

Learn the **States** AND  
**Postal Abbreviations**



by Joy A. Miller  
<http://FiveJs.com>

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# **Learn the States and Postal Abbreviations**

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## About the Author :: Joy A. Miller

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Joy is a stay-at-home, work-from-home, homeschooling mom. She lives in North Texas with her husband and three children.

You can read more from Joy on her personal blog, **Fivejs.com**, where she writes about homeschooling, her family, and the general craziness of her life. Joy is also the owner of **Five J's Design**, a graphic and web design business.

# How To Use This Book

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*The maps, flashcards, and worksheets in this book are generally self-explanatory, so please feel free to use them in any order that you see fit. However, if you prefer a more detailed plan, see the lessons below.*

*If your child already knows the names and locations of the states, you may want to begin at Part II: Learning the Postal Abbreviations.*

## **PART I— Learning the States**

- 1.** On cardstock, print out (and cut out) the flashcards from pages 11–20. The names of the states will be printed on one side and the abbreviations on the other side. Print out Maps A and B from pages 8 and 22.
- 2.** Choose 3 to 5 flashcards to learn first. These cards make up your drill deck.
- 3.** Looking at the state name side of the flashcard and using Map A, have your student find where each state is located on the map. Do this with all the drill deck cards.
- 4.** Using Map B, show your student the state name on one of the flashcards in the drill deck and have them locate the state on the map by pointing at the state or calling out the number.
- 5.** After going through the drill deck a few times, select 3 to 5 new flashcards and have your student find each state on Map A as in step 3. Then add those cards to the drill deck and repeat step 4.
- 6.** Repeat step 5 until the drill deck gets to 10 to 15 cards. Then you can begin removing cards from the drill deck by setting aside those cards that your student knows exceptionally well.
- 7.** Choose 3 to 5 new flashcards to learn and repeat the process, but try to keep the drill deck to 15 cards or less. You may want to occasionally add back in the flashcards that were set aside for extra reinforcement.
- 8.** Keep adding new cards to the drill deck, setting aside those cards which are learned well, until all the states are learned.

## **PART 2 — Learning the Postal Abbreviations**

### **LESSON 1 Introduction to Postal Abbreviations [p. 8–10]**

1. Discuss what postal abbreviations are and where they are used in everyday life, such as in the following places:
  - ✓ on envelopes for mailing letters
  - ✓ as part of an address when filling out forms
  - ✓ in news headlines
  - ✓ on news crawls on television
  - ✓ in airport terminals on arrival/departure displays
2. Study pages 8 and 9. Discuss the four ways postal abbreviations are formed:
  - ✓ First letter of each word (For example: NH for **N**ew **H**ampshire)
  - ✓ First two letters of the word (For example: OR for **O**regon)
  - ✓ First and last letters of the word (For example: ME for **M**aine)
  - ✓ First letter and any other letter (For example: AK for **A**laska)
3. Complete the worksheet from page 10.

### **LESSON 2 Postal Abbreviation Flashcards [p. 11–20]**

1. On cardstock, print out (and cut out) the flashcards from pages 11–20. The names of the states will be printed on one side and the abbreviations on the other side.
2. To practice with the flashcards, select 3 to 5 cards at a time and drill with those. When a card is learned well, set that card aside and add a new card to your hand. Try not to have more than 10 to 15 unlearned cards in your hand at once.

### **LESSON 3 Identifying a State from Its Abbreviation [p. 21]**

Complete the worksheet from page 21.

### **LESSON 4 Identifying States from a Blank Map [p. 22–24]**

Using the map from page 22, complete the worksheet from page 23. The answers are given on page 24.

