

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 it 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 producers, and is 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