

Comparing and Contrasting Iowa and Minnesota

Name: _____

Iowa

Iowa is located in the Midwestern United States. Known as the Hawkeye State, Iowa borders Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Illinois, Missouri, and Nebraska. Iowa's land is dominated by grasslands, rolling hills, and prairies. It is the only state in which the eastern and western borders are made of water. The Mississippi River forms Iowa's eastern border and the Missouri River forms its western border. Iowa's capital and largest city is Des Moines, pronounced "dah-moin." Iowa became America's 29th state on December 27, 1846. It was carved from the Louisiana Territory, acquired by America from France in 1803. Today, over 3,100,000 people live in Iowa, making it the 29th largest state in terms of population in America.

Minnesota

Minnesota, nicknamed the Land of 10,000 Lakes, is located at the junction of three land regions: The Interior Lowlands, the Canadian Shield, and the Great Plains. It gets its nickname because it is full of freshwater lakes left behind by retreating glaciers. Not surprisingly, its state bird is the freshwater-dwelling Common Loon. The loon's haunting cries late at night typify the state's northern woods. Minnesota borders North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. It also borders Canada to the north.

Northeastern Minnesota borders Lake Superior, making Minnesota a Great Lakes state as well. Minnesota's capital is St. Paul. St. Paul is situated on the west side of the Mississippi River, directly across the river from Minnesota's largest city, Minneapolis. Together, the two cities are referred to as "the twin cities." Minnesota became America's 32nd state on May 11, 1858.

Which facts belong in each category?

Was a state first

Called the Land of 10,000 Lakes

The Mississippi River flows through

Capital and largest city are the same

Borders one of the great lakes

Borders South Dakota

Located in the southeastern United States

Borders more states

Borders another country

The Missouri River flows through

Minnesota

Both

Iowa

Neither

Answers:

Minnesota

**Called the Land of 10,000 Lakes
Borders one of the great lakes
Borders another country**

Both

**Was a state first
The Mississippi River flows through
Borders South Dakota**

Iowa

**Capital and largest city are the same
Borders more states
The Missouri River flows through**

Neither

Located in the northeastern United States