

## 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 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 40<sup>th</sup> state on November 2, 1889, just minutes after North Dakota became the nation's 39<sup>th</sup> 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**

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**Both**

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

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**South Dakota**

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

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**Neither**

**Borders Lake Michigan  
Largest city is Madison**