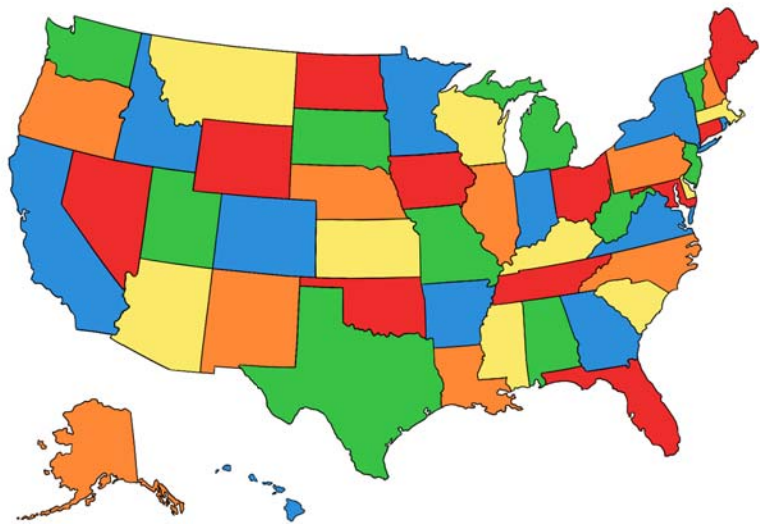




Exciting Review Game!

# 50 States Showdown

Learn State Names, Locations, Capital Cities, and Abbreviations



Laura Candler

## 50 States Showdown Review Game

by Laura Candler



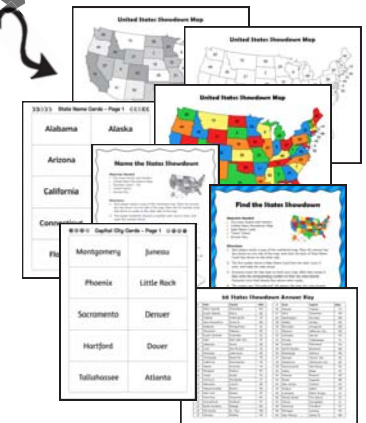
**50 States Showdown** is an active engagement game for reviewing state names, locations, capitals, and/or abbreviations. The activity is based on Showdown, a popular and effective cooperative learning strategy. In each round of the game, the Leader turns over the top card in a stack of task cards, and all players respond to the question or prompt by writing the answer on a dry erase board or tablet. When the Leader says, "Showdown," everyone shows and compares their responses. **50 States Showdown** can be played as a whole class, in centers, with partners, or within cooperative learning teams. Directions for three variations of the game are included, along with numbered U.S. maps, task cards, and answer keys. Some of the game materials have both color and black & white options, so be sure to print only the pages you plan to use.

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### Options for Recording Responses

All participants will need a method of recording their answers and showing them to the other players. The directions call for dry erase boards, but if you don't have enough for every student, you can substitute laminated sheets of card stock. If you have enough digital tablets, another option is to ask your students to open an interactive whiteboard app like ShowMe and to write their answers directly on their tablets.



## Advanced Preparation Tips

**50 States Showdown** includes three variations of the same basic game; complete directions for each game can be found on pages 8 through 13. The maps and directions come in both color and black & white. Before you print any materials, read the directions for all three games and print only the pages you need.

In all three games, "Travel Tokens" are awarded for correct answers and provide an easy way to keep track of points. The number of tokens needed will vary depending on the amount of time your students play and how quickly they respond to each task card, but it's best to start with 20 or 30 tokens per player and adjust as needed. You can create Travel Tokens by printing and cutting apart the tokens on page 26, or you can substitute small objects like dried beans, plastic game counters, or paper clips. If you prefer not to use Travel Tokens, players can record tally marks to keep track of the points they earn.

**Find the States Showdown** and **Name the States Showdown** require players to find a given state on a numbered United States map and identify it by name or by number. There are three variations of the map which only differ by color, so print the one you prefer. Print a copy of the 50 States Showdown Answer Key for each set of game materials, too. Finally, you'll need to print a set of 50 State Name Cards and 50 Number Cards for each game. Cut the cards apart and paper clip them together or store them in snack sized bags.

The number cards are difficult to handle and stack due to their small size, so you may want to replace them with numbered craft sticks. Write a number on one end of each craft stick, and place all 50 sticks, number-side down, in a sturdy cup or can. When it's time for the Leader to choose a number, he or she will choose a craft stick instead of a number card.

