

Capital Search Route

Use map clues to connect states, capitals, and the nation's capital.

SS.7.G.1.1 "Locate the fifty states and their capital cities in addition to the nation's capital on a map."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every state name, circle every capital city name, and write 1 beside Washington, D.C., to identify the nation's capital. Your marks will help you match each capital with its correct place.

Finding Places on a Political Map

- ① A United States political map shows state boundaries and names. It also marks each state capital, the city where state government meets. Before locating places, read the map key, or legend. A small star or dot may stand for a capital. Washington, D.C., is the nation's capital. It lies in the District of Columbia on the eastern side of the country, but the district is not one of the fifty states. Careful map readers trace boundaries before naming places.
- ② To build a reliable search pattern, begin at an edge of the country and move across rows of states. In the Pacific Northwest, Washington sits above Oregon. Olympia is Washington's capital, while Salem is Oregon's capital. Farther south, California's capital is Sacramento. East of California is Nevada, whose capital is Carson City. On a map, use state borders and nearby states to check each match. A capital label alone is not enough, because you must connect it to the correct state.
- ③ Another route begins in the center and continues east. Kansas has Topeka as its capital, and Missouri has Jefferson City. Tennessee's capital, Nashville, is farther east and south of Missouri. In the Northeast, Albany is the capital of New York. These examples show why location words matter. When you locate a state and capital, identify the state first, then find its capital symbol inside its boundary. Finally, check the legend and nearby labels before recording the pair.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

- 1
- What is the nation’s capital, and what district is it in?
-
-
- 2
- According to the passage, which state is above Oregon, and what is that state’s capital?
-
-
- 3
- Which state is east of California, and what capital city belongs to that state?
-
-
- 4
- After you find a state boundary, what should you find inside it, and what should you check afterward?
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-

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use the U.S. political map in your classroom atlas. If you do not have an atlas, use the teacher-provided U.S. political map. In the first table row, write one state and its capital for each named region. In the second row, write a map-based location clue for each choice.

NORTHEAST: STATE AND CAPITAL, THEN CLUE	SOUTHEAST: STATE AND CAPITAL, THEN CLUE	MIDWEST: STATE AND CAPITAL, THEN CLUE	WEST: STATE AND CAPITAL, THEN CLUE

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every state name, circle every capital city name, and write 1 beside Washington, D.C., to identify the nation's capital. Your marks will help you match each capital with its correct place. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the nation's capital, and what district is it in?	Washington, D.C., is the nation's capital. It is in the District of Columbia.
2	According to the passage, which state is above Oregon, and what is that state's capital?	Washington is above Oregon. Its capital is Olympia.
3	Which state is east of California, and what capital city belongs to that state?	Nevada is east of California. Its capital is Carson City.
4	After you find a state boundary, what should you find inside it, and what should you check afterward?	Find the capital symbol inside the boundary. Then check the legend and nearby labels.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

NORTHEAST: STATE AND CAPITAL, THEN CLUE	SOUTHEAST: STATE AND CAPITAL, THEN CLUE	MIDWEST: STATE AND CAPITAL, THEN CLUE	WEST: STATE AND CAPITAL, THEN CLUE
Maine, Augusta	Georgia, Atlanta	Illinois, Springfield	Utah, Salt Lake City
Far northeastern Atlantic coast	Above Florida on the southeastern coast	Near the center of the country	Interior West, east of Nevada

For Part 3, accept any correctly matched state and capital in each named region using your classroom atlas or map convention, with a reasonable location clue based on the political map. Do not accept Washington, D.C., as a state.