

The 50 States Family Trivia Night Pack

100 brand-new questions, three rounds,
a host script, scorecards, and every answer explained

A free companion to the book
250 Amazing Facts About the 50 States

by MindGrid Books

Not one of these 100 questions appears in the book, so readers and non-readers can play on even footing. Print it, or read the questions aloud straight from a screen.

How to Run Trivia Night in 10 Minutes

You need one host (a grown-up or an older kid), some paper, and pencils. That is genuinely it. The whole game takes about 45 minutes, or 20 if you play a single round.

Setup

- Split into teams of two or three. Mixed teams of kids and adults work best: the grown-ups know the capitals, the kids know the weird stuff.
- Each team picks a state as its team name. Bonus point for anyone who can name that state's capital without help.
- Print the scorecard on the last-but-one page, or just draw the grid.
- The host keeps this PDF to themselves. No peeking at the answer key!

The rules

- The host reads the question and all four choices out loud, twice.
- Teams write down a letter. No shouting it out, no phones on the table.
- One point per correct answer. No half points, no arguing with the host (that is the one real rule).
- Read the answer and the explanation before moving on - the explanation is where the good stuff hides.
- Round 3 is deliberately hard. If a team gets 20 of those 35, they have earned bragging rights until next time.

Three ways to change the game

- Younger players: play Round 1 only, and let teams confer out loud.
- Road trip: no paper needed - take turns answering, one question per player, and keep score on your fingers.
- Classroom: split the 100 questions across five days, 20 per day, and keep a running leaderboard on the board.

Round 1: Warm-Up Lap

Easy - everybody scores here

1. What is the capital of Texas?
A) Houston B) Dallas C) Austin D) San Antonio
2. Which state is nicknamed the Sunshine State?
A) Georgia B) Florida C) Arizona D) Hawaii
3. Which state is the largest by area?
A) Texas B) California C) Montana D) Alaska
4. Which state is the smallest by area?
A) Delaware B) Rhode Island C) Connecticut D) Hawaii
5. What is the capital of California?
A) Los Angeles B) San Francisco C) Sacramento D) San Diego
6. Which state is called the Golden State?
A) Nevada B) California C) Colorado D) Alaska
7. Which state is shaped like a mitten?
A) Michigan B) Wisconsin C) Ohio D) Minnesota
8. What is the capital of New York State?
A) New York City B) Buffalo C) Albany D) Rochester
9. Which state is the Aloha State?
A) Alaska B) Hawaii C) Florida D) California
10. Which state is the Peach State?
A) South Carolina B) Alabama C) Georgia D) Florida
11. Which state has the most people?
A) Texas B) Florida C) New York D) California
12. What is the capital of Florida?
A) Miami B) Orlando C) Tampa D) Tallahassee
13. Which state is made up only of islands?
A) Alaska B) Hawaii C) Rhode Island D) Florida
14. Which state is the Lone Star State?
A) Oklahoma B) Texas C) Arizona D) Nevada
15. What is the capital of Illinois?
A) Chicago B) Springfield C) Peoria D) Rockford
16. The Grand Canyon is mostly in which state?
A) Utah B) Colorado C) Arizona D) Nevada

17. Which state is the Empire State?

A) Pennsylvania B) New York C) Virginia D) Massachusetts

18. Which two states do not touch any other state?

A) Maine and Florida B) Alaska and Hawaii C) Hawaii and Florida D) Alaska and Washington

