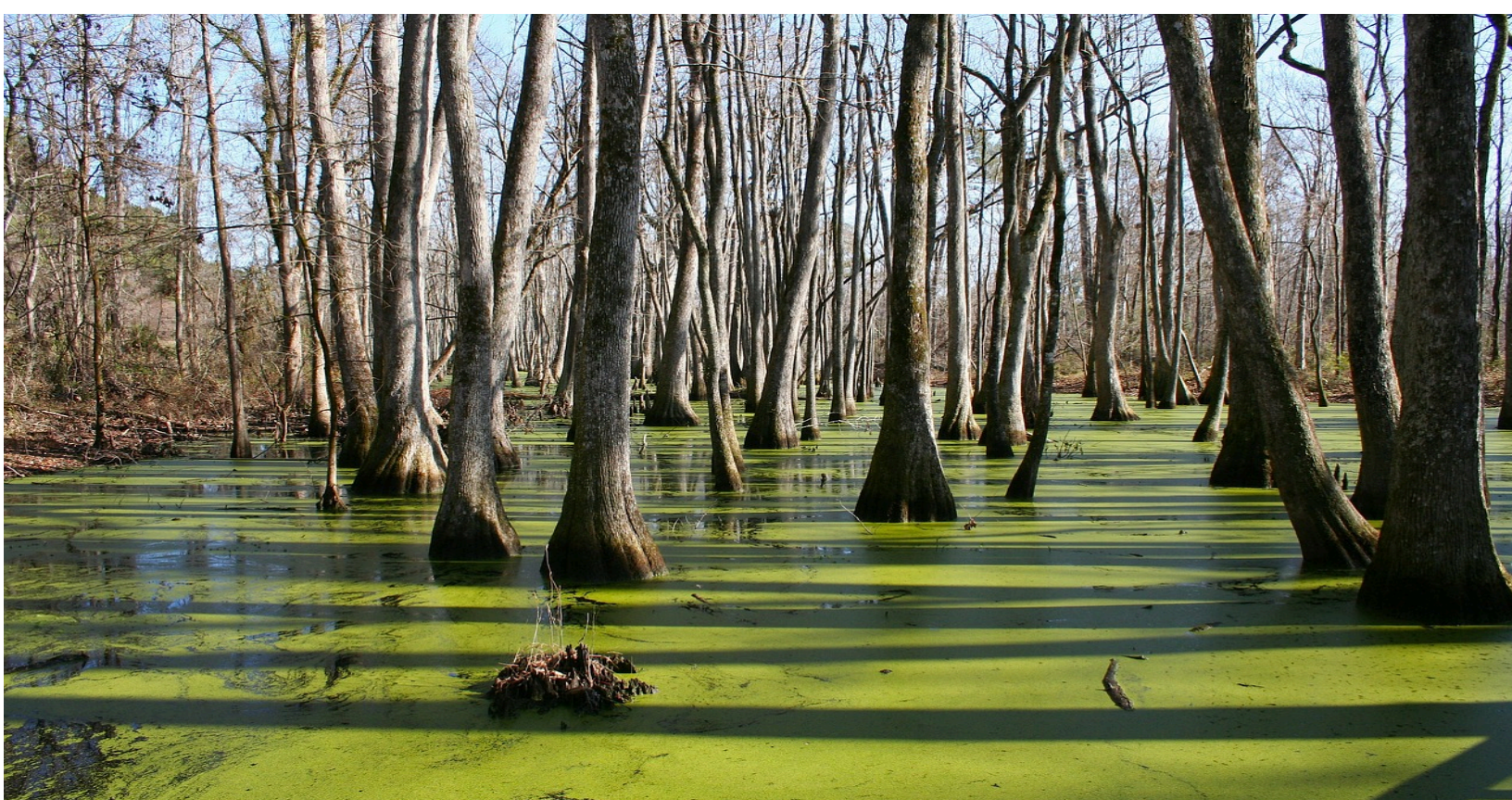


# MISSISSIPPI ACTIVITY PACKET



Exclusively for members of MrNussbaum.com

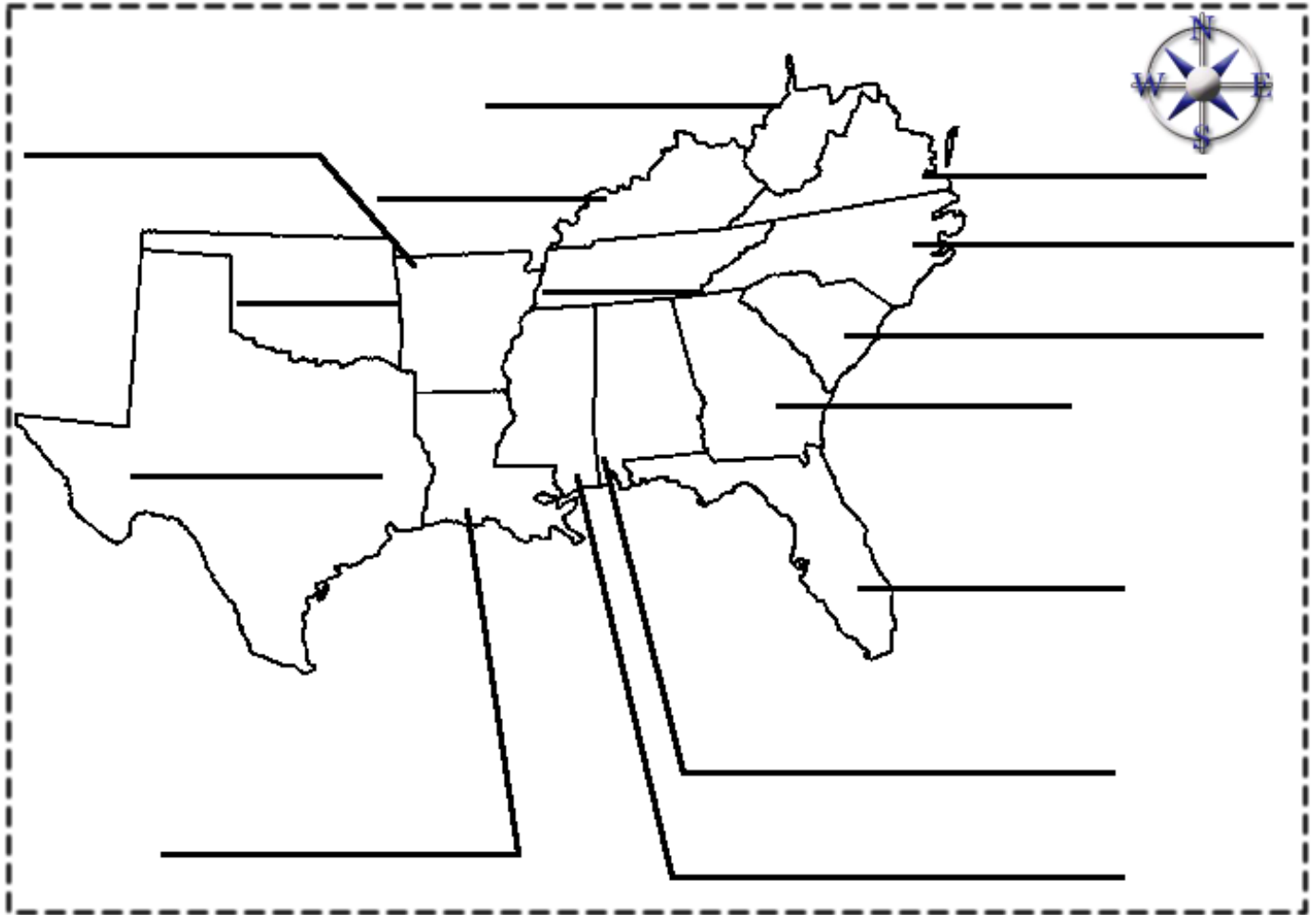
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Mississippi State Quarter



