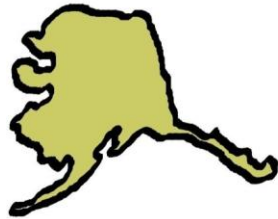




Friends and Mates in Fifty States





Friends and Mates in Fifty States

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Page 6

Wandering through the West with Willie

- p.8 Montana
- p.10 Wyoming
- p.12 Colorado
- p.14 New Mexico
- p.16 Arizona
- p.18 Utah
- p.20 Nevada
- p.22 California
- p.24 Hawaii
- p.26 Alaska
- p.28 Washington
- p.30 Oregon
- p.32 Idaho



Page 34

Nosing into the North with Normie

- p.36 North Dakota
- p.38 South Dakota
- p.40 Minnesota
- p.42 Wisconsin
- p.44 Michigan



Page 46

Meandering through the Midwest with Mickey

- p.48 Ohio
- p.50 Kentucky
- p.52 Indiana
- p.54 Illinois
- p.56 Missouri
- p.58 Iowa
- p.60 Nebraska
- p.62 Kansas



Page 64

Seeing the South with Susie

- p.66 Oklahoma
- p.68 Texas
- p.70 Louisiana
- p.72 Arkansas
- p.74 Mississippi
- p.76 Tennessee
- p.78 Alabama
- p.80 Florida
- p.82 Georgia
- p.84 South Carolina
- p.86 North Carolina

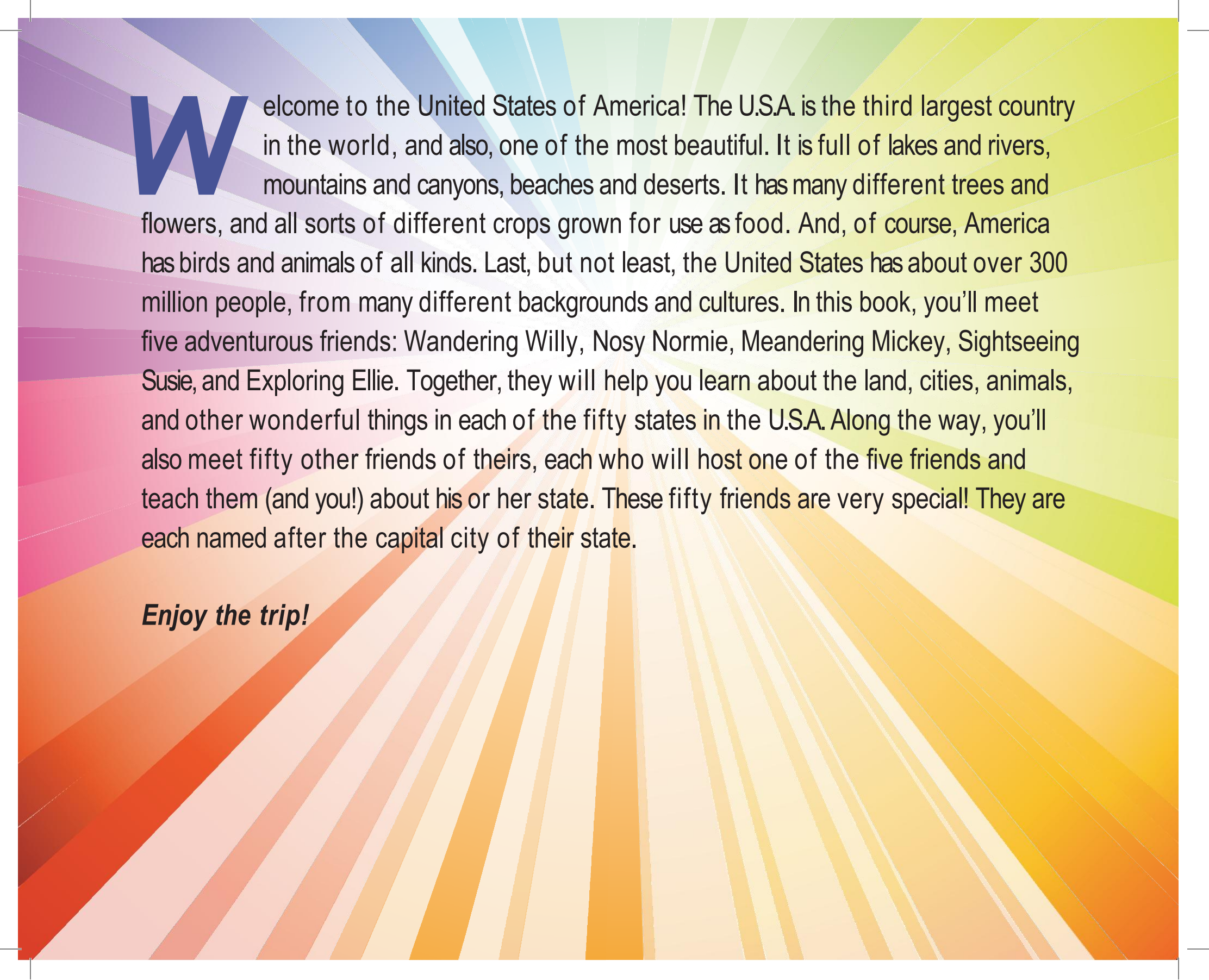


Page 88

Exploring the East with Ellie

- p.90 Maine
- p.92 New Hampshire
- p.94 Vermont
- p.96 Massachusetts
- p.98 Rhode Island
- p.100 Connecticut
- p.102 New York
- p.104 New Jersey
- p.106 Delaware
- p.108 Pennsylvania
- p.110 West Virginia
- p.112 Virginia
- p.114 Maryland
- and..... p.116 Washington, D.C.!





Welcome to the United States of America! The U.S.A. is the third largest country in the world, and also, one of the most beautiful. It is full of lakes and rivers, mountains and canyons, beaches and deserts. It has many different trees and flowers, and all sorts of different crops grown for use as food. And, of course, America has birds and animals of all kinds. Last, but not least, the United States has about over 300 million people, from many different backgrounds and cultures. In this book, you'll meet five adventurous friends: Wandering Willy, Nosy Normie, Meandering Mickey, Sightseeing Susie, and Exploring Ellie. Together, they will help you learn about the land, cities, animals, and other wonderful things in each of the fifty states in the U.S.A. Along the way, you'll also meet fifty other friends of theirs, each who will host one of the five friends and teach them (and you!) about his or her state. These fifty friends are very special! They are each named after the capital city of their state.

Enjoy the trip!



Willie



Susie



Normie



Mickey

Exploring Ellie and Wandering Willie travel to places both warm and chilly. For Normie and Susie there's water and sand, while Meandering Mickey tours the heartland. The five boys and girls visit friends and mates named after the capital of each of the states.



Ellie

Wandering Through the West with Willie

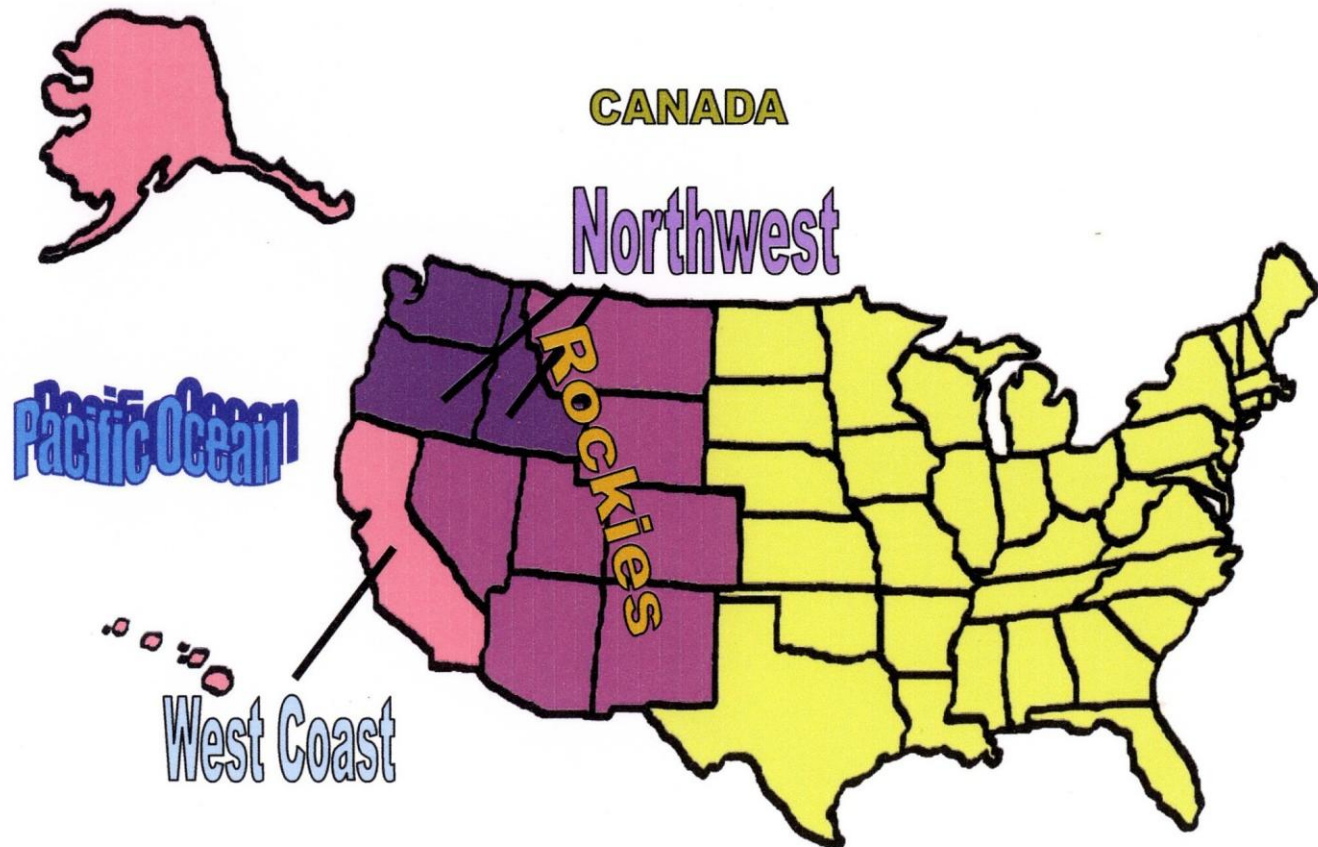


Wandering Willie had better be in good shape! He's going to start this tour by hiking from the state of Montana and through the other Rocky Mountain States. As he then heads west towards the Pacific coast, he'll visit the warm southwestern states like Arizona and Nevada, with friends at every stop! Once he has visited California, he'll take a boat to Hawaii, and then a plane to Alaska to visit the country's two westernmost states. He will finish his trip by visiting pals in the Pacific Northwest, including the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.



Willie

Willie will serve as guide and host
from the Rocky Mountains to the Western Coast.
In Hawaii and Alaska he'll take a quick rest,
and then he's off to the Pacific Northwest.



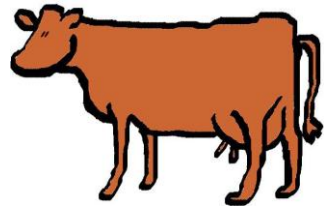
Montana

Forty-First State

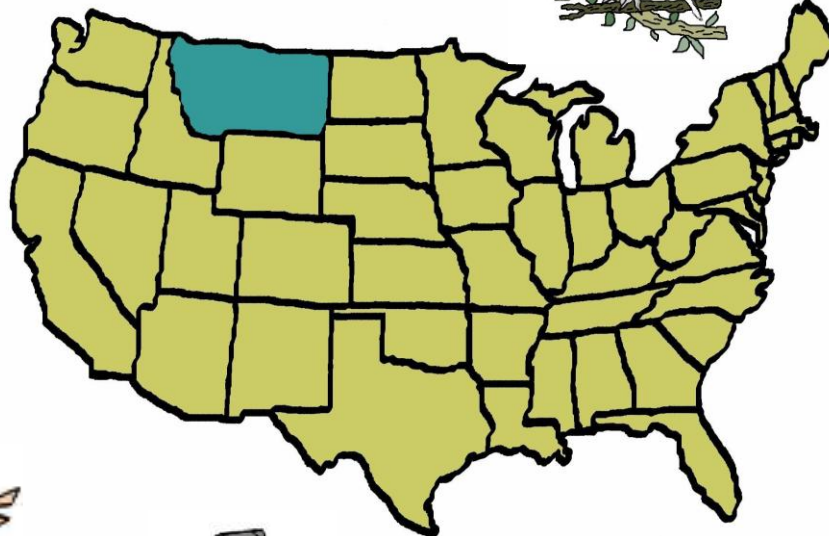
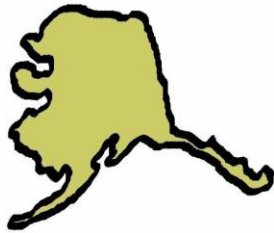
Bird: Western Meadowlark

Tree: Ponderosa Pine

Flower: Bitterroot



cattle



hogs



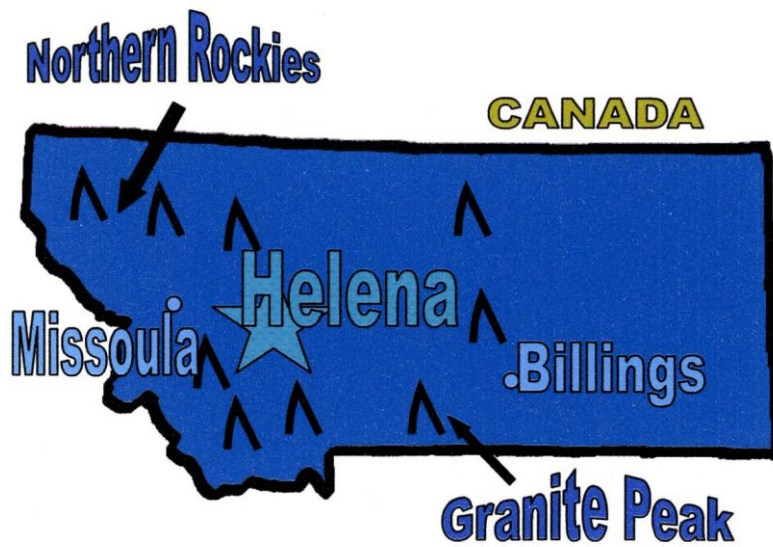
oil



mining

Willie first visits his friend, Helena, who lives in Montana. Montana borders the great country of Canada to the north. Even though the state contains many mountains, such as Montana's tallest, Granite Peak, the eastern part of the state is actually part of the Great Plains. Helena helps her parents grow crops and raise livestock on their farm, and her uncle works in a coal mine, mining for the treasures that give Montana its nickname. Willie really likes Helena, but he keeps his visits on the short side because she always puts poor Willie to work!

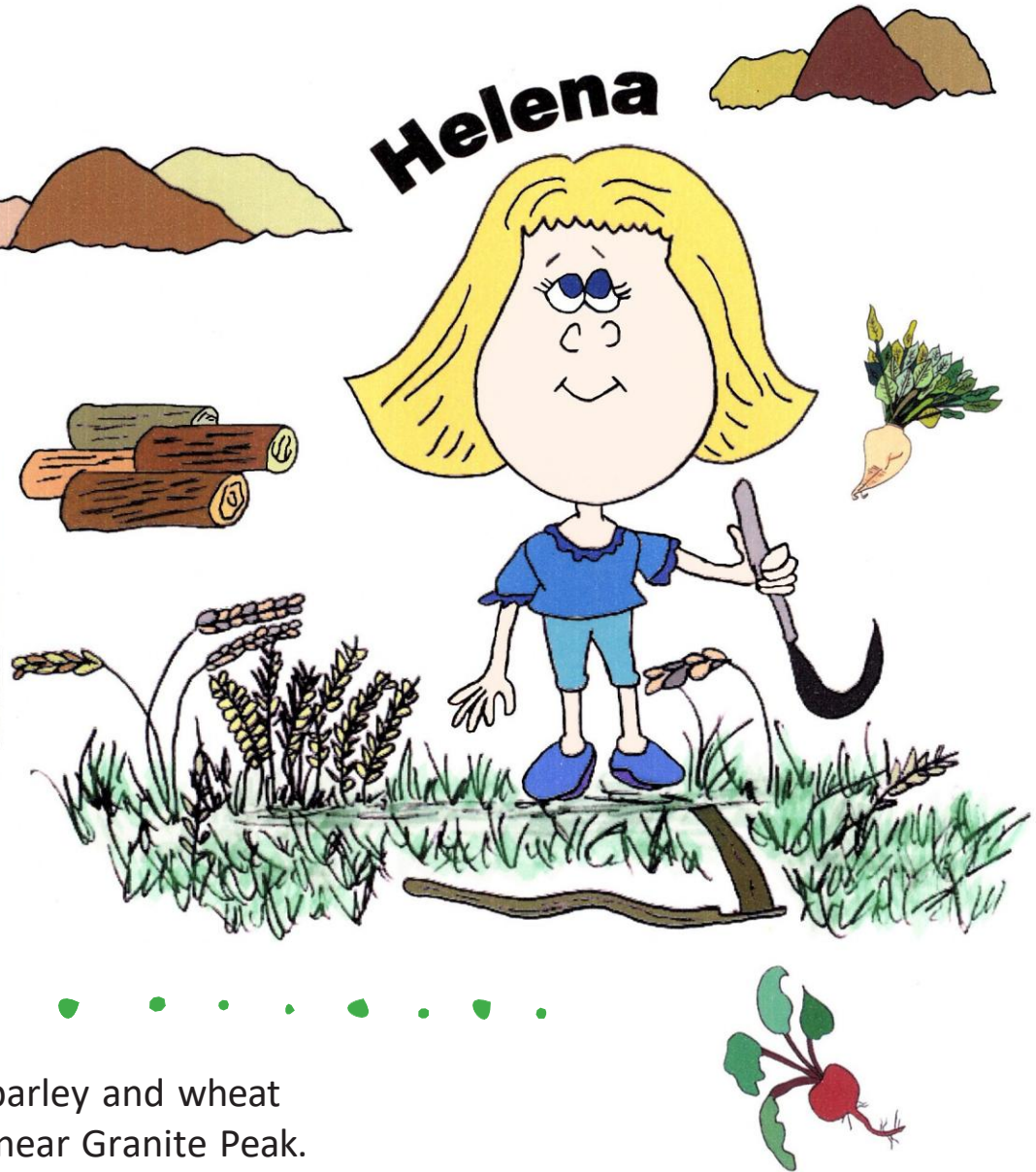




"The Treasure State"

Helena grew sugar beets, barley and wheat
just east of the Rockies, and near Granite Peak.
Her family in Billings sold lumber and wood.
Life in Montana was wholesome and good.

Helena



Wyoming

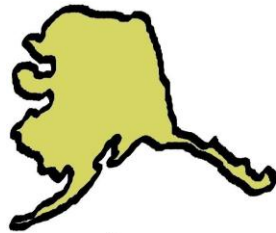
Forty-Fourth State



Bird: Western Meadowlark

Tree: Cottonwood

Flower: Indian Paintbrush



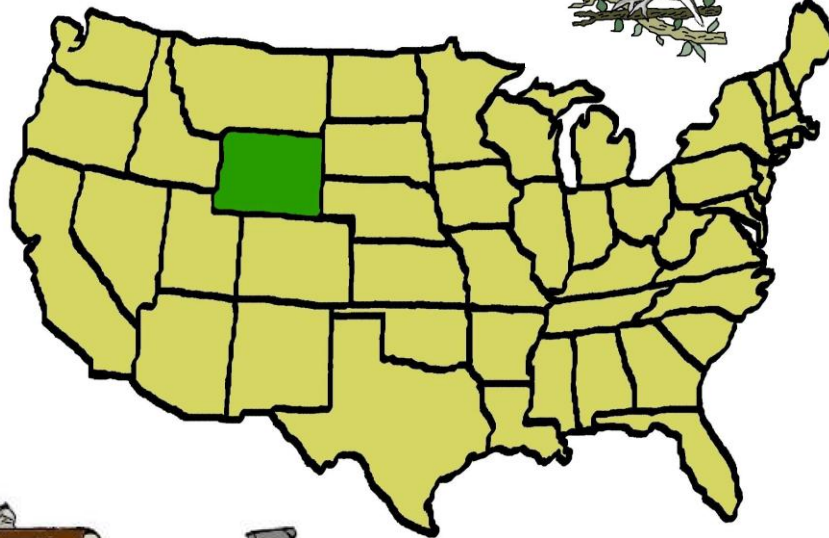
wheat



lumber

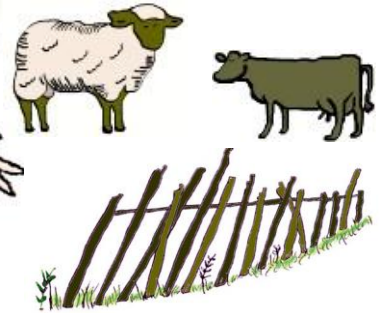
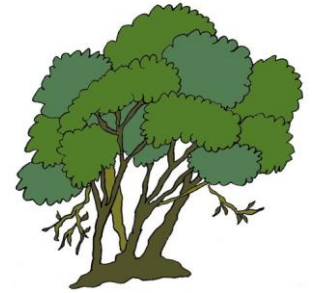
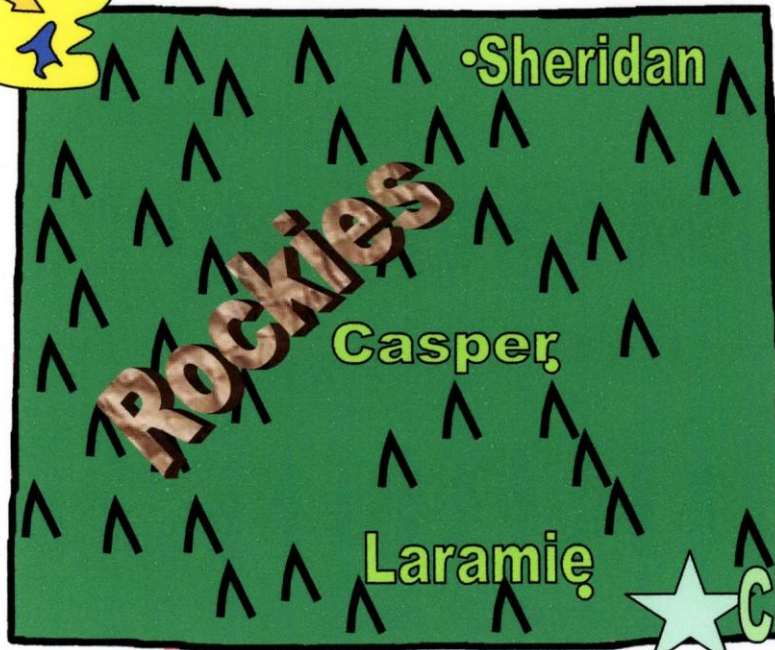


oil



Willie next pays a visit to his friend, Cheyenne, in Wyoming. He munches on some beets as Cheyenne tends to the sheep and cattle on her family's farm. He pauses between bites to try talking with her since she's a bit on the bashful side, and tends not to say much. That is, unless the topic of women's rights comes up. Then it's hard to get Cheyenne to stop boasting about how proud she is that Wyoming was the first state that allowed women to vote. That's why it's called the "Equality State"!

Yellowstone National Park



"Equality State"

Shy, shy Cheyenne, hardly making a peep,
grows crops on her farm, with her cattle and sheep.
She walks past cottonwoods and a loud meadowlark
and crosses the mountains to Yellowstone Park.



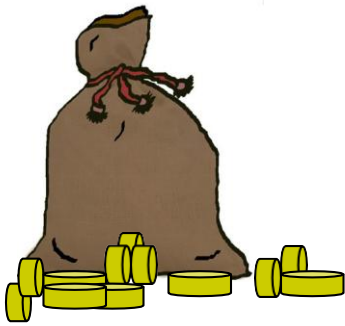
Colorado

Thirty-Eighth State

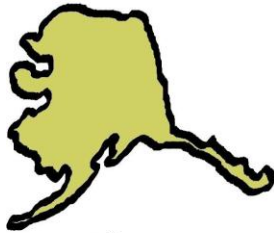
Bird: Lark Bunting

Tree: Blue Spruce

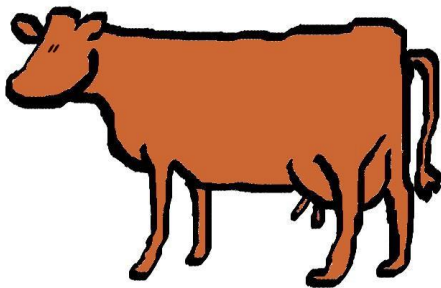
Flower: Rocky Mountain Columbine



gold



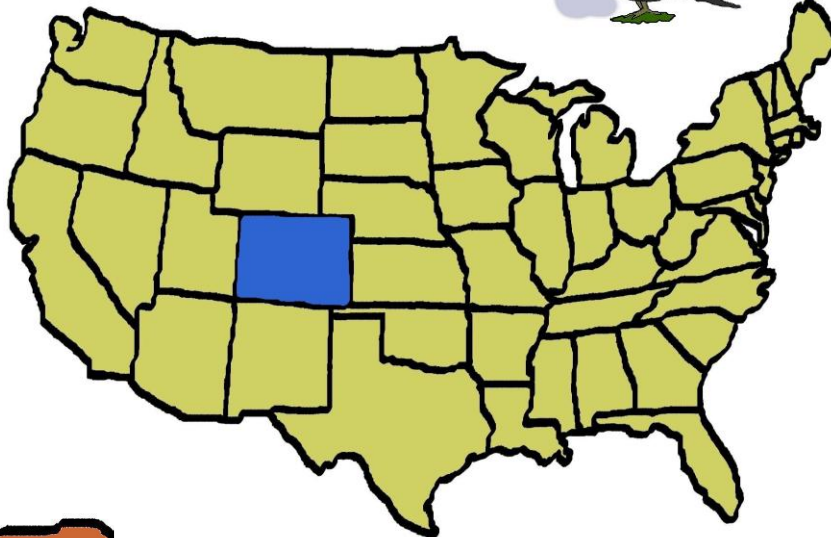
wheat



cattle

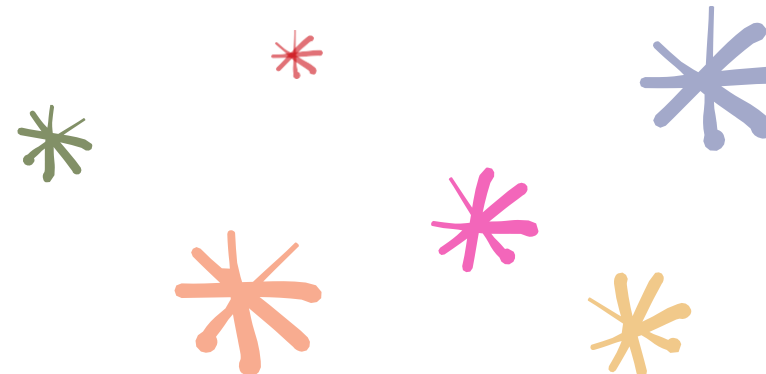


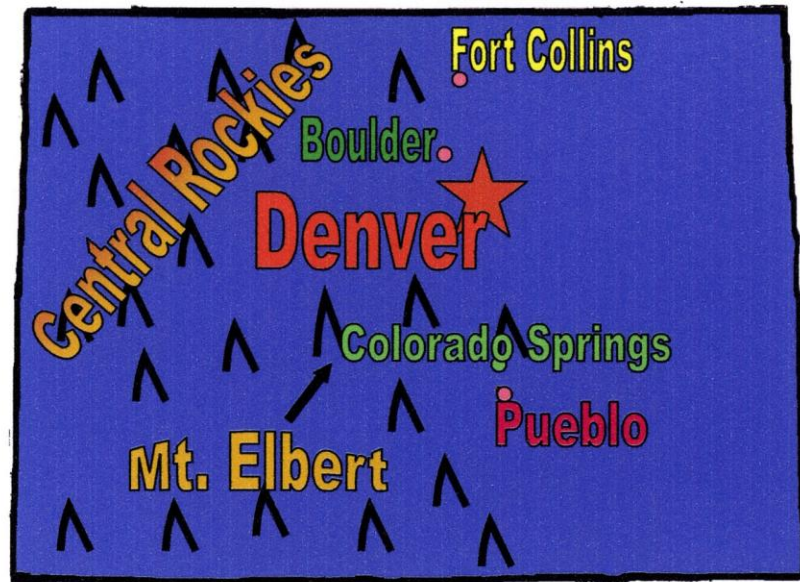
corn



As soon as Willie meets up with his buddy Denver, in Colorado, the two go for a hike up Colorado's tallest mountain, Mount Elbert.

The rest of the visit is spent on a bunch of Rocky Mountain hiking trails, where the boys see beautiful lakes and forests and fabulous high elevation views. After taking in all of the breathtaking scenery, it's clear to Willie why one of Colorado's nicknames is "Colorful Colorado."





"Colorful Colorado"
"Centennial State"



Denver hikes through valleys and canyons deep.
He climbs the Rocky Mountains, with faces steep.
Through Boulder and Fort Collins, he takes it slow.
He continues to Mount Elbert, and then Pueblo.

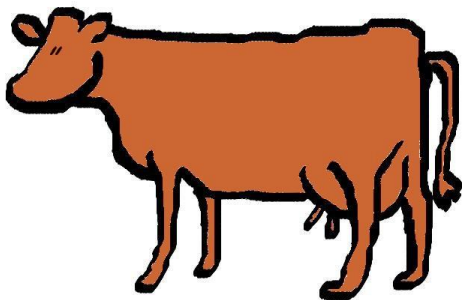
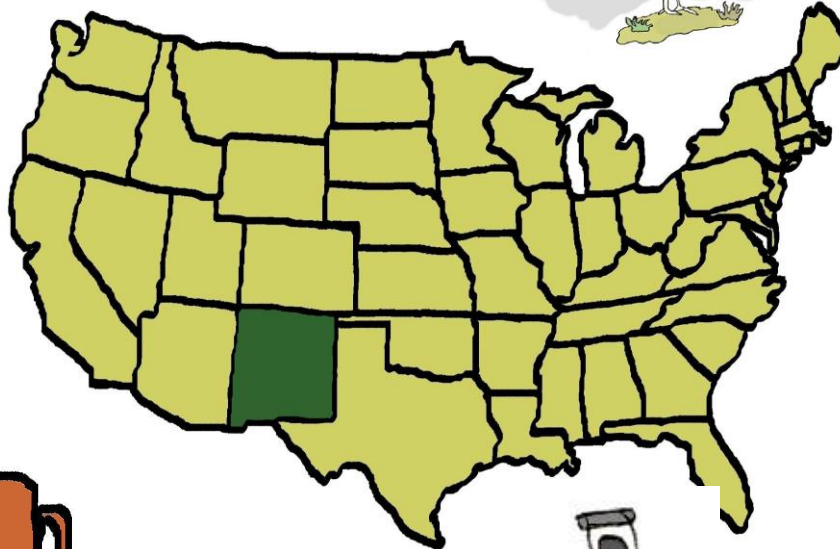
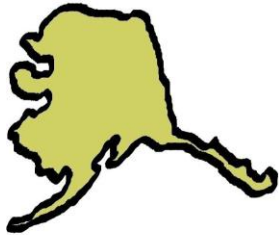
New Mexico

Forty-Seventh State

Bird: Roadrunner

Tree: Pinyon Pine

Flower: Yucca flower



cattle



oil

Santa Fe is waiting impatiently for Willie's arrival. He's starving and can't wait to dine on his favorite treat, red hot chili peppers. Once the two settle in at Santa Fe's favorite restaurant, with tall glasses of ice water within reach, Willie gets an earful about how Santa Fe is always being mocked because of the way he dresses. Willie listens sympathetically, and Santa Fe rewards him with a wrapped present and tells Willie he's on his "nice" list. Santa Fe then shrugs and tells Willie how proud he is to live in the "Land of Enchantment," with all of the wonderful cultures and tribes that he shares his beautiful, scenic home with.



