

Lesson 6: Environment of the United States (2 Days)

Getting Started

✿ Questions to Explore

- How do people's environments meet their needs?
- How does the environment affect living things?
- How do people affect the environment?



Facts and Definitions

- The U.S. can be divided into five regions: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, and West.
- Every state has a city that is the state capital.

⦿ Skills

- Identify natural resources and cite ways to conserve and replenish natural resources. (SS)
- Identify and describe the people, vegetation, and animal life specific to certain regions and describe their interdependence. (SS)
- Cite ways people modify the physical environment to meet their needs. (SS)
- Explain how people depend on the environment to meet certain needs. (SS)
- Identify natural resources and cite ways to conserve and replenish natural resources. (SS)
- Represent data in tables and graphical displays to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season. (S)
- Obtain and combine information to describe climates in the United States. (S)
- Obtain and combine information to describe that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and their uses affect the environment. (S)

✂ Materials

- atlas* (Introduction - optional)
- scissors
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Introduction

Show your child a map of the United States. Look for different bodies of water, landforms, and major cities. Explain to your child that there are many types of environments in the U.S. Some environments have very cool weather most of the year, while others have very hot weather most of the year.

In some environments in the U.S., there are many plants and animal resources, while other environments have resources that come from the ground.



Map of the United States

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11568/



Google Earth

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11567/

Google Earth allows you explore any place in the world, including zooming in or out of the US.

Activities

Activity 1: Regions of the U.S.

Explain to your child that the continental United States is divided into five major regions: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, and West. Tell your child that the regions of the United States are grouped by history, traditions, economy, climate, and geography. Each region is different from the others. Tell her that the states of Alaska and Hawaii are not physically attached to the the other 48 states, so they are their own regions. You may want to show her Alaska and Hawaii on a world map so she better understands their size and location.

Give your child the "Regions of the U.S." page and ask her to choose colors for each region and color in the boxes on the map key. Then she should color the states found in each region according to the colors she chose. Ask your child to identify the region of her state. Then discuss different states your family has traveled to and where they are located.

Activity 2: States and Capitals

Explain to your child that one very important place in a state is the capital city. The capital city of a state has many people living in it and is also the place where the government of the state makes many decisions that will affect the people and environment.

The "Capitals" and "States" activity pages contain cards for a memory game to help your child memorize the states and capitals. She will color each state's picture according to the region where it is found (see Activity 1) and then trace over the name of the capital city in the same color. Cut out the cards and place them face down. To play, turn over one card and then another, trying to find the matching state or capital. You can take turns and play with a sibling or friend.

Begin with states in your region of the country. Continue the game until your child matches all states in her region with their capital city. When your child has memorized these states and capitals, add a new region or part of a region. Eventually, your child will memorize the states, borders, and capital cities.

Play this game on a regular basis over the next couple of months.

Activity 3: U.S. Landforms and Bodies of Water

Discuss the various landforms found in the United States on the "U.S. Landforms and Bodies of Water" page. Locate each landform on a map of the U.S., in an atlas, or online.

Ask your child to select one landform or body of water to learn more about. Help your child locate information about the landform or body of water.

Day 2

Activity 4: Weather in the U.S.

On the "Weather in the U.S." sheet, your child will create a weather map of the U.S. for a typical October. This map will compare the temperatures of various regions. Let her shade the map according to the key. Next, discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in each region, based on its temperature.

Activity 5: U.S. Resource Map

On the "U.S. Resource Map," ask your child to draw a symbol and label each resource within the borders of each state listed. Then ask her to decide which regions she would most enjoy living in based on the natural resources. Note that some states have a variety of natural resources, even though the map shows just one for a handful of states. If your state has a resource not mentioned, your child can draw it on the map.

Ask your child questions that show she understands and can interpret the resource map. These may include the following:

- What are two resources found in the South?
- What are two resources found in the Northeast?
- What are some states that produce the same resource?

Activity 6: My State

Tell your child that you want her to make a map of her state. Ask her to shade the state according to its temperature, to include a major landform, a major body of water, and three natural resources found in the state. Let her draw the outline of her state on a blank piece of paper. Provide assistance as needed. The map should have a key, labels, and a title.



Map of the United States

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11569/

Click on a state to view various types of maps about that state.