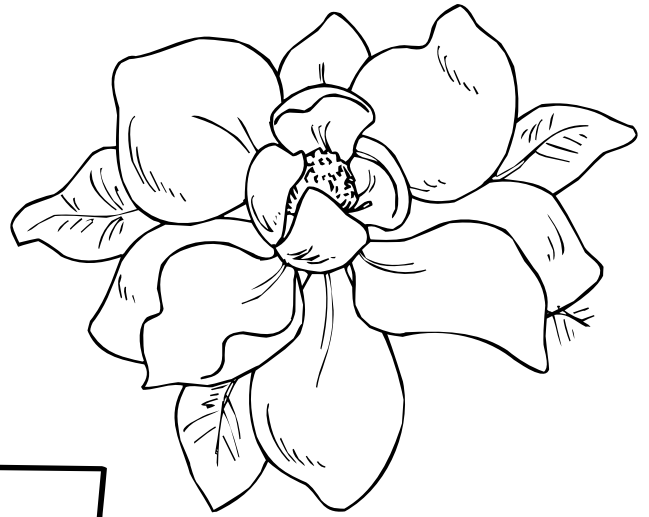
Southern States Label Map







*Mockingbird*



*Magnolia*

# Mississippi

★  
Jackson

The Magnolia State

*State license plate*



*Southern Magnolia*



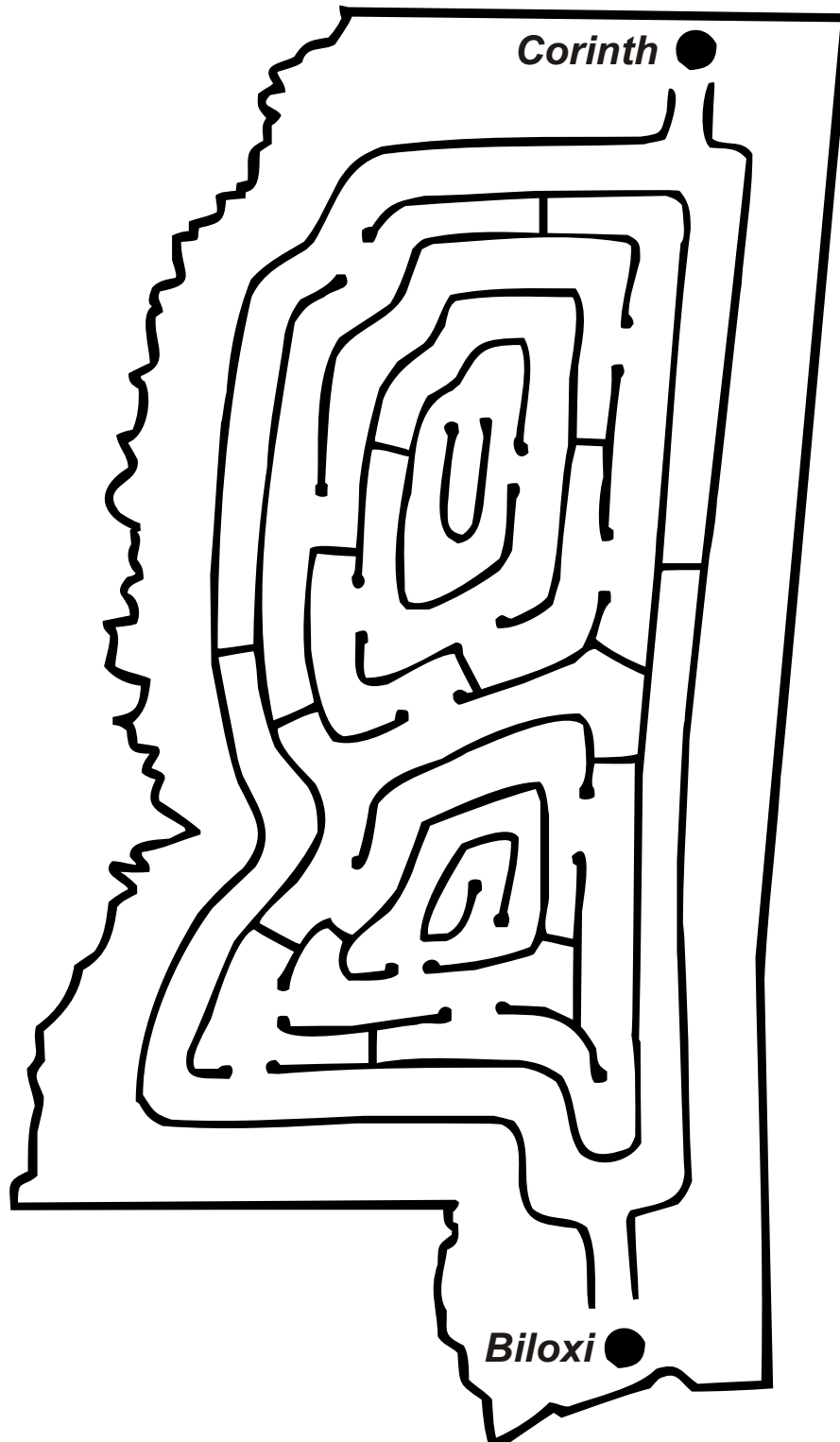