"Land of Enchantment"

Santa Fe was angry, mainly because
his neighbors kept calling him Santa Claus.
Fetching his chilies, with movements quite jerky,
he fled from Las Cruces to Albuquerque.



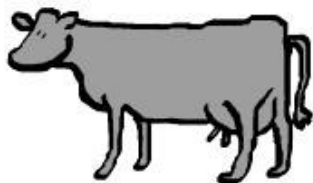
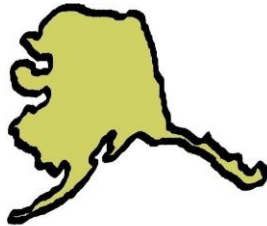
Arizona

Forty-Eighth State

Bird: Cactus Wren

Tree: Yellow Palo Verde

Flower: Saguaro Cactus Blossom



cattle



Hippy Phoenix greets Willie with a peace sign and promptly takes him to the famous Grand Canyon. While the two are taking in the amazing sights, Phoenix tells Willie how much he misses his girlfriend who prefers the cool mountains of northern Utah to the dry heat of Arizona. Phoenix says she keeps trying to get him to move, but much as he wants to be with her, Arizona is forever his home.

Grand Canyon
National Park

Colorado Plateau

Colorado River

•Flagstaff

★Phoenix

Yuma

•Tucson

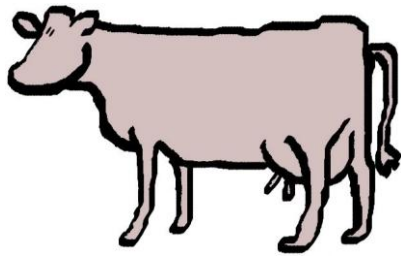
MEXICO

*"Grand Canyon
State"*

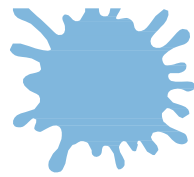
Phoenix



Phoenix likes to go to the Colorado Plateau
to see the Grand Canyon and the River below.
Yuma, Arizona, is nice to pass through.
Tucson and Flagstaff are quite pleasant, too.



cattle/dairy



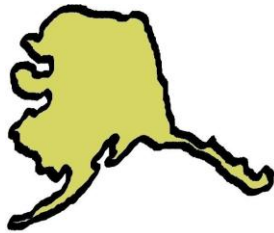
Utah

Forty-Fifth State

Bird: Sea Gul

Tree: Blue Spruce

Flower: Sego Lily



turkeys

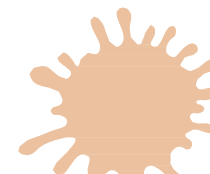
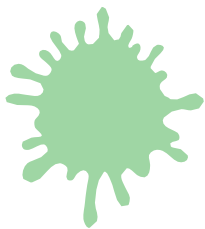


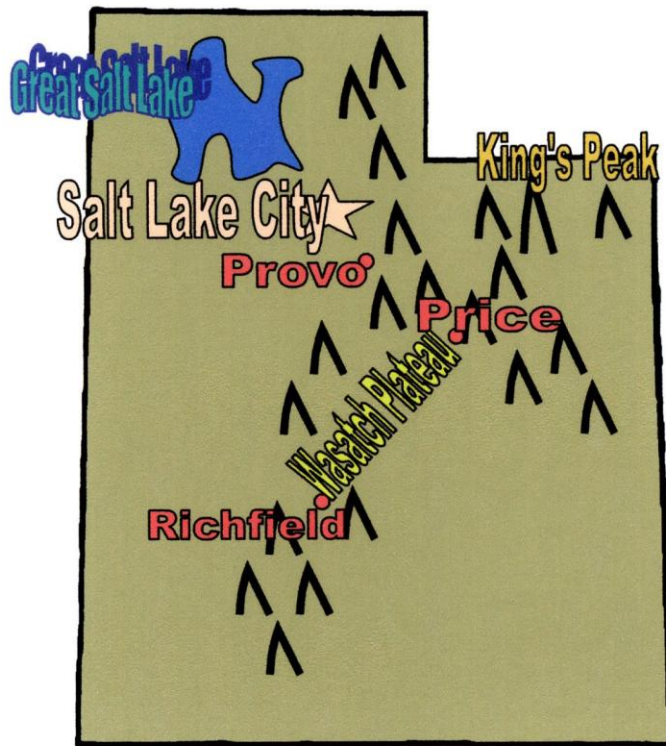
oil



Miss Salt Lake is very upset when Willie sees her, because she misses her boyfriend in Arizona. She tells Willie that she can't stop crying, and that the famous Great Salt Lake in the northwestern part of her state (which is so big it's like an ocean) has actually gotten saltier from the tears she's shed.

"He just tells me to be mellow and chill out!" she cries to Willie. She tells Willie that to try to get her mind off of it, she'll throw herself into her work on the farm, and tend to her livestock and turkeys. Labor is something her state of Utah values, which is why it's called "The Beehive State," the beehive being a symbol of hard work and industry.





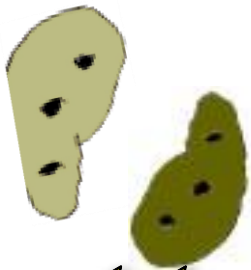
"Beehive State"



Miss Salt Lake would just cry and cry
the biggest of tears that never would dry.
Into the Lake the tears did flow,
not far from King's Peak and the Wasatch Plateau.

Nevada

Thirty-Sixth State

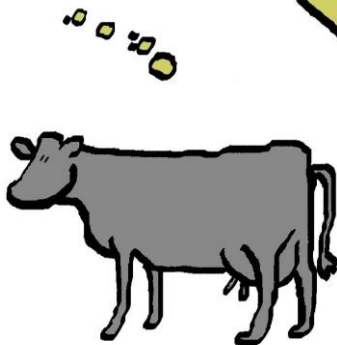
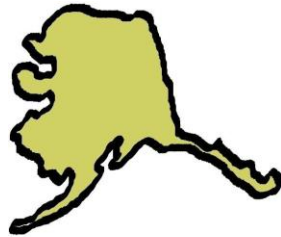


potatoes

Bird: Mountain Bluebird

Tree: Bristlecone Pine

Flower: Sagebrush



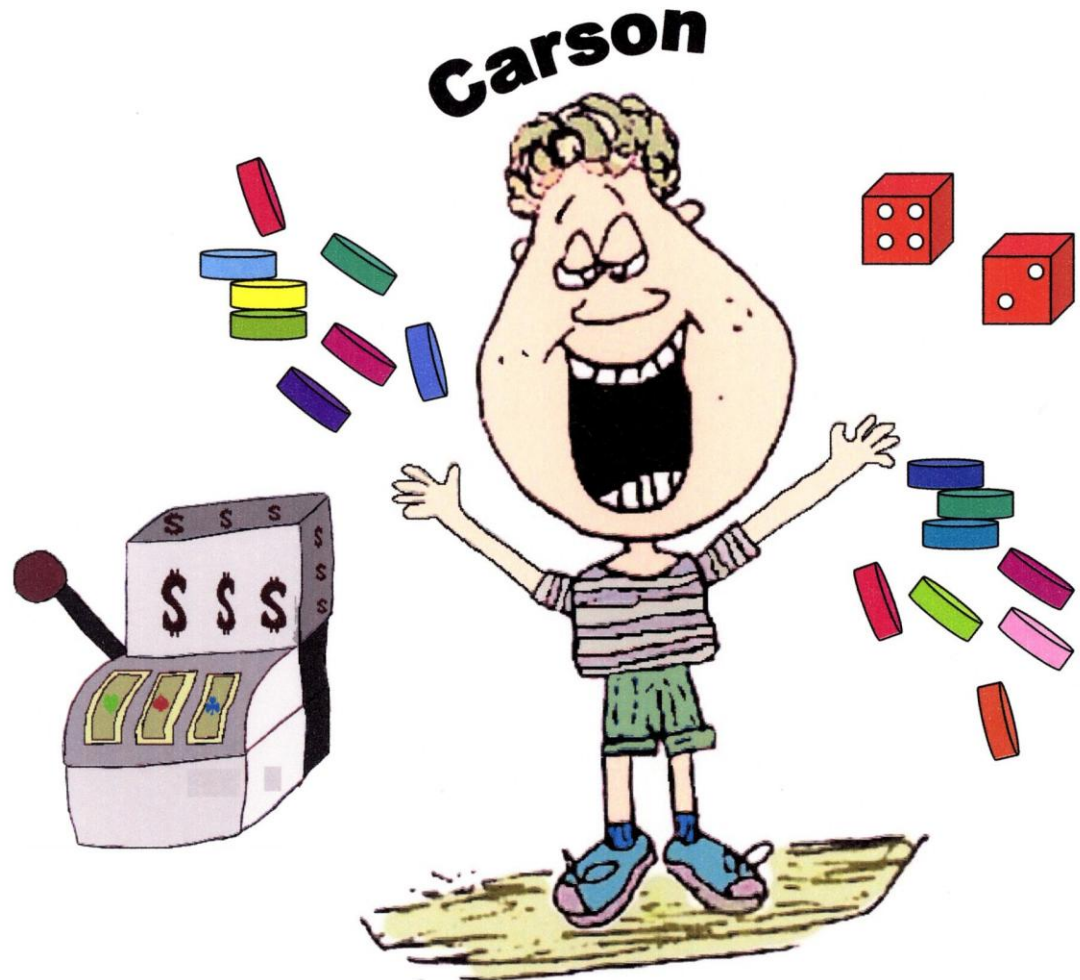
cattle



Willie is excited to see his friend, Carson, who lives in Nevada, which sits between the Rockies and the West coast but still has lots of mountains. They visit beautiful Lake Tahoe, and then go to bustling Las Vegas in the Mojave Desert, where all the hotels and casinos are lit up. As they pass an active silver mine, Carson explains to Willie that Nevada is called the "Silver State" because of all the silver that was mined back in the 1800's.



"Silver State"



Carson traveled wide in search of a casino.
He went down to Las Vegas from his hometown up in Reno.
He had a lot of fun with the dice he'd shake and throw.
Then he wandered back up north to greater Lake Tahoe.

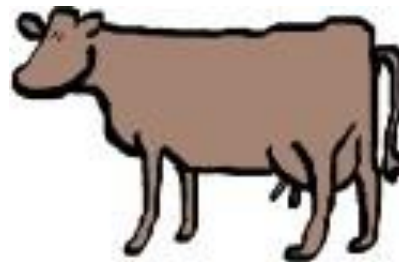
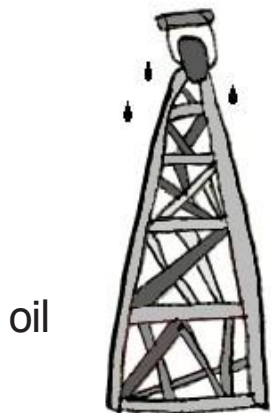
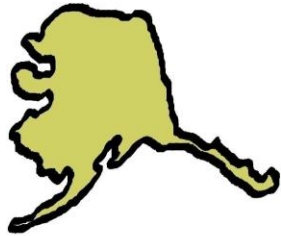
California

Thirty-First State

Bird: California Valley Quail

Tree: Redwood

Flower: California Poppy

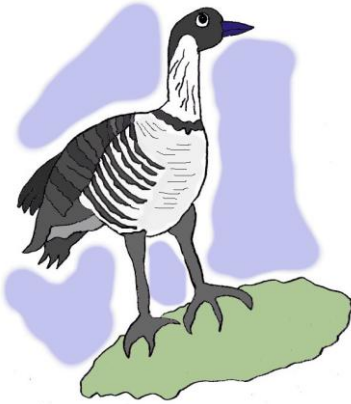


cattle

Willie is now off and running to see his friend, Sacramento, who is a budding actress in the U.S.'s third biggest state of California (next to Alaska and Texas). She takes him to California's biggest city, Los Angeles, near Hollywood, where Sacramento is working on a new film. They take a bike ride along the coast of the Pacific Ocean, where they see people surfing and sunbathing on the beaches. They see lots of Californian, or golden, poppies in their travels, which is the state flower. Sacramento explains that these- as well as the discovery of gold in the mid-1800's- give California its nickname of the "Golden State."



Sacramento is so grand, a rising movie star.
Her beauty and ability have gotten her quite far.
All her fans in Bakersfield, as well as San Jose,
follow her from Hollywood to San Francisco Bay.



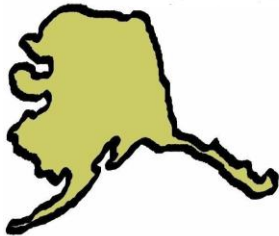
Hawaii

Fiftieth State

Bird: Nene

Tree: Candlenut Tree

Flower: Hibiscus



glass, clay, stone products

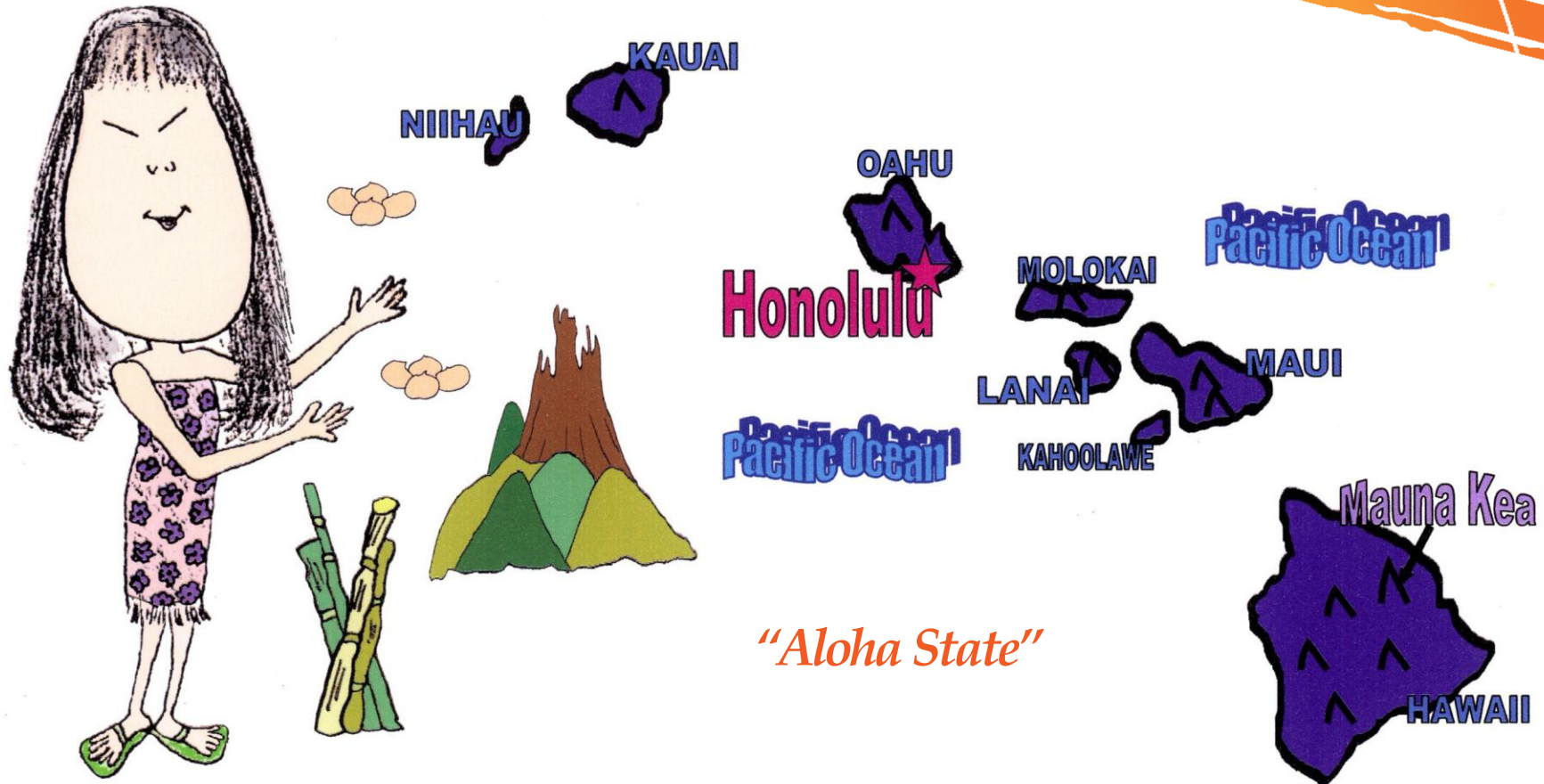


pineapple

Willie is now gearing up to see his friend, Honolulu, who lives in the state of Hawaii. Like Alaska, Hawaii is not directly attached to the other 48 contiguous "Continental" states, and so Willie needs to go on a boat ride to visit his friend.

Honolulu lives on the island of Oahu, which is one of eight islands in the Pacific, the world's largest ocean. When Honolulu sees Willie, she greets him with a warm "Aloha," which means hello, goodbye, or peace; Hawaii is called the "Aloha state." They stop off at a gift shop, and Willie buys some pottery as a gift for his parents. Honolulu picks up some macadamia nuts, sugar cane, and pineapples to bring back to her family.

Honolulu



Honolulu munches on a macadamia nut,
sitting in the middle of a quiet, thatch-roofed hut.
She climbs up Mauna Kea and stares into its crater,
and holds a piece of sugar cane she plans to eat much later.

Alaska

Forty-Ninth State



Bird: Willow Ptarmigan

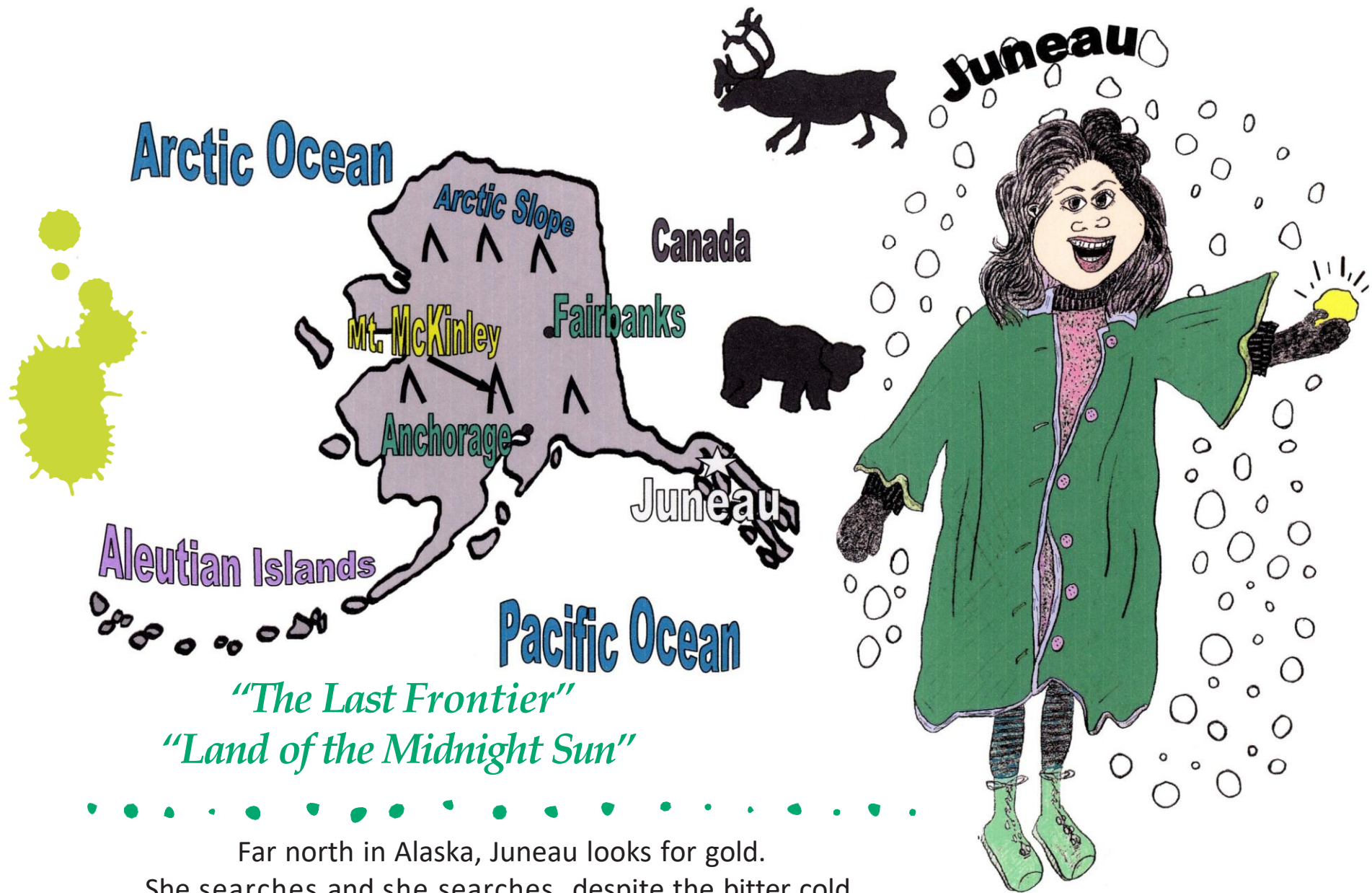
Tree: Sitka Spruce

Flower: Forget Me Not



oil

Willie's next visit is to his friend, Juneau, who lives in the U.S.'s biggest state of Alaska, which is separated from the rest of the states by Canada. Willie throws a big fuzzy sweater over his Hawaiian t-shirt and pulls out some mittens. It sure is a lot colder in Alaska than it is in Hawaii! Juneau marvels to Willie about "The Last Frontier" having so many opportunities, and yet so many areas with so few people living there. He is fascinated to learn that the sun shines around the clock during the summers in Alaska, giving it another nickname: "The Land of the Midnight Sun."



"The Last Frontier"
"Land of the Midnight Sun"

Far north in Alaska, Juneau looks for gold.
She searches and she searches, despite the bitter cold.
The sight of something shiny offers her some hope.
She takes her newfound treasures to the Arctic slope.



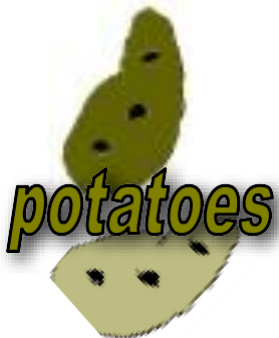
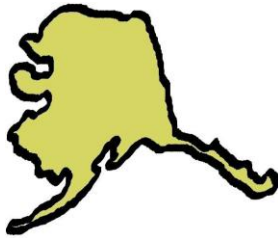
Washington

Forty-Second State

Bird: Willow Goldfinch

Tree: Western Hemlock

Flower: Pink Rhododendron



cattle



wheat

apples

Back in the Continental U.S., Willie visits his friend, Olympia, in the Pacific Northwest state of Washington (not to be confused with Washington DC, the capital city of the US, on the east coast). Olympia gets her two trusty umbrellas out for herself and her friend and tells him how she's like to take him to see Seattle and the Puget Sound. However, it's often very rainy there. Funny thing is, though, she explains, while parts of Washington west of the Cascade Mountains are very wet, there are plenty of parts east of the Cascade Mountains that are dry as a desert. Before he leaves, Olympia takes Willie to see one of Washington's many evergreen forests.



Olympia



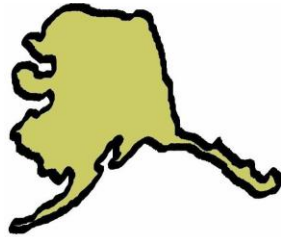
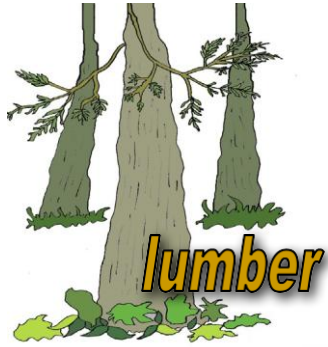
"Evergreen State"

.....

Olympia watches rain drops on the Puget Sound.
The drizzle in Seattle seems to always hang around.
But Mt Rainier in the distance and Pacific Coast so near,
are why Olympia holds her state of Washington so dear.

.....





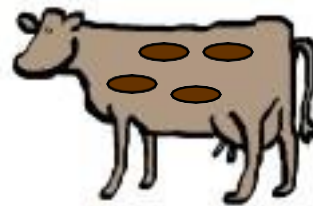
Oregon

Thirty-Third State

Bird: Western Meadowlark

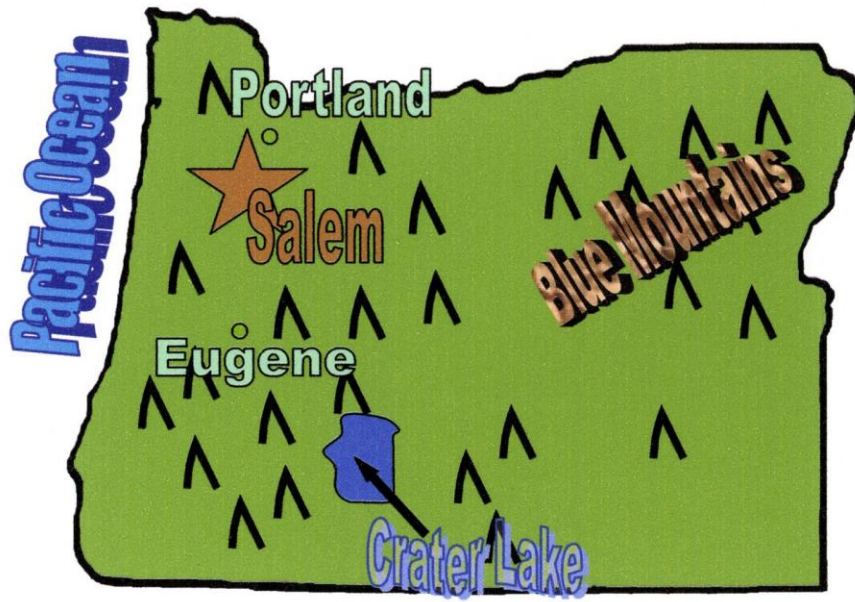
Tree: Douglas Fir

Flower: Oregon Grape

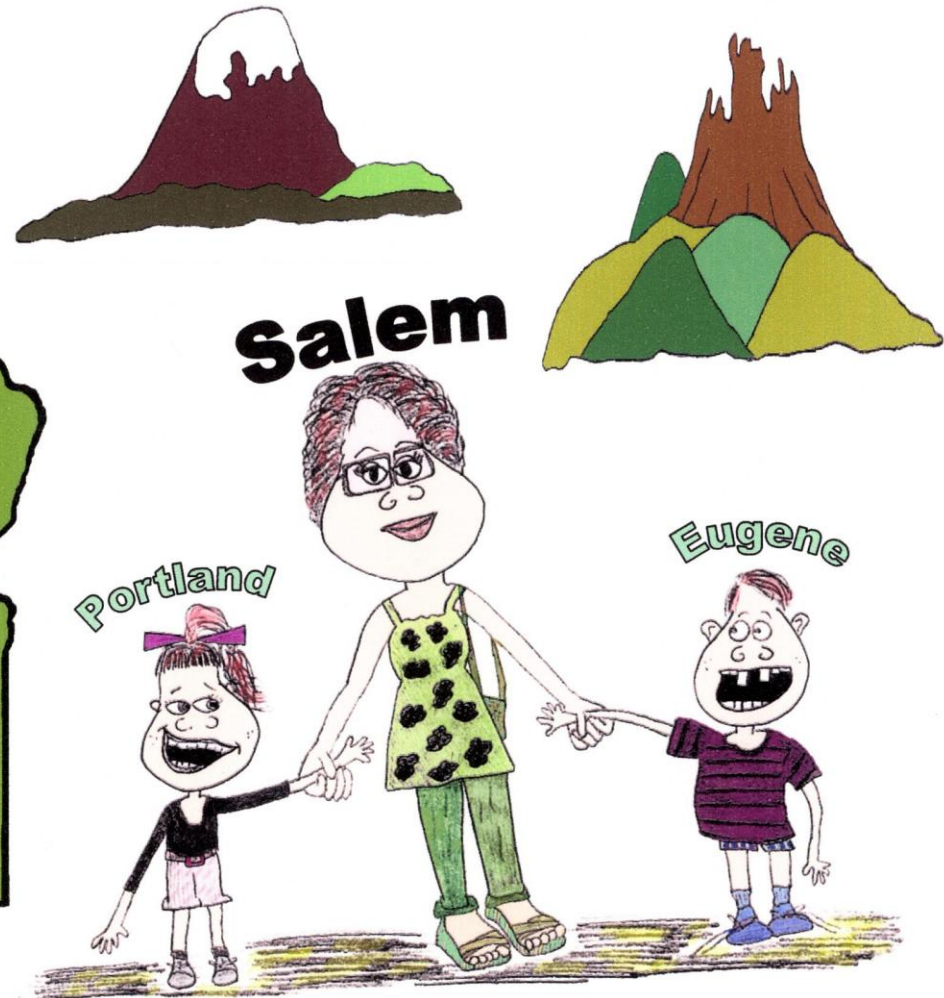


cattle

Willie's next stop is the home of his parents' friend, Mama Salem, and her two children, named after the cities of Portland and Eugene. Mama Salem promises to take everyone for a hike to see some old volcanoes up in the Cascade Mountains, but only if her children behave! She shows Willie and her kids Crater Lake, which is the deepest lake in the United States and formed by a collapsed volcano, with no rivers flowing into or out of it. Mama Salem explains that Oregon got the nickname "Beaver State" because it's famous for the North American beaver, which they spot scurrying about on their hike.



"Beaver State"



Mama Salem walks right near a tall volcanic peak
while her children run around, playing hide and seek.
To Oregon's Blue Mountains they all will make their way,
and then they go to Crater Lake to finish up their day.



