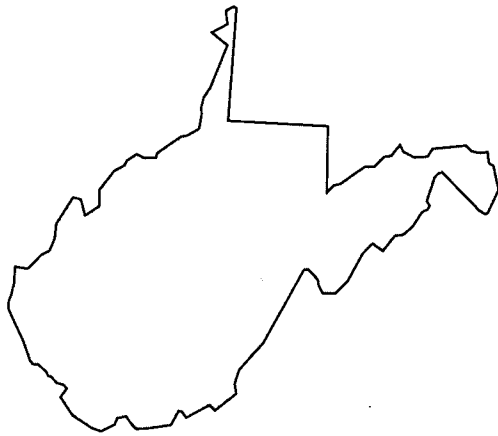
In fall or early winter, when apples in markets are fresh, ask local grocery merchants to donate apples for your project. Get as many varieties as possible. Find out which apples came from Washington or which varieties are grown there. Stage a class taste test and see which varieties your classmates prefer. Graph the results of the taste test.

Volcano Power

Find out about the catastrophic eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980. Then construct a model out of papier mâché on a sturdy piece of plywood. If possible, design a cutaway model that will explain the inner workings of a volcano. Be sure to paint your model accurately.

Native American Heritage

Many Native Americans live in the state of Washington, most on state reservations and some on government-granted land. Find out what tribes are here and where their reservations are. Prepare an illustrated report on the Indians of Washington State, with a section contributed by each member of your cooperative group. Indicate the locations of their reservations on a map of the state.



WEST VIRGINIA

Rugged terrain covers a large portion of West Virginia, known as the Mountain State. Nestled in the Appalachian highlands, the scenic beauty of the state can take your breath away.

West Virginia Library Commission Home Page

This is a wonderful resource for information about the state of West Virginia. Learn titles of state songs, view pictures of state symbols, read a brief history, and find out the many "firsts" that occurred here.

<http://www.wvlc.wvnet.edu/>

West Virginia University State Information

Visit the state capital of Charleston. Find out the names of famous West Virginia citizens and follow the links to learn more. See pictures of this beautiful land. From state parks to wilderness area, the links are here to explore.

<http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/wv.html>

Marble Collector's Corner

Most of the marbles sold in the United States are made in West Virginia. Enter this informational center to learn more about these fascinating glass spheres.

<http://www.well.com/user/bblock/mcc.htm>

Wonderful West Virginia

Take a tour of the Heritage Festival calendar or a general tour of the state. Visit colleges and universities or focus in on the Green Bank Radio Telescope, the Mountain Net Gopher, or the Regional Weather Center. You might even connect to the K-12 school server to see what is going on in other classrooms.

http://wvlink.mpl.com/lynx_dev/wvstart.html

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Among the First

Be the first to discover the many firsts in the state of West Virginia. Using the Internet and other reference materials, research and list as many historical firsts associated with the state as you can find. Then check your own state to see how you match up.

John Henry

John Henry, the steel-driving man, is an American folk hero. Read the legend of John Henry as presented in the beautifully illustrated book *John Henry* by Ezra Jack Keats. The story is based on an actual event involving a person by the name of John Henry and the building of the Big Bend Tunnel, in West Virginia. Discuss the meaning of the legend with members of your cooperative group.

Is Coal Burning Out?

The mountains of West Virginia are rich in coal deposits. Most of the mining is done underground. The supply of coal, an excellent source of energy, is dwindling with each passing year. It is estimated that the world's supply can only last a bit more than 200 years. What will be the consequences when we run out of coal? What are the advantages and disadvantage of burning coal from an ecological standpoint? Why do most

large cities forbid the use of coal for heating? Why is coal no longer used for powering freight trains? How is coal still being used in this country? Can we do without it? Assign one or two of these questions to each group member.

Glass

West Virginia is known for its glassware industry. Brainstorm things that are made of glass and research the glass-making process. Is there more than one way to process glass? Are there different types of glass? Prepare a report that answers these and other questions for the class. Include an explanation of the steps in the glassmaking process in your presentation.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin, the Badger State, is known for its dairy production and is the greatest milk producer of all the states. It is another of the many states whose names derive from Indian words—*Wisconsin* is an Indian word with a number of meanings. Come tour America's Dairyland!

People and Places in Wisconsin

Start your travels through this unique Midwestern state by connecting to Badger, Wisconsin's Internet Information Server. You will find yourself entering exciting information resources in government offices and the University of Wisconsin. Watch for links that will take you to other interesting places.

<http://badger.state.wi.us/>

Dinosaurs to Old Milwaukee: The Museum

Visit one of the finest natural history museums in the country and see exhibits of the rain forest, a European village, Africa, pre-Colombian America, living oceans, and much more.

<http://www.mei.com/other/mpm/welcome.html>

Frank Lloyd Wright

Wright's buildings represent some of the world's most important architectural accomplishments. Although you may visit his buildings throughout the country, it is in Wisconsin that you will discover most of his work. This amazing site of images and text provides exciting looks at the world of design, culture, people, innovation, and building.

