U.S. State Capitals

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. A class traces the Massachusetts state government on a map. Which city should they mark as the capital?
   - A. Boston
   - B. Cambridge
   - C. Salem
   - D. Worcester

   Correct answer: A. Boston

   Mark Boston. The other cities are in Massachusetts, but Boston is the state capital.

2. Which city goes on a label reading ‘Capital of Texas’?
   - A. Houston
   - B. Dallas
   - C. Austin
   - D. San Antonio

   Correct answer: C. Austin

   Austin is the state capital. Dallas, Houston and San Antonio are all Texas cities.

3. An Arizona road trip ends in the state capital. Which destination is correct?
   - A. Flagstaff
   - B. Phoenix
   - C. Tucson
   - D. Yuma

   Correct answer: B. Phoenix

   The trip should end in Phoenix. The other three destinations are also in Arizona.

4. Which Hawaiian city belongs on a list of U.S. state capitals?
   - A. Lahaina
   - B. Hilo
   - C. Kailua-Kona
   - D. Honolulu

   Correct answer: D. Honolulu

   Honolulu is Hawaii’s capital. The three other choices are communities in Hawaii.

5. A Georgia map needs a star where the state capital sits. Where should it go?

A. Athens
B. Atlanta
C. Augusta
D. Savannah

Correct answer: B. Atlanta
The star goes on Atlanta. Augusta is the capital of Maine, while the Augusta shown on a Georgia map is not a state capital today.

6. A California travel itinerary lists four cities. Which one is the state capital?

A. Sacramento
B. Los Angeles
C. San Francisco
D. San Diego

Correct answer: A. Sacramento
Sacramento is California’s capital. The state’s most familiar cities are useful distractors when reviewing the map.

7. When a question says ‘New York’s state capital,’ which city does it mean?

A. Syracuse
B. New York City
C. Buffalo
D. Albany

Correct answer: D. Albany
It means Albany. New York City shares the state’s name but serves a different role.

8. An Oregon travel route is supposed to include the state capital. Which stop meets that requirement?

A. Eugene
B. Portland
C. Salem
D. Bend

Correct answer: C. Salem
Salem meets the requirement. The other proposed stops are Oregon cities outside the capital.

9. Which city is the capital of Washington state, even though it is neither Seattle nor Washington, D.C.?

A. Olympia
B. Tacoma
C. Spokane
D. Vancouver

Correct answer: A. Olympia
Olympia is Washington state’s capital. Washington, D.C., is the national capital.

10. A Louisiana map has a marker in New Orleans. Where should that marker move to show the capital instead?

A. Lake Charles
B. Lafayette
C. Shreveport
D. Baton Rouge

Correct answer: D. Baton Rouge
Move the marker to Baton Rouge, which is the capital of Louisiana.

11. Which pair correctly labels the capitals of Kentucky and Tennessee, in that order?

A. Frankfort and Memphis
B. Louisville and Nashville
C. Frankfort and Nashville
D. Lexington and Knoxville

Correct answer: C. Frankfort and Nashville
Kentucky’s capital is Frankfort. Tennessee’s is Nashville. Both names must match the state order.

12. A worksheet mistakenly swaps the capitals of Vermont and New Hampshire. What should the corrected labels say, in that order?

A. Concord and Montpelier
B. Montpelier and Concord
C. Burlington and Manchester
D. Manchester and Burlington

Correct answer: B. Montpelier and Concord
Montpelier belongs under Vermont. Concord belongs under New Hampshire.

13. Which sequence gives the capitals in the same order as North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska?

A. Bismarck, Sioux Falls, Omaha
B. Pierre, Bismarck, Lincoln
C. Fargo, Pierre, Omaha
D. Bismarck, Pierre, Lincoln

Correct answer: D. Bismarck, Pierre, Lincoln
Bismarck is North Dakota’s capital, Pierre is South Dakota’s, and Lincoln is Nebraska’s.

14. Three state–capital pairs on an index card are correct. Which pair should be edited?

A. Nevada — Reno
B. New Mexico — Santa Fe
C. Idaho — Boise
D. Wyoming — Cheyenne

Correct answer: A. Nevada — Reno
Replace Reno with Carson City for Nevada. The pairs for New Mexico, Idaho and Wyoming are correct.

15. A final-round map puts three labels on the wrong states. Which replacement list correctly names all three capitals?

A. Maryland — Trenton; Delaware — Annapolis; New Jersey — Dover
B. Maryland — Dover; Delaware — Trenton; New Jersey — Annapolis
C. Maryland — Annapolis; Delaware — Dover; New Jersey — Trenton
D. Maryland — Annapolis; Delaware — Trenton; New Jersey — Dover

Correct answer: C. Maryland — Annapolis; Delaware — Dover; New Jersey — Trenton
Annapolis belongs to Maryland, Dover to Delaware and Trenton to New Jersey. Every distractor swaps at least two labels.