

World Geography's State Cube Project



Dear Students,

Please review and discuss the attached requirements for this project with your family so they can assist you with gathering materials and suggest presentation ideas. This project will be completed mostly outside the classroom. Many options are available to assist you as you conduct research, type out reports, or prepare for your in-class presentation, such as, before and after school and during lunch both the Media Center (Library) and the computer labs are available for your use.

FINAL WORDS- Your project will be evaluated on how well you organize and present your material... so, be neat!



Due Dates

Nov 3	Choose/Select your state
Nov 17	Turn in Part I (See attachment for requirements)
Dec 1	Turn in Part II (See attachment for requirements)
Dec 1	Turn in Student/Parent Evaluation (Grading Rubric form)

PART I: State Question/Map Instructions

1. This section must be typed.
2. Cover Page: This page should have the name of your state in bold, neat letters at the top and below should be a map or a graphic that everyone would recognize as a symbol of your state. In the bottom, right-hand corner should be your name and block.
3. Provide complete answers to all sections, you can never give “too much” information about your wonderful state.
4. All answers should be in your own words. Read your research data, and then formulate a brief and concise answer. The “Personal Information” page (Section 3), though you will not have a wrong answer because it’s your opinion, you must answer the questions completely to include reasons for your response to receive full credit.
5. You may include pictures, drawings, charts, and other materials to support your responses.
6. The goal is to learn as much as you can about your state and use it to convince your classmates it is “The Best” during your in-class presentation.

Your State Today Information

(Section 1)

1. List the current Governor (as of this '08 election).
2. List the current Senators and State Representatives (as of this '08 election).
3. List 3 major “NEWS” events from the last 3 months.
4. What are a few “Little Known Facts” about your state?
5. Describe the last major Natural Disaster to hit your state.

Useful Internet Sites for your State Project:

<http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>
<http://www.edfromm.com/state.html>
<http://www.50states.com>
<http://www.globalcomputing.com/states.html>
<http://www.tqjunior.thinkquest.org/5432>
<http://www.unitedstates-on-line.com>
<http://www.geobop.com/world/na/index2.html>
<http://www.usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/homepage.html>
<http://www.factmonster.com/states.html>

Gather Factual Information

(Section 2)

1. List bordering states
2. Capital city
3. State's nickname
4. Year of Statehood
5. Region of the United States
6. Area in square miles
7. Rank in size
8. Population
9. Rank in population
10. Give a brief description of the climate & annual rainfall
11. Describe 1 unique geographical feature within your state
12. List a major river
13. List a major industrial product
14. List a major agricultural crop
15. List a historical event/site
16. List 3 points of interest/Tourist Attractions
17. List 3 famous people and explain why they are famous
18. State Bird
19. State Flower
20. State Tree

Personal Information

(Section 3)

1. What would be your favorite thing to do in your state?
2. List 3 places you would visit on a vacation.
3. What is cool about this state?
4. Describe your favorite "specialty" food from this state
5. Would you live in this state? YES or NO. Why?

State Map

(Section 4)

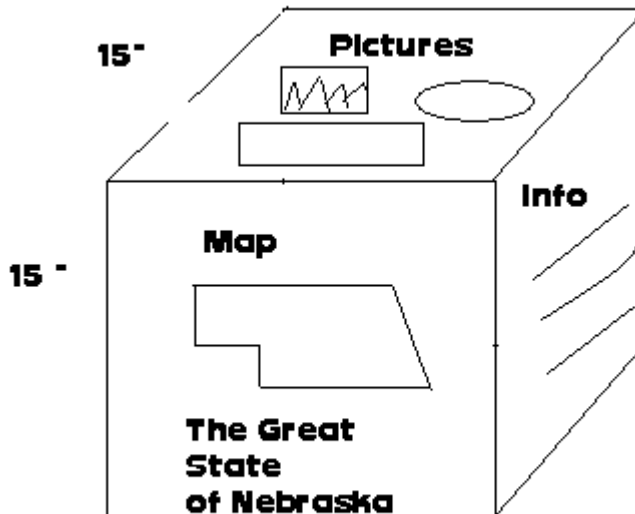
1. After you have completed your questions packet, you will draw a map of your state. You may use a computer generated outline shape of your state's borders, but Step 2 must be filled in on your state map by hand. Your map must fill an 8 ½ x 11 piece of paper.
2. Items to include on your map: capital city, major cities, unique physical features, rivers, lakes, mountains, tourist sites, birthplaces of famous people, and other "fun" places you mentioned in your "Personal Information" page.
3. Label all items neatly.
4. Ensure your map is colorful and interesting.
5. Attach your map to your question packet and place it behind your cover sheet.