Wrapping Up

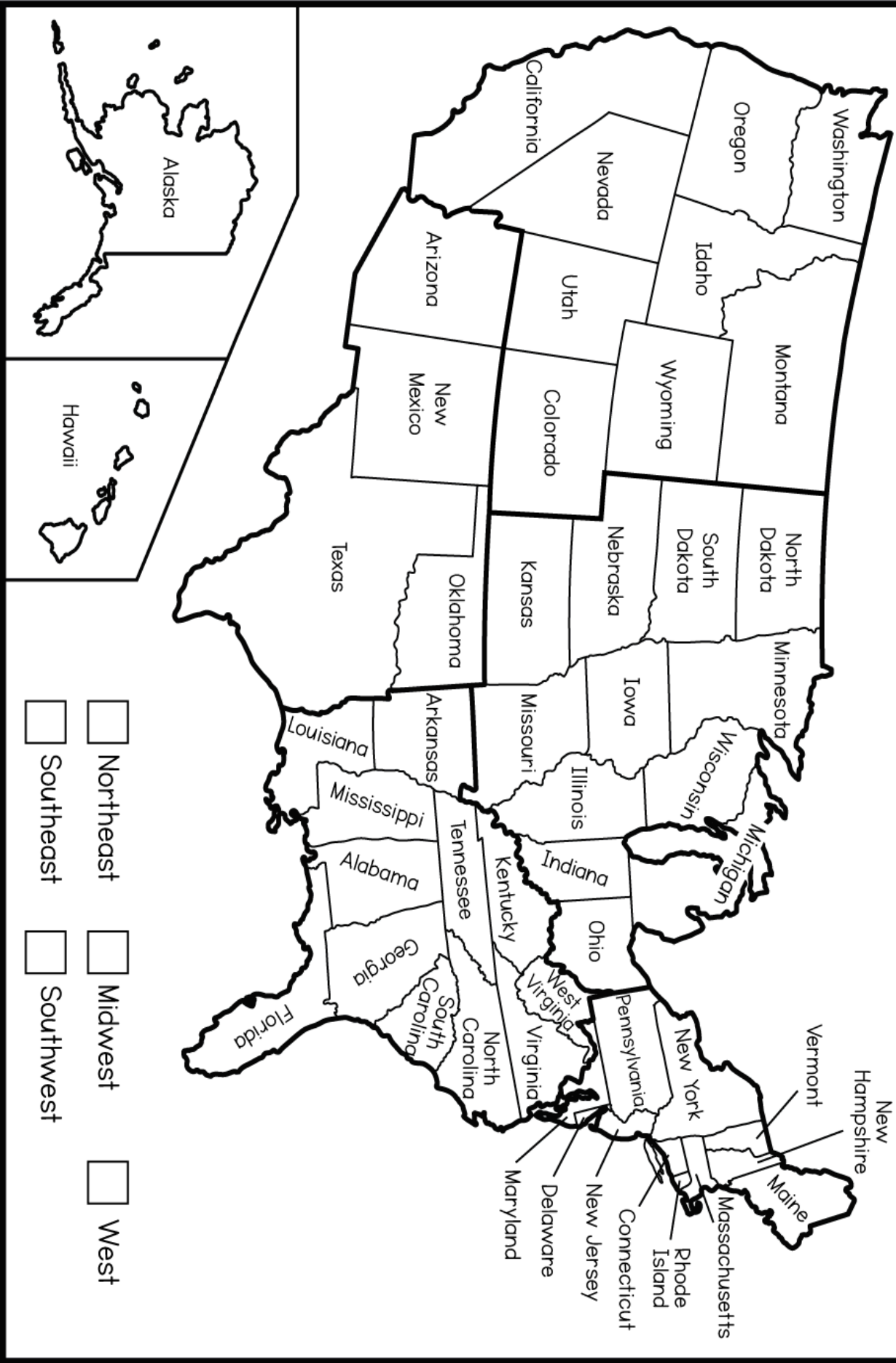
Ask your child to identify the different regions on a map of the U.S. and discuss how the regions are different.

Life Application

Take a field trip to a unique landform, body of water, or other important environmental location in your state.

Regions of the US

Directions: Color the regions of the United States according to the key provided.



- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ☐ Northeast | ☐ Midwest | ☐ West |
| ☐ Southeast | ☐ Southwest | |

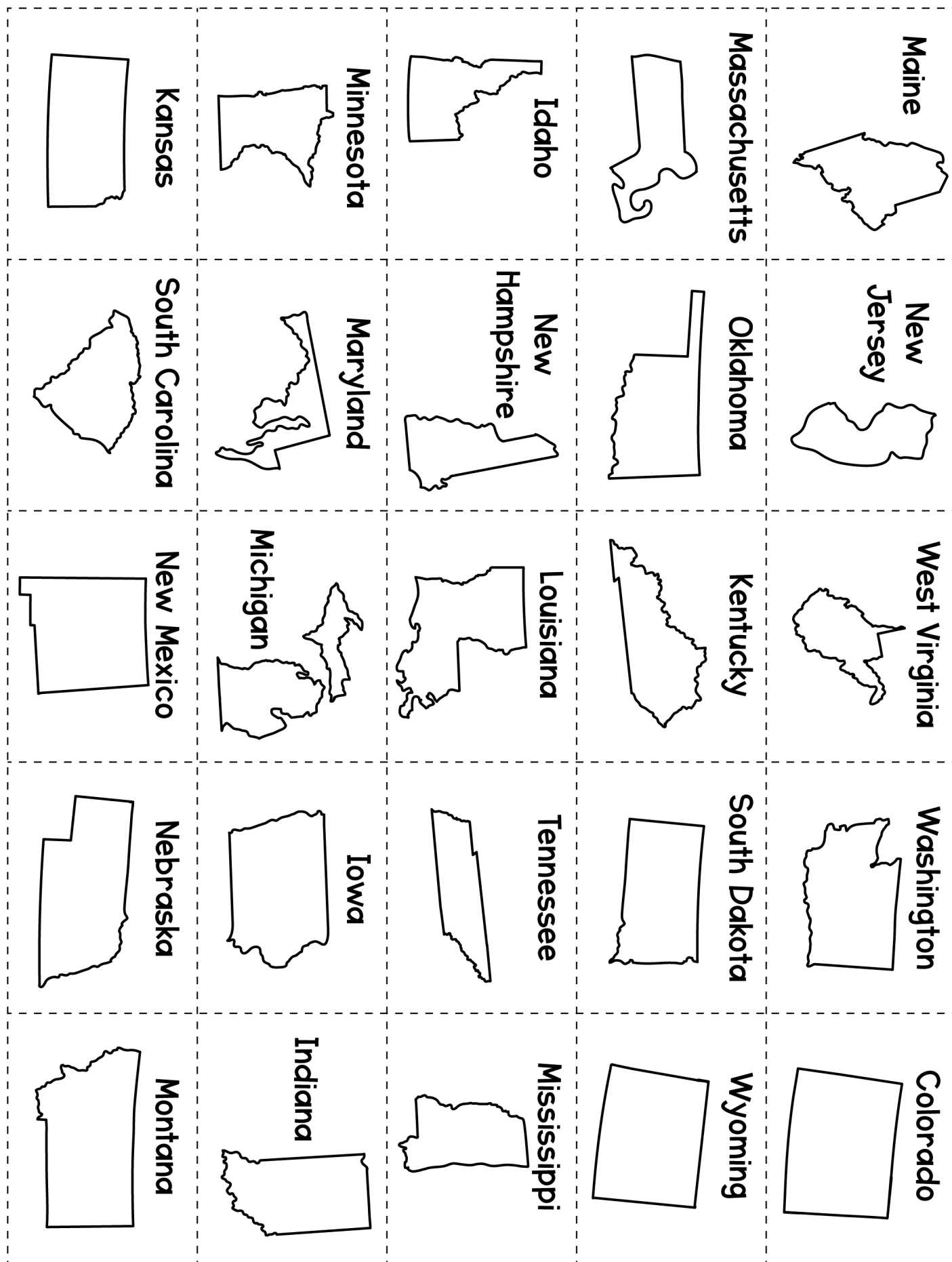
States and Capitals!