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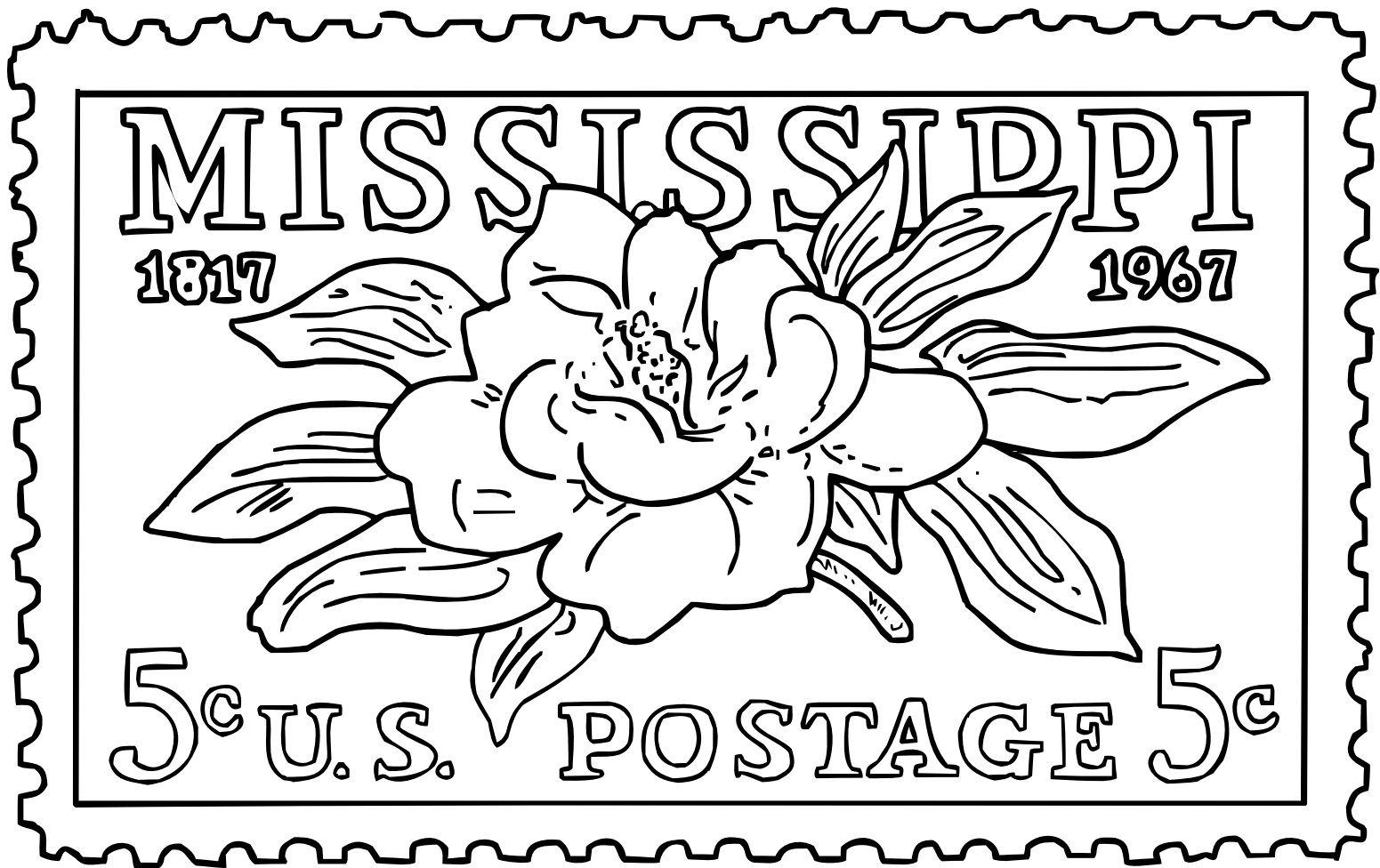
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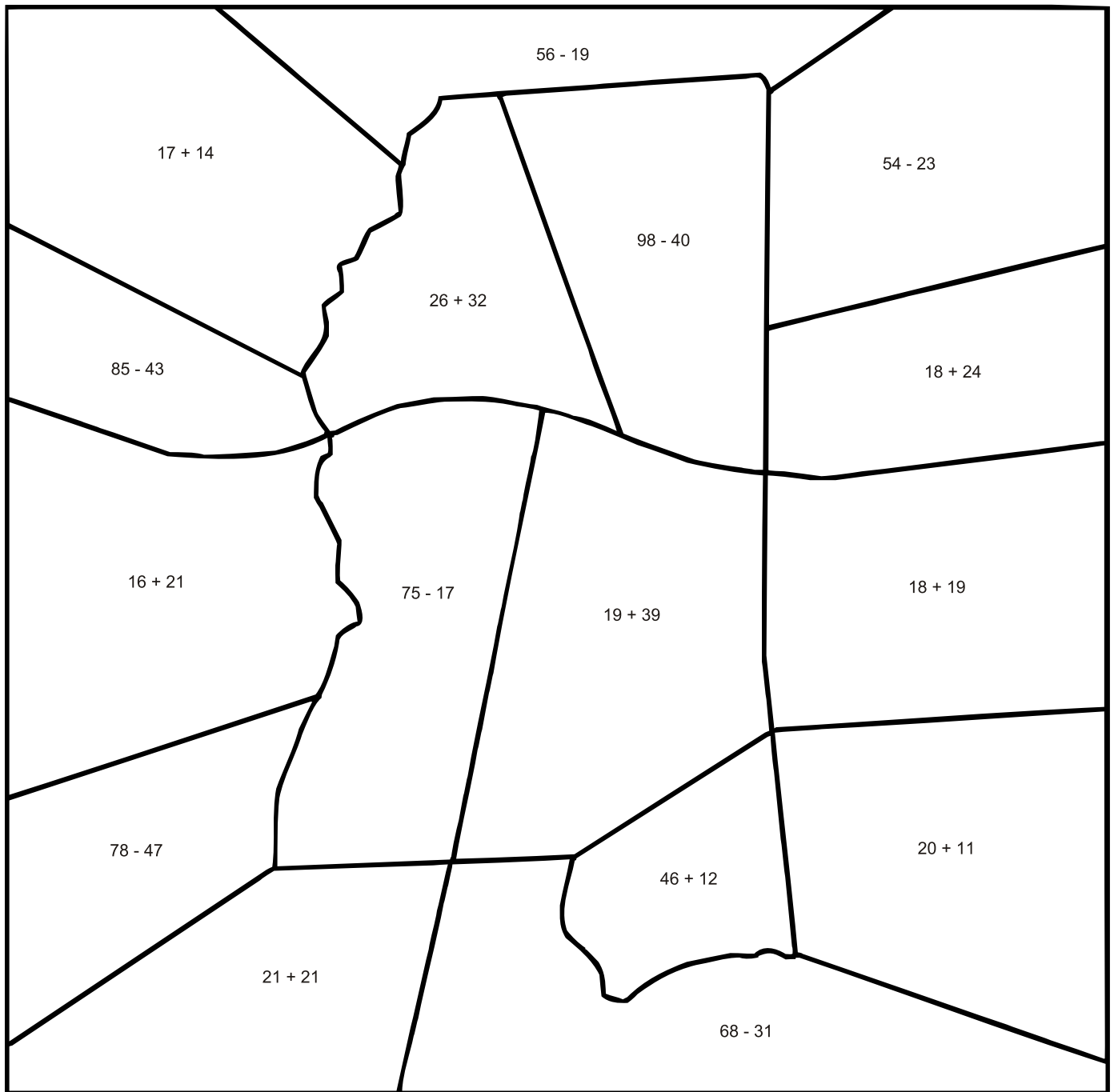
MISSISSIPPI