PART II: State Cube Instructions

The final stage of your State Project is to construct a State Cube. This cube (see illustration below) is a six-sided box which should be 12 - 15" square. Information should be neatly displayed and labeled in such a way that they will make for an interesting and colorful presentation.

Information to be displayed:

1. Two sides with maps- one should be a political map (major cities, towns & attractions) and the other a physical map (major land features and water bodies). Complete both maps by hand; however, you may use a computer printout for the state borders.
2. Two sides with important information- such as, people, natural resources, history, foods, parks, points of interest, climate, tourist attractions, good/products, etc.
3. Two sides with visuals- such as, pictures, photographs, drawings, postcards, illustrations, etc. describing your state.



In-Class Presentation:

Lastly, you will present your state cube while trying to persuade your classmates that your state is "The Best!" Presentations should last 3-5 minutes. Note cards may be used.

State Cube Project Grading Rubric:

	Student	Parent	Teacher
1) Cover Page (5 pts)	_____		
5 pts: Well Done! Neat, organized, impressive			
4 pts: Not bad, a little more effort would have made it even better!			
3 pts: More time and effort needed			
2 pts: Information missing or incomplete			
1 pts: Title with no graphic			
0 pts: No title page			
2) Written Questions/Map (20 pts total)	_____		
20 pts: Well Done! Neat, organized, informative with clearly expressed thoughts			
15 pts: Completed all questions, Factual Information Section lacked developed			
10 pts: Completed most questions, Personal Information Section lacked details			
5 pts: Completed at least 5 questions, more time and effort needed			
0 pts: No written report included			
3) State Cube (30 pts total)			
2 Sides w/Maps (10 pts)	_____	_____	_____
2 Sides w/Information (10 pts)	_____	_____	_____
2 Sides w/Visuals (10 pts)	_____	_____	_____
4) In-Class Presentation (10 pts)	_____		_____
5) Completed rubric (5 pts)	_____	_____	_____
6) Met first deadline (10 pts)	_____	_____	_____
7) Met second deadline (10 pts)	_____	_____	_____
8) Totals	_____		
9) Final Grade			_____

In-Class Presentation of State Cube Project Rubric:

Criteria	3	5	7	10
Eye Contact	Does not attempt to look at audience at all, reads notes the entire time	Only focuses attention to one particular part of the class, does not scan audience	Occasionally looks at someone or some groups during presentation	Constantly looks at someone or some groups at all times
Facial Expressions	Has either a deadpan expression or shows a conflicting expression during entire presentation	Occasionally displays both a deadpan and conflicting expression during presentation	Occasionally demonstrates either a deadpan OR conflicting expression during presentation	Gives audience clues to what the content of speech is about; Appropriate expression, never notice a deadpan or conflicting expression
Posture	Sits during presentation or slumps		Occasionally slumps during presentation	Stands up straight with both feet on the ground.
Enthusiasm	Shows absolutely no interest in topic presented	Shows some negativity toward topic presented	Occasionally shows positive feelings about topic	Demonstrates a strong positive feeling about topic during entire presentation
Time frame	Presentation is less than minimum time	Presentation is more than maximum time	Presentation falls just short of required time	Presentation falls within required time frame
Visual Aid	Poor, distracts audience and is hard to read	Adds nothing to presentation	Thoughts articulated clearly, but not engaging	Visual aid enhances presentation, all thoughts articulated and keeps interest
Professionalism of Presentation	Mumbles, audience has difficulty hearing, confusing	Thoughts don't flow, not clear, does not engage audience	Thoughts articulated clearly, though does not engage audience	Presentation is organized and the interest level of the audience is maintained