19. What is the capital of Colorado?

A) Boulder B) Colorado Springs C) Aspen D) Denver

20. Which state is the Show-Me State?

A) Kansas B) Missouri C) Arkansas D) Iowa

21. Boston is the capital of which state?

A) Connecticut B) Rhode Island C) Massachusetts D) New Hampshire

22. Which state is the Garden State?

A) Delaware B) Maryland C) New Jersey D) Connecticut

23. Which Great Lake touches Chicago?

A) Lake Erie B) Lake Huron C) Lake Michigan D) Lake Superior

24. Which state is the Beehive State?

A) Idaho B) Utah C) Nevada D) Montana

25. What is the capital of Georgia?

A) Savannah B) Athens C) Augusta D) Atlanta

26. Which state reaches farthest north?

A) Maine B) Minnesota C) Alaska D) Washington

27. Which state is the Land of 10,000 Lakes?

A) Wisconsin B) Michigan C) Minnesota D) Maine

28. What is the capital of Washington state?

A) Seattle B) Spokane C) Olympia D) Tacoma

29. Which state is the Silver State?

A) Nevada B) Colorado C) Montana D) Arizona

30. Which state is the Sooner State?

A) Kansas B) Nebraska C) Oklahoma D) Arkansas

Round 2: Coast to Coast

Medium - this is where the game is won

31. The Gateway Arch stands in which city?
A) Kansas City B) St. Louis C) Memphis D) Louisville
32. The Everglades are in which state?
A) Louisiana B) Georgia C) Florida D) Texas
33. Route 66 originally ran from Chicago to which city?
A) Seattle B) Santa Monica C) San Diego D) Phoenix
34. Old Faithful is a geyser in which national park?
A) Yosemite B) Zion C) Yellowstone D) Glacier
35. The Alamo is in which Texas city?
A) Austin B) Houston C) El Paso D) San Antonio
36. Which state has the longest coastline?
A) Florida B) California C) Alaska D) Maine
37. Niagara Falls sits on the border between New York and which country?
A) Mexico B) Canada C) Greenland D) Iceland
38. Honolulu is the capital of which state?
A) Alaska B) Hawaii C) California D) Oregon
39. Which state grows the most corn?
A) Nebraska B) Illinois C) Iowa D) Kansas
40. The Mississippi River begins in which state?
A) Missouri B) Minnesota C) Illinois D) Wisconsin
41. The Rocky Mountains do NOT run through which state?
A) Colorado B) Montana C) Wyoming D) Kansas
42. Which state is the Bluegrass State?
A) Tennessee B) Kentucky C) Virginia D) West Virginia
43. Which state was the last to join the United States?
A) Alaska B) Arizona C) Hawaii D) New Mexico
44. The Space Needle is in which city?
A) Portland B) Vancouver C) Seattle D) Denver
45. Which state touches four of the five Great Lakes?
A) Ohio B) Michigan C) Wisconsin D) New York
46. Which state is the Volunteer State?
A) Kentucky B) Alabama C) Tennessee D) Georgia

47. Which is the highest state capital above sea level?
A) Denver, Colorado B) Santa Fe, New Mexico C) Cheyenne, Wyoming D) Helena, Montana
48. In which city is the Kentucky Derby run?
A) Lexington B) Frankfort C) Louisville D) Bowling Green
49. Which state grows the most peanuts?
A) Alabama B) Texas C) Georgia D) Virginia
50. The tallest mountain in the United States is in which state?
A) Colorado B) Washington C) California D) Alaska
51. Which state is called Big Sky Country?
A) Wyoming B) Montana C) North Dakota D) Idaho
52. Which desert covers much of southern Arizona?
A) Mojave Desert B) Sonoran Desert C) Great Basin Desert D) Painted Desert
53. Which state is the Pelican State?
A) Florida B) Louisiana C) Mississippi D) Alabama
54. The Wright brothers built and tested their flying machines in a bicycle shop in which state?
A) North Carolina B) Ohio C) Virginia D) Indiana
55. Which state has the most lighthouses?
A) Maine B) Florida C) Michigan D) California
56. Which state has been the birthplace of the most US presidents?
A) Ohio B) Massachusetts C) New York D) Virginia
57. Which state is the First State?
A) Pennsylvania B) Virginia C) Delaware D) Massachusetts
58. Badlands National Park is in which state?
A) North Dakota B) South Dakota C) Nebraska D) Wyoming
59. Which state is the Magnolia State?
A) Alabama B) Louisiana C) Mississippi D) South Carolina
60. Great Smoky Mountains National Park is shared by North Carolina and which state?
A) Virginia B) Georgia C) Kentucky D) Tennessee
61. Which state is the Hoosier State?
A) Illinois B) Indiana C) Iowa D) Ohio
62. Which state is the Ocean State?
A) Maine B) Rhode Island C) Delaware D) New Hampshire
63. Which state is the Sunflower State?
A) Nebraska B) Kansas C) North Dakota D) Missouri
64. What is the capital of Alaska?
A) Anchorage B) Fairbanks C) Juneau D) Nome