**Mississippi - The Magnolia State**



Colorado stamp - 5 cents



Do you know what state is pictured?

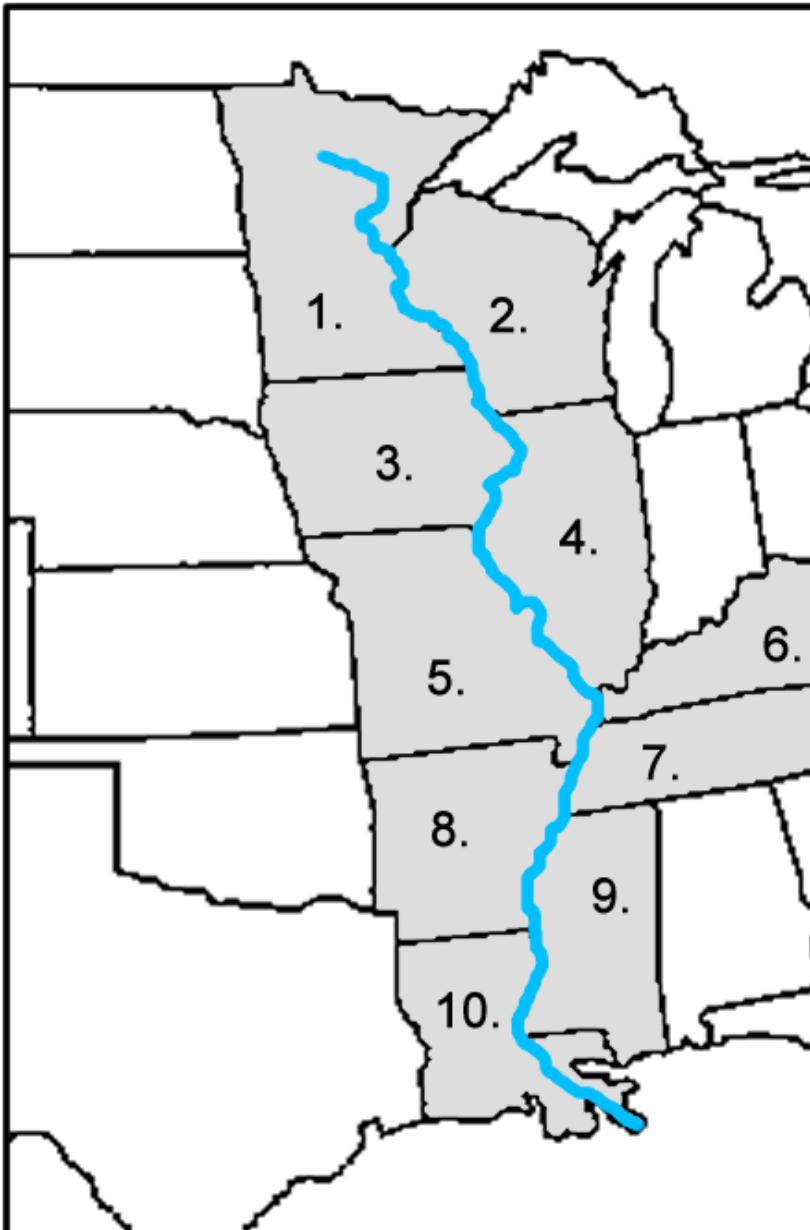
---

31 = Blue  
37 = Red  
42 = White  
58 = Pink



## Mississippi River States

Label the Mississippi River States



Label the Mississippi  
River States

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

Mississippi Label-me Map – Bordering States and Bodies of water

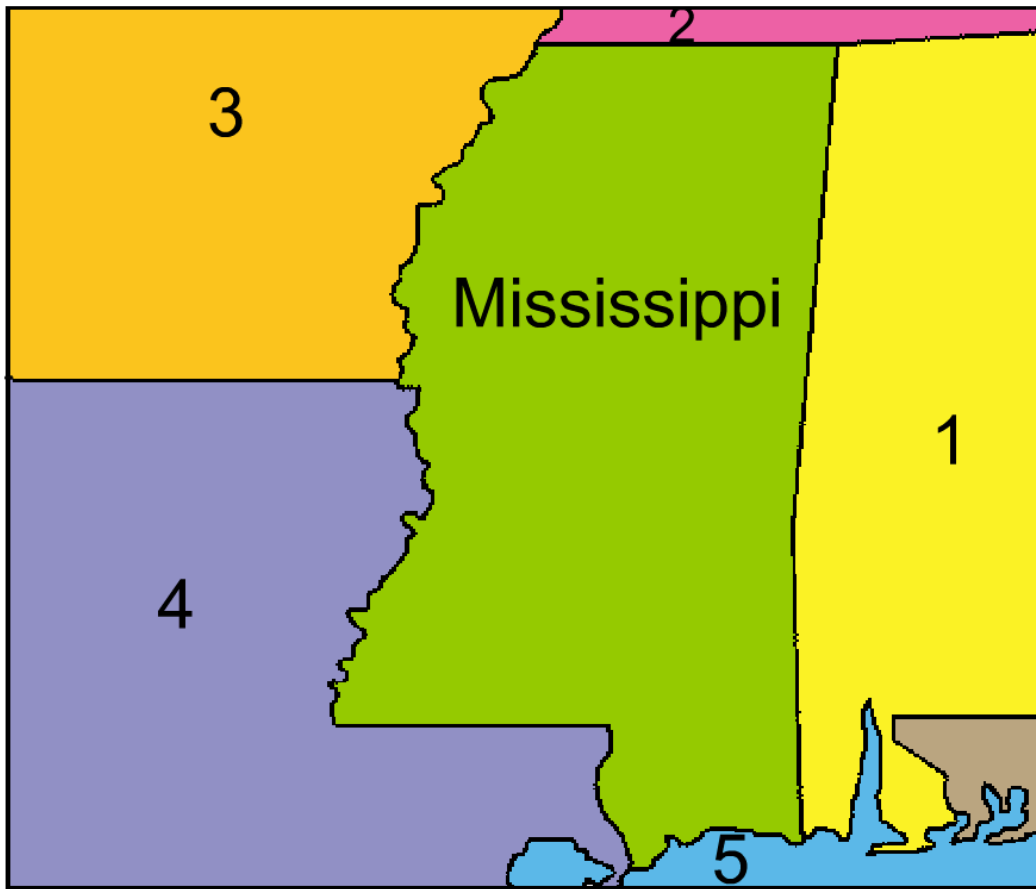


Labels

Tennessee
Arkansas
Louisiana
Gulf of Mexico
Alabama

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Mississippi Label-me Map – Bordering States and Bodies of water



Labels

Tennessee
Arkansas
Louisiana
Gulf of Mexico
Alabama

