

LEXIGRAM LEARNS STATE CAPITALS

A simulation in which students teach a friendly alien about our nation's state capitals

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Pamela wishes to thank Cassandra Collar and her energetic, enthusiastic students at Elliot Elementary School in Holt, Michigan, for pilot testing LEXIGRAM LEARNS. Cassandra and her students had numerous suggestions to improve the unit, and many were included in the final editing.

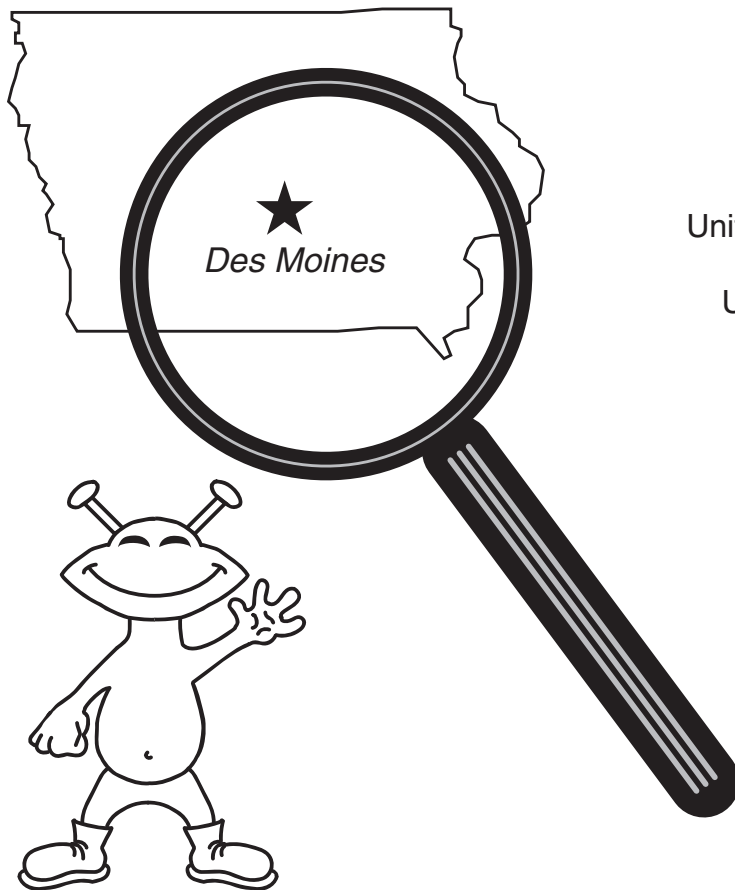
PURPOSE - 1

Many American teachers require their students to learn the state capitals, often by rote memorization, which is neither enjoyable nor long lasting. LEXIGRAM LEARNS is a cooperative learning experience which helps your students learn America's state capitals and information about our 50 states. For your students it is an adventure!

Is a unit on geography for young students necessary?

In a Gallup Poll on geography literacy for The National Geographic Society (*National Geographic*, 12/89) asked 18-year-old to 24-year-old students from around the world to identify 16 places on a world map. The average number of correct answers the students from various countries gave to the questions varied:

Sweden	11.9
Germany	11.2
Japan	9.5
Soviet Union	9.3
Canada	9.3
Italy	9.3
France	9.2
United Kingdom	9.0
Mexico	8.2
United States	6.9



The good news is geography is making a comeback in the United States. In recent years, geography courses have been added to curriculums, and enrollment in high school geography classes increased substantially. These statistics refer to older students. However, if an interest in geography is instilled in our elementary students, if they learn early that geography is an

important tool for responsible citizenship, environmental awareness, and political understanding, they will not be content with learning state capitals. Following Lexigram's example, they'll explore the geography of the universe.

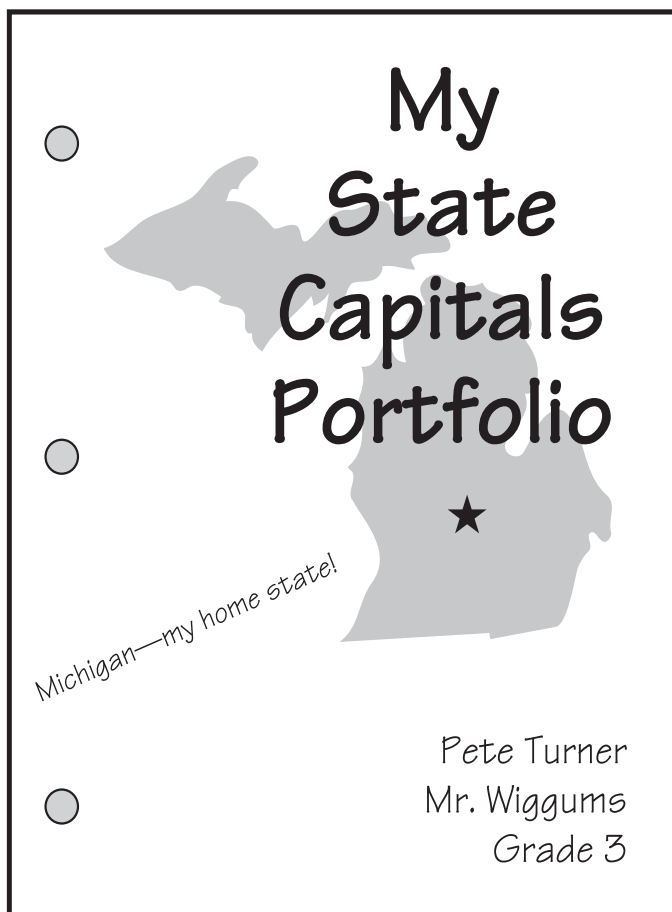
PURPOSE - 2

Why LEXIGRAM LEARNS?

Resource materials for teaching the state capitals usually contain black-and-white photographs of the capitals and quantities of statistics about the state. Only a few books cover the subject in an interesting way. LEXIGRAM LEARNS was designed so that students would encounter this information along with Lexigram, a humorous extraterrestrial. Your students and Lexigram will journey across America, and your students will teach him about the American states. Here is what they will experience during their journey:

Knowledge

1. Identification of the 50 state capitals
2. Location of capital city within state
3. Geographic shape of states
4. Introduction to the climate, cuisine, history, and sites of each state's capital city
5. More in-depth exploration of capitals through group reports



Feelings

1. Excitement in preparing classroom for Lexigram's arrival
2. Appreciation for the geographic, cultural, and historical diversity of the 50 state capitals
3. Empathy with Lexigram, a small green creature from the planet Kazam, who has also been assigned the task of learning America's state capitals
4. A sense of pride and accomplishment in group presentations

Skills

1. Learning how and where to obtain information on specific locations by writing to chambers of commerce
2. Cooperating as a class so that everyone learns the information about the capitals
3. Cooperating as a group while choosing, planning, completing, and presenting capital/state reports
4. Preparing a personal My State Capitals Portfolio

Your students will take great pride in the portfolios they create about their country's state capitals.

OVERVIEW



Decide in advance how much time you wish to give to this unit. More suggestions will follow in the Setup Directions.

Before the unit begins

1. Decide which states and their capitals you wish your students to study. (**Recommended:** all 50, if possible.)
2. Determine how you will divide your class into cooperative learning groups (likely about five students in each group).
3. Seek help from any teacher aide or PTA parent(s) willing to help you gather artwork, encyclopedias, and other appropriate research materials.
4. Tell students about the friendly alien Lexigram and his visit from the planet Kazam. (See the first poem on page 00.) Then pique your students' interest by having them help organize the room: artwork, bulletin boards, Lexigram's three-dimensional spaceship (decorated cardboard refrigerator box), large travel map of America.

The unit begins

Students are assigned to groups which organize themselves for the tasks ahead. Each group, having been assigned to work on certain states and their capitals, writes to certain state capitals' chambers of commerce departments for materials. (Addresses and a MODEL LETTER are included in this Teacher Guide.) Students begin their journey across America with Lexigram. They work with other group members to plan and present reports that will be memorable for both Lexigram, their alien visitor, and their fellow classmates. All students assist everyone else in memorizing the state capitals. During and after the reports, students use handouts and other materials to make *individual* and *group* State Capitals Portfolios. An individual portfolio is kept by each student. Each student's portfolio includes a STATE CAPITAL NOTES sheet on each state plus a drawing of the state on the back. A group portfolio is kept by each group. It contains a few key handouts, the poems group members will present, and group members' written preparation for their presentations.

Teaching Tip

Students will likely learn more readily if they work within an organizing system they have already mastered.

The groups' presentations of capitals is done alphabetically by state, beginning with Alabama and ending with Wyoming. When students think of the alphabet in relation to state capitals, they can remember that four states begin with the letter A, no states begin with the letter B, three states begin with the letter C, etc. Students first meet the information about the various states through reading/hearing poems on the individual states. The text is written in rhyme, and the last line of each verse contains a word or words that rhymes with the next capital city. Example: "Do **you know** ...?" ("*Juneau*"). Of course, they also enjoy the presentations the various groups make about life and activities in the various states and their capitals.

The unit ends

LEXIGRAM LEARNS concludes with students, parents, and teachers attending a party for Lexigram as he prepares to return to his planet with all the knowledge he has learned about America's states.

FIRST DECISIONS - 1

Time commitment

1. LEXIGRAM LEARNS can be done anytime during the school year. The time period you choose depends on how you wish to present the program: as study of state capitals exclusively or in conjunction with study of states' geography, history, etc. You may want to study the state capitals over a long period of time (e.g., 20 weeks) or as a shorter, more concentrated unit with emphasis on certain states or regions.
2. How should you determine capital assignments? This decision is best determined according to your academic calendar. Here are some examples:

Teaching Tip

Although two methods of determining time and grouping are explained on this page, feel free to come up with your own that better fits your students' age and your actual teaching situation.

For example, if you are teaching lower-grade levels, you may wish to limit study to the state capitals. Higher-grade level study, however, may include a refresher on state capitals combined with study of the 50 states and state reports.

- **By state:** Study of capitals for a 10-week period ... capital reports given by five numbered groups, alphabetically by state ... five reports each week one from each group every Friday ... 10 minutes per report taking approximately one hour of class time.

Week	Group #1	Group #2	Group #3	Group #4	Group #5
1	AL	AK	AZ	AR	CA
2	CO	CT	DE	FL	GA
3	HI	ID	IL	IN	IA
4	KS	KY	LA	ME	MD
5	MA	MI	MN	MS	MO
6	MT	NB	NV	NH	NJ
7	NM	NY	NC	ND	OH
8	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC
9	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT
10	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY

- **By region:** Study of capitals for a 10-week period; capital reports given by five groups by region, two regions for each group. Most regions contain five states, for those with more or less than five, you may wish to adjust the number of students assigned these regions accordingly.

Week 1: New England States: ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI—Group #1

Week 2: Middle Atlantic States: NY, PA, MD, NJ, DE—Group #2

Week 3: South East States: WV, VA, KY, TN, NC—Group #3

Week 4: Southern States: SC, GA, AL, MS, FL—Group #4

Week 5: Midwest States: MI, WI, IL, IN, OH—Group #5

Week 6: North Central States: ND, SD, NB, MN, IA—Group #1

Week 7: South Central States: TX, OK, AR, LA, KS, MO—Group #2

Week 8: South Mountain States: NV, UT, CO, NM, AZ—Group #3

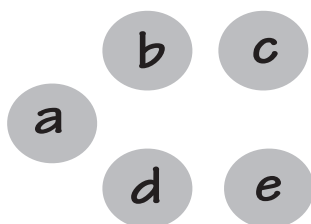
Week 9: North Mountain States: MT, ID, WY—Group #4

Week 10: Pacific States: AK, CA, HI, OR, WA—Group #5

Whichever method you choose, copy the above information onto a posterboard for classroom reference.

Grouping students

1. If you are fortunate to have exactly 25 students in your class, you will fit into the alphabetical scheme perfectly by arranging for five groups of five each. If you have a smaller class, you may want to consider combining LEXIGRAM LEARNS with another classroom within your school. Each group should have:
 - a. a chairperson
 - b. a notetaker
 - c. a visual materials gatherer
 - d. a written materials gatherer
 - e. a state mapmaker/reader of capital page



*Different roles for
each group member ...*

“

Whatever the number of students you place in each group, be sure that you see that your groups use **COOPERATIVE LEARNING**. I plan to make friends right away with these American children. They will help me see America as they work together to show me all its wonders from Maine to California!

”



COOPERATIVE LEARNING - 1

Why use cooperative learning?

Having your students work cooperatively is an important aspect of LEXIGRAM LEARNS. Students working together in groups have the opportunity to achieve a common goal. Often a group can accomplish more than a single individual by sharing knowledge, by creating group spirit, and by encouraging one another as part of the learning process. Sharing of ideas is an essential part of the struggle children go through as they find their identities. Combining ideas often leads to more solutions than with individual effort. Encouraging students to rely on themselves and one another will help them to develop responsibility and gain confidence and independence.

This interaction has varying tasks:

- Some are completed by group members working together: deciding which exercise to present and presenting the report to the class.
- Some are completed alone by individuals: note taking, gathering materials, making portfolios, studying other capitals, reciting capital page for class during report.
- Some are a separate individual's responsibility, but the individual can receive help from other group members: each group member should participate in the report with approximately two minutes per student.

Here is a quotation by Ron Brandt in "On Cooperation in Schools: A Conversation with David and Roger Johnson," *Educational Leadership*, Nov. 1987, p. 17:

Within a cooperative group, students have a vested interest in making sure that other people do well. They start to celebrate when other people learn. Anything they can do to help their group mates learn the material better, retain it longer, get a better grade on the test, benefits them too. That produces committed relationships in which students really care about each other and provide assistance and help when needed. It promotes more positive peer relationships, better social skills, more social support, and, partly for that reason, higher self-esteem.

“
... a vested interest
in making sure that
other people do well.
”

Heterogeneous grouping

We recommend that, as teacher, you be responsible for grouping students in your class. Students should be put together heterogeneously. Select at least one student capable of leadership for each group. Balancing of higher-ability students with lower-ability students can lead to challenging and modeling of higher-ability students and involvement of the lower-ability students.

Commitment to cooperative learning

It is important that all students be involved in the process of learning the state capitals by way of reports and portfolios. In order to accomplish this, it's best to assign tasks to each person in the group. Monitor groups

COOPERATIVE LEARNING - 2

as they work so they stay on track and each student is involved in the task. Check that leaders don't "take over" and do all the work. Specific behaviors performed by all group members help the group complete the task and feel good about each other once the task is finished.

What makes cooperative learning work?

- Students learn to care about each other's growth and knowledge.
- Students discuss the material, including the relationship of present learning with past learning.
- Every member of the group becomes accountable for learning. No one can sit and let others do the work.
- Students are taught leadership and communications skills.
- Groups assess how well they are working together and look for possible improvements. This process helps students reflect on and integrate skills learned from one group experience to the next.

“
*Every member
of the group
becomes
accountable ...*
”

Social skills

Your students also need to be instructed in the social skills in order for them to complete their tasks within their groups. Encourage your students to do the following:

- Contribute to the group by talking to one another.
- Be willing to consider other persons' opinions.
- Openly acknowledge that others have something valuable to contribute.
- Praise one another.
- Actively listen to one another. Active listening means listening so carefully that a person can repeat not only what the person has just said, but also the person's emotions that complemented what was said.
- Explain disagreements in an agreeable way.
- Encourage quieter, more retiring persons to contribute.
- Take turns.
- Work as a team toward a common goal.
- Set individual goals within group.
- Stay on task.

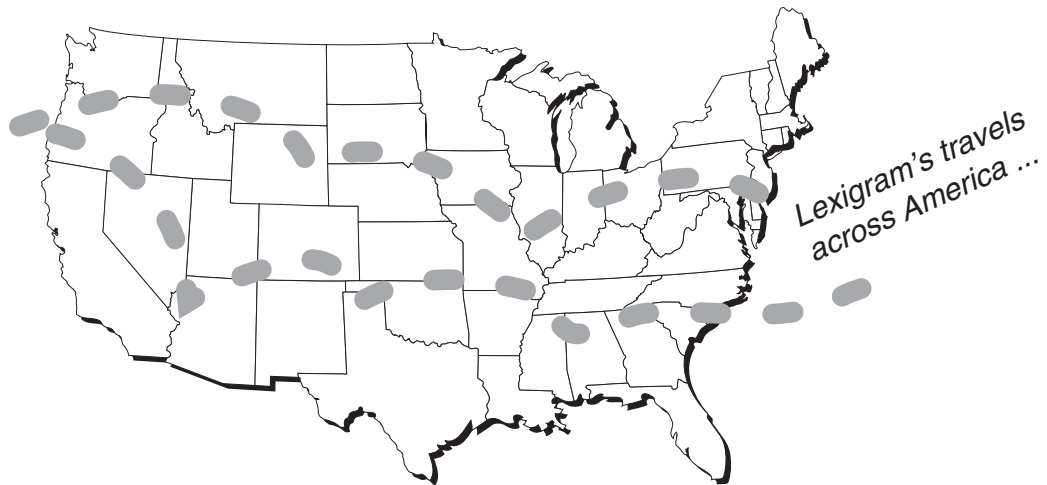
Of course, all these group skills are not always easy to learn, but spending time on them while engaged in a teaching unit such as LEXIGRAM LEARNS can have a ripple effect that positively enhances your classroom environment. Students who work successfully in cooperative learning groups show positive feeling about their class as a community.

SETUP DIRECTIONS - 1

1. **Resources:** Teacher aides and volunteer parents can enhance LEXIGRAM LEARNS in a variety of ways: monitoring groups (see Cooperative Learning on pages 6-7), helping to collect materials, making suggestions on where to find costumes or food materials for reports, cuing music, making copies of handouts, taking photographs and videos during presentations, etc.
2. **Map:** Placing a large map of the United States on a bulletin board is recommended. Make a Lexigram figure by tracing one from this Teacher Guide. Lexigram will be moved from capital to capital as reports are given.

Teaching Tip

Consider using velcro on Lexigram's back.

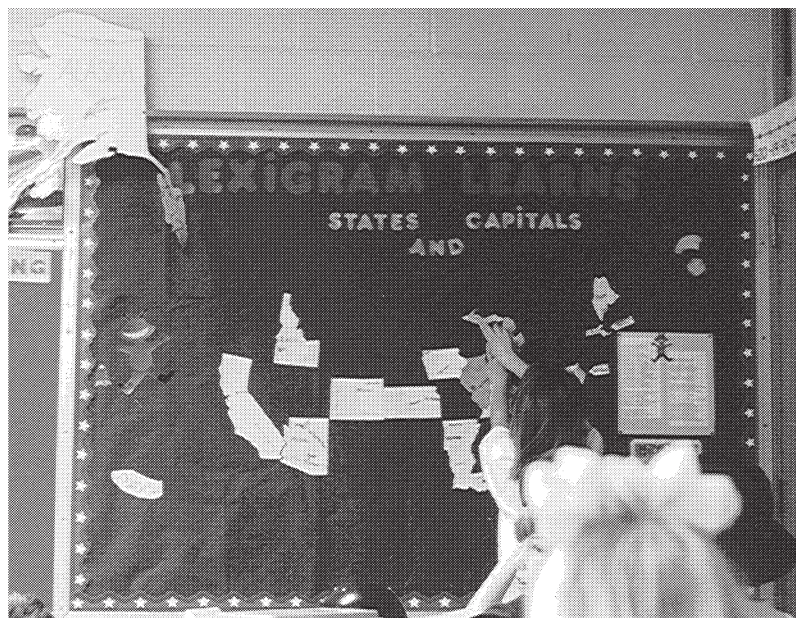


3. **Bulletin board:** You may choose to have special bulletin board areas for the groups. Here students can post materials they've received from the various chamber of commerce departments or color photographs from magazines such as *National Geographic* or *Travel/Holiday*.

Teaching Tip

*Cassandra's students cut the state, marked with its capital, from colored construction paper to fit the wall map. After giving their presentations, they taped the state to the map in its proper position.

*Cassandra Collar is the teacher who pilot tested LEXIGRAM LEARNS in her classroom. See the title page.



Teaching Tip

Helmets can be as simple as a headband with antenna attached or as fancy as real football helmets with wire antennas attached.

For Lexi's helmet, Cassandra's students used a metal colander, shoelaces to tie under the chin, two pieces of plastic tubing, and a piece of foam.



Teaching Tip

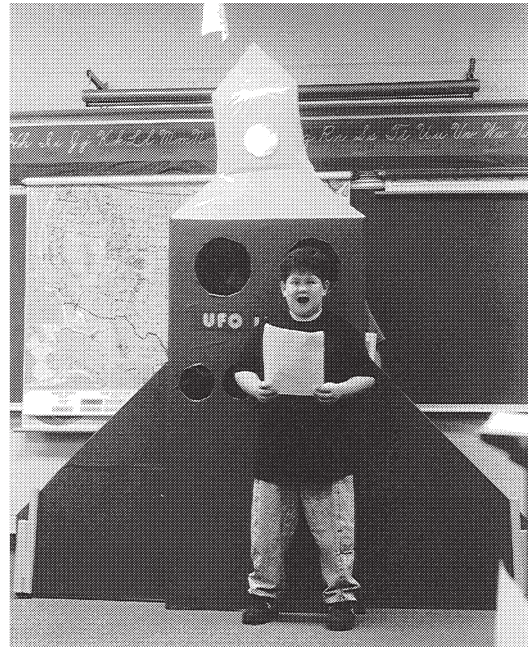
Two photos of Cassandra's students building and using their spaceship are found on the top of the next page.

- 4. Constructing/decorating Lexigram's spaceship and helmet:**
This is great fun for your students and gets them into the spirit of the adventure. You may include this as part of your art class. A cardboard box used for shipping refrigerators or stoves is ideal. Check with your local appliance stores which usually have spare boxes available. Assign a portion of the box to each group for its members to decorate. Doing so will stimulate group unity early on. For example, one group for each of the four sides of the box, and one group for the top and Lexigram's helmet—and any other group members who would like to have helmets to wear during presentations.

SETUP DIRECTIONS - 3

Building—
boxes courtesy
of the local
Appliance Mart

Using—
After tape, glue,
paint, construction
paper, aluminum foil,
tinted plasticine, and
paper towel rolls for
exhaust pipes and
periscope, here is
Lexi's spaceship.
Cassandra's students
also decorated
its inside with an
instrument panel
complete with dials
and gauges.

