

6: A State by Any Other Name



OBJECTIVE

Students will describe the purposes and origins of state nicknames. Students will identify and describe the meaning of a specific state nickname.



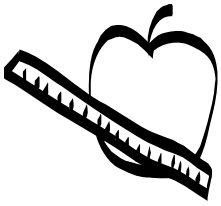
MATERIALS

- 1 overhead projector (optional)
- 1 overhead transparency (or photocopy) of “Quarter Reverse” pages from several states where the state nickname is included in the design, such as Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, or South Carolina (Resource Guide)
- Copies of the following:
 - “A State by Any Other Name” worksheet
 - “Quarter Design” worksheet
- Copy of the Resource Guide (available at www.usmint.gov/kids)
- 1 class map of the United States
- 1 copy of a text that gives information about the United States. For example:
 - *My America: A Poetry Atlas of the United States* by Lee Bennett Hopkins
 - *Don't Know Much About the 50 States* by Kenneth C. Davis
 - *Our 50 States: A Family Adventure Across America* by Lynne Cheney
- Texts that provide information about specific states
- Computers with Internet access
- Chart paper
- Markers
- Construction paper



PREPARATIONS

- Make an overhead transparency (or photocopy) of the State Quarter Reverses from several states (Resource Guide)
- Make copies of each of the following:
 - “A State by Any Other Name” worksheet (2 per student)
 - “Quarter Design” worksheet (1 per student)
- Locate a text that gives information about the United States (see examples under “Materials”). Identify pages to read aloud based on the states to be studied.
- Gather texts that give information about specific states.



A State by Any Other Name

- Arrange to use the school computer lab for one session.
- Bookmark Internet sites that contain information about the United States.



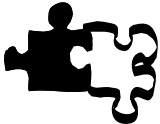
GROUPINGS

- Whole group
- Individual work



CLASS TIME

Three 30- to 45-minute sessions



CONNECTIONS

- Language Arts
- Social Studies



TERMS AND CONCEPTS

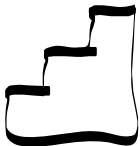
- Quarter
- Obverse (front)
- Reverse (back)
- Nickname



BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Students should have a basic knowledge of:

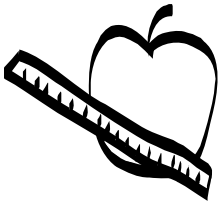
- United States
- Geography



STEPS

Session 1

1. Describe the 50 State Quarters® Program for background information, if necessary, using the example of your own state, if available. Then display the transparency or photocopy of a state quarter reverse which includes the state nickname. Locate the state on a classroom map. Note its position in relation to your school's location. Repeat this process with several examples of state quarter reverses which include the state nicknames.



A State by Any Other Name

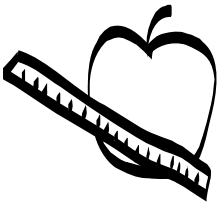
2. Start a class chart that lists states with their nicknames. Ask the students to brainstorm what some of these nicknames might mean and why the states have nicknames.
3. Ask the students to provide the nickname of their home state. If they do not know, provide this information. Discuss the meaning of this nickname.
4. Introduce the students to the selected text about the United States. Read aloud the selected text. While reading the text, select a few state names and nicknames to add to the chart paper. Highlight any information provided on the nickname of the home state.
5. Tell the students that they will be continuing to research state nicknames in this lesson.
6. Distribute one copy of the “What’s in a Name?” worksheet to each student. Ask the students to complete the worksheet based on their home state.

Session 2

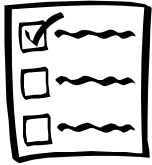
1. Review the material covered in the first session, including origins of state nicknames, in particular of the home state.
2. Explain to the students that they will be researching a specific state nickname using books in the classroom and/or Internet web sites. Ask students to choose the states they would like to study and list these choices on chart paper so that none are duplicated.
3. Distribute one copy of the “What’s in a Name?” worksheet to each student. Allow students time to conduct their research on their chosen states using the Internet and available texts, and complete the worksheet.