**States and Capitals Showdown** is played without a map. The only materials needed for the game are the State Name Cards, the Capital City Cards, the student directions, and the States, Capitals, and Abbreviations chart which serves as the answer key. The State Name Cards and Capital City Cards look similar after they're printed and cut apart, so you may want to print them in different colors to keep them from getting mixed up.

All three games require some initial preparation, so if you're short on time, ask students or parent volunteers to help you cut apart the cards and Travel Tokens. Laminate the materials for each game, store them in a safe place, and you'll be able to use them year after year!



## Teaching Tips and Modifications

You can play all three versions of 50 States Showdown as a whole class, or students can play with partners, in centers or in cooperative learning teams. No matter which option you choose, it's best to introduce each game to your whole class before allowing your students to play on their own. Display the a copy of the United States Showdown Map and read the directions aloud as you demonstrate how to play the game. After your students understand the rules, seat them in pairs or teams and distribute the materials.



### Setting Time Limits

The game directions don't include time limits for recording answers, but you may need to add time limits to keep the game moving. Most students need less than a minute to record their answers, and it can be frustrating for them to wait four or five minutes for other players to respond. Setting an appropriate time limit for responding will keep players focused on the game and will result in a more productive review session. To determine the correct amount of time for each round, observe several teams while they play and notice how much time it takes for MOST students to finish. One-minute sand timers may provide the right amount of time, but if they don't, you may need to provide an alternate timing device.



### Non-competitive Showdown

Showdown can be played competitively as the game directions are written, but it can also be played non-competitively as a fun practice activity that doesn't result in winners and losers. To downplay the competitive elements of the game, eliminate the Travel Tokens and point system. The rest of the game directions are the same. After each round of play, the Leader checks the answers and makes sure everyone knows the correct response. Then all players erase their dry erase boards, the role of Leader rotates to the left, and the next Leader draws a card from the deck. The steps are repeated and the activity continues until you end the game.

### Options for Spelling Modifications

Students aren't directly penalized for misspelling state and capital city names; however, players who spell those names correctly are rewarded with a bonus token. If you're concerned that rewarding correct spelling will give some students an unfair advantage, you can eliminate the use of bonus tokens. Another option is to provide each team with a copy of the Alphabetical List of State Names and the Alphabetical List of Capital Cities, and allow players to refer to these lists as needed.

