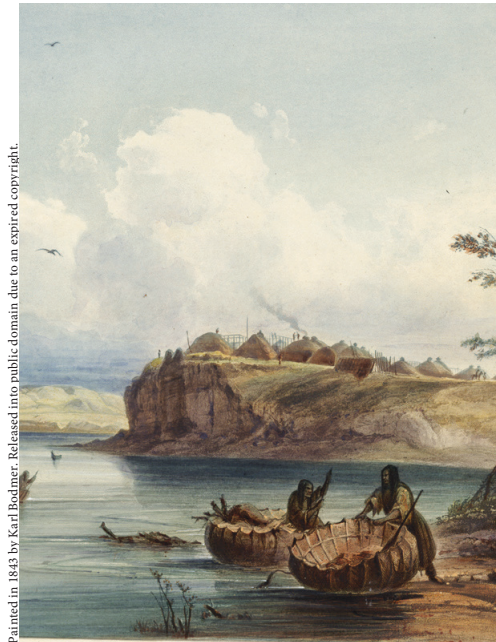


The Hidden Meanings of Names

volume 1
issue 9



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What is the name of your state? What does the name mean? Place names often tell about the history of a place. They may also honor important people.

Many states in the United States have names that come from the language of the native people who lived in the area. Missouri may mean “people of the big canoes,” and Kentucky may mean “meadow” in

Native American languages.

Even though the United States has never had a king or queen, seven of the 50 states are named for kings or queens. These states were named by the European explorers who claimed them. Georgia was founded in 1733 as a British colony. The colony’s founders named it for the king of England—King George II. Georgia kept the name even after the American Revolution, when England no longer ruled the United States.

Two states are named after another English king, Charles I. In 1629, long before the American Revolution,

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?



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Name _____

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.



canoes	Charles	George	history	queens
Louisiana	Maryland	meadow	New York	West Virginia

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.

Comprehension Response Activities FYI for Kids — Level 1



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REVIEW

The Hidden Meaning of Names

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



Handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. There are 12 sets of these lines.



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