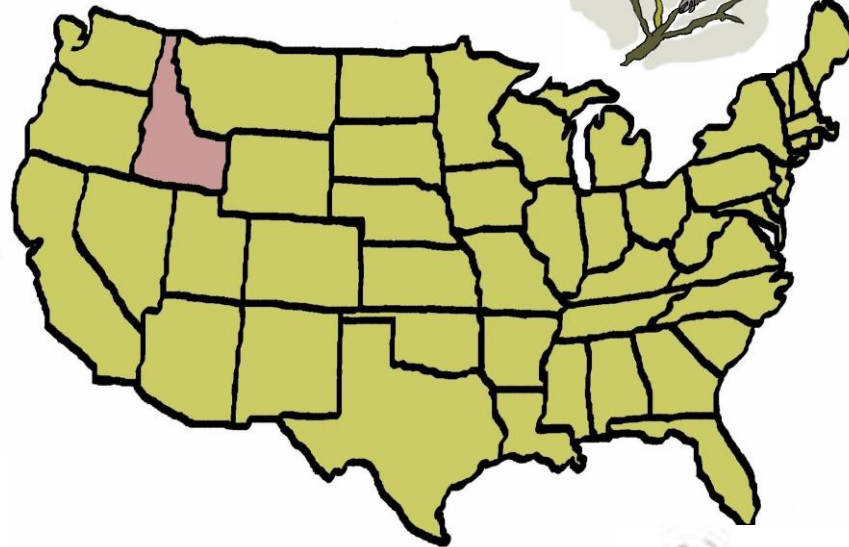
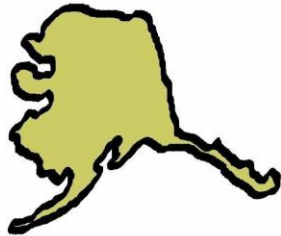
Idaho

Forty-Third State

Bird: Mountain Bluebird

Tree: Western White Pine

Flower: Syringa



wheat

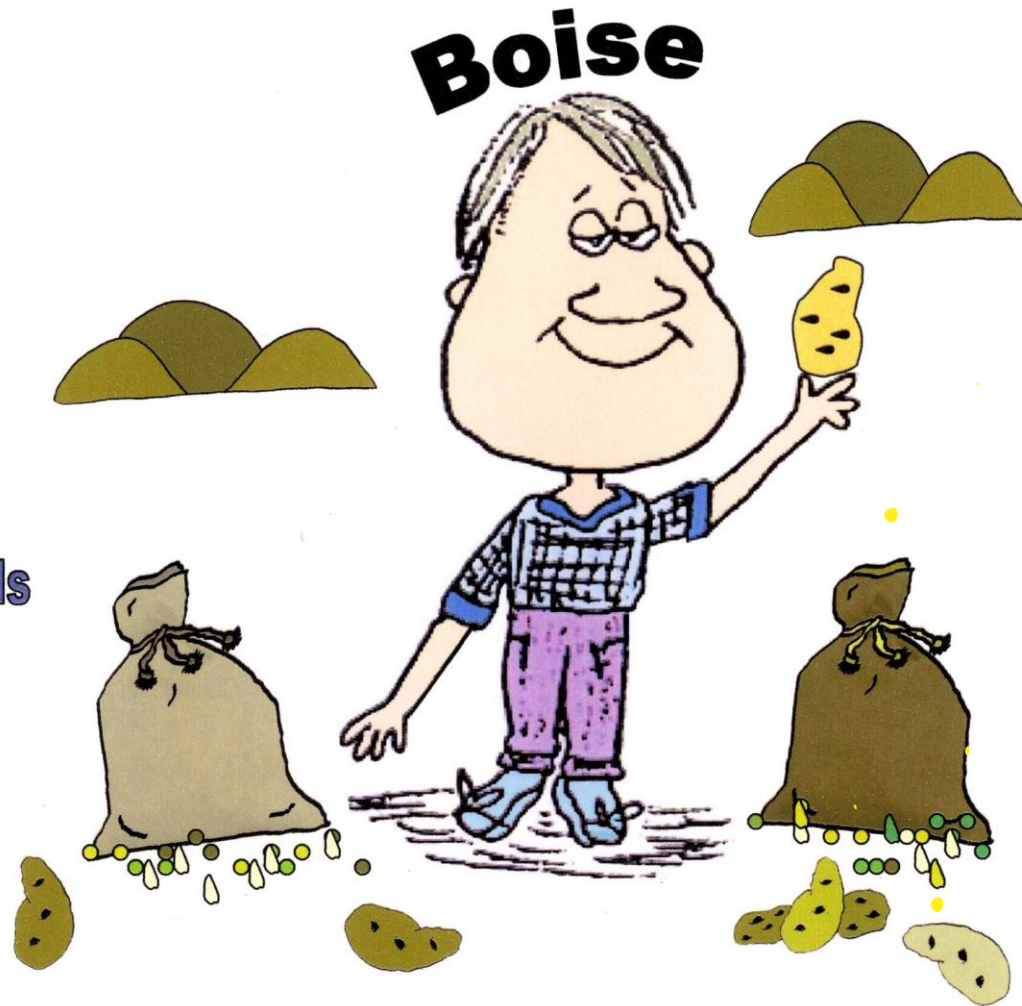


Willie pays his respects to the last friend on his western tour, Boise, who lives in the state of Idaho.

Boise's parents own a farm on the Snake River Plain, where foods such as beets, wheat, barley, and Idaho's famous potatoes are grown. Boise proudly declares that Idaho's potato crop makes up around one-third of the nation's potato yield! He also tells Willie that Idaho is nicknamed the "Gem State" because of its reputation for gemstones and wilderness.



"Gem State"



Boise lugs potatoes and many different grains south of the mountains, to the Snake River Plains. He passes a few canyons and gorges on the way and rests in Twin Falls, Idaho, calling it a day.

Nosing into the North with Normie

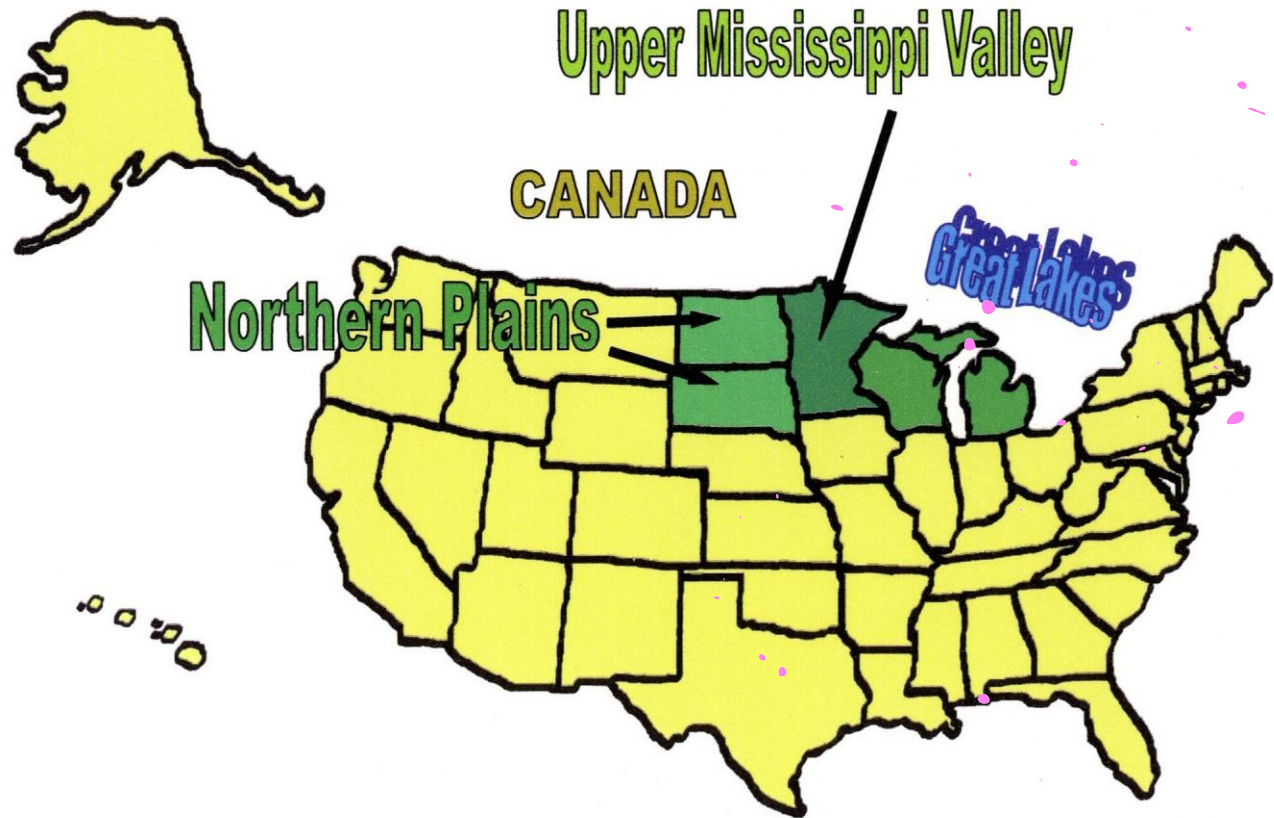


It's in Nosy Normie's best interest to eat a good breakfast this morning, since he's got a lot of ground to cover and needs his energy! Just south of Canada, Normie will be traveling through the Northern Plains, the Upper Mississippi Valley, and parts of the Great Lakes region. His first stops will be in North and South Dakota, and then he'll visit friends in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and he'll finish his trip in Michigan.



Normie

Normie has friends in the Northern Plains states
and Wisconsin and Michigan, south of the Lakes.
The Dakotas, Minnesota and Canada nearby
bring a joyous tear to young Normie's eye.



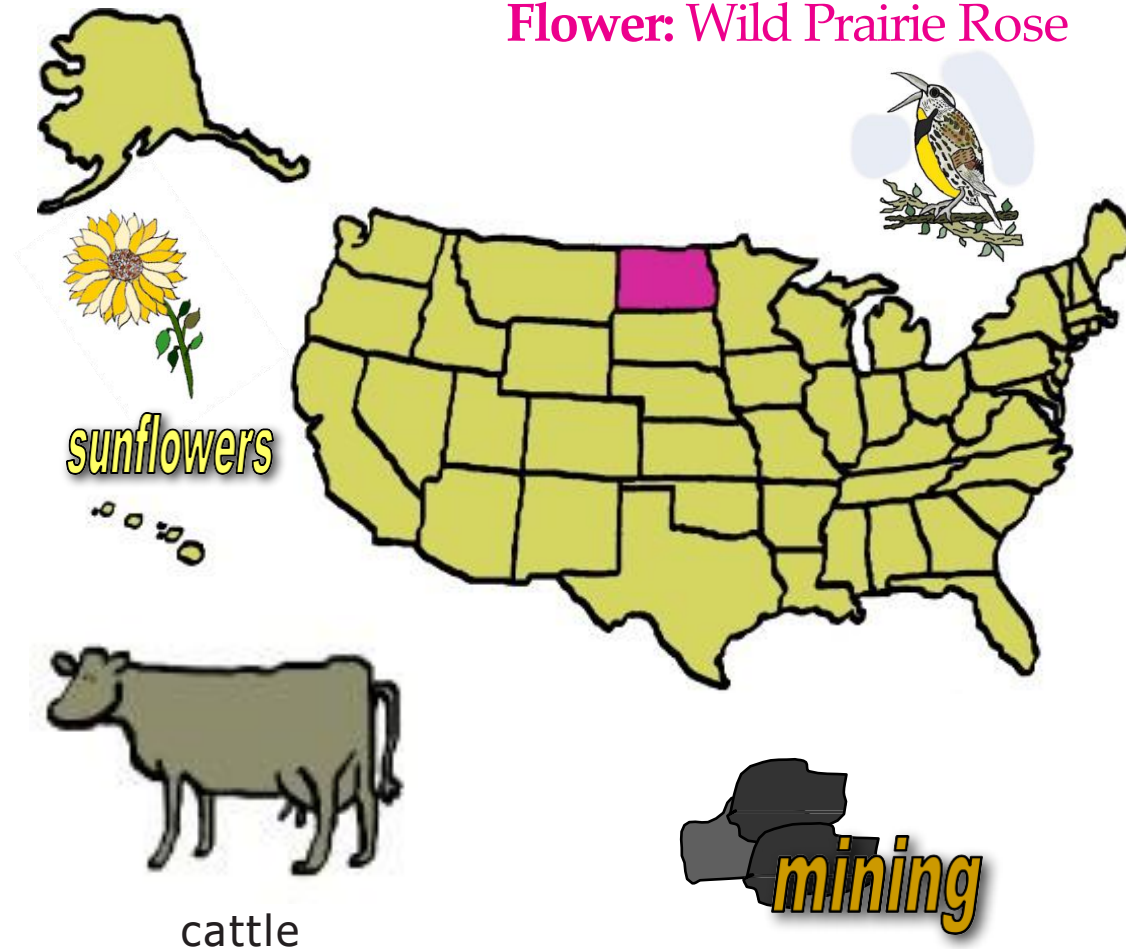
North Dakota

Thirty-Ninth State

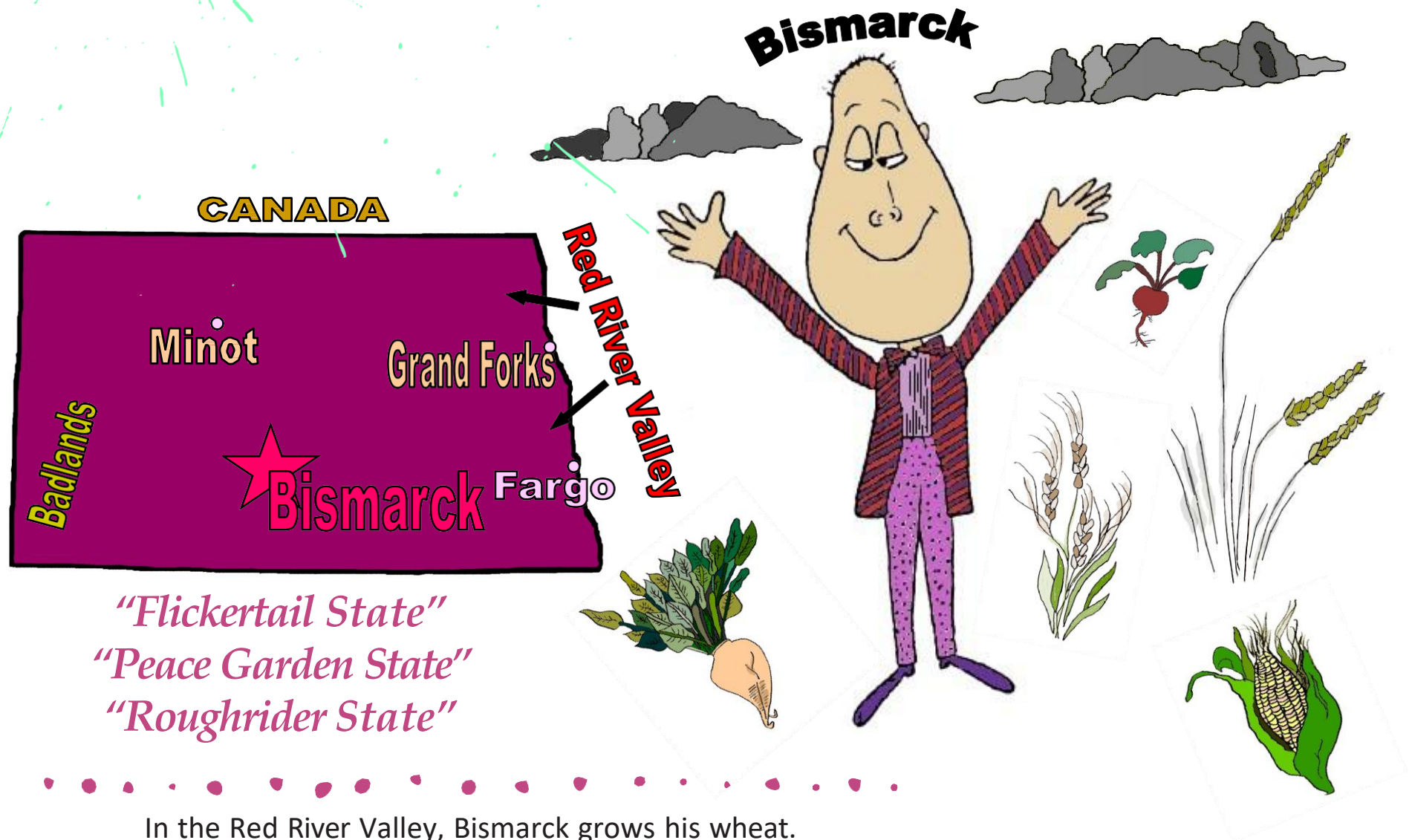
Bird: Western Meadowlark

Tree: American Elm

Flower: Wild Prairie Rose



Normie's first visit is in North Dakota, where he is greeted with open arms by his buddy Bismarck. Bismarck points out to Normie the cool-looking Badlands in the southwestern part of the state, which are interesting cone, dome, and pyramid shapes of eroded stone and clay. They also visit some farms out in the Red River Valley. Normie asks about the many nicknames of North Dakota, and Bismarck excitedly tells him about the border between North Dakota and Canada called the "International Peace Garden," as well as all of the Richardson ground squirrels flicking their tails all over the state, and Theodore Roosevelt's Roughriders of the Spanish-American War.



"Flickertail State"
"Peace Garden State"
"Roughrider State"

In the Red River Valley, Bismarck grows his wheat.
There are sugar beets and barley, and lots of corn to eat.
In Fargo and Grand Forks he stays for quite awhile,
before he tours the Badlands with his big happy smile.

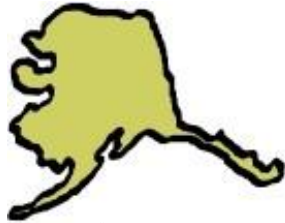
South Dakota

Fortieth State

Bird: Ring-Necked Pheasant

Tree: White Spruce

Flower: Pasque flower



cattle



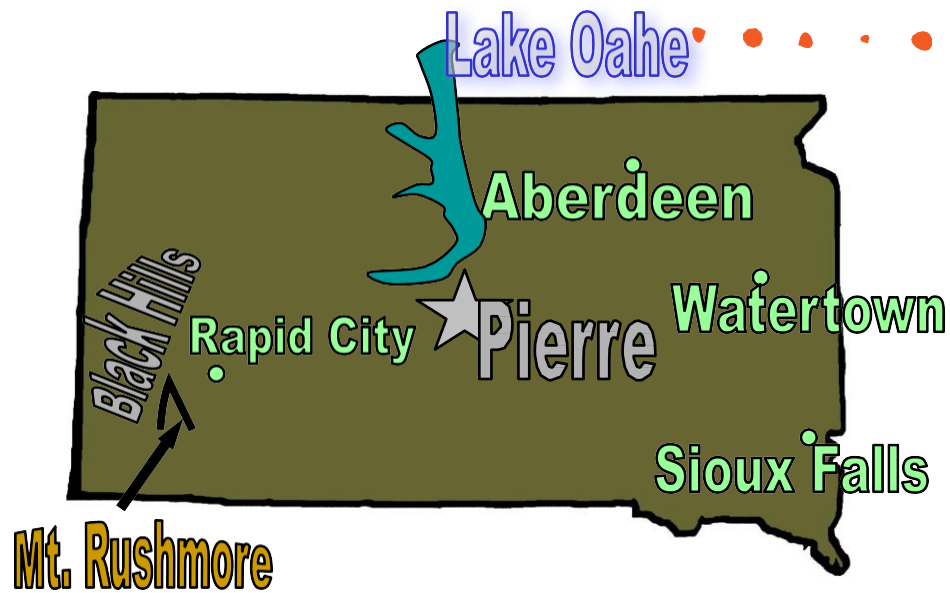
hogs

Normie's next visit is to his friend, Pierre, who always wears a French beret on his head. Pierre first takes Normie to Lake Oahe, the biggest lake in the state that stretches from just north of Pierre, the capital of South Dakota, all the way up to Bismarck, the capital of North Dakota. Pierre then takes Normie to the Black Hills in the far western part of the state, famous for its national parks and especially the faces of presidents Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln carved into Mount Rushmore.





Pierre wanders through the Black Hills in the west.
Then he travels eastward, continuing his quest.
Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Watertown, and Aberdeen
are just a few of South Dakota's places that he's seen.



"Mount Rushmore State"



Minnesota

Thirty-Second State



Bird: Common Loon

Tree: Red Pine

Flower: Pink and White Lady's-Slipper



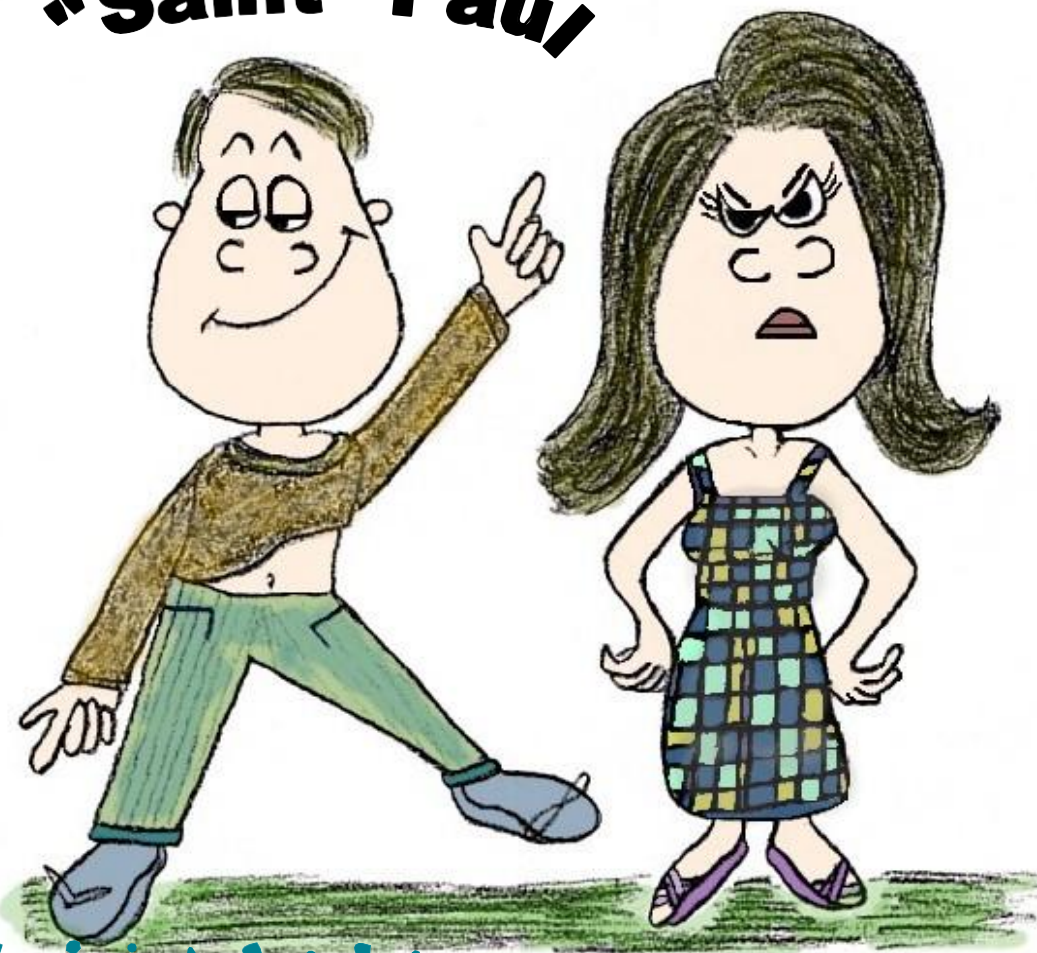
Normie looks forward to visiting two friends of his who are twins and who live in Minnesota. Paul is named after the state's capital, Saint Paul, and Minnie is named after the city in Minnesota with the largest population, Minneapolis.

Despite the two being referred to as the "twin cities," both are quite different from one another, with Minneapolis having modern skyscrapers and Saint Paul having an older European-style. Normie's twin friends are also quite different, and tend to try to talk over one another. Paul hastily tells Normie all about the numerous lakes in Minnesota and the many gophers (or ground squirrels) giving the state its nicknames. Minnie interrupts Paul to tell Normie that "North Star State" is based on the state's motto.



"Saint" Paul

**Minneapolis
("Minnie")**



"North Star State"
"Land of 10,000 Lakes"
"Gopher State"

Minnie was Paul's sister, the twin that he would miff.
The two were always fighting, in the middle of a tiff.
Up on Eagle Mountain, he'd taunt her endlessly
and irk her from Duluth all the way to Albert Lea.

Wisconsin

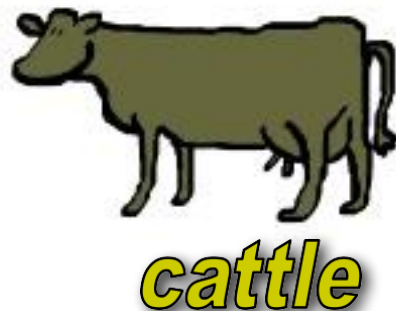
Thirtieth State



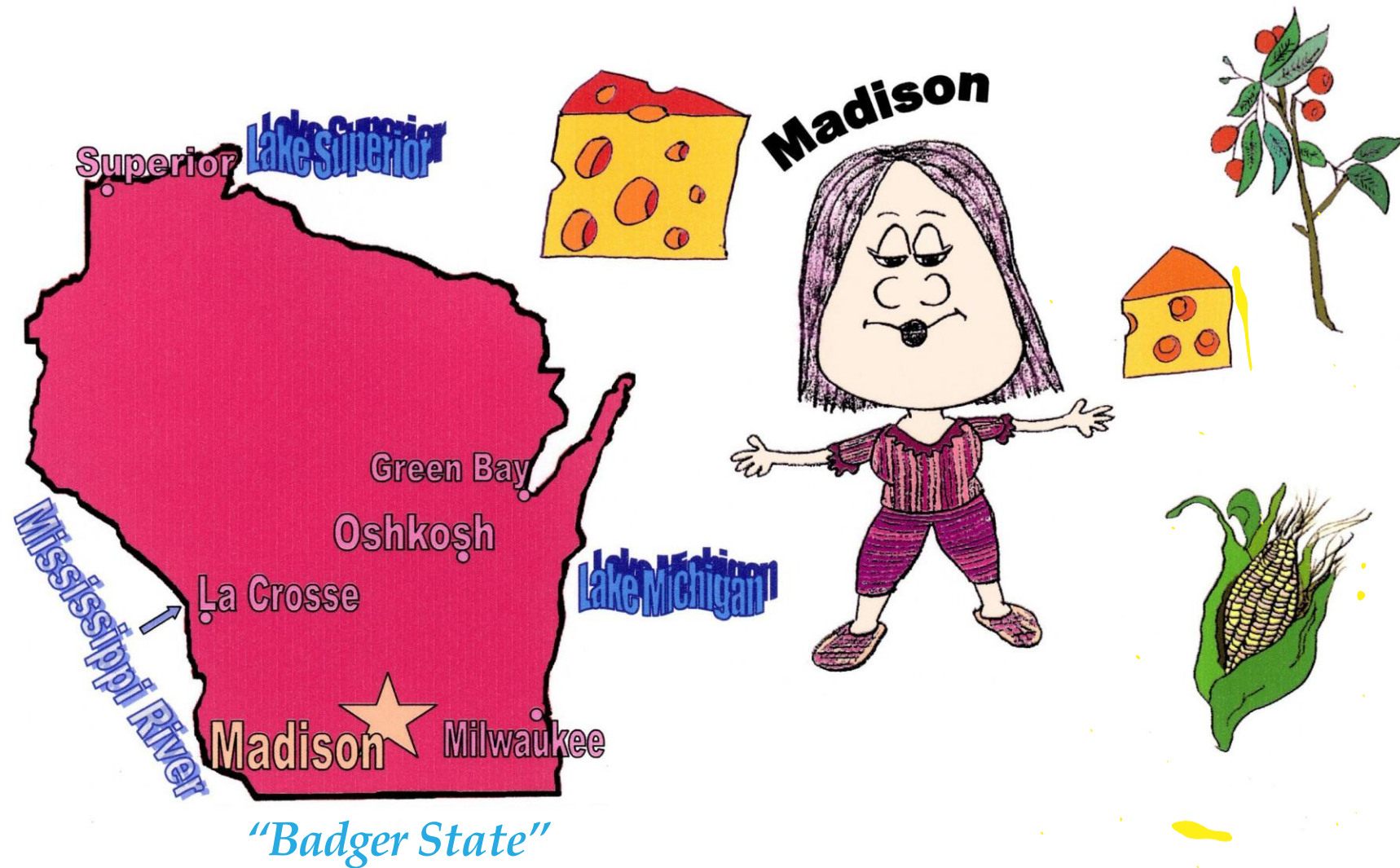
Bird: Robin

Tree: Sugar Maple

Flower: Wood Violet



Normie is now off to the Great Lakes region, where his friend Madison waits for his arrival in Wisconsin. Madison points out to Normie all the water that borders the state, with Lake Superior to the north, Lake Michigan to the east, and the Mississippi River in the west. Madison and Normie go up to Oshkosh to do some grocery shopping and pick up cheese, corn, and cranberries for his stay. Madison proudly tells Normie that Wisconsin is a leader in the nation's cheese production. She tells Normie of Wisconsin miners who lived back in the 1800's in caves carved into hillsides that resembled badger dens, hence inspiring Wisconsin's nickname. The badger is also the state animal.



Madison, from Wisconsin, lives out near Green Bay.

She travels into Oshkosh day after day.

She takes some fancy cheese, and cranberries, and corn
up toward Lake Superior, where she had been born.

