All 50 U.S. States Geography Quiz

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.

16. Which state between Mississippi and Georgia reaches the Gulf of Mexico at Mobile Bay?

A. Alabama
B. Tennessee
C. Kentucky
D. Arkansas

Correct answer: A. Alabama
Mobile Bay cuts into southern Alabama. Mississippi borders Alabama on the west and Georgia on the east.

17. Which state has Tennessee and Mississippi across the Mississippi River along parts of its eastern side?

A. Kentucky
B. Missouri
C. Arkansas
D. Illinois

Correct answer: C. Arkansas
Arkansas lies west of the river across from Tennessee and Mississippi. Its southern land neighbor is Louisiana.

18. Which state lies directly south of Wyoming, east of Utah, and north of New Mexico?

A. Nevada
B. Colorado
C. South Dakota
D. Kansas

Correct answer: B. Colorado
Colorado lies between those three neighbors. Kansas borders it to the east.

19. Which New England state has New Haven on the north shore of Long Island Sound?

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

Correct answer: D. Connecticut
New Haven sits on Connecticut’s shore of Long Island Sound. Long Island itself is in New York.

20. Which state has Savannah near the Atlantic and shares much of its boundary with South Carolina along the Savannah River?

A. Florida
B. Georgia
C. Alabama
D. North Carolina

Correct answer: B. Georgia
The Savannah River separates Georgia and South Carolina along much of their boundary. The city of Savannah lies on the Georgia side.

21. Which state has a narrow northern panhandle reaching Canada between Washington and Montana?

A. Idaho
B. Oregon
C. Wyoming
D. Nevada

Correct answer: A. Idaho
Northern Idaho meets British Columbia. Washington is to its west and Montana to its east.

22. Which state includes Chicago on Lake Michigan and has most of its western boundary along the Mississippi River?

A. Ohio
B. Indiana
C. Wisconsin
D. Illinois

Correct answer: D. Illinois
Chicago is in northeastern Illinois. The Mississippi River separates Illinois from Iowa and Missouri to the west.

23. Which state reaches the southern shore of Lake Michigan between Illinois and Michigan and includes the city of Gary?

A. Kentucky
B. Ohio
C. Indiana
D. Wisconsin

Correct answer: C. Indiana
Gary lies on Indiana’s short Lake Michigan shoreline. Michigan and Illinois are the adjacent states along the lake.

24. Which state lies north of Missouri with the Missouri River on part of its western edge and the Mississippi River on its eastern edge?

A. Iowa
B. Nebraska
C. Illinois
D. Wisconsin

Correct answer: A. Iowa
Iowa is bounded by the Mississippi to the east. The Missouri River forms much of its western boundary.

25. Which state is directly east of Colorado, directly west of Missouri, and directly south of Nebraska?

A. Iowa
B. Oklahoma
C. Texas
D. Kansas

Correct answer: D. Kansas
Kansas lies between Colorado and Missouri and shares its northern boundary with Nebraska.

26. Which state is across the Ohio River from Indiana and has Tennessee along most of its southern border?

A. Missouri
B. West Virginia
C. Kentucky
D. Arkansas

Correct answer: C. Kentucky
Kentucky lies south of the Ohio River opposite Indiana. Its boundary with Tennessee runs along much of its south side.

27. Which state contains New Orleans and the Mississippi River’s lower delta as it reaches the Gulf?

A. Mississippi
B. Louisiana
C. Alabama
D. Texas

Correct answer: B. Louisiana
The Mississippi River passes through New Orleans and branches into the Gulf in southeastern Louisiana.

28. Which state contains Baltimore and much of the Chesapeake Bay’s Eastern Shore opposite it?

A. New Jersey
B. Delaware
C. Virginia
D. Maryland

Correct answer: D. Maryland
Maryland occupies both sides of the upper Chesapeake Bay. Baltimore is on the western side.

29. Which state contains Cape Cod, the hooked peninsula projecting into the Atlantic southeast of Boston?

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

Correct answer: A. Massachusetts
Cape Cod curves out from southeastern Massachusetts. Boston is on Massachusetts Bay farther north.

30. Which state has Biloxi on its Gulf coast and takes its name from the river forming much of its western border?

A. Louisiana
B. Alabama
C. Mississippi
D. Arkansas

Correct answer: C. Mississippi
Biloxi is on the Mississippi coast. In the west, the Mississippi River separates the state from Arkansas and Louisiana.

31. Which state contains both St. Louis on its eastern side and part of the Kansas City metro area at its western edge?

A. Missouri
B. Kansas
C. Illinois
D. Iowa

Correct answer: A. Missouri
St. Louis is on Missouri’s Mississippi River boundary. Kansas City straddles the Missouri–Kansas line on the other side of the state.

32. Which state lies north of Wyoming and reaches from the Rocky Mountains east to the Dakotas while bordering Canada?

A. Nebraska
B. Idaho
C. Montana
D. Colorado

Correct answer: C. Montana
Montana borders the Dakotas to the east, Wyoming to the south, and Canada to the north.