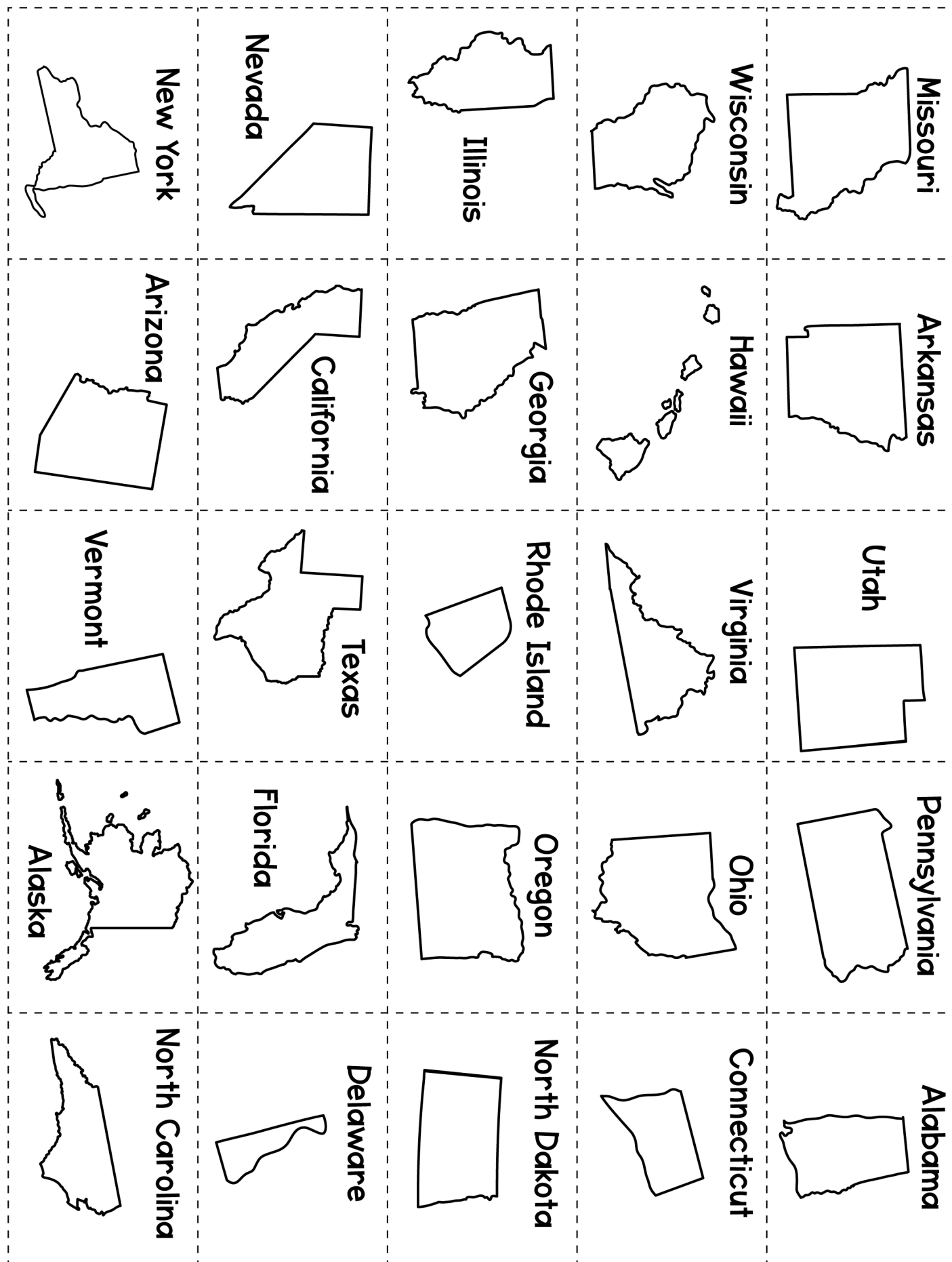
Alabama	Montgomery	Montana	Helena
Alaska	Juneau	Nebraska	Lincoln
Arizona	Phoenix	Nevada	Carson City
Arkansas	Little Rock	New Hampshire	Concord
California	Sacramento	New Jersey	Trenton
Colorado	Denver	New Mexico	Santa Fe
Connecticut	Hartford	New York	Albany
Delaware	Dover	North Carolina	Raleigh
Florida	Tallahassee	North Dakota	Bismarck
Georgia	Atlanta	Ohio	Columbus
Hawaii	Honolulu	Oklahoma	Oklahoma City
Idaho	Boise	Oregon	Salem
Illinois	Springfield	Pennsylvania	Harrisburg
Indiana	Indianapolis	Rhode Island	Providence
Iowa	Des Moines	South Carolina	Columbia
Kansas	Topeka	South Dakota	Pierre
Kentucky	Frankfort	Tennessee	Nashville
Louisiana	Baton Rouge	Texas	Austin
Maine	Augusta	Utah	Salt Lake City
Maryland	Annapolis	Vermont	Montpelier
Massachusetts	Boston	Virginia	Richmond
Michigan	Lansing	Washington	Olympia
Minnesota	St. Paul	West Virginia	Charleston
Mississippi	Jackson	Wisconsin	Madison
Missouri	Jefferson City	Wyoming	Cheyenne