<http://flw.badgernet.com:2080/flw.htm>

Wandering in Wisconsin

Visitors to Wisconsin will find general information for both travel and related state topics provided by Visitors Web and the University of Wisconsin. You will find a gateway to forests, monuments, parks, and wilderness areas, as well as tours of many cities.

<http://www.travel.org/wisconsi.html>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Rainfall and Temperature

Weather in Wisconsin permits the grazing lands to grow, which allows the livestock to flourish, which allows the production of dairy products, which contributes to the economy. So how wet and cold is it? Calculate the average rainfall and temperature for the state and compare it to your own. Can you find a relationship between rainfall and production?

Fact Finding

Go on an information scavenger hunt related to unusual events in the history of Wisconsin. For example, find out where the world's first hydroelectric plant was built, discover where malted milk was invented, and where the first kindergarten opened. Can you find more?

Cheese Whizzes

Wisconsin produces more than 40% of the nation's cheese. Is there anyone in the class who does not love at least one variety of cheese? Do some research on the Net and in the market to find out what varieties of cheese are produced in Wisconsin. Then get as many as you can for a taste test. Classmates should select their favorites after a blind testing. Graph and discuss the results.

Architect in Training

Study the architecture and buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright's *prairie style*, in which homes seem to flow and blend into their natural surroundings through the use of terraces or porches. List the virtues and drawbacks of such an architectural style. Then design a prairie-style building of your own that would blend into a natural setting in your community.

Fire!

In an incredible coincidence, two devastating fires occurred on the night of October 8, 1871. One was in Wisconsin. Do some research to find out about the Peshtigo forest fire and the other famous fire that occurred on that same evening elsewhere in the United States. Compare and contrast the two fires on a Venn diagram.

WYOMING

Here in the Equality State lie the oldest national park, the first national monument, and the first national forest! The Rocky Mountains tower over much of Wyoming, the least populous state in the Union. Come look around—there's plenty of space and lots to see!

From the Satellite Above and the Earth Below

This is the link page to Wyoming—its art, education, communications, geography, health, and lots of pictures for the U.S. Net traveler. You'll get a good look at Wyoming at this site.

http://math.uwyo.edu/State_Links.html

Total Yellowstone

Visitors from all over the world come to Wyoming to see and explore Yellowstone National Park, the oldest designated park in the U.S. This site is rated one of the very best on the Net. See and explore the many wonders of Yellowstone—it's almost as good as seeing the bear up close.

<http://acs1.byu.edu/~uhlerjw/yellowstone.html>

The Geyser Page

The most famous of geysers is, of course, Old Faithful, which shoots steam and water high into the air every 30 to 90 minutes. Find out more about this incredible natural phenomenon by visiting the Internet Geyser Resources. Click here and stand back!

<http://www.wku.edu/www/geoweb/geyser.html>

Smallest Population in the U.S.

Although Wyoming continues to have the smallest population in the United States, its Web sites and links are growing. Read news from the *Casper Star Tribune*. Visit the land of Yellowstone and the Tetons and learn about the people in the communities of Wyoming.

<http://www.trib.com/WYOMING/>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

A Visit to Yellowstone

Explore Yellowstone on the Internet. Then together with your cooperative group, plan a week's vacation at Yellowstone. Decide where you will go, what you will see, and what you will need to take along. Write it all down and present your plan to the class.

Telling Stories

Stories and legends of the Old West abound. Many were shared with later generations. Read some stories about Wyoming and the Old West. Pretend you traveled with your group on one of the three trails that took pioneers through the state of Wyoming—the California Trail, the Mormon Trail, and the Oregon Trail. Write a journal you might have kept during two weeks of travel. Add some illustrations of things you saw along the way.

What Makes a Geyser?

You know about Old Faithful and its amazing regularity. But what is really happening to create this jet of boiling steam and water? Create a demonstration that will explain to the class just how a geyser works and where it originates. Do geysers have anything in common with volcanoes? If so, what is it?

To Protect & Serve

As westward expansion began, the government built fortresses, or forts, to house soldiers and provide a place for settlers to take refuge from perceived "hostile elements." These outposts also served as commerce trade centers for unlikely marketers. Re-create a Wyoming military fort and explain the perceptions, fears, and routines in these isolated outposts. Did these forts improve the situation or make it worse? Why do you think so?

WASHINGTON D.C.

The city of Washington, D.C., capital of the United States, is not part of any state. It occupies the District of Columbia—a portion of land between Maryland and Virginia that is under the jurisdiction of the United States government. It is a city rich in sites of interest to people of all persuasions.

Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian Institution is a corporation that operates a number of museums, libraries, and cultural institutions in Washington, D.C. You will also find resources that will assist you in your study of diverse cultures at this site.

<http://www.si.edu/>

National Air and Space Museum

Join us in the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum as we learn about the pioneers who left the comforts of earth in search of new challenges. A great site to explore.

<http://www.nasm.edu/PA/Exhibits.html>

The Presidential Libraries

Visit the libraries of U.S. Presidents and First Ladies and gain some insight into the men who guided our country through its turbulent history—and the women who married them.