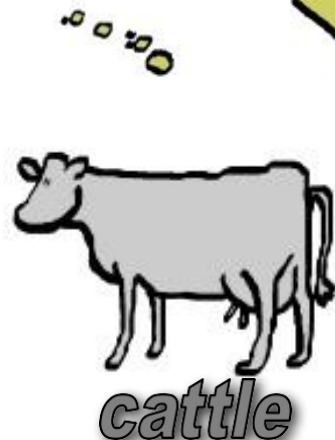
Michigan

Twenty-Sixth State

Bird: Robin

Tree: Eastern White Pine

Flower: Apple Blossom

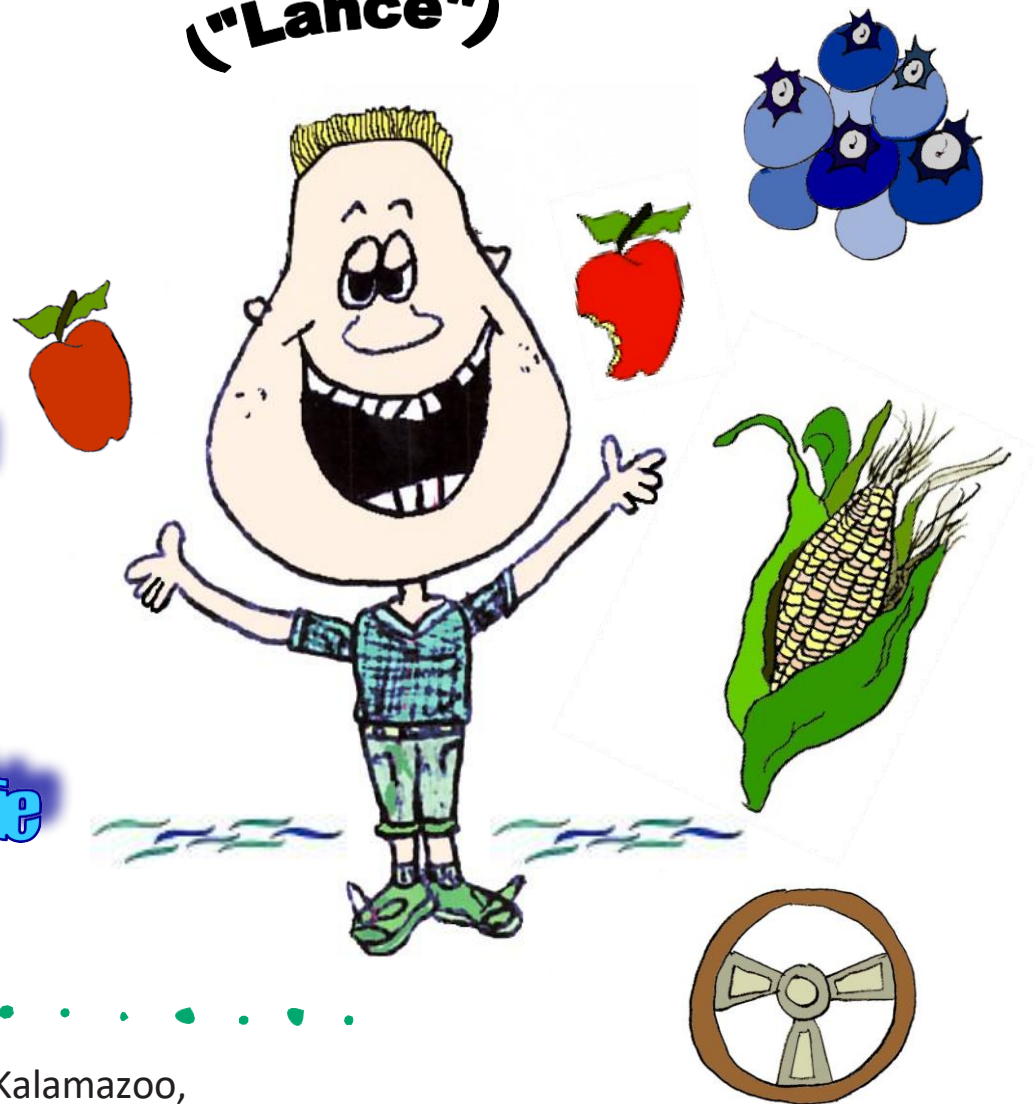


Normie's last visit is to his friend Lansing ("Lance" for short). Lance lives in Michigan, which is known as the "Great Lakes State" because of Lake Superior to the north, Lake Michigan to the West, and Lakes Huron and Erie to the east. Lance tells Normie that Michigan's largest city, Detroit, has been famous over the years for automobile production. He also boasts to Normie about how Michigan is a leading grower of fruit in the US, including two of his favorites: apples and blueberries. The two friends spend some time in the upper peninsula of Michigan, and then in the lower peninsula. Normie jokes about how the lower peninsula looks like a big mitten, which is fitting since it gets so cold in Michigan in the winter!

**Lansing
("Lance")**



"Wolverine State"
"Great Lakes State"



Lansing picks blueberries down in Kalamazoo,
then apples in Flint, and Grand Rapids, too.
He buys cars in Detroit, husks corn in Ann Arbor,
and strolls by the waters right off of Copper Harbor.

Meandering Through the Midwest with Mickey

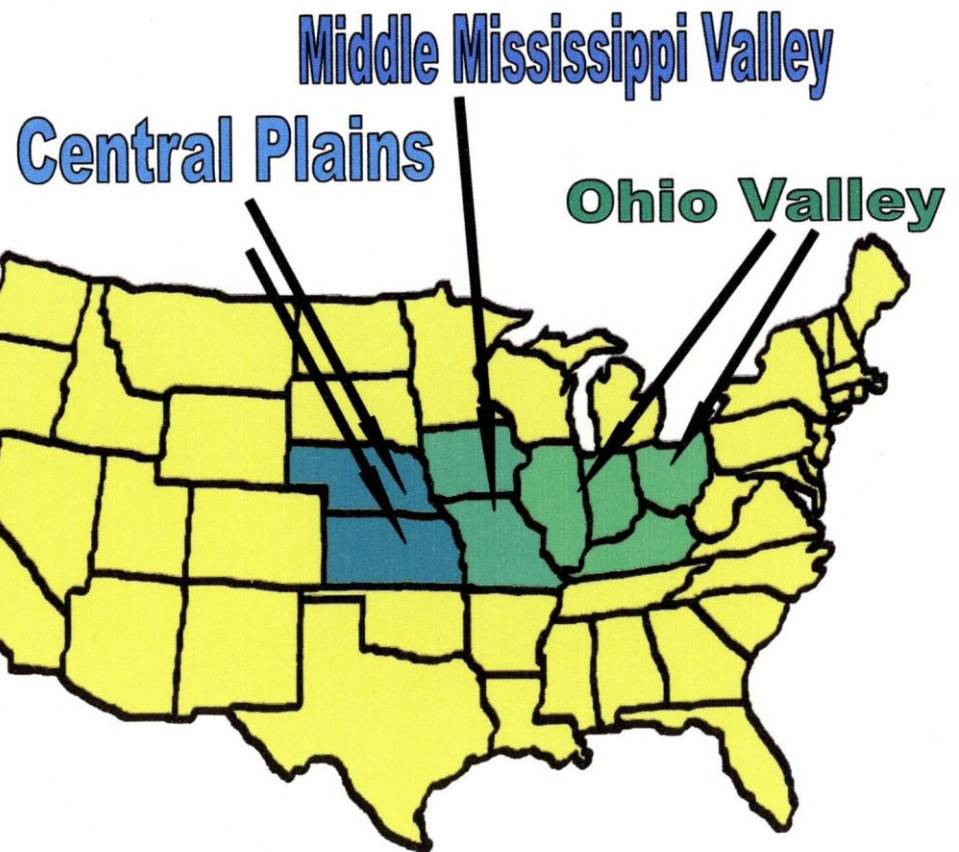
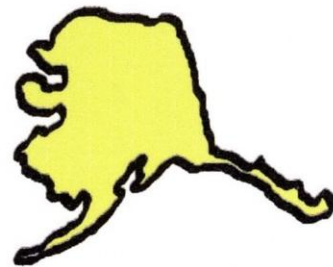


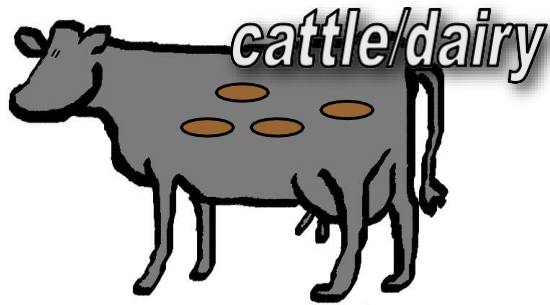
Mickey is perched and ready to travel through the Midwest. The Ohio Valley is comprised of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and the Middle Mississippi Valley, which includes Iowa and Missouri. Illinois is also part of the Middle Mississippi Valley as its western border is the Mississippi River. The Ohio River makes up part of the eastern border of Illinois. Mickey will also travel through the Central Plains, made up of Nebraska and Kansas.



Mickey

In the Ohio Valley, Mickey starts his day.
Then toward the central plains he slowly makes his way.
He passes Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri.
Nebraska and Kansas will finish his journey.





Ohio

Seventeenth State

Bird: Cardinal

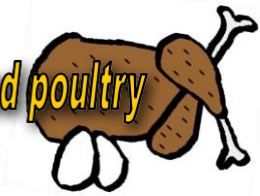
Tree: Ohio Buckeye

Flower: Scarlet Carnation

hogs



eggs and poultry



tomatoes



soybeans



Mickey's first visit on his journey is to his friend, Columbus, who lives in the state of Ohio. Mickey learns from Columbus that Ohio's nickname is the "Buckeye State," which comes from Ohio's state tree, the Buckeye. Columbus lives with his family out on the plains on a farm, raising cows and hogs and growing tomatoes, soy and corn. He takes Mickey to visit a couple of big cities during his stay, including Cincinnati and Cleveland.



"Buckeye State"

Columbus



Columbus takes a walk on the green rolling plain,
past the town of Zanesville, and north toward Lorain.
He heads back down to Dayton, then up near Toledo.
Before he knows what's happening, he's seen all of Ohio.

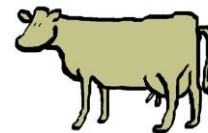
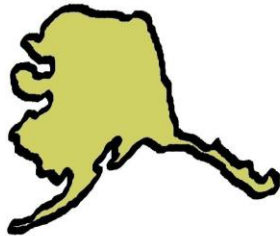
Kentucky

Fifteenth State

Bird: Cardinal

Tree: Yellow-Poplar

Flower: Goldenrod



cattle

tobacco

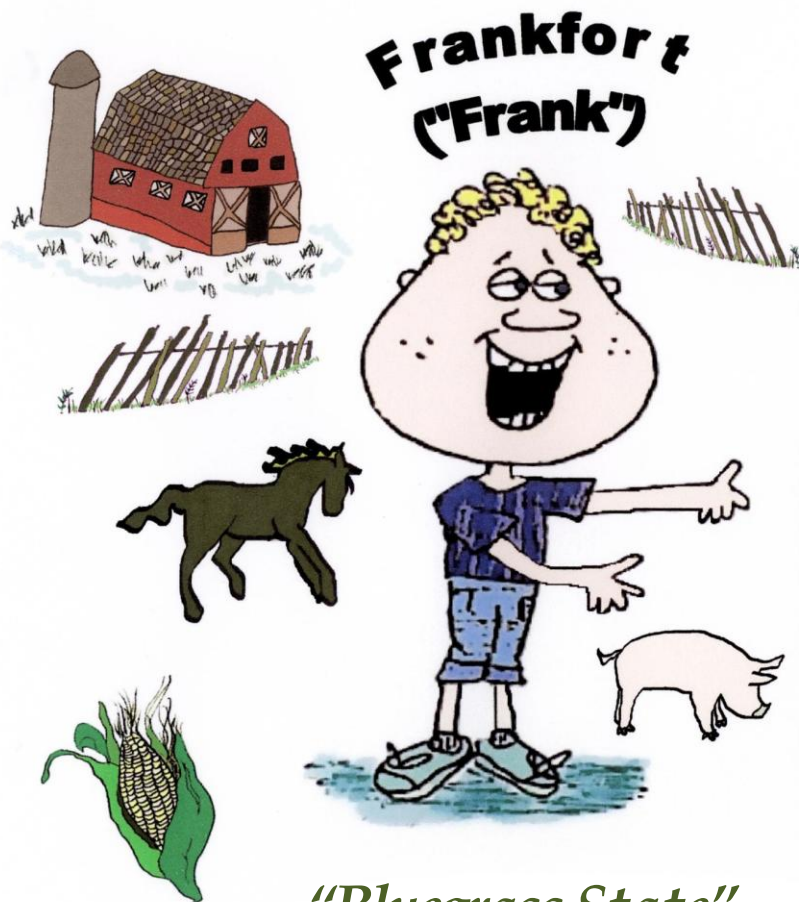


COAL



soybeans

Mickey's next visit is to his friend, Frankfort, who lives in Kentucky. Frankfort's family owns a horse farm near Lexington, in eastern Kentucky. Horses are famous in Kentucky, as is the Kentucky Derby horserace. Frankfort tells Mickey about his favorite uncle who is a coal miner out in the western part of the state. The two go to visit him, and make sure to also do some sailing along the Ohio River, which makes up the western and northern parts of the state. While visiting, Mickey sees lots of Kentucky bluegrass, a common meadow-grass, for which Kentucky is famous, and what gives Kentucky its nickname.



Frankfort lives in Lexington with horses in a barn.
 He raises hogs and grows tall corn on a little farm.
 When the pigs have all been fed and stables have been cleaned
 He takes a break and heads out west to visit Bowling Green.

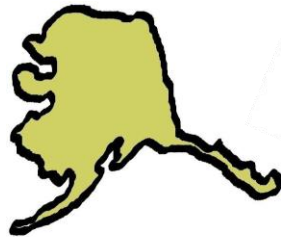
Indiana

Nineteenth State

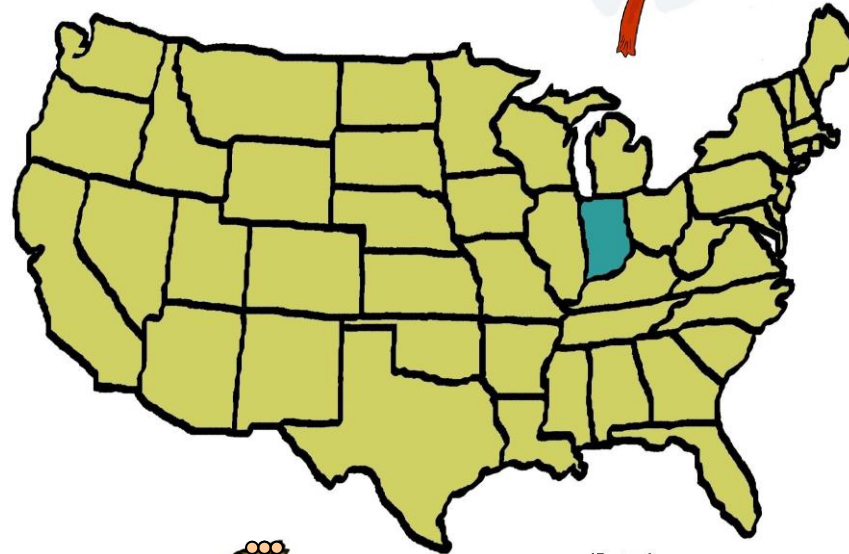
Bird: Cardinal

Tree: Yellow-Poplar

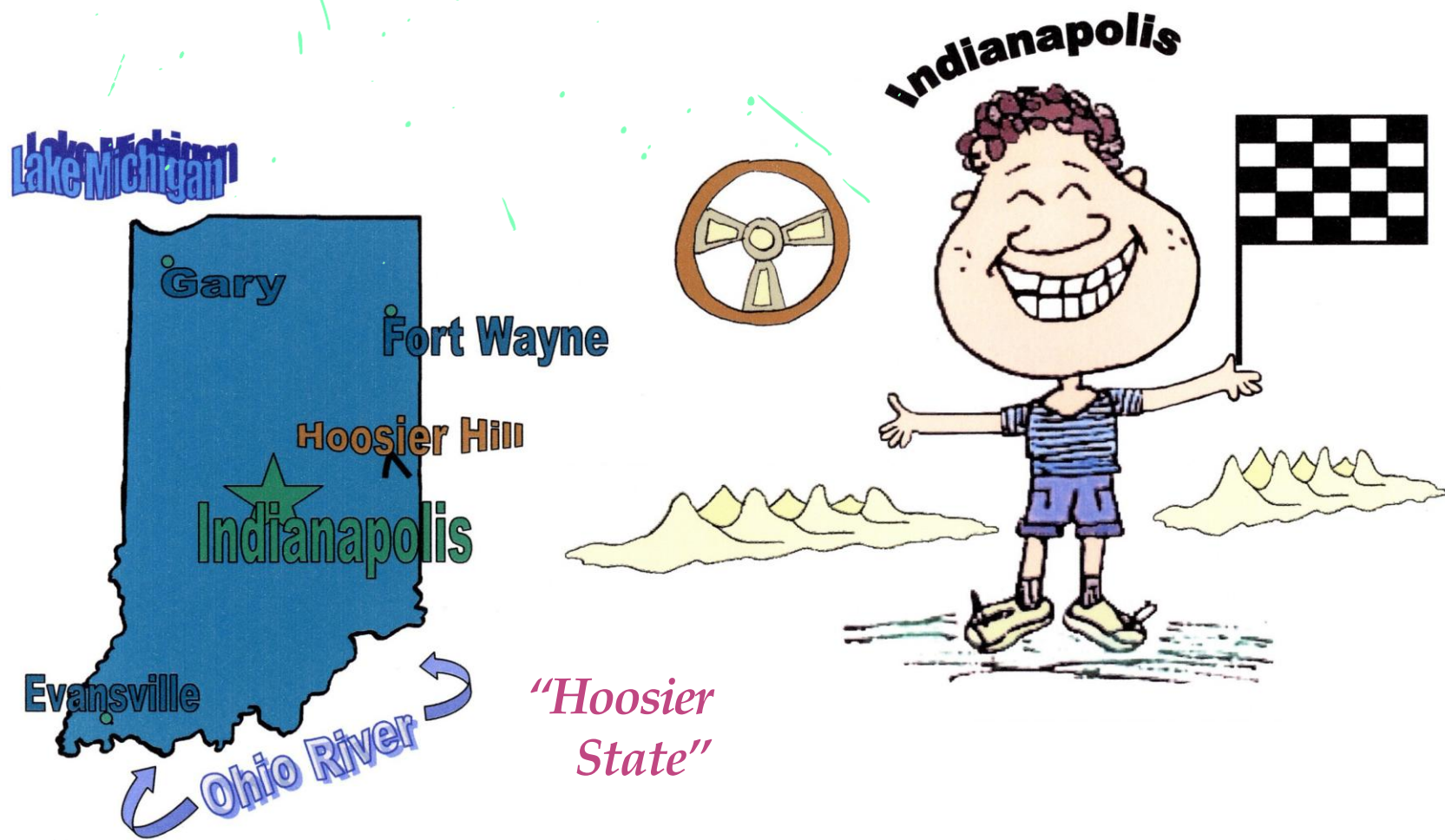
Flower: Peony



hogs



Mickey is thrilled to see his buddy, Indianapolis, or "Indy," who lives in Indiana. Indy loves talking with Mickey about the famous Indy 500 car race, and jokes with him about what a "speedy" visit it's going to be. Mickey asks Indy why Indiana is called the "Hoosier State." Indy just shrugs and says, "I heard 'hoosier' might refer to a backwoodsman or a country bumpkin, but we were always taught that it just meant someone who's from Indiana." Before Mickey leaves, Indy makes sure to take him to Hoosier Hill, which is the highest point in the state.



Indianapolis drove quite fast, and headed to Fort Wayne,
while cruising past the northern dunes and central rolling plain.
He took in all the scenes when he stopped at Hoosier Hill.
He traveled up to Gary, and then down to Evansville.



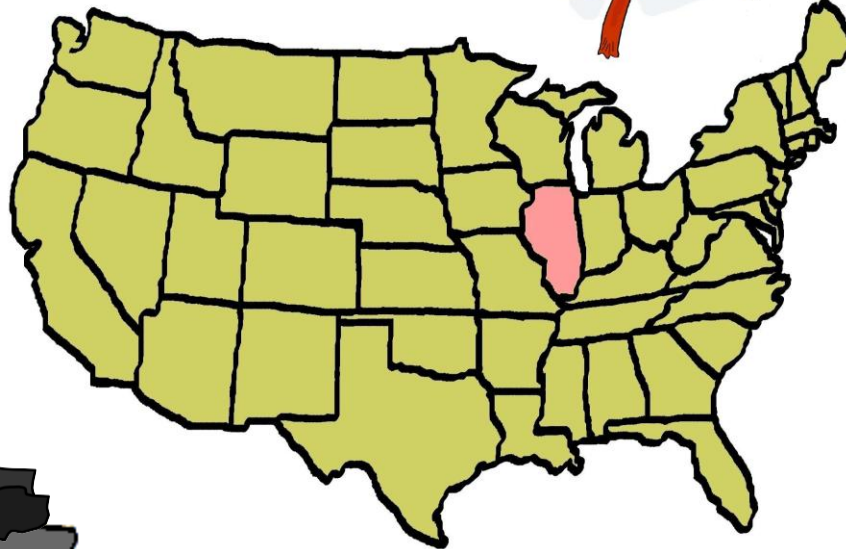
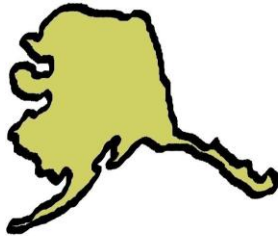
Illinois

Twenty-First State

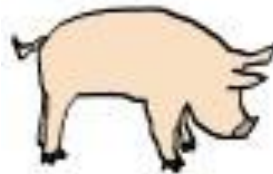
Bird: Cardinal

Tree: White Oak

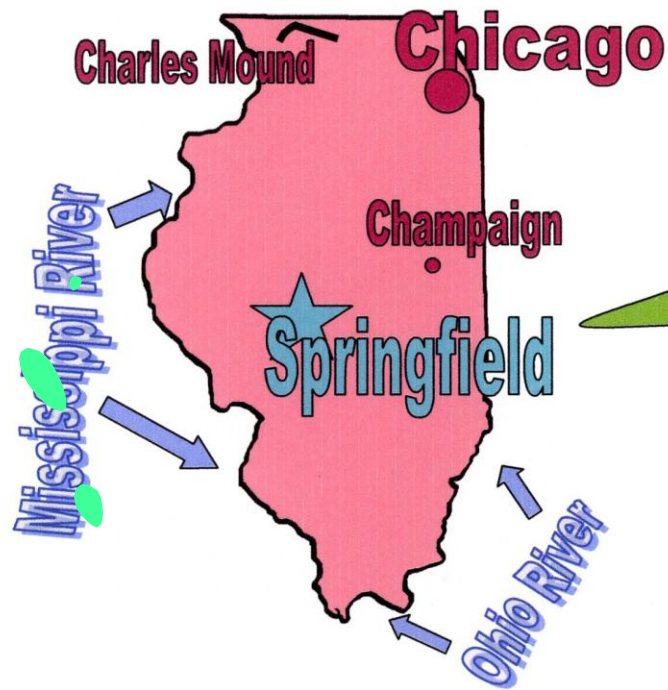
Flower: Purple Violet



hogs



Mickey travels next to see his friend Springfield, in Illinois. Springfield, like a number of Mickey's Midwestern friends, works on his family's farm raising livestock and growing soybeans, wheat and corn. He and Mickey take a hike to Charles Mound, the highest point in Illinois, before visiting Illinois' biggest and most famous city of Chicago. Springfield tells Mickey that Abraham Lincoln had moved to Illinois as a young man and lived in Illinois until he became President. Hence, Illinois' nickname of "Land of Lincoln." The state is also known as the "Prairie State" in honor of all of Illinois' preserved native prairies.



"Prairie State"
"Land of Lincoln"



Springfield raised some cattle on his farm nearby Charles Mound.
He planted wheat and soybeans, on very fertile ground.
He'd visit big, big cities, like Chicago and Champaign,
then walk on open hills, the prairies and the plains.

Missouri

Twenty-Fourth State

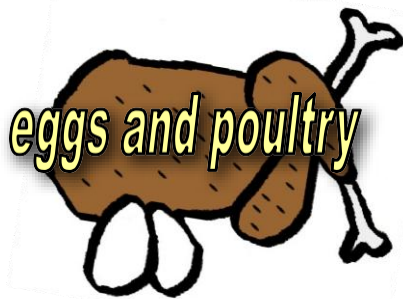
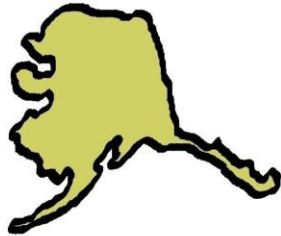


Bird: Bluebird

Tree: Flowering Dogwood

Flower: Hawthorn

cattle



hogs

Mickey crosses the Mississippi River to Missouri, where he meets his good friend, Jefferson.

Jefferson lives near the Lake of the Ozarks, which is a large reservoir in the Ozark Mountains.

He explains to Mickey that Missouri is home of the Gateway Arch, or the "Gateway to the West," which is in the city of St. Louis. Jefferson is excited to take Mickey to see this monument, as it's the world's tallest arch that symbolizes the westward expansion of the United States.

"Show me!" Mickey exclaims, which makes Jefferson laugh as he thinks about Missouri's nickname of "Show Me State." It's based on a famous quote from a Congressman in the late 1800's.

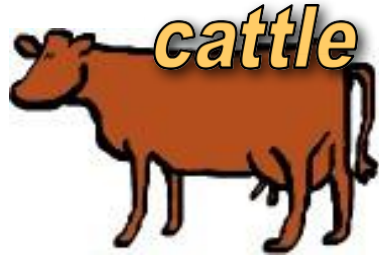
Jefferson

To St. Louis, Missouri,
Jefferson liked to march
so he could admire
the lovely Gateway Arch.
He'd travel to St. Joseph
and Joplin far out west.
But the Lake of the Ozarks
is what he loved the best.



"Show Me State"





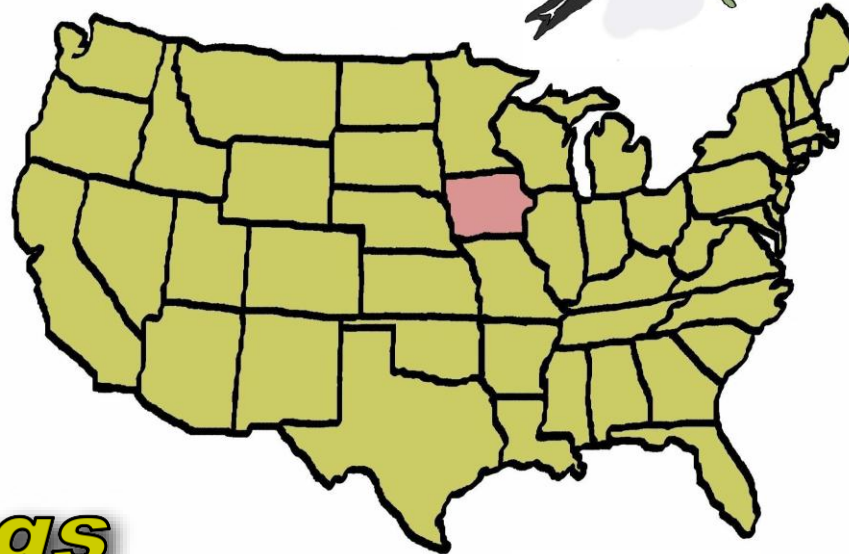
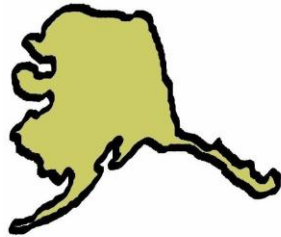
Iowa

Twenty-Ninth State

Bird: Eastern Goldfinch

Tree: Oak

Flower: Wild Prairie Rose



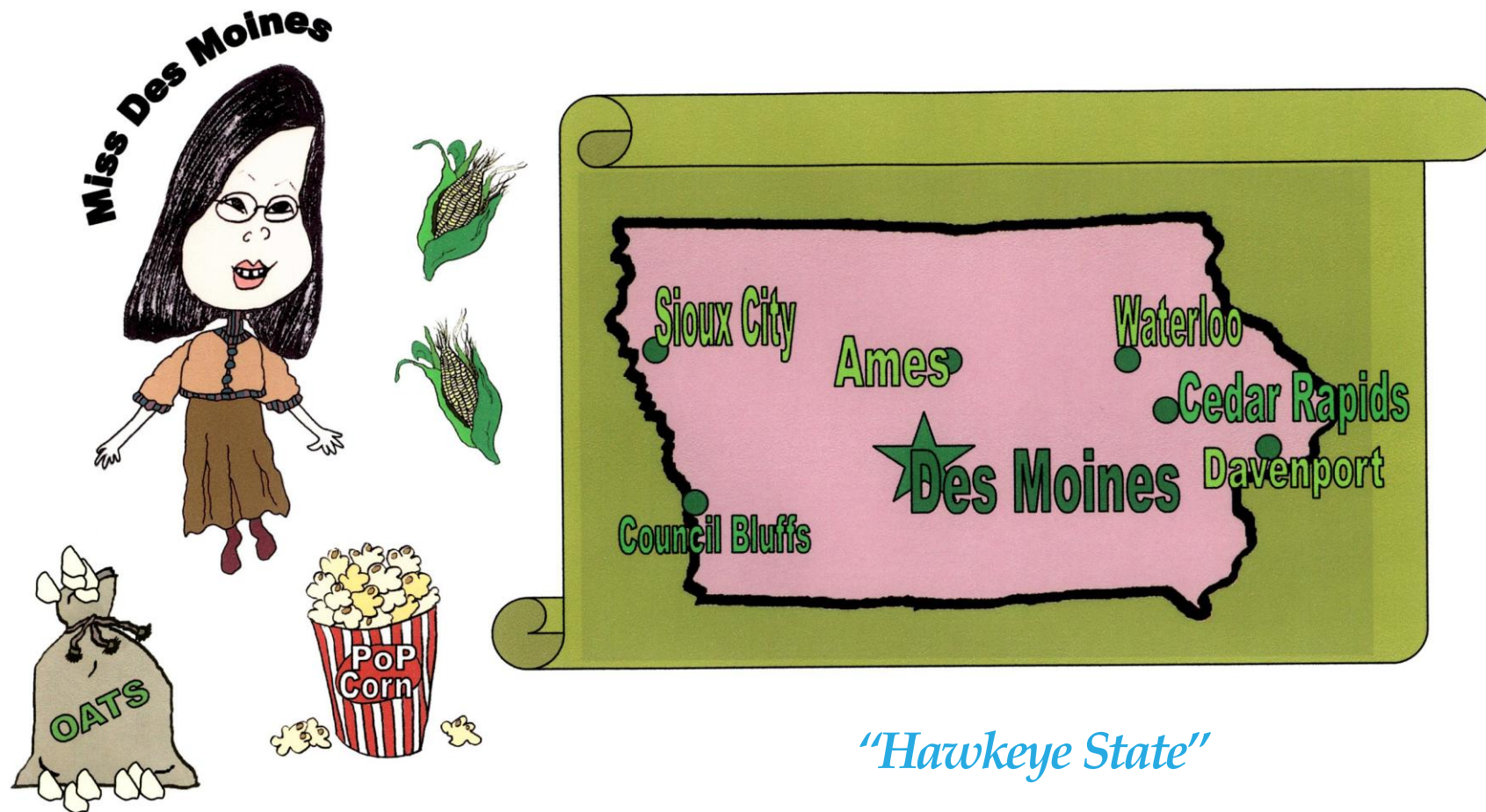
hogs



Mickey ventures over to the state of Iowa, where his friend Miss Des Moines is waiting for him with a huge bucket of popcorn.

She smiles as she hands him a kernel and tells him that Sioux City, Iowa, is home to the oldest popcorn company in the United States. This makes sense since Iowa is famous for its corn and oats. Mickey asks Miss Des Moines how the state got its nickname of "Hawkeye State." Knowledgeable

Miss Des Moines tells him that it's believed to go back to the Blackhawk Indian War of 1832, as a tribute to Chief Black Hawk, leader of the Sauk Indians.

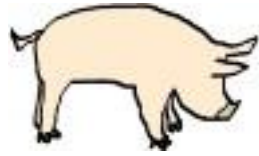


.....

Little Miss Des Moines finds quite a lot to do
in the towns of Davenport, Ames, and Waterloo.
She buys oats in Cedar Rapids, pops corn in Sioux City,
and the trip down to Council Bluffs makes her feel giddy.

