

MINNESOTA ACTIVITY PACKET



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Minnesota



Capital: [St. Paul](#)

Area: [86,943 sq. miles \(12th\)](#)

Population: [5,679,000 \(21st\)](#)

Date of Union Entry: [5/11/1858 \(32nd state\)](#)

State Bird: [Common Loon](#)

State Flower: [Pink and White Lady's Slipper](#)

State Tree: [Norway Pine](#)

Highest Point: [Eagle Mountain – 2,301 feet](#)

Motto: [“The Star of the North”](#)

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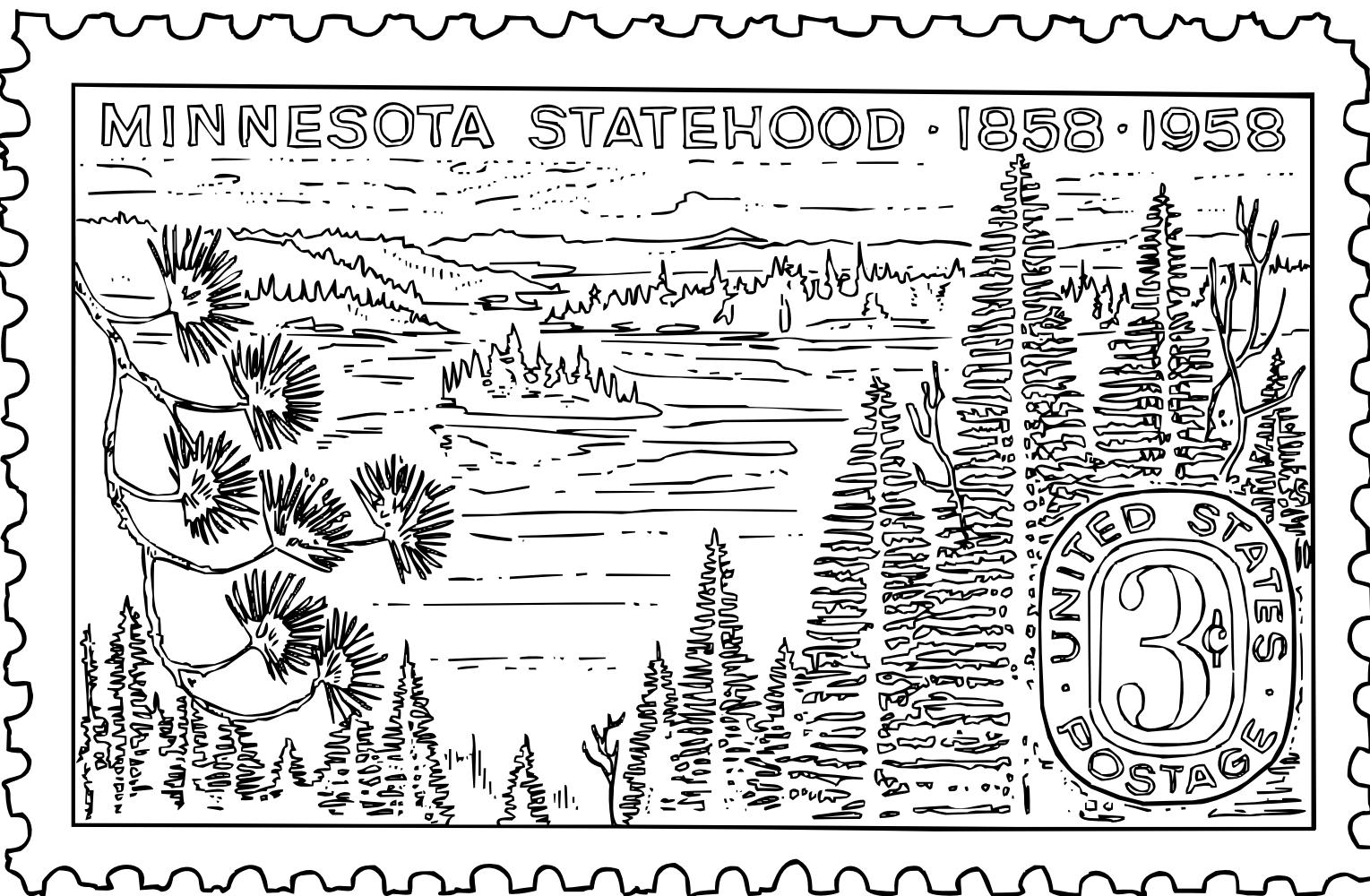


