

# US State Capitals Quiz

General Knowledge Online • Printable Quiz Sheet

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**Q1: If you were visiting the Yellowhammer State, where would you find its seat of government?**

- [A] Birmingham
- [B] Mobile
- [C] Montgomery
- [D] Huntsville

**Q2: Which Alaskan city holds the unique title of being the only US capital accessible strictly by boat or plane?**

- [A] Anchorage
- [B] Juneau
- [C] Fairbanks
- [D] Sitka

**Q3: Phoenix is well known as the capital of Arizona, but what makes its metropolitan area particularly notable among state capitals?**

- [A] It is the coldest state capital
- [B] It is the most populous state capital in the US
- [C] It was built entirely underground
- [D] It sits at the highest altitude in North America

**Q4: Many people assume Little Rock was always the focal point of Arkansas, but which river does this central capital overlook?**

- [A] Mississippi River
- [B] Arkansas River
- [C] White River
- [D] Red River

**Q5: California's economy is massive, but where do state lawmakers actually meet to pass legislation?**

- [A] Los Angeles
- [B] San Francisco
- [C] Sacramento
- [D] San Jose

**Q6: Denver, Colorado is famously dubbed the "Mile High City." What specific landmark marks this exact elevation?**

- [A] The top floor of the city hall building
- [B] The 13th step on the West entrance of the State Capitol
- [C] The central fountain in City Park
- [D] The baseline at Coors Field stadium

**Q7: Hartford serves as the capital of Connecticut, but which major industry earned it a global nickname in the 19th century?**

- [A] The Automobile Capital
- [B] The Insurance Capital of the World
- [C] The Steel City of New England
- [D] The Shipbuilding Center

**Q8: Delaware was the very first state to ratify the US Constitution. Which historic city serves as its political capital?**

- [A] Wilmington
- [B] Dover
- [C] New Castle
- [D] Rehoboth Beach

**Q9: Florida has several huge cities like Miami and Orlando, yet its capital is located up in the Panhandle. What is its name?**

- [A] Tampa
- [B] Jacksonville
- [C] Tallahassee
- [D] Pensacola

**Q10: Atlanta is the undisputed powerhouse of Georgia today, but which famous Civil War event cemented its role as the state capital?**

- [A] The Battle of Milledgeville
- [B] The Atlantic Blockade
- [C] Sherman's March and the post-war rebuilding era
- [D] The Signing of the Treaty of Augusta

**Q11: What is the capital of Hawaii, located on the island of Oahu, famous for its royal palace and historic harbor?**

- [A] Hilo
- [B] Honolulu
- [C] Kailua
- [D] Kahului

**Q12: Idaho is famous worldwide for its potatoes, but what is the name of its capital nestled in the Treasure Valley?**

- [A] Idaho Falls
- [B] Boise
- [C] Pocatello
- [D] Coeur d'Alene

**Q13: Chicago dominates Illinois in terms of size, but which central city houses the state capital and Abraham Lincoln's home?**

- [A] Peoria
- [B] Springfield
- [C] Champaign
- [D] Rockford

**Q14: Indianapolis is famous for hosting the Indy 500 race, but what distinct layout feature characterizes its historic city center?**

- [A] A strict grid based along the shoreline
- [B] A central circular plaza with radiating diagonal avenues
- [C] A series of interconnected canalways
- [D] A multi-tiered ring-road setup

**Q15: Des Moines is the political heart of Iowa today, but what was the original meaning behind its river-based name?**

- [A] City of the Plain
- [B] From the Monks
- [C] Great Western Crossing
- [D] Rolling Green Hills

**Q16: Topeka serves as the capital of Kansas, but which famous 1954 Supreme Court decision put the city in the national spotlight?**

- [A] Roe v. Wade
- [B] Brown v. Board of Education
- [C] Marbury v. Madison
- [D] Plessy v. Ferguson

**Q17: Frankfort is the capital of Kentucky, but which major river flows through the heart of this historic town?**

- [A] Ohio River
- [B] Kentucky River
- [C] Mississippi River
- [D] Licking River