### **LESSON 5 Identifying States and Abbreviations [p. 22, 25–26]**

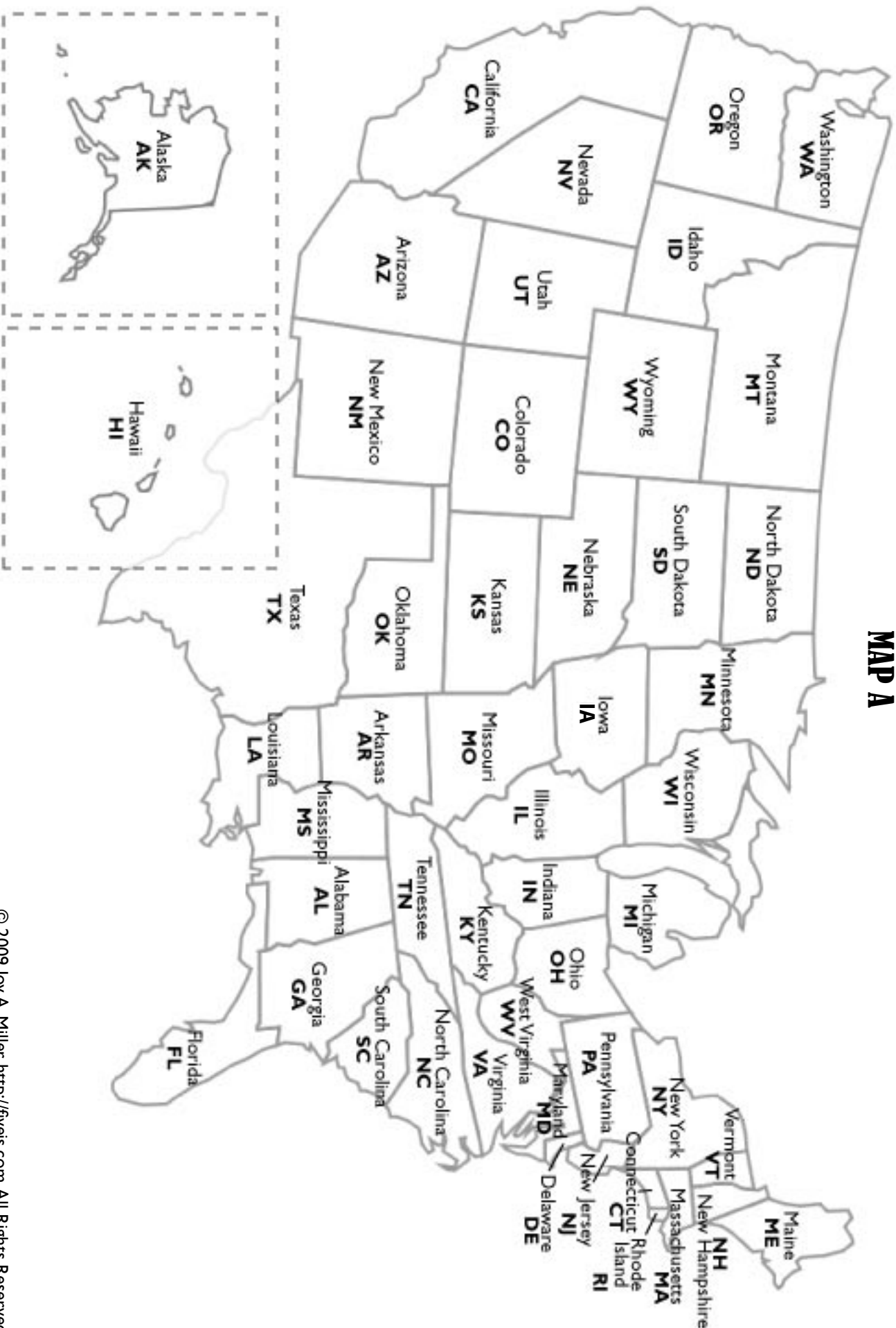
Using the map from page 22, complete the worksheet on page 25. The answers are given on page 26.

### **LESSON 6 Writing Abbreviations on a Blank Map [p. 27–28]**

Complete the map worksheet on page 27. The answers are given on page 28.

# United States of America

## MAP A





# United States of America

## Postal Abbreviation Study Sheet

### EASY

#### First Two Letters

**AL** ALABAMA  
**AR** ARKANSAS  
**CA** CALIFORNIA  
**CO** COLORADO  
**DE** DELAWARE  
**FL** FLORIDA  
**ID** IDAHO  
**IL** ILLINOIS  
**IN** INDIANA  
**MA** MASSACHUSETTS  
**MI** MICHIGAN  
**NE** NEBRASKA  
**OH** OHIO  
**OK** OKLAHOMA  
**OR** OREGON  
**UT** UTAH  
**WA** WASHINGTON  
**WI** WISCONSIN  
**WY** WYOMING

