

Classify the States

In this activity, you are to classify certain states in the United States using a taxonomic key. The taxonomic key, also called a classification key or dichotomous key, lists specific characteristics of the states using paired choices, only one of which will apply to a particular state. To identify the states, you will need a map of the United States. There is one copied on the back of this worksheet, but you may also use a map in an atlas or online. This worksheet with a color version of the map is saved in portaportal.

Directions: *Do the following for each state, one at a time. Starting at number 1, read the paired choices on the left, select the choice that applies to the state, and then follow the direction given on the right. Write the name of the state on the line provided. Choose your answers from the following list.*

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|------------|-------------|----------------|
| Arkansas | Kentucky | New York |
| California | Louisiana | North Carolina |
| Colorado | Minnesota | Tennessee |
| Illinois | Missouri | Wisconsin |
| Iowa | Mississippi | |

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- 1** A. Borders on the Mississippi River..... Go to 2
 B. Does not border on the Mississippi River..... Go to 11
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- 2** A. Begins with the letter M..... Go to 3
 B. Does not begin with the letter M..... Go to 5
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- 3** A. Shares a border with Tennessee..... Go to 4
 B. Does not share a border with Tennessee..... _____
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- 4** A. Its capital is Jackson..... _____
 B. Its capital is not Jackson..... _____
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- 5** A. Has 8 or more letters in its name..... Go to 6
 B. Has less than 8 letters in its name..... _____
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- 6** A. Entire state lies south of 40 degrees latitude..... Go to 7
 B. Entire state does not lie south of 40 degrees latitude..... Go to 10
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- 7** A. Borders on the Gulf of Mexico..... _____
 B. Does not border on the Gulf of Mexico..... Go to 8
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- 8** A. Is east of the Mississippi River..... Go to 9
 B. Is west of the Mississippi River..... _____
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- 9** A. Borders on the Ohio River..... _____
 B. Does not border on the Ohio River..... _____
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- 10** A. Borders on two of the Great Lakes..... _____
 B. Borders on one of the Great Lakes..... _____
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- 11** A. Was one of the 13 original colonies..... Go to 12
 B. Was not one of the 13 original colonies..... Go to 13
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- 12** A. Borders on the Great Lakes.....
 B. Does not border on the Great Lakes.....
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- 13** A. Contains the Sierra Nevada Mountains.....
 B. Does not contain the Sierra Nevada Mountains.....