MINNESOTA

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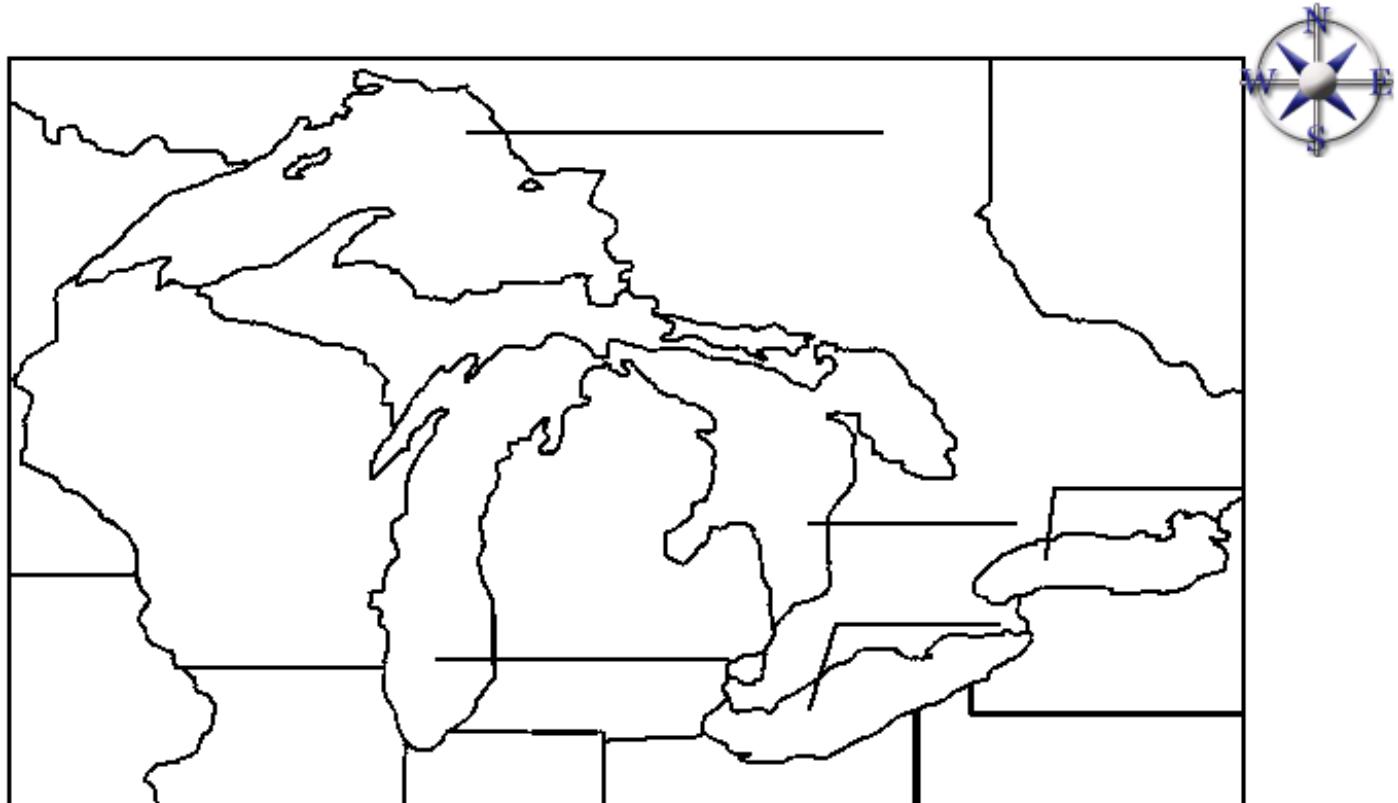
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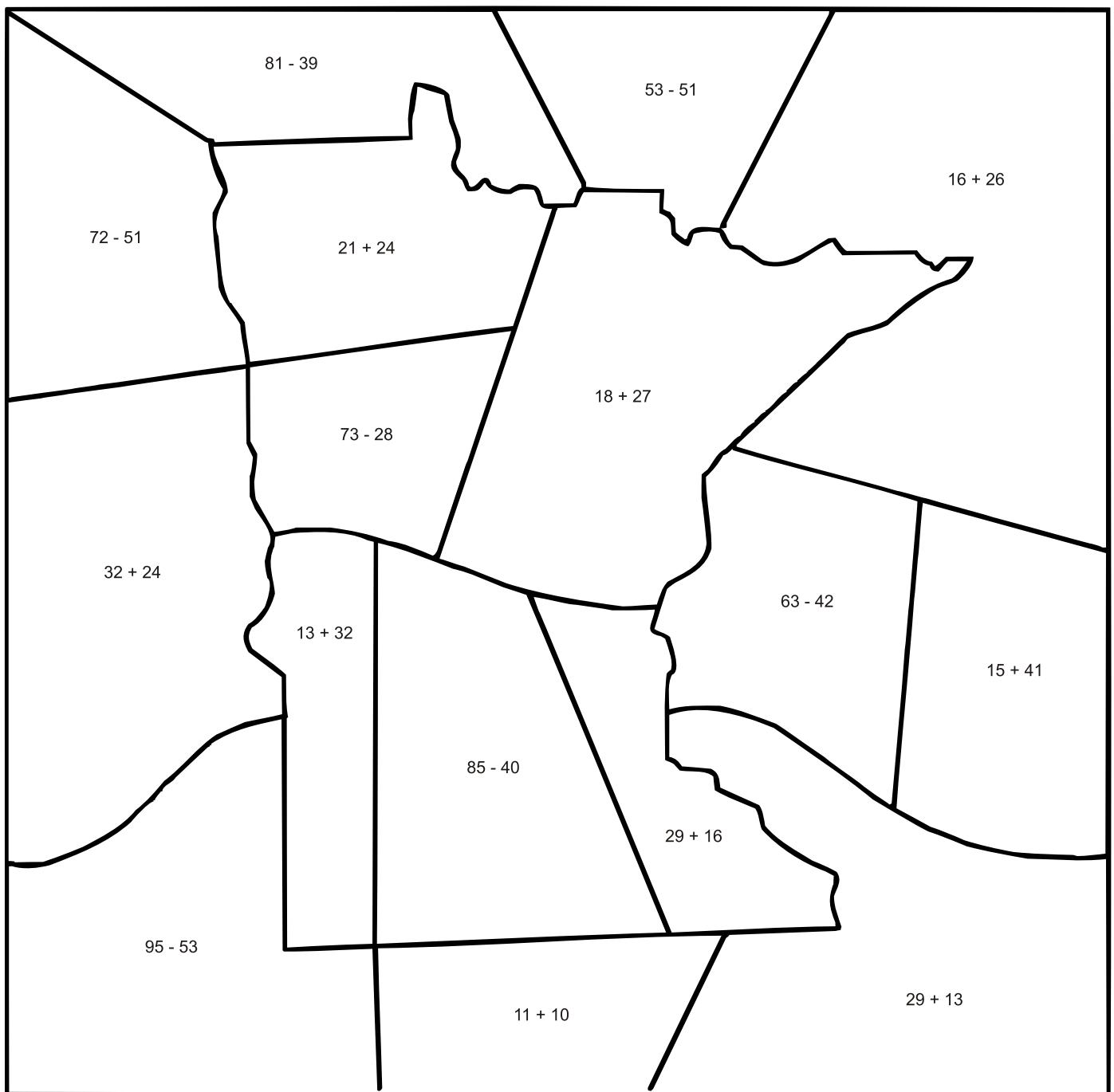


