**STATE MOUNTAINS**

Adirondacks .......................Northeastern New York mountains, site of Lake Champlain and Mount Marcy, the state’s

Highest point

Alleghenies.........................Appalachian Mountain range extending from central Pennsylvania through western Maryland,

eastern West Virginia, and western Virginia

Appalachians......................North America’s oldest and second largest mountain system, extending from Quebec,

Canada, to Birmingham, Alabama—its tallest mountain is Mount Mitchell, in North Carolina

Blue Ridge..........................Range of the Appalachians extending from southeastern Pennsylvania to Georgia—its tallest

mountain is Mount Mitchell, in North Carolina

Cascades............................Mountain chain extending from northern California to British Columbia—it’s known for Mount

Rainier, its highest peak, and Mount St. Helens, both in Washington

Great Smokies....................Range of the Blue Ridge Mountains forming the boundary between Tennessee and North

Carolina, named for the smokelike mist that hangs over it—its tallest mountain is Clingman’s

Dome in Tennessee

Pikes Peak..........................Colorado mountain named after Zebulon Pike

Rocky Mountains ...............North America’s largest mountain system, extending more than 3,000 miles through 8 states—

New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Alaska—its highest

peak is Mt. Elbert in Colorado

Sierra Nevada....................Large granite mountain range in eastern California whose highest point is Mount Whitney

**STATE RIVERS**

Arkansas .......................1,500-mile-long river that rises in Colorado and flows through Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas

and then into the Mississippi-Missouri river system

Colorado .......................1,450-mile-long river that rises in Colorado and flows into Utah, Arizona, and Nevada, then

forms the Arizona-California border before emptying into the Gulf of California—it flows through

Arizona’s Grand Canyon

Columbia.......................1,240-mile-long river that rises in the Canadian Rockies in British Columbia, flows into

Washington and along the Washington-Oregon border before emptying into the Pacific Ocean

Hudson .........................300-mile-long river in New York that rises in the Adirondacks and empties into the Atlantic

Ocean at New York City

Mississippi\*....................2,348-mile-long river flowing from Lake Itasca in Minnesota and emptying into the Gulf of Mexico

Missouri\*\*......................2,315-mile-long river flowing from the Jefferson River in Montana and emptying into the

Mississippi River

Ohio ..............................981-mile-long river beginning in Pittsburgh and emptying into the Mississippi in Illinois—it forms

the southern borders of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois and the northern boundaries of West Virginia

and Kentucky

Potomac........................250-mile-long river forming the boundary between Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia and

flowing past Washington, D.C., and Mount Vernon—it rises in the Allegheny Mountains and

empties into the Chesapeake Bay

Rio Grande...................1,885-mile-long river rising in Colorado, flowing into New Mexico, and then Texas—it forms the

boundary between Mexico and the U.S. and its name means “large river”

St. Lawrence................ 800-mile-long river from Lake Ontario that empties into the Gulf of St. Lawrence—it links the

Atlantic Ocean with the Great Lakes by means of the St. Lawrence Seaway, makes up part of

New York’s border, and is called the “Mother of Canada”

Snake............................1,038-mile-long river rising in Wyoming in Yellowstone National Park and joining the Columbia

River in Washington

\*Some sources list the Mississippi at 2,240 miles, making it the second longest river

\*\*Some sources list the Missouri at 2,540 miles, making it the longest river.

**STATES AND FEATURES OF THEIR FLAGS**

Alabama..........................A saltire or X-shaped crimson St. Andrew’s cross on a white field, patterned after the

Confederate Battle Flag

Alaska ............................7 gold stars that represent the Big Dipper and a larger star representing the North

Star or Polaris

Arkansas .......................Diamond-shaped center with 4 stars

California........................Grizzly bear and a red star for what was known as the “Bear Flag Republic”

Colorado ........................Red letter C encompassing a golden disk or ball

Delaware .......................State coat of arms, with a farmer and a rifleman and the state motto “Liberty and

Independence,” on a buff-colored diamond above the date December 7, 1787

Florida............................State seal, with the sun’s rays illuminating a steamboat and an Indian woman with the

state motto “In God We Trust,” in a red saltire or X-shaped cross

Georgia .........................Three red and white stripes and the state coat of arms on a blue field in the upper left

corner; thirteen stars surround the seal

Hawaii ...........................Union Jack in the upper left with 8 horizontal stripes representing the 8 main islands

Kansas ..........................Sunflower above the state seal which shows a man plowing a field, and the state

motto *Ad Astra Per Aspera* at the top and 34 stars below

Kentucky .......................Goldenrod below the state seal, which has two men greeting each other and the state

motto “United We Stand, Divided We Fall”

Louisiana ......................Pelican feeding its young above the state motto “Union, Justice, and Confidence”

Maine............................Pine tree, moose, farmer, and sailor below the state motto Dirigo and, a star

representing the North Star above the motto

Maryland.......................Gold-and-black pattern for the Calverts and red and white ornate crosses for the

Crossland family

Mississippi.....................Battle Flag of the Confederacy in the upper left and 3 horizontal blue, white, and red

stripes

Nevada..........................Gold and green insignia with the motto “Battle Born” and sagebrush forming a half-

wreath for a silver star

New Mexico ..................Red and yellow colors of the Spanish flag and the ancient sun symbol of the Zia

Indians

New York ......................State coat of arms with Justice and Liberty standing next to a shield, a bald eagle atop

a globe, and a banner with the state motto Excelsior

Ohio ..............................Pennant-shaped with 3 red and 2 white bars for its roads and rivers and a blue triangle

for its hills and valleys, with 17 white stars surrounding a white circle with a red disk at

its center

Oklahoma......................Shield, peace pipe, and an olive branch

Oregon..........................On one side the state seal, which is a shield encircled by 33 stars, and topped by a

bald eagle, and on the reverse, a gold beaver

South Carolina ..............White palmetto tree in the center and a white crescent moon in the upper left corner

Texas.............................Lone white star on the left and 2 horizontal bars of white and red on the right

Utah ..............................State seal, which has a beehive and the state motto “Industry,” and the dates 1847

and 1896, for the Mormons’ arrival in the Salt Lake Valley and the state’s admission to

the Union, respectively

Virginia..........................State seal with Virtue standing over a fallen Tyranny along with the motto *Sic semper*

*tyrannis*

Washington...................State seal, the date (1889), and a picture of the President after whom it was named

West Virginia ................Coat of arms showing the date June 20, 1863, on a rock and the state motto *Montani*

*Semper Liberi*

Wisconsin ....................State seal, which has the state motto “Forward” on the upper scroll above a badger, 13

stars on the lower scroll, and a sailor and a workman with a pick supporting the coat of

arms

Wyoming ......................State seal on the ribs of a white bison

**QUESTIONS ON FLAGS**

1) Which 2 states are known for having the Confederate flag as part of their flags?

**Answer: Georgia (it has a smaller Confederate flag on it as of 2001) and Mississippi.**

2) Which 2 states have a red saltire or X-shaped cross as part of their flag?

**Answer: Alabama and Florida.**

3) Identify all of the following: the only state flag that has a different design—a gold beaver—on the reverse, the only one that is neither square nor rectangular, and the only one with a picture of a U.S. President on it.

**Answer: Oregon / Ohio (pennant-shaped) / Washington.**

4) What is the most popular name for the red, white, and blue national flag of the U.S., what name did Francis Scott Key give it in 1814, and what name did William Driver, a Massachusetts seaman, give it in 1824?

**Answer: Stars and Stripes / Star-Spangled Banner / “Old Glory.”**