65. Which state is the Copper State?

A) Nevada **B)** Montana **C)** Arizona **D)** Utah

Round 3: Champion Round

Hard - weird, wild, and true

66. Which state has a town named Boring?
A) Idaho B) Oregon C) Maryland D) Kentucky
67. Which state is the only one whose name starts with two vowels?
A) Ohio B) Idaho C) Iowa D) Oregon
68. Which state has the most covered bridges?
A) Vermont B) Pennsylvania C) New Hampshire D) Ohio
69. Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg is in which state?
A) Maine B) Michigan C) Massachusetts D) Minnesota
70. Which is the only state that grows coffee commercially?
A) Florida B) California C) Hawaii D) Louisiana
71. The Great Stalacpipe Organ, which plays music by tapping cave formations, is in which state?
A) Kentucky B) Virginia C) Tennessee D) New Mexico
72. Which state has an official state dinosaur called Hadrosaurus?
A) Montana B) Utah C) New Jersey D) Colorado
73. Which state grows the most cranberries?
A) Massachusetts B) Wisconsin C) New Jersey D) Maine
74. Which state has a town named Truth or Consequences?
A) Arizona B) Nevada C) New Mexico D) Texas
75. The Grand Ole Opry is in which state?
A) Kentucky B) Tennessee C) Georgia D) Alabama
76. A giant statue of Paul Bunyan and his blue ox stands in Bemidji, in which state?
A) Wisconsin B) Michigan C) Minnesota D) Maine
77. Area 51 is in which state?
A) New Mexico B) Nevada C) Arizona D) Utah
78. Which state's official state reptile is the American alligator?
A) Louisiana B) Texas C) Florida D) Georgia
79. The geographic center of the lower 48 states is in which state?
A) Nebraska B) Kansas C) Missouri D) Oklahoma
80. Which state has a town named Hell?
A) Michigan B) Ohio C) Arizona D) Montana
81. The Hoover Dam sits on the border of Arizona and which state?
A) Utah B) California C) New Mexico D) Nevada

82. Which state gets the most tornadoes in an average year?
A) Oklahoma B) Kansas C) Texas D) Nebraska
83. The lowest point in North America is in which state?
A) Arizona B) Nevada C) California D) Utah
84. Which state has more than three million lakes?
A) Minnesota B) Michigan C) Wisconsin D) Alaska
85. The Iditarod sled dog race runs across which state?
A) Minnesota B) Alaska C) Montana D) Maine
86. Grand Prismatic Spring, the largest hot spring in the country, is in which state?
A) Idaho B) Montana C) Wyoming D) Colorado
87. Dorothy and Toto were swept away from which state?
A) Nebraska B) Kansas C) Oklahoma D) Iowa
88. Which state has a town named Santa Claus that answers children's letters?
A) Vermont B) Alaska C) Indiana D) New Hampshire
89. Which state's flag shows a bison?
A) Montana B) North Dakota C) Kansas D) Wyoming
90. Acoma Pueblo, one of the oldest continuously lived-in places in America, is in which state?
A) Arizona B) New Mexico C) Colorado D) Utah
91. The Kennedy Space Center is in which state?
A) Texas B) California C) Florida D) Alabama
92. Which state's official state snack food is popcorn?
A) Iowa B) Indiana C) Illinois D) Nebraska
93. Which state gets the most sunny days each year?
A) Nevada B) Arizona C) Florida D) New Mexico
94. Wild ponies swim across a channel every July in which state?
A) North Carolina B) Maryland C) Virginia D) Georgia
95. Which state's state tree is the palmetto?
A) Florida B) Georgia C) South Carolina D) Louisiana
96. Yosemite Falls, one of the tallest waterfalls in North America, is in which state?
A) Washington B) Oregon C) California D) Colorado
97. Which state meets Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado at the Four Corners?
A) Nevada B) Utah C) Wyoming D) Kansas
98. Which state has a giant thermometer 134 feet tall?
A) Arizona B) Nevada C) California D) Texas
99. Which state is home to the world's largest ball of twine rolled by one person?
A) Nebraska B) Kansas C) Missouri D) Minnesota