Minnesota Statehood stamp

3 cents

Great Lakes Label Map

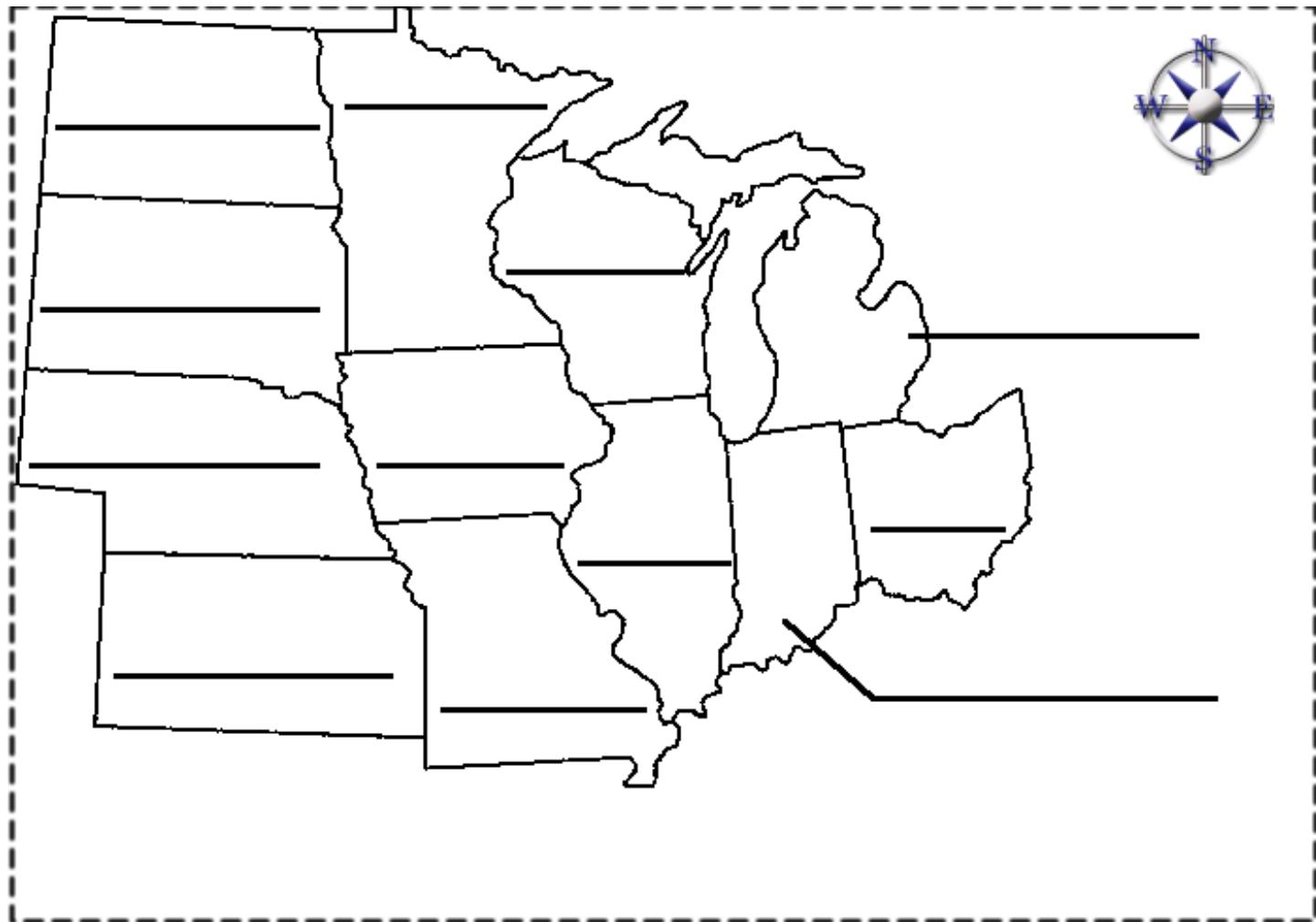




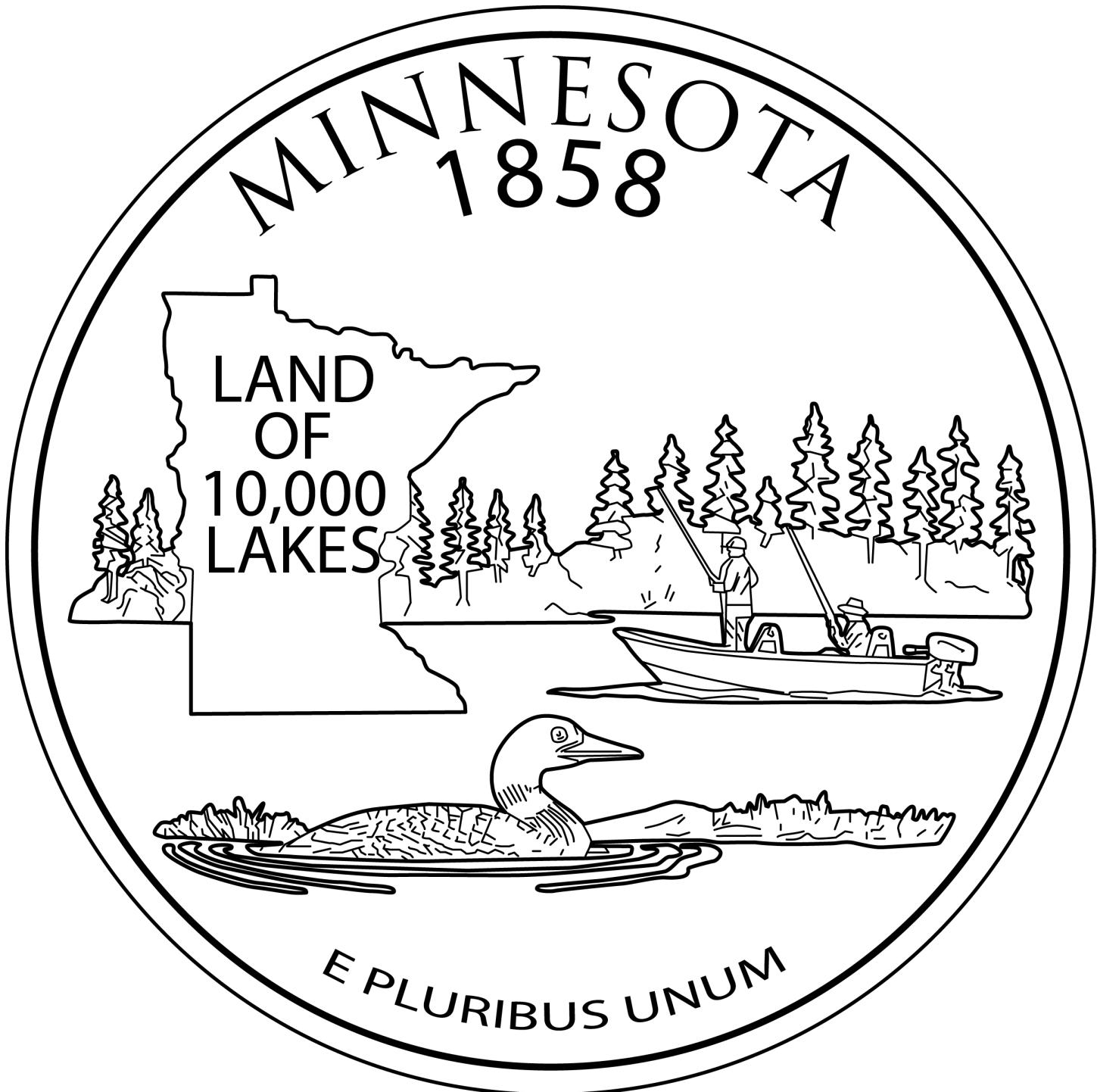
Do you know what state is pictured?