1. Alabama

2. Tennessee

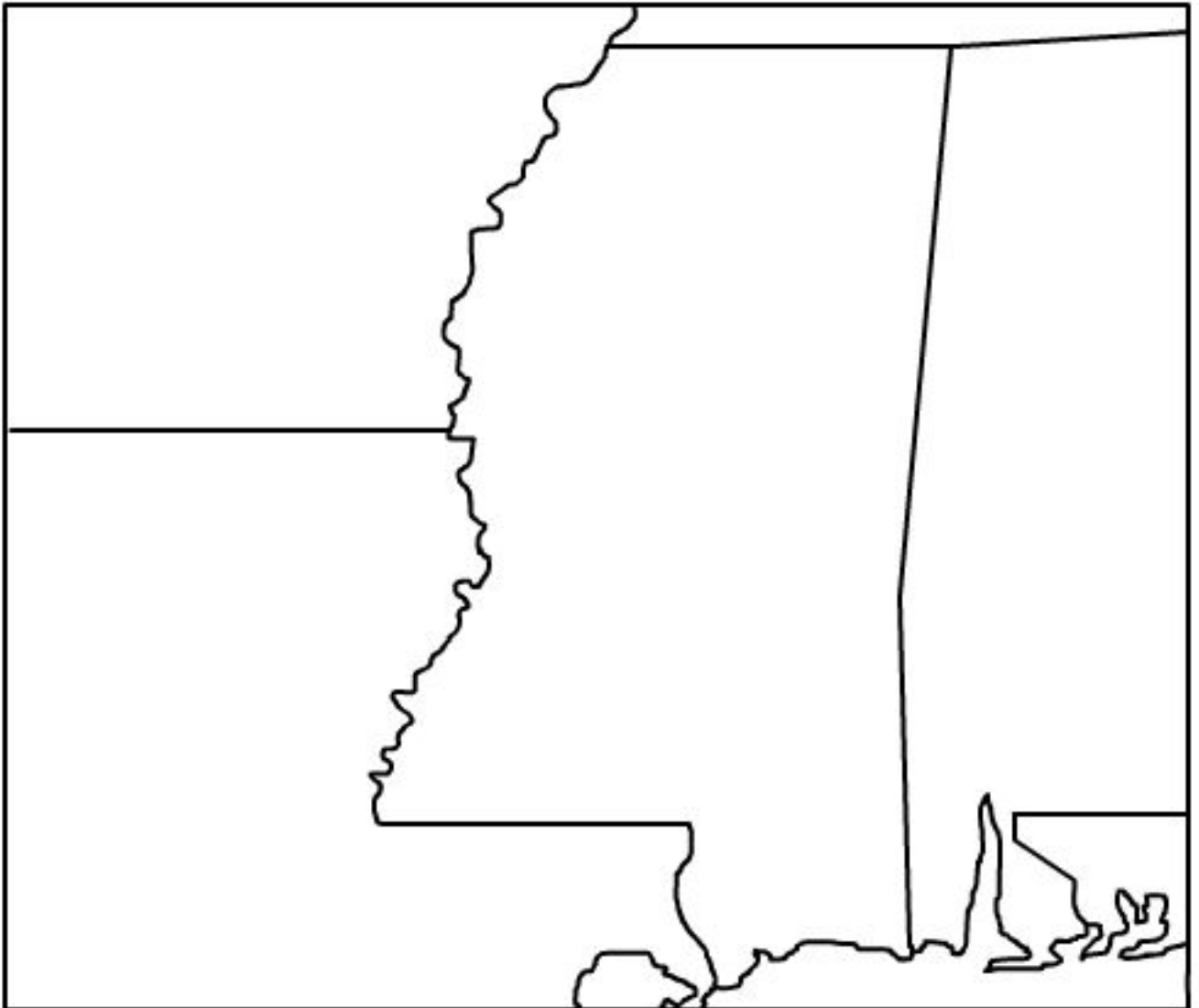
3. Arkansas

4. Louisiana

5. Gulf of Mexico



## Mississippi Printable Outline Map



## **Comparing and Contrasting Alabama and Mississippi**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Alabama**

Alabama, which means "Tribal Town" in native language, became a state on December 14, 1819. It is a southern state that borders Mississippi, Florida, Tennessee, and Georgia. Much of the Tennessee River winds through the northern part of the state. Alabama borders the Gulf of Mexico to the south and features popular beaches. Its capital, Montgomery, was named for Revolutionary War hero Richard Montgomery. Its state bird is the yellowhammer.