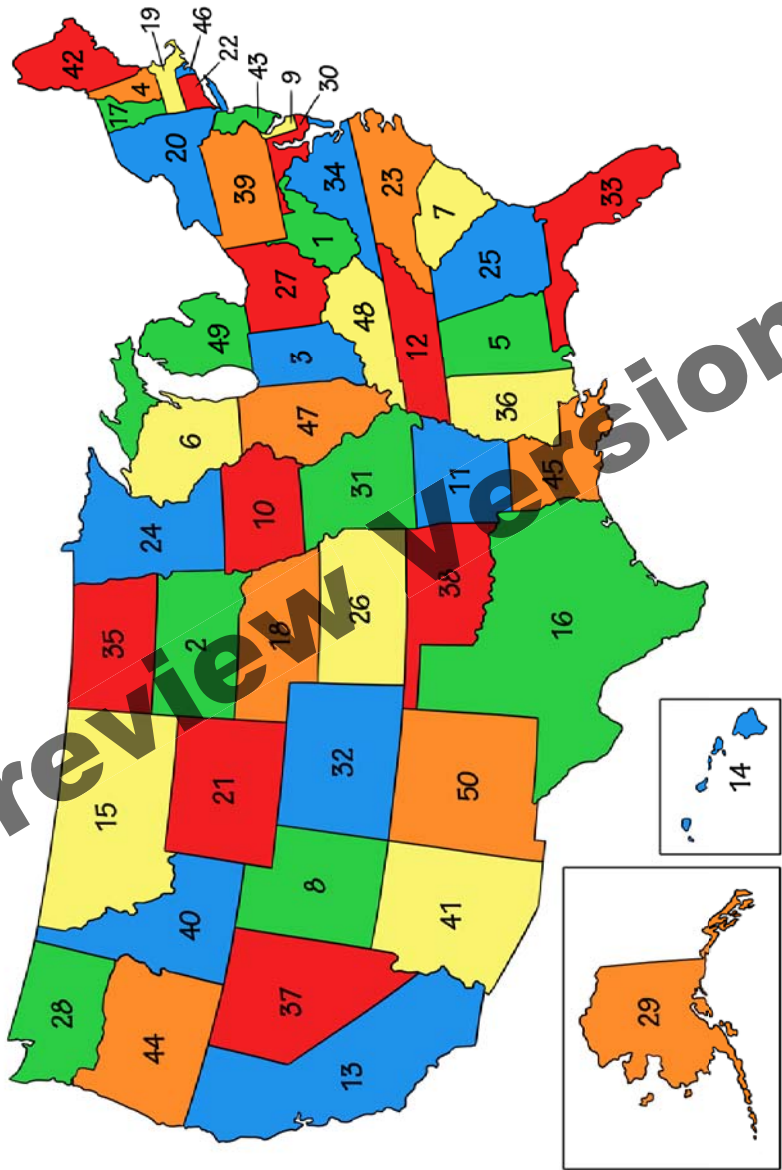


### States and Capitals Matching Game

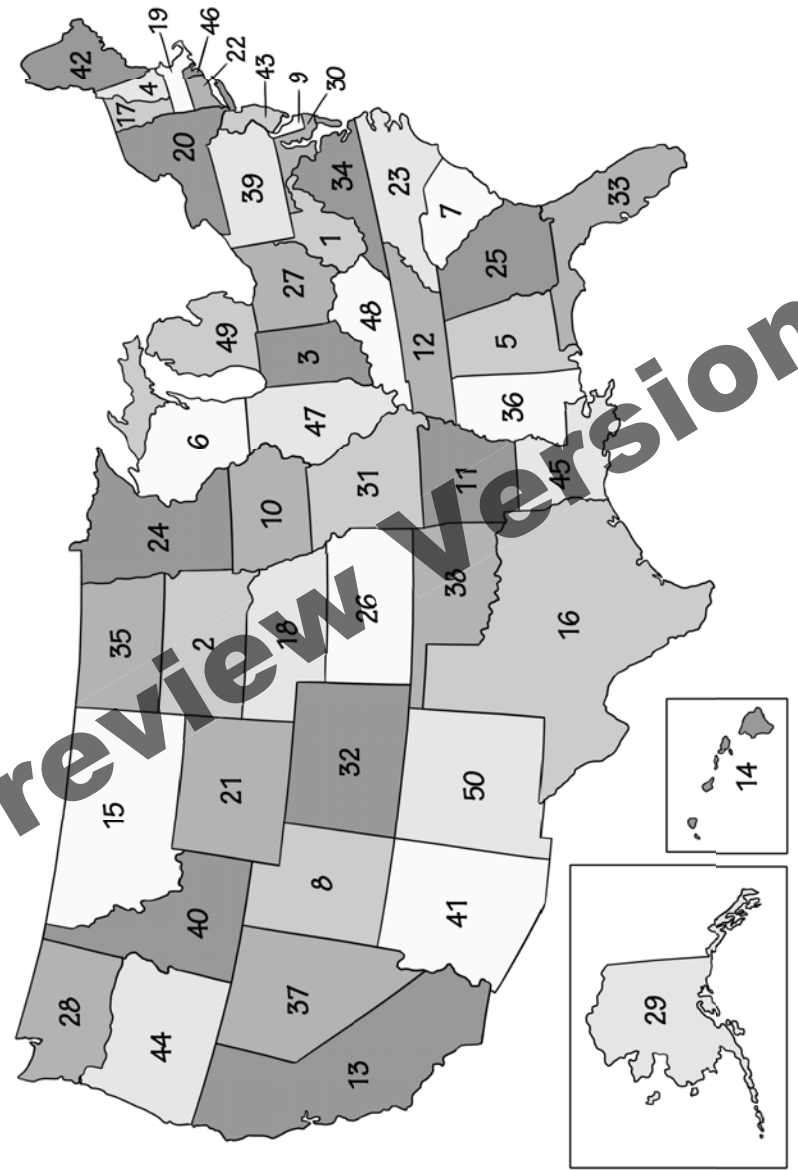
For additional practice, you can use the State Name Cards and the Capital City Cards to create five matching games having 20 cards each. This is easy to do because the states and capitals match on the corresponding numbered pages of cards. To create Set 1 of the States and Capitals Matching Game, print the first page of the state names and the first page of capital city cards, cut the cards apart, and store all 20 cards in a snack-sized bag. Create the other four sets using the remaining pages of State Name and Capital City Cards.