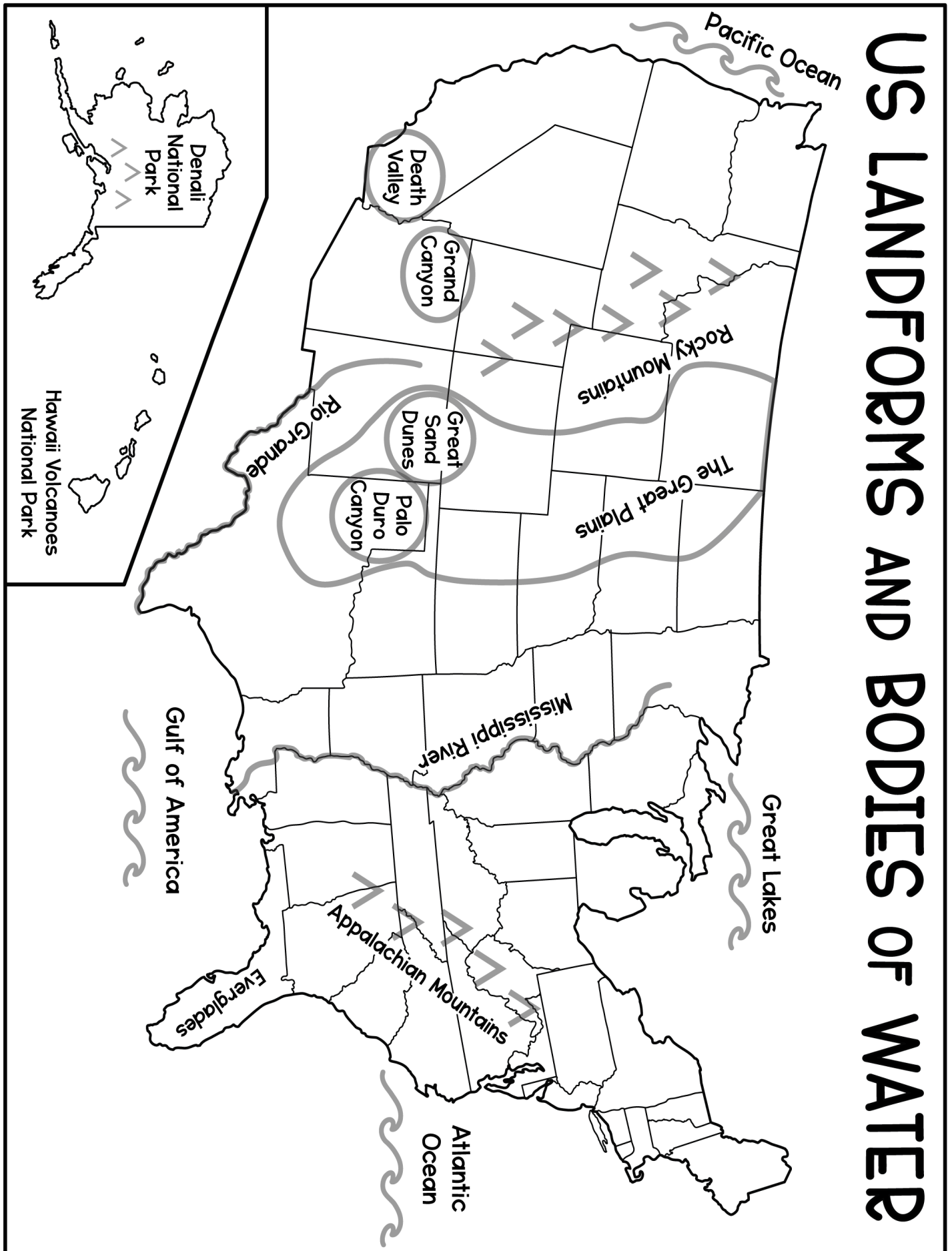


Jefferson City	Providence	Cheyenne	Lincoln	Juneau
Tallahassee	Oklahoma City	Madison	Hartford	Frankfort
Augusta	Des Moines	Sacramento	Nashville	Pierre
Annapolis	Saint Paul	Honolulu	Salt Lake City	Topeka
Jackson	Indianapolis	Harrisburg	Richmond	Little Rock