.....





hogs

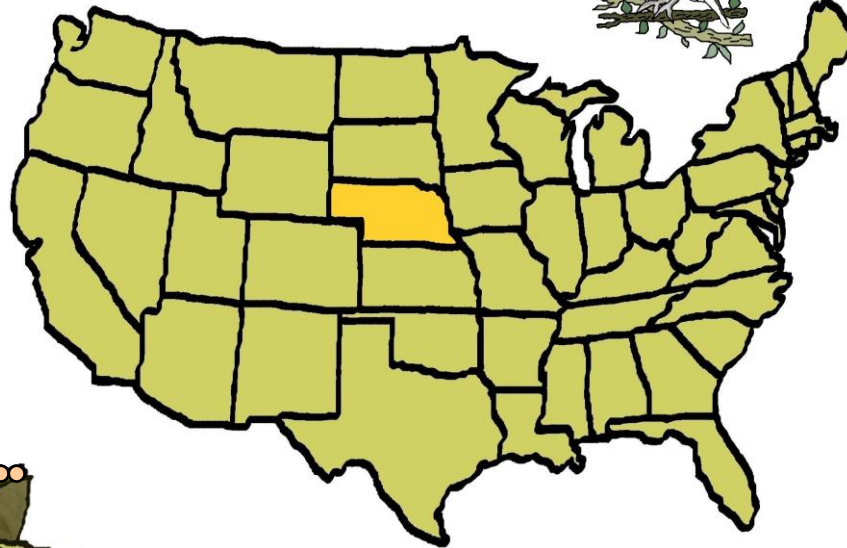
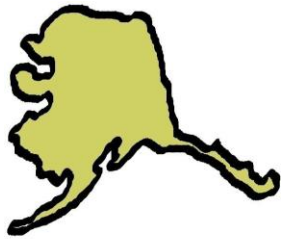
Nebraska

Thirty-Seventh State

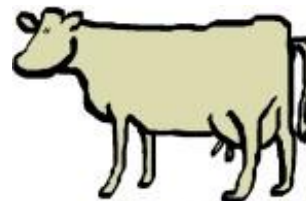
Bird: Western Meadowlark

Tree: Cottonwood

Flower: Goldenrod



soybeans



cattle

Mickey moves westward back to the central Great Plains, below the Dakotas, to the state of Nebraska. It is there he is met warmly by his friend, Lincoln, who has been busy helping his family make deliveries of corn, wheat and sugar beets all week long. He could use a rest and happily welcomes Mickey's arrival. Lincoln boasts about how the "Cornhusker's State" is considered a breadbasket for the USA and beyond. He's proud of his and his family's hard work!





Lincoln



"Cornhusker's State"

Lincoln carried corn from Fremont down to Kearney.
He then picked up some wheat and continued on his journey.
All the way to Scottsbluff, his goods he would deliver.
Then he'd go to Omaha, along the flowing river.

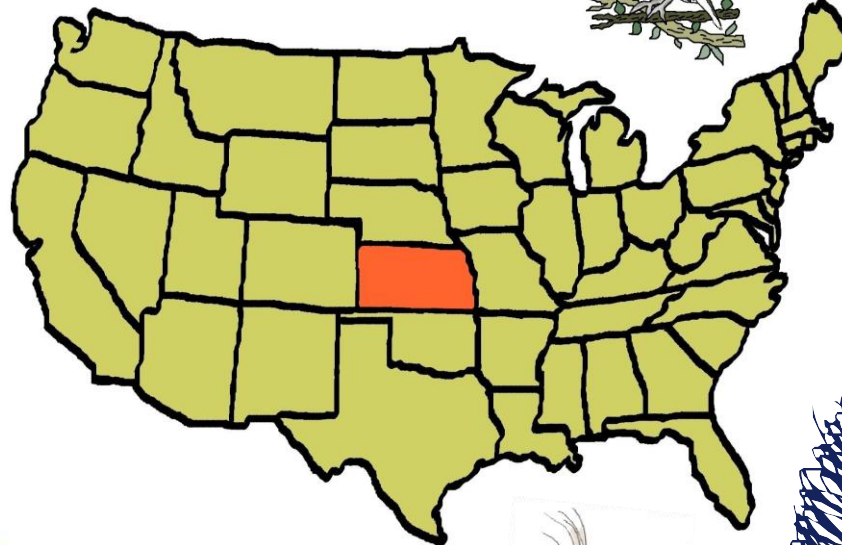
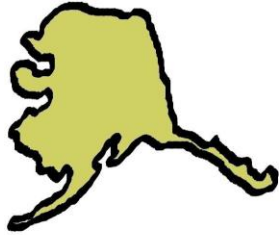
Kansas

Thirty-Fourth State

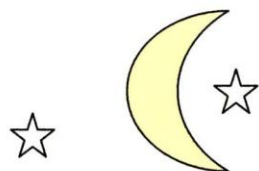
Bird: Western Meadowlark

Tree: Cottonwood

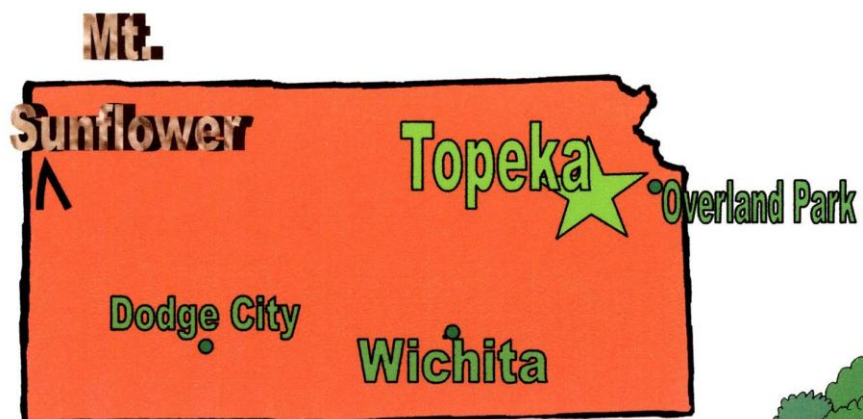
Flower: Sunflower



Mickey is a little nervous about his last visit, to his friend Topeka, who lives in Kansas. She's warned him about the occasional tornadoes that sweep through her state because it's so flat, but she's promised him there are no wicked witches of the east or west to worry about! She hands him a batch of sunflowers upon his arrival, and tells him that the abundance of sunflowers has earned Kansas its nickname of the "Sunflower State." She takes him to the highest point in Kansas, coincidentally named Mt. Sunflower.



Topeka

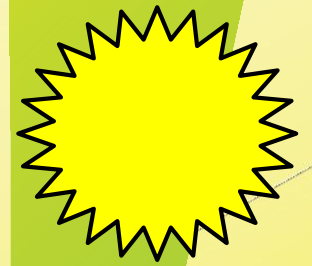
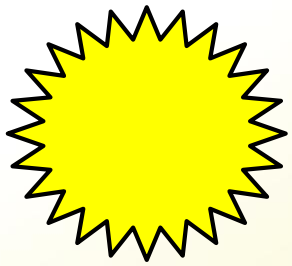


"Sunflower State"

In the center of Kansas, Topeka picks flowers.
She then goes to Wichita, passing the hours.
She loves to eat corn in Overland Park
and climbs Mount Sunflower well after dark.



Seeing the South with Susie

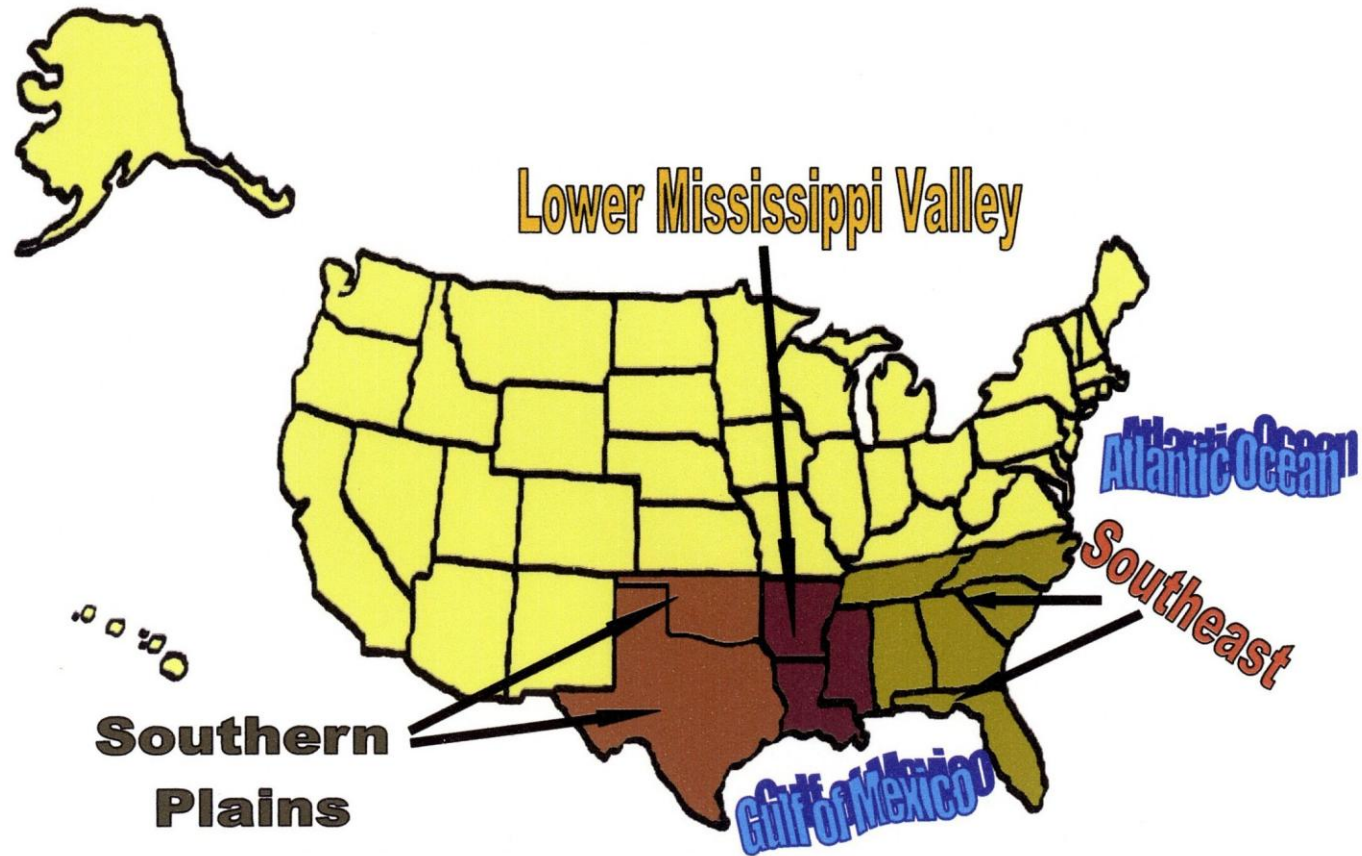


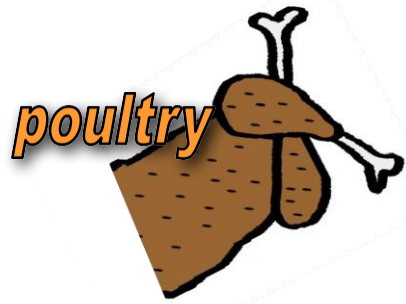
The next guide on our tour, Susie, sure has it made! She gets to travel around the southern United States, where the weather is (usually) warm and the beaches are crowded. The southern states Susie will be visiting include Oklahoma and Texas in the southern Great Plains, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi in the Lower Mississippi River Valley, and several other states, like Florida and Georgia, in the southeastern US. All of the states Susie is traveling to border the Gulf of Mexico, or are near it.



Susie

Susie takes a stroll around the Gulf of Mexico.
There are many sights to see, so many friends to know.
She starts off in the Southern Plains and travels toward the coast.
She lays herself upon a beach and happily she roasts.





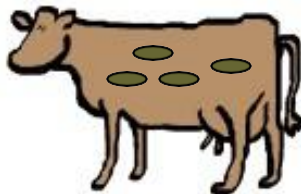
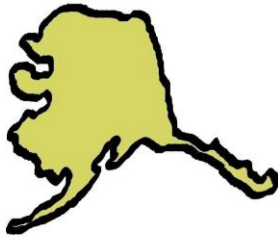
Oklahoma

Forty-Sixth State

Bird: Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher

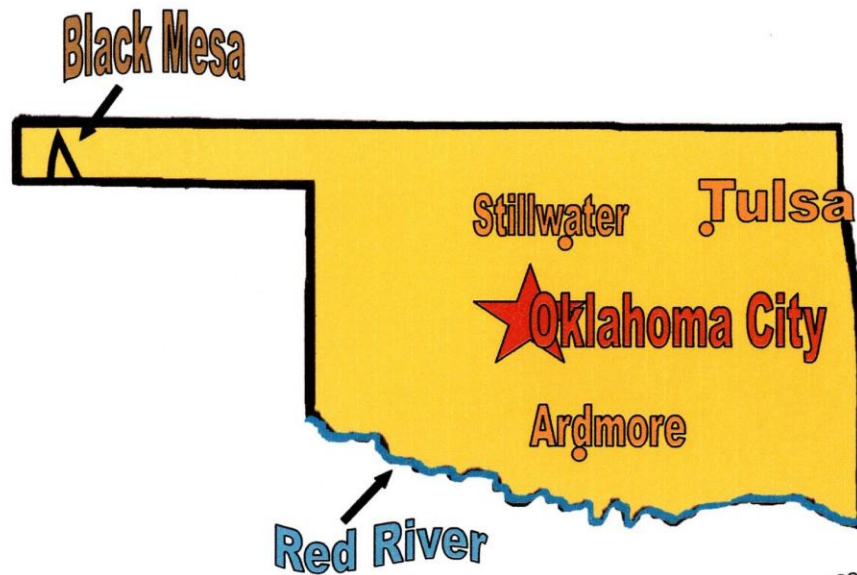
Tree: Redbud

Flower: Mistletoe



cattle/dairy

Susie's friend, Miss Oklahoma, lives in the state of Oklahoma. Miss Oklahoma's home, like other states to the north, and Texas to the south, is one of the Great Plains States. Miss Oklahoma tells Susie that her state prides itself on its amazing cotton production. It also has vast stretches of land that make for excellent grazing ground for cattle. Susie listens attentively as Miss Oklahoma tells her about the cattle drives back in the 1800's and the fact that cowboys used the Chisolm Trail, which crosses the Red River separating Oklahoma from Texas. "Sooners" is the nickname for the state of Oklahoma, based on the state's earliest settlers.



Miss Oklahoma

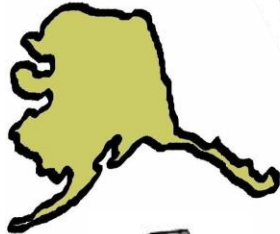
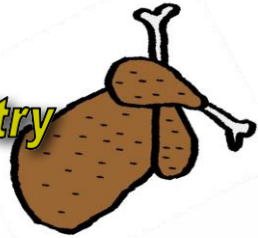


"Sooner State"

Miss Oklahoma had taken a tour
of Tulsa, Black Mesa, Stillwater, and Ardmore.
She went farther south to the river below
with cotton and wheat fields wherever she'd go.



poultry



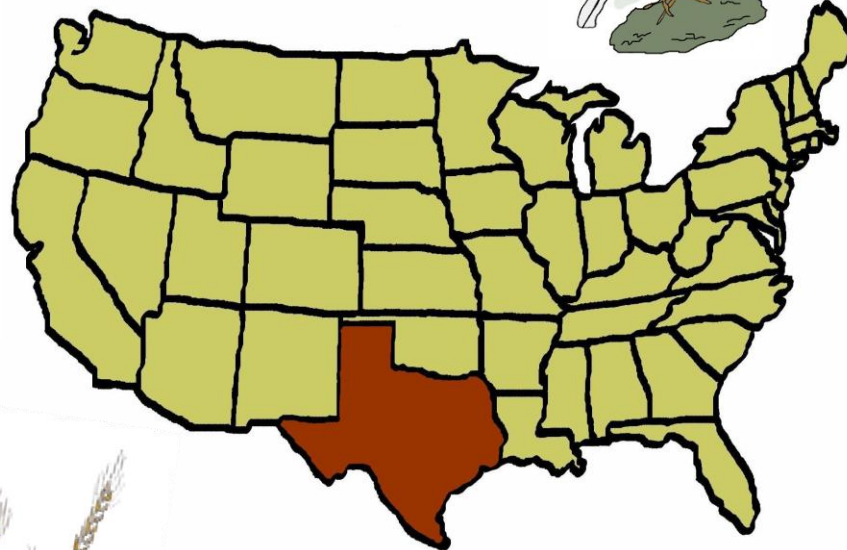
Texas

Twenty-Eighth State

Bird: Mockingbird

Tree: Pecan

Flower: Bluebonnet



Thinking about cowboys from her trip to Oklahoma, Susie looks forward to seeing her friend, Austin, a true cowboy. Though he's named after Texas' capital city, Austin lives in El Paso, near the "Big Bend," which is part of the southwestern border of Texas that separates the US. from the country of Mexico. Austin tells Susie that Texas is huge, with an upper panhandle and northern plains region, the Gulf coastal plains bordering the Gulf of Mexico, and mountains and basins in the far western part of the state. He also tells her that before Texas became a state, it was an independent republic, and since then it has featured a "lone star" on its flag.



Austin



"Lone Star State"

Austin's a cowboy from the heart of El Paso.
He catches his cattle with a hemp-woven lasso.
There are prairies and lakes, with Houston near the coast.
But the Big Bend Country is what Austin loves most.

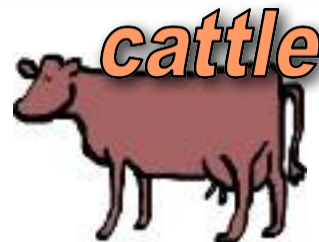
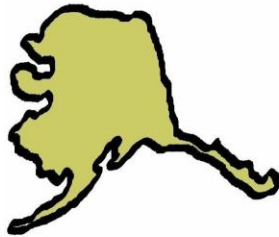
Louisiana

Eighteenth State

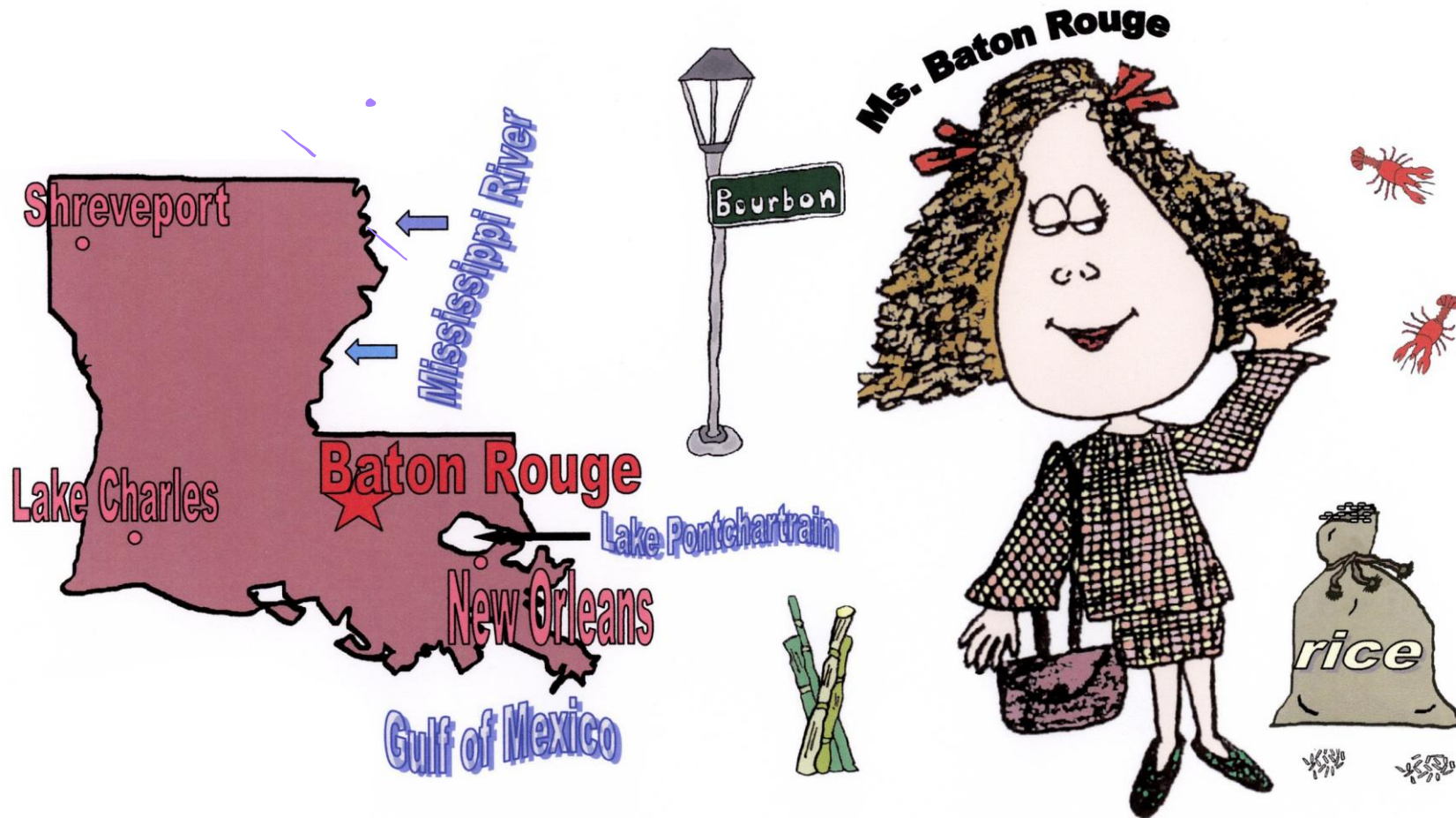
Bird: Eastern Brown Pelican

Tree: Bald Cypress

Flower: Magnolia



Susie's good pal, Ms. Baton Rouge, lives down in the "Pelican State" of Louisiana, named so because of its famous water-loving state bird. Her favorite city to visit there is New Orleans, home of the famous Mardi Gras festival and lots of great restaurants with Cajun food! Ms. Baton Rouge teaches Susie all about Louisiana geography, including the fact that Louisiana is located on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, or Gulf Coast, at the end of the Mississippi River.



"Pelican State"

Beautiful Ms. Baton Rouge lives down in New Orleans.
Every year at Mardi Gras she loves to watch the scenes.
Crawfish, rice, and sugar cane are always such a treat.
She sits and dines in restaurants alongside Bourbon Street.

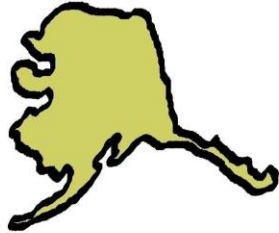
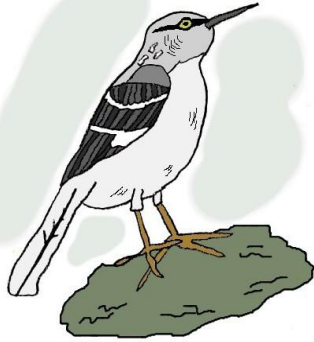
Arkansas

Twenty-Fifth State

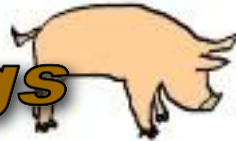
Bird: Mockingbird

Tree: Loblolly Pine

Flower: Apple Blossom



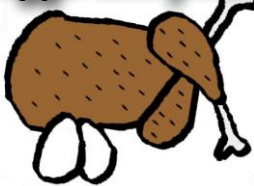
hogs



cattle



eggs and poultry



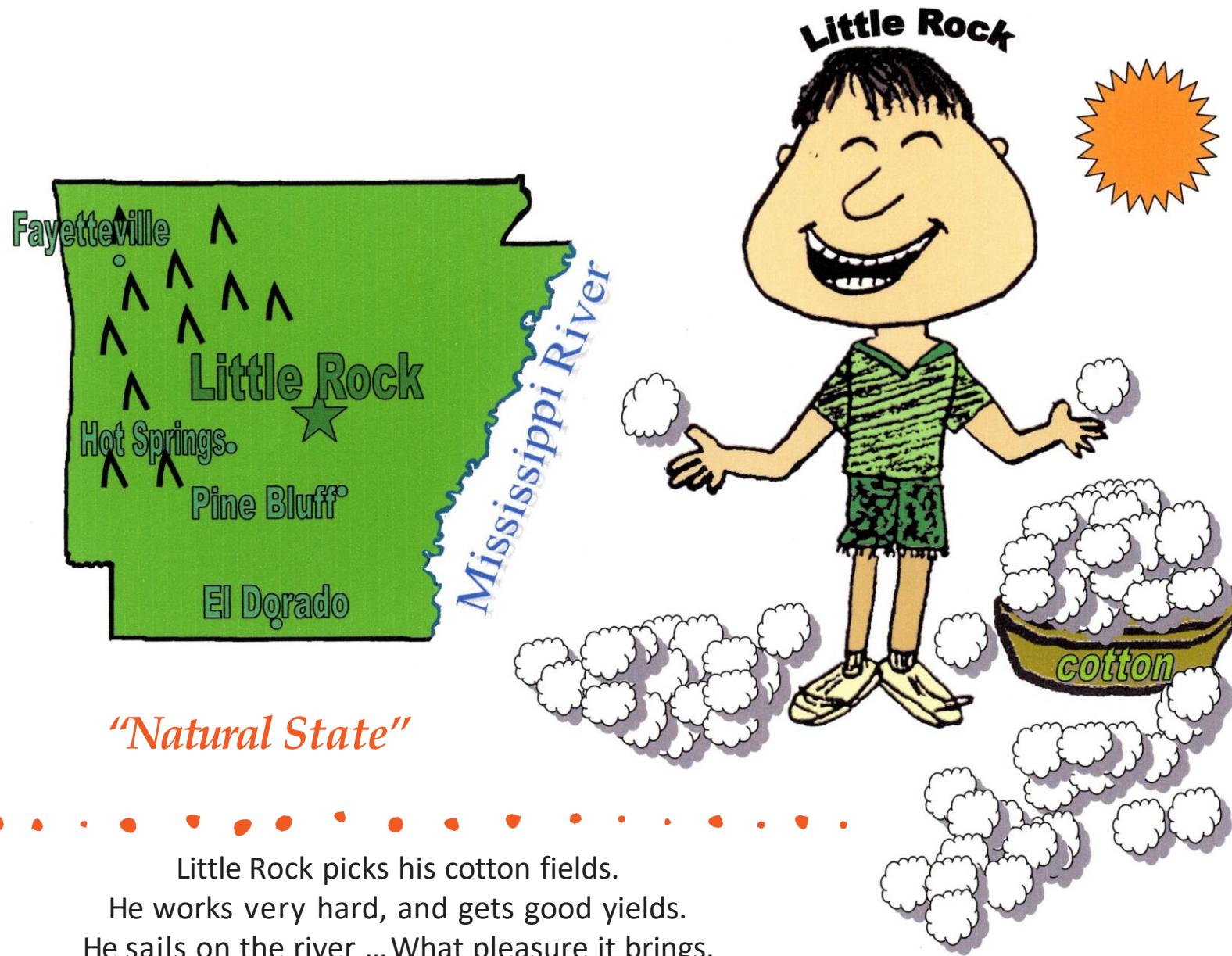
soybeans



rice



Susie's next visit is to her friend, Little Rock, who lives in the state of Arkansas with his parents on their cotton farm. Of course, cotton is a very important crop for clothing and fabric, so Little Rock keeps very busy tending to the family business. But when Susie visits he makes sure to take a break so they can have a little fun and go sailing along the Mississippi river, which makes up the eastern border of the state. They also see the state's many beautiful mountains, valleys, plains, and forests that give Arkansas its nickname of "Natural State."



"Natural State"

Little Rock picks his cotton fields.
He works very hard, and gets good yields.
He sails on the river ... What pleasure it brings.
He sees El Dorado, Pine Bluff, and Hot Springs.

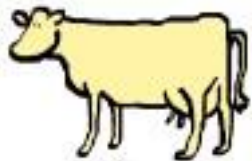
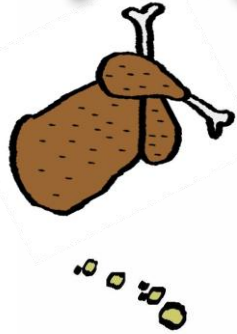
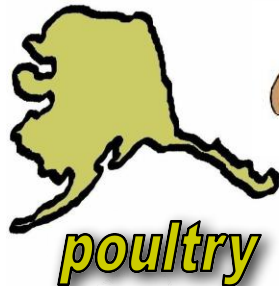
Mississippi

Twentieth State

Bird: Mockingbird

Tree: Southern Magnolia

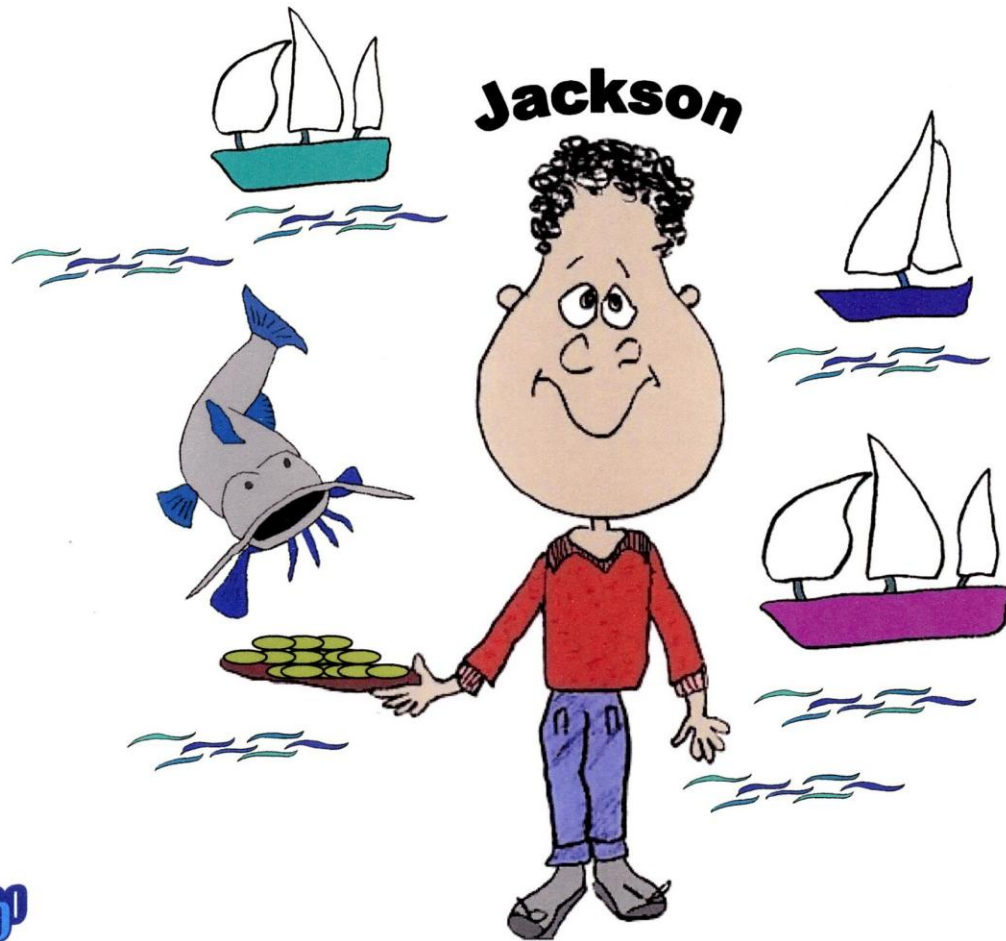
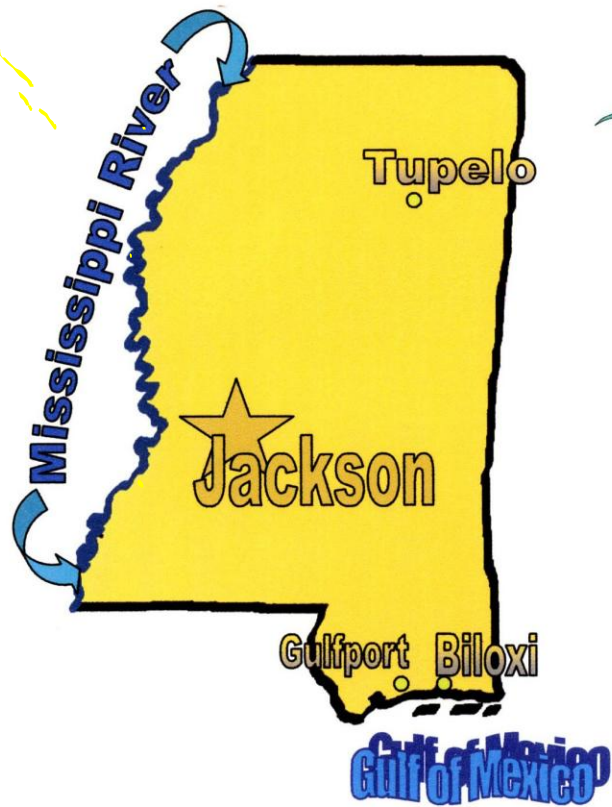
Flower: Magnolia



cattle



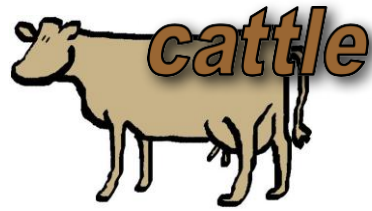
Susie next crosses the Mississippi River to the east to visit the state of Mississippi, which has this great river making up its western border. Like Little Rock, Susie's friend, Jackson, loves the Mississippi River, but mainly for fishing. He catches catfish, fries them up, and eats them with beans- a delicious meal. For sailing, he takes Susie to the town of Biloxi on the Gulf of Mexico. On the way there, Jackson shows Susie all of the beautiful Magnolia trees, for which the state gets its nickname.