### **Mississippi**

Mississippi means "great river" in native language. It became a state on November 10th, 1817. It is located in the southern United States and borders Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee. The great Mississippi River forms much of the border between Mississippi and Louisiana. The Gulf of Mexico washes ashore on its southern border, where people flock to its beaches and casinos. Mississippi's capital is Jackson, named after America's seventh president. Its state bird, the mockingbird, is shared by four other southern states.



Which facts belong in each category?

<b>Borders Tennessee</b>
<b>Its name is taken from native language</b>
<b>Became a state FIRST</b>
<b>Is a Southern state</b>
<b>Borders Louisiana</b>
<b>Capital is named after a Revolutionary War hero</b>
<b>Touches the Gulf of Mexico</b>
<b>Shares a state bird with other states</b>
<b>The Tennessee River flows through</b>

<b>Alabama</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>Mississippi</b>

**Answers:**

<b>Alabama</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>Mississippi</b>
<b>Capital is named after a Revolutionary War hero</b>  <b>The Tennessee River flows through</b>	<b>Borders Tennessee</b>  <b>Its name is taken from native language</b>  <b>Is a Southern state</b>  <b>Touches the Gulf of Mexico</b>	<b>Became a state FIRST</b>  <b>Borders Louisiana</b>  <b>Shares a state bird with other states</b>

## **Comparing and Contrasting Arkansas and Mississippi**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Arkansas**

Arkansas, located in the southeastern portion of the United States, became America's 25<sup>th</sup> state on June 15, 1836. It borders Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Tennessee. Its entire eastern border is formed by the Mississippi River. Another large river, the Arkansas River, flows through the state capital of Little Rock. Little Rock is also the largest city in Arkansas. People from across the nation come to Hot Springs National Park. For centuries, people believed the natural springs could cure ailments. While much of Arkansas is considered plains and delta, northern and northwestern Arkansas feature low mountain ranges known as the Ozark Plateau and the Ouachita Mountains. The state bird of Arkansas is the Mockingbird.

### **Mississippi**

Mississippi became a state on November 10th, 1817. It is located in the southeastern United States and borders Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee. The great Mississippi River forms much of the border between Mississippi and Louisiana and between Mississippi and Arkansas. The Gulf of Mexico washes ashore on its southern border, where people flock to its beaches and casinos. Mississippi's capital is Jackson, named after America's seventh president. Jackson is Mississippi's largest city. Its state bird, the mockingbird, is shared by four other southern states.

Which facts belong in each category?

<b>Borders Mexico</b>
<b>State bird is the mockingbird</b>
<b>Has mountains</b>
<b>Capital and largest city are the same</b>
<b>Became a state first</b>
<b>Located in the southeastern United States</b>
<b>Has beaches</b>
<b>Has deserts</b>
<b>Mississippi River forms part of its border</b>
<b>Borders Oklahoma</b>

<b>Arkansas</b>
<b>Both</b>
<b>Mississippi</b>
<b>Neither</b>

**Answers:**

**Arkansas**

**Has mountains**  
**Borders Oklahoma**

**Both**

**State bird is the mockingbird**  
**Capital and largest city are the same**  
**Located in the southeastern United States**  
**Mississippi River forms part of its border**

**Mississippi**

**Became a state first**  
**Has beaches**

**Neither**

**Borders Mexico**  
**Has deserts**





## **The Origins of Cotton in America**

The production of cotton is an industry deeply rooted in the fabric of America's history, particularly in the south. In 1556, the first settlers grew cotton in southern Florida and used it to make homespun clothing. In order to grow properly, cotton requires a warm climate, so the American south is the ideal place for it to be harvested. In the 1730s, England began using American cotton as part of its clothing industry. The cotton from the American south was shipped overseas so the English could spin it into clothing and textiles.

## **Invention of the Cotton Gin**

Cotton is not an easy crop to grow, however; it has to be picked and all of its seeds have to be removed. Until the late 1700s, this task required hours of manual labor. However, in 1793, Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin: a machine that sped up the process of separating cotton from its seeds by a factor of ten. Whitney's invention made it significantly easier to mass-produce cotton and make money from it, causing the American cotton industry to grow from an annual revenue of 150,000 to 8 million dollars. And with the money, the greed of cotton planters grew. Planters needed more workers in their fields to harvest more cotton and make even more money. Those workers came in the form of slaves forcibly taken from Africa and made to work for no pay in the southern heat. Slave labor increased in cotton fields in the 1800s, powering the cotton industry and the selling of textiles. In the 1830s and 1840s, one slogan captured the growth of the American economy: "cotton is king."

## **Cause of the Civil War**

The harsh treatment of slaves in cotton fields led to unrest. Many northern abolitionists felt that slave labor was inhumane and should end. Southern plantation owners were big supporters of slavery, since without it, cotton production would collapse. Cotton was the biggest crop in the south; if there weren't enough hands in the field to produce it, the southern economy would hit rock bottom. Because of this, tensions continued to increase between northern and southern America, making the cotton crop one of the major causes of the American Civil War from 1861-1865. After the war, northern victory, and freeing of slaves, the cotton industry took a major hit. In 1892, cotton bud-eating beetles known as boll weevils came into the south from Mexico, destroying cotton crops. By the time measures were put in place to stop the weevils in the 1950s, the industry had already lost over 22 billion dollars. Today, the cotton clothing industry is still strong in the United States: a grim reminder of the time when both cotton, and slave labor, were king.