#### First Letter of Each Word

**NH** NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**NJ** NEW JERSEY  
**NM** NEW MEXICO  
**NY** NEW YORK  
**NC** NORTH CAROLINA  
**ND** NORTH DAKOTA  
**RI** RHODE ISLAND  
**SC** SOUTH CAROLINA  
**SD** SOUTH DAKOTA  
**WV** WEST VIRGINIA

### HARDER

#### First and Last Letters

**CT** CONNECTICUT  
**GA** GEORGIA  
**HI** HAWAII  
**IA** IOWA  
**KS** KANSAS  
**KY** KENTUCKY  
**LA** LOUISIANA  
**ME** MAINE  
**MD** MARYLAND  
**PA** PENNSYLVANIA  
**VT** VERMONT  
**VA** VIRGINIA

### HARDEST

#### First Letter Plus Another

**AK** ALASKA  
**AZ** ARIZONA  
**MN** MINNESOTA  
**MS** MISSISSIPPI  
**MO** MISSOURI  
**MT** MONTANA  
**NV** NEVADA  
**TN** TENNESSEE  
**TX** TEXAS

# United States of America

## Postal Abbreviation Practice

Notice the majority of the states form their abbreviation from either 1) the first letter of each word, 2) their first two letters, or 3) their first and last letter.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Circle the letters in the state name that make up each postal abbreviation as in the example below:

AL (A)labama

2. Draw a rectangle around the nine states that do **not** form their abbreviations using any of the three methods mentioned above.

AL	Alabama	MT	Montana
AK	Alaska	NE	Nebraska
AZ	Arizona	NV	Nevada
AR	Arkansas	NH	New Hampshire
CA	California	NJ	New Jersey
CO	Colorado	NM	New Mexico
CT	Connecticut	NY	New York
DE	Delaware	NC	North Carolina
FL	Florida	ND	North Dakota
GA	Georgia	OH	Ohio
HI	Hawaii	OK	Oklahoma
ID	Idaho	OR	Oregon
IL	Illinois	PA	Pennsylvania
IN	Indiana	RI	Rhode Island
IA	Iowa	SC	South Carolina
KS	Kansas	SD	South Dakota
KY	Kentucky	TN	Tennessee
LA	Louisiana	TX	Texas
ME	Maine	UT	Utah
MD	Maryland	VT	Vermont
MA	Massachusetts	VA	Virginia
MI	Michigan	WA	Washington
MN	Minnesota	WV	West Virginia
MS	Mississippi	WI	Wisconsin
MO	Missouri	WY	Wyoming