"Magnolia State"

In the great Mississippi, Jackson likes to fish.
Catfish with beans is his all-time favorite dish.

Biloxi and Gulfport are close to the sea,
with countless marinas, great places to be.



Tennessee

Sixteenth State

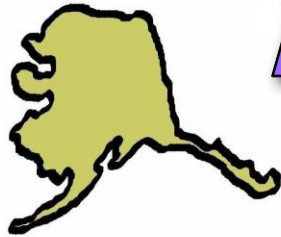
Bird: Mockingbird

Tree: Yellow-Poplar

Flower: Iris



hogs



Susie has two friends in Tennessee, one named for the capital, Nashville, and the other named after the city of Memphis, on the Mississippi River. Both cities are famous for music. Nashville has the Grand Ole Opry, a weekly country-music stage concert, and Memphis is home to Graceland, mansion of famous rock and roll singer, Elvis Presley.

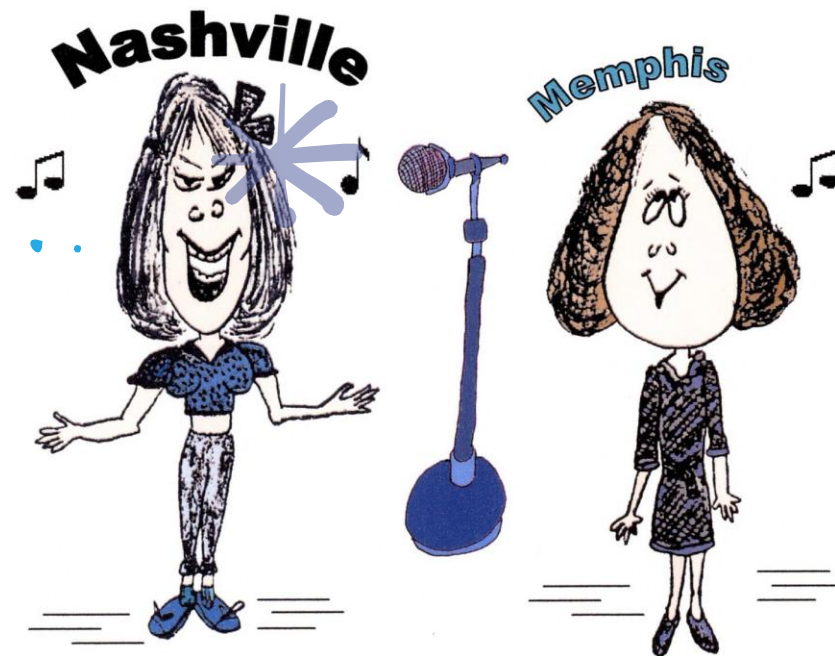
Before Susie's visit ends, she learns that Tennessee's nickname of "Volunteer State" comes from the important role of volunteer soldiers from Tennessee in the Battle of New Orleans, during the War of 1812 between Britain and the United States.





"Volunteer State"

Nashville and Memphis
were both born to sing.
They dream of the fame
that their music will bring.
In the Great Smokey Mountains
and Cumberland Plateau
they book many clubs,
and do show after show.



Alabama

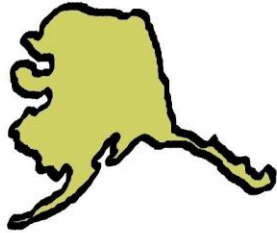
Twenty-Second State

Bird: Yellowhammer

Tree: Longleaf Pine

Flower: Camellia

cattle



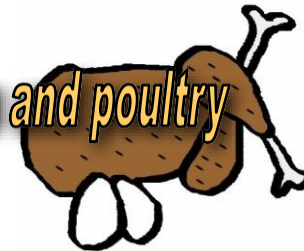
lumber



soybeans



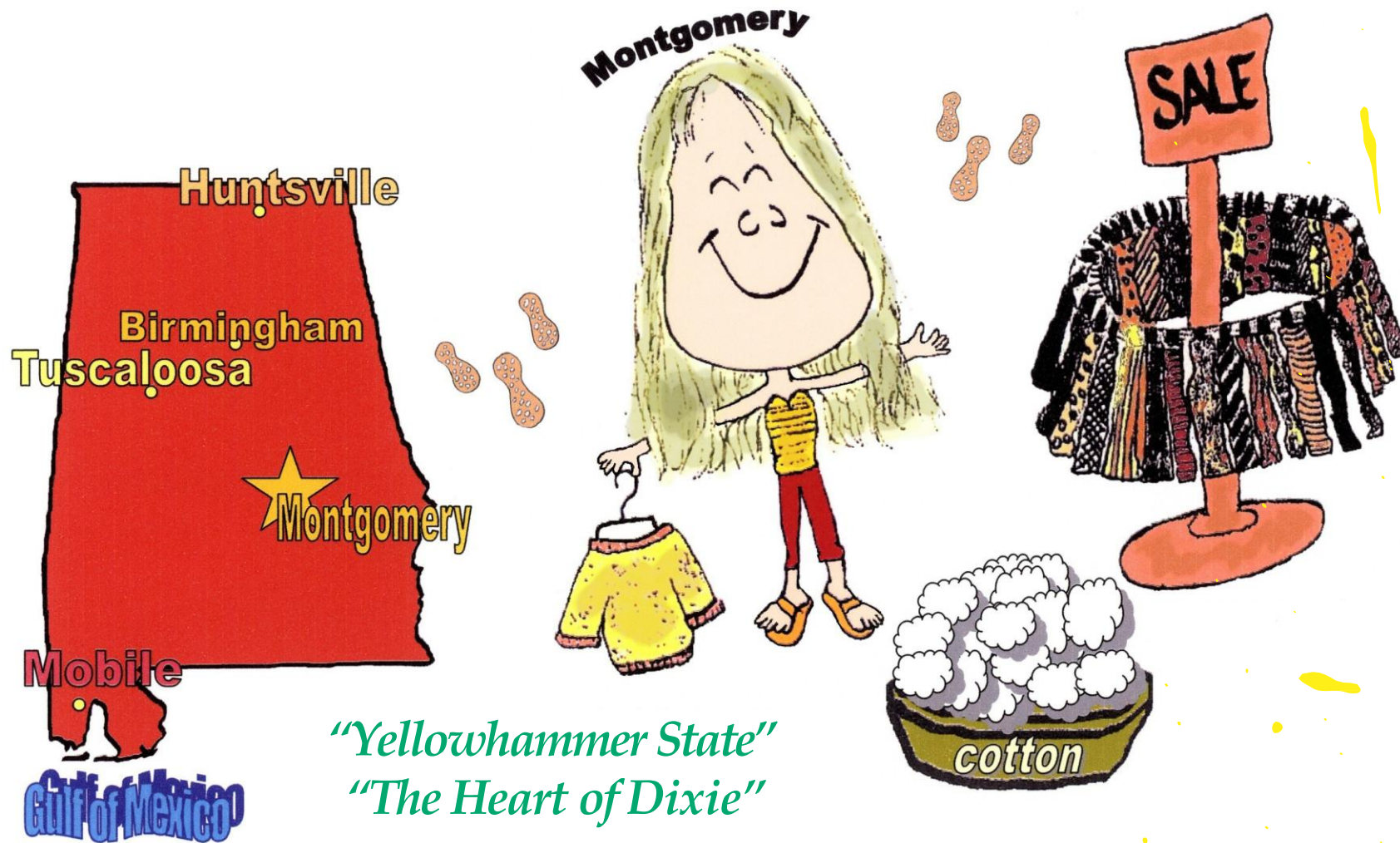
eggs and poultry



Susie is excited to visit her happy-go-lucky buddy, Montgomery, who has a serious love of fashion.

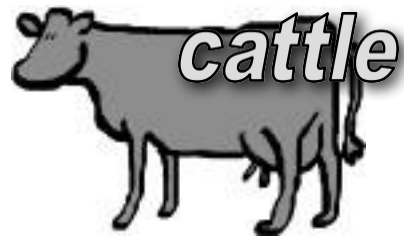
This makes sense to Susie, since Montgomery's home of Alabama is a great producer of cotton, which is used for clothing and fabrics.

Susie and Montgomery spend a day in the city of Tuscaloosa shopping for clothes, and then travel down to the southern coast to enjoy a weekend in Mobile on the Gulf of Mexico. Susie very much enjoys her stay in the "Heart of Dixie," which pays tribute to the nickname for the southern part of the U.S. Alabama is also called the "Yellowhammer State" in honor of its state bird.



"Yellowhammer State"
"The Heart of Dixie"

In Tuscaloosa, Montgomery shops
to escape all that work on the peanut crops.
Alabama cotton makes really fine shirts
and other apparel like blouses and skirts.



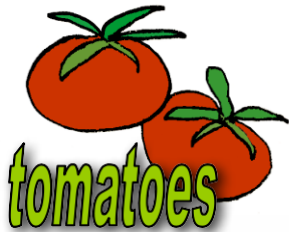
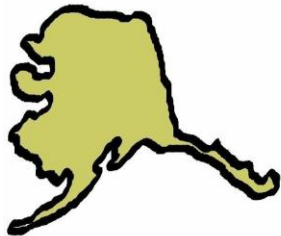
Florida

Twenty-Seventh State

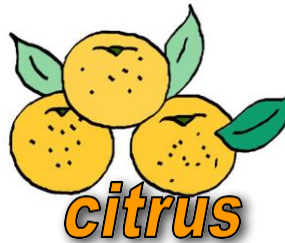
Bird: Mockingbird

Tree: Cabbage Palmetto

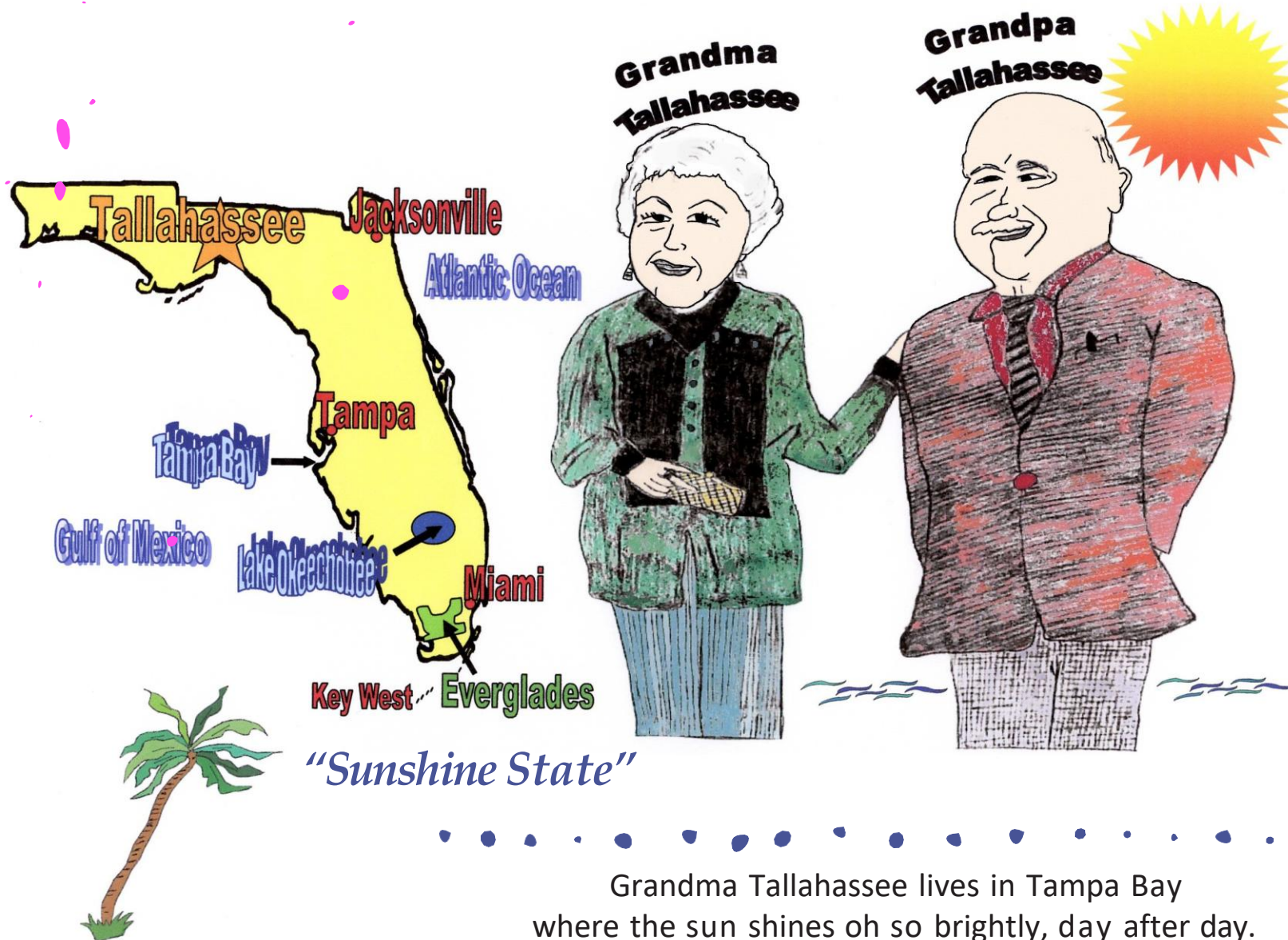
Flower: Orange Blossom



sugar cane

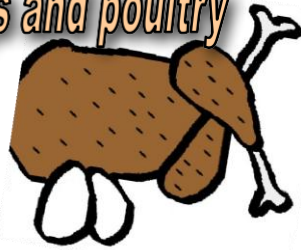


One of Susie's favorite states is Florida, a peninsula in the southeastern US, where her grandparents, both named after the state's capital, live. She loves the beautiful weather in Florida, also known as the "Sunshine State," and enjoys swimming at the beach and sunbathing. Her grandparents live on the west coast in Tampa, on Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The east coast of Florida is on the Atlantic Ocean, and has the cities of Jacksonville and Miami. Other famous bodies of water in the southernmost part of the state include the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee. But just watch out for the alligators!



Grandma Tallahassee lives in Tampa Bay
where the sun shines oh so brightly, day after day.
Grandpa likes to travel across the swampy land
past Lake Okeechobee toward the ocean and the sand.

eggs and poultry



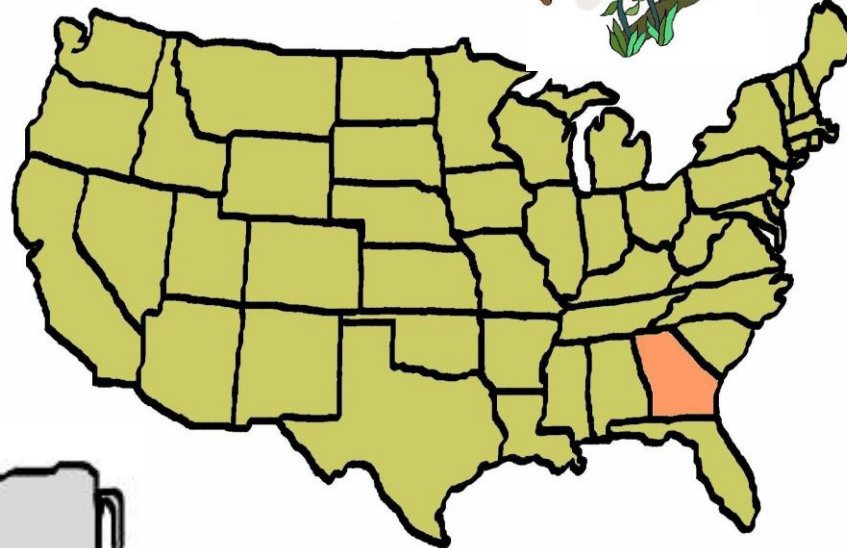
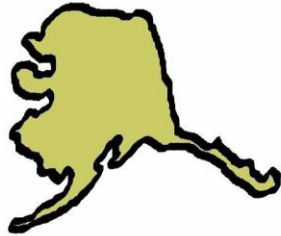
Georgia

Fourth State

Bird: Brown Thrasher

Tree: Live Oak

Flower: Cherokee Rose



cattle/dairy



hogs

Don't let the thin appearance of Susie's friend Atlanta, in Georgia fool you. She loves to eat! Luckily,

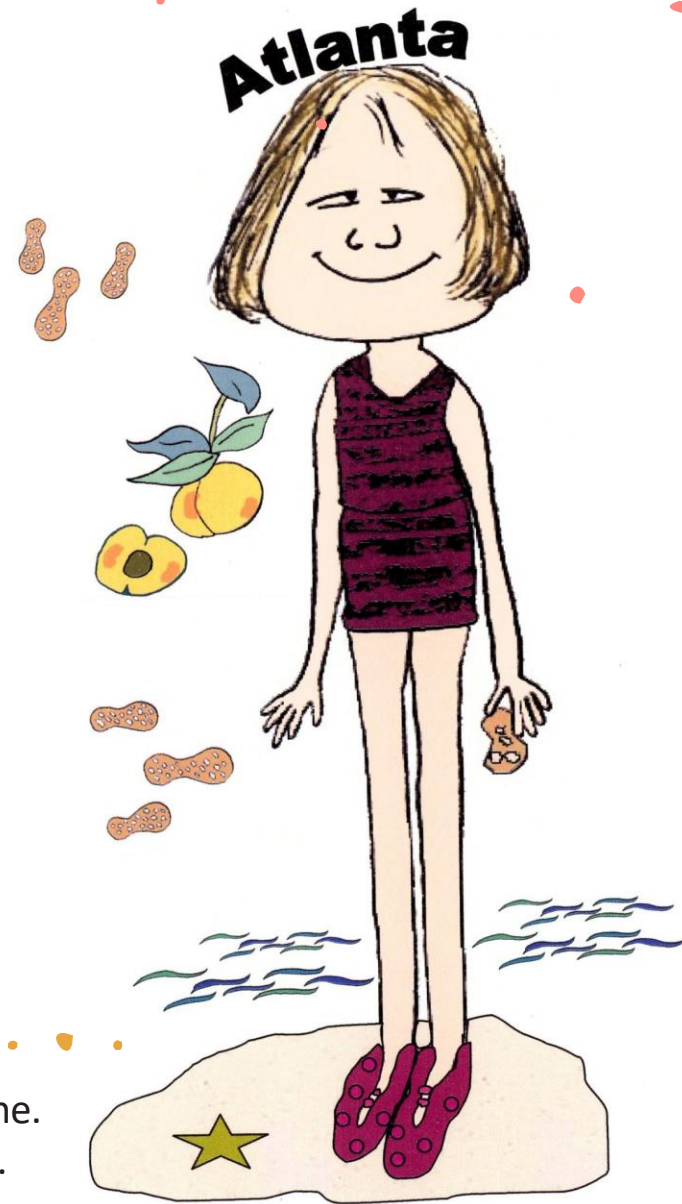
Susie does not have to bring Atlanta any of the peanuts she got while in Alabama. Atlanta can get plenty of her own, since peanuts are a major crop in Georgia. So are peaches, and Atlanta happily gobbles down one while handing another to her friend and shouting, "Now you know why Georgia is the 'Peach State'!" Once the girls are full, Atlanta suggests they head east to some great beaches on Georgia's coast.





"Peach State"

Atlanta grabs some peanuts and eats them one by one.
 She throws away the shells as soon as she is done.
 She travels to Augusta to buy some juicy peaches,
 then heads down toward Savannah to swim on Georgia's beaches.



South Carolina

Eighth State

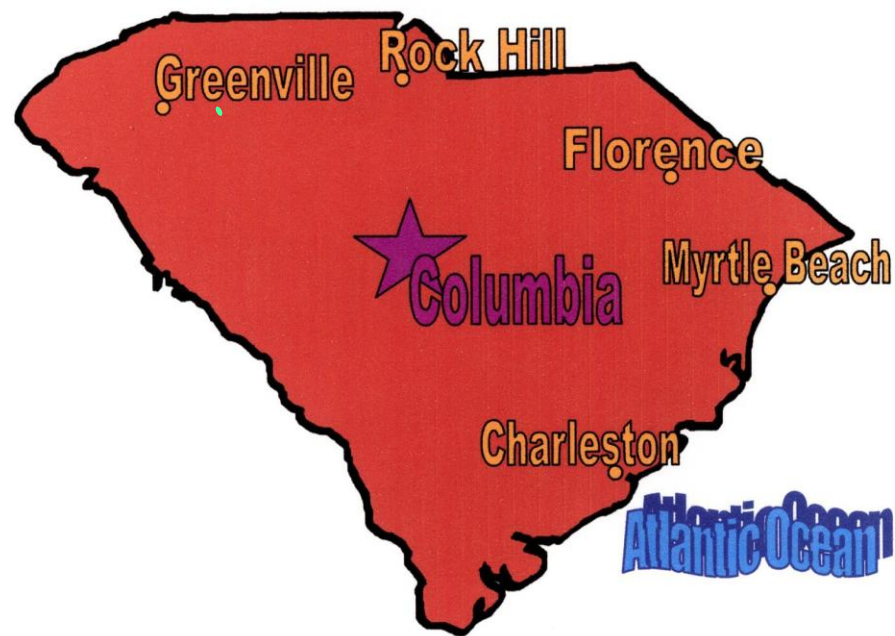
Bird: Great Carolina Wren

Tree: Cabbage Palmetto

Flower: Yellow Jessamine



After gorging on food and lounging on beaches in Georgia, Susie isn't sure she's ready to visit her friend, Columbia, in South Carolina. Columbia loves to exercise- running and dancing being her favorite kinds. While taking Susie jogging along the beautiful cobblestone streets of historic Charleston, on the Atlantic coast, Columbia points out Cabbage Palmetto trees, telling Susie that South Carolina is the "Palmetto State." She then tells Susie that as a reward for all the exercise, they will head up to Myrtle Beach to lay out and eat peaches. Déjà vu for Susie!



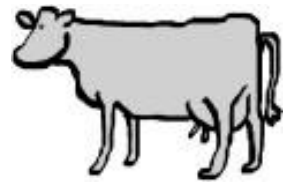
Columbia



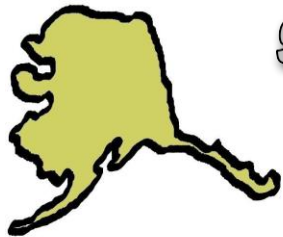
"Palmetto State"

Through South Carolina Columbia would run.
 In Greenville and Rock Hill she'd have lots of fun.
 She'd dance along some cobblestone in Charleston on her way.
 Then she'd go to Myrtle Beach and on the sand she'd lay.

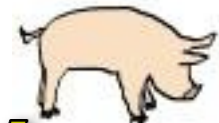




cattle



soybeans



hogs



tobacco



Bird: Cardinal
Tree: Longleaf Pine
Flower: Dogwood

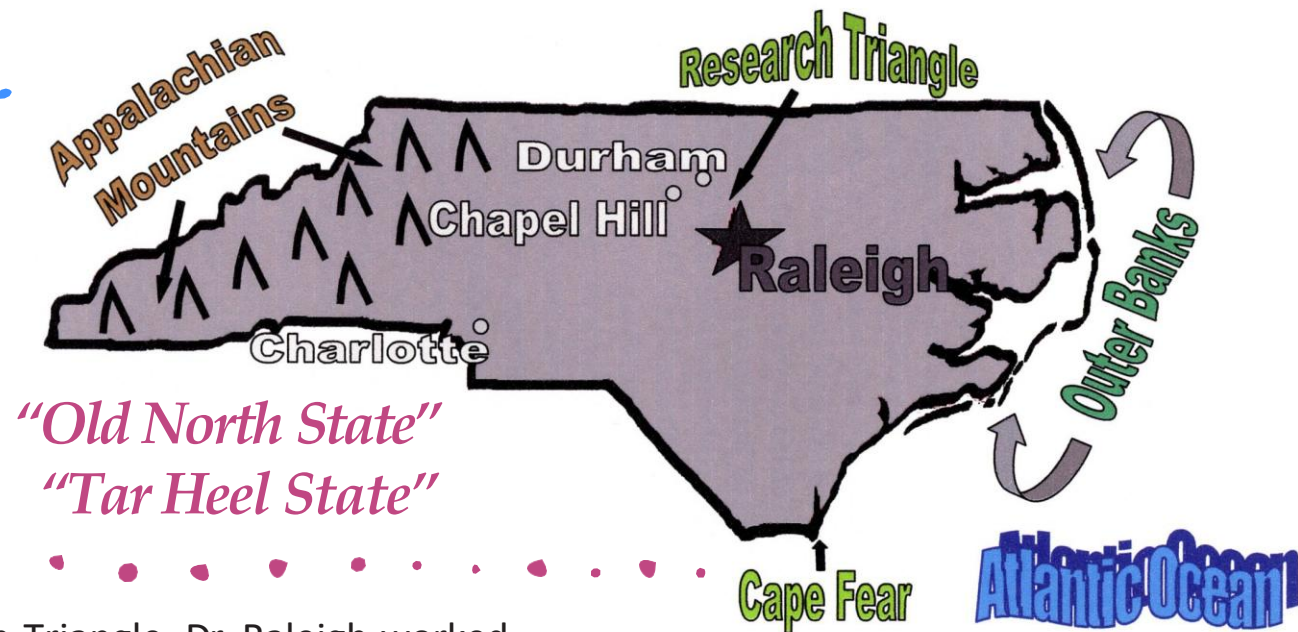


eggs and poultry

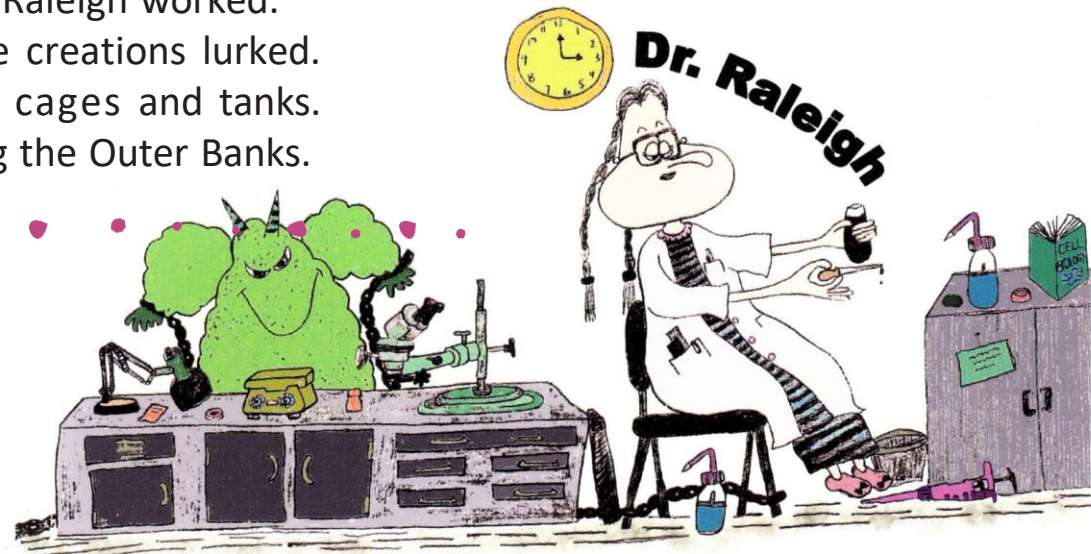
North Carolina

Twelfth State

Susie's last visit is to North Carolina, or the "Old North State," meaning the northern part of what used to be a province called "Carolina." Susie's peculiar aunt, Dr. Raleigh, works in the "Research Triangle," which is the name of a three city area of Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh, where many fine universities and hospitals are located. She works with fierce determination in her lab making... er... whatever in fact she makes there. "Is that a Tar Heel?" Susie asks, pointing to a particularly frightening-looking specimen. "No," Dr. Raleigh laughs, explaining that in colonial times, North Carolina produced lots of tar for ships, and according to one legend it would get stuck on the heels of workers.



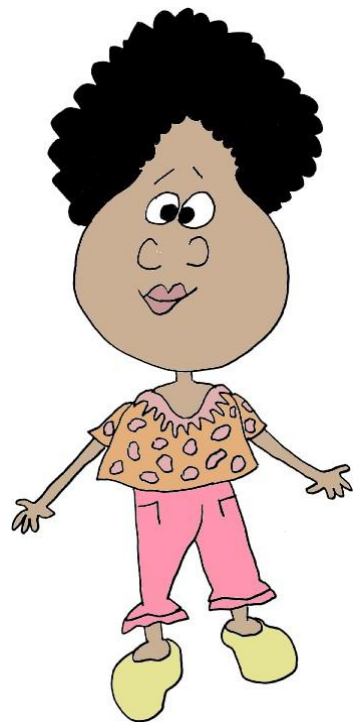
In the Research Triangle, Dr. Raleigh worked.
 Behind her lab bench, strange creations lurked.
 She'd hold them for awhile in cages and tanks.
 Then she'd set them free along the Outer Banks.



