

The Little Bird[©]

A Twice-Weekly Newsletter For Curious Seniors Nancy A. Franks, Editor

Topic: State Capitals Across The United States

“Where’d you hear that?” “The Little Bird[©] told me!”



Smallest Area



(Photo Source: enchantedlearning.com)

You’d have no problem exploring every inch of Maryland’s state capital. That’s because Annapolis’s area is just 6.7 square miles – the smallest in land size of all fifty state capitals in the United States. Annapolis is home to the world’s largest crab festival. It is also known as the sailing capital of the United States.

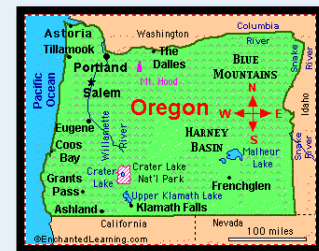
Largest Area



(Photo Source: enchantedlearning.com)

Want to explore the largest state capital in land area? Head to Alaska! Juneau spans 3,255 square miles. Don’t plan on driving. Juneau is only accessible by ferry or plane. If you happen to visit on June 21st, you’ll enjoy 18 hours and 18 minutes of full daylight to spot 280 species of birds, as well as brown and black bears.

Westernmost



(Photo Source: enchantedlearning.com)

Salem, Oregon is the westernmost state capital in the contiguous United States. Over the years, Salem has had three state capitol buildings. The first, built in 1854, burned to the ground just 11 days after its dedication. The second stood from 1876 to 1935 before being destroyed by fire. The third, which opened in 1938, is still standing.

Oldest & Highest



(Photo Source: enchantedlearning.com)

Santa Fe, New Mexico is situated in the foothills of the southern Rocky Mountains. With an elevation of 7,199 feet above sea level, it is the highest state capital in the country. Established by Mexicans in 1610, Santa Fe is also the oldest capital in the United States. Residents and visitors enjoy plenty of sunshine. The city soaks up approximately 300 days of sunlight each year.

Geographic Center



(Photo Source: enchantedlearning.com)

The geographic center of the contiguous United States is located about two miles southwest of Labanon, Kansas. Topeka, Kansas is the state capital closest to the geographic center. The United State Navy has honored the city by naming three ships, *USS Topeka*. On May 17, 1954, the Landmark United States Supreme Court case, *Brown v. the Board Of Education Of Topeka* was decided. Chief Justice Earl Warren declared that segregation in public schools due to race is unconstitutional. On April 10, 2001 Topeka was the starting point for the Tristate Hailstorm, the most damaging hailstorm ever recorded.

Largest Population



(Photo Source: enchantedlearning.com)

If you like crowds, head to Phoenix, Arizona. In 2020, the population was 1,703, 080 – a number that continues to rise. Phoenix enjoys 344 days of sunshine each year and approximately 100 days of 100° F or above. Residents and visitors do not have to remember to “spring ahead” or “fall back” like the rest of the United States. Arizona does not follow the daylight savings time schedule.

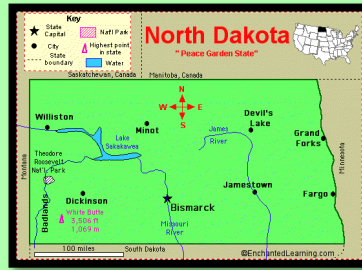
Tallest Capitol Building



(Photo Source: enchantedlearning.com)

Even if you have trouble following directions, you'll easily find the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge. That's because the 32-story building rises 450 feet in the air. Governor Huey Long insisted that it have a tower resembling a modern skyscraper. It is the tallest state capitol building in the country. The three-hour battle of Baton Rouge was the only battle of the American Revolutionary War that was fought outside of the thirteen colonies.

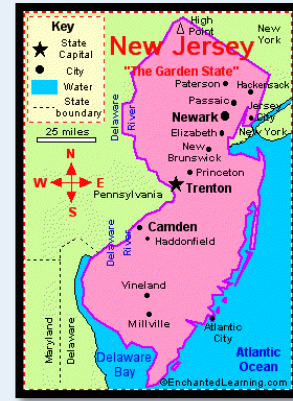
Coldest Winter



(Photo Source: enchantedlearning.com)

If you're traveling to North Dakota next winter, bundle up! Bismarck has the lowest average winter temperature of all of the state capitals in the United States. That's right! It's more frigid than Juneau, Alaska and Augusta, Maine! There's no need to worry. Residents and visitors to Bismarck are treated to warm weather during the summer months. In July, the average temperature is 85.5° F. To guarantee more usable space, the state capitol building is a skyscraper, not a domed building. Three other states have skyscrapers as their state houses: Louisiana, Florida, and Nebraska.

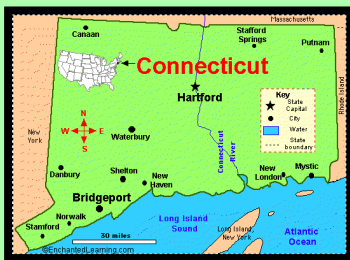
Former U.S. Capital



(Photo Source: enchantedlearning.com)

Trenton is the capital of New Jersey, but in 1784, it had an even greater honor. From November 1st to December 24th, it served as the nation's capital. The Congress of The Confederation met at the French Arms Tavern. Very little business took place during this time, except for a farewell address delivered by the Marquis de Lafayette. Only one other state capital served as our nation's capital - Annapolis, Maryland. Congress met in Annapolis from 1783 to 1784.