100. Which state was once home to a lost colony that vanished without a trace?

A) Virginia **B)** North Carolina **C)** South Carolina **D)** Georgia

The Answer Key

Host's eyes only. Read the explanation out loud after each answer - that is the part players remember.

Round 1: Warm-Up Lap

1. **C - Austin.** Austin has been the capital since 1839, even though Houston and San Antonio are both bigger.
2. **B - Florida.** Florida picked the nickname to advertise its warm winters to tourists.
3. **D - Alaska.** Alaska is more than twice the size of Texas, the runner-up.
4. **B - Rhode Island.** Rhode Island is so small that about 500 of them would fit inside Alaska.
5. **C - Sacramento.** Sacramento won the job during the Gold Rush, when it was the gateway to the goldfields.
6. **B - California.** The nickname comes from the 1849 Gold Rush and the state's golden summer hills.
7. **A - Michigan.** Michiganders really do point at their own hand to show you where they live.
8. **C - Albany.** Albany, not New York City, has been the capital since 1797.
9. **B - Hawaii.** In Hawaiian, aloha means hello, goodbye, and love all at once.
10. **C - Georgia.** Georgia has grown peaches since the 1500s, though California grows more of them today.
11. **D - California.** About one in every eight Americans lives in California.
12. **D - Tallahassee.** Tallahassee was chosen because it sat halfway between the two old capitals.
13. **B - Hawaii.** Hawaii is a chain of volcanic islands, and it is the only island state.
14. **B - Texas.** The single star came from Texas's flag back when it was its own country.
15. **B - Springfield.** Abraham Lincoln helped move the capital to Springfield, his hometown.
16. **C - Arizona.** The Colorado River carved it, but almost all of the canyon sits in Arizona.
17. **B - New York.** That is why the famous skyscraper is called the Empire State Building.
18. **B - Alaska and Hawaii.** Alaska touches only Canada, and Hawaii is surrounded by ocean.
19. **D - Denver.** Denver is nicknamed the Mile-High City because it sits 5,280 feet up.
20. **B - Missouri.** Missourians are said to want proof before they believe anything.
21. **C - Massachusetts.** Boston has been the capital since 1630, longer than the United States has existed.
22. **C - New Jersey.** Despite all its highways, New Jersey is full of farms growing tomatoes, corn, and blueberries.
23. **C - Lake Michigan.** Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake entirely inside the United States.
24. **B - Utah.** The beehive stands for hard work and teamwork, not actual bees.
25. **D - Atlanta.** Atlanta is home to the world's busiest airport.
26. **C - Alaska.** Point Barrow in Alaska is the northernmost spot in the whole country.
27. **C - Minnesota.** Minnesota actually has closer to 12,000 lakes, so the nickname undersells it.
28. **C - Olympia.** Olympia is much smaller than Seattle but has been the capital since 1853.
29. **A - Nevada.** A giant silver strike called the Comstock Lode put Nevada on the map.
30. **C - Oklahoma.** Sooners were settlers who sneaked in early to claim land before the starting gun.

