

SCAVENGER HUNT: WHERE IS GINA THE GEOGRAPHER?

Activity Item

This activity uses the following online tool:

- State Facts for Students
www.census.gov/schools/facts

Student Learning Objectives

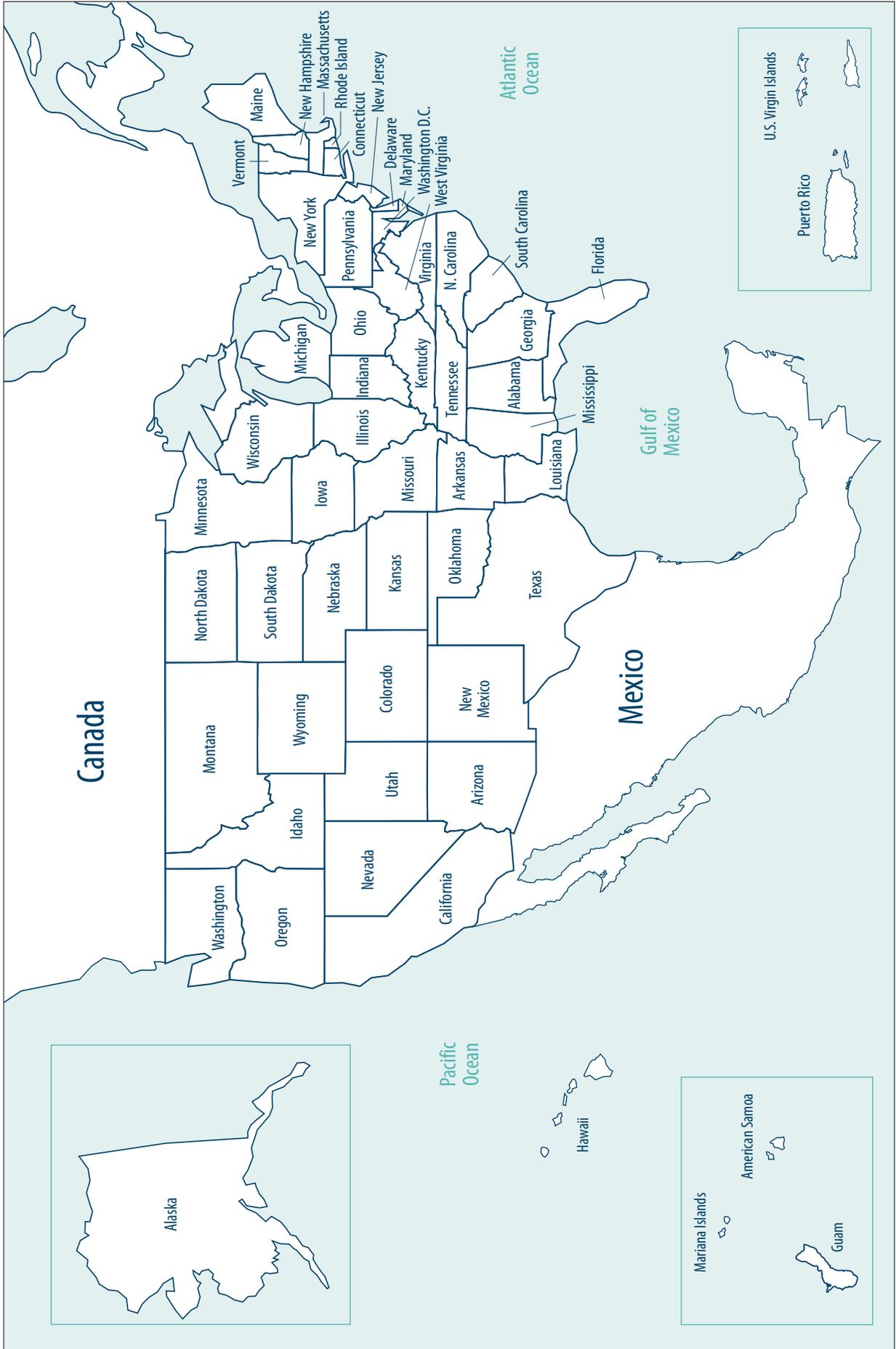
- I will be able to use an online resource and a map to understand the characteristics of a place in order to identify its location.
- I will be able to describe the characteristics of my own community.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Gina the Geographer has escaped to a secret location. It is your mission to find her and bring her back to the school! You must follow clues about landmarks, weather, population, and more to figure out where she's hiding! Gina could be in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or one of the five U.S. territories.