Alabama

Colorado

Alaska

Connecticut

Arizona

Delaware

Arkansas

Florida

California

Georgia

CO

AL

CT

AK

DE

AZ

FL

AR

GA

CA

Hawaii

Kansas

Idaho

Kentucky

Illinois

Louisiana

Indiana

Maine

Iowa

Maryland

KS

HI

KY

ID

LA

IL

ME

IN

MD

IA

Massachusetts

Montana

Michigan

Nebraska

Minnesota

Nevada

Mississippi

New Hampshire

Missouri

New Jersey

MT

MA

NE

MI

NV

MN

NH

MS

NJ

MO



New Mexico

Oklahoma

New York

Oregon

North Carolina

Pennsylvania

North Dakota

Rhode Island

Ohio

South Carolina

OK

NM

OR

NY

PA

NC

RI

ND

SC

OH

South Dakota

Virginia

Tennessee

Washington

Texas

West Virginia

Utah

Wisconsin

Vermont

Wyoming

VA

SD

WA

TN

WV

TX

WI

UT

WY

VT

# United States of America

## Postal Abbreviation Identification

**DIRECTIONS:** Write the name of each state next to its postal abbreviation.

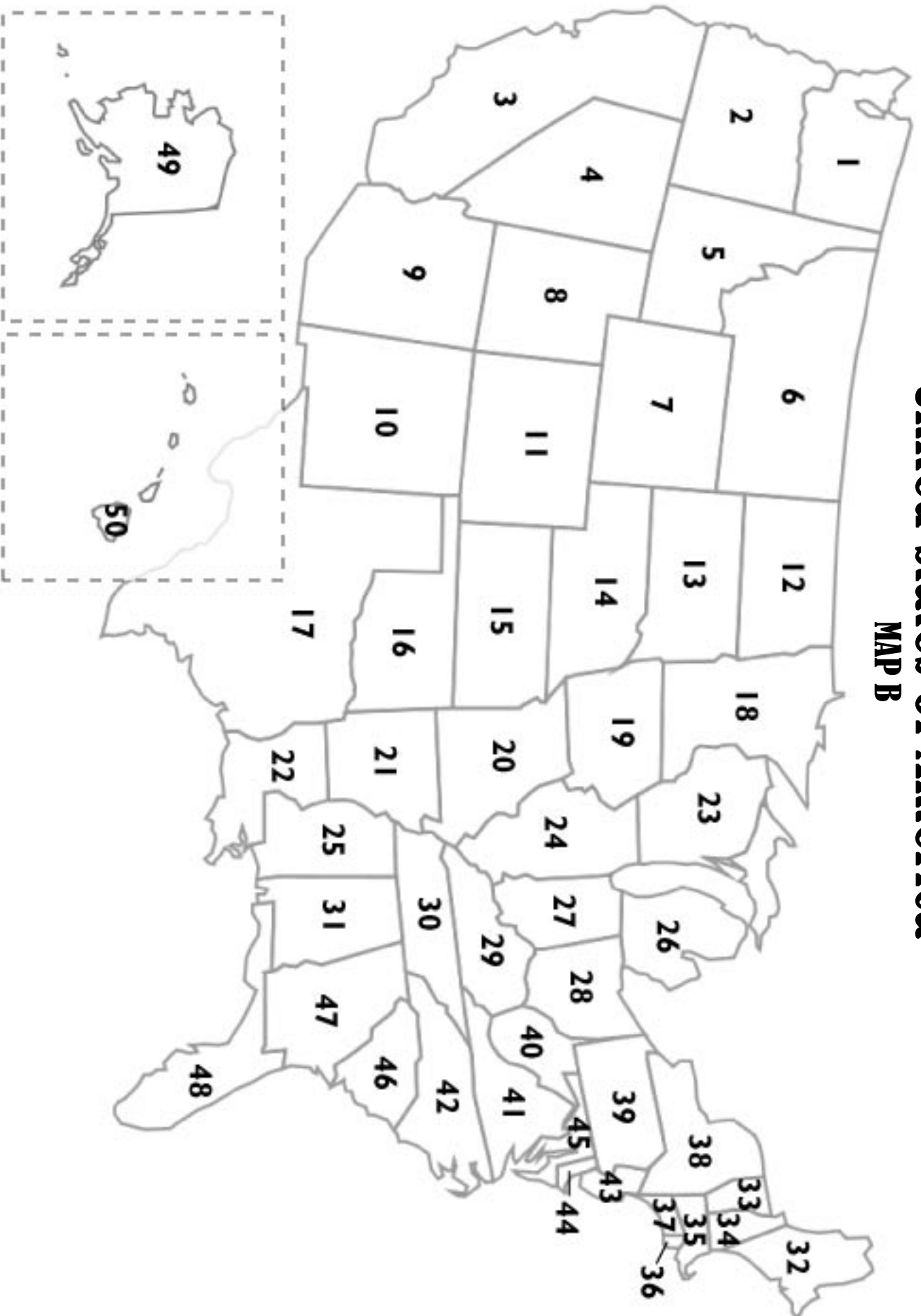
ND	_____	AK	_____
AR	_____	KS	_____
SC	_____	MD	_____
LA	_____	NM	_____
MT	_____	CT	_____
NC	_____	KY	_____
SD	_____	NV	_____
VA	_____	AZ	_____
WY	_____	MA	_____
MO	_____	NH	_____
OK	_____	PA	_____
VT	_____	TX	_____
AL	_____	DE	_____
IN	_____	IA	_____
MI	_____	MS	_____
NY	_____	NJ	_____
RI	_____	CA	_____
CO	_____	GA	_____
IL	_____	TN	_____
ME	_____	WV	_____
MN	_____	FL	_____
NE	_____	OR	_____
OH	_____	WI	_____
UT	_____	ID	_____
WA	_____	HI	_____