Exploring the East with Ellie



Ellie is really looking forward to seeing all of her friends who live in the eastern part of the United States, including the Northeast and the Mid-Atlantic region. States comprising the Northeast include New York as well as the six New England states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The states making up the Mid-Atlantic region include Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia.



Ellie

In the Northeast, Ellie gets on a plane and flies to see friends in Rhode Island and Maine. Then the Mid-Atlantic is where she'll pass through to see friends in New Jersey and Maryland, too.



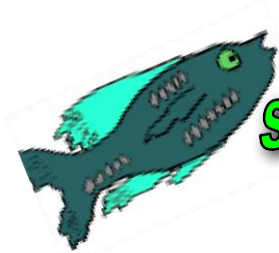
Maine

Twenty-Third State

Bird: Chickadee

Tree: Eastern White Pine

Flower: White Pine Cone and Tassel



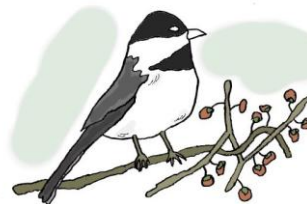
seafood



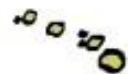
potatoes



blueberries



lumber



cattle/dairy



eggs and poultry

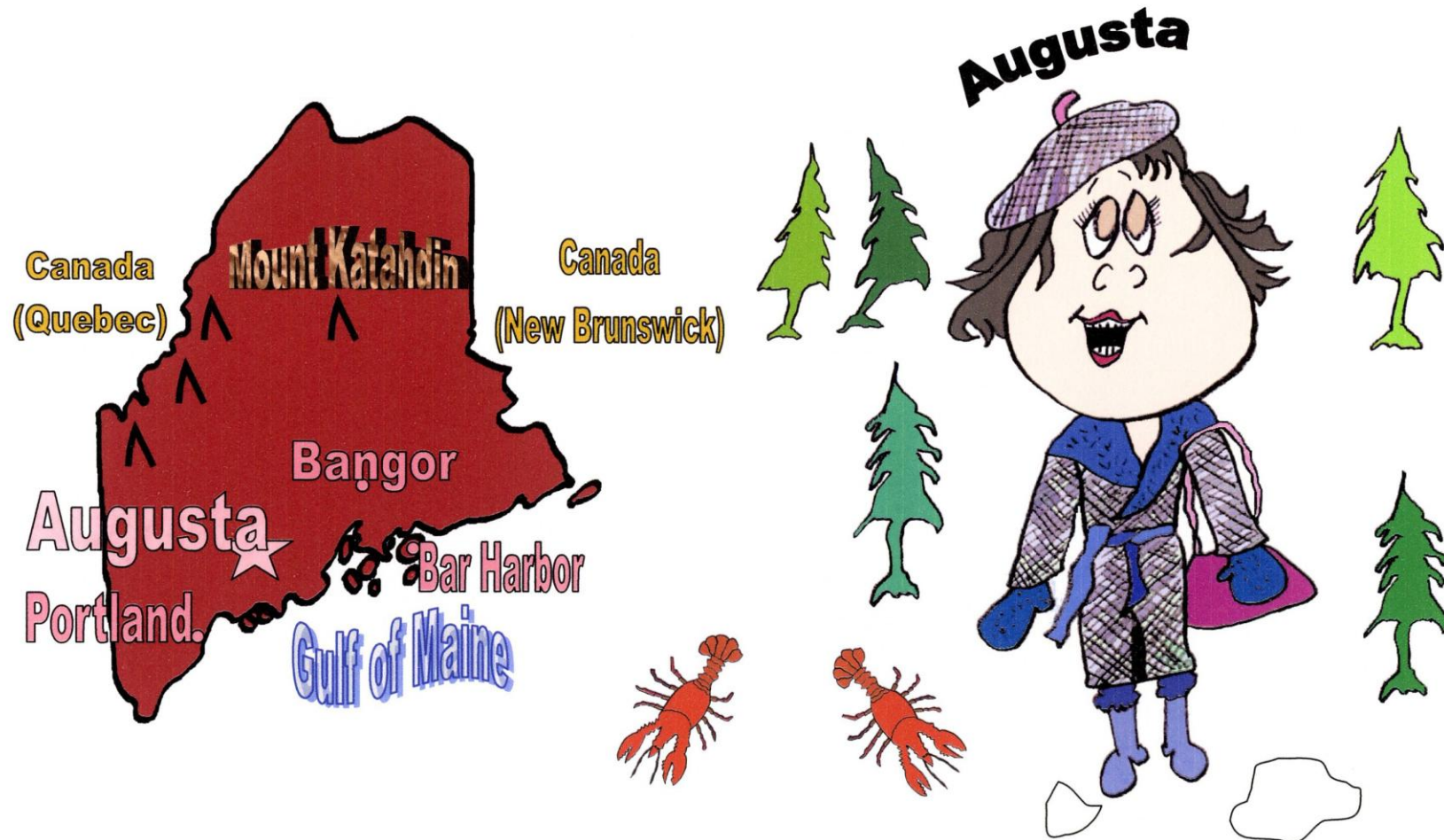


apples

Ellie is first greeted by her friend, Augusta, who lives in Maine.

Augusta invites Ellie out to a lobster dinner in Portland, a city located in the southernmost part of the state near the Gulf of Maine. The two then travel far up north to Maine's rocky coastline, admiring all the beautiful pine forests as they make their way.

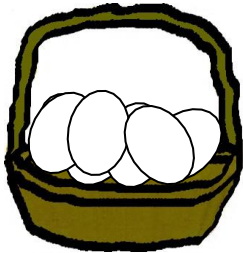
Augusta explains the historical significance of Maine's state tree, the White Pine, which was used for ship's masts in the early days of colonization. Ellie finishes her visit by hiking up the majestic Mount Katahdin, Maine's highest mountain.



"Pine Tree State"

Augusta dines on lobster, up in Portland, Maine.
Then she's off to Bangor, where she does the same.
The pines of Mount Katahdin rustle in the breeze.
They stay green when the winter comes, and never lose their leaves.





eggs

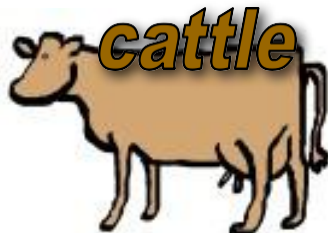
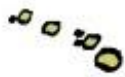
New Hampshire

Ninth State

Bird: Purple Finch

Tree: Paper Birch

Flower: Purple Lilac

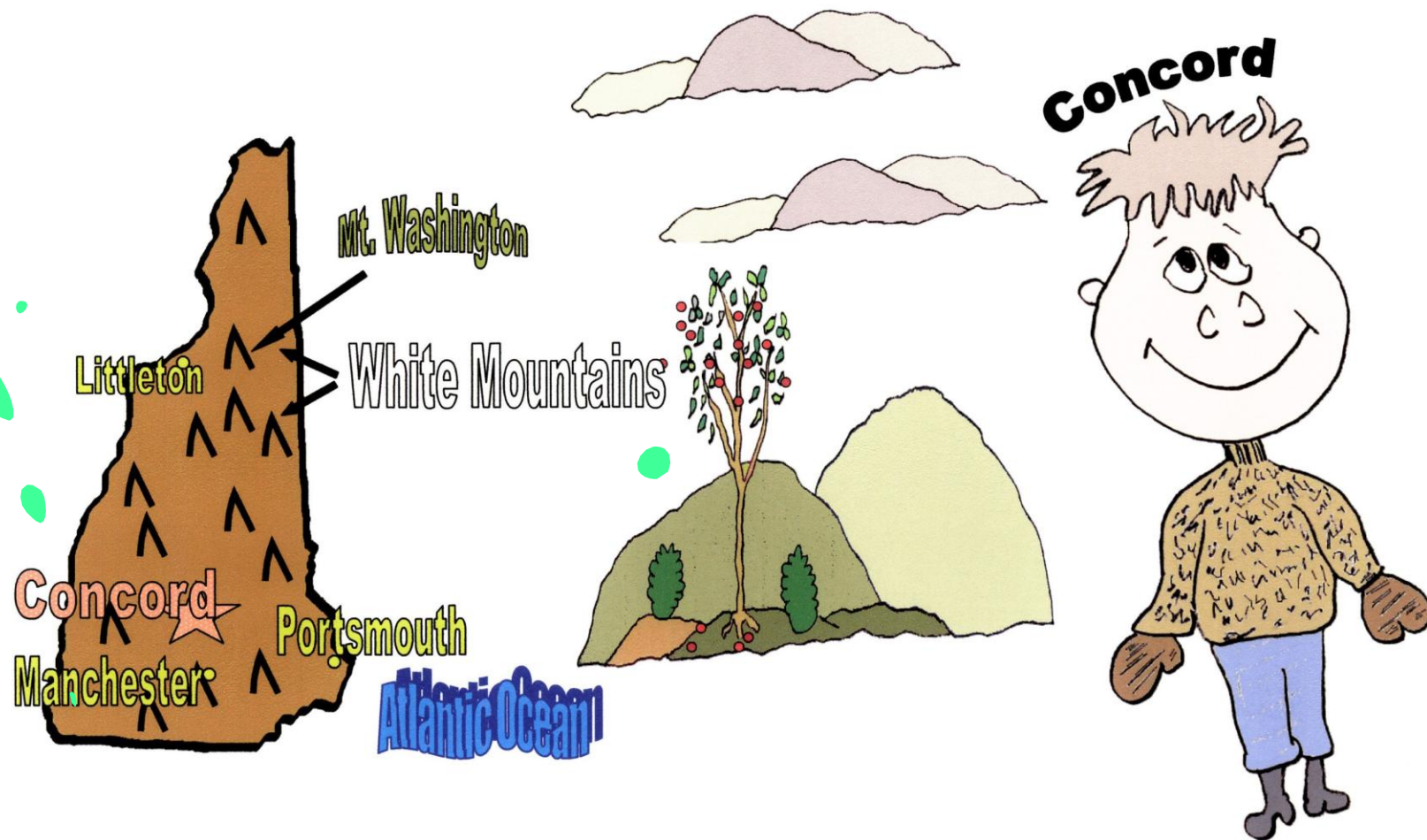


cattle



apples

Bordering Maine is the state of New Hampshire, where Ellie's friend, Concord, waits for her arrival. While hiking with Ellie through the White Mountains, Concord explains that New Hampshire's nickname of "Granite State" comes from its vast granite formations and quarries. He is excited to take her to Mt. Washington, which is the highest peak in the Northeast, and famous for world record making wind speeds. The two enjoy a little apple picking to finish up Ellie's stay.



"Granite State"

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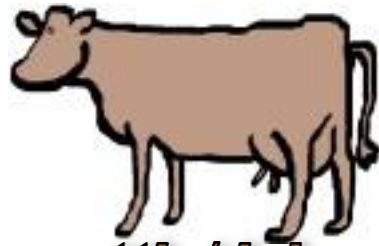
New Hampshire's great White Mountains, young Concord did pass through on his way toward Littleton and old Manchester, too.

Mount Washington was so windy, and chilled him to the bone. He settled down along the coast, as Portsmouth was his home.

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Vermont

Fourteenth State



cattle/dairy

Bird: Hermit Thrush

Tree: Sugar Maple

Flower: Red Clover

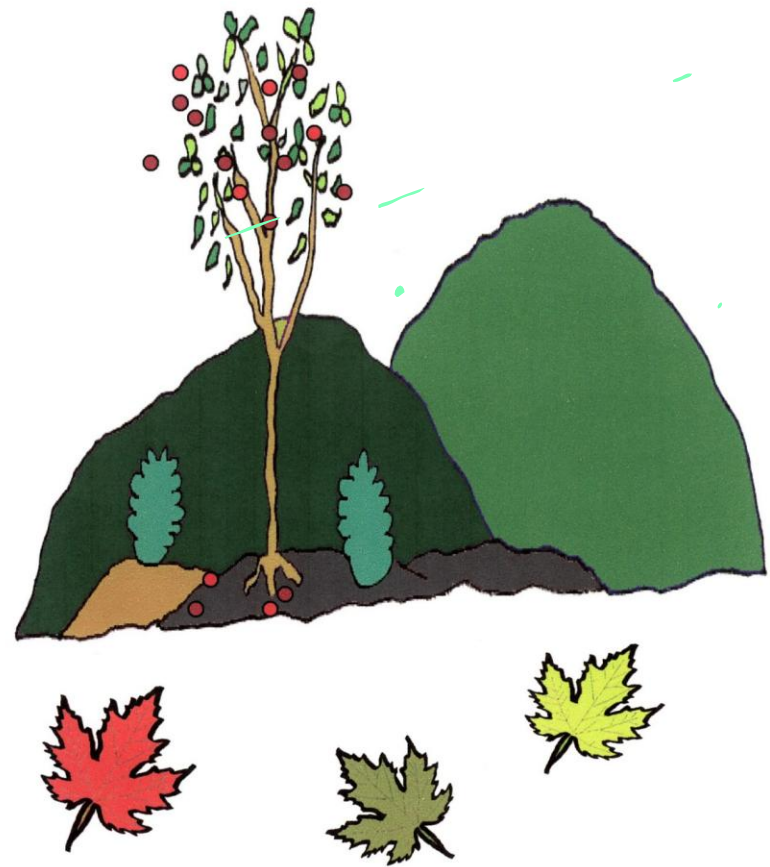


apples



maple products

Monty, named after Vermont's capital of Montpelier, meets Ellie up in the far northwestern part of his state, in beautiful Lake Champlain. They soon take a hike through the Green Mountains, where they see lots of maple trees. Monty boasts to Ellie that Vermont is the leading producer of maple syrup in the US. Ellie spots some apple orchards and asks to go apple picking, so she could add to her apple collection from New Hampshire.



"Green Mountain State"

Monty started off his day in lovely Lake Champlain.
Then he headed toward the east, on his way to Maine.
Lots of pretty maple trees he would often pass
in the mountains of Vermont, so tall and bold and vast.

Massachusetts

Sixth State

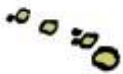


cranberries

Bird: Chickadee

Tree: American Elm

Flower: Mayflower

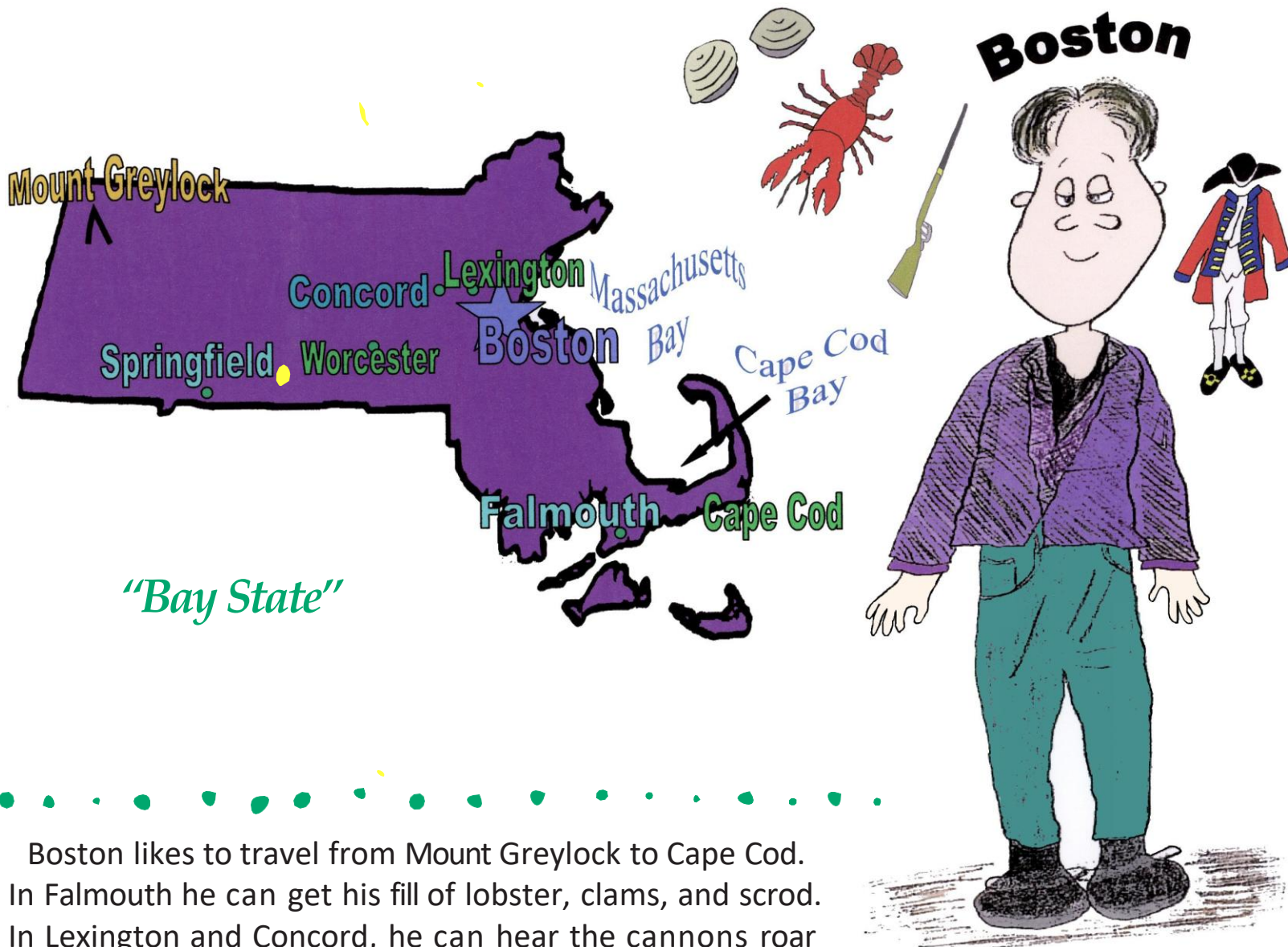


dairy



seafood

Ellie next visits her friend, Boston, in the state of Massachusetts. He takes Ellie to dinner, where they eat seafood freshly caught from the Atlantic Ocean. Boston explains to Ellie that the fish may have come from either the Massachusetts Bay or the Cape Cod Bay, which earned Massachusetts its nickname of the "Bay State." He also tells her of the amazing history of Massachusetts, from the arrival of the Pilgrims, along with the first official Thanksgiving celebration in the early 1600s, to the Revolutionary War in the 1700s and rebellion of the state's residents against taxation by the British.



Boston likes to travel from Mount Greylock to Cape Cod.
In Falmouth he can get his fill of lobster, clams, and scrod.
In Lexington and Concord, he can hear the cannons roar
while he hears the story of the Red Coats and the war.

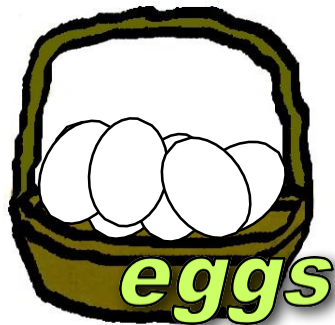
Rhode Island

Thirteenth State

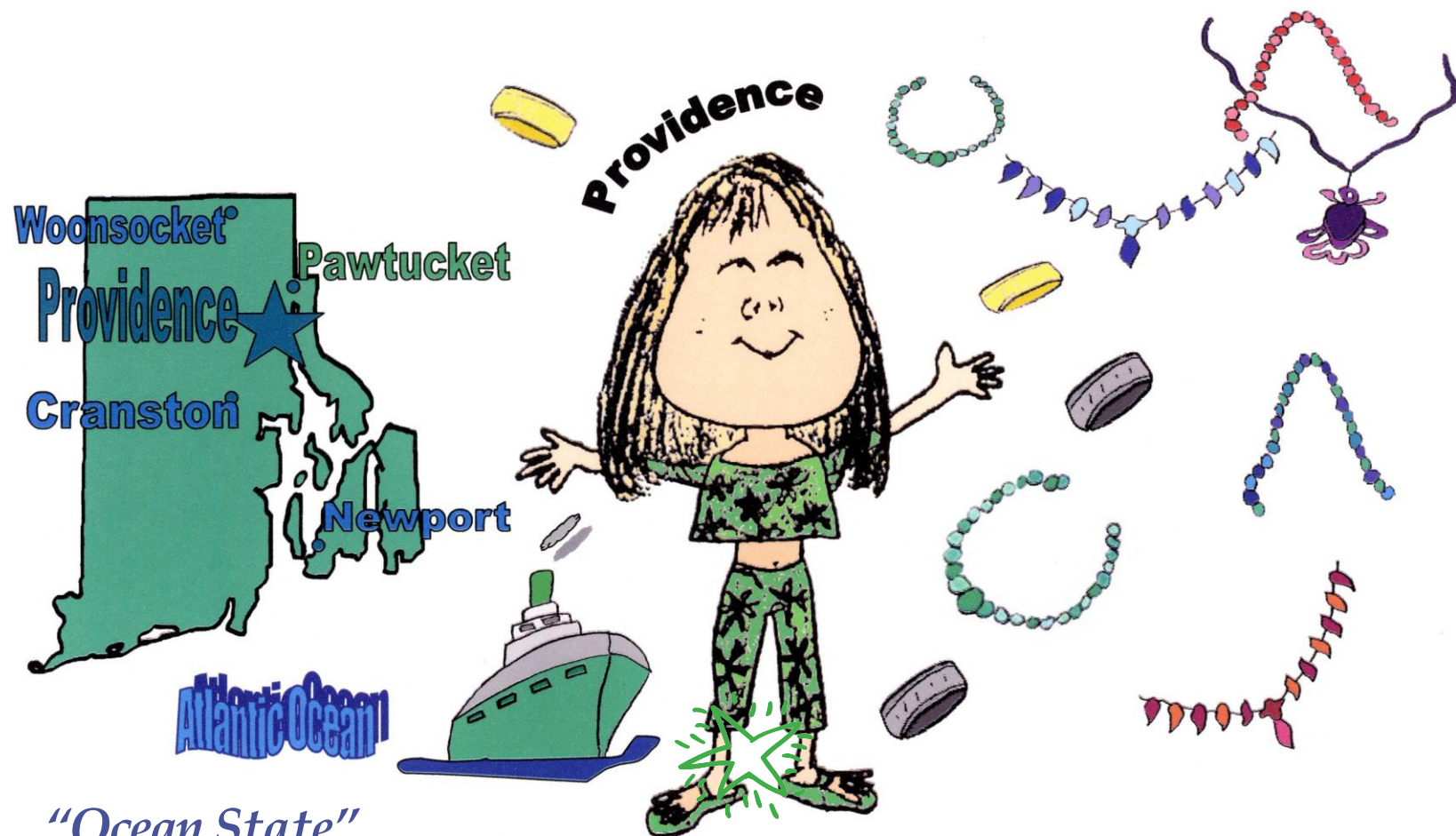
Bird: Rhode Island Red

Tree: Red Maple

Flower: Violet



Ellie is so happy to see her friend, Providence, in the smallest state in the nation, Rhode Island. She is named after the state's capital, which is known for its production of jewelry and silverware. Rhode Island is right on the Atlantic Ocean, hence its nickname of "Ocean State." Providence takes Ellie to see old factories and mills, and explains that Rhode Island used to be a big contributor to the Industrial Revolution as well as a prominent textile producer. Providence and Ellie complete the visit with a trip to the coast, where they watch Providence's father hard at work building ships and submarines, a big part of Rhode Island's economy.



"Ocean State"

Providence sells jewelry near the mills of Woonsocket.
She does really well and gets cash in her pocket.
Pawtucket and Cranston are where she takes trips,
or to Rhode Island's coast, where her father builds ships.

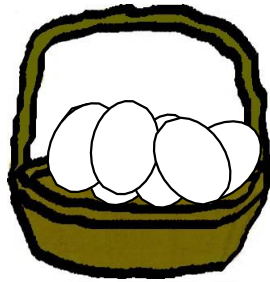
Connecticut

Fifth State

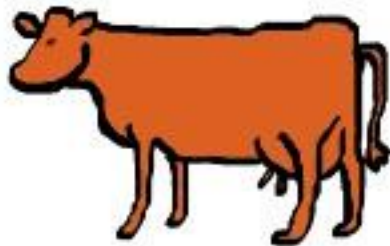
Bird: Robin

Tree: White Oak

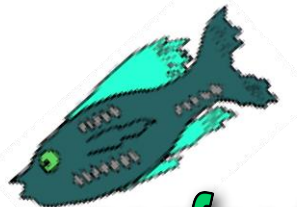
Flower: Mountain Laurel



eggs



cattle

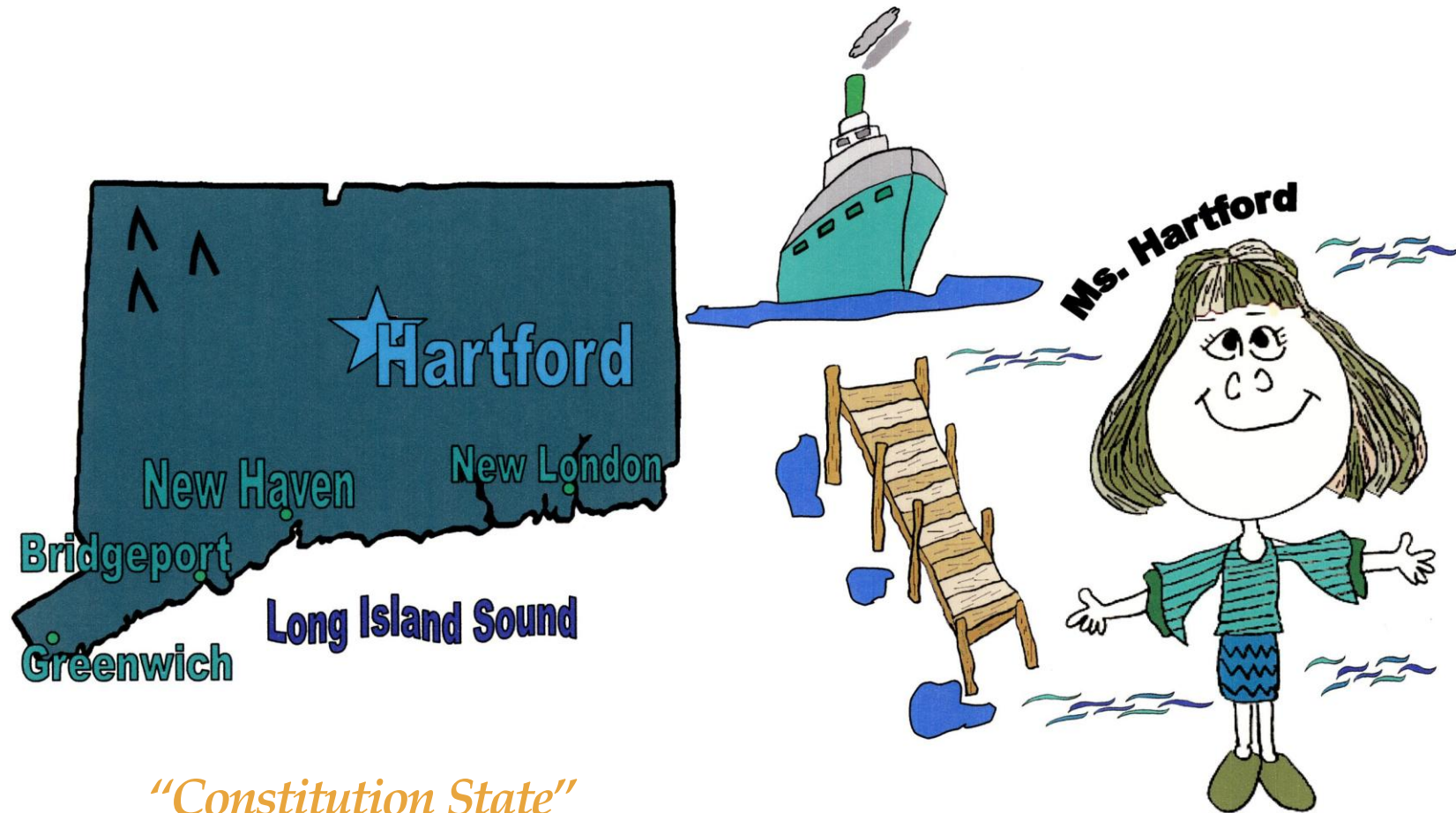


seafood

Ellie can't wait to visit with her pal, Ms. Hartford, who lives in the final and southernmost New England state of her journey. Connecticut, or the "Constitution State," which played a prominent role in starting the U.S.

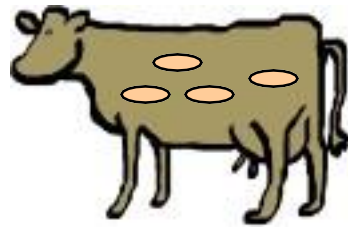
government, is bordered on its south by the Long Island Sound. Because of its position off the Atlantic, Connecticut serves as a safe harbor for transatlantic ships during ocean storms.

Hartford explains to Ellie how important oyster harvesting was to coastal towns like Bridgeport and New Haven. In fact, in the early 1900's, Connecticut's coastline was known as the oyster capital of the world!