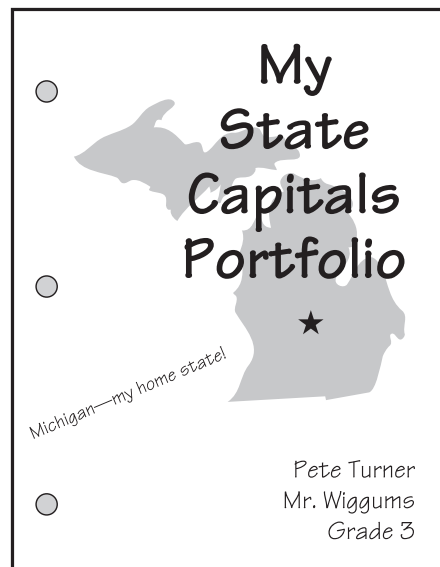


5. **Music:** You'll also want some traveling music to be played prior to group reports. The themes from *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* and *The Grand Canyon Suite* are all appropriate. You or your students may have some other recordings which can be used at key moments.
6. **Group portfolios:** Since copying all the poems and all the state capital pages for each student would be overkill, create a portfolio for each of the groups in which their assigned poems and state capital pages are placed—along with a written outline of their presentation. The group can decorate the cover with a Lexigram figure and scenes or cutouts representing the states they've been assigned. A special shelf in your classroom could be designated to hold group portfolios so they will not be misplaced.

SETUP DIRECTIONS - 3

7. **Student portfolios:** Individual portfolios must be large enough to hold the note-taking pages for all state presentations as well as its owner's other work during the unit. A soft cover, three-ring binder is recommended. Students can demonstrate their individual creativity by decorating the cover with Lexigram, his spaceship, and their conception of the planet Kazam.



8. **Authentic assessments:** Portfolios are a tangible record of an experience your students will remember long after they leave your classroom. They provide a reference source by way of the capital note pages on which students write facts or observations from reports that were memorable for them. Encourage students to add photographs of their presentation and memorabilia from their reports. Portfolios demonstrate that each student has used research skills, group cooperation and creativity by synthesizing, analyzing, and applying knowledge. Experiential units such as LEXIGRAM LEARNS have students working high levels of thinking; therefore, their experiences will likely be remembered.



9. **Duplication** Duplicate the following handouts. Have these handouts ready before introducing the program.
 - Capital poems (pages 21–70) *(one copy of each divided among the various groups concentrating on the different state capitals)*
 - Exercises (pages 72–121) *(one copy of each divided among the various groups concentrating on the different state capitals)*
 - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/VISITORS BUREAU *(one copy for each group)*
 - MODEL LETTER *(one copy for each group)*
 - GROUP PRESENTATION OUTLINE *(several copies for each group—as needed)*
 - GROUP PRESENTATION OUTLINE—model *(one copy for each group)*
 - STATE CAPITAL NOTES—model *(one copy for each student)*
 - UNIT EXAM or COMPREHENSIVE EXAM *(a class set of whichever exam you plan to use)*


SAMPLE SCHEDULE: Weeks 1-2

Each square represents about 1/2 hour to 2 hour

<p>Introduce and explain program</p> <p>Hand out Individual Portfolios</p> <p>Group assignments and Group Portfolios</p> <p>Assign spaceship construction/painting and playing music</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Groups meet to decorate Portfolios, choose 5 exercises, and assign individual roles within the group</p> <p>Instruct groups to write letters for materials</p> <p>Continue spaceship construction/painting + helmet/antenna</p> <p>2</p>	<p>Decoration of Individual Portfolios begins/continues</p> <p>Groups meet to plan first report and go to library to gather information</p> <p>Continue working on spaceship and helmet</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Groups meet</p> <p>Teacher checks on group decisions and progress</p> <p>Continue working on spaceship and helmet</p> <p>4</p>	<p>Groups meet to plan group presentations and assign roles</p> <p>Complete spaceship and helmet</p> <p>5</p>
<p>Groups meet, prepare outline of presentations, and give to teacher</p> <p>Teacher checks outlines and makes suggestions as necessary</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Groups meet, write, polish, and practice group presentations</p> <p>7</p>	<p></p> <p>8</p>	<p></p> <p>Teacher goes over STATE CAPITAL NOTES sheet to show students how to take notes</p> <p>9</p>	<p>Presentation Day</p> <p>Groups 1-5 give reports (10 minutes each)</p> <p>Evaluation</p> <p>10</p>

SAMPLE SCHEDULE: Weeks 3-12

Each square represents about 1/2 hour to 2 hour

<p>Groups meet</p> <p>Change roles</p> <p>Review second exercise</p> <p>Information gathering—including trip to library</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Decide individual roles for report</p> <p>Write presentation outline</p> <p>Teacher checks outline and makes suggestions as necessary</p> <p>2</p>	<p>Groups meet, write, polish, and practice group presentations</p> <p>3</p>	<p></p> <p>4</p>	<p>Presentation Day</p> <p>Groups 1-5 give reports (10 minutes each)</p> <p>Evaluation</p> <p>(Week 12: the Comprehensive Evaluation)</p> <p>5</p>
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Introducing the program

Materials

1. Large map of the United States and movable Lexigram figure
2. Refrigerator or other large box for spaceship, paint, and materials. Try to offer as wide a variety of materials as possible. Students will come up with their own creative ideas for the ship, but have these available: aluminum foil, cellophane or plasticine, paper tissue rolls, construction paper, extra cardboard, white paper plates that can be decorated and glued to ship, plenty of glue, paste, and tape, and any items you may think would be fun and decorative (i.e., a jar of old buttons or leftover Christmas candy canes).
3. Individual portfolio (one for each student)
4. Group portfolio (one for each group)
5. Posterboard showing group assignments, to be affixed to wall after group assignments are announced. (See the Procedures on the next page). Prepare this board in advance of introducing the program.
6. One copy of all 50 capital poems—individual poems about each state capital—pages 21–70. Divide these according to group assignments and place in group portfolios before distributing to class groups. For example, Assign group 1 AL, CO, HI, KS, MA, MT, NM, OK, SD, and VA—as in the example on page 4 of this booklet. In this example you would see that Group 1's portfolio contains one copy of each of these 10 state poems.
7. Exercises (pages 72–121) with suggestions of topics for group reports. Divide these exercise pages according to group assignments and place them in group portfolios before distributing to the class groups.
8. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/VISITOR BUREAU (pages 122–123): Place one copy in each group portfolio before distribution.
9. MODEL LETTER (page 124) Place one copy in each group portfolio before distribution.
10. GROUP PRESENTATION OUTLINE (page 125): The number of copies should correspond with the number of reports each group will present. For example, if you have five groups who will report on 10 capitals each, then each group should have 10 copies of the outline.

Teaching Tip

Make certain each state capital each group is assigned has the correct number of capital pages and the exercises that correspond to the assigned capital pages.

TEACHING DIRECTIONS - 2

11. GROUP PRESENTATION OUTLINE—model (page 126) Place a copy of this model in group portfolios before distributing these portfolios.
12. STATE CAPITAL NOTES—model (page 127): Place a copy of this model in individual portfolios before distributing these portfolios to the class.
13. UNIT EXAMS and COMPREHENSIVE EXAM (pages 128–135): These need not be duplicated at this stage of preparation. If you choose to use the exams, and it is highly recommend doing so to reinforce learning, make copies when needed. For example, the Unit 1 Exam should be given after the first 10 capital reports.

Teaching Tip

Although this music is not really necessary, it adds to the mood.


Procedure

1. Inform students they are about to begin a geography adventure. Play “space music” on a record player, tape player, or the piano if possible. Ask your students for full attention and begin by showing them the cover of this Teacher Guide which contains a figure of Lexigram with state capital names as background. While holding up the cover for your class to see, read aloud Introducing Lexigram (page 19).
2. When you finish reading the words “want a summary of,” ask students if they know the name of Alabama’s capital. After you get an answer, or supply the answer if students do not know, tell your class that they will be responsible for helping Lexigram and their classmates to learn America’s capitals by giving class reports.
3. Place the movable figure of Lexigram (see Setup Directions #2) on Montgomery on your United States wall map. Tell your students, “Montgomery, Alabama, is the first capital city Lexigram will visit.”
4. Hand out individual portfolios containing the STATE CAPITAL NOTES model. Tell students they are responsible for decorating their portfolios. Encourage them to be creative. They may draw Lexigram, the planet Kazam, state capital names, or scenes from their favorite state capitals on the cover.
5. Next, ask them to look at the STATE CAPITAL NOTES model. Read aloud the items on the sheet and explain that each student is responsible for taking notes on each capital presented by the class groups during capital reports. Be sure you explain to them that you will be helping them learn how to take the simple notes required.

TEACHING DIRECTIONS - 3

6. Explain to students that they will work in groups and that each group will present ___—the number you assign to each group—capital reports. Point out that each group member will have a specific duty, each person in each group will be responsible for about two minutes of report time, and the entire presentation will last approximately 10 minutes.
7. Announce group assignments. Show students the posterboard containing assignments and affix it to a wall. Have students form in separate class areas according to group assignments. Once the groups have formed, hand out group portfolios.
8. Explain contents of group portfolios:
 - **Capital poems:** Ask groups to look at one capital poem in their folder. Explain that each group member will read aloud one capital page at the conclusion of each group report. On each capital poem, the final word or phrase, which is printed in **bold** letters, rhymes with the upcoming state capital following the alphabetical state sequence, and will serve to lead into the next group report.
 - **Exercises:** Ask groups to look at one exercise page. Explain that these are suggestions they may use for planning their reports. **Note:** Some of the exercises suggest that students use costumes during their reports (i.e., #3 research idea for Denver). Consult your aides, send out a “Supplies To Be Borrowed” list to parents, ask other teachers for costume supplies.
 - **Chamber of commerce addresses and sample letter:** Ask students to look at the address pages. If they wish to write to a chamber of commerce office for additional information for their reports, they can use these pages. Also inform them that the group portfolio contains a sample letter to send to the chamber of commerce office. Ask them to look at the sample letter. Emphasize that this is a sample only and they can improvise on their own letters. Remind students that they will need a business size envelope and first-class postage to send their letters. **Note:** You may need to demonstrate to your class how to properly address an envelope and how to use the school’s return address.
9. Inform students that Lexigram needs a vehicle and a helmet for traveling and it’s their job to prepare the spaceship. The box should be placed in an uncarpeted area of your classroom that is relatively traffic-free. (See #4 in the Setup Directions.) You may wish, at this time, to have the class vote on whether or not constructing and painting the spaceship should be a group or a class effort, and whether or not each group makes a helmet or one class helmet. You might want to show them the photographs

Teaching Tip



Since it may take two weeks or longer to receive a reply, groups planning to use this information in any of their reports should write as soon as possible.

TEACHING DIRECTIONS - 4

of the ship and helmet in this Teacher Guide (pages 9–10). If they decide on groups, ask them to take a few minutes, while still in their groups, to draw on paper a plan for their portion of the ship: paint color(s), materials needed, etc. Also, they should write suggestions for helmets: an old football helmet, one of Mom's or Dad's old hats, a headband that can be decorated with antenna.

10. Begin construction/painting the ship. If you have "outer space" music, use as background while your students work. **Note:** Depending on the size of individual groups, students may need to make a front door and a back door on the ship so at the time of presentation of reports, all group members can either fit into the ship or file through the ship.

Teaching Tip



Experience indicates a period of approximately two weeks are required after the introduction until presentation.

Presenting the program

Materials

1. Spaceship/helmet(s)
2. Space music, if available
3. Presentation area—table(s) set with report materials

Procedure

1. Follow the suggestions under Time Commitment (page 4) for the number of hours necessary for students to prepare presentations within their cooperative learning groups. **Note:** If your school has a video camera and VCR available, consider taping the reports. Not only will your students enjoy watching their performances, but you can also play the tape during Lexigram's bon-voyage party. (See ending the program on next page.)
2. Announce: "Group 1, prepare for take-off." On blackboard, bulletin board, or U.S. map have the presenting group tape its drawing of the state with the state capital marked with a star (as shown on the capital poem page)
3. Group members then enter the spaceship. The student chosen to portray Lexigram should wear the helmet. If box is not large enough to contain all members of the group, they should file through from back entry to front.
4. Play space travel music, if available. Then place Lexigram figure on the appropriate state and instruct the other students to duplicate the state map on the back of the Capital City Note Taking Sheet they have created. Also instruct them to listen carefully to the presentation and to take notes such as can be found on the CAPITAL

TEACHING DIRECTIONS - 5

NOTES model. *Stress how students are to do one note sheet on their own paper for each state capital that is presented.*

5. The presenting group exits the spaceship and goes to the presenting area. Group gives capital presentation. Ask class if they have any questions they would like to ask the group about their report. Upon completion, one group member will read the capital poem that corresponds to the capital city they have just presented, then write the bold case rhyming word/phrase on the board, which will serve to introduce the next presenting group.
6. Repeat steps 2 through 5 for remaining groups presenting at this time.
7. If you chose to administer Unit Exams, the first exam should be given after the first 10 reports.
8. After the report on Cheyenne, Wyoming, and prior to the final comprehensive exam, read the Lexigram Leaves poem (page 71).

Ending the program

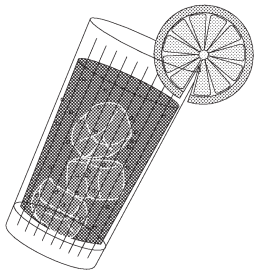
1. End LEXIGRAM LEARNS with a bon-voyage party. Invite parents, the principal, teacher aides, other classrooms' students and teachers. **Note:** If you are particularly proud of your students' efforts, invite the local newspaper and/or TV news to come and take pictures and videos for the evening news!
2. If you videotaped the capital reports, you can play them continuously during the bon-voyage party. Parents will enjoy this replay, and your students will be proud.
3. Encourage students to wear costumes they wore during their reports. Have each group set up an area to display its group portfolio, state maps, and materials that were used in the reports. Ask them to be prepared to answer questions asked by party guests.
4. Party music should be "outer space music."



Teaching Tip

How about some refreshments at your bon voyage party?

*How about **Lexigram Lemonade***



*and **Kazam Kookies?***

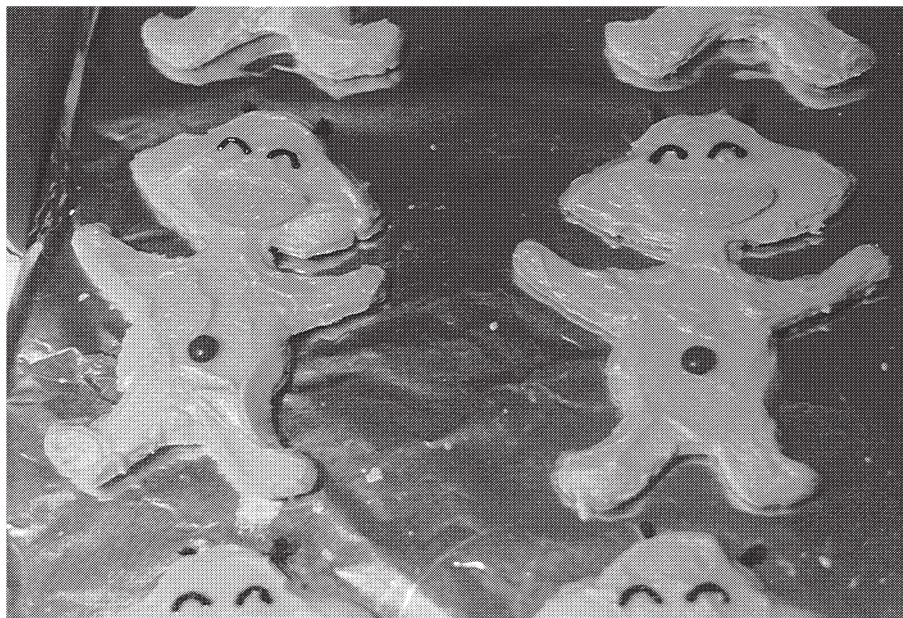
As the author of LEXIGRAM LEARNS, I felt I should bake the class some special cookies for pilot testing the unit.

Recipe for Kazam Kookies

2/3 cup shortening
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1 egg

4 tsp. milk
2 cups flour
1-1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt, optional

Thoroughly cream shortening, sugar and vanilla. Add egg; beat until light and fluffy. Stir in milk. Sift flour, baking powder, and salt; blend into creamed mixture. Chill 1 hour. On lightly floured surface, roll half dough to quarter-inch thickness. Using a picture of Lex as a guide, draw Lex's shape onto cardboard, cut out, and use as cookie cutter (cut around shape with knife). Bake 375 for 6 to 8 minutes. Frost: Use a buttercream frosting tinted with green food coloring. Decorate with brown gel for eyes, whole cloves as antenna, candy lemon slice cut in half for mouth, and red cinnamon candy as navel.

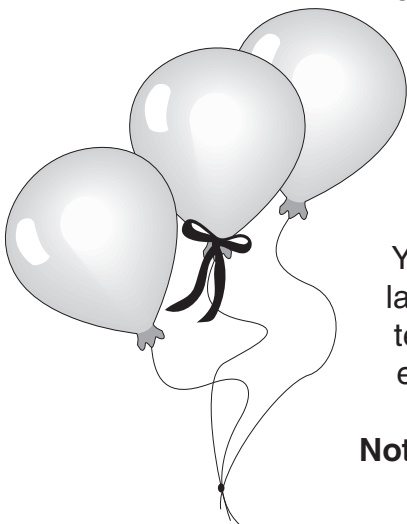


Final Comments

The space ship built by Cassandra Collar's students at Elliot Elementary was so sturdy that Cassandra plans on using it next year and in following years in her classroom. Because her students so often wanted to spend free time in the ship, she designated time in the ship as "reward time" to students who had completed assignments or earned some other reward.

You may find other uses for the ship as well. During study of avalanches, Cassandra covered the ship windows, and student volunteers stayed inside alone for as long as possible to simulate the experience of being trapped in an avalanche.

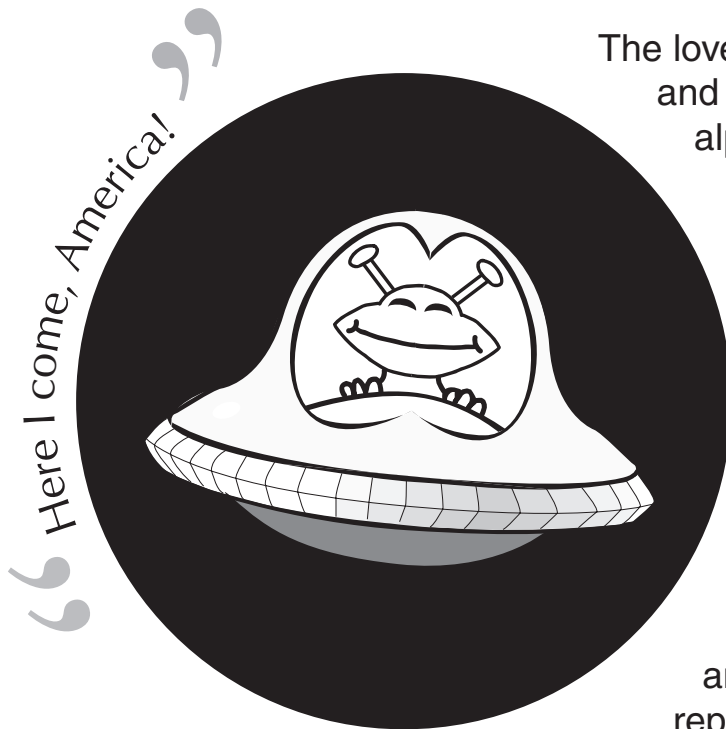
Note: This introduction is intended as a guide for presenting the state capitals. You may wish to improvise and use your creativity to expand or alter my suggestions. Let the countdown begin, and my best wishes on a successful mission.



Happy Voyage home, Lex!

Introducing Lexigram - 1

Lexigram, from the planet Kazam
needs to pass a geography exam.
His teacher, Miss Zoe, told Lex to go
on a exploratory trip
in his exceptional spaceship,
around the pulsing purple dunes,
beyond the nine notorious moons,
to a galaxy far, far away,
a galaxy named *The Milky Way*.
Through interstellar gas and billions of stars,
past Pluto, Neptune, Uranus, Jupiter, and Mars,
to the blue planet Earth, third from the Sun,
where mountains rise and where rivers run.
Once inside Earth's atmosphere,
Lex will travel to the Western Hemisphere.
To the United States of America he'll go
and study the geography assigned by Miss Zoe.
Fifty capitals Lex must learn
while on his journey, and then return
to his home planet, the planet Kazam,
and take Miss Zoe's geography exam.



The lovely Miss Zoe gave Lex a kiss,
and placed in his pocket an
alphabetical list,
plus a chart to guide his roaming
from Alabama to Wyoming.
“Before I go,” said Lex
to Miss Zoe,
“there are a few things
I would like to know.
What should I wear
when I get there?
Are the capital cities cold or hot?”

“Some capital cities are quite hot
and some capital cities are not,”
replied the intelligent teacher, Miss Zoe.
“What else would you like to know?”

Introducing Lexigram - 2

“What can I eat when I get there,
what is the usual Earthling fare?”



“When you get there you can eat
fruits, vegetables, cheeses, and meats,”
replied the patient teacher, Miss Zoe,
“What else would you like to know?”

“What’s the difference, Dear Miss Zoe,
in using an “A” and using an “O”
in reference to the places I will go?”



“*Capitol* spelled with an **O**, my sweet,
refers to the building where the legislature meets.
Capital spelled with an **A**, my sweet,
refers to the city that’s a government seat.”

“When I get there, will I have fun?”

“Enough questions, it’s time your journey is begun.”



Around the pulsing purple dunes
and beyond the nine notorious moons,
traveling millions of interstellar miles,
Lexigram sped in his ship with a smile.
Finally he reached the Earth’s blue mist;
he checked his map and Miss Zoe’s list.
Alabama is the first state he’ll see.
What will the capital of Alabama be?
He knows Miss Zoe will **want** a **summary** of . . .



Montgomery, Alabama



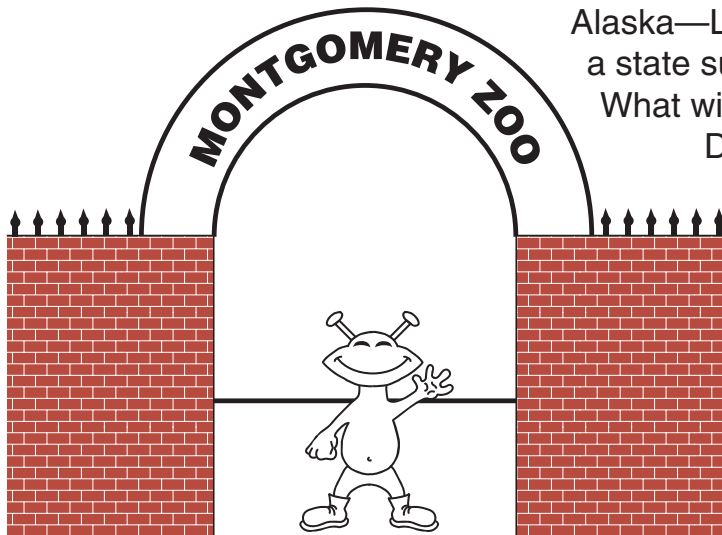
Lex landed his ship and wrote a note,
In Montgomery you don't need a coat.
He opened the hatch and went for a walk
through fields of cotton on cottony stalks,
past tall buildings and factories,
and historic mansions surrounded by trees.