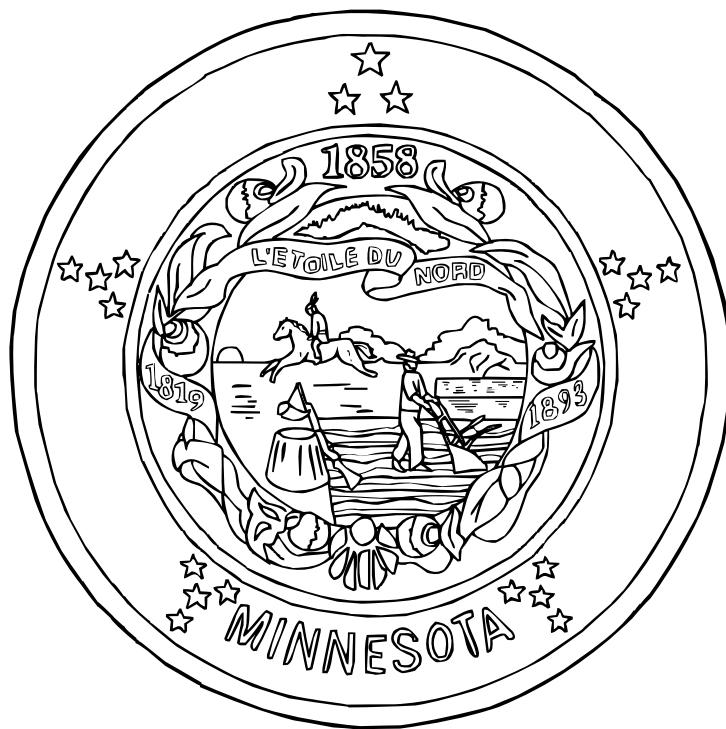
21 = Blue
42 = Red
45 = Yellow
56 = White