# United States Showdown Map



# United States Showdown Map



# United States Showdown Map



## Find the States Showdown

### Materials Needed

- Dry erase boards and markers
- United States Showdown Map
- State Name Cards
- Travel Tokens
- Answer Key



### Directions

1. Each player needs a copy of the numbered map. Place the answer key face down on one side of the map, and stack the deck of State Name Cards face down on the other side.
2. The first Leader draws a State Name Card from the deck, turns it over, and reads the state aloud.
3. Everyone looks for that state on their own map. After they locate it, they write the corresponding number on their dry erase boards. Everyone turns their boards face down when ready.
4. The Leader says "Showdown!" All players flip their dry erase boards face up and compare answers.
5. The Leader checks the answer using the key and gives one Travel Token to each player who correctly wrote the number of the state.
6. Rotate the role of Leader to the left and repeat steps 2 through 5. When the game ends, the player with the most Travel Tokens wins.

### Challenge Variation

For a more challenging game, require players to write the state number, its capital city, and its abbreviation in step 3. Award a Travel Token for each correct answer.



## Find the States Showdown

### Materials Needed

- Dry erase boards and markers
- United States Showdown Map
- State Name Cards
- Travel Tokens
- Answer Key



### Directions

1. Each player needs a copy of the numbered map. Place the answer key face down on one side of the map, and stack the deck of State Name Cards face down on the other side.
2. The first Leader draws a State Name Card from the deck, turns it over, and reads the state aloud.
3. Everyone looks for that state on their own map. After they locate it, they write the corresponding number on their dry erase boards. Everyone turns their boards face down when ready.
4. The Leader says "Showdown!" All players flip their dry erase boards face up and compare answers.
5. The Leader checks the answer using the key and gives one Travel Token to each player who correctly wrote the number of the state.
6. Rotate the role of Leader to the left and repeat steps 2 through 5. When the game ends, the player with the most Travel Tokens wins.

### Challenge Variation

For a more challenging game, require players to write the state number, its capital city, and its abbreviation in step 3. Award a Travel Token for each correct answer.



## Name the States Showdown

### Materials Needed

- Dry erase boards and markers
- United States Showdown Map
- Number Cards 1 - 50
- Travel Tokens
- Answer Key



### Directions

1. Each player needs a copy of the numbered map. Place the answer key face down on one side of the map. Place the 50 number cards face down in a pile on the other side of the map.
2. The Leader randomly chooses a number card, turns it over, and reads the number aloud.
3. Everyone tries to locate the state with that number on their map. When they find it, they write the name of the state on their dry erase board. Everyone turns their boards face down when ready.
4. The Leader says "Showdown!" Players turn over their dry erase boards and compare answers.
5. The Leader checks the answer using the key. He or she gives one Travel Token to everyone who correctly identified the state, and a second token to everyone who spelled it correctly.
6. Rotate the role of Leader to the left and repeat steps 2 through 5. At the end of the game, the player with the most Travel Tokens wins.

### Challenge Option

For a more challenging game, require players to write the state name, its capital city, and its abbreviation in step 3. Award a Travel Token for each correct answer.



## Name the States Showdown

### Materials Needed

- Dry erase boards and markers
- United States Showdown Map
- Number Cards 1 - 50
- Travel Tokens
- Answer Key



### Directions

1. Each player needs a copy of the numbered map. Place the answer key face down on one side of the map. Place the 50 number cards face down in a pile on the other side of the map.
2. The Leader randomly chooses a number card, turns it over, and reads the number aloud.
3. Everyone tries to locate the state with that number on their map. When they find it, they write the name of the state on their dry erase board. Everyone turns their boards face down when ready.
4. The Leader says "Showdown!" Players turn over their dry erase boards and compare answers.
5. The Leader checks the answer using the key. He or she gives one Travel Token to everyone who correctly identified the state, and a second token to everyone who spelled it correctly.
6. Rotate the role of Leader to the left and repeat steps 2 through 5. At the end of the game, the player with the most Travel Tokens wins.

### Challenge Option

For a more challenging game, require players to write the state name, its capital city, and its abbreviation in step 3. Award a Travel Token for each correct answer.



## States and Capitals Showdown

### Materials Needed

- Dry erase boards and markers
- State Name Cards
- Capital City Cards
- States, Capitals, and Abbreviations Chart
- Travel Tokens



### Name the Capital City Directions

1. Stack the State Name Cards face down in a pile.
2. The Leader draws a card, turns it over, and reads the state aloud.
3. All players write that state's capital city on their dry erase boards and turn their boards face down when ready.
4. The Leader says "Showdown!" and all players show their answers.
5. The Leader checks the States, Capitals, and Abbreviations chart. He or she gives one Travel Token to each player who correctly identified the capital, and a second token to those who spelled it correctly.
6. Rotate the role of Leader to the left and repeat steps 2 through 5. At the end of the game, the player with the most Travel Tokens wins.