You will use a U.S. Census Bureau data tool called State Facts for Students and this map of the United States to help you find Gina.

Item 1: Map of North America



1. Read the following clues from Gina and then fill in the table below. Use your map to help you!
 - Brrrr! I do not like cold weather! I am somewhere that is usually warm, even in the winter. They almost never get snow. (Hint: I am not located in any state north of South Carolina.)
 - Surf’s up! I love the beach, which means I have chosen a state/territory that’s right next to water.
 - Did you know that the Pacific Ocean is really cold? Almost too cold to swim without a wetsuit! So I decided to go somewhere that’s along the Atlantic Ocean, which includes the Gulf of Mexico.
 - The Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa are places I really wanted to go, but they were just too far away!

Based on these four clues, list all of the states or territories I could be in. (Hint: There are nine!)

Possible States/Territories	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

Now let's eliminate some states/territories until you find out where I am. Go to State Facts for Students, at www.census.gov/schools/facts, to answer these questions:

2. I love being around people, so I knew I would rather live somewhere with a high population. Which state/territory can you eliminate because it had the lowest population (as of 2010)? And what is that population?

3. Let's talk about another place where I am not hiding! An important part of the culture of people who live in this state/territory is language. I wish I spoke Spanish, but I don't. Although many people in this state/territory speak both English and Spanish, I was still worried that it may have been hard for me to communicate with everyone I met there. If I lived in the capital city, San Juan, it could have been easier to get around, but I ultimately decided to go elsewhere. Which state/territory can you cross off your list?

4. I brought my dog along on my journey, so I wanted to make sure I had a lot of options for pet and pet supply stores once we reached our destination. Which state/territory can you eliminate because it has the fewest pet and pet supply stores (as of 2018)? And how many are there?

5. I have a sweet tooth and eat candy maybe a little more often than I should (don't tell my dentist!). This state/territory had only 18 candy and nut store in 2018, so I knew I couldn't go there. Which state/territory can you eliminate?

6. I grew up in Columbia—the largest city in this state/territory as well as the capital. I like where I'm from, but I wanted to go somewhere new! Which state/territory can you eliminate?

7. Zoos and botanical gardens are important to me because I am an animal lover. I also love nature! So I escaped somewhere that has a lot of zoos and gardens. Of the states/territories left, which can you eliminate because it has the fewest zoos and gardens, according to the most recent data (2018)? And how many are there?

8. This large state/territory has a lot of fast-food restaurants compared with some other states/territories—a grand total of 21,968 (as of 2018). I try to eat healthy most of the time (aside from a sweet now and again), so I knew I'd prefer a location where there weren't as many places to get hamburgers and fries. Which state/territory can you eliminate now?

9. You're getting really warm now! Only two options left. This state/territory had only three ice cream and frozen dessert makers in 2018, which is a small amount compared with other places. Although I usually try to eat healthy, I love to treat myself to ice cream every once in a while, so I knew I'd rather go somewhere that had more ice cream makers! This state/territory also has less than 170 persons per square mile. Which state/territory can you cross off your list?

10. There is a very important landmark in this state/territory that sets it apart from the others. It is related to amusement parks, cartoon characters, animals, and movies. Name the state/territory where I am having a blast. (And if you know the name of the landmark, write it here too!)

Did you find Gina? Raise your hand and ask your teacher to check your answer. If you found her, congratulations! You successfully completed your mission.