### WORD BANK

Alabama	Florida	Kentucky	Oregon	Vermont
Alaska	Georgia	Louisiana	Pennsylvania	Virginia
Arizona	Hawaii	Maine	Rhode Island	Washington
Arkansas	Idaho	Maryland	South Carolina	West Virginia
California	Illinois	Massachusetts	South Dakota	Wisconsin
Colorado	Indiana	Michigan	Tennessee	Wyoming
Connecticut	Iowa	Minnesota	Texas	
Delaware	Kansas	Mississippi	Utah	
		Missouri	New Mexico	
		Montana	New York	
		Nebraska	North Carolina	
		Nevada	North Dakota	
		New Hampshire	Ohio	
		New Jersey	Oklahoma	

# United States of America

## MAP B



# United States of America

## State Identification (Use with MAP B)

**DIRECTIONS:** Write the name of the state next to the number that identifies it on the map.

1	_____	26	_____
2	_____	27	_____
3	_____	28	_____
4	_____	29	_____
5	_____	30	_____
6	_____	31	_____
7	_____	32	_____
8	_____	33	_____
9	_____	34	_____
10	_____	35	_____
11	_____	36	_____
12	_____	37	_____
13	_____	38	_____
14	_____	39	_____
15	_____	40	_____
16	_____	41	_____
17	_____	42	_____
18	_____	43	_____
19	_____	44	_____
20	_____	45	_____
21	_____	46	_____
22	_____	47	_____
23	_____	48	_____
24	_____	49	_____
25	_____	50	_____

### WORD BANK

Arkansas	Wyoming			New Hampshire	Georgia
North Dakota	Missouri			Pennsylvania	Tennessee
South Carolina	Oklahoma	Rhode Island	Ohio	Texas	West Virginia
Louisiana	Vermont	Colorado	Utah	Delaware	Florida
Montana	Alabama	Illinois	Washington	Iowa	Oregon
North Carolina	Indiana	Maine	Alaska	Mississippi	Wisconsin
South Dakota	Michigan	Minnesota	Kansas	New Jersey	Idaho
Virginia	New York	Nebraska	Maryland	California	Hawaii

# United States of America

## State Identification (ANSWER KEY)

1	Washington	26	Michigan
2	Oregon	27	Indiana
3	California	28	Ohio
4	Nevada	29	Kentucky
5	Idaho	30	Tennessee
6	Montana	31	Alabama
7	Wyoming	32	Maine
8	Utah	33	Vermont
9	Arizona	34	New Hampshire
10	New Mexico	35	Massachusetts
11	Colorado	36	Rhode Island
12	North Dakota	37	Connecticut
13	South Dakota	38	New York
14	Nebraska	39	Pennsylvania
15	Kansas	40	West Virginia
16	Oklahoma	41	Virginia
17	Texas	42	North Carolina
18	Minnesota	43	New Jersey
19	Iowa	44	Delaware
20	Missouri	45	Maryland
21	Arkansas	46	South Carolina
22	Louisiana	47	Georgia
23	Wisconsin	48	Florida
24	Illinois	49	Alaska
25	Mississippi	50	Hawaii



# United States of America

## State Identification and Postal Abbreviations (Use with MAP B)

**DIRECTIONS:** Write the postal abbreviation for each state, then write the number from the map which identifies each state.

POSTAL ABBREVIATION	NUMBER ON MAP
__ __ Alabama .....	# _____
__ __ Alaska .....	# _____
__ __ Arizona .....	# _____
__ __ Arkansas .....	# _____
__ __ California .....	# _____
__ __ Colorado .....	# _____
__ __ Connecticut .....	# _____
__ __ Delaware .....	# _____
__ __ Florida .....	# _____
__ __ Georgia .....	# _____
__ __ Hawaii .....	# _____
__ __ Idaho .....	# _____
__ __ Illinois .....	# _____
__ __ Indiana .....	# _____
__ __ Iowa .....	# _____
__ __ Kansas .....	# _____
__ __ Kentucky .....	# _____
__ __ Louisiana .....	# _____
__ __ Maine .....	# _____
__ __ Maryland .....	# _____
__ __ Massachusetts .....	# _____
__ __ Michigan .....	# _____
__ __ Minnesota .....	# _____
__ __ Mississippi .....	# _____
__ __ Missouri .....	# _____