Midwestern States Label Map

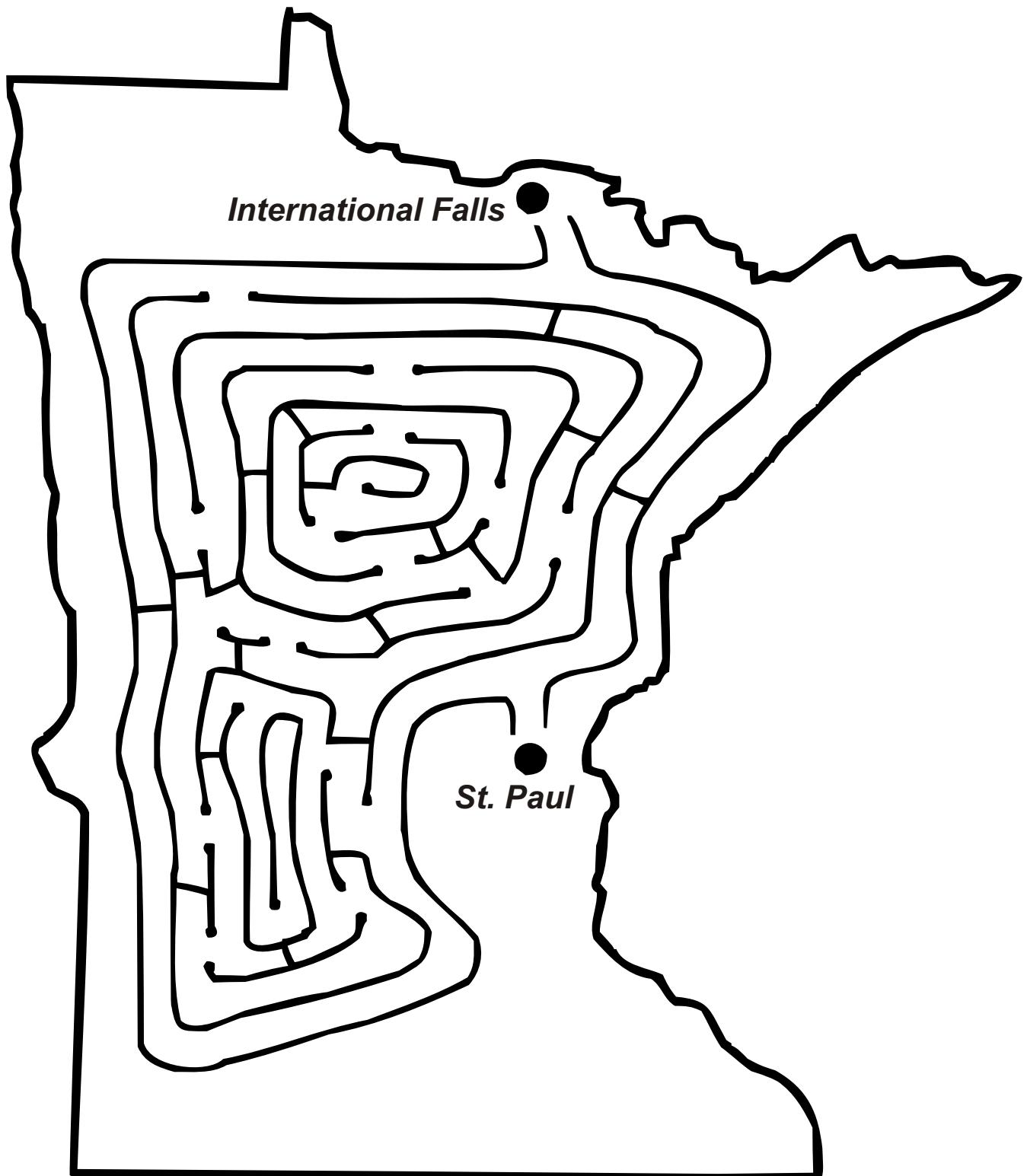


Minnesota State Quarter

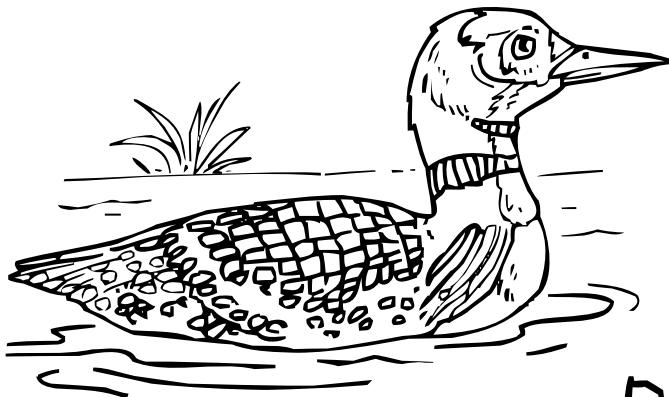




MINNESOTA



Minnesota - The Land of 10,000 Lakes



Common Loon

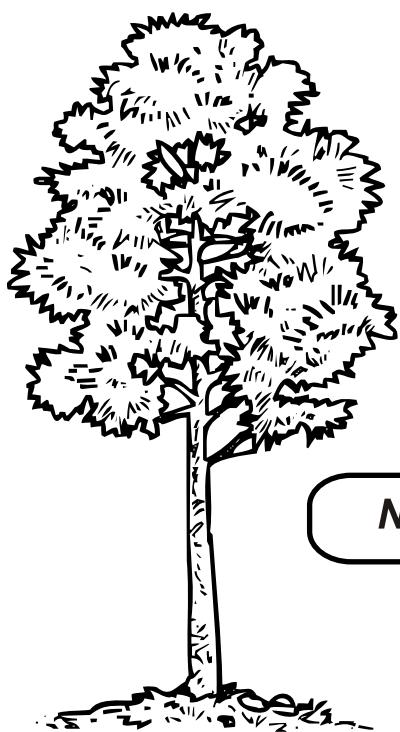


Pink and White
Lady's Slipper

Minnesota

St. Paul 

The Land of 10,000 Lakes

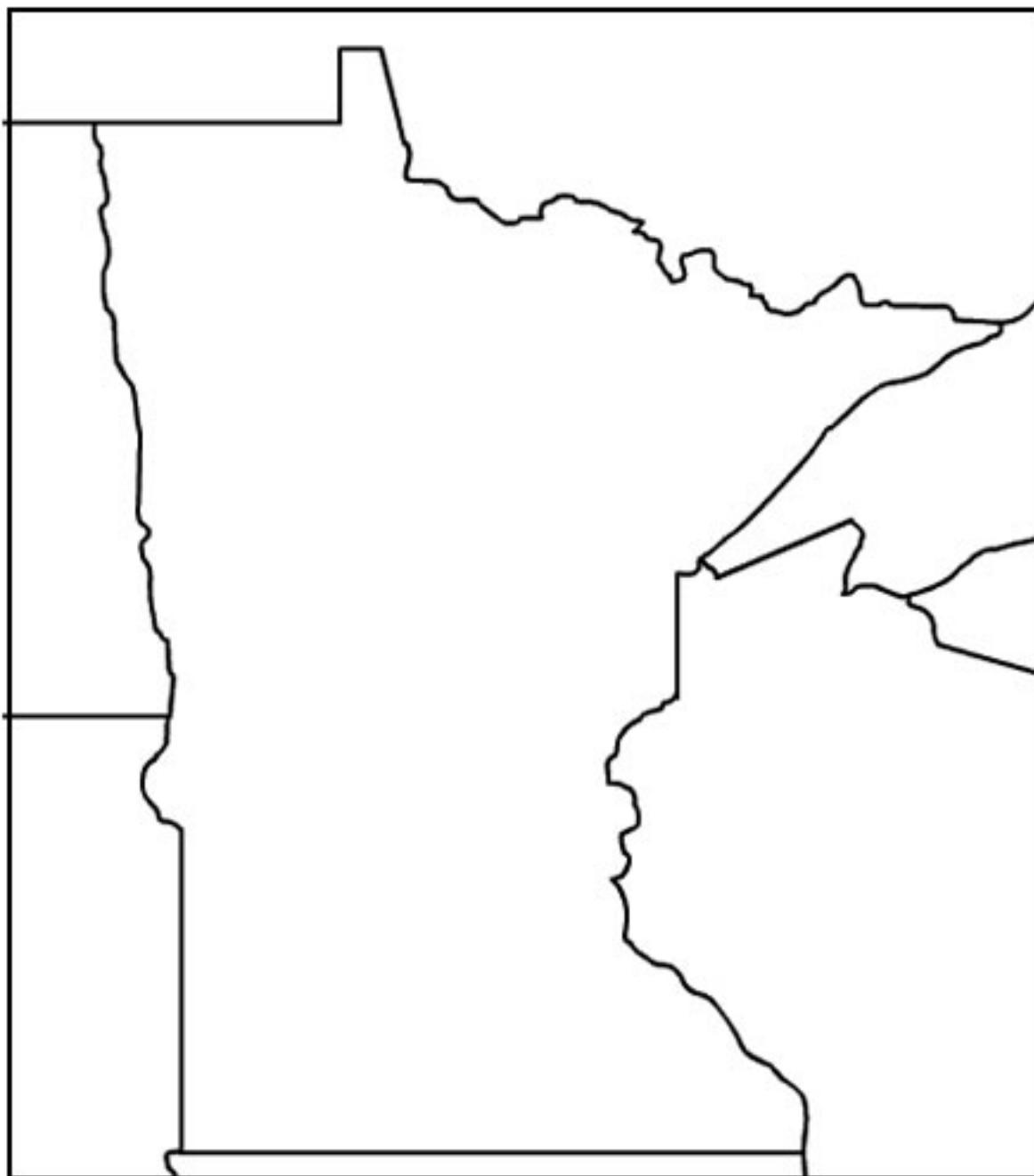


Norway Pine





Minnesota Printable Outline Map



The Legend

Paul Bunyan is a fictional, giant lumberjack in American lore. Said to have been born with a full beard, Paul Bunyan could fell a dozen trees with a single swing of his oversized ax and could outperform “machines” that, at the time, threatened the livelihood of lumberjacks. Together, with his 5,000-pound blue ox named Babe, whose footsteps allegedly became Minnesota’s 10,000 lakes, the legendary pair accomplished superhuman feats that involved clearing the land of trees. Most of the tales involved the oversized Bunyan and his ox fighting fearsome creatures, clearing wide swaths of land, or fighting off severe weather. The tale of Paul Bunyan was similar to other folktales of the time that involved the settlement, growth, or industrialization of America such as those of John Henry and Johnny Appleseed.

The History

The legend of Paul Bunyan was thought to have been born in the lumber camps of Minnesota in the late 1800s, though some historians insist the legend of Paul Bunyan is nothing more than “fakelore,” a literary invention that claims to be authentic folklore. Paul Bunyan was first mentioned in print in the *Duluth News Tribune* in 1904. His legend grew as part of a promotional campaign for the Red River Lumber Company. In 1958, Disney produced the successful musical *Paul Bunyan*, making him a household name.

Was he Real?

Historians are not in agreement whether or not Paul Bunyan, as a regular human actually existed. Some believe Paul Bunyan was born from a tough French-Canadian logger nicknamed “Saginaw Joe.” Others believe he was derived from a different logger named Bon Jean and that Paul Bunyan was born from the merging of the legends of Saginaw Joe and Bon Jean. Whether he existed or not, the spirit of Paul Bunyan and his ox live on. Numerous “larger-than-life” statues of the pair exist today, including a 49-foot-tall Paul Bunyan in California.

1. Which is true about Paul Bunyan?

- A. He was a huge lumberjack that could do unimaginable things
- B. He was part of a folktale that explained how America was settled
- C. He was a French-Canadian logger
- D. He was an invention made up by the Red River Lumber Company

2. Which of the following would not be included in the story of Paul Bunyan?

- A. Paul and Babe chopping down trees and clearing the land
- B. Paul and Babe fighting off tornados
- C. Paul and Babe fighting off deadly wildlife
- D. Paul and Babe using modern machinery of their time

3. What would folktales involving John Henry, Johnny Appleseed, and Paul Bunyan have in common?

- A. They all are folktales that involves animals
- B. They all are folktales that lumberjacks
- C. They all are modern folktales
- D. They are folktales about America's development

4. Paul Bunyan...

- A. may or may not be modeled from an actual person or people
- B. was a "faketale."
- C. first appeared in a Disney movie in 1958.
- D. was first mentioned in a lumber company promotional campaign.