At the stately Capitol, Lexigram rested;
he saw fifty flags all neatly crested,
one from each state in the USA,
and beneath them state stones were inlaid.
Next, Lexigram visited the residence
of the nation's only Confederate president.
When his tour of the home was through,
Lexigram went to the Montgomery Zoo.
With the Earth critters, Lex was beguiled:
the mammals, the birds, and the reptiles.

Lexigram quickly picked up his pace
to locate Maxwell Air Force Base.

In 1910 Mr. Wilbur Wright
started a flying school at this site.
Lex was fascinated with the airfield,
but his tummy squeaked and squealed.
In a Montgomery diner, Lexigram chose
a meal of chicken and sweet potatoes.
He cleaned his plate and smacked his lips,
waved goodbye and returned to his ship.
He set his compass to the northwest,
for the second state on Miss Zoe's test;

the northernmost and largest state,
Alaska—Lex could hardly wait,
a state surrounded on three sides by sea.
What will the capital of Alaska be?
Do **you know** . . ?

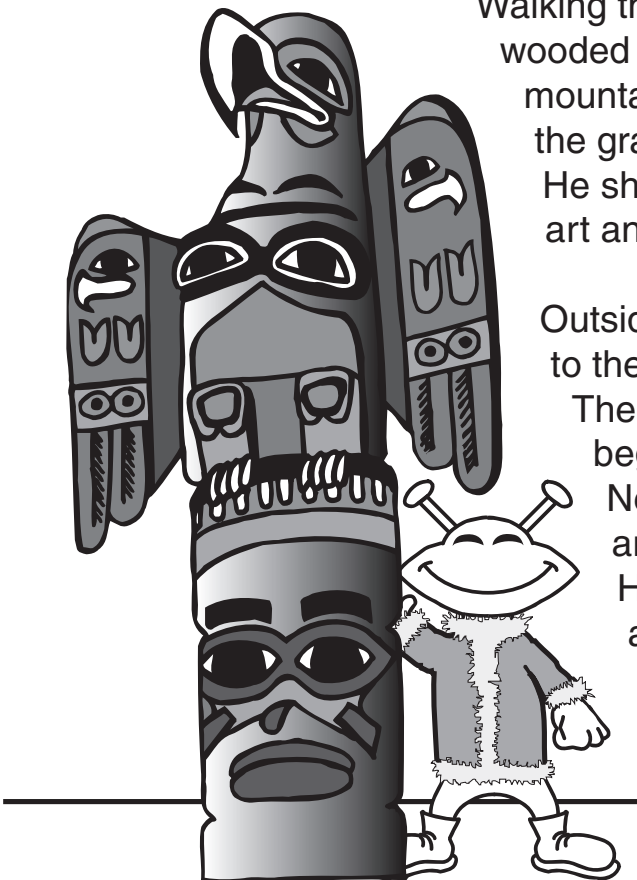


Juneau, Alaska



From his ship, high above Juneau,
Lex saw mountains capped with snow.
But when he landed on Juneau's shore,
he found Alaska was much more
than freezing snow and slippery ice.
The climate in Juneau is quite nice.
Walking through Juneau, Lex could see
wooded valleys and Sitka spruce trees,
mountain waterfalls, silvery and regal,
the graceful flight of an American bald eagle.
He shopped Juneau stores that displayed
art and gifts native Alaskans made.

Outside of town, Lex followed signs
to the steel high-rises of Juneau's mines.
The city of Juneau, Lex was told,
began with prospectors mining for gold.
Next, Lex put on a woolly red coat
and climbed into a bright blue boat.
He caught a big fish from the lake
and dined on savory grilled salmon steak.
Lex left the land of the midnight sun
and returned to his ship for his next run.
The third state on Miss Zoe's test
is a sunny state in America's Southwest.
On which Arizona city will **he fix** . . . ?



Phoenix, Arizona



“Where to land safely?” Lexigram spoke.
Phoenix is a city with millions of folks.
Lex spied a spot he thought was best,
and carefully brought his ship to rest
on Camelback Mountain, a sandstone mound,
then out he hopped on the sandy ground.
Into “The Valley of the Sun” Lexigram trotted.
The climate was pleasantly dry and hot.
On his way to the city, Lex passed by
saguaro cacti nearly 50 feet high.
He realized quickly that you simply can’t
climb to the top of a cactus plant!

Phoenix was indeed a sight to behold,
an impressive mixture of new and old.

Along the asphalt and palm-lined streets,
were swimming pools to cool the heat.
Lex saw hotels, malls, and resorts,
and intricate mosaic stone-tiled courts.
Eagerly, Lex continued his search
and found an ancient adobe church.
Adobe is made from sun-dried bricks,
and adobe is abundant throughout Phoenix.

At a Phoenix restaurant, he ordered a treat
of pinto beans flavored with mesquite.
Dessert was sopapilla smothered in syrup.
With a full tummy, he went back to his ship.
He bid farewell to “The Valley of the Sun,”

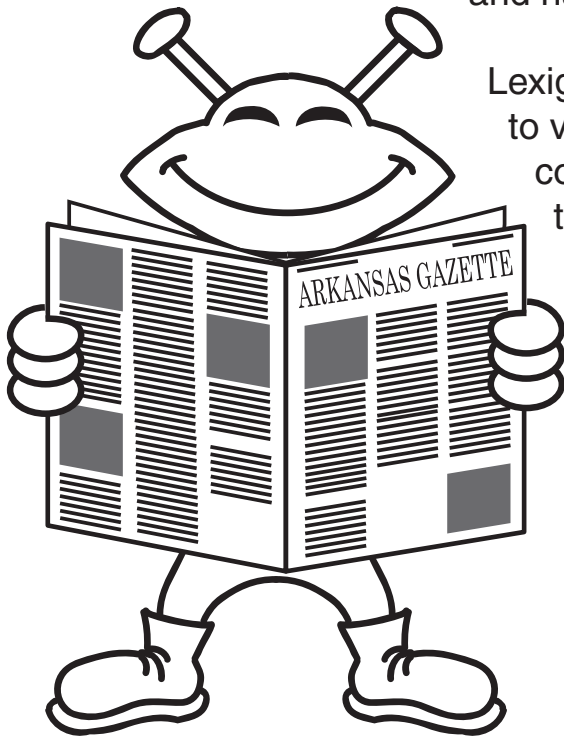
his journey to Arkansas
now has begun.

He’ll land his ship upon a
little dock in . . .



Little Rock, Arkansas

Lex landed in Little Rock just after dawn,
upon the tree-scaped Capitol's south lawn.
He sniffed the air and wiggled his toes,
while counting the two thousand bushes of roses.
Through the rose gardens Lex made his way
to one of the finest capitols in the USA;
it looks like the capitol in Washington, D.C.,
and has six bronze doors made by Tiffany.



Lexigram trekked high into the hills
to visit Little Rock's Old Grist Mill,
complete with a wooden waterwheel
that moves the stone, that grinds the meal.
Before continuing his Little Rock capers,
Lex read *The Arkansas Gazette*
newspaper.

Lexigram joined a Little Rock tradition
and went to the annual Livestock Exhibition.
He mooed to the cows
and clucked at the poultry;
he saw exhibits of agriculture and industry.
Before he left, Lex's tummy was tickled
by egg-custard pie and green tomato pickles.

Back in his ship, Lex checked the gauges,
the dials, the miles, and the chart's pages.
California was next on the list of Miss Zoe.
To the Pacific Coast Lex must go.



For his teacher, he'll take **back**
a **memento** of . . .

Sacramento, California

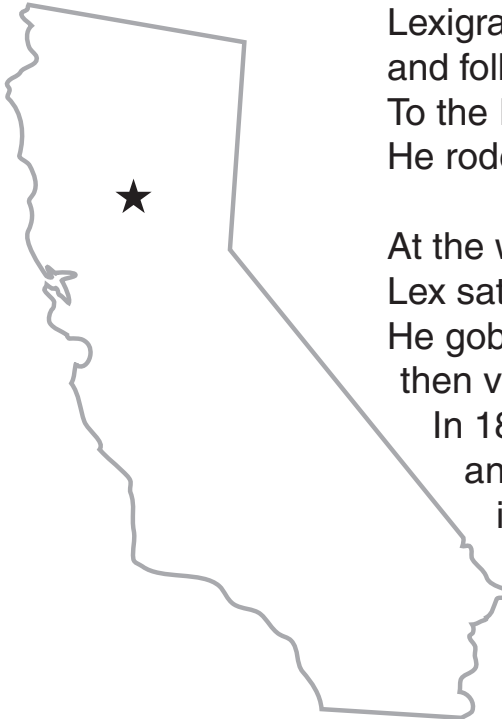
Lexigram whistled and chirped with glee,
hovering above the Sacramento Valley.

“There’s a fine place to land my ship,”
Lexigram said, and down he zipped.



He landed by the
Sacramento River
where goods are exported
and delivered
in ships from cities
far and wide.
Lex opened the hatch and
stepped outside.
The sun beat brightly
upon the pier,
the air was warm
and the skies were clear.

Lex marched to the city, tapping his feet
on Old Sacramento’s cobblestone streets.
He sauntered inside an old-west saloon
and danced a jig to a honky-tonk tune.
Lexigram heard a rumbling sound
and followed tracks set in the ground.
To the Railroad Museum, Lex was led.
He rode a caboose, painted bright red.



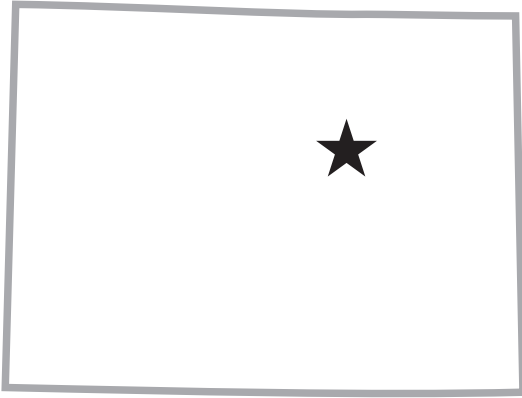
At the world’s largest almond factory,
Lex sat in a grove of almond trees.
He gobbled bread with almond butter,
then visited a park named for John Sutter.

In 1839, Sutter built a mill,
and it was a quiet place until
in the mill’s waters, men discovered gold,
and wagons by the hundreds
into Sutter’s Mill rolled.

Lex bought a gold nugget
for the lovely Miss Zoe
and left for the capital of Colorado.

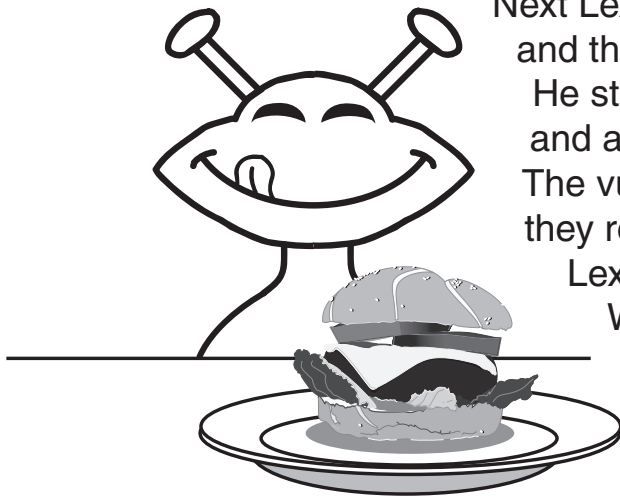
In the old west, they’d say he had
a “**yen fer**” the city of . . .

Denver, Colorado



Over the Rockies, a skip and a hop,
and Lexigram had reached his next stop.
On the Capitol lawn he landed his ship.
A tour of the building began his trip.
Up the grand staircase, with zip and pep,
Lexigram climbed to the 13th step.
There, he stopped to rest a while,
above sea level, exactly one mile.
Looking out over “Mile High City,”
Lexigram sighed, “Denver is pretty.”

The city of Denver is not always hot,
but the sun shines here a lot.
So underneath a sunny blue sky,
Lex joined the joggers passing by.
He jogged his way to the Denver Mint
where billions of coins glimmer and glint.

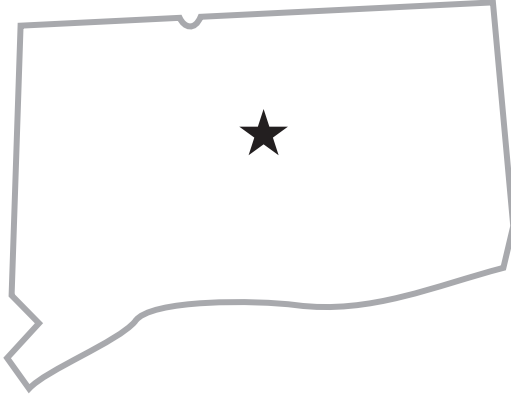


Next Lex went to the Denver Zoo,
and the Museum Of Natural History, too.
He studied Denver’s Indian cultures,
and at the zoo, he petted a vulture.
The vultures were his favorite, you know,
they reminded him of the lovely Miss Zoe.

Lex had worked up an appetite.
When in Denver, it’s only right
to eat a cheeseburger,
which was invented here.
Lex ate three and drank
some root beer.

Then east toward Connecticut Lexigram flew.
What’s the capital? Do you have a clue?
Lex looked at his map for the
right **chart word**
to lead him to the city of . . .

Hartford, Connecticut



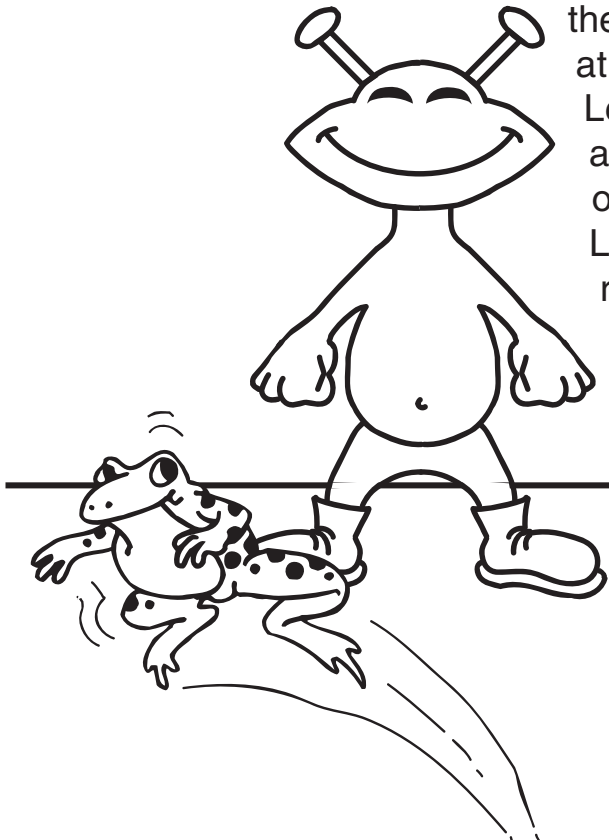
When Lex reached Long Island Sound,
he followed the Connecticut River
as it wound
to “Insurance City,” as Hartford is named,
for companies that write policies and claims.
Atop Travelers Tower, Lex landed with ease.
He stuck out his finger to test the breeze.
Because it was autumn,
the weather was cool.
The spring in Hartford is mild as a rule;
summertime is pleasantly warm;
Hartford winter’s bring snowstorms.

Lex was hungry after his flight,
so he satisfied his appetite
with a dozen oysters on the half-shell
at one of Hartford’s finest hotels.

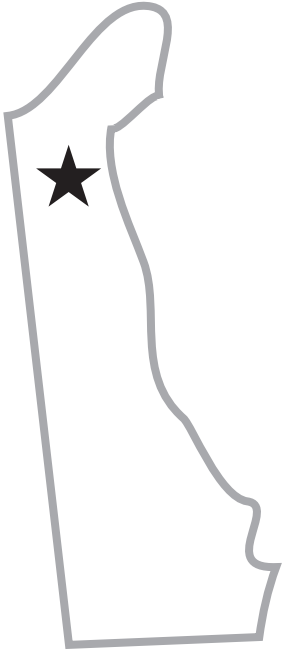
Lexigram toured United Technologies
and numerous other Hartford industries.
In the Baldwin Museum’s library,
Lex studied Connecticut’s history.

He must have read a dozen books,
then he walked to the country to have a look
at colonial buildings that were full of charm.
Lexigram’s favorite was Nook Farm,
a beautiful mansion, once the domain
of the famous writer, Mr. Mark Twain.
Lexigram smiled and broke into a grin,
remembering the adventures
of Huckleberry Finn.

He even joined a jumping frog race,
jumped back to his ship
and soared off in space.
Down the Atlantic coast he flew.
The flight took just a minute or two,
soon enough he hovered **over** Dela-
ware’s capital . . .



Dover, Delaware

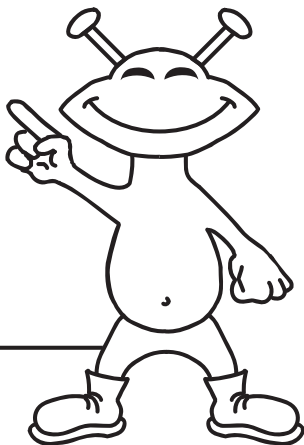


Finding Dover was no trouble at all
for the state of Delaware is quite small.
But, oh, Lex's ship began to sway
in the wake of a giant C5-A
cruising to Dover Air Force Base.
Lexigram scurried for a landing place.
Gratefully, he set his ship down
on a large green square in the middle of town.
"The Green" was planned in 1763,
and around it the town of Dover grew quickly.
Soon after, Delaware ratified the Constitution
and became the first state to enter the Union.
Surrounding "The Green," Lex could see
gracious homes from the 19th century
and original state buildings built of red brick.
Lex rubbed his eyes, was this a trick?
Lexigram saw a colonial ghost,
Leaning against a wooden post.
Then down the street, Judge Chew's ghost came,
haunting those who made fun of his name.

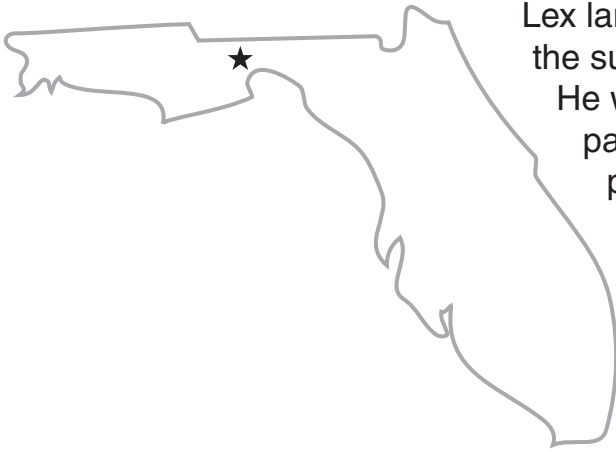
Dover winters are mild and the summers are hot.
Under clear skies, Lexigram trotted,
his nose sniffing the air with glee,
to the Richardson & Robbins Canning Factory,
a landmark, over one hundred years old,
where canned ham was first invented and sold.

On sliced ham sandwiches Lexigram dined,
then left in his ship for state number nine.

Southwest he flew, where
calla grows in marshes **grassy**,
Florida's capital . . .



Tallahassee, Florida



Lex landed his ship and put on sunglasses;
the sun was so bright in Tallahassee.

He wandered on road lined with live oak trees,
past flowering gardens buzzing with bees,
past fields and farms and old plantations,
and forests thick with vegetation.

As Lexigram ambled, he began to sing,
and soon came upon Wakulla Springs,
a large state park with nature trails.

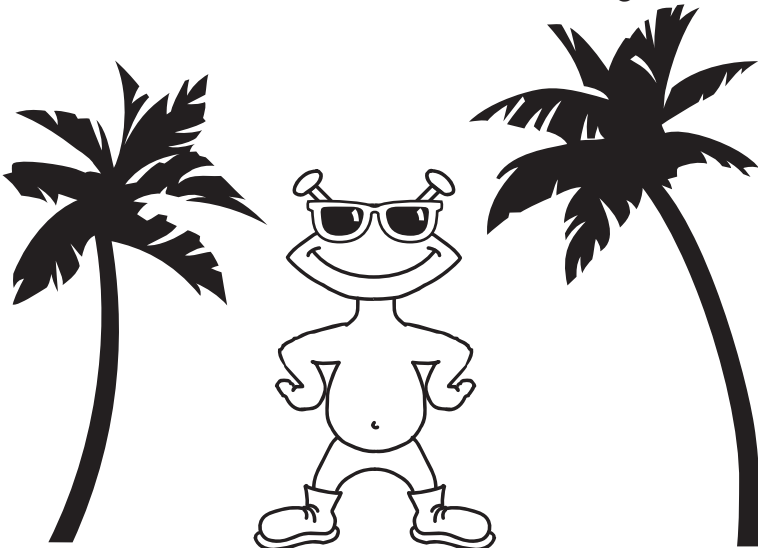
Along the trails, Lex saw some snails,
and further along, for goodness sake,
were two tottering turtles and three sassy snakes.
At the park's lake, a little bit later,
he saw a big green alligator.
Oh, the musical sounds he heard
from the multitude of water birds.

Where he went next, you'll never guess;
a place for kids on acres of cypress.
Through Tallahassee's Junior Museum, Lex strolled.
Some of its buildings were very old:
a school house, a church, a farm, and a gristmill.
Lexigram experienced quite a thrill
when he saw a Florida panther, an endangered cat,
along with other animals in their natural habitat.

The museum holds events throughout the year.
In the spring, the sheep are sheared;
in the summer, children can romp
to Saltwater music at the annual Swamp Stomp.
Before Lexigram returned to the sky,

he ate a wedge of Key Lime pie,
then started his engines
and set forth
toward Florida's neighbor
just to the north.

It's not the north pole, he won't see
a **fat Santa** in Georgia's capital . . .



Atlanta, Georgia



Air traffic over Atlanta is rarely light.
The airport daily has thousands of flights,
it's the world's busiest, and Lex could see why,
as he hummed in his ship through Atlanta's sky.
Skyscrapers, houses, and church steeples,
in and out went two million people.
He counted universities—twenty-nine!
Miss Zoe would find Atlanta divine.
Lexigram thought it was quite a treat
to land his ship on Peachtree Street.
Up and down the thoroughfare,
Lexigram rambled through the balmy air.
Among the sights on which he'd report
were the Omni Coliseum for sports,
Peachtree Plaza, and the IBM Tower.
In the CNN Centers, Lex spent hours.

Next, he visited an historical site—
a memorial to a leader of civil rights,
Martin Luther King Jr., highly esteemed,
a peaceful man who had a dream.
To sample fine art, Lex rented a box
in a lavish theater, The Fabulous Fox,
where he watched a premier ballet.
At Woodruff Center, he heard a symphony play.

