U.S. States Geography

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which U.S. state is an island chain in the central Pacific Ocean?
   - A. Hawaii
   - B. California
   - C. Washington
   - D. Alaska

   Correct answer: A. Hawaii
   Hawaii is an archipelago in the central Pacific. The other choices include large areas of the North American mainland.

2. Which U.S. state lies west of Canada’s Yukon and stretches out into the Aleutian Islands?
   - A. Hawaii
   - B. Washington
   - C. Alaska
   - D. Oregon

   Correct answer: C. Alaska
   Alaska borders Yukon and British Columbia. Its Aleutian island chain extends west into the North Pacific.

3. Which state extends south as a peninsula between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf?
   - A. Georgia
   - B. Florida
   - C. Alabama
   - D. South Carolina

   Correct answer: B. Florida
   Most of Florida lies on a peninsula, with the Atlantic to the east and the Gulf to the west.

4. Which state lies directly south of Oregon and has a Pacific coastline of its own?
   - A. Idaho
   - B. Washington
   - C. Nevada
   - D. California

   Correct answer: D. California
   California borders Oregon on the north and the Pacific Ocean on the west.

5. Which state has New Hampshire as its only U.S. land neighbor and also borders Canada?

A. Vermont
B. Maine
C. Massachusetts
D. Rhode Island

Correct answer: B. Maine
Maine meets New Hampshire at the southwest. Its other land neighbors are Canadian provinces.

6. Which state borders Mexico along the Rio Grande and reaches the Gulf near Brownsville?

A. Texas
B. New Mexico
C. Arizona
D. California

Correct answer: A. Texas
The Rio Grande forms the international boundary along much of Texas. The state’s coast continues northeast from the river’s mouth.

7. Which state reaches the western end of Lake Superior at Duluth?

A. Illinois
B. Wisconsin
C. Michigan
D. Minnesota

Correct answer: D. Minnesota
Duluth is in northeastern Minnesota on Lake Superior, beside the Wisconsin city of Superior.

8. Which state is made up of an Upper Peninsula and a larger Lower Peninsula, joined by the Mackinac Bridge?

A. Ohio
B. Wisconsin
C. Michigan
D. New York

Correct answer: C. Michigan
The bridge spans the Straits of Mackinac between Michigan’s two peninsulas.

9. Which state lies across the lower Colorado River from California near Yuma?

A. Arizona
B. Utah
C. New Mexico
D. Colorado

Correct answer: A. Arizona
The lower Colorado River forms most of the boundary between Arizona and California.

10. Which state borders California on the east and includes the city of Reno?

A. Arizona
B. Utah
C. Idaho
D. Nevada

Correct answer: D. Nevada
Reno is just east of the Sierra Nevada in western Nevada, near the California line.

11. Which state contains the Great Salt Lake and lies directly west of Colorado?

A. Wyoming
B. Nevada
C. Utah
D. Arizona

Correct answer: C. Utah
The Great Salt Lake lies in northern Utah. The Utah–Colorado boundary runs north to south.

12. Which state lies between much of Kentucky’s southern boundary and the northern boundary of Alabama?

A. Georgia
B. Tennessee
C. Mississippi
D. Arkansas

Correct answer: B. Tennessee
Kentucky lies along Tennessee’s north side. Alabama borders the middle part of Tennessee’s south side.

13. Which state lies east of Lake Champlain for much of its length and borders Québec to the north?

A. Massachusetts
B. New York
C. New Hampshire
D. Vermont

Correct answer: D. Vermont
Lake Champlain separates much of western Vermont from New York. Vermont also has a land boundary with Québec.

14. Which state lies on the western side of lower Delaware Bay opposite southern New Jersey?

A. Delaware
B. Pennsylvania
C. Rhode Island
D. Virginia

Correct answer: A. Delaware
Delaware occupies the western shore of lower Delaware Bay. The Delaware and New Jersey shores face each other across the bay.

15. Which state has a northern panhandle between Ohio and Pennsylvania and an eastern panhandle between Maryland and Virginia?

A. Kentucky
B. Maryland
C. West Virginia
D. Pennsylvania

Correct answer: C. West Virginia
West Virginia extends north along the Ohio River and east along the Potomac. Both extensions are commonly called panhandles.