

City State Search

Use political-map clues to locate major U.S. cities and states.

5.6.C “locate on a map important political features such as the five largest cities by population in the United States and the 50 states; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each city name and circle the state name paired with it. Number the five city-state pairs 1 through 5 in population order so you can connect each city dot to its state on a political map.

Reading a Political Map

- ① A political map shows places shaped by people and government. It uses boundaries to separate the 50 states. State names or abbreviations label each area. A map also marks cities with dots or other symbols. Use the title, legend, and compass rose to understand what you see. The United States has states that touch oceans, states in the middle, and states along its northern and southern borders.
- ② In the 2020 Census, the five largest U.S. cities by population were New York City, New York; Los Angeles, California; Chicago, Illinois; Houston, Texas; and Phoenix, Arizona. A city name and state name work together as a location clue. To locate Houston, find Texas first, then find the city symbol within that state on a political map.
- ③ New York City lies in the Northeast, on the Atlantic side. Los Angeles is in the West, on California's Pacific coast. Chicago is in the Midwest near Lake Michigan. Houston is in the South, in Texas. Phoenix is in the Southwest, in Arizona. On a map, compare each city dot with state borders and nearby water. This helps you check that you found the correct city and state.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

What political feature separates the 50 states on a political map?

2

Why should you locate Texas before locating Houston?

3

When you locate Phoenix, what state should you find first?

4

Name two map clues you can compare to check that you found the correct city and state.

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use a classroom atlas or political map of the United States to locate all five cities from the passage. Complete the table with each city, its state, and a map clue such as a region, coast, or nearby lake.

CITY	STATE	MAP CLUE

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each city name and circle the state name paired with it. Number the five city-state pairs 1 through 5 in population order so you can connect each city dot to its state on a political map. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What political feature separates the 50 states on a political map?	State boundaries.
2	Why should you locate Texas before locating Houston?	Houston is in Texas, so finding the state helps you find the city symbol within it.
3	When you locate Phoenix, what state should you find first?	Arizona.
4	Name two map clues you can compare to check that you found the correct city and state.	State borders and nearby water.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

CITY	STATE	MAP CLUE
New York City	New York	Northeast, on the Atlantic side
Los Angeles	California	West, on the Pacific coast
Chicago	Illinois	Midwest, near Lake Michigan
Houston	Texas	South
Phoenix	Arizona	Southwest

Accept the five city-state matches listed in the passage. For the map-clue column, accept accurate regional, coastal, or nearby-water descriptions verified on a political map.