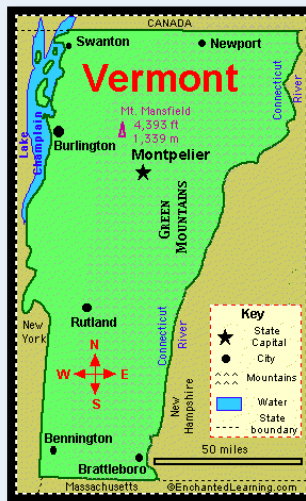
Presidential Ride



(Photo Source: americanhistory.org)

On August 22, 1902, President Teddy Roosevelt rode through the streets of Hartford, Connecticut in an electric car. Although President William McKinley was our country's first leader to ride in an automobile, President Roosevelt was the first to do so in public. People lined the streets to catch a glimpse of the President and Colonel J.L. Greene drive by in the Columbia Electric Victoria Phaeton. The car was surrounded on men on horseback and people driving Columbia bicycles. Spectators had no reason to shout, "Slow down! The electric car had a maximum speed of just 13 miles per hour.

Least Populated



(Photo Source: enchantedlearning.com)

With a population of 7,245 in 2020, Montpelier is the least populated state capital in the United States. The population is expected to decline in the coming years.

Smallest State Capitals By Population

- #2: Pierre, South Dakota
- #3: Augusta, Maine
- #4: Frankfort, Kentucky
- #5: Juneau, Alaska
- #6: Helena, Montana

Rainiest Capital



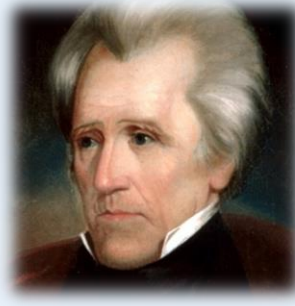
(Photo Source: americanhistory.org)

If you're heading to Washington, be sure to pack your umbrella, raincoat, and rubber boots! Olympia is the rainiest state capital in the country. Each year, Olympia receives approximately 53 inches of rain - 15 inches over the U.S average. While in Olympia, be sure to check out the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Throughout the year, it is visited by 200 species of bird that use the refuge for nesting and habitat. You may see a great blue heron, an American bittern, or the peregrine falcon. If you're very lucky, you might spot pronghorn antelopes, box turtles, or migratory orca whales.

Presidential State Capitals



Abraham Lincoln
1809 - 1865
(Photo Source: biography.com)



Andrew Jackson
1767 - 1845
(Photo Source: biography.com)



James Madison
1751 - 1836
(Photo Source: biography.com)



Thomas Jefferson
1743 - 1826
(Photo Source: biography.com)

Four of our fifty states chose to name their capital cities after one of our nation's former Presidents.

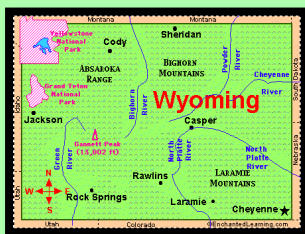
The village of Lancaster, Nebraska was renamed Lincoln after our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. It became Nebraska's state capital in 1869.

In 1821, the new capital city of Mississippi was named after General Andrew Jackson to recognize his efforts in the Battle Of New Orleans during the War Of 1812. Jackson went on to serve as the country's 7th President.

Exactly four months after the death of our 4th President in 1839, legislators of the Wisconsin Territory approved Madison as the capital city. The city's streets were named after the remaining 39 signers of the U.S. Constitution.

When Missouri Territory legislators decided to relocate from St. Louis to the village of Lohman's Landing, Names for the new state capital were proposed. "Missouriopolis" was one creative suggestion. Finally, legislators chose Jefferson City to honor our country's third President, Thomas Jefferson.

Not Centrally Located Off The Beaten Track



(Photo Source: enchantedlearning.com)



(Photo Source: enchantedlearning.com)

Look at the above map of Wyoming. The capital city of Cheyenne is located in the southeastern corner of the state, just eight miles north of the Colorado border. In fact, Cheyenne is one of the least centrally located state capitals in the United States. Others include Topeka, Kansas, Carson City, Nevada, and Juneau, Alaska.

Pierre, South Dakota is one of just four state capitals that are not served by an interstate highway. The other three are Juneau, Alaska, Dover, Delaware, and Jefferson City, Missouri. Pierre further stands out by being the only state capital without access to an expressway. Pierre is the second least populated state capital.

State Capital Jokes & Puns

My friend asked me how I was enjoying my visit to the state capital of Oklahoma.

I answered, "It's an o.k. city."

WEST



Oklahoma City

(Image Source: commons.wikimedia.com)

What's Goliath's least favorite state capital?
Little Rock



(Image Source: aaroads.com)

The capital of Connecticut is Hartford some people to remember.



(Photo Source: blogs.brown.edu)



Don't miss the next issue of **The Little Bird**!

XXX The Little Bird

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