POSTAL ABBREVIATION	NUMBER ON MAP
__ __ Montana .....	# _____
__ __ Nebraska .....	# _____
__ __ Nevada .....	# _____
__ __ New Hampshire .....	# _____
__ __ New Jersey .....	# _____
__ __ New Mexico .....	# _____
__ __ New York .....	# _____
__ __ North Carolina .....	# _____
__ __ North Dakota .....	# _____
__ __ Ohio .....	# _____
__ __ Oklahoma .....	# _____
__ __ Oregon .....	# _____
__ __ Pennsylvania .....	# _____
__ __ Rhode Island .....	# _____
__ __ South Carolina .....	# _____
__ __ South Dakota .....	# _____
__ __ Tennessee .....	# _____
__ __ Texas .....	# _____
__ __ Utah .....	# _____
__ __ Vermont .....	# _____
__ __ Virginia .....	# _____
__ __ Washington .....	# _____
__ __ West Virginia .....	# _____
__ __ Wisconsin .....	# _____
__ __ Wyoming .....	# _____

# United States of America

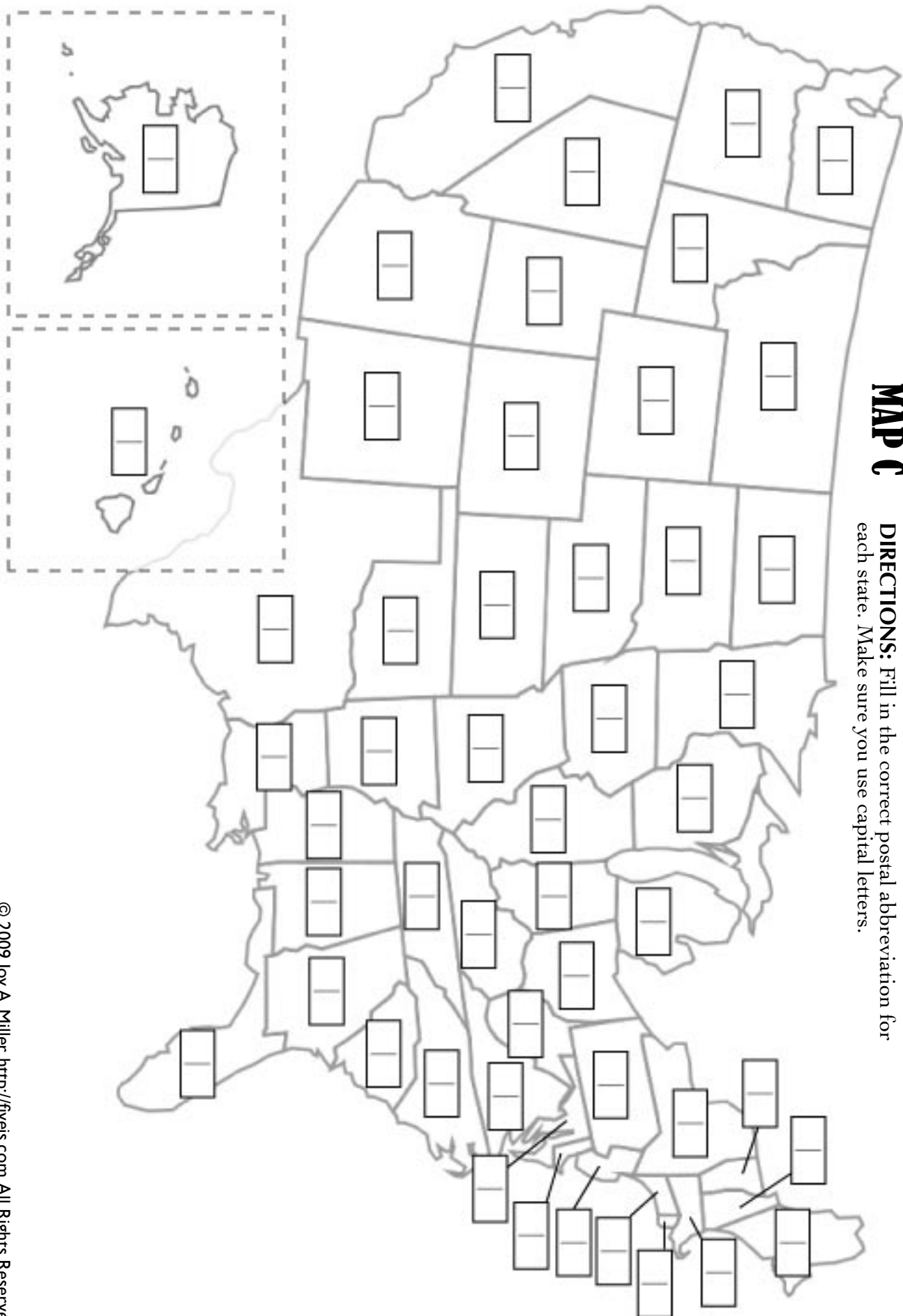
## State Identification and Postal Abbreviations (ANSWER KEY)