33. Which state is crossed by the Platte River and lies between South Dakota and Kansas?

A. Iowa
B. Nebraska
C. Missouri
D. Oklahoma

Correct answer: B. Nebraska
The Platte flows east through Nebraska. The state's northern and southern borders lie against South Dakota and Kansas, respectively.

34. Which state borders Vermont and Maine and has its own short Atlantic coast near Portsmouth?

A. Rhode Island
B. Massachusetts
C. Connecticut
D. New Hampshire

Correct answer: D. New Hampshire
New Hampshire lies between Vermont and Maine. Its short coastline includes the area around Portsmouth.

35. Which state lies across the lower Hudson River from Manhattan and east of the Delaware River opposite Pennsylvania?

A. Delaware
B. New Jersey
C. Connecticut
D. Maryland

Correct answer: B. New Jersey
New Jersey lies west of the Hudson near Manhattan and east of the Delaware along its boundary with Pennsylvania.

36. Which state borders Mexico, is directly east of Arizona, and is directly south of Colorado?

A. New Mexico
B. Arizona
C. Oklahoma
D. Nevada

Correct answer: A. New Mexico
New Mexico lies between Arizona and Texas along the southern border region and meets Colorado to the north.

37. Which state borders Canada and includes Long Island and the city of Buffalo?

A. Pennsylvania
B. New Jersey
C. Connecticut
D. New York

Correct answer: D. New York
Buffalo is in western New York near Canada. Long Island lies at the southeastern end of the state.

38. Which state lies directly south of Virginia and contains most of the Outer Banks?

A. Georgia
B. South Carolina
C. North Carolina
D. Maryland

Correct answer: C. North Carolina
The Outer Banks extend along much of the North Carolina coast south of Virginia.

39. Which state lies directly north of South Dakota, with Montana on its west and Minnesota on its east?

A. North Dakota
B. Nebraska
C. Iowa
D. Wyoming

Correct answer: A. North Dakota
North Dakota lines up above South Dakota and shares its northern boundary with Canada.

40. Which state borders Pennsylvania to the east, reaches Lake Erie in the north, and follows the Ohio River in the south?

A. Illinois
B. Indiana
C. Kentucky
D. Ohio

Correct answer: D. Ohio
Ohio lies along Lake Erie. Its southern boundary follows the Ohio River opposite West Virginia and Kentucky.

41. Which state has a long, narrow western panhandle directly north of the Texas Panhandle?

A. Colorado
B. Kansas
C. Oklahoma
D. Nebraska

Correct answer: C. Oklahoma
The Oklahoma Panhandle extends west from the main part of the state between Texas to the south and Kansas and Colorado to the north.

42. Which state contains Portland near the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia rivers?

A. Washington
B. Oregon
C. Idaho
D. California

Correct answer: B. Oregon
Portland is on the Oregon side of the Columbia River, close to where the Willamette joins it.

43. Which state has a short Lake Erie shoreline in its northwest and Philadelphia near its southeastern corner?

A. New Jersey
B. Ohio
C. New York
D. Pennsylvania

Correct answer: D. Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania reaches Lake Erie in the northwest. Philadelphia lies near the Delaware River in the southeast.

44. Which state contains the city of Newport at the entrance to Narragansett Bay?

A. Rhode Island
B. Connecticut
C. Massachusetts
D. New Hampshire

Correct answer: A. Rhode Island
Newport sits on Aquidneck Island in Rhode Island, near the mouth of Narragansett Bay.

45. Which state has Charleston Harbor on the Atlantic coast and shares the Savannah River boundary with Georgia?

A. Florida
B. North Carolina
C. South Carolina
D. Virginia

Correct answer: C. South Carolina
Charleston Harbor is on South Carolina’s coast. The Savannah River separates much of the state from Georgia.

46. Which state lies between Nebraska and North Dakota and contains Rapid City near the Black Hills?

A. South Dakota
B. Montana
C. Wyoming
D. Minnesota

Correct answer: A. South Dakota
Rapid City lies in western South Dakota. Nebraska and North Dakota border the state to the south and north.

47. Which state lies south of Maryland and includes the city of Norfolk near the mouth of Chesapeake Bay?

A. Delaware
B. West Virginia
C. Virginia
D. North Carolina

Correct answer: C. Virginia
Norfolk is in southeastern Virginia in the Hampton Roads area, near the southern side of Chesapeake Bay’s mouth.

48. Which state contains Puget Sound and shares a land border with British Columbia?

A. Oregon
B. Washington
C. Idaho
D. Montana

Correct answer: B. Washington
Puget Sound lies in western Washington. The state meets British Columbia to the north.

49. Which state west of Lake Michigan includes the city of Green Bay and also reaches Lake Superior?

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

Correct answer: D. Wisconsin
Wisconsin has shoreline on both lakes. The city of Green Bay sits at the head of the bay of the same name.

50. Which state borders Montana on the north, Colorado on the south, Nebraska on the east, and Utah on the southwest?

A. Idaho
B. Wyoming
C. Colorado
D. South Dakota

Correct answer: B. Wyoming
Wyoming is between Montana and Colorado. It also borders Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah, and Idaho.