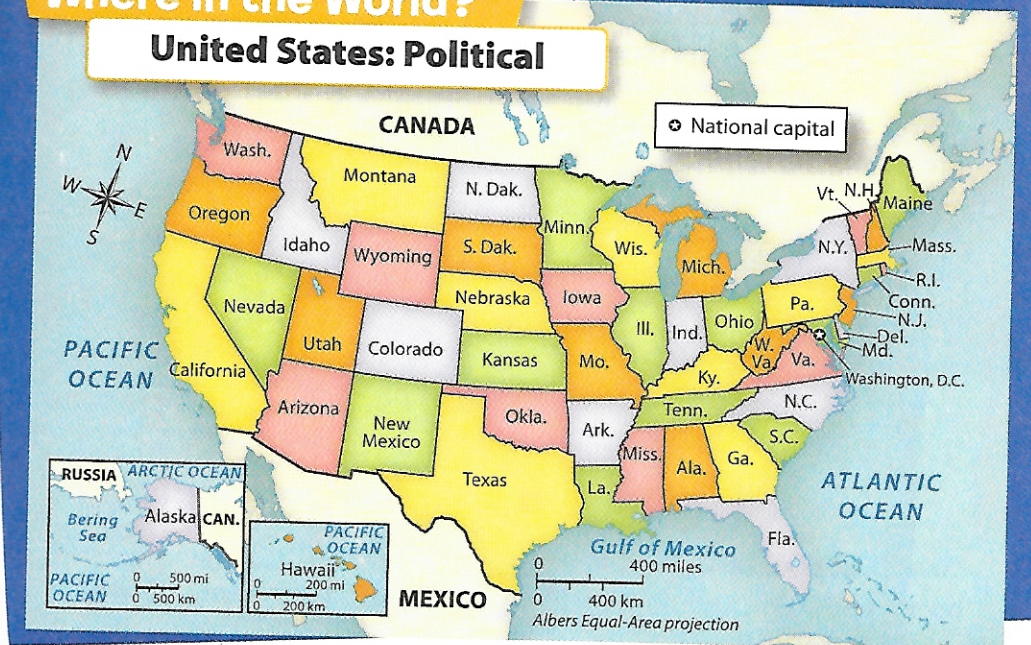


## Where in the World?

### United States: Political



## What Are the United States?

Fifty states make up the United States. A **state** is a political unit within a nation. States have set borders and their own governments. They are also subject to the national government.

The states come in a range of shapes and sizes. Alaska is huge, while Rhode Island is small. Kansas is surrounded by land; Hawaii is surrounded by water. Florida is a peninsula. A peninsula is land that is almost completely surrounded by water but is still connected to the mainland.

The United States also includes a special area called the District of Columbia, or Washington, D.C. It is the capital of the nation and is located between Maryland and Virginia. A **capital** is the seat of government. Each state also has a capital. The federal government is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

### Show Your Skill

#### 5. Compare and Contrast

Choose two states and compare and contrast their locations, shape, or size.

### Mark the Text

**6. Map** Circle the states that border Florida.



The capital of Florida is Tallahassee. The capitol consists of an older building that was built in 1845 and a newer section that was built in the 1970s.