**Q18: Baton Rouge holds the capital title in Louisiana, but which architectural landmark sets its state capitol building apart from all others?**

- [A] It features an open-air glass dome
- [B] It is the tallest state capitol building in the United States
- [C] It was built entirely from imported French marble
- [D] It is shaped like an octagonal fort

**Q19: Augusta is the capital of Maine, but which famous American patriot built a fort here during the 18th century?**

- [A] Paul Revere
- [B] Benedict Arnold
- [C] Ethan Allen
- [D] John Adams

**Q20: Annapolis, Maryland, is famous for its maritime culture, but which federal institution is headquartered right along its waterfront?**

- [A] US Coast Guard Academy
- [B] US Naval Academy
- [C] Merchant Marine Academy
- [D] National Oceanic Center

**Q21: Boston, Massachusetts is one of America's oldest cities. What major historic walking trail connects its key revolutionary sites?**

- [A] The Patriots Way
- [B] The Freedom Trail
- [C] The Colonial Highway
- [D] The Liberty Path

**Q22: Lansing is the capital of Michigan today, but which automobile pioneer built his massive manufacturing operations here?**

- [A] Henry Ford
- [B] Ransom E. Olds
- [C] Walter Chrysler
- [D] Louis Chevrolet

**Q23: St. Paul forms one half of Minnesota's "Twin Cities." Which famous river borders this historic capital?**

- [A] Missouri River
- [B] Mississippi River
- [C] Red River
- [D] Minnesota River

**Q24: Jackson is the capital of Mississippi, but who was this southern city named after when it was founded in 1821?**

- [A] Stonewall Jackson
- [B] Andrew Jackson
- [C] Jesse Jackson
- [D] Thomas Jackson

**Q25: Jefferson City serves as the capital of Missouri. Which famous expedition set off near this area to explore the West?**

- [A] Pike Expedition
- [B] Lewis and Clark Expedition
- [C] Fremont Expedition
- [D] Boone Expedition

**Q26: Helena, Montana was established during the 1860s. What major discovery led to its rapid founding?**

- [A] Oil strikes
- [B] Gold in Last Chance Gulch
- [C] Copper mines
- [D] Silver veins

**Q27: Lincoln, Nebraska was originally named Lancaster. Why was its name changed to Lincoln right around the time of statehood?**

- [A] To honor Abraham Lincoln following his assassination
- [B] To win a federal mail delivery contract
- [C] It was drawn randomly from a hat
- [D] To copy a city in England

**Q28: Carson City, Nevada sits near Lake Tahoe. What massive silver strike in 1859 sparked its rapid development?**

- [A] The Cripple Creek Strike
- [B] The Comstock Lode
- [C] The Klondike Find
- [D] The Sutter's Mill Strike

**Q29: Concord is the capital of New Hampshire, but which famous American author wrote about his travels along its nearby river?**

- [A] Mark Twain
- [B] Henry David Thoreau
- [C] Nathaniel Hawthorne
- [D] Herman Melville

**Q30: Trenton, New Jersey was the site of a pivotal Revolutionary War battle. Which famous military maneuver preceded this surprise attack?**

- [A] The Midnight Ride
- [B] Washington crossing the icy Delaware River
- [C] The Siege of Yorktown
- [D] The Valley Forge March

**Q31: Santa Fe, New Mexico holds a remarkable historical milestone among all US capital cities. What is it?**

- [A] It has the largest land area
- [B] It is the oldest capital city in the United States
- [C] It was built without any roads
- [D] It sits at sea level

**Q32: Albany serves as the capital of New York, but which famous Dutch trading post name did it hold before the English took over?**

- [A] New Amsterdam
- [B] Fort Orange
- [C] Nieuw Haarlem
- [D] Peter Stuyvesant Burg

**Q33: Raleigh, North Carolina is known as the "City of Oaks," but which research network does it anchor alongside Durham and Chapel Hill?**

- [A] Tech Coast
- [B] The Research Triangle
- [C] Silicon Basin
- [D] Piedmont Innovation Belt

**Q34: Bismarck is the capital of North Dakota, but why was this Great Plains city named after a famous German chancellor?**