5. For which of the following could "Saginaw Joe" be the answer?

- A. Who was Paul Bunyan?
- B. Was Paul Burney a real person?
- C. Who was one of the lumberjacks Paul Bunyan may have been modeled after?
- D. Which of Bon Jean's friends was Paul Bunyan modeled after?

6. Which of the following could replace "merging of" in the following sentence?

Others believe he was derived from a different logger named Bon Jean and that Paul Bunyan was born from the merging of the legends of Saginaw Joe and Bon Jean.

- A. explanation of
- B. combination of
- C. result of
- D. positioning of

7. What is a “household name” as used in the sentence below?

In 1958, Disney produced the successful musical *Paul Bunyan*, making him a household name.

- A. Someone everybody has heard of
- B. Someone people who live in houses have heard of
- C. Someone who owns one or more houses
- D. Someone who some homeowners have heard of

AURORAS Reading Comprehension

Auroras, often called Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) and Southern Lights (Aurora Australis), are spectacular light displays most commonly viewed in the polar regions. Auroras occur because of interactions between Earth's magnetic field and solar winds. The solar wind is a stream of charged particles emitted from the sun's corona that travels far into space at speeds of up to 400 miles per second. Charged particles within the solar winds collide with atmospheric atoms and molecules when they reach Earth's magnetic field. The collisions cause quantum leaps, which means the kinetic energy within the electrons of the particles are converted to light. The collisions of different particles result in different-colored lights. Atomic oxygen produces red and green lights; nitrogen produces pink, blue, or violet light; helium produces purple lights; and neon produces rippled orange light. Auroras come in a vast array of shapes and forms such as arcs, swirls, "curtains," and glowing shapes. They often appear to be moving.

Auroras often occur as a result of a geomagnetic storm. A geomagnetic storm is the temporary disturbance of the Earth's magnetic field as a result of an event in space such as a solar flare or coronal mass ejection (the ejection of charged particles from the sun's corona). In noteworthy geomagnetic storms, auroras can be seen well south (or north) of where they usually occur. The famous Great Geomagnetic Storms of 1859 produced what witnesses called the most spectacular auroras ever seen. Such auroras were seen throughout the United States, Japan, and Australia. The event lasted for almost a week.

1.) Quantum leaps are caused by...

- a.) the collision of solar winds with atoms and particles within Earth's magnetic fields.
- b.) the collision of solar winds with the sun's corona.
- c.) the collision of solar winds with Earth's winds.
- d.) the collapse of Earth's magnetic field.

2.) If the answer to a question is "the Geomagnetic Storms of 1859," what could be the question?

- a.) What was an example of a noteworthy geomagnetic storm?
- b.) Can auroras be seen away from the North or South Poles?
- c.) When do charged particles collide?
- d.) What is one way an aurora can form?

3.) Which of the following questions about auroras is NOT answered in the passage?

- a.) How many auroras normally occur in a year?
- b.) How fast does solar wind travel?
- c.) What are some reasons auroras occur?
- d.) Have auroras ever been seen in Australia?

4.) If you were to make a "recipe" for an aurora, which of the following "ingredients" would be unnecessary?

- a.) the conversion of kinetic energy to light
- b.) particle collisions
- c.) solar wind
- d.) people

5.) The collision of neon particles produces _____ light.

- a.) orange
- b.) red
- c.) purple
- d.) blue

6.) Where would I MOST likely view the Aurora Borealis?

- a.) equator
- b.) the sun
- c.) South Pole
- d.) North Pole

7.) Which is NOT true about auroras?

- a.) They often appear to be in motion.
- b.) They are most often viewed in the polar regions.
- c.) They can appear as curtains, shapes, or swirls.
- d.) A geomagnetic storm is a permanent disturbance in Earth's magnetic field.

8.) What could be an antonym of the word "commonly" in the sentence below:

Auroras, often called Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) and Southern Lights (Aurora Australis), are spectacular light displays most commonly viewed in the polar regions.

- a.) rarely
- b.) never
- c.) often
- d.) lately

9.) Which of the following could be an EFFECT of a geomagnetic storm?

- a.) Earth's magnetic field
- b.) an aurora
- c.) the sun
- d.) a mass coronal ejection

10.) What is the best definition of the word "emitted" as used in the sentence below:

The solar wind is a stream of charged particles emitted from the sun's corona that travels far into space at speeds of up to 400 miles per second.

- a.) grew
- b.) taken from
- c.) released
- d.) spun

Great Lakes

The Great Lakes are located in the northern United States and southern Canada. Together, they are the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world and contain over 20 percent of the world's entire supply of fresh water. The largest of the lakes, Lake Superior, is the second largest freshwater lake in the world. Lake Michigan is the only of the five lakes located entirely within the United States. The Great Lakes were formed from retreating glaciers that left large basins in the land about 14,000 years ago. The basins were filled with meltwater from the glaciers, thus forming the lakes.

The Great Lakes

Lake Superior – The largest of the great lakes is nearly the size of the state of Virginia. Lake Superior is about 350 miles long. It has an average depth of about 483 feet and a maximum depth of 1,333 feet. Duluth, Minnesota, is its largest port.

Lake Michigan – Lake Michigan is the only great lake located entirely within the United States. It is about 307 miles long. It has an average depth of 283 feet and a maximum depth of 923 feet. Its major ports are Chicago, Illinois, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Lake Huron – Lake Huron is the second-largest of the Great Lakes. It is about 206 miles long and 183 miles wide. On average, it's 195 feet deep with a maximum depth of 750 feet. The lake contains more than 30,000 islands and thus, has more shoreline than any other great lake.

Lake Erie – Lake Erie is the second-smallest of the Great Lakes. It is also the shallowest and has the least amount of water of any of the lakes. Its deepest point is only 210 feet. Its major ports include Toledo and Cleveland, Ohio, and Buffalo, New York.