Session 3

1. Review the material covered in previous sessions.
2. Explain to the students that they will create a new quarter design based on the information they learned about the state nickname. The new quarter design should include the state name, the state nickname, and a large image that clearly illustrates the meaning of the state nickname.
3. Distribute one copy of the “Quarter Design” worksheet to each student. Allow the students time to complete their quarter designs.
4. Have the students cut out their quarter designs and mount them on construction paper. Display all of the quarter designs alongside all of the “A State by Any Other Name” worksheets. Display the students’ work in the classroom and provide an opportunity for them to share their work with peers and try to match the quarter designs with the worksheets.



A State by Any Other Name



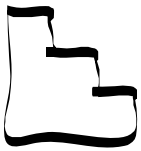
ASSESSMENT

Use the students' class participation, worksheets and final quarter designs to evaluate whether they have met the lesson objectives.



ENRICHMENTS/EXTENSIONS

- Have students research other state nicknames.
- Have students create new nicknames for states based on geography, history, etc.
- Have students research the state mottos of various states, as well as their meanings and origins.
- Create a class book of state nicknames, mottos, and/or other state features.



DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING OPTIONS

- Allow students to complete the project in pairs.
- Allow students to dictate their paragraphs about state nicknames.
- Have students use texts at various reading levels for their research materials.



CONNECTION TO WWW.USMINT.GOV/KIDS

- Have students learn more about the fifty states by completing the Web Quest at www.usmint.gov/kids/index.cfm?fileContents=teachers/webQuests/seeingtheStates.cfm.
- Have students learn more about the fifty states by playing the Quarter Explorer game at <http://www.usmint.gov/kids/games/quarterExplorer/>.
- Have students learn more about state nicknames by using the 2008 New Mexico lesson plan for kindergarten and grade 1 at www.usmint.gov/kids/teachers/lessonPlans/50sq/2008/0203-2.pdf.



Name _____

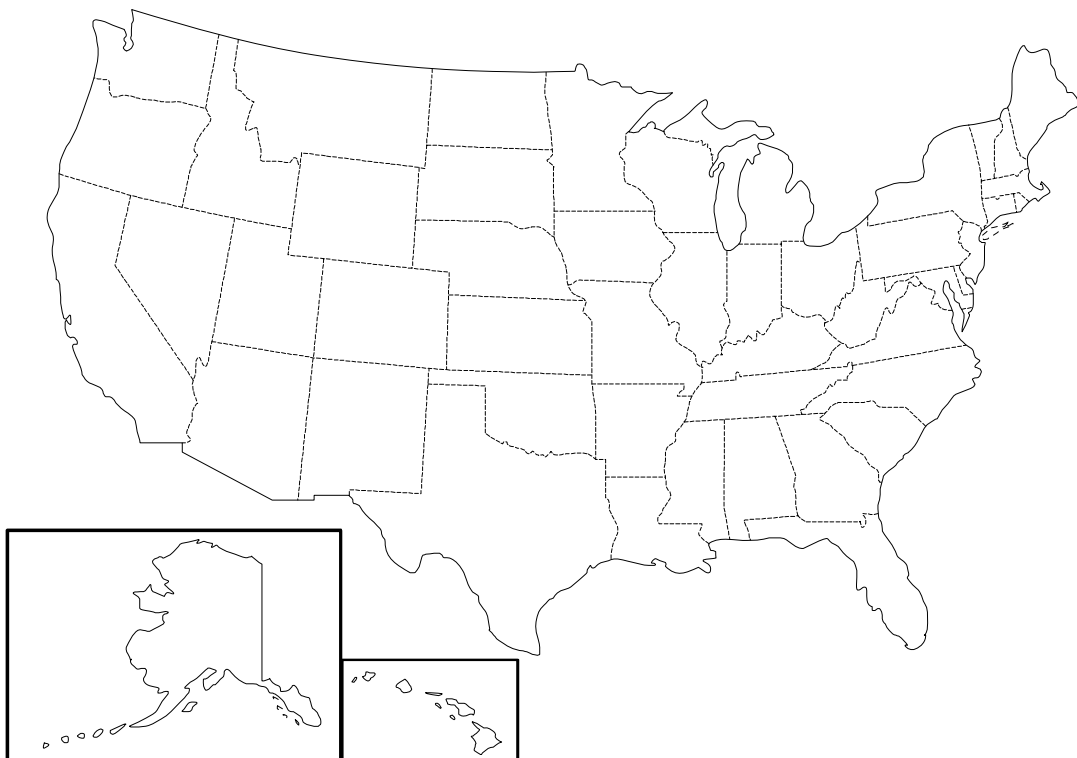
A State by Any Other Name

Directions: Research the state nickname of one state. Write a paragraph explaining the meaning of the state nickname. Then color in the state on the map below.