Santa Fe	Olympia	Columbus	Albany	Raleigh
Montgomery	Charleston	Denver	Trenton	Columbia
Helena	Phoenix	Bismark	Atlanta	Austin
Boston	Baton Rouge	Salem	Boise	Concord
Lansing	Montpelier	Dover	Springfield	Carson City

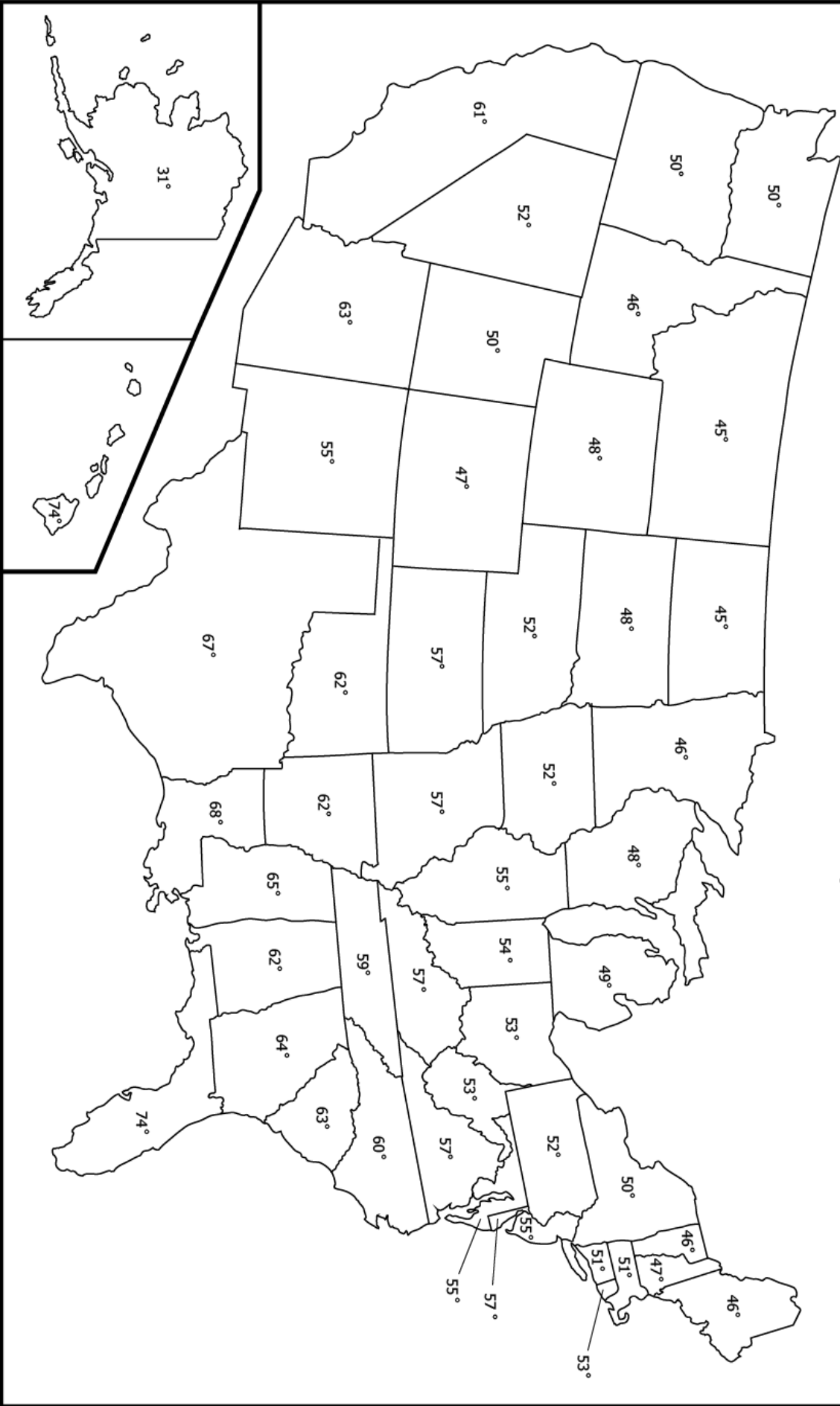






Weather in the US

Directions: Create a weather map of the United States for the month of October. Shade the map according to the key.