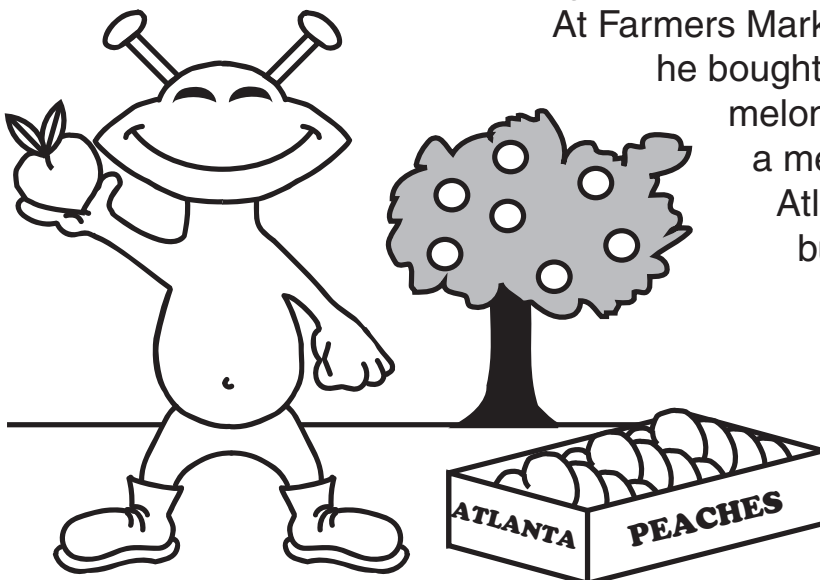
Lex was hungry as could be,
so he indulged in a shopping spree.

At Farmers Market

he bought butter beans,
melon, peaches, and
a mess of collard greens.

Atlanta had been lots of fun,
but it was time for Lex to run.
In Hawaii, Lex won't

don a tu tu,
he'll wear
swimming trunks in . . .



Honolulu, Hawaii

To reach the next state on
Miss Zoe's test,
Lex flew thousands of miles west,
over the Pacific, through wind and rain,
until he reached the eight-island chain.
The isles were like jewels, bright and new.
The capital of Hawaii is on Oahu.
Like the other islands, Oahu was formed
by eruptions during volcanic storms.

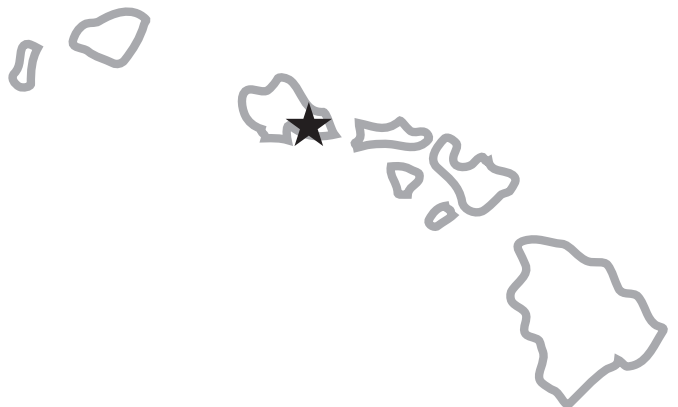
After landing his ship at Honolulu Bay,
Lex was given a fragrant lei.
He wiggled his toes in Waikiki beach
and scampered along
until he reached
the volcanic peak at
Diamond Head Park,
a photogenic Hawaiian landmark.
Lex enjoyed the excellent weather.
The temperature there rarely ever
varies from eighty degrees Fahrenheit.
At The Polynesian Cultural Center site,
Lexigram learned the ancient rules
of preparing food and making tools.

There were dolphins, seals, and sharks,
at Honolulu's Sea Life Park.
Lexigram wanted to join in,
but he doesn't have gills and fins.
So he rented a snorkel and some flippers
and slid in the water like a foot in a slipper.
Through the waves, Lex glided with ease,
marveling at the fishy varieties.
When Lexigram finally swam to shore,
he took off his gear,
and a grass skirt he wore.
He joined a group learning the romance
of the historic and lovely Hula Dance.
He won the first-place dance award.
His prize was an authentic surf board.
At Waimea Bay, Lex shot the curls
on the highest surf in the world.

Lex toured Honolulu's industries;
pineapple is the specialty.
He didn't sample the tasty delight,
that would ruin his appetite,
and he'd been invited to a luau.
When Lex arrived, he said, "Wow!"



He'd never seen so many treats,
fruits, vegetables, fish, and meats
cooled in ti leaves in the ground.
As Lex ate, he enjoyed the sound
of ukuleles and beating drums.
He licked the poi off his thumb,
thanked his hosts for the feast,
and set his compass to northeast.
Will it be quiet or **noisy**
in Idaho's capital . . .

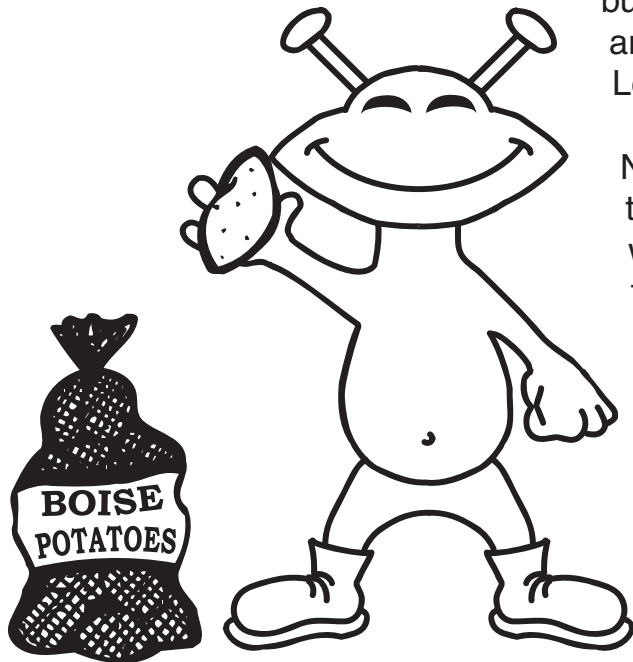


Boise, Idaho



From the air above “The City Of Trees,”
Lex looked down, and he was pleased.
The forest valley was a pool of green,
lush and inviting, cool and serene.
He landed on the Boise River’s shore,
and he said, “There are trees galore.”
He soon discovered a Boise landmark,
the “Greenbelt,” a system of riverfront parks.
At Barber Park, Lex was inspired
to float inside an inner tube tire.
Down the river on his merry way,
he saw children happy at play
and fishermen catching rainbow trout.
He floated four miles before getting out.

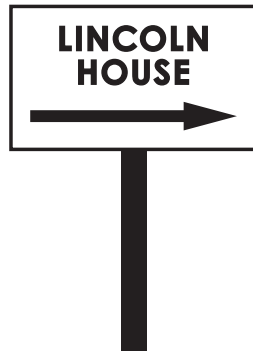
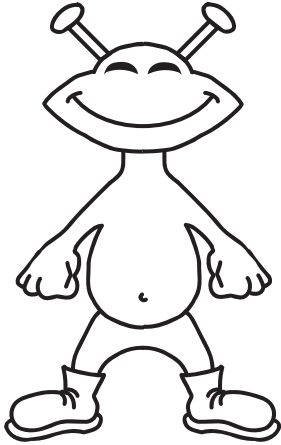
The sights of Boise were explained
as Lex rode on the Boise Tour Train.
Riding the “Tootin Tater,” past evergreens,
Lex saw that Boise is quiet and clean.
Natural, underground springs give heat
to many homes on Boise streets.
In the winter, there’s ice and snow,
but in the spring, bright flowers grow,
and in the summer the weather is hot.
Lexigram enjoyed the train tour a lot.



Next, Lexigram made his way
to the National Reserve for Birds of Prey
where falcons and eagles are collected,
their babies are nourished and protected.
In Boise National Forest, Lex found
abandoned mines and spooky ghost towns,
and streams and rivers, blue and clear,
visited by the beaver, muskrat and deer.
Before he left for the thirteenth state,
Lex went to a restaurant where he ate
baked potatoes and sugar beets,
then jumped in his ship,
and headed southeast.
“In the capital of Illinois,
I’ll **sing**,” he **squealed** . . .

Springfield, Illinois

From the sky, Springfield's farmlands
resembled a quilt stitched by giant hands.
On the Capitol's lawn, Lex landed his ship.
He looked up at the dome, to its very tip,
which reaches four-hundred and fifty feet high
and is seen for miles from the countryside.



As a professional center,
Springfield is famed,
but wherever he looked,
Lex saw the name,
of Abraham Lincoln,
the 16th president.
Lexigram visited the
Lincoln residence.
He toured the home,
every cranny and nook;

he saw the chair where Abe read books.
Lexigram went to The Lincoln Depot,
where Lincoln had heard cheers of "Bravo,"
for his farewell address in 1861,
before he left for Washington.

Striding along, Lex fell under the spell
of the wondrous music of chiming bells.

He followed the sound and came upon
the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon.
Sixty-six tones fell sweetly on his ears.
Carillon concerts are played all year.
If you attend in the winter or spring,
a coat or jacket you should bring.
In the summer, the weather is nice,
so shorts and a shirt will suffice.



Before leaving Springfield, Lex filled his belly
with carrots, and corn, and green pepper jelly.
He looked at the map back in his ship;
Indiana's capital was a hop and a skip
directly east, a bustling **Indi-metropolis** of . . .

Indianapolis, Indiana



Viewing the city, Lex spied a wheel
that was much too big for an automobile.
The wheel was the center of downtown,
the spokes were streets, moving cars around.
The site Lex landed was excellent:
the Soldiers and Sailors Monument.
He scanned the city from its platform.
Because it was autumn, the weather was warm,
the winters are cold, the summers are hot.
Down from the monument Lexigram shot.
His eyes were wide with admiration
gazing about the Union Station.
Built for train travel in 1888,
many passengers passed through its gates.
Now renovated, it contains shops,
and is a popular tourist stop.
From Union Station, Lex departed.
for the Indiana Museum of Art.
Through its pavilions Lexigram strolled,
examining fine art, both new and old,
and when he was through, he walked amid
the museum greenhouse's exotic orchids.

Next, with gusto, Lex explored
The Children's Museum's fantastic five floors.
He rode an antique carousel,
and saw a tomb where a mummy dwelled.
When he finished his museum roaming
he scampered to the Hoosier Dome,
which rose like a mushroom in the sky.

Lex learned air pressure keeps the roof high.

After playing tennis on courts of clay,

Lex went to the Indianapolis Speedway.

"How many cars," Lexigram wondered
"enter the Indianapolis 500?"

It's the most famous auto race
in the USA,

run each year on Memorial Day.

Now, Lex knew he had to go.

He bought some popcorn
for Miss Zoe.

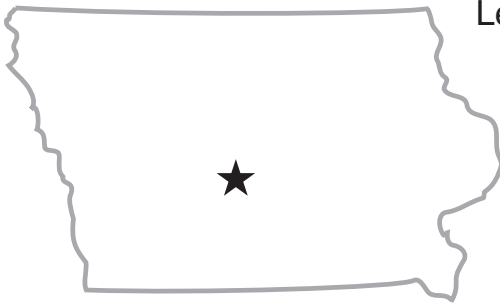
Back in his ship, Lex set forth

for Iowa's capital, west and north.

Are you **free** to **join** him in . . . ?

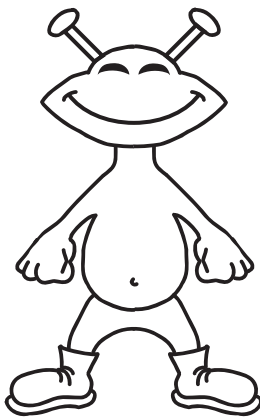


Des Moines, Iowa

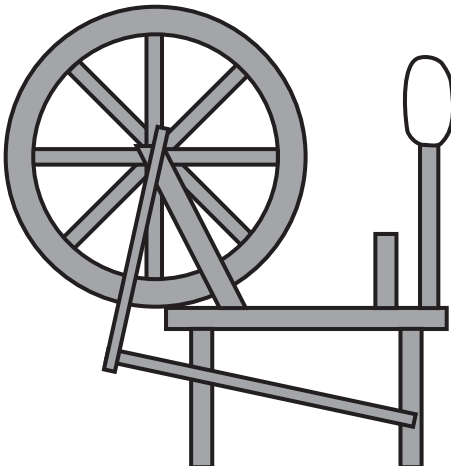


Lex said, "Iowa has plenty of charm,"
as he flew over its prairies and farms.
Finding a large city, he set his ship down.
He saw that Des Moines is a busy town.
Though there's industry, please understand,
Des Moines' economy depends on farmland.
So the first attraction Lex went to see
was Des Moines Farms of Living History.

The museum's sites compare and contrast
the rural life of Iowa's past.
Lexigram saw how weaving was done
at the 1700's village of Ioway Indians.
He thought the spinning wheel was nifty
at the Pioneer Farm of the 1850s.
The 1900's Farm taught Lex how
farmers tilled fields with a horse and a plough.
The Farm of Today and Tomorrow's machines
will help make the future productive and green.
Before he left, Lex ate an array
of fresh farm vegetables and a whole bale of hay!
He found the fall air was pleasantly warm,
but Iowa winters often bring snowstorms.

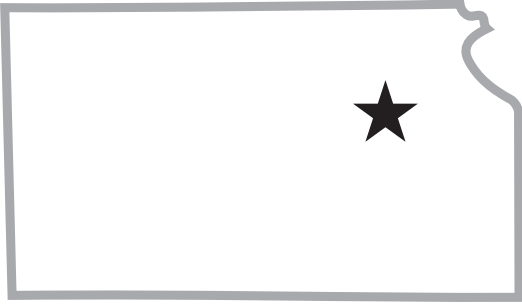


Lex continued his Des Moines exploration;
the unique Capitol was his destination.
He saw one dome, golden and taller
than the four other domes that are somewhat smaller.
Inside the Capitol, Lexigram marveled
at the floors and walls fashioned from marble.
Down to his toes, he had a good feeling
while gazing up at the hand-painted ceilings.



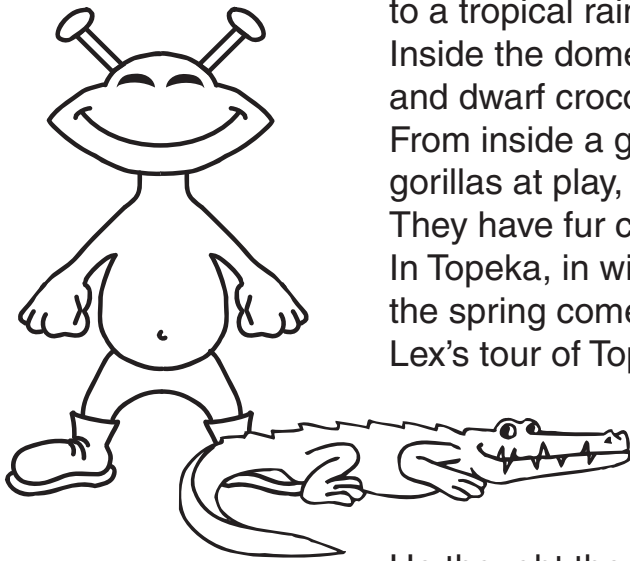
To learn about Des Moines' technology,
Lex went to the Center of Science and Industry.
In the center's planetarium, he looked at stars.
He saw a miniature railroad with miniature cars.
Though the center was loads of fun,
on to Kansas Lex must run.
The capital of Kansas, he will **go seek** . . .

Topeka, Kansas



Lex flew south and a tad to the west
to reach the 16th state on the test.
He landed in the Capitol courtyard
and viewed the state house with high regard.
A replica of the Capitol in Washington, D.C.,
this building was completed in 1903.
From the courtyard, Lex could view
the Judicial Center's stunning statue,
a woman with a falcon in her hand.
Lex thought the sculpture of "Justice" was grand.

The Museum of History has a collection
of artifacts from America's westward expansion.
Lex saw Santa Fe Wagons and Prairie Schooners;
upon a washboard, he played a prairie tune.
From the museum Lex withdrew
and galloped to the Topeka Zoo.
Believe it or not, this zoo is home
to a tropical rain forest in a geodesic dome.
Inside the dome are hundreds of plants
and dwarf crocodiles Lex found enchanting.
From inside a glass tunnel, he could see,
gorillas at play, uncaged, and free.
They have fur coats to keep out the chill.
In Topeka, in winter, you'll need a coat until
the spring comes along and brings the sun.
Lex's tour of Topeka was almost done.



The Combat Air Museum
was his last stop.

Into vintage aircraft Lexigram hopped.

He thought the planes were sensational,
and most of them are still operational.
Happily, Lexigram went for a drive
in a Blue Angel and a B-25.

Now, Lex was so hungry, he sat on a sofa
and dined upon Topeka meatloaf.
After he'd eaten all two pounds,
he got in his ship, and he left the ground.
Directly east, Lexigram was bound.
Where will the capital of Kentucky be found?
Will the city be a **swank port** . . . ?

Frankfort, Kentucky



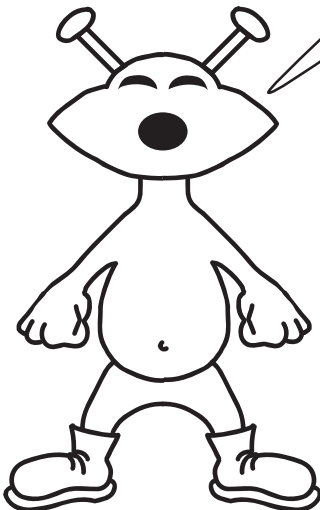
Before Lex reached the city's streets,
he saw fields of barley, corn, and wheat
that looked like shimmering golden seas
waving in the warm Kentucky breeze.
The climate in Frankfort is usually fair.
You won't see snow if you journey there.
Through this capital, the Kentucky River flows,
and in the river, Lex dangled his toes.

When he decided to begin his stroll,
Lex headed for the state Capitol.
The Capitol clock is enormous and round.
The minute hand weighs 530 pounds!
The clock is adorned with thousands of flowers
and accurately counts the minutes and hours.

The Governor's Mansion, Lex adored;
he gawked from the lobby of the first floor,
"Such an elegant atmosphere!
On Kazam there are no chandeliers."
Then through the gardens Lexigram roamed,
singing the song, "My Old Kentucky Home."
Lexigram left the Capitol grounds
for Liberty Hall, built by John Brown,
the first U.S. senator from the Bluegrass State.
The building has stood since 1798.

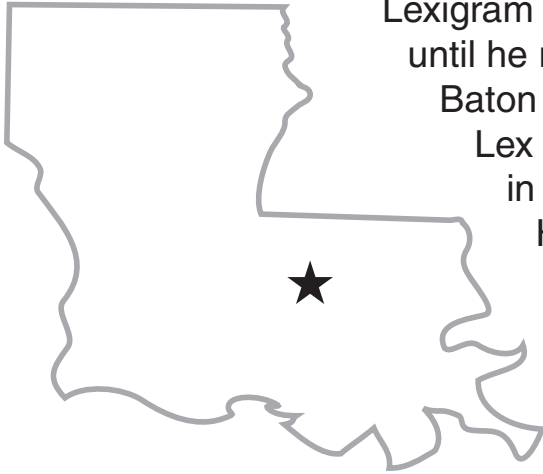


...oh the sun shines bright on
my old Kentucky home...



While exploring Kentucky State University,
Lexigram realized he was very hungry.
He stopped at a cafe, to a waiter he said,
"I'd like chicken dumplings and a piece of cornbread."
Now Lex must fly south and a bit to the west
to reach the 18th state on Miss Zoe's test.
Will he wear a **hat and shoes** in Louisiana's capital . . . ?

Baton Rouge, Louisiana



Lexigram followed the mighty Mississippi,
until he reached a Baton Rouge levee.

Baton Rouge means “red stick” in French.

Lex was eager to begin his adventure
in this seventh largest port in the USA.

He heard someone shout, “Gangway!”

Lexigram jumped and scurried clear,
away from the bustling, busy pier.

Lexigram curiously browsed around
the city’s historic Beauregard Town.

Then he watched the fascinating spectacle
of manufacturing petrochemicals,
a product of modern technology,
and the capital’s leading industry.

Lex saw plantations built before
the destruction of America’s Civil War.

He felt he was stepping into the past,
roving on grounds, green and vast.

The homes were sparkling, the hosts were gracious,
the history was interesting,
and the rooms were spacious.

In the summer, Baton Rouge is steamy.

Lexigram was feeling quite dreamy
walking about without his coat.

He boarded a Baton Rouge steamboat.

Down the Mississippi, Lexigram cruised,
eating gumbo, a spicy vegetable stew.

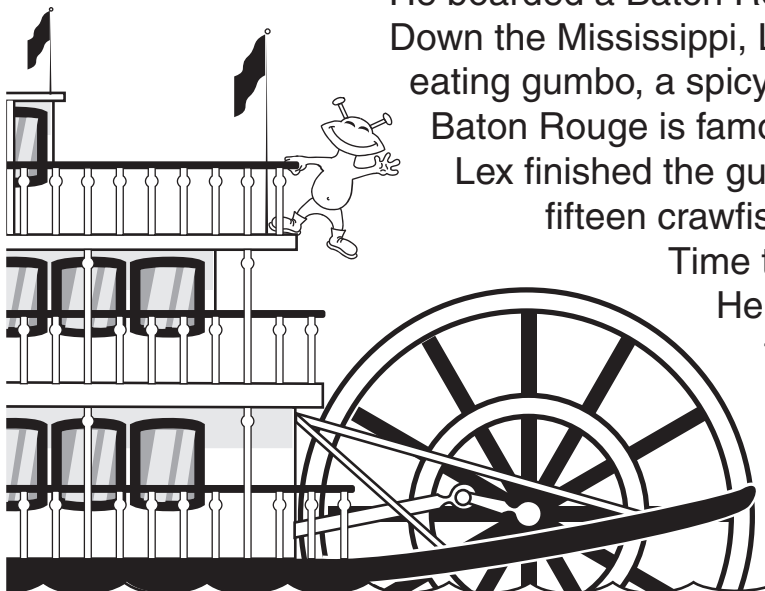
Baton Rouge is famous for Cajun cuisine.

Lex finished the gumbo and ordered
fifteen crawfish, and shrimp étouffé.

Time to leave, he couldn’t delay.

He thanked the crew

for the wonderful feast,
got back in his ship
and to the northeast,
the settings he **adjusted**
to reach Maine’s
capital city . . .