### Name the State Directions

1. Stack the Capital City Cards face down in a pile.
2. The Leader draws a card, turns it over, and reads the capital city.
3. All players write the corresponding state on their dry erase boards and turn their boards face down when ready.
4. The Leader says "Showdown!" and all players show their answers.
5. The Leader checks the States, Capitals, and Abbreviations chart. He or she gives one Travel Token to everyone who correctly identified the state, and a second token to those who spelled it correctly.
6. Rotate the role of Leader to the left and repeat steps 2 through 5. At the end of the game, the player with the most Travel Tokens wins.

# States and Capitals Showdown

## Materials Needed

- Dry erase boards and markers
- State Name Cards
- Capital City Cards
- States, Capitals, and Abbreviations Chart
- Travel Tokens



## Name the Capital City Directions

1. Stack the State Name Cards face down in a pile.
2. The Leader draws a card, turns it over, and reads the state aloud.
3. All players write that state's capital city on their dry erase boards and turn their boards face down when ready.
4. The Leader says "Showdown!" and all players show their answers.
5. The Leader checks the States, Capitals, and Abbreviations chart. He or she gives one Travel Token to each player who correctly identified the capital, and a second token to those who spelled it correctly.
6. Rotate the role of Leader to the left and repeat steps 2 through 5. At the end of the game, the player with the most Travel Tokens wins.

## Name the State Directions

1. Stack the Capital City Cards face down in a pile.
2. The Leader draws a card, turns it over, and reads the capital city.
3. All players write the corresponding state on their dry erase boards and turn their boards face down when ready.
4. The Leader says "Showdown!" and all players show their answers.
5. The Leader checks the States, Capitals, and Abbreviations chart. He or she gives one Travel Token to everyone who correctly identified the state, and a second token to those who spelled it correctly.
6. Rotate the role of Leader to the left and repeat steps 2 through 5. At the end of the game, the player with the most Travel Tokens wins.

Alabama

Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

California

Colorado

Connecticut

Delaware

Florida

Georgia

Hawaii

Idaho

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

Kansas

Kentucky

Louisiana

Maine

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

Mississippi

Missouri

Montana

Nebraska

Nevada

New  
Hampshire

New Jersey



**New Mexico**

**New York**

**North  
Carolina**

**North  
Dakota**

**Ohio**

**Oklahoma**

**Oregon**

**Pennsylvania**

**Rhode  
Island**

**South  
Carolina**

**South  
Dakota**

**Tennessee**

**Texas**

**Utah**

**Vermont**

**Virginia**

**Washington**

**West  
Virginia**

**Wisconsin**

**Wyoming**

Montgomery

Juneau

Phoenix

Little Rock

Sacramento

Denver

Hartford

Dover

Tallahassee

Atlanta

Honolulu

Boise

Springfield

Indianapolis

Des Moines

Topeka

Frankfort

Baton Rouge

Augusta

Annapolis

Boston

Lansing

St. Paul

Jackson

Jefferson City

Helena

Lincoln

Carson City

Concord

Trenton

Santa Fe

Albany

Raleigh

Bismarck

Columbus

Oklahoma City

Salem

Harrisburg

Providence

Columbia

Pierre

Nashville

Austin

Salt Lake City

Montpelier

Richmond

Olympia

Charleston

Madison

Cheyenne

Number Cards 1-25

1

6

11

16

21

2

7

12

17

22

3

8

13

18

23

4

9

14

19

24

5

10

15

20

25

# Number Cards 26-50

26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50

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## 50 States Showdown Answer Key

#	State	Capital	Abbr
1	West Virginia	Charleston	WV
2	South Dakota	Pierre	SD
3	Indiana	Indianapolis	IN
4	New Hampshire	Concord	NH
5	Alabama	Montgomery	AL
6	Wisconsin	Madison	WI
7	South Carolina	Columbia	SC
8	Utah	Salt Lake City	UT
9	Delaware	Dover	DE
10	Iowa	Des Moines	IA
11	Arkansas	Little Rock	AR
12	Tennessee	Nashville	TN
13	California	Sacramento	CA
14	Hawaii	Honolulu	HI
15	Montana	Helena	MT
16	Texas	Austin	TX
17	Vermont	Montpelier	VT
18	Nebraska	Lincoln	NE
19	Massachusetts	Boston	MA
20	New York	Albany	NY
21	Wyoming	Cheyenne	WY
22	Connecticut	Hartford	CT
23	North Carolina	Raleigh	NC
24	Minnesota	St. Paul	MN
25	Georgia	Atlanta	GA