"Constitution State"

On the coast of Connecticut, Ms. Hartford is found
standing just north of the Long Island Sound.
New Haven and Bridgeport are both very near,
and so are the cruise ships at New London Pier.



cattle/dairy

New York

Eleventh State

Bird: Bluebird

Tree: Sugar Maple

Flower: Rose

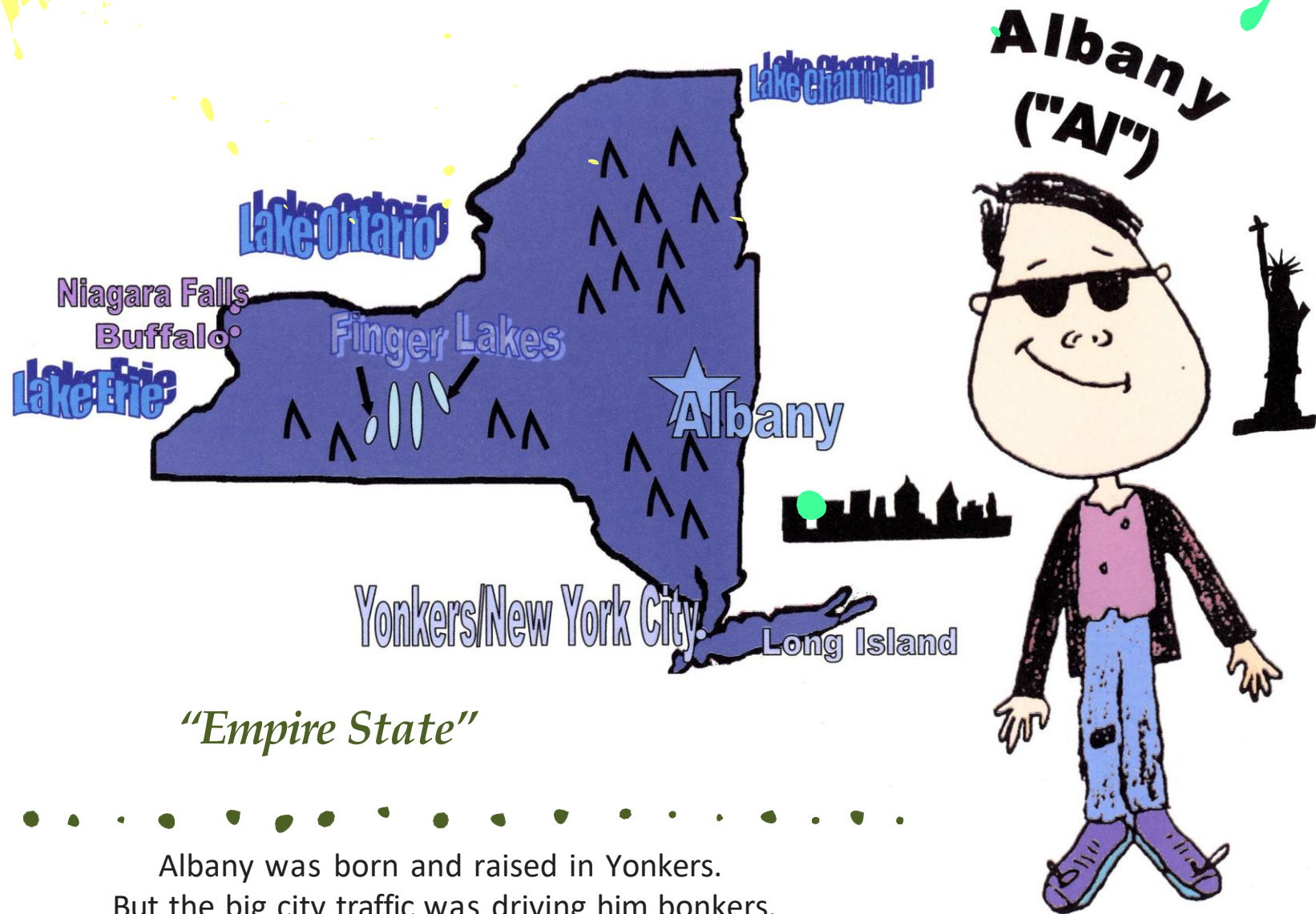


grapes



apples

Ellie's friend Albany, or "A" for short, meets Ellie at her last stopover in the northeast, the state of New York. Ellie and Al first visit the important and famous New York City, the most populated city in the whole country. They then head out toward the western part of the state, bordered by Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, with Niagara Falls sitting in between. The Finger Lakes, a popular tourist site, is on their way. Al tells Ellie that while it's unclear where the nickname "Empire State" came from, it may have been inspired by a comment George Washington had made about its advantageous geography, referring to New York as the "Seat of an Empire."



"Empire State"

Albany was born and raised in Yonkers.
But the big city traffic was driving him bonkers.
He got in his car and, hardly hitting the brakes,
escaped up north toward the fun Finger Lakes.

New Jersey

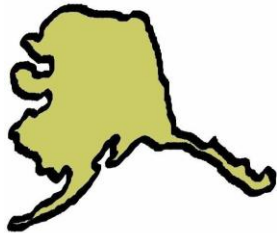
Third State



Bird: Eastern Goldfinch

Tree: Northern Red Oak

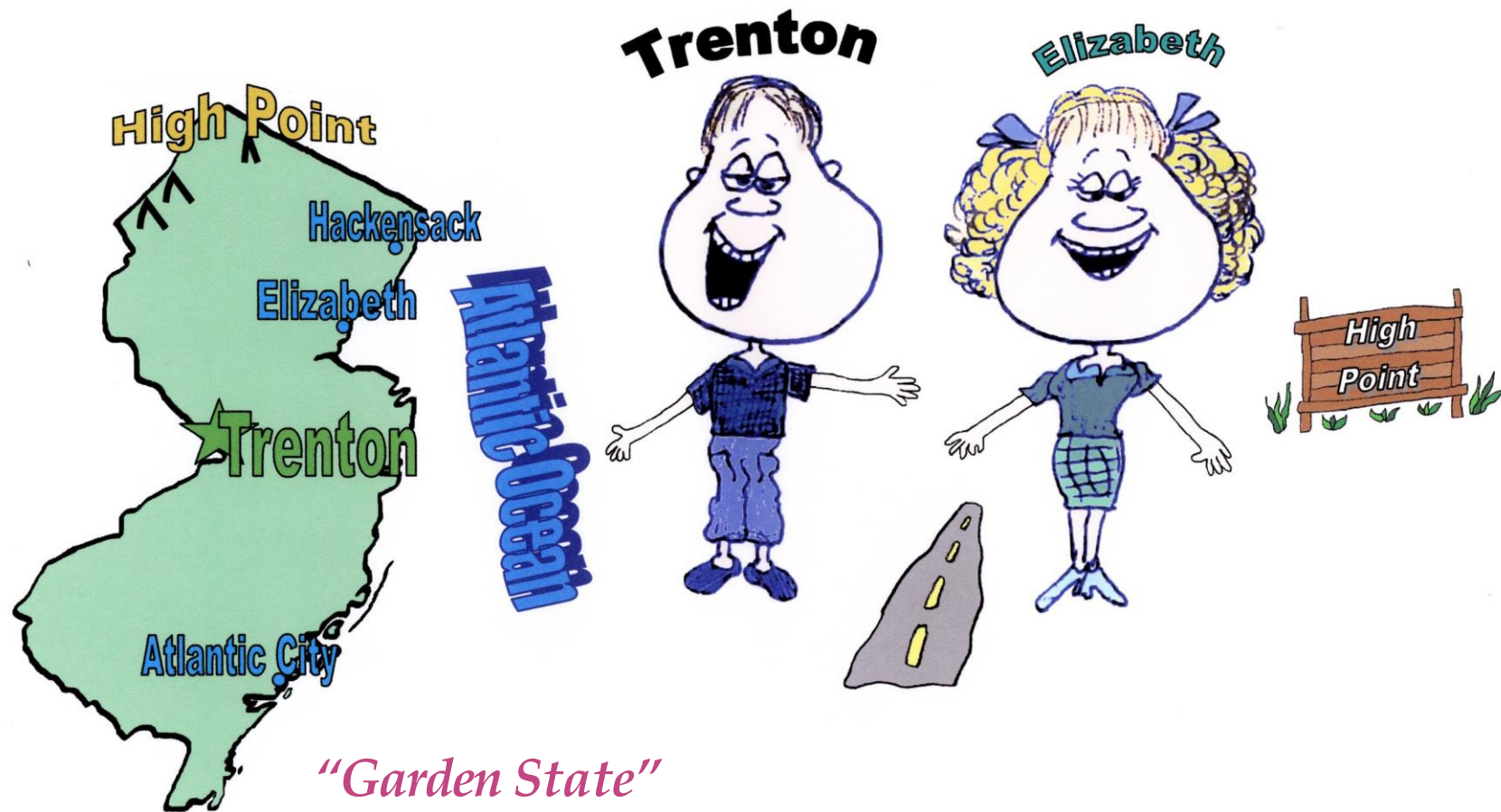
Flower: Violet



horses

Ellie always enjoys her trips to New Jersey, and why not? There she has two friends, Trenton, named after New Jersey's capital, and Elizabeth, named after another important city. These two take a car ride with Ellie, showing her all of the great sites north and south along two famous highways: the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway. Trenton explains that it's likely that New Jersey is called the Garden State because it traditionally provided flowers and agriculture to big nearby cities like New York and Philadelphia. Looking out at the beautiful view from High Point (New Jersey's highest elevation), Ellie thinks the nickname fits.





Trenton and Elizabeth drove up the Jersey Pike
to discover all the places they thought that they might like.
Hackensack was really great, as was Atlantic City.
They found the view from High Point to be very, very pretty.

Delaware

First State

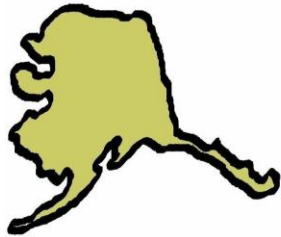
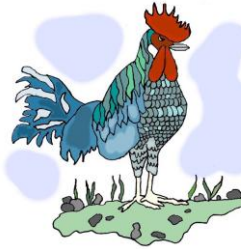
soybeans



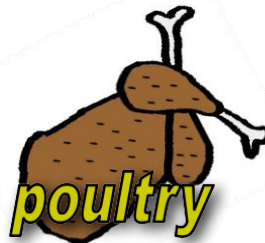
Bird: Blue Hen Chicken

Tree: American Holly

Flower: Peach Blossom



corn

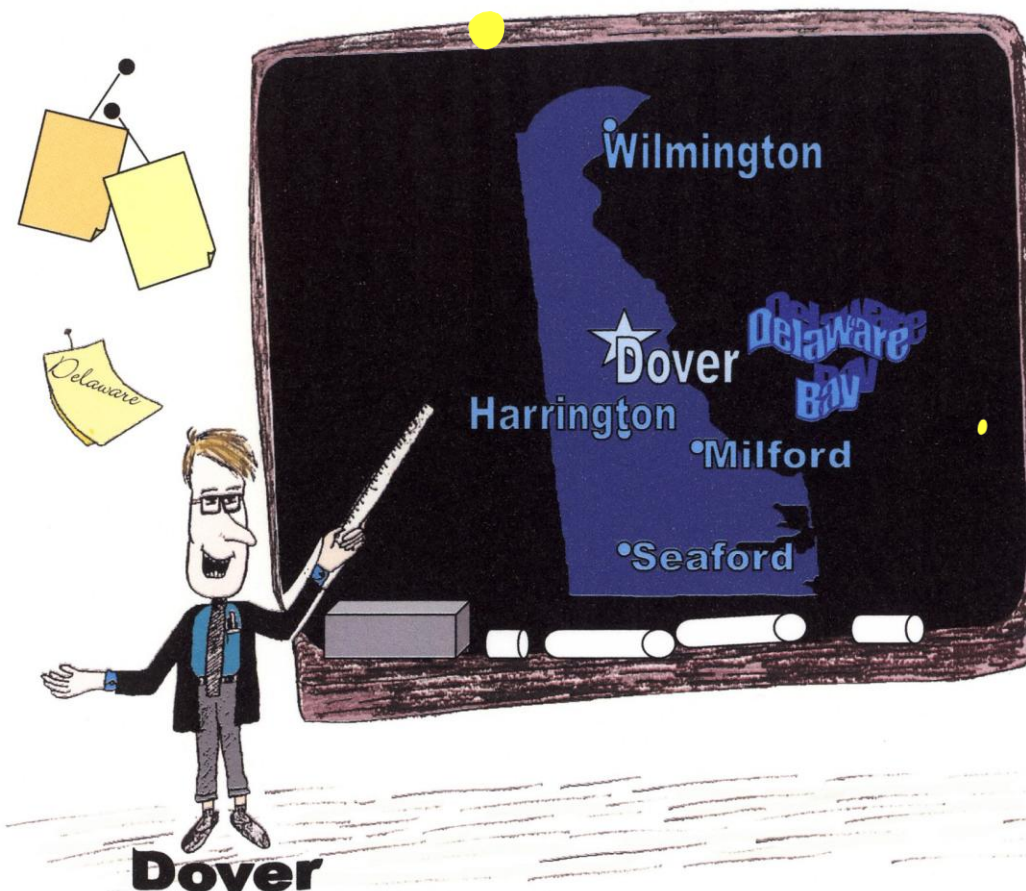


poultry



Ellie's next stopover is the state of Delaware. It is there that she meets her friend, Dover, at his father's paper mill. Dover boasts about how even though Delaware is the second smallest state in the country, this "Small Wonder" was the "First State" to agree to the US constitution and become a state. Ellie and Dover finish her stay with a trip to Wilmington, the largest city in Delaware, located on Delaware Bay.

*"Diamond State"
"Blue Hen State"
"Small Wonder"*



Dover lives in Delaware, within the town of Seaford.
He often travels farther north, past Harrington and Milford.
He walks the coast toward Wilmington, along the Delaware Bay,
selling lots of paper products as he makes his way.

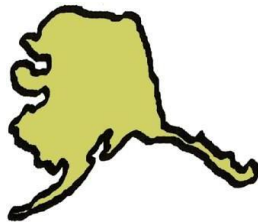
Pennsylvania

Second State

Bird: Ruffed Grouse

Tree: Eastern Hemlock

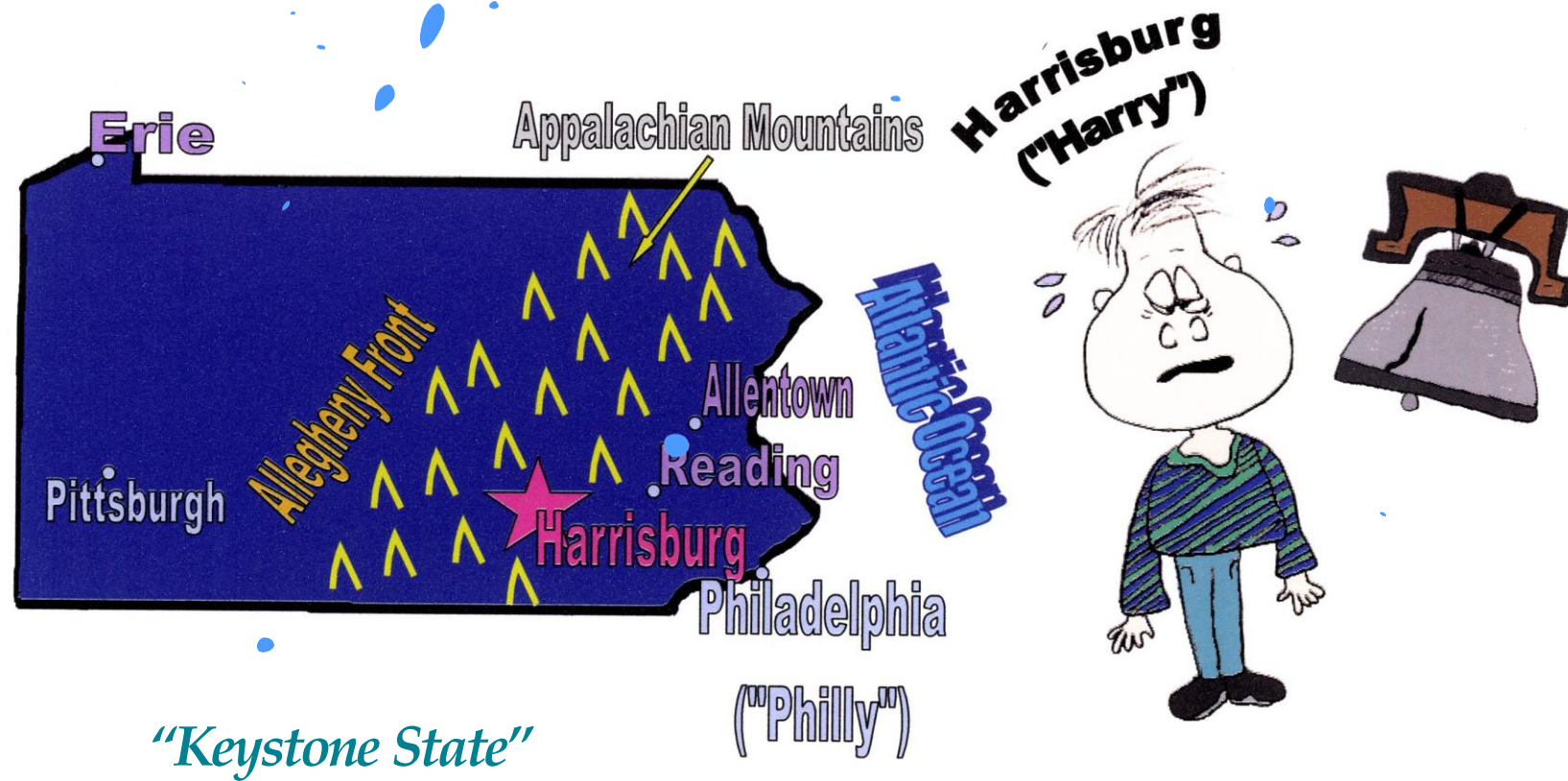
Flower: Mountain Laurel



mushrooms



Harrisburg, Ellie's friend in Pennsylvania, overdid adventure plans a bit! He planned to do so much hiking with Ellie he's not sure if they'll make it! They first visit Pittsburgh in the west, and then pass east over the Appalachians, through Allentown and Reading, and they finally go to Philadelphia. Philadelphia is the home of the Liberty Bell, the symbol of American independence and freedom. Harrisburg explains to Ellie that during colonial times, Pennsylvania was so important (or "key") to the vote for independence that it was nicknamed the "Keystone State."



Harrisburg was starting to feel very weary
after hiking through Pittsburgh, Reading, and Erie.
He went toward Allentown from the Allegheny Front,
then reached Philly’s freedom Bell with a groan and a grunt.

West Virginia

Thirty-Fifth State

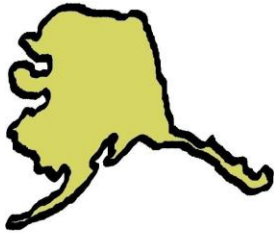
Bird: Cardinal

Tree: Sugar Maple

Flower: Rhododendron



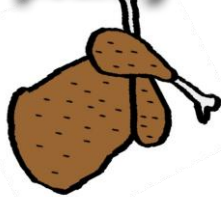
cattle/dairy



apples



poultry



After Delaware, and taking a huge rest, Ellie visits the beautiful “Mountain State” of West Virginia.

This is where she finds her good friend Charleston (he goes by Charlie), in the Allegheny Mountains in the eastern part of the state. From this scenic range, which West Virginia shares with Pennsylvania, Charlie and Ellie have a wonderful view of the Potomac River and the Appalachian Plateau to the west. Charleston’s family makes clay, stone, and glass craftwork and house wares, for which the state is famous. While giving Ellie a nice sample as a gift, he tells her that the state of West Virginia split off from the rest of Virginia during the American Civil War.



"Mountain State"

Charleston skips across the Appalachian Plateau
and watches the beautiful Potomac River flow.
The mountains and hills he ventures alone
bearing glass and clay and things made of stone.

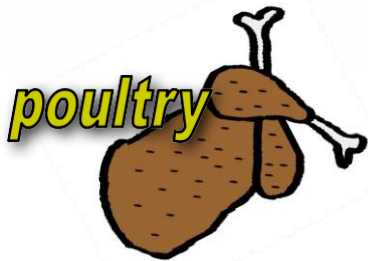
Virginia

Tenth State

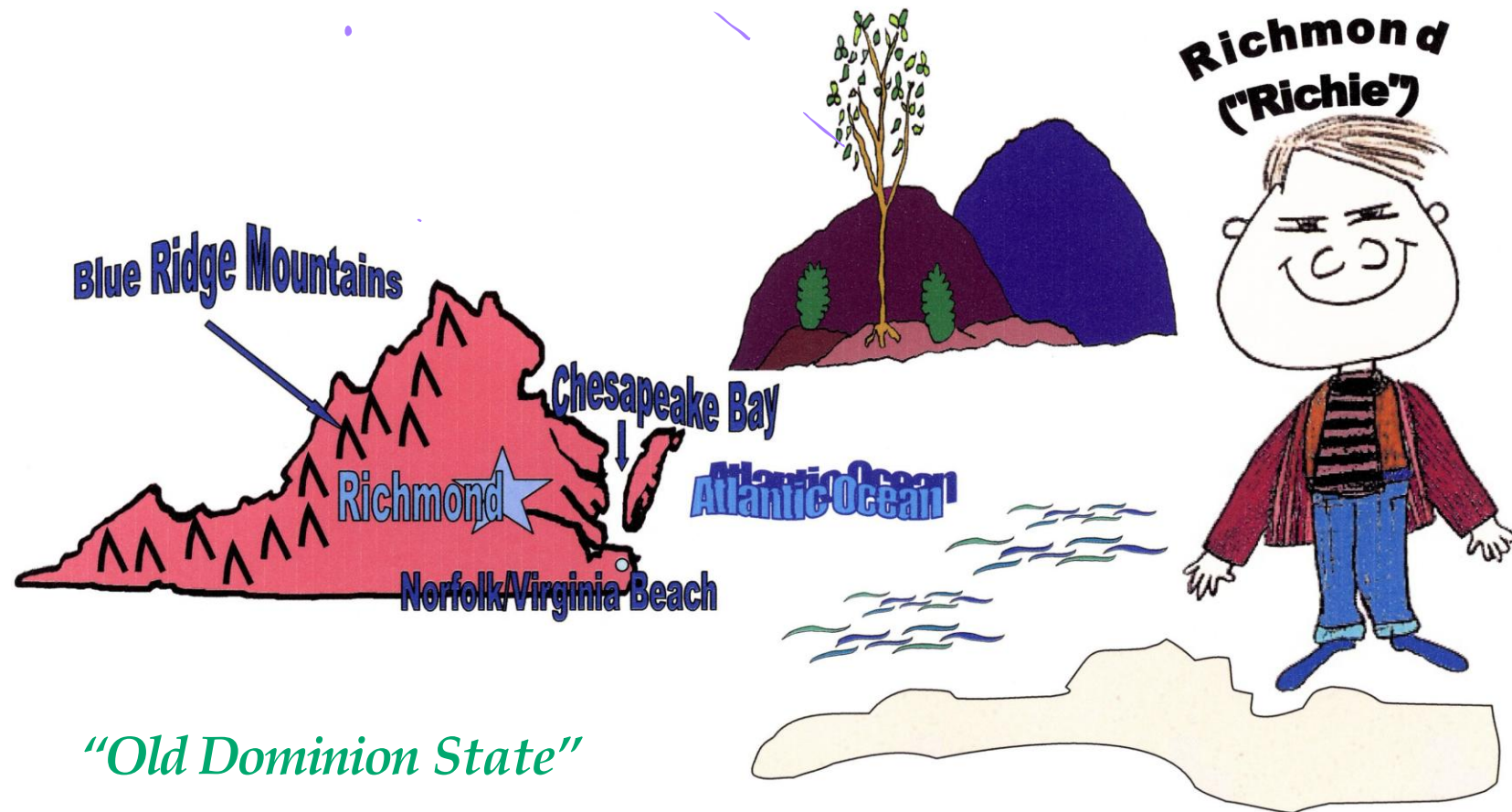
Bird: Cardinal

Tree: Flowering Dogwood

Flower: Dogwood



Curious now to see Virginia, Ellie then moves eastward, over the Allegheny and Blue Ridge Mountains. Here her pal Richmond (Richie for short) lives in the eastern part of the state, near Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Together, they visit the towns of Norfolk and Virginia Beach, take a swim, and admire the Flowering Dogwoods, the state tree and flower. Ellie is impressed by Virginia, with its scenery ranging from mountains to beaches, but she wonders why it is called "The Old Dominion State." Richie explains that Virginia's nickname comes from the fact that it was England's first colony in the Americas.



"Old Dominion State"

Richmond lived for years on Virginia's coastal plain.
The east shore was his home, his pride, and his domain.
But the Blue Ridge mountains would beckon him away
from Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Chesapeake Bay.

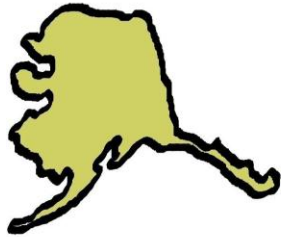
Maryland

Seventh State

Bird: Baltimore Oriole

Tree: White Oak

Flower: Black-Eyed Susan

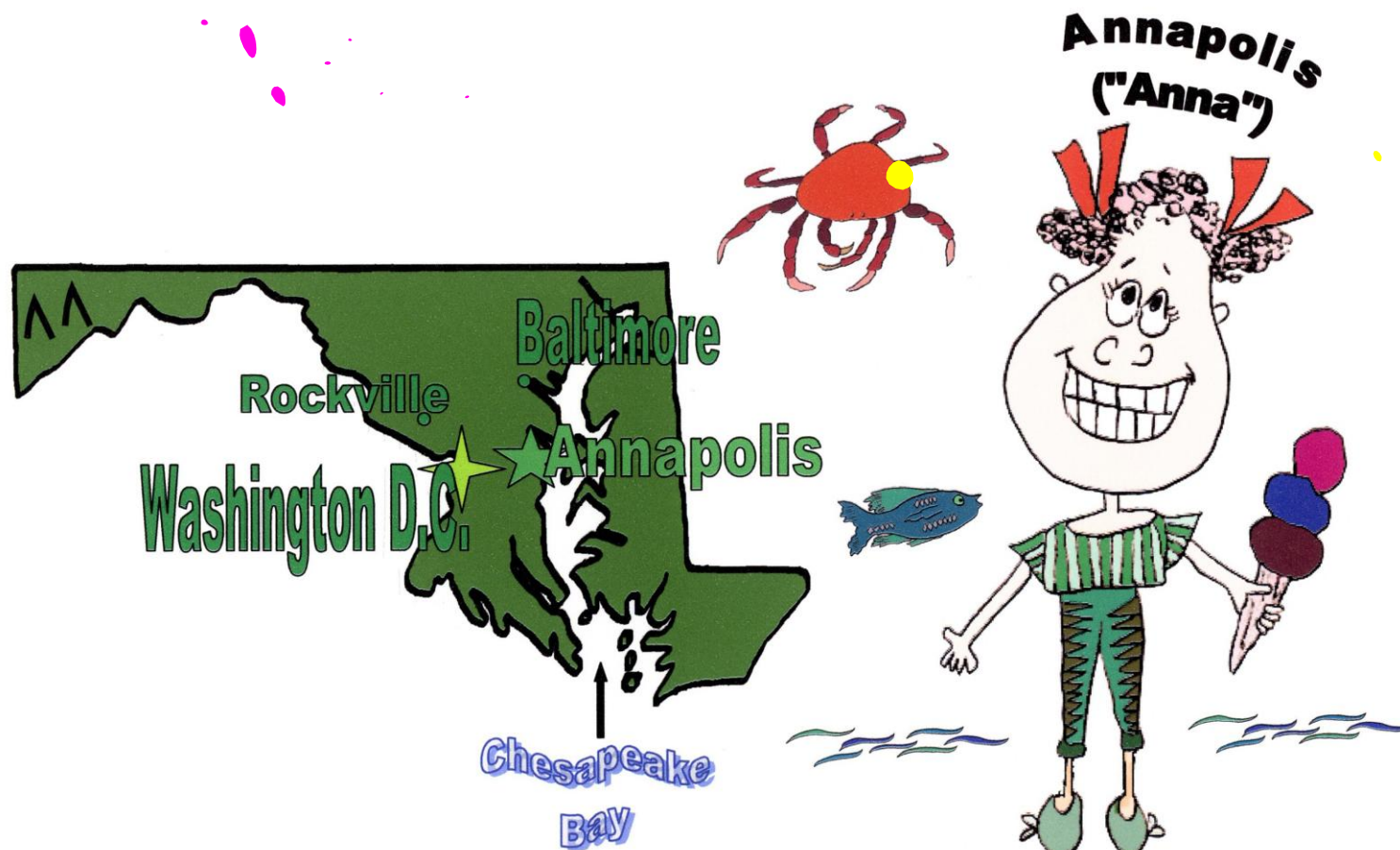


corn



The last state in Ellie's incredible journey is to "The Old Line State" of Maryland. Her buddy, Annapolis, learned in history class that in an important battle during the American Revolution, a brave Maryland regiment, or "line," of soldiers was crucial to the colonists' victory in the battle, earning the state this nickname.

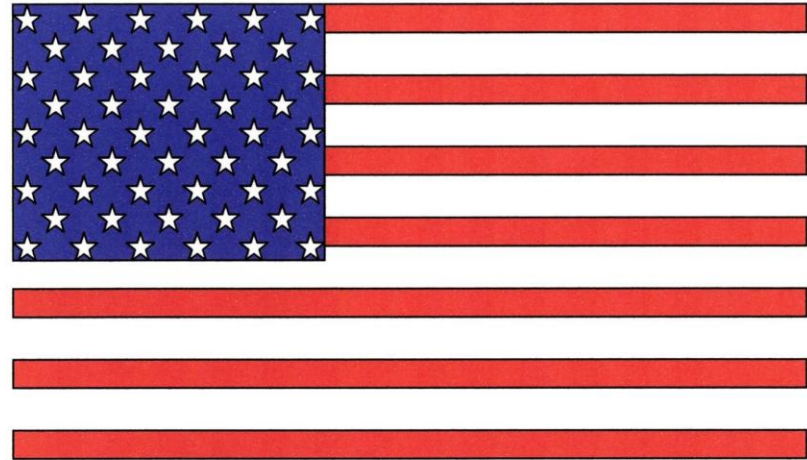
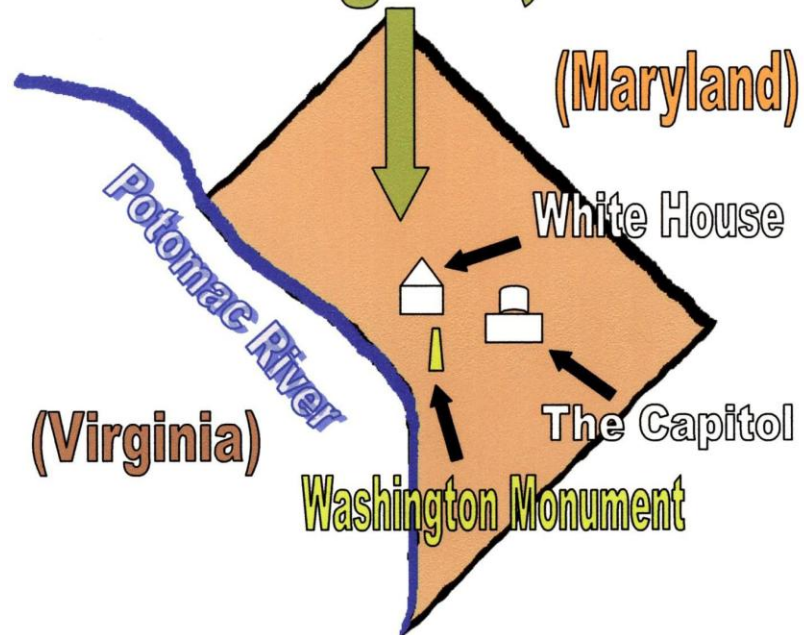
"Anna" serves herself and Ellie her famous Maryland crab cakes, from crabs caught in Chesapeake Bay, and then ice cream for dessert. She proudly tells Ellie that Maryland was the first state to produce ice cream on a large scale.



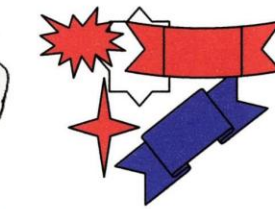
"Old Line State"

In the state of Maryland, young Anna waits each week for oh so scrumptious seafood, caught from the Chesapeake. The crab cakes that her mom makes she really does adore, and she loves to eat the ice cream that's shipped from Baltimore.

Washington, D.C.



Washington



With no more places to see and roam
Ellie finally makes her way home.
She meets up with Washington, the best of her mates
in the capital city of the United States.