Augusta, Maine



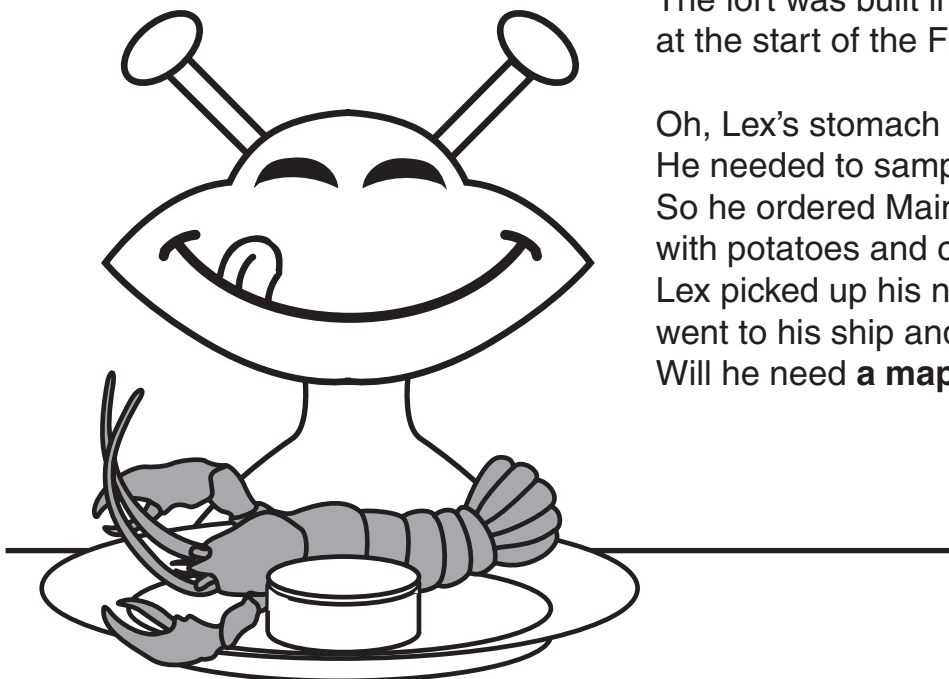
The state of Maine is the northernmost bordering the Atlantic Ocean's coast. To reach Augusta, Lex flew quick over pine forests green and thick. Finally, he saw a welcoming sight: the Capitol dome so tall and white. He landed his ship by the front door, skipped inside and eagerly explored.

Next on his schedule of Augusta visits was the State Cultural Building's exhibits. He learned about Maine's environment and of the occupations Mainers represent. Then he crossed over Capitol Street to Blaine House, the governor's retreat. The mansion was built many years ago. Through its rooms, Lex strolled to and fro. He admired the black marble fireplaces, the billiard room, and the sunroom's sunny spaces.

Over a bridge, Lexigram trekked, which spanned the river, Kennebec. He sniffed the clear and crisp fall air. Each season but summer you need a coat there. When he reached the other side, he was greeted by a costumed guide. Lex viewed Fort Western with admiration, while listening to the guide's narration.

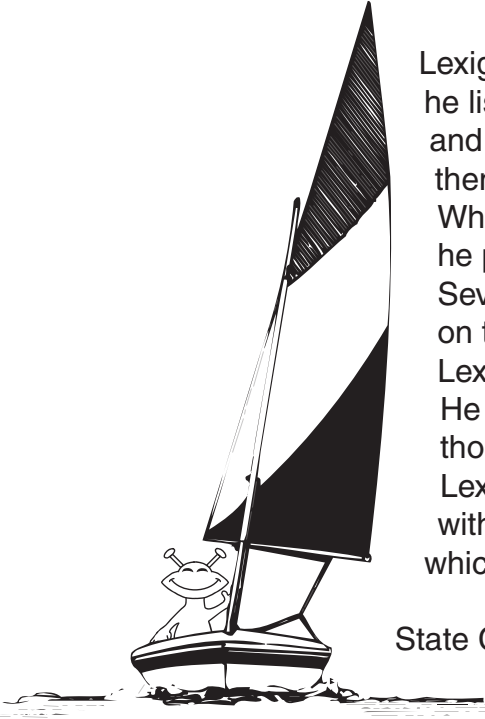
The fort was built in 1754 at the start of the French and Indian War.

Oh, Lex's stomach growled like a bear's. He needed to sample the local fare. So he ordered Maine lobster, served piping hot with potatoes and corn in a black iron pot. Lex picked up his napkin and wiped his mouth, went to his ship and followed the coast south. Will he need **a map of this** Maryland capital . . .



Annapolis, Maryland

Lexigram knew he'd found his way
when he spied the Chesapeake Bay.
It didn't take long for him to note
that Annapolis thrives on water and boats.
At the city dock were ships large and small:
a schooner from Tasmania, from Ireland, a yawl,
a cruiser from Florida, many skipjacks,
and crabbing vessels hauling in their catch.
The capital's weather was fair and clear,
as it is in Annapolis most of the year.



Lexigram went to a sailing school;
he listened carefully, followed the rules,
and he learned how to sail in a jiff,
then took to the waters in a rented skiff.
While he was sailing, happy and free,
he passed a team of the Naval Academy.
Several midshipmen formed the group
on training exercises in 30-foot sloops.
Lex followed them back to the campus grounds.
He thought the school's museum was astounding:
thousands of artifacts related to the sea.
Lex marched his feet in harmony
with the academy's fife and drum drill,
which performed with great precision and skill.

State Circle, in the city's downtown,
holds a jewel in Annapolis' crown:
the Maryland Statehouse
where Lexigram stood
beneath the building's dome of wood.
It was here the Treaty of Paris was signed;
the terms were written and defined
to end the Revolutionary War
in the year seventeen hundred eighty four.
His tour complete, Lex was in the mood
to sample Annapolis'
famous seafood.

At Sandy Point
Park's seafood fest,
a dozen crabs
Lex digested.

A short trip northeast, the sea his guide,
and Lexigram was soon inside
the capital of Massachusetts.
Will he get **lost in** . . . ?



Boston, Massachusetts

Getting lost in Boston is easy to do.

The population is one million, times two,
“Where to land my ship?” Lex wailed.

He set it down on “Freedom Trail.”

The trail is marked by signs and letters.

Lex put on a green cotton sweater.

He’d need a sweater in springtime too.

In summer the temperature is near 72.

In winter, Boston is snowy and cold.

Lex buttoned up, and off he strolled.

Along the trail Lexigram ran

to where the Boston Tea Party was planned.

Inside the Old South Meeting House,
he was quiet as a mouse.

Lexigram followed the trail around

to the oldest public building in town.

The Old State House has earned great fame;

from its balcony was first proclaimed
the Declaration of Independence of the USA.

Lexigram continued on his way.

Next was the house of Paul Revere,
the Bostonian silversmith, known far and near
for his midnight ride in 1775,

warning that British troops soon would arrive.

To the Old North Church, Lex did go.

He saw the highest steeple window
where once two lanterns hung to decree
that the British would arrive by sea.

The last sight “Freedom Trail” provided
was a ship known as “Old Ironsides.”

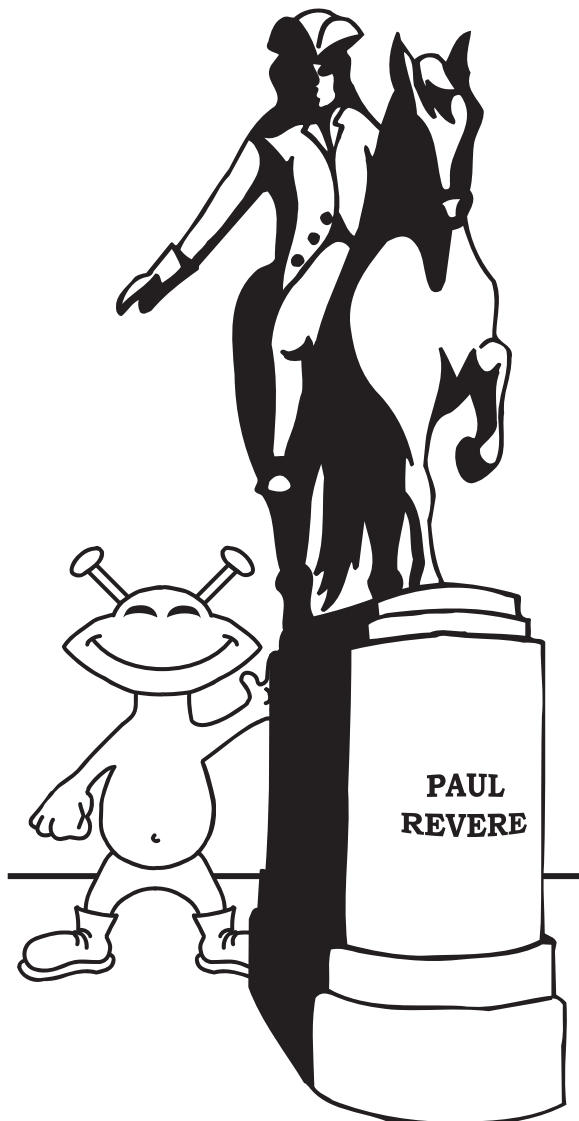
Though Boston is rich with history,

it also has many universities,
galleries, museums, and symphonies,
and dozens of diversified industries.

Lex didn’t have time to see each one,
and he was so hungry when his tour was done,
he gobbled up two Boston Cream pies,
jumped in his ship and zoomed to the sky.

Michigan’s capital lay to the west,
the 22nd state on Miss Zoe’s test.

Will Lex go **dancing**
in the capital city of . . . ?



Lansing, Michigan



Looking down, Lex was smitten.
Michigan looked like a giant mitten
surrounded on three sides by great, blue lakes.
Over Lansing, Lex stepped on his brakes.
His ship went “clunk” as he lowered the wheels.
Luckily, he landed at Oldsmobile.
Lex was worried and in a panic,
but repairs were made by an Oldsmobile mechanic.
Lexigram gave the mechanic his thanks,
then tramped along the Grand River banks
until he reached Museum Drive.
His first stop was Impression 5,
a science museum that has a lot
of hands-on exhibits and a robot.
Just a few yards down the street,
Lexigram found an automotive retreat:
The R. E. Olds Museum of Transportation.
He thought the collection was a sensation.
The vehicles offered a history
of Lansing’s contribution to the auto industry.

He brought a jacket on this trip,
Lansing’s autumn air is nippy.
In the winter, snow falls in feet,
and summers will bring 80 degree heat.
Lex saw tigers, monkeys, two emu,
and dozens of animals at Potter Park Zoo.

At the zoo, he rented a canoe
and paddled the Red Cedar River to MSU.

Michigan State University, a seat of knowledge,
was the nation’s first agricultural college.

The campus has more than 5,000 acres.

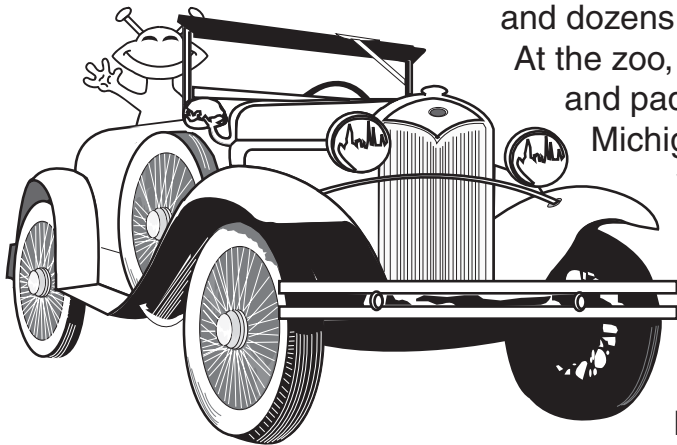
Lex was glad he didn’t have to rake
the countless, colorful autumn leaves
falling from 7,000 varieties of trees.

Feeling quite adventuresome,
Lex went to Spartan Stadium.

He watched the teams of gridiron grapplers
while eating a pie made from Michigan apples.

He rubbed his tummy happily,
and left Lansing for state twenty-three.

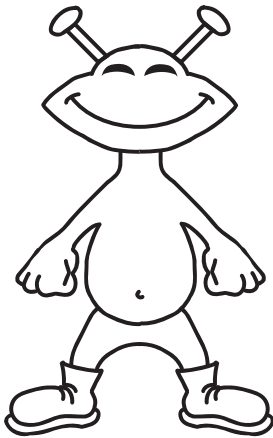
Will Minnesota’s capital be **quaint** and **small** . . . ?



Saint Paul, Minnesota



In his ship, above Saint Paul,
Lex saw the capital wasn't small.
He also saw this government seat
stands where the Minnesota and
Mississippi rivers meet,
as does its twin city, Minneapolis.
Together they form a mighty metropolis.
He left the ship, and put on his jacket.
According to Minnesota's almanac,
St. Paul's weather comes in extremes;
January is freezing, and August is steaming.



To view the city, Lex was assisted
by a twenty-six block skywalk system.
Riding the skywalk, he laughed, "Ark, ark."

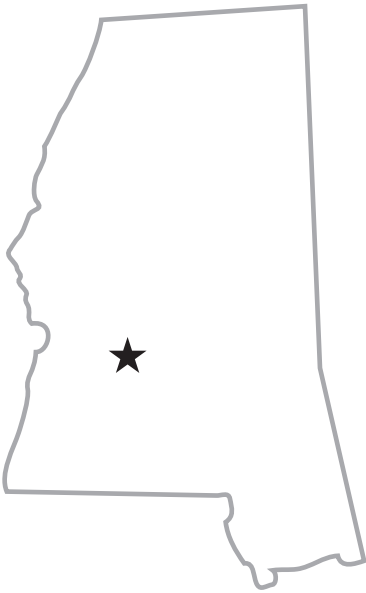
He disembarked for Town Square Park,
the largest indoor park in the nation.
Lex couldn't wait to begin
his exploration.

Inside was a hotel, shops,
and office towers.

Beneath a waterfall, Lex had a shower,
he scrubbed off all the dirt and grime,
then proceeded to have a wonderful time.

Next, Lex visited Fort Snelling State Park,
Minnesota's first national landmark.
The park's staff members were very pleased
to demonstrate frontier life of the 1920s.
Lex was so hungry, his stomach roared.
At a restaurant he ordered a smorgasbord,
a traditional Scandinavian treat.
Tables were laden with fishes and meats,
cheeses and breads—it was a dream.
Dessert was shortcake layered with cream.
Lex was so stuffed, his knees were knocky.
He joined the North Stars in a game of hockey.
Imagine that! He scored a "hat trick,"
then went back to his ship, double-quick.
Time to journey south to Mississippi.
He'll follow the river to the capital city.
He's been so rushed, he hopes he can **relax in . . .**

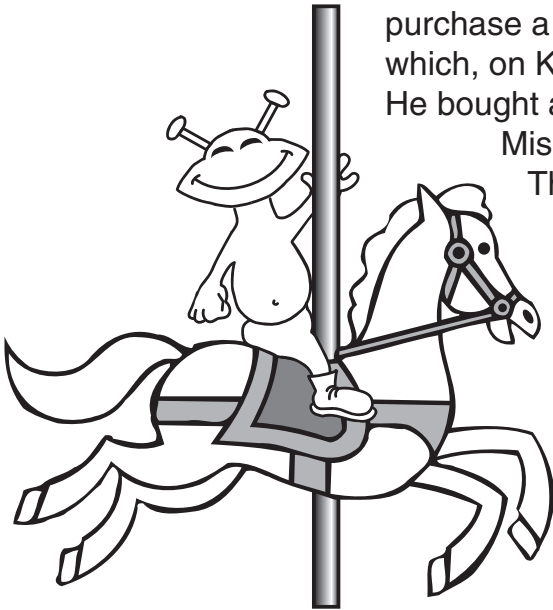
Jackson, Mississippi



Lex followed the river, checked his chart,
and cruised into Jackson, Mississippi's heart.
At "The Crossroads of the South," Lex set down.
From the Capitol's top, he saw most of the town.
Lexigram sighed, "What a beautiful site,"
as he sniffed magnolia blossoms, fragrant and white.
He'd like to take some home to Miss Zoe,
but he had to explore the city below.
At the Historical Museum, Lex began his tour,
enjoying Jackson's warm temperature.
He was grateful for the education
on ecology and wildlife conservation,
which he received with gracious compliance
at Jackson's Museum of Natural Science.

Away from the bustle of the city,
Lex found a spot magnificently pretty.
Through Mynelle Gardens, he walked with ease
among azaleas, camellias, and trees.
There he sat on a comfy toadstool
admiring the statuary set by a pool.

The next sight Lexigram had to see
was the petrified forest of Mississippi.
In the Visitor's Center, Lexigram could
purchase a piece of petrified wood,
which, on Kazam was extremely rare.
He bought a ticket for the
Mississippi State Fair.



The fair is held in October's second week.
Lex was so excited, he could hardly speak.
Exhibits and tents covered the grounds.
Lexigram rode on a merry-go-round.
Then, he was honored to judge
the fair's pies.
Unfortunately, he ate the first prize!
Quickly, Lex ran back to his ship,
started his engine, and continued his trip.
To the north and
a jog to the west is Missouri,
twenty-fifth on Miss Zoe's test.

He hopes he'll meet a **chef person**
in the capital **city** . . .

Jefferson City, Missouri

Lexigram found that Missouri's capital
was not too big and not too small.
Named after America's third president,
it's known as "Jeff City" to capital residents.
Lex landed by the Missouri River's shore,
got out of his ship and began to explore.



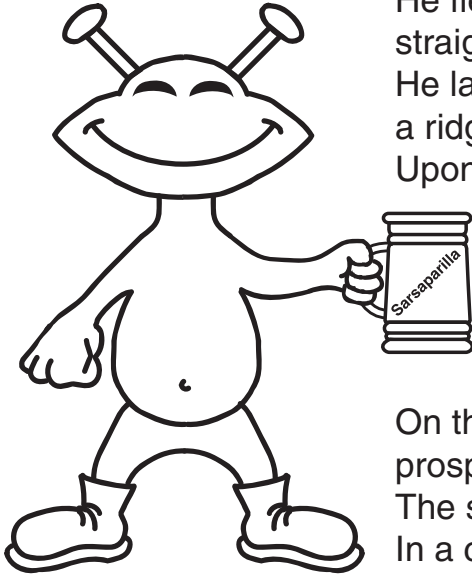
Although the day was bright and clear,
the weather can be chilly here.
Up steep bluffs Lex climbed alone
to the Capitol built of carthage stone.
The great bronze doors, Lexigram gauged,
were the largest cast since the Roman age.
Inside he viewed the grand staircase,
one-hundred and twenty feet wide at its base.
Through the five stories Lexigram roamed,
gazing down from the ledge of the dome.
Curious Lexigram didn't stop
until he'd seen everything, bottom to top.

He visited Lincoln University,
established by regiments of black infantry
after the American Civil War.
The students made Lex an honorary sophomore.
Lexigram thought he would be brave
and explore one of Missouri's caves.
From Jefferson City, it was a short trek
to the caves of Onondaga and Meramec.



Lex had never seen such a sight—
a fairyland of huge stalagmites,
(stalagmite formations go up from the ground
and stalactites on caves' roofs are found).
Lex was so hungry when he was through
that he ate a pot of hot beef stew.
He set his compass for northwest
and left for the next state on Miss Zoe's test.
Off to Montana Lexigram zipped,
and he was thirsty,
he'd like some juice to sip.
Maybe there's a lively **cantina**
in Montana's capital . . .

Helena, Montana

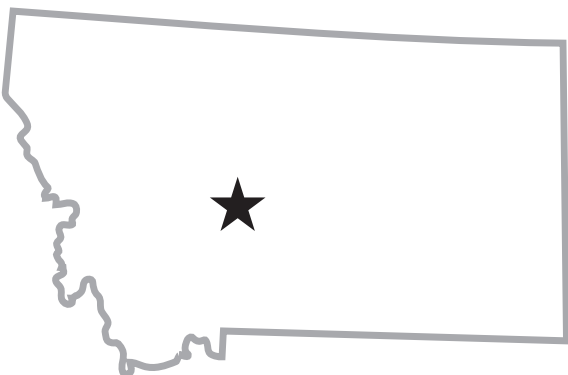


Lexigram continued to fly
until he reached Montana's "Big Sky."
He flew above the state's Great Plains,
straight into Rocky Mountain terrain.
He landed his ship on The Continental Divide,
a ridge in the Rockies, vast and wide.
Upon the ridge was Frontier Town.
In the town saloon, Lex sat down
and drank two fizzy sarsaparillas,
first a cherry, then a vanilla.
Lexigram found Helena's main road,
and down "Last Chance Gulch," he merrily strode.
On this spot, in days of old,
prospectors first discovered gold.
The street's now lined with cafes and boutiques.
In a cafe, he ordered liver with leeks.

Sightseeing was easy, Lexigram found
because Helena's a rather small town,
but its sights are wonderful to see.
Lex liked the Museum of the Historical Society.
The museum's murals tell the story
of the settling of Montana territory.
Lex climbed aboard the "Last Chance Tour Train,"
which departs from the museum, sunshine or rain.

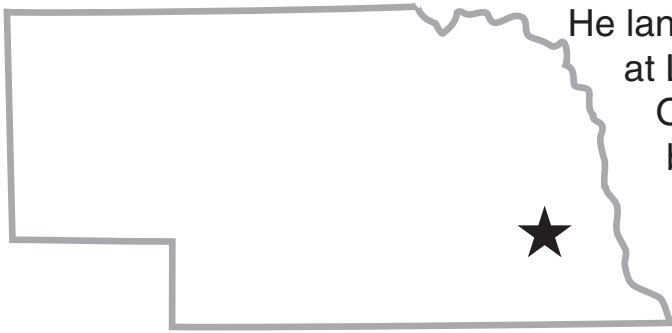
After the tour, Lex put on his coat
and boarded a Missouri River Cruise boat.
For "Gates of the Mountain" the boat embarked,
the famous gorge named by Lewis and Clark
during their expedition of 1805.
At Helena National Forest, the boat arrived.
Lexigram leaped onto the shore,

and took to the trails in boots that he wore.
As he hiked, he was quite impressed
with the forest's wildlife and wilderness.
He scrambled to heights covered in snow,
then skied back down to the town below.
Now, southeast he'll fly, and do his best
to find the 27th state on Miss Zoe's test.
The engine's roaring, the lights are
blinkin'—on to Nebraska's capital . . .



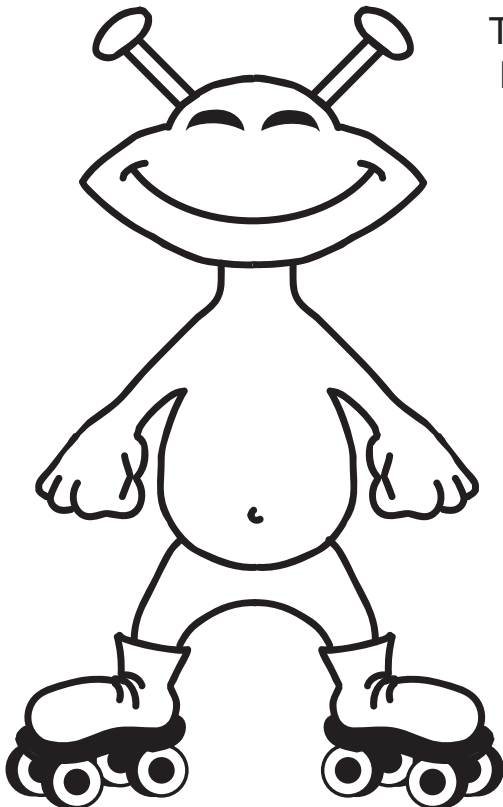
Lincoln, Nebraska

It didn't take long for Lex to locate
the capital of the "Cornhusker's State."