**1. Which of the following is the best interpretation of the saying “cotton is king”?**

- a) Cotton was the only crop exported by the United States at the time.
- b) The American Civil War was fought only over control of the cotton crop.
- c) The cotton industry helped transition the colonies to a monarchy.
- d) The cotton industry heavily influenced the economics and politics at the time.

**2. Which of the following is the best explanation as to why cotton was not grown in the north?**

- a) It did not sell well in the north.
- b) The clothing industry was more popular in the south.
- c) The climate was better for cotton growth in the south.
- d) The south refused to allow the north to sell cotton.

**3. Which of the following statements about the cotton gin is false?**

- a) The invention of the cotton gin increased the need for slave labor in the south.
- b) The cotton gin increased the speed at which cotton could be produced.
- c) The invention of the cotton gin slowed clothing and textile production.
- d) The cotton gin made southern farmers significantly more money.

**4. Which of the following factors did not have an impact on cotton production?**

- a) The cotton gin
- b) Boll weevils
- c) The Civil War
- d) All of the Above

**5. Put the following events in chronological order.**

- I. Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin.
- II. The American Civil War
- III. Boll weevils destroy cotton crops
- IV. England starts to use American cotton

- a) I, II, III, IV
- b) IV, I, II, III
- c) I, II, IV, III
- d) IV, II, I, III

**6. Infer why cotton production decreased after the Civil War, based on evidence from the passage**

- a) The loss of slave labor in the south to work the fields
- b) Americans moved on from cotton textiles to silk
- c) The death of almost all cotton plantation owners in the fighting
- d) The boom in the southern economy due to the southern victory

**7. Which statement about cotton in the southern colonies is false?**

- a) Cotton was first grown in America in the state of Florida.
- b) Cotton was primarily used to make clothing
- c) Cotton was grown in the south to be used for clothing production in the north.
- d) Cotton production has decreased steadily over time.

# Grudge

## **Jim Henson Museum**

The Jim Henson Muppet Museum, also called the Birthplace of Kermit the Frog Museum is located in the small town of Leland, Mississippi. It features puppets, mementos, videos, and artifacts created for and used in Jim Henson's Muppet shows. It opened in 1990 and was established by Jim Henson's wife, Jane, as a "gift to the people of Leland, Mississippi." The two-room museum is located within the small Leland Chamber of Commerce building. Henson grew up in Leland, and was inspired to create the famous Kermit the Frog character from his childhood explorations of nearby Deer Creek. According to legend, Kermit is loosely based off of Henson's childhood friend Kermit Scott.

The museum features a life-size Kermit the Frog stuffed animal and an original Kermit the Frog puppet. In addition, the exhibit tells the story of Kermit the Frog and the story behind the creation of the Muppets. During Christmas, there is a Christmas tree decorated with Muppets ornaments.

### **1. Who is Kermit Scott?**

- A. A character in the museum
- B. A childhood friend of Jim Henson
- C. The person who established the museum
- D. The passage doesn't say

### **2. Which of the following would NOT be found in the museum?**

- A. A life-sized Kermit stuffed animal
- B. Muppets mementos
- C. Muppets ornaments
- D. All of the above are found in the museum

### **3. Why did Jane Henson establish the Jim Henson museum?**

- A. To honor Kermit Scott
- B. To give a gift to the people of Leland
- C. To honor the history of Kermit the Frog
- D. To build a chamber of commerce



**4. Which is NOT true about the museum?**

- A. It has many rooms
- B. It opened in 1990
- C. It is located in a chamber of commerce
- D. It is a small museum

**5. What inspired Jim Henson to create Kermit the Frog?**

- A. Christmas
- B. Other characters from the Muppets
- C. The Town of Leland
- D. His explorations of Deer Creek

## Mockingbird



If you live anywhere in the southern two-thirds of the United States, the mockingbird is likely a familiar sight. While the mockingbird is certainly a handsome bird, it's not its looks that make it remarkable, but rather, its incredible vocal repertoire. The mockingbird is one of the most prolific songsters in the avian world. It can "sing" for hours on end from conspicuous perches on rooftops, telephone wires, or exposed branches. A clue to what really makes it unique among birds, however, is embedded in its name! Not only can it imitate the songs of other birds such as blue jays, killdeer, cardinals, and robins, but it can make "expert" imitations of car alarms, whistles, dogs barking, cats meowing, or any other range of everyday sounds. Often times, the mockingbird mixes in everyday sounds with its own warbles and calls, producing a bizarre chain of auditory wonders.

The mockingbird has actually played a role in American history. America's third president, Thomas Jefferson kept a mockingbird he named "Dick" as a pet. "Dick" was thought to be the first pet to live in the White House. Jefferson was known to be extremely fond of his pet, which he considered to be a superior to other birds. In the quote below, Jefferson congratulates a friend who had identified a mockingbird in her yard.

*I sincerely congratulate you on the arrival of the Mocking bird. Learn all the children to venerate it as a superior being in the form of a bird, or as a being which will haunt them if any harm is done to itself or it's eggs. I shall hope that the multiplication of the cedar in the neighborhood, and of trees and shrubs round the house, will attract more of them: for they like to be in the neighborhood of our habitations, if they furnish cover."*

In addition to Jefferson's admiration of the mockingbird, five southern states (Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas and Florida) claim the mockingbird as state bird.

As for the mockingbird itself, it is mostly gray with a long tail. It has bold white wing patches that flash while it is in flight. Mockingbirds often lives in suburban neighborhoods but usually avoid deep forests. They can be aggressive near their nests and will regularly dive-bomb cats, dogs, and even humans who approach too closely.

**1. Which of the following would be an unusual observation?**

- A. A mockingbird imitating a car horn
- B. A mockingbird singing within a thick forest
- C. A mockingbird singing for hours
- D. A mockingbird singing from an exposed branch

**2. Which of the words in the following two sentences means “easily seen”?**

The mockingbird is one of the most prolific songsters in the avian world. It can “sing” for hours on end from conspicuous perches on rooftops, telephone wires, or exposed branches.