Round 2: Coast to Coast

31. **B - St. Louis.** The 630-foot stainless steel arch in St. Louis, Missouri is the tallest monument in the country.
32. **C - Florida.** The Everglades is a river of grass that flows so slowly you cannot see it move.
33. **B - Santa Monica.** The Mother Road ended at the Pacific Ocean in Santa Monica, California.

34. **C - Yellowstone.** It erupts roughly every 90 minutes, which is why it earned its name.
35. **D - San Antonio.** The old Spanish mission in San Antonio became famous after the 1836 battle.
36. **C - Alaska.** Alaska's jagged shoreline is longer than all the other states' coastlines put together.
37. **B - Canada.** About 3,000 tons of water tumble over the falls every single second.
38. **B - Hawaii.** Honolulu means sheltered harbor in Hawaiian.
39. **C - Iowa.** Iowa has led the country in corn for decades, with Illinois usually right behind.
40. **B - Minnesota.** It starts as a stream at Lake Itasca, Minnesota that you can walk across on stepping stones.
41. **D - Kansas.** Kansas is all plains; the Rockies stop well to its west.
42. **B - Kentucky.** Kentucky's bluegrass is really green, but its flower buds look blue in spring.
43. **C - Hawaii.** Hawaii became the 50th state in 1959, months after Alaska became the 49th.
44. **C - Seattle.** It was built in Seattle for the 1962 World's Fair.
45. **B - Michigan.** Michigan touches Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie - everything but Ontario.
46. **C - Tennessee.** Tennessee earned it when huge numbers of its men volunteered for the War of 1812.
47. **B - Santa Fe, New Mexico.** Santa Fe sits about 7,000 feet up, beating Denver's famous mile.
48. **C - Louisville.** The race has run at Churchill Downs in Louisville since 1875.
49. **C - Georgia.** Georgia grows about half of all the peanuts in the country.
50. **D - Alaska.** Denali in Alaska rises 20,310 feet above sea level.
51. **B - Montana.** Montana's plains are so wide and flat that the sky seems to go on forever.
52. **B - Sonoran Desert.** The Sonoran is the only place on Earth where giant saguaro cactuses grow wild.
53. **B - Louisiana.** The brown pelican appears on Louisiana's flag and its state seal.
54. **B - Ohio.** They built the plane in Dayton, Ohio and only flew it in North Carolina for the wind.
55. **C - Michigan.** Michigan has around 120, thanks to all that Great Lakes shoreline.
56. **D - Virginia.** Eight presidents were born in Virginia, including George Washington.
57. **C - Delaware.** Delaware was the first to approve the US Constitution, in December 1787.
58. **B - South Dakota.** Its striped rock spires are packed with fossils of ancient rhinos and horses.
59. **C - Mississippi.** The magnolia is both Mississippi's state flower and its state tree.
60. **D - Tennessee.** It is the most visited national park in the country, with over 12 million visits a year.
61. **B - Indiana.** Nobody is completely sure where the word Hoosier came from - even in Indiana.
62. **B - Rhode Island.** Tiny Rhode Island has more than 400 miles of shoreline along its bays and inlets.
63. **B - Kansas.** Wild sunflowers grow along Kansas roadsides all summer long.
64. **C - Juneau.** Juneau is the only state capital you cannot drive to - you need a boat or a plane.
65. **C - Arizona.** Arizona mines far more copper than any other state - a copper star sits on its flag.

Round 3: Champion Round

66. **B - Oregon.** Boring, Oregon is officially paired with Dull, Scotland and Bland, Australia.
67. **C - Iowa.** I-o-w-a opens with two vowels in a row; Ohio and Idaho both have a consonant second.
68. **B - Pennsylvania.** Pennsylvania still has about 200 of them, more than any other state.
69. **C - Massachusetts.** The 45-letter Massachusetts lake name is usually shortened to Webster Lake.
70. **C - Hawaii.** Kona coffee grows on the volcanic slopes of Hawaii's Big Island.