#	State	Capital	Abbr
26	Kansas	Topeka	KS
27	Ohio	Columbus	OH
28	Washington	Olympia	WA
29	Alaska	Juneau	AK
30	Maryland	Annapolis	MD
31	Missouri	Jefferson City	MO
32	Colorado	Denver	CO
33	Florida	Tallahassee	FL
34	Virginia	Richmond	VA
35	North Dakota	Bismarck	ND
36	Mississippi	Jackson	MS
37	Nevada	Carson City	NV
38	Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	OK
39	Pennsylvania	Harrisburg	PA
40	Idaho	Boise	ID
41	Arizona	Phoenix	AZ
42	Maine	Augusta	ME
43	New Jersey	Trenton	NJ
44	Oregon	Salem	OR
45	Louisiana	Baton Rouge	LA
46	Rhode Island	Providence	RI
47	Illinois	Springfield	IL
48	Kentucky	Frankfort	KY
49	Michigan	Lansing	MI
50	New Mexico	Santa Fe	NM

## States, Capitals, and Abbreviations Chart

State	Capital City	Abbr
Alabama	Montgomery	AL
Alaska	Juneau	AK
Arizona	Phoenix	AZ
Arkansas	Little Rock	AR
California	Sacramento	CA
Colorado	Denver	CO
Connecticut	Hartford	CT
Delaware	Dover	DE
Florida	Tallahassee	FL
Georgia	Atlanta	GA
Hawaii	Honolulu	HI
Idaho	Boise	ID
Illinois	Springfield	IL
Indiana	Indianapolis	IN
Iowa	Des Moines	IA
Kansas	Topeka	KS
Kentucky	Frankfort	KY
Louisiana	Baton Rouge	LA
Maine	Augusta	ME
Maryland	Annapolis	MD
Massachusetts	Boston	MA
Michigan	Lansing	MI
Minnesota	St. Paul	MN
Mississippi	Jackson	MS
Missouri	Jefferson City	MO

State	Capital City	Abbr
Montana	Helena	MT
Nebraska	Lincoln	NE
Nevada	Carson City	NV
New Hampshire	Concord	NH
New Jersey	Trenton	NJ
New Mexico	Santa Fe	NM
New York	Albany	NY
North Carolina	Raleigh	NC
North Dakota	Bismarck	ND
Ohio	Columbus	OH
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	OK
Oregon	Salem	OR
Pennsylvania	Harrisburg	PA
Rhode Island	Providence	RI
South Carolina	Columbia	SC
South Dakota	Pierre	SD
Tennessee	Nashville	TN
Texas	Austin	TX
Utah	Salt Lake City	UT
Vermont	Montpelier	VT
Virginia	Richmond	VA
Washington	Olympia	WA
West Virginia	Charleston	WV
Wisconsin	Madison	WI
Wyoming	Cheyenne	WY

## Alphabetical List of State Names

Alabama	Louisiana	Ohio
Alaska	Maine	Oklahoma
Arizona	Maryland	Oregon
Arkansas	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania
California	Michigan	Rhode Island
Colorado	Minnesota	South Carolina
Connecticut	Mississippi	South Dakota
Delaware	Missouri	Tennessee
Florida	Montana	Texas
Georgia	Nebraska	Utah
Hawaii	Nevada	Vermont
Idaho	New Hampshire	Virginia
Illinois	New Jersey	Washington
Indiana	New Mexico	West Virginia
Iowa	New York	Wisconsin
Kansas	North Carolina	Wyoming
Kentucky	North Dakota	

## Alphabetical List of U.S. Capital Cities

Albany	Dover	Oklahoma City
Annapolis	Frankfort	Olympia
Atlanta	Harrisburg	Phoenix
Augusta	Hartford	Pierre
Austin	Helena	Providence
Baton Rouge	Honolulu	Raleigh
Bismarck	Indianapolis	Richmond
Boise	Jackson	Sacramento
Boston	Jefferson City	Salem
Carson City	Juneau	Salt Lake City
Charleston	Lansing	Santa Fe
Cheyenne	Lincoln	Springfield
Columbia	Little Rock	St. Paul
Columbus	Madison	Tallahassee
Concord	Montgomery	Topeka
Denver	Montpelier	Trenton
Des Moines	Nashville	

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