POSTAL ABBREVIATION	NUMBER ON MAP		POSTAL ABBREVIATION	NUMBER ON MAP	
AL	Alabama .....	#31	MT	Montana .....	#6
AK	Alaska .....	#49	NE	Nebraska .....	#14
AZ	Arizona .....	#9	NV	Nevada .....	#4
AR	Arkansas .....	#21	NH	New Hampshire .....	#34
CA	California .....	#3	NJ	New Jersey .....	#43
CO	Colorado .....	#11	NM	New Mexico .....	#10
CT	Connecticut .....	#37	NY	New York .....	#38
DE	Delaware .....	#44	NC	North Carolina .....	#42
FL	Florida .....	#48	ND	North Dakota .....	#12
GA	Georgia.....	#47	OH	Ohio .....	#28
HI	Hawaii .....	#50	OK	Oklahoma .....	#16
ID	Idaho .....	#5	OR	Oregon .....	#2
IL	Illinois .....	#24	PA	Pennsylvania .....	#39
IN	Indiana .....	#27	RI	Rhode Island .....	#36
IA	Iowa .....	#19	SC	South Carolina.....	#46
KS	Kansas .....	#15	SD	South Dakota .....	#13
KY	Kentucky .....	#29	TN	Tennessee .....	#30
LA	Louisiana .....	#22	TX	Texas .....	#17
ME	Maine .....	#32	UT	Utah .....	#8
MD	Maryland .....	#45	VT	Vermont .....	#33
MA	Massachusetts .....	#35	VA	Virginia .....	#41
MI	Michigan .....	#26	WA	Washington .....	#1
MN	Minnesota .....	#18	WV	West Virginia .....	#40
MS	Mississippi .....	#25	WI	Wisconsin .....	#23
MO	Missouri .....	#20	WY	Wyoming .....	#7