- A. perches
- B. songsters
- C. prolific
- D. conspicuous

**3. According to the author, what makes the mockingbird remarkable?**

- A. Its appearance
- B. The fact that it can imitate a car alarm
- C. The incredible range of sounds it can make
- D. The fact that it is common in the southern two-thirds of the United States

**4. What “warning” does Thomas Jefferson offer in his quote?**

- A. Make sure your children learn about the mockingbird or else they might be haunted
- B. Do not plant cedar trees near a mockingbird’s nest
- C. Planting the wrong kinds of trees can hurt mockingbirds
- D. Harming a mockingbird or its eggs carries consequences

**5. Which of the following supports the idea that the mockingbird is a popular bird?**

- A. It is the state bird for five different states
- B. It lives in suburban neighborhoods
- C. It was the first pet to live in the White House
- D. Thomas Jefferson considered the mockingbird superior to other birds

**6. Which is NOT true about mockingbirds?**

- A. They have white wing patches
- B. Mockingbirds have long tails
- C. The mockingbird is the state bird of Arkansas
- D. Mockingbirds avoid places that humans live

**7. According to Thomas Jefferson, what are the ways to attract mockingbirds to yards? Circle all that apply**

- A. Plant trees and shrubs around the house
- B. Plant cedar trees in the neighborhood
- C. Provide cover
- D. Set up nesting boxes

## **Siege at Vicksburg Reading Comprehension**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Gibraltar of the Confederacy**

By 1863, Union forces had gained control over much of the Mississippi River. President Abraham Lincoln considered control of the nation's largest waterway crucial, but the fortified city of Vicksburg, Mississippi, located above a horseshoe-shaped bend in the river, stood in the way of Union success. As long as Vicksburg was controlled by the Confederacy, the Union could not navigate the river and the Confederacy could ship supplies and send communications between its parts east and west of the river. Located high on the bluffs overlooking the river, Vicksburg was referred to as "the Gibraltar of the Confederacy." Attacking Vicksburg was difficult. It was surrounded by swamps and poor country roads. Furthermore, there was a giant fortress atop the bluffs making a naval assault virtually impossible.

### **Direct Assault, Impossible. Preparing for a Siege**

Prior to the Siege of Vicksburg, Union General Ulysses S. Grant had won control of Mississippi River ports in Louisiana, as well as Mississippi's capital, Jackson. Confederate forces, facing an overwhelming Union assault, were forced to withdraw to the fortifications of Vicksburg. Grant, fully cognizant of the difficulties of taking Vicksburg, ordered an immediate assault on the city before the Confederates could get fully organized and entrenched. Union forces would come under withering fire as they attempted to negotiate steep ravines, deep ditches, and the 17-foot-high walls of what was called the Stockade Redan. Their first assault, on May 19th, under the command of Major Generals William T. Sherman and Francis Blair, were summarily repulsed resulting in crushing casualties as Confederate forces fired on them from above. In a second series of assaults ordered by General Grant on May 22nd, Union forces suffered even greater casualties and made virtually no progress in advancing on the fortifications. Union losses totaled over 3,000 soldiers on May 22, compared to less than 500 in the Confederate ranks. It soon became apparent that Union success would rely on a prolonged siege, something that Grant hoped to avoid.

### **Misery on the Bluffs**

Union forces began to build entrenchments in the hopes of gradually moving closer and closer to the Fortifications and trapping Confederate forces and the population of Vicksburg. Over time, Grant moved 77,000 Union soldiers into positions completely encircling Vicksburg and eventually cutting off their supply line. Any chance of a Confederate escape was gone. By the end of June, many Confederate soldiers began suffering from malnutrition and scurvy, a condition which frequently afflicted sailors in the Age of Exploration, caused by an acute lack of Vitamin-C. Others suffered from unsanitary conditions and came down with diarrhea, dehydration, malaria, and dysentery. Confederate forces were forced to eat their horses, dogs, and to steal vegetables from the gardens of Vicksburg residents. Amidst the misery, Union gunboats and cannons continuously bombarded the city and fortifications, destroying suitable shelters. Residents and soldiers would dig over 500 caves into the hillside to escape the bombardment.



## **Surrender**

By July, the situation had grown hopeless for the Confederates. Surrender negotiations began and Grant agreed to parole the remaining Confederate soldiers, rather than having to ship 30,000 to prison camps. On July 4, 1863, a day after Lee's defeat at Gettysburg, surrender terms were finalized and the Union gained total control of the Mississippi River (five days later Fort Hudson, Louisiana fell into Union hands as well). Confederate forces were forced to relinquish 172 cannons and over 50,000 rifles.

## **The 82 year-long Grudge**

For the Confederacy, the Vicksburg defeat, combined with the Gettysburg defeat, is often considered the turning point in the Civil War. July 4th, America's birthday, would not be celebrated in Vicksburg again until World War II.

### **1. Which of the following best explains why control of the Mississippi River was advantageous for the Union?**

- a) The river allowed for the transport of messages and supplies.
- b) It was the nation's largest waterway.
- c) The Confederacy was using the river to invade Union settlements.
- d) It was close to the Confederate capital of Richmond.

### **2. Which best describes the Union's battle plans at Vicksburg?**

- a) Reckless, but isolated
- b) Careful, but unsuccessful
- c) Tactical, but close-minded
- d) Strategic, but flexible

### **3. Which statement about initial attacks on Vicksburg is supported by the passage?**

- a) The first assault was led by only one Union general.
- b) Confederate casualties outweighed the Union ones.
- c) Grant waited too long to order the first attack.
- d) The city's high location gave the Union a disadvantage.

### **4. Which was not a struggle faced by the Confederates during the Union siege?**

- a) Lack of food
- b) Illness
- c) Spies within the ranks
- d) Destruction from Union fire

### **5. Which statement about Vicksburg is false?**

- a) The Confederacy lost cannons and rifles to the Union at the end of the battle.
- b) The battle would have been over more quickly had it been a naval assault.
- c) It ended with a Confederate surrender.
- d) The battle is considered a turning point in the Civil War.

### **6. Which is the best synonym for the word "parole" as it is used in the passage?**

- a) Release
- b) Forgive
- c) Protect
- d) Kill

**7. Which general did not fight with the Union at Vicksburg?**

- a) William T. Sherman
- b) Francis Blair
- c) Abraham Lincoln
- d) Ulysses S. Grant

-----Key-----

1. (a)
2. (d)
3. (d)
4. (c)
5. (b)
6. (a)
7. (c)