Charles I gave land to colonists who went to live there. To honor him, they named the colony Carolina. In 1729, it was divided into North and South Carolina.

Another state was named after Charles I’s wife: Queen Henrietta Maria. The colonists used the queen’s second name—Maria—for the colony’s name, Maryland.

Two states are also named after Queen Elizabeth I of England. She was known as the Virgin Queen because she never married. These states are called Virginia and West Virginia.

Finally, one state is named for a French king. French settlers named their colony after their king—Louis XIV. That land was later bought by the United States, but the state of Louisiana kept the name of the French king.

Some places were also named for places in another country. New York and New Jersey, for example, were named for York and Jersey, places in England.

Every state’s name has a history. What does your state’s name mean?
The Hidden Meanings of Names

Put all these words in the right places and complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about state names. You can reread the article if you want to before completing the puzzle, but don’t look back at the article while you are doing the puzzle. When you complete the puzzle, read your summary to someone.

Many state names tell you something important about that state’s _________________. Because Native Americans often traveled in boats, Missouri may mean “people of the big _________________.“ Also, because Kentucky had large fields, its name may mean ________________ in Native American languages. Many states were named after kings and _________________.

Georgia was named for King _________________. North and South Carolina were named after King _________________.

______________ was named after King Charles’ wife, Queen Henrietta Marie. Virginia and ________________ were named after Queen Elizabeth I, who was called the virgin queen because she never married. ________________ was named for a French king named Louis. Some states are named for places in other countries. New Jersey and ________________ are named for places in England: Jersey and York.
Review
The Hidden Meaning of Names

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.

For more information about TextProject and FYI for Kids, visit textproject.org
v.1.0 © 2014 TextProject, Inc. Some rights reserved (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/).
Image painted in 1633 by Anthony van Dyke. Released into public domain due to an expired copyright.