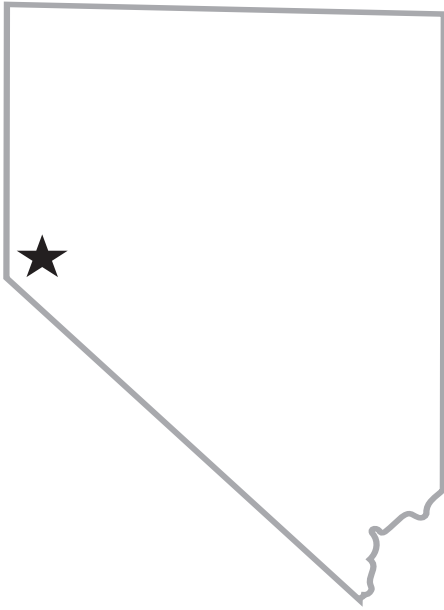
He landed his ship and disembarked
at Lincoln's spacious Antelope Park.
On the grass, Lex tumbled and rolled
before beginning his capital stroll.
Lincoln summers reach 80 degrees,
winter temperatures
dip below freezing,
and strolling in autumn
is a pleasant task.

Lexigram stopped at the University of Nebraska.
In the university museum, he saw scores
of Great Plains fossilized dinosaurs.
On the football field, he turned handstands
for the musical, marching, Cornhuskers Band.
He joined the cheers and celebrating,
then went to the National Museum of Roller Skating,
a museum Lex found extremely unique,
with costumes and skates that are antiques.
The sport of roller skating, in case you wondered,
began in the year seventeen hundred.



To make his Lincoln visit complete,
Lex ate a meal of corn, oats, and wheat,
a mixture of Nebraska's grains.
Next, he visited "The Tower on the Plains."
That is the Capitol's well-known nickname.
This impressive structure is acclaimed
as an architectural wonder of the world.
On red roller skates, Lexigram twirled
around the building, then went inside
and saw its praise was justified.
Now it was time to fly to the west,
to the next state on Miss Zoe's test.
He'll follow a **star** and the **sun**
to Nevada's capital **city** . . .

Carson City, Nevada



Lex flew swiftly, he didn't dally.
Soon, he was over Eagle Valley,
on the Sierra Nevada's eastern slopes,
where he spied Carson City through his telescope.
The city was rather small in size,
and the Capitol dome dazzled Lex's eyes,
a beautiful sight, this silver crown.
Lex landed his ship in the center of town.
The city pace wasn't hurried.
Lex toured the town in a horse-drawn surrey,
traveling under a clear blue sky.
Carson City is warm and dry;
up in the city's mountains though,
you'll find skiers enjoying the snow.

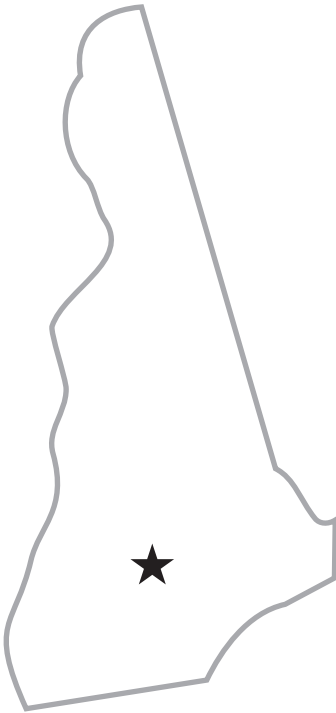
Lexigram exclaimed, "First-rate!"
at the Railroad Museum of Nevada State.
Dozens of freight cars, Lexigram scanned,
and steam locomotives that once ran
on the Virginia and Truckee line.
When he was finished, Lexigram dined
on scrambled eggs and sassafras tea.
He went to the Warren Engine Company
where the Number One Fire Museum is housed.
Among antique fire trucks, Lexigram browsed.

In the Nevada State Museum, Lexigram gazed
at memorabilia from the wild west days.
He learned about the brave pioneers
who rode in covered wagons across the frontier.
Under the building, dug into the ground,
a 300-foot mine tunnel, Lexigram found.
The tunnel's displays vividly showed
how miners worked on mineral lodes.
Lex's knees knocked when he looked around
the museum's replica of a Nevada ghost town.

Lexigram hurried back to his ship,
east to New Hampshire,
he'll zoom and zip.
Eagerly, he jumped **on board**,
bound for the city of . . .



Concord, New Hampshire



The sky was cloudless and brilliantly clear when Lex reached Concord in the fall of the year. Orange and yellow, mixed with bright green, the prettiest leaves Lex had ever seen. In winter, a blanket of snowy white will cover Concord day and night. In spring, the sun will warm the ground and tulips and daffodils will abound.

Lexigram lowered his ship until he landed with a bump on Rattlesnake Hill. It reminded Lex of Kazam's purple dunes. From this hill, boulders were hewn to build the Capitol of the Granite State in the city of Concord in 1808. The city's main business is government, Lexigram learned after he'd spent an hour at New Hampshire's Historical Society where he viewed the displays with propriety. One display, he curiously approached was the museum's authentic Concord Coach. These coaches once carried passengers and mail across America's roads and trails. From the museum Lex departed to view the exhibits of Concord's artists. At the New Hampshire Craftsmen's League, Lexigram shopped until he was fatigued. From a potter, he bought a clay pot, which he filled, for Miss Zoe, with apricots.



Lex was hungry, he needed to munch, so he went to a restaurant and ordered lunch: New Hampshire apples, baked in a pan. He ate three helpings of apple flan. After finishing the delicious dish, Lexigram wanted to catch a fish. In the Merrimack River, he cast his line, and on baked trout, Lexigram dined. Sated, he continued his quest. Back to his ship, his compass set southwest, to New Jersey's capital, Lex **went on** . . .

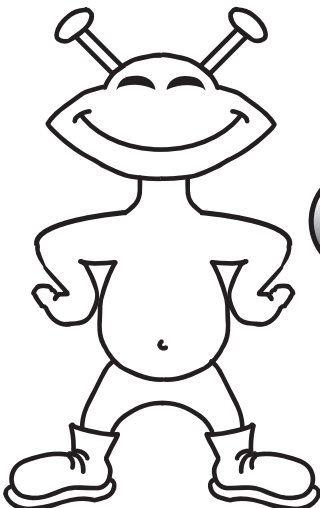
Trenton, New Jersey



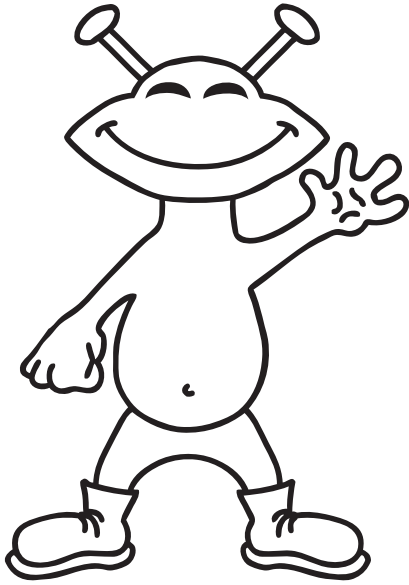
In a few minutes—exactly eight,
Lexigram entered the Garden State.
He pushed his brakes to the floor
and landed on the Delaware River's shore.
Trenton, the seat of state government,
has 400 manufacturing establishments.
Lexigram toured a rubber factory
and a plant that creates pottery.
Trenton's been famous for these two commodities
since the colonial days of American history.

The State Museum was Lex's next visit.
He studied the natural science exhibits.
He attended a lecture in the auditorium,
then scurried to the planetarium.
This planetarium duplicates
the motion of vehicles traveling in space.
Lexigram felt a bit homesick;
some more sightseeing would do the trick.

Old Barracks Museum re-creates the army life of 1758.
Lexigram eagerly joined a group
inspecting the buildings that housed British troops.
Lex left the barracks before it was dark,
to visit Washington Crossing State Park,
which commemorates the exact spot where—
Washington landed upon crossing the Delaware.
The park's Ferry House State Historic Site
sheltered Washington's troops on Christmas night.
The house is now a colonial inn,
and Lex smelled a wonderful scent from within.
Lexigram dined until he was stuffed,
on cranberry relish and blueberry muffins.
Back in his ship, he headed southwest
to the 31st state on Miss Zoe's test.
In New Mexico's capital, he'll **chant away** . . .



Santa Fe, New Mexico



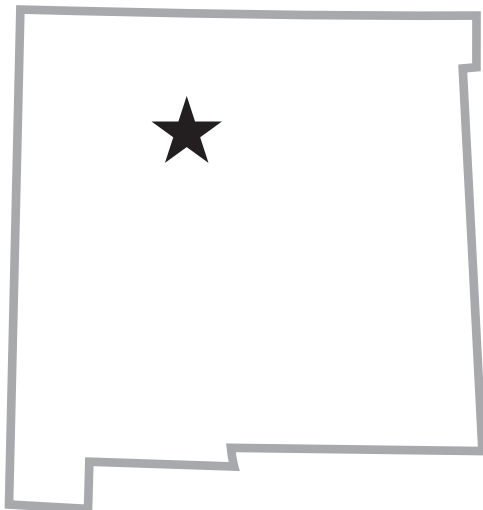
Over the Sangre de Cristo Mountain chain,
in a state, that once belonged to Spain,
Lexigram flew to “The Land Of Enchantment.”
He landed his ship, and made his encampment
at the base of the mountains in Santa Fe,
the oldest capital in the USA.
Because the altitude is very high,
the climate here is cool and dry.
The sky above him was blue and clear;
the sun shines here 300 days a year.



As Lexigram ambled into town,
he saw adobes, smooth and brown.
Santa Fe is the heart of Pueblo
Indian country.

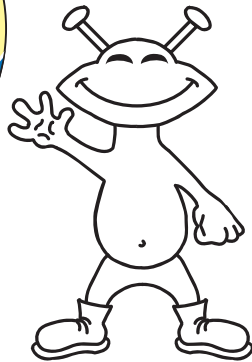
The Pueblos have been farmers for centuries
and crafters of paintings, of pottery,
of silver jewelry, and of intricate basketry.
A necklace made from bright kernels of corn,
Lexigram purchased to adorn
the long, lovely neck of Miss Zoe.
For himself, he bought a sombrero.
He put on his hat and leisurely strolled
to a site more than 300 years old.
The Santa Fe Plaza was built in 1610
where the Santa Fe Trail came to its end.
The plaza is often the scene of fiestas.
Lexigram took a half-hour siesta.

Feeling rested, he was ready to start
a tour of the city’s museums of art.



Lex admired the southwestern style
of thousands of paintings, carvings, and textiles.
Lexigram paused, rested his legs,
and fed his tummy with a large plate of eggs—
huevos rancheros, scrambled with beans
and cheese and hot peppers between.
His tummy aglow, he set down his fork,
went back to his ship and left for New York.
Northeast he flew; what **all can** he **see**
when he gets to the capital . . . ?

Albany, New York



Lexigram found the city of Albany
in the fertile Hudson River Valley.

This capital is the eastern terminal
of the famous Erie Canal.

He landed his ship with a loud clank
upon the river's western bank.
Lexigram made a note to report
that Albany is a thriving port,
a hub of business and transportation.
Lex viewed the scene
with a sense of elation;
he loved the excitement and the racket.

The air was cool, so he put on his jacket.

Winter brings snow to this capital city;
in spring and summer, the flowers are pretty,
especially on the Capitol grounds.

Up Capitol Hill Lexigram bounded.



Lex exclaimed, "Oh me, oh my,"
when he saw the Capitol, five stories high.
This massive rectangle, Lexigram guessed,
measured 400 feet from east to west,
and 300 feet from south to north.
Up the huge stairway, Lex set forth.
Inside were historic, elaborate carvings.
When he finished his tour, Lex was starving.
At an Albany diner, he took a break,
and gobbled up a New York strip steak.

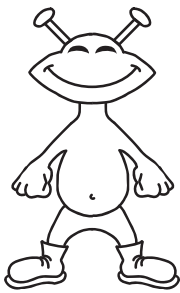
His next stop was the Empire State Plaza
where he snapped his fingers to real cool jazz.
Next, Lexigram followed a brochure
that took him on a historic homes tour.
He saw mansions built by Dutch hands
when New York was called "New Netherlands."

Now south to North Carolina, Lex will go.
What is the capital, do you know?
When Lex gets there, he'll be so **jolly** in . . .

Raleigh, North Carolina

The sun was bright, the weather was fine
as Lex flew into Raleigh, North Carolina.
This capital city is moderate in size,
and in electronics, Raleigh specializes.
Eager as a beaver, Lexigram embarked
for Raleigh's Research Triangle Park.
On 6,000 acres, more than 50 companies
border the "Triangle" universities:
N.C. State, Duke, and Chapel Hill.
Lexigram toured the park until
he'd seen the latest research developments.
Then he wished for something succulent.

Lexigram dined, until he was stuffed,
on hush puppies and whipped turnip puff.



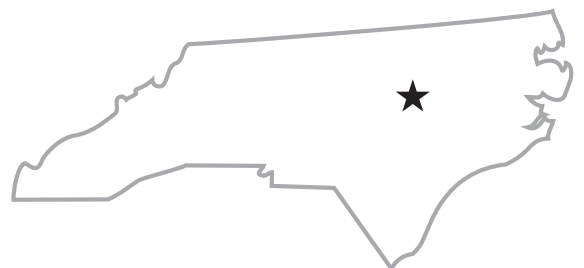
NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM



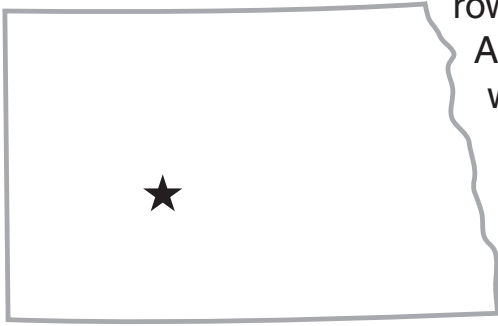
He whistled a tune,
as happy as a lark,
on his way to
Mordecai Historic Park.
In the park stands the residence
of Andrew Johnson,
the 17th president.

There's an old post office and a chapel.
In the park's garden, sunlight dappled
the multitude of flowers and herbs.
Lex declared the park "superb!"

Lexigram was completely enthralled
by the Natural Science Museum halls:
exhibits of fossils and mammals of the sea.
He went to the Museum of History
and viewed early American artifacts.
Back in his ship, Lex made tracks
for North Dakota, to the north and west,
the thirty-fourth state
on Miss Zoe's test.
To score a high
quiz mark,
he must find the
capital city . . .

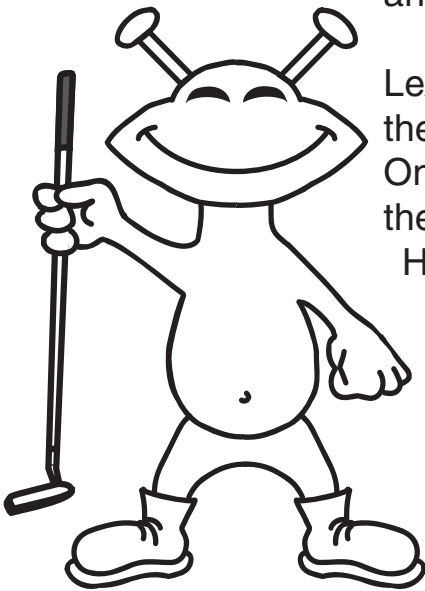


Bismarck, North Dakota



Lex crossed over fields of wheat,
rows of sunflowers and sugar beets.
A beautiful sight, which made him merry,
was Bismarck's "Skyscraper of the Prairies."
On the Capitol's top, 18 stories high,
Lex landed his ship as gracefully as a butterfly.
From the observation tower, Lex could see
gigantic farms beyond the city.
Below, he saw the Missouri River.
He got out of his ship and started to shiver.

Although the air wasn't quite freezing,
Lex put on his coat because it was breezy.
In winter, Bismarck has lots of snow,
and the temperature drops to 20 below.
In the spring, the cold weather stops,
and the sun shines brightly on the crops.



Lex toured the "Skyscraper" up stairs and down,
then he visited the Capitol grounds.
On the grounds, Lex happily entered
the North Dakota Heritage Center.
He learned of the prairies and the pioneers,
and the native Americans who first settled here.
Next, Lexigram ran, his legs in a scurry,
to Sertoma Park along the Missouri.
He played miniature golf, and slid down the slide.
He shouted, "Whoopee," on a rollercoaster ride.
For lunch, he ate fried cakes filled with meat
called *Fleisch Keichla*, a German treat.

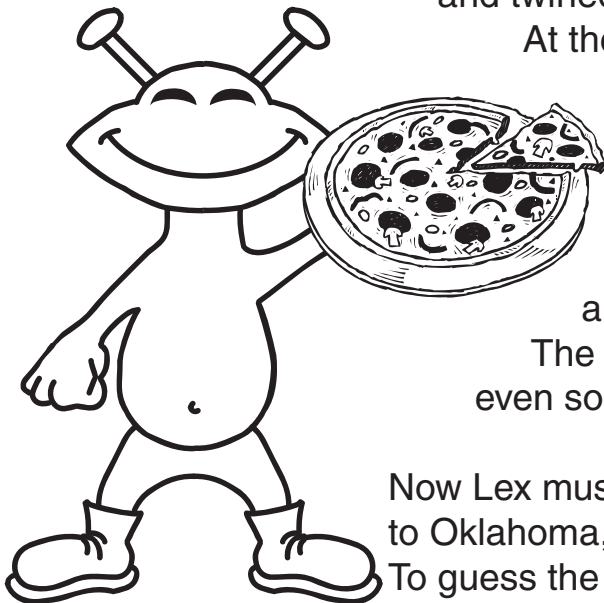
Before he left, Lex was allowed
to join in the United Tribes Pow-Wow.
The Bismarck Pow-Wow is a congregation
of native tribes from around the nation.
Crafts, food, dances, and songs,
he enjoyed them all; but he had to get along.
East, and a bit south, Lex will go
to reach the capital of Ohio.
He'll go in his ship,
he won't **go** on a **plum bus** to reach . . .

Columbus, Ohio



Above tree-lined streets, Lexigram flew,
over factories and parks, enjoying the view.
He zipped along through downtown,
and at the massive Capitol, he set his ship down.
He landed in a leafy buckeye tree,
and slid down the trunk, quick as a monkey.
The Capitol structure is Greek in design.
Lex thought the architecture especially refined.
Here he learned about Ohio's government;
Ohio's been home to eight U.S. presidents.
He learned that printing is a major industry,
and that Columbus has 13 universities.
In fact, it's a center for education.
The state flower is the scarlet carnation,
which grows in summer when Columbus is warm,
after the spring has brought rainstorms.

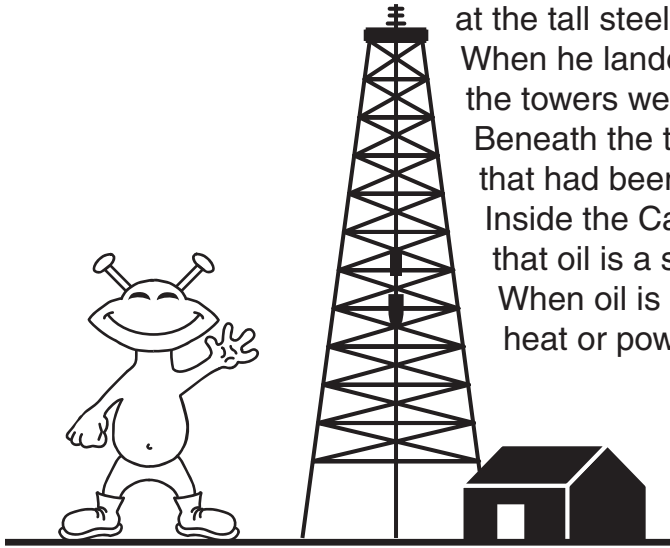
With a carnation in hand, Lexigram went
to explore the Ohio Historical Center.
Exploring the center, Lex came upon
the skeleton of a mastodon,
which made Lexigram a little upset
because it looked like his family pet.
Lex attended a matinee,
and twirled on his toes at the Columbus ballet.
At the Columbus Opera Company,
Lexigram cheered from the balcony.



So much in Columbus for Lex to see!
He ordered a deluxe pizza for three.
When he finished, he felt hunky-dory
and visited the Franklin Park Conservatory.
The conservatory houses exotic plants,
even some plants that eat ants.

Now Lex must set his compass southwest
to Oklahoma, the next state on Miss Zoe's test.
To guess the capital, you don't need to be witty,
just add to the **state name** one word: "**City.**"

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



Lexigram stared with curiosity
at the tall steel towers in Oklahoma City.
When he landed his ship, Lexigram found
the towers were also on Capitol grounds.
Beneath the towers were holes in the soil
that had been dug to bring up oil.
Inside the Capitol Lexigram learned
that oil is a substance which is burned.
When oil is burned, the process supplies
heat or power on which the country relies.

Lex drew the conclusion, logically,
that oil is the capital's major industry.

Lex sauntered along quite happily.
The autumn temperature was
62 degrees.

The weather here is generally warm,
and there are occasional thunderstorms.
Metro Concourse is a city underground,
a tunnel system that connects the downtown
with twenty blocks of offices and shops.
Through the Concourse, Lex hippity-hopped.
In the science center, "Omniplex,"
Lex talked to a computer named "Votrax."
When his conversation was through,
Lex went to the Oklahoma City Zoo.
There were birds as bright as Kazam berries
in the zoo's spacious aviaries.
In the herpetarium, Lex was all smiles,
watching the amphibians and the reptiles.
The Nocturnal Building wasn't bright;
it houses creatures that come out at night.

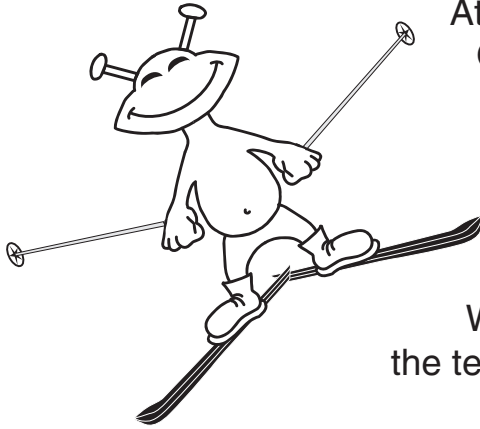
From the excitement, Lex sought relief,
so he ate two sandwiches of barbecued beef.
Back in his ship, his course set northwest,
he left for the next state on the test.
Lex hopes his
compass won't
fail him,
he needs to reach
Oregon's capital . . .