- [A] He personally visited the city in 1880
- [B] To attract German investment into the Northern Pacific Railway
- [C] The city's founders were born in Berlin
- [D] It was required by federal territorial laws

**Q35: Columbus, Ohio was selected as capital in 1812. Which major river flows through the heart of this college city?**

- [A] Ohio River
- [B] Scioto River
- [C] Cuyahoga River
- [D] Miami River

**Q36: Oklahoma City was founded during a legendary single-day historical event in 1889. What was it?**

- [A] The Great Oil Gusher
- [B] The Oklahoma Land Run
- [C] The Cattle Drive Boom
- [D] The Indian Territory Treaty

**Q37: Salem is the capital of Oregon today, but which agricultural valley surrounds this historic city?**

- [A] Rogue Valley
- [B] Willamette Valley
- [C] Hood River Valley
- [D] Umpqua Valley

**Q38: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania was a critical transportation stop during the 19th century. Which major river runs beside it?**

- [A] Delaware River
- [B] Susquehanna River
- [C] Allegheny River
- [D] Monongahela River

**Q39: Providence, Rhode Island was founded by Roger Williams in 1636. What core principle was the colony built around?**

- [A] Strict military dominance
- [B] Complete freedom of conscience and religious tolerance
- [C] Industrial manufacturing quotas
- [D] Exclusive royal trade charters

**Q40: Columbia was custom-built to be South Carolina's capital in 1786. What was the main reason for moving away from Charleston?**

- [A] Charleston was destroyed by a hurricane
- [B] To ease political tensions between coastal and inland farmers
- [C] To escape pirate raids
- [D] Due to rising sea levels

**Q41: Pierre is the capital of South Dakota, but what makes its geographic location noteworthy among US capitals?**

- [A] It sits at the exact geometric center of North America
- [B] It is situated near the geographic center of South Dakota on the Missouri River
- [C] It is completely surrounded by national parks
- [D] It sits on an island in the middle of a lake

**Q42: Nashville, Tennessee is globally famous as the "Music City," but which iconic radio show helped establish this reputation?**

- [A] The Louisiana Hayride
- [B] The Grand Ole Opry
- [C] The National Barn Dance
- [D] The Wheeling Jamboree

**Q43: Austin is the capital of Texas, but who was this vibrant central city named after when founded in 1839?**

- [A] Davy Crockett
- [B] Stephen F. Austin
- [C] Sam Houston
- [D] Jim Bowie

**Q44: Salt Lake City, Utah was founded in 1847. Which famous pioneer led the Mormon settlers into the valley?**

- [A] Joseph Smith
- [B] Brigham Young
- [C] Heber C. Kimball
- [D] Wilford Woodruff

**Q45: Montpelier, Vermont holds a specific population distinction among all 50 US state capitals. What is it?**

- [A] It has the highest population density
- [B] It is the smallest US state capital by population
- [C] It is the fastest-growing capital in America
- [D] It has the highest proportion of foreign residents

**Q46: Richmond, Virginia served as the capital of the Confederacy during the Civil War. Which major river runs through it?**

- [A] Potomac River
- [B] James River
- [C] Rappahannock River
- [D] York River

**Q47: Olympia is the capital of Washington, but which body of water borders this scenic northwestern city?**

- [A] Grays Harbor
- [B] Puget Sound (Budd Inlet)
- [C] Columbia River
- [D] Strait of Juan de Fuca



**Q48: Charleston, West Virginia sits along the Kanawha River. What natural resource boom brought explosive growth to this valley?**

- [A]** Gold mining
- [B]** Salt brines and coal mining
- [C]** Timber harvesting exclusively
- [D]** Natural gas gushers

**Q49: Madison, Wisconsin is built on a unique piece of land between two major lakes. What is this geographic feature called?**

- [A]** An Archipelago
- [B]** An Isthmus
- [C]** A Fjord
- [D]** A Delta

**Q50: Cheyenne, Wyoming began as a wild frontier outpost. What major transportation network created the city in 1867?**

- [A]** The Oregon Trail
- [B]** The Union Pacific Railroad
- [C]** The Pony Express Route
- [D]** The Santa Fe Trail