

Map Label Detectives

Use place names and map regions to identify states, capitals, and U.S. territories.

SS.5.G.1.6 "Locate and identify states, capitals, and United States Territories on a map."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the passage, circle every named state, underline every named capital city, and draw a box around every named U.S. territory. Your marks will help you sort the labels you need to locate on a map.

Finding U.S. Places

- ① A United States map can show states, capitals, and territories. States are parts of the nation, and each state has a capital city. In the Northeast, find Maine and its capital, Augusta. Farther south, find Texas and its capital, Austin. These labels tell you whether a place is a state or the city where that state government meets.
- ② On the western side of a map, locate Alaska, whose capital is Juneau. In the Pacific Ocean, locate the island state of Hawaii and its capital, Honolulu. A map may place Alaska in a small inset box, separate from the other states, so read the label carefully. Capitals are often marked with a special symbol and printed beside the city name.
- ③ United States territories belong to the United States, but they are not states. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are in the Caribbean. Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands are in the western Pacific, while American Samoa is in the South Pacific. To locate a territory, first find the ocean or region named on the map, then match the territory label to that area.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

Which state has the capital city Augusta?

2

What capital city should you find when you locate Hawaii?

3

Which state may appear in an inset box on a map, and what is its capital?

4

Name the two U.S. territories located in the western Pacific.

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use a United States map supplied by your teacher. Choose two states and their capitals, plus two U.S. territories, that are not named in Questions 1 through 4. Place numbers 1 through 4 beside the places on the map, then complete the matching table.

MAP #	PLACE	TYPE	CAPITAL OR REGION

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In the passage, circle every named state, underline every named capital city, and draw a box around every named U.S. territory. Your marks will help you sort the labels you need to locate on a map. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which state has the capital city Augusta?	Maine
2	What capital city should you find when you locate Hawaii?	Honolulu
3	Which state may appear in an inset box on a map, and what is its capital?	Alaska, Juneau
4	Name the two U.S. territories located in the western Pacific.	Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

MAP #	PLACE	TYPE	CAPITAL OR REGION
1	Oregon	State	Salem
2	New York	State	Albany
3	Puerto Rico	U.S. territory	Caribbean
4	American Samoa	U.S. territory	South Pacific

Accept correctly spelled place names and matching state-capital pairs. For Your Turn, verify that each number is placed at the correct location on the map and that the two territories were not named in Questions 1 through 4.