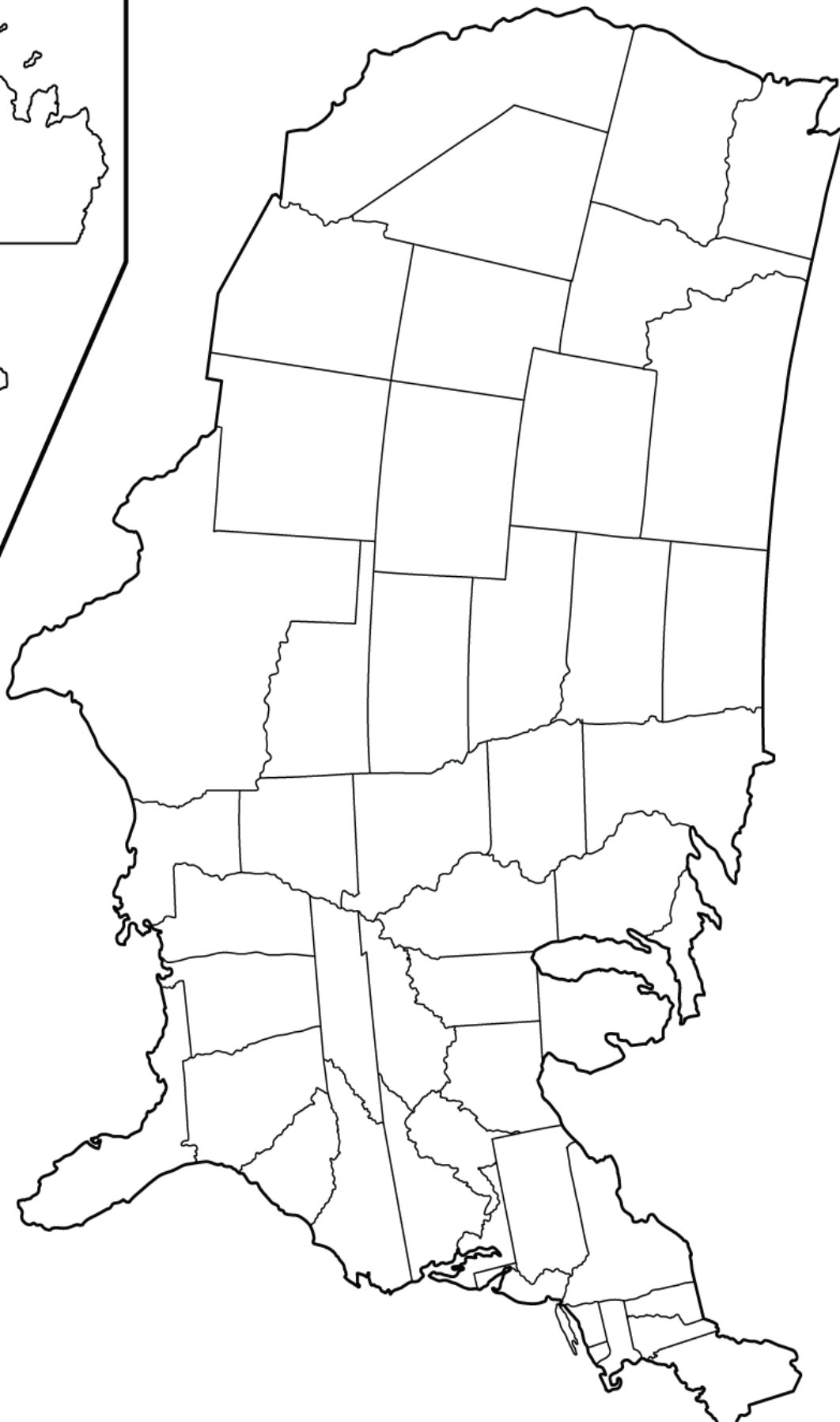


KEY

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ 70-79 degrees - RED | ☐ 60-69 degrees - ORANGE | ☐ 40-49 degrees - GREEN |
| ☐ 50-59 degrees - YELLOW | ☐ 30-39 degrees - BLUE | |

US Resource Map

Directions: Draw a symbol and label the resource for each state listed.



Vermont: maple syrup

Georgia: peanuts

Florida: oranges

California: grapes

Washington: apples

Kansas: wheat

New Mexico: pecans

Texas: oil

Arizona: copper

West Virginia: coal

Idaho: potatoes

Arkansas: rice

Alaska: salmon

Wyoming: beans