<http://sunsite.unc.edu/lia/president/>

The White House

NetAmerica stops at the doorstep of the most famous house in the land. Visit the President and Vice President of the United States. Send them e-mail (which will be answered) and explore some of the many links.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Native American Cultural Center

This is a wonderful site for Native American culture and resources that offers information about all aspects of First Nation peoples.

<http://hanksville.phast.umass.edu/misc/NAculture.html>

The Pledge of Allegiance

Each day at school, many people recite the pledge with little thought or understanding of what it means or where it originated. Research the origins of our national Pledge of Allegiance. When and why was the phrase, “. . . under God” added? Would you make any changes to the pledge? If so, what would they be? Present the results of your research to the class.

Historical Museum

Museums in Washington, D.C., house more items from America’s past than any other museum. What one item from America’s past would you most like to see, study, and perhaps even touch or operate? Chances are it’s in the Smithsonian. Do some research and find out. Then design an exhibit for this item of interest in a diorama or poster. Be sure to include an informative paragraph about the item’s development and place in history. Present your exhibit to the class.

Presidential Libraries

There seems to be no lack of information about our Presidents. Our First Ladies, however, have often remained somewhat obscure. Choose a First Lady who interests you—either because of when she lived, who her husband was, or the special projects she became involved with. Complete an illustrated time line of her life and accomplishments to post in the classroom.

The White House

It’s exciting to think about sending e-mail to the President or Vice President. Be assured, however, that e-mail is carefully reviewed before reaching the appropriate source. Is there an issue you would like to discuss with the President, Vice President, or member of their staff? Draft an e-mail message to the White House on an issue of your choice. Share it with the class and invite their feedback. With your teacher’s permission, forward the e-mail to Washington, D.C., and await a reply. Share that with the class as well.



APPENDIX

Journals/Organizations/Resources

The following is a partial list of journals, organizations, and other resources that may prove useful when integrating the Internet or other technology into your curriculum.

CUE /Journal

Computer Using Educators Inc.
1210 Marina Village Parkway,
Suite 100
Alameda, CA 94501

Electronic Learning

Scholastic, Inc.
555 Broadway
New York, NY 10012

Net Guide

P.O. Box 420355
Palm Coast, FL 32142-9371

MacWAREHOUSE CATALOGUE

P.O. Box 3013
1720 Oak Street
Lakewood, NJ 08701-3013
1-800-255-6227

Classroom Prodigy

2364 Harcourt
San Diego, CA 92123

America On-line

8619 Westwood Center Drive
Vienna, VA 22182-2285

eWorld

Apple Computer, Inc.
P.O. Box 4493
Bridgeton, MO 63044-9718

Authors' E-mail

gmgarfield@csupomona.edu
smcdono@cyberg8t.com

Custom Computers For Kids

3 Oak Forest Road
Novato, CA 94949

Professional Teaching Associates

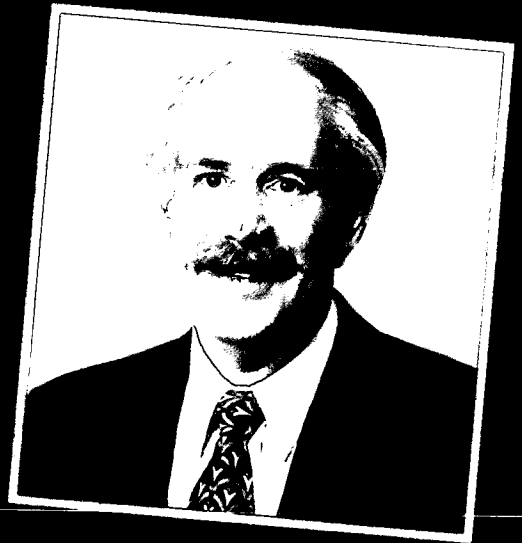
Educational Technology Consultants for Classroom Teachers
P.O. Box 7815
La Verne, CA 91750

NetAmerica

Travel the 50 States on the Information Highway

By Gary M. Garfield and Suzanne McDonough

NetAmerica is a unique and exciting resource that reviews and defines Internet terms, examines goals of telecommunications, explains the Internet as it relates to the curriculum, and provides a "roadmap" of the information highway for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. You'll find over 200 interesting Net sites with related activities that are sure to excite your students and enrich their research and learning. User-friendly and accessible, NetAmerica is a must-have addition to your social studies reference shelf. For grades 4-8.



About the Authors

Gary M. Garfield is a professor of education at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, where he has focused on teacher preparation for 20 years. He has made presentations at local, regional, and national conferences and workshops, and serves as an educational consultant for a number of school districts. Garfield holds California teaching credentials in elementary and secondary education, special education, and administrative services, and has an earned doctorate in educational management.

Suzanne McDonough is a technology mentor teacher as well as a fourth grade teacher in the Mountain View school district, Ontario, California. Recent projects include developing a thematic approach to elementary teaching using telecommunications in the classroom. McDonough serves as an educational consultant and has given presentations at national and regional conferences and offices of education. She has co-authored three other technology books with Gary Garfield.



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