71. **B - Virginia.** It fills 3.5 acres of Luray Caverns, Virginia, making it the largest musical instrument on Earth.
72. **C - New Jersey.** The first nearly complete dinosaur skeleton ever found came out of a New Jersey marl pit in 1858.
73. **B - Wisconsin.** Wisconsin grows more than half of the country's cranberries in flooded bogs.
74. **C - New Mexico.** The town renamed itself in 1950 to win a radio game show's contest.
75. **B - Tennessee.** The Nashville, Tennessee stage has been broadcasting country music since 1925.
76. **C - Minnesota.** The Minnesota statues went up in 1937 and are among America's oldest roadside giants.
77. **B - Nevada.** The secret Nevada air base tested spy planes, which is where many UFO stories started.
78. **C - Florida.** Florida has well over a million wild alligators, roughly one for every 20 people.
79. **B - Kansas.** A small monument near Lebanon, Kansas marks the spot.
80. **A - Michigan.** Hell, Michigan sells souvenirs every winter proving that Hell froze over.
81. **D - Nevada.** It holds back Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the country by volume.
82. **C - Texas.** Texas records the most simply because it is so enormous.
83. **C - California.** Badwater Basin in Death Valley, California sits 282 feet below sea level.
84. **D - Alaska.** Alaska has so many lakes that most of them have never been given a name.
85. **B - Alaska.** Teams cover about 1,000 miles of Alaska in eight to fourteen days.
86. **C - Wyoming.** Its rainbow rings come from heat-loving bacteria living at different temperatures.
87. **B - Kansas.** The Wizard of Oz made the Kansas twister the most famous tornado in fiction.
88. **C - Indiana.** Volunteers in Santa Claus, Indiana have answered the mail every year since 1914.
89. **D - Wyoming.** Wyoming's flag has a white bison with the state seal branded on its side.
90. **B - New Mexico.** People have lived on the New Mexico mesa top for around 1,000 years.
91. **C - Florida.** Rockets launch from Florida's coast so spent stages fall safely into the ocean.
92. **C - Illinois.** Illinois schoolchildren campaigned to make popcorn official in 2003.
93. **B - Arizona.** Yuma, Arizona is the sunniest place on Earth, with sunshine about 90 percent of daylight hours.
94. **C - Virginia.** The Chincoteague pony swim in Virginia has drawn crowds since 1925.
95. **C - South Carolina.** Palmetto logs soaked up cannonballs at a Revolutionary War fort, saving Charleston.
96. **C - California.** It drops 2,425 feet in three stages and often dries up completely by late summer.
97. **B - Utah.** It is the only spot in the country where you can stand in four states at once.
98. **C - California.** The Baker, California landmark is 134 feet for Death Valley's 134-degree record.
99. **D - Minnesota.** Francis Johnson of Darwin, Minnesota spent 29 years winding it, four hours a day.
100. **B - North Carolina.** The Roanoke settlers of North Carolina disappeared by 1590, leaving only the word CROATOAN.

Scorecard

Print this page (or copy the grid onto any scrap of paper). Write each team's state name in the left column.

	Round 1 (out of 30)	Round 2 (out of 35)	Round 3 (out of 35)	TOTAL (out of 100)
Team 1				
Team 2				
Team 3				
Team 4				

Tie-breaker questions

- How many states border the Pacific Ocean? (Closest guess wins.)

Five: California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii.

- How many states have a coastline on the Atlantic Ocean? (Closest guess wins.)

Fourteen, from Maine down to Florida.

- How many US states begin with the letter M? (Closest guess wins.)

Eight: Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, and Montana.

Where the Facts Came From

This pack is the game-night companion to **250 Amazing Facts About the 50 States: A Fun Fact and Quiz Book for Kids Ages 8-12**. The book gives every single state its own page - capital, statehood date, nickname, state bird, state flower, and five hand-picked facts that make the whole family say "no way!" - organized into eight easy regions, with a 10-question quiz and a full answer key after each one.

If your family enjoyed tonight, the book is the version you can hand to a kid and not see again for an hour.



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