Salem, Oregon

In the Willamette Valley Salem stood,
a city that produces a lot of wood,
fruits, vegetables, and golden wheat.
Salem is extremely popular with athletes.

There are lakes for swimming, paths for hiking,
slopes for skiing, and trails for biking.



At the gold-domed Capitol, Lex's tour began.
On top of its tower is a gigantic man,
a 42-foot statue named "Pioneer,"
symbolic of the founders who settled here.
As he walked, he put on a sweater.
He thought Salem's weather
couldn't be better.

Winter, spring, summer, or fall,
the temperature doesn't vary much at all.

Mission Mill Village preserves the ways
of the capital city of earlier days.

Through the village, Lexigram wandered,
visiting homes built in the 1800s.

Soon he came upon a sign:

"Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, 1869."

Inside were exhibits of the wool industry,
and water-powered textile machinery.

He watched a demonstration in which raw fleece
was made into a woolen masterpiece.

Lexigram felt hungry, he needed a snack.

At a Salem diner, he ordered baked mackerel,
and pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream.

He went to a spot with a fairyland theme.

To Salem's Enchanted Forest Lex climbed.

He thought the place was definitely sublime.

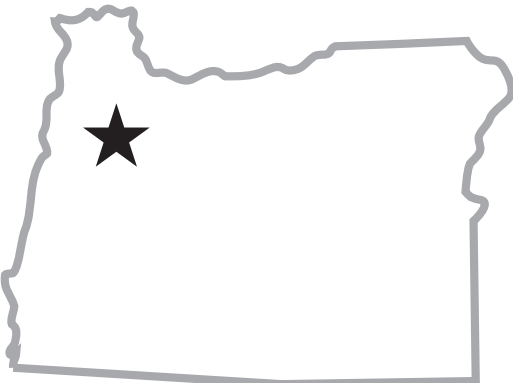
In the forest was an old mining town
with old mining cars going up and down.

Lex was timid as a mouse,
entering the forest's haunted house.

Then down Ice Mountain Lexigram sped
riding on a red bobsled.

Now it was time for Lex to go
to the next state assigned by Miss Zoe.

Will he find the **fairest burg**
in Pennsylvania's capital . . . ?



Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

On the Susquehanna River, Lexigram saw
a magnificent Capitol that filled him with awe.

The stately Capitol's huge golden dome
imitates that of Saint Peter's in Rome.

He landed his ship by the imposing edifice,
located in the heart of a busy metropolis.

He got out of his ship, and began his trek
over the 45-acre complex.

He learned that Harrisburg is quite diverse
in politics, industry, and commerce.

The State Museum on the Capitol grounds
is a six-story building, large and round,
which houses various galleries
and exhibits of Pennsylvania's geology.

As he walked down Capitol Hill,
Lexigram felt a bit of a chill.

In the fall and the spring, the weather is cool.

Harrisburg summer's are warm as a rule.

In the winter there may be snow.

Lex got in a boat and began to row.

Around his neck, he tied a bandanna
and rowed to the middle of the

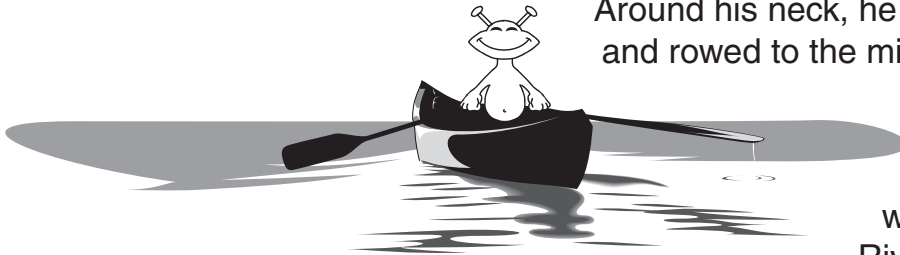
Susquehanna,

to "City Island,"

a great playground,

where the famous

Riverside Stadium is found.



Lex realized how hungry he'd gotten.

He went to a restaurant and ordered sauerbraten
with a side of red cabbage and shoofly pie.

Afterward, he went to the countryside.

He skipped along and followed a lark
to Harrisburg's Fort Hunter Park.

He roved among historic buttonwood trees
planted by farmers in the 18th century.

He walked carefully so he wouldn't disturb
the lovely gardens of boxwood and herb.

His visit to Harrisburg was first rate,

but it was time to leave for the next state.

It will be a short trip, and Lex has **confidence**
that he'll find Rhode Island's capital . . .

Providence, Rhode Island

Lex followed the Atlantic into Narragansett Bay
to Rhode Island, the smallest state in the USA.

Providence, Lexigram would report,
is a modern city and a deep-water port.

He landed his ship, smooth as could be
on Providence's "Mile Of History,"

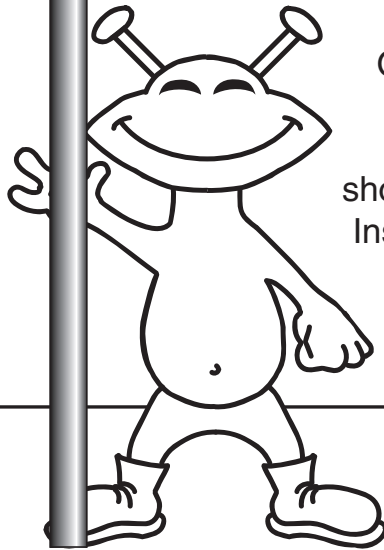
one of the oldest streets in the country,
featuring homes built in the 17th century.

Lex zipped his jacket and buttoned his sleeves
as he crunched through the colorful leaves.

An autumn wind began to blow,
which soon would bring white, fluffy snow.



← MILE OF HISTORY →



On top of Smith Hill, Lexigram lolled,
admiring Rhode Island's grand Capitol.

Its marble dome of gleaming white
shone like a beacon in the sunlight.

Inside, Lex saw works of art,
including the original parchment charter
granted by King Charles in 1663.

Next, Lex visited Brown University,
the seventh oldest university
in the nation
where French and
American troops were stationed
during America's Revolutionary War.
Lex walked to the
Providence River shore.

Here, he had the distinct privilege
to stand upon the world's widest bridge.
Crawford Street Bridge, 1,147 feet wide,
connects Providence's east and west sides.



Lexigram chirped, "This is wonderful!"
at the October Harvest festival.

He stomped his feet and clapped his hands
for the singers and for the bands.

He ate clam chowder with a slice of bread,
and custard made with eggs laid by Rhode Island Reds.

Lex thought his meal couldn't have been finer.

Now it was time to leave for South Carolina.

He won't hitchhike, won't **go** stick out his **thumbia**.

He'll fly in his ship to the capital . . .

Columbia, South Carolina



Lexigram welcomed the balmy heat
as he stepped onto Columbia's shady streets.
For historic mansions, the city is known,
and for fragrant flowers as sweet as cologne.
Flowers can grow here all year round
because you'll rarely see snow on the ground.
Lexigram continued to stroll
until he reached the Capitol,
one of the most beautiful on the planet,
with giant columns made from blue granite.

When his tour of the Capitol was done,

Lex visited a campus built in 1801.

The University of South Carolina—S.U.,
has a campus shaped like a horseshoe.

McKissick Museum is at its head.

"Such an interesting museum," Lexigram said.

Inside, he made a close inspection
of the silver, gemstone, and doll collections.

He thought he could write a composition
on the "Movietonenews" film exhibition.

There are no movies on the planet Kazam;
the entertainment is made of holograms.

The sun was so hot, Lex put on a hat
and went to a zoo with natural habitats.

At Riverbanks Zoological Park,

Lexigram waved to a friendly aardvark.

He watched the penguin and sea lion feedings.

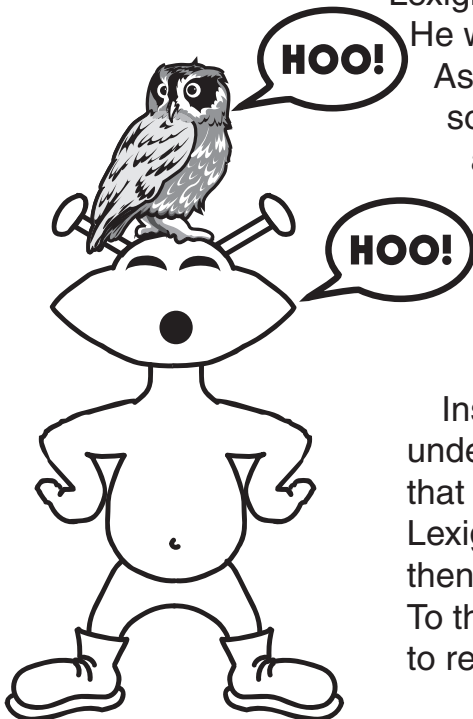
As he watched, his stomach started pleading,
so he ate some grits and buttered lima beans,
and when he was through, he licked the plate clean.

Feeling full, happy, and content,

Lex went to Congaree Swamp National Monument,
a virgin swamp comprised of hardwoods,
one-hundred and sixty feet high some stood:
loblolly pine, bald cypress, black oak.

Insects hummed and froggies croaked
under a canopy so thick and tight
that the owls hooted in broad daylight.
Lexigram answered, "Hoo, hoo, to you,"
then went back to his ship, and off he flew.

To the northwest, Lex will **steer**
to reach South Dakota's capital . . .



Pierre, South Dakota

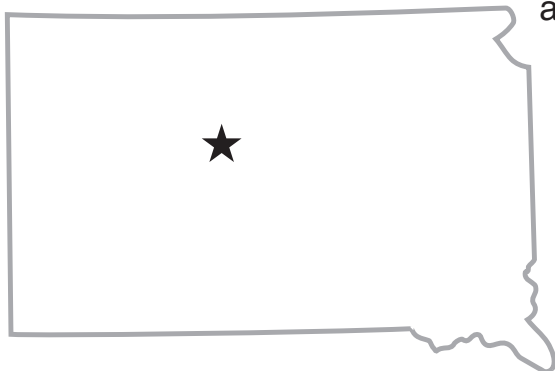
Oops! Lex overshot his mark
and landed in Badlands National Park.
Lex saw nothing “bad” about the land,
miles of rock and grains of sand
rounded and sculpted by wind and rain,
very much like Kazam’s terrain.

He saw the state animal of South Dakota,
an expert singer, the shy coyote.



Lex traveled on to the capital, Pierre.
The sun was shining bright and clear.
Summers bring hot and dry breezes.
Winters bring snow in freezing degrees,
so it’s best to wear a coat and a muff.

Lex spied the Capitol high on a bluff
overlooking the Missouri River and its basin.
Up the Capitol bluff, Lex hastened.
In the sunlight, the building shone,
soft colors created from raindrop sandstone.
Inside was a view Lex thought unsurpassed,
as sun poured through the dome’s stained glass.
After his tour, Lex took a break;
he jumped into Capitol Lake,
a lake fed by warm artesian wells.
After his swim, Lex set a spell



and dried off with a fluffy towel
while watching the graceful waterfowl.
Lexigram walked across the way
to view the Robinson Museum’s displays.
He learned of the Indians and buffalo
that lived in Pierre many years ago.

The final stop for Lexigram
was the impressive Oahe Dam.

The dam supplies power to Pierre,
and is run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
Lexigram knew he’d want to munch,
so he’d brought along a picnic lunch:
sandwiches of peanut butter and jelly.
He gobbled them up and patted his belly.
Back in his ship, southeast he’ll **dash ‘til**,
he reaches Tennessee’s capital . . .

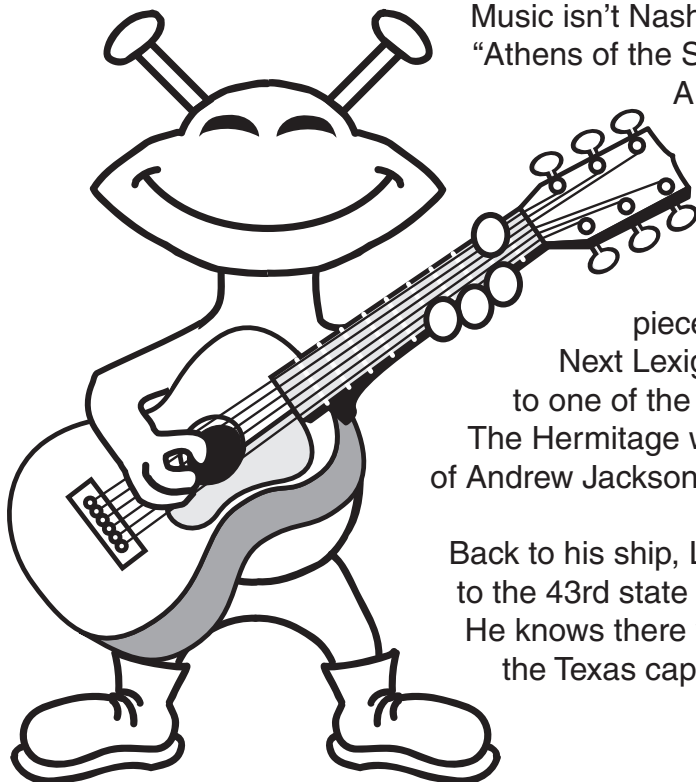
Nashville, Tennessee



Lex heard guitars being sweetly played
as he flew into "Music City, USA."
Nashville's Country Music
Month is October.

Lex landed as happy as a bee in clover.
Summer, fall, winter, or spring,
Nashville's pleasant weather is inspiring.

Lexigram clicked his heels with glee
and dashed over to the Grand Old Opry,
the world's longest-running live radio show.
Lex saw guitars, fiddles, and banjos
played by country music's best.
Lexigram's feet just couldn't rest.
He scampered to a Nashville landmark,
Opryland, an entertainment showpark.
Lex put on his blue suede shoes,
and danced to the bands
playing rhythm and blues,
country music, jazz, and rock 'n roll.
When the music stopped, he took a stroll.
Lexigram stared, goggle-eyed
at Opryland's fantastic thrill rides.
He rode the Delta Demon and the Tennessee Waltz,
and slurped down two very cherry malts.



Music isn't Nashville's only claim to fame,
"Athens of the South," is its other nickname.

A center for learning, Miss Zoe would agree,
Nashville has 16 universities.

Lex walked until he came upon
the white and shining "Parthenon,"
a replica of the temple in Greece.

He thought the Parthenon was a master-
piece.

Next Lexigram followed signs
to one of the country's most beautiful shrines.
The Hermitage was the estate and residence
of Andrew Jackson, the nation's seventh president.

Back to his ship, Lex headed southwest
to the 43rd state on Miss Zoe's test.
He knows there won't be any **frost in**
the Texas capital city of . . .

Austin, Texas



"I've heard everything in Texas is big,"

Lex said as he landed his whirligig.

The very first thing to catch his eye

was a huge dome towering in the sky.

Lexigram walked to the location
of the largest state Capitol in the nation.

Built of pink Texas granite in 1888,
it stood 311 feet high, Lex calculated.

Over Texas, six flags have flown,
a history depicted in terrazzo stone
in the colorful Capitol's first floor.

Lex didn't stop there, he had to explore.

Throughout the three stories, Lexigram went,
learning about Texas' government.

He also learned that Austin's economy
is enriched by electronics companies,
research, science, and education, too.

Lexigram walked along the city avenues

where he was entertained by street performers,

the sun was bright and the air grew warmer.

In the summer, Austin is hot!

Lexigram looked for a dining spot.

Seated at a table, he put on a bib,

and ordered a slab of Texas ribs.

Lex thought Austin was fine as could be.

He visited its famous university.

There he browsed to his heart's content
through buildings dedicated
to the 36th president.

At the museum and library
that honor LBJ,

Lex saw presidential
memorabilia on display.

Next, he bought a box of popcorn
and watched the skill of the Texas Longhorns

at Memorial Stadium's gridiron—what a sight!

Everywhere, Lex saw orange and white,
and heard a sound that shook the earth:

the band's bass drum, called "Big Bertha."

Then back to his ship, his course set northwest,
he flew toward the next state on Miss Zoe's test.

Lexigram doesn't want to be rude,
but he hopes Utah's capital has good food.

He hopes there's a **malt cake** in the **city** of . . .



Salt Lake City, Utah

Flying over Utah, Lex didn't see cakes,
but he *did* see a vast inland lake.

He landed his ship
on the lake's southern shore.

On the Great Salt Lake,
Lex doesn't need oars.

He doesn't need a raft or a boat.

He dove in the water and simply floated.

After Lexigram's swim was through,
toward the capital city he flew.

He landed his ship at Temple Square,
designed by the Mormons
who settled there.

He followed a big, exquisite sound;
in the Tabernacle Lexigram found

a tremendous organ with 12,000 pipes.

Lexigram merely whispered "Yipes,"
but because the acoustics are so fine,
he could be heard in row ninety-nine.

Lex left quietly, on tippy-toe.

There were still many places to go.

Lexigram turned his eyes to the sky,
and saw the Capitol standing high.

The Capitol dome was quite a whopper.

Lex learned it's covered in Utah copper.

Inside, from the dome's large sphere,
hung a gigantic chandelier.

Looking up, Lex's senses were reeling;
huge sea gulls were painted on the dome's ceiling.

The sea gull is revered in this state
because of the cricket plague of 1848.

When crops were gnawed from field to thicket,
sea gulls flew in and ate all the crickets.

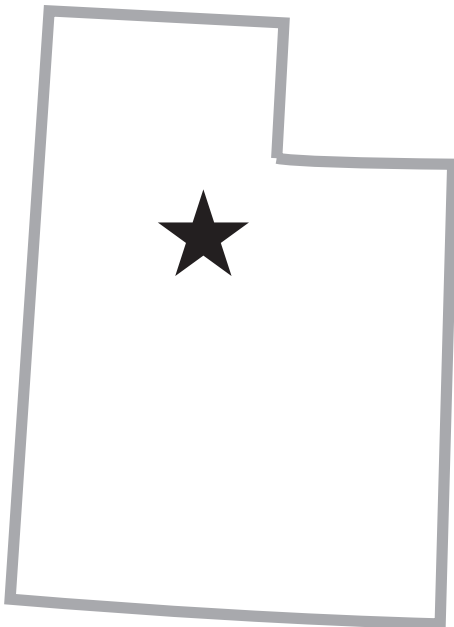
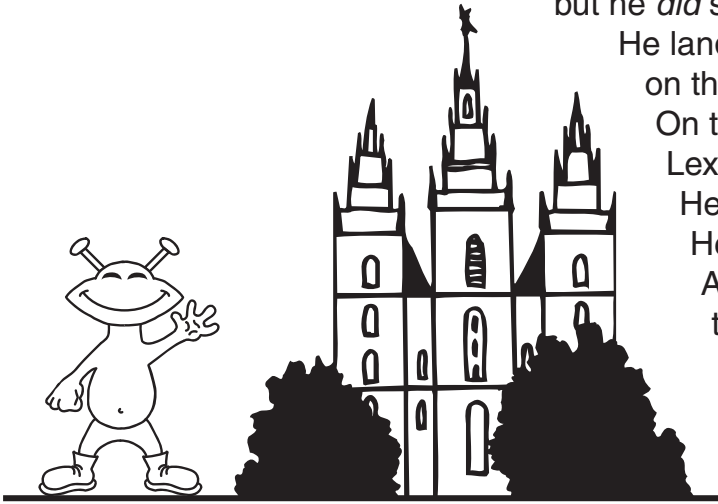
Thinking of food made Lex feel daffy,
so he bought some luscious salt water taffy.

Now Lex was ready for some sport,
and east of city were ski resorts:
Deer Valley, Snowbird, and Park West.

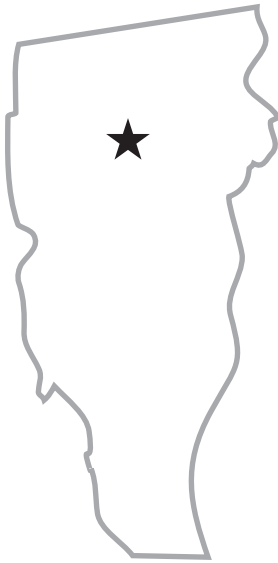
Lexigram put on an eider down vest
and skied the canyons like a pro,
then went to his ship, it was time to go.

Eastward through the sky Lex flew
to Vermont, his next rendezvous.

In the capital, he'll eat an apple,
but he won't **want** the **peeler** in . . .



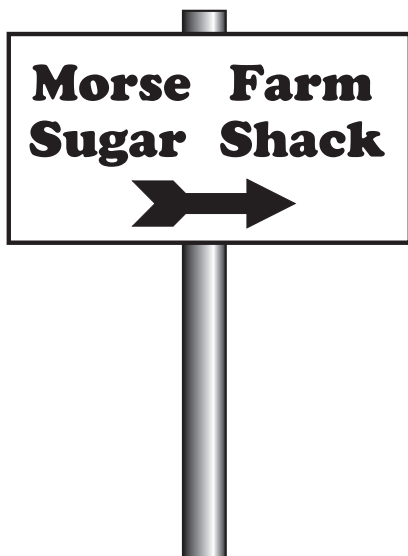
Montpelier, Vermont



Montpelier has the smallest population
of all the capitals in the nation.
Lex liked the quiet, unhurried pace;
he thought the city was a beautiful place.
There were autumn leaves of orange and gold.
He turned up his collar against the cold.
The winter will bring several inches of snow,
but the sun will return and the flowers will grow.

Along Montpelier's streets Lex roamed
until he reached the Capitol's gold dome.
Crossing the lobby's black and white floor,
Lexigram toured from door to door.
When he'd finished his Capitol visit,
he viewed the Kent Tavern Museum's exhibits.
Kent Tavern was once a stagecoach stop,
now it's a village where farmers grow crops
the way they were grown many years ago.
Lex patted orange pumpkins all in a row.
He sniffed the air and quickly made tracks
towards the Morse Farm Sugar Shack.
The farm was in a rustic glade of sugar maple
from which syrup is made.
Lexigram learned how the trees are "tapped,"
and he saw the large pail that gathers the sap.
The pails are poured into tanks, of course,
and taken to the sugar house by tractor or horse.
There, the sap is boiled to the right consistency for syrup,
and poured into molds, which are handy,
to make delicious maple sugar candy.
Lexigram couldn't choose between
maple baked ham or maple baked beans.

So a bite of each he put into his mouth,
thanked his hosts, and headed south.
To the beautiful Virginia Lex must go,
but which city is the capital,
how will he know?
Miss Zoe could surely tell him
which one . . .



Richmond, Virginia



Lex didn't need a map at all
to find Virginia's capital.