# United States of America

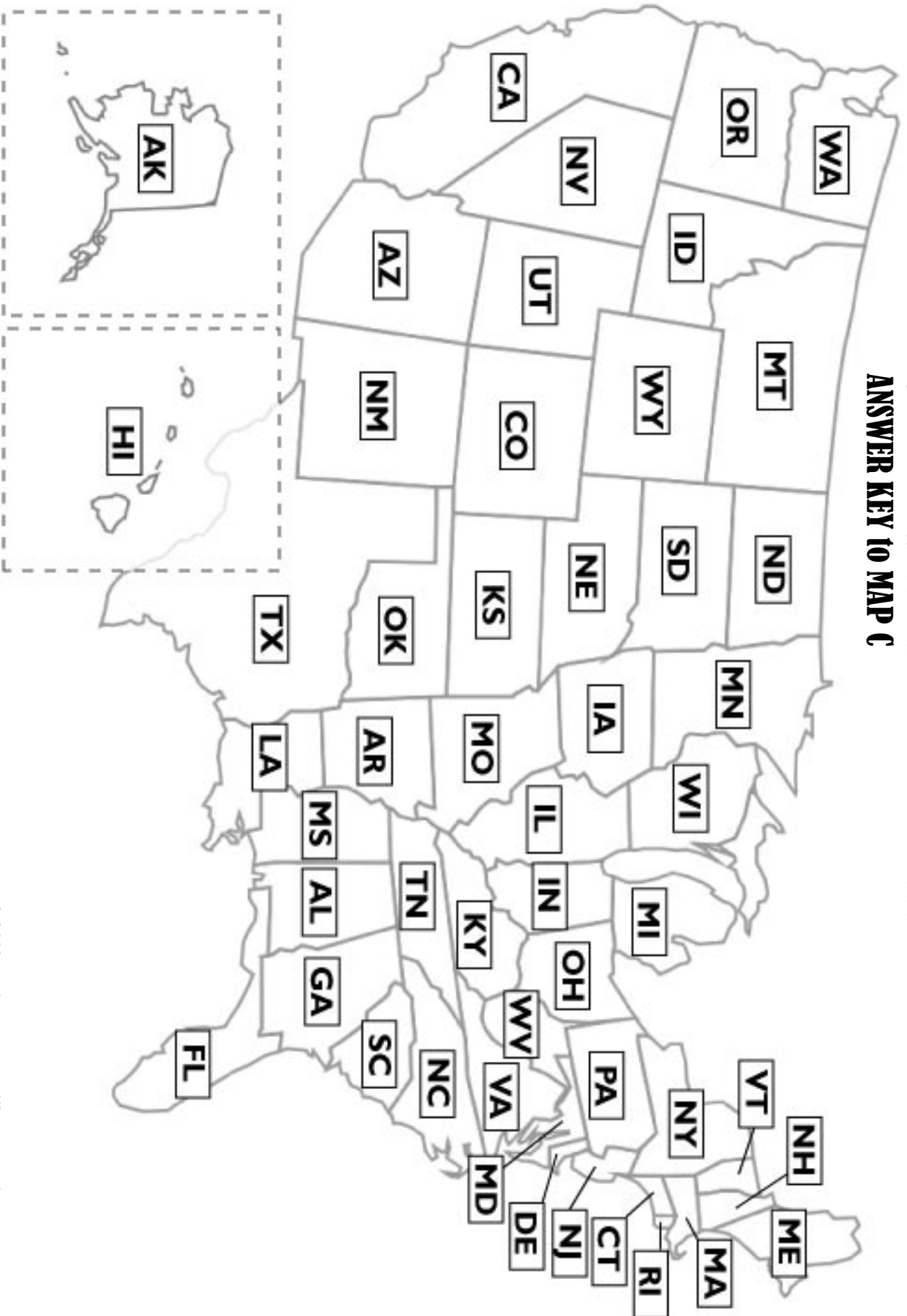
## MAP C

**DIRECTIONS:** Fill in the correct postal abbreviation for each state. Make sure you use capital letters.



# United States of America

## ANSWER KEY TO MAP C



# Additional Resources

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## Interactive Postal Abbreviations Quiz

[http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/states\\_map\\_abbrev\\_NL\\_10s10\\_500.html](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/states_map_abbrev_NL_10s10_500.html)

A free, downloadable geography program for PC. Learn about countries, capitals, flags and cities in Africa, Europe, South America, North America, Asia and Australia, using outline map exercises.

## History of State Postal Abbreviations

[http://www.usps.com/postalhistory/\\_htm/StateAbbreviations.htm](http://www.usps.com/postalhistory/_htm/StateAbbreviations.htm)

Learn from the United States Postal Service how state postal abbreviations came into common use. (The link for the article is toward the bottom of the page.)

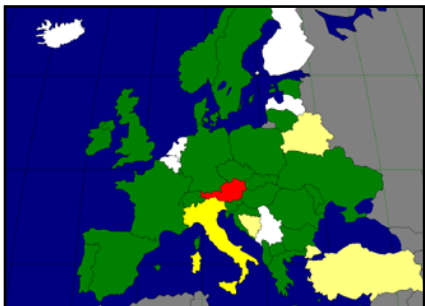
## How the U.S. Postal Service Works

<http://people.howstuffworks.com/usps.htm>

In-depth article from [HowStuffWorks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com) about how our postal system works, from the Pony Express to modern mail delivery and more.

## Seterra: Free Geography Software

<http://www.wartoft.nu/software/seterra/>



A free, downloadable geography program for PC. Learn about countries, capitals, flags and cities in Africa, Europe, South America, North America, Asia and Australia, using outline map exercises.