State: _____

Nickname(s): _____

Meaning of Nickname: _____

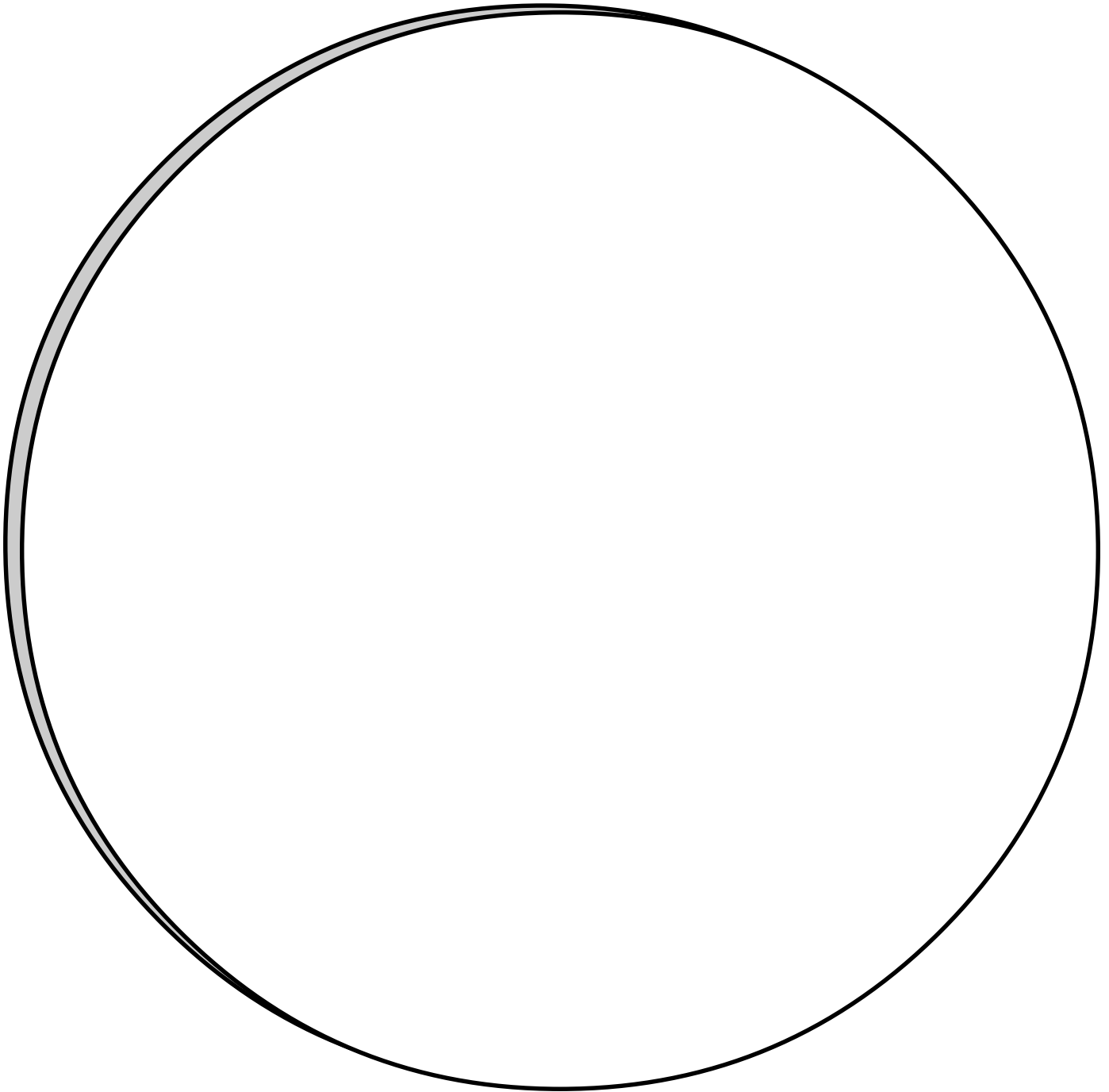




Name _____

Quarter Design

Directions: Create a new quarter design for your state. Make sure to include the state name, state nickname, and a large illustration that represents the nickname.



State _____ Nickname _____