He flew over the Chesapeake Bay,
followed the James River's winding way
to Richmond, the seat of state government,
a city of skyscrapers and monuments.

He landed his ship, the weather was sunny,
and off Lex hopped, quick like a bunny.

Richmond is a city rich in history.

At the Museum of the Confederacy,

Lex saw an extensive Confederate collection:
documents, belongings, and uniforms for inspection.

Richmond has many museums, you should know.

Lex toured the museum of Edgar Allan Poe.

This interesting museum is a haven
in memory of the man who wrote "The Raven."

Lex saw a sundial big enough for giants
at the Virginia Museum of Science.

On his toes, Lexigram twirled

in the museum's Crystal World.

He viewed the exhibits, one by one,
and went to James River Park
when he was done.

After canoeing and hopscotching,
Lexigram spent hours bird-watching.

He fished in the river with rod and lure.

Then Lex went on a plantation tour.

He admired Virginia House and Agecroft Hall
where he was greeted with, "Welcome, y'all."



Lexigram walked until he arrived
at the Capitol built in 1785.

The Capitol's design was an accomplishment
of Thomas Jefferson, America's third president.

The tour of the building was inspiring,
but afterward, Lex was tiring.

He went outside, stretched, and yawned,
and ate his lunch on the Capitol lawn—
a sandwich of Virginia baked ham.

Back in his ship, time to scram
to the 47th state on Miss Zoe's test,
Forested Washington, far to the west.

Lexigram said, "I hope there's lot of
shrimp-ia for me to eat in . . .

Olympia, Washington

From the Atlantic to the Pacific
Lexigram flew, his speed was terrific.
At the south end of Puget Sound,

Washington's capital Lexigram found.

Lexigram thought it was his duty
to make a note on Olympia's beauty.

The Olympic Mountains

filled the skyline,

capped in snow and green with pine.

The city's as well-groomed as a resort,
and boats dock in its deep-water port.

When Lexigram got out of his ship,
over his head a sweater he slipped.

Olympia's weather is quite pleasing;
the climate varies only 20 degrees.

The average temperature is 52.

Lex strolled down Olympia's avenues.

He learned that the capital's livelihood
is enhanced by products of wood,
and from tourists who come from far and near
to admire the natural beauty here.

The Capitol's dome rose high in the air.

Lex knew the view would be great from there.

When he reached the top, Lex cheered,
"Mounts Baker, Adams, St. Helens, and Rainier."

Next, Lexigram went to South Puget Sound,
the only place Olympia oysters are found.

Lex wore his tennis shoes as he tread
through the lovely, muddy oyster beds.

In a bucket, he gathered a bunch.

Can you guess what he ate for lunch?

Olympia National Forest was Lex's last stop.

Up the tree-covered slopes he hopped.

He thought the scenery was supreme:

winding ridges and rippling streams,

and in thick stands of Douglas Fir
roamed enormous Roosevelt Elk herds.

With wonder, he watched the stately beasts.

Back in his ship, he set his course east.

To West Virginia his space **car'll run**
to the capital city . . .



Charleston, West Virginia



“Where to land?” Lexigram asked
as over West Virginia he passed.
Charleston’s countryside was filled
with rugged mountains and rolling hills.
He landed his ship, he wasn’t afraid,
at the august Capitol’s esplanade,
which is a walkway along a shore.
Below him, the Kanawha River roared.
For its classic style, the Capitol’s well known,
a Renaissance building made of limestone.
Lex toured the structure up stairs and down,
then walked into Charleston’s downtown.
From an old-fashioned trolley,
Lex saw the sights along brick streets
lit by vintage lamplights,
enjoying the weather, warm and clear,
autumn is the driest time of the year.

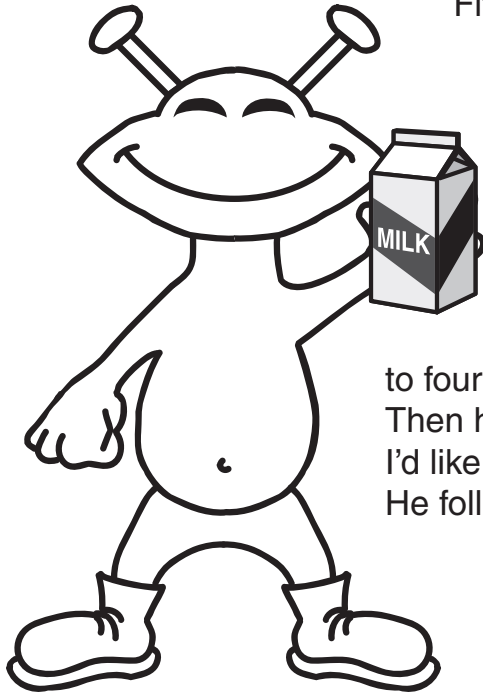
Lex got off the trolley and took a stroll
along the river’s grassy knolls.
While playing a jumping game with frogs,
he came upon a house built of logs.
The Ruffner Log House in Daniel Boone Park
is a famous West Virginia landmark,
recalling the days when the river was lined with men
and machinery working salt mines.
Before refrigerators, salt preserved
the meats that pioneers once served.
Now that food was on his mind,
Lex ate a bag of salt pork rinds.



The next attraction Lex wished to see
was a Charleston glass factory.
West Virginia is famous for its glass;
the craftsmanship is unsurpassed.
Lexigram bought a vase for Miss Zoe
and returned to his ship, time to go
to Wisconsin, the next state
on the test,
he’ll fly north and then fly west.
In “America’s Dairyland” state,
Lexigram will watch his weight.
He doesn’t want to **add a ton** in . . .

Madison, Wisconsin

Lexigram said, "For goodness sakes,
Wisconsin has so many lakes!"



Fifteen thousand winked in the sunlight,
beckoning Lexigram down from his flight.

Nearing Madison, Lexigram spied
barns and pastures dotting the countryside,
a sight he found so thoroughly charming,
he landed his ship at a dairy farm.

In agriculture, Wisconsin leads the way;
its dairy herd's the largest in the USA.

Lexigram mooed a gracious "How now?"

to four black and white Holstein cows.

Then he asked, "If you please,
I'd like to have a bit of cheese."

He followed them into the barn and learned
that milk becomes butter when it's churned,
and milk becomes cheese only when
it's poured into a mold and allowed to ripen.

Then toward Madison Lexigram flew
until the Capitol came into view.

He landed on the observation platform.

He put on a sweater to keep himself warm.

The temperature was 45 degrees.

Madison's winters are cold and freezing,
even the spring and summer are not
uncomfortably warm or terribly hot.

From the platform Lex could see
three lakes and a university.

When his tour of the Capitol ended,
on the Historical Museum Lex descended.

He saw exhibits that explained
the prehistoric Wisconsin terrain
where the natives lived in natural harmony
as depicted in the "Indian Gallery."

Lex also learned the circumstances
of voyageurs coming to Wisconsin from France.

As much as he enjoyed his roaming,
Lex had to leave for the semi-desert Wyoming.

He got in his ship and headed west
for the 50th and last state on the test.

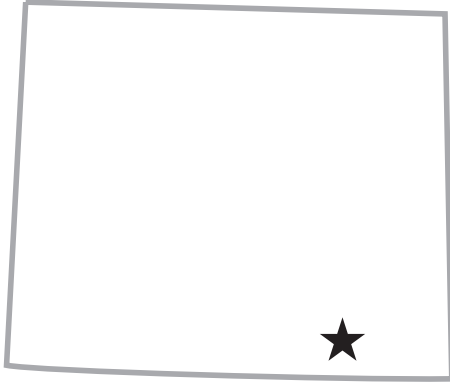
Will he find the capital?

Lex said, "Sure **I can** find . . ."



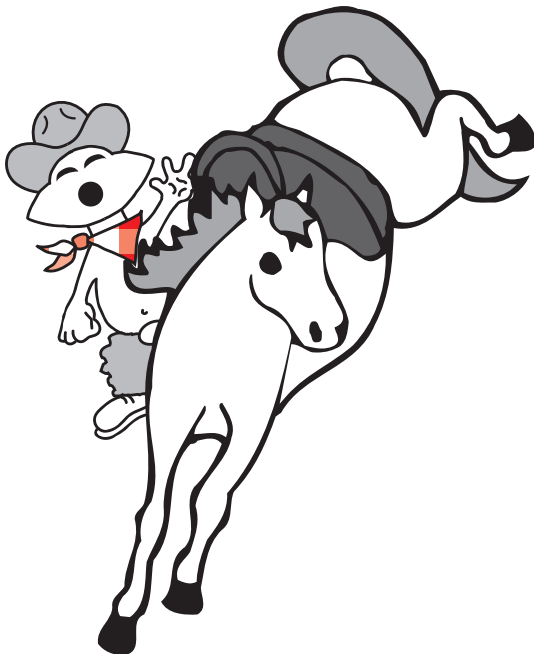
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Lexigram could hardly wait
to see the capital of the Cowboy State.
He knew that he was getting near
when he saw ranches thick with steer,
and miles of fences used to keep
flocks of grazing woolly sheep.
When in Cheyenne Lex arrived,
he saw the city was small in size



compared to the state's wide open places.
To the final splendid Capitol, Lex raced.
Beneath the dome, in a circular hall,
Lexigram stood, quiet and small,
in the mellow light of cathedral glass,
then into the east hall Lexigram passed.
In this hall, and the west hall too,
hung large murals for public view.
They depicted Wyoming's history,
the coal, timber, and oil industries,
and transportation since pioneer days.
Lexigram thought they were fine displays.

To Frontier Park, with a hearty "heigh-ho,"
Lexigram ran to join the rodeo.
He pulled his jacket close to his skin
to keep the chill from getting in.
Cheyenne's winters are bitterly cold,
and in the summer, the temperature holds



at approximately sixty-six degrees.
Lex strapped chaps around his knees.
Arriving at the park, he was overjoyed,
watching the skill of true cowboys.
On beautiful horses the cowboys straddled,
some rode bareback, some used a saddle.
They said, "Gid-ap," and hollered, "Whoa,"
and swung thin ropes they call "lasso."
Lex should've known better, but he tried
to be a cowboy on a bucking bronco ride.
Later, he sat on a soft pillow
while eating a slurpy sloppy joe.
The perfect ending to a perfect day,
now Lex must say goodbye to the USA.

Lexigram Leaves

Lexigram returned to his ship.
Now he will begin his trip
back to his home planet, Kazam,
and take Miss Zoe's geography exam.
He'd visited each capital on the list,
so up he soared through Earth's blue mist.



*"Goodbye, American children.
You treated me so well!"*



Happily, Lexigram sped with a smile,
traveling millions of interstellar miles,
past Mars, Jupiter, Uranus,
Neptune, and Pluto,
just as fast as his
engines would go.

At last, he spied the
nine notorious moons
and Kazam's
pulsing purple dunes.
He landed his ship,
with a sense of pride;
Miss Zoe and his

classmates were waiting outside.
"Here's a sample of Earth cuisine,"
Lex said, and handed out jellybeans.
Miss Zoe gave Lex a fond embrace
in appreciation of the lovely vase,
the necklace, and the nugget of gold.
They went inside and Lexigram told
them everything about his quest,
then he sat down to Miss Zoe's test.

How did Lexigram do?
Miss Zoe said, "Fabulous,"
and marked his exam with a red . . .

A+

MONTGOMERY

ALABAMA

Exercise page: MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Planning your group presentation

1. Examine the Research Items below. They contain persons, places, events, music, pictures you can research.
2. Your group leader will divide the items among your members.
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5. Work with your leader and your group members to plan and make your group presentation. Fill out your plan on the PLANNING YOUR PRESENTATION outline.
6. Your group can come up with other Research Items on your own.
7. Remember to use your imagination. Do not just read or speak to your class. You can also show illustrations you have drawn. You can also play or sing music. You may even wish to dance.
8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Montgomery was the Confederacy's first capital. The Confederacy was a league of states that seceded from the United States in 1860-61. Report on the formation of the Confederacy League.
2. Before the Civil War, Montgomery was a great cotton market. Report on the cotton plant and its importance in early America.
3. Jefferson Davis was the first and only president of the Confederacy. Report on the life of Jefferson Davis and his wife.
4. In Montgomery, "Dixie" was set to music by Dan Emmett in 1859, and it became the battle song of the Confederacy. What does the term "Dixie" mean? Explain and sing the song for your class. And oh yes, could one or more of you dance an appropriate dance?

Exercise page: JUNEAU, ALASKA

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Research Items

1. Lexigram saw glaciers in Juneau. What is a glacier? How is a glacier formed? Report on Alaska's glaciers.
2. In Juneau, Lex saw an American Bald Eagle. Because Alaska is our largest state and has many vast natural habitats for animals, it is abundant in wildlife. Report on the American Bald Eagle and other wildlife Lexigram may have seen in Juneau.
3. While in Juneau, Lexigram saw mining complexes. You are a Juneau miner. Since miners in Alaska mine several minerals, choose which type of mine you work. Describe your work to your classmates.
4. Lexigram saw gifts made by native Alaskans. Alaska's native tribes include Eskimo, Aleut, Athapaskan, Tlingit, and Haida. Report on one of these tribes.
5. In Juneau, Lex caught a big fish. Chinook salmon is a prize catch in Juneau. Give a report on Juneau's fishing industry.
6. Lexigram observed the "Midnight Sun." Explain to your class this phenomenon and how/why it occurs in Juneau.

Exercise Page: PHOENIX, ARIZONA

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Research Items

1. Phoenix's known history began about 300 BC when the Hohokam tribe started irrigation farming in the area. When the present city was founded in 1871, the settlers decided to name the city after the mythological phoenix bird. Why did they choose this name? Explain their choice to your class and tell them the legend of the phoenix.
2. In Phoenix, Lex saw several buildings made from adobe. Your team are Phoenix architects who build adobe houses. Explain to your class how you make an adobe structure.
3. Lexigram learned that he can't climb a cactus plant. Give a report on cactus native to Phoenix. Do cactus plants grow flowers? Describe the plant, show pictures; maybe someone you know has a small cactus. How are cacti used for the benefit of humans?
4. Phoenix has a culture influenced by its native tribes. Tonto National Monument, east of Phoenix, preserves prehistoric cliff dwellings. Report on the tribes that lived in these cliff dwellings thousands of years ago.
5. Lexigram ate pinto beans and sopapilla in Phoenix. Prepare dishes that would be served in Phoenix and explain the ethnic history of these foods.

LITTLE ROCK

ARKANSAS

Exercise Page: LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

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Research Items

1. Lexigram toured Little Rock's capitol, which has many special features. Give a report to your class on this unique building.
2. In Little Rock, Lex visited the Old Grist Mill. Explain to your class how the grist mill is operated.
3. *The Arkansas Gazette* has an interesting history. Give a report to Lexigram and your classmates on *The Arkansas Gazette* newspaper.
4. Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park is located a short distance from Little Rock. This park is the site of one of the largest and most complex prehistoric native American settlements in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Several mounds and a remnant of the embankment are still visible. Report on how archaeologists work on mounds. Ask your class how they feel about the uncovering of ancient mounds versus the potential contribution to history.
5. Are you a member of 4-H or Future Farmers of America? If you have taken part in a livestock exhibition, tell your class about your experience. Make them feel as if they are present at an exhibition. What are the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes? *If you are not a member, imagine that you are!*

SACRAMENTO

CALIFORNIA

Exercise page: SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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Research Items

1. The historic buildings of Old Sacramento are restored to the 1850–1870 period of the Pony Express, the arrival of the Central Pacific Railroad, and the gold rush. Your team works for the Pony Express in 1860. You ride into Sacramento. Tell your class what your team sees and does when they arrive.
2. While in Sacramento, Lex visited the California State Railroad Museum. Give a report on one of the following:
 - a. The history of the Central Pacific Railroad, the world's first transcontinental railroad.
 - b. The people who contributed to the building and maintenance of America's railroads.
 - c. Describe the locomotives, coach cars, and private cars from the golden age of railroads. Compare them to today's trains.
3. Lexigram toured an almond factory in Sacramento at the California Almond Growers Exchange. Report on the almond; bring some into class to show the various ways almonds are prepared. Have you ever eaten marzipan? It's candy made from almond paste. I'm sure Lexigram would like it.
4. Sacramento was a fort in 1839. A decade later it became the gateway to the Gold Rush. Report on Sacramento's Gold Rush.

DENVER

COLORADO

Exercise page: DENVER, COLORADO

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. On the 13th step of Denver's capitol is a plaque marking the mile-high point. The dome of the capitol is covered in 24-carat gold. This building has interesting features. Report on the Denver state capitol.
2. Mintage is the process by which metal money is coined by a government. A mint is a place where coins are manufactured. Denver is home of one United State's mint; three other US cities have mints. Report on the Denver Mint and explain the process of mintage.
3. William "Buffalo Bill" Cody and "The Unsinkable" Molly Brown are two historic figures in Denver history. Both have museums dedicated to them in Denver. Pick two members of your team to play the roles of Bill and Molly. Bill can wear a cowboy hat, a vest, and boots; Molly can wear a feather in her hair, a sparkling necklace, and a fringed shawl. As Bill and Molly, tell the class about your life in Denver. And ... could you make up a song to sing as a duet?
4. The Rocky Mountain chain stretches from central New Mexico to northern Alaska, and through the middle of Colorado. Suppose you were to hike into Denver's mountains with a camera. What photographs would you bring back? Bighorn sheep? Skiers? Alpine meadows? Report on your photographs. Even though you don't have real photographs, maybe you can find some in travel magazines and describe them to the class.

Exercise page: HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Planning your group presentation

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7. Remember to use your imagination. Do not just read or speak to your class. You can also show illustrations you have drawn. You can also play or sing music. You may even wish to dance.
8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Hartford is the home of Trinity College and the University of Hartford. Give a report on one of these two centers of learning.
2. Hartford's Nook Farm includes the Mark Twain house. Although Twain was born in Hannibal, Missouri, he lived in Connecticut for many years and wrote the book *Tom Sawyer* and other famous works while living in the Nook Farm house. Give a report to your class on Mark Twain, emphasizing his Connecticut works.
3. Another American author's house included at Nook Farm is the Harriet Beecher Stowe house. Harriet Beecher Stowe spent her childhood years in the Nook Farm house. Her most famous book is *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, an anti-slavery book that had great influence during the Civil War years. Report on Harriet Beecher Stowe.
4. Lex is especially interested in Hartford's Noah Webster Foundation and Historical Society. Webster was born in Hartford in 1758, and he grew to become America's most famous lexicographer. Define "lexicographer" to your class and report on the life of Noah Webster.

Exercise page: DOVER, DELAWARE

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8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. In 1683, William Penn established "The Green," a public square in Dover. Penn was prominent in Delaware's colonial history. Report on Penn's activities in Dover.
2. Dover Airforce Base operates one of the largest air cargo terminals in the world utilizing the C5-A aircraft. The C5-A is a giant compared to Lexigram's space ship. Imagine you and your team are the crew members of a C5-A and give your class an imaginary tour of the aircraft.
3. The home of Annie Jump Cannon is a Dover landmark. As a girl in the 1860s, Annie spent many hours on the house rooftop observing the stars. As an adult, she devoted her life to astronomy. She is credited with classifying more than 250,000 stars. She was also the first woman to receive an honorary doctorate from Oxford University. Give a report to on the life of Annie Jump Cannon.
4. The oval canned ham was invented in Dover at the Richardson and Robbins canning factory more than 100 years ago. Explain to your class, in a step-by-step manner, how ham is canned.

TALLAHASSEE

FLORIDA

Exercise page: TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Planning your group presentation

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7. Remember to use your imagination. Do not just read or speak to your class. You can also show illustrations you have drawn. You can also play or sing music. You may even wish to dance.
8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Wakulla Springs State Park in Tallahassee covers 2,860 acres. In the middle of the park is a naturally formed 4.5-acre basin, 185 feet at its deepest point. The basin supports numerous forms of marine life and many rare water and land birds. Give a report on the birds you would expect to see at Wakulla Springs State Park.
2. "Tallahassee" is a word of Creek native American origin that means, "old friend." The original inhabitants of the Tallahassee region were the Apalachee, a tribe that is now extinct. After the destruction of the Apalachee towns by Englishmen and Creeks, the area was occupied by the Seminole tribe. Report on one of the three native American tribes involved in Tallahassee's history.
3. Florida State University in Tallahassee has a unique program—its own student circus. Write to the university to get information about this program. Then report to your class on the Flying High Circus of Florida State University.
4. South of Tallahassee is the Natural Bridge State Historic Site. This monument marks the spot where a militia of Confederate forces stopped Union troops, barring the way to Tallahassee. The battle left Tallahassee as the only Confederate capital east of the Mississippi River that never fell into Union hands. Give a report on the battle at Tallahassee.
5. At the Tallahassee Junior Museum Lex saw the Florida panther, an endangered species. Report on the Florida panther, including information on how the cat came to be an endangered species.

ATLANTA GEORGIA

Exercise page: ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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Research Items

1. The metropolis of Atlanta has hundreds of skyscrapers. One of the most famous is the CNN Center. Give a report on the creation and operation of CNN, Cable Network News.
2. There are 29 colleges and universities in Atlanta. Choose one to report on to your class.
3. Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta. His memorial in Atlanta is one of the city's most famous sites. Give a report on this famous humanitarian.
4. In Atlanta's Grant Park is the Cyclorama, a dramatic historic exhibit. This enormous circular painting, 50 feet high and 358 feet in circumference, depicts the Battle of Atlanta. Visitors sit on a rotating stage while a taped narration explains the battle's history. Since Lex didn't have time to visit the Cyclorama, report to your class on the Battle of Atlanta.
5. Atlanta's Stone Mountain Park surrounds the world's largest granite monolith. This monument to the Confederacy bears the faces of three historical figures. Report on Stone Mountain. Who are the figures? Who carved them and when? How were they carved?

Exercise page: HONOLULU, HAWAII

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Research Items

1. The Hawaiian Islands are only the very tops of immense mountains formed over millions of years, caused by volcanic eruptions. Explain how these volcanic islands were made.
2. There is a statue of King Kamehameha in Honolulu. Give a report on the life of Kamehameha, Hawaii's most famous king.
3. Pineapple is one of Honolulu's leading industries. Show your class a whole pineapple and a can of pineapple, then explain how pineapple is grown, cultivated, and processed.
4. The hula is more than a dance; it is an ancient form of story telling. Give a report on the hula. Try to include some Hawaiian music, a grass skirt, and a demonstration of the dance.
5. Surfing was invented in Hawaii. Give a report on the history of surfing in Hawaii.
6. You and your team are Hawaiian cooks. Prepare an illustrated luau menu. Make it large and tape it to the blackboard. Explain each dish and how it is prepared.

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Exercise page: BOISE, IDAHO

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Research Items

1. Boise is called, "The City Of Trees." Report on the types of trees found in Boise and their role in Boise industry.
2. Many Boise homes are heated by natural hot water from underground springs. How