

Comparing and Contrasting Illinois and Missouri

Name: _____

Illinois

Located in the Midwestern United States, Illinois is known as the Land of Lincoln because Abraham Lincoln made the state capital, Springfield, his home for many years before he was president. Illinois became America's 21st state on December 3, 1818. It borders Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Kentucky. Its northeast coast borders Lake Michigan, making it one of the Great Lake states as well. Illinois is largely grasslands and prairies. The Mississippi River forms its eastern border and the Ohio River forms its southern border. Chicago is the largest city in Illinois and the third largest city in the entire country. It is nicknamed the "Windy City" because of the harsh winds that form off of Lake Michigan and streak through the city in winter. Chicago's Sears Tower was once the tallest building in the world. With over 12.5 million people, Illinois is the nation's sixth largest state by population. Its state bird, the cardinal, is also the state bird of six other states.

Missouri

Missouri is located in the Midwestern United States. It became America's 24th state on August 10, 1821. Missouri borders eight states: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The great Mississippi River forms the eastern border of Missouri. The Missouri River, the longest in America, is a large tributary of the Mississippi River that flows west through the state. Jefferson City is the capital of Missouri – named after America's third president, Thomas Jefferson. With a population approaching 500,000 people, Kansas City is the state's largest city. The Gateway Arch, a memorial to America's westward expansion is located in St. Louis, and is one of the state's most popular attractions. Most of northern and western Missouri are characterized by plains, whereas southern Missouri features hills, highlands, and the Ozark Plateau. The state bird of Missouri is the Eastern Bluebird.

Which facts belong in each category?

The Mississippi River forms a border
Largest city is Chicago
A Great Lakes state
Capital city is named after a president
The cardinal is the state bird
Located in the Midwestern United States
Borders more states
Has more people
Has more people than any other state
Was a state first

Illinois
Both
Missouri
Neither

Answers:

Illinois

**Largest city is Chicago
A Great Lakes state
The cardinal is the state bird
Has more people
Became a state first**

Both

**The Mississippi River forms a border
Located in the Midwestern United States**

Missouri

**Capital city is named after a president
Borders more states**

Neither

Has more people than any other state