Lake Ontario – Lake Ontario is the smallest of the Great Lakes. It serves as the outlet of the Great Lakes to the St. Lawrence Seaway, and thus, the Atlantic Ocean. Its major ports include Toronto, Ontario, and Rochester, New York

1. What do all of the Great Lakes have in common?

- A. They all have parts that are more than 500 feet deep
- B. They are all split between the United States and Canada
- C. They were all formed by retreating glaciers
- D. They all have major ports

2. Which of the following is true?

- A. Lake Erie is smaller than Lake Ontario
- B. Lake Huron is totally within the borders of the United States
- C. Lake Huron has more shoreline than any other of the Great Lakes
- D. Chicago is one of Lake Superior's major ports

3. Which of the following orders the Great Lakes from largest to smallest?

- A. Superior >> Michigan >> Huron >> Ontario >> Erie
- B. Michigan >> Superior >> Ontario >> Huron >> Erie
- C. Superior >> Huron >> Erie >> Michigan >> Ontario
- D. Superior >> Huron >> Michigan >> Erie >> Ontario

4. Which of the following best describes how the Great Lakes were formed?

- A. The Great Lakes were formed by glaciers that advanced
- B. The Great Lakes were formed by glaciers that retreated and then melted
- C. The Great Lakes were formed by glaciers that retreated and then froze again
- D. The Great Lakes were formed 14,000 years ago

5. Which of the following best describes the chart?

- A. It gives opinions about the Great Lakes
- B. It tells the history of the Great Lakes
- C. It tells a few facts about each of the Great Lakes
- D. It tells about how the Great Lakes are used today

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

Common Loon Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The common loon is the state bird of Minnesota. It lives on large lakes and wetlands in northern North America in the summer and on lakes, rivers, and coastlines in the winter. The common loon is glossy, dark-green with lots of white patterns on its back. It is white underneath and has a long, sharp bill. It has bright red eyes. In the winter, loons lose their summer plumage and become a drab brown above and white below. Although it looks like a duck, the loon is totally unrelated to ducks. It is much larger than most ducks and its legs are placed in the back of its body, which makes walking on land a very difficult and awkward task.

Loons are named for their eerie calls, which often echo across the northern lakes at night or early in the morning. Sometimes, several loons call at once producing a chorus of yodels. The common loon is sometimes called the great northern diver because it can dive as deep as 200 feet in search of fish.

1. Since Minnesota's state bird is the common loon, what is probably true about Minnesota?

- A. It has a lot of lakes and wetlands
- B. It has a lot of deserts
- C. It has a lot of land
- D. It has a lot of mountains

2. The common loon...

- A. is closely related to ducks.
- B. looks nothing like ducks.
- C. is unrelated to ducks.
- D. has legs like a duck.

3. Which of the following would be unlikely?

- A. A common loon diving 150 feet under the surface of a lake
- B. A common loon swimming in a small pond
- C. A common loon floating in the ocean during the winter
- D. A common loon that looks brownish in the winter

4. Read the descriptions below. Which describes the common loon?

- A. The common loon is a glossy-green above and white below with lots of white patterns. It has a short, but sharp bill, and its legs are placed far back on its body
- B. The common loon is a glossy-green above and white below with lots of white patterns. It has a long, sharp bill, bright white eyes, and legs placed far back on its body
- C. The common loon is brown above and white below in the winter. It has a long, sharp bill and legs placed far back on its body
- D. The common loon is white above and brown below in the winter. It has a long, sharp bill and legs placed far back on its body

SIOUX (LAKOTA) NATION Reading Comprehension

In the Sioux culture, men were the providers and women tended to the home and cooked. In fact, in Sioux culture, the home belonged to the woman, and she was in charge of every aspect involved in caring for and maintaining the home. Since there were often more women in a village than men, many Sioux men had several families and killed enough buffalo to feed them all.

Only men could become "chiefs" in Sioux society. Unlike in some Native American tribes, however, the title of "chief" was earned rather than inherited. Sioux warriors used bows and arrows, clubs, and spears when hunting or defending the tribe. "Fighting" between Indians was often nonviolent and usually involved stealing horses or proving bravery. Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, the travois was used to transport the tepees and family belongings. A travois was a V-shaped formation of tree trunks dragged by a team of dogs. After the Europeans arrived, the Sioux became dependent on horses and were known as accomplished riders.

Children were thought of as sacred in Sioux culture. Children were rarely punished. When they were punished, the adult usually confiscated an item that was loved. Adults often hung dream catchers above the cradles of their children to "catch" bad dreams in the web.

Like most tribes, the Sioux were very spiritual. They believed in Wakan Tanka (The Great Mystery of The Thunderbird), a god who created all living things. Wakan Tanka lived in a grand tepee in the Black Hills of South Dakota, one of the most sacred areas in Sioux culture. The Sioux also believed in the spirit of the White Buffalo Calf Maiden. This spirit first appeared to the Sioux in human form but was actually a white buffalo calf. She taught the Sioux lessons to avoid ignorance, evil, and self-destruction. She also introduced the sacred pipe, which was the center of seven secret ceremonies performed during times of religious persecution. Among these ceremonies was the Sweat Lodge Ceremony in which Sioux villagers purged themselves of guilt, burden, and evil by smoking the pipe in a "sweat lodge" (a dome-shaped tent made of willow branches, furs, and hides with a fire pit in the center) before an important event. The ceremony was also thought to bring its participants closer to Wakan Tanka. Another ceremony was known as the Vision Quest. In a vision quest, an individual would purify himself in the sweat lodge before isolating himself on a mountaintop, forest, or desert without food. The object of the vision quest is to help the participant seek oneness with all living things and to learn about his future in the form of a vision. The participant would then communicate his vision to the village shaman (medicine man) who would interpret it. Based on the interpretation, a medicine bundle (a bag of tokens and items that had special meanings to the owner) would be prepared with various items to represent the guiding spirit. This is just a small sampling of Sioux spiritual beliefs. It is important to note that there were many more spiritual ceremonies that may be interpreted in a variety of ways.

1.) In Sioux culture, only men could...

- a.) own property.
- b.) prepare the buffalo.
- c.) become chief.
- d.) tend to the house.

2.) A _____ was a V-shaped formation of tree trunks that was used to transport possessions.

3.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) Children were very important in Sioux culture.
- b.) Sioux men sometimes had more than one family.
- c.) The Sioux would eventually become dependent on the horse.
- d.) Fighting between the Sioux and other Indian tribes was usually violent and caused much death and destruction.

4.) According to Sioux culture, _____ created all living things.

5.) After the arrival of the White settlers, the Sioux became dependent on horses.

Which of the following is an example of another dependent relationship?

- a.) cub -> lioness
- b.) bottle -> water
- c.) spider -> fly
- d.) math -> calculator

6.) Analogy

shield: knight :: _____

- a.) buffalo: Sioux hunter
- b.) bravery: warrior
- c.) travois: dog
- d.) dream catcher: Sioux baby

7.) Which of the following WAS NOT true about a vision quest?

- a.) Vision quests sometimes occurred in the forest or on top of a mountain.
- b.) The participant was prohibited from telling anyone about the details of his vision during the vision quest.
- c.) Those experiencing a vision quest hoped to learn about their future.
- d.) The vision quest was experienced alone.

8.) What would probably NOT be found in a medicine bundle?

- a.) A bottle of water
- b.) A token representing a guiding spirit
- c.) An eagle feather representing bravery
- d.) A special rock handed down from father to son.

9.) Which of the following were lessons taught by the White Buffalo Maiden Calf?

- a.) Those to avoid war with neighboring tribes
- b.) Those to avoid charging buffalo stampedes
- c.) Those to avoid conflicts with White settlers
- d.) Those to avoid destroying themselves

10.) Which of the following WAS NOT true of the sweat lodge?

- a.) It was made of willow branches.
- b.) Most vision quests occurred in the sweat lodge.
- c.) It had a fire pit in the center.
- d.) It was dome-shaped.

Comparing and Contrasting Minnesota and South Dakota

Name: _____

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. Located in the Midwestern United States, 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.

South Dakota

South Dakota, known as the Mount Rushmore State, for its most famous man-made landmark, is located in the northern Great Plains section of the Midwestern United States. It borders Minnesota, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, Montana, and Wyoming. The famous American explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traveled the Missouri River through what is now South Dakota in their famous adventure to the Pacific Ocean. South Dakota became America's 40th state on November 2, 1889, just minutes after North Dakota became the nation's 39th state. South Dakota's capital is Pierre (pronounced "Peer") and its largest city is Sioux Falls. Besides Mt. Rushmore, people come to South Dakota to see its incredible badlands. Badlands are dry areas of colorful cliffs and rock formations.

Which facts belong in each category?

Borders Lake Michigan

Largest city is Sioux Falls

Became a state first

Part of the Midwestern United States

Borders Iowa

State bird is the common loon

Borders more states

Home to the Twin Cities

Largest city is Madison

Mount Rushmore is located here

Minnesota

Both

South Dakota

Neither

Answers:

Minnesota

**State bird is the common loon
Became a state first
Home to the Twin Cities**

Both

**Borders Iowa
Part of the Midwestern United States**

South Dakota

**Largest city is Sioux Falls
Mount Rushmore is located here
Borders more states**

Neither

**Borders Lake Michigan
Largest city is Madison**

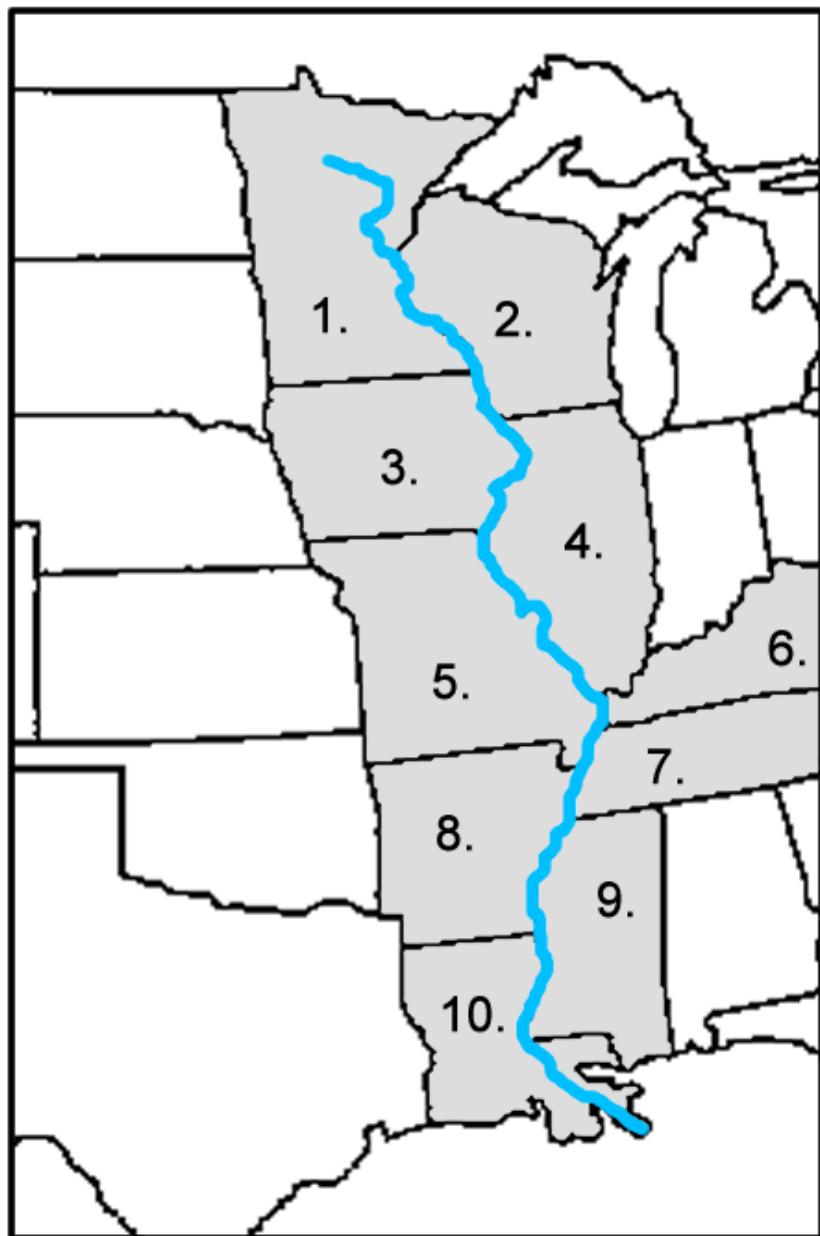
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Mississippi River States

Label the Mississippi River States



Label the Mississippi River States

- 1.) _____
- 2.) _____
- 3.) _____
- 4.) _____
- 5.) _____
- 6.) _____
- 7.) _____
- 8.) _____
- 9.) _____
- 10.) _____

Comparing and Contrasting Minnesota and Wisconsin

Name: _____

Minnesota

Minnesota, nicknamed the Land of 10,000 Lakes, is located in the Midwestern United States 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.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin, known as the Badger State, is located in the Midwestern United States. It borders Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, and Michigan. Its western border is formed by the Mississippi River. It is also a Great Lakes state because its borders Lake Michigan to the east and Lake Superior to the north.

Wisconsin became America's 30th state on May 29, 1848. Its capital is Madison, named after America's fourth president, James Madison, and its largest city is Milwaukee, located on the southern shores of Lake Michigan. Wisconsin is one of the nation's leading dairy producer, and famous for its vast cheese industry and is sometimes called "America's DairyLand." In fact, fans of the Green Bay Packers, Wisconsin's professional football team, are called "cheeseheads." Almost six million people live in Wisconsin, making it the nation's 20th largest state in terms of population.

Which facts belong in each category?

Became a state first

Home to the Twin Cities

Borders the Dakotas

Borders two great lakes

Located in the Midwestern United States

Borders Canada

Its largest city is Milwaukee

The Mississippi River passes through this state

Called the Land of 10,000 lakes

Minnesota

Both

Wisconsin

Neither

Answers:

Minnesota

Borders the Dakotas
Home to the Twin Cities
Borders Canada

Both

The Mississippi River passes through this state
Located in the Midwestern United States

Wisconsin

Became a state first
Capital is named after a president
Borders two great lakes
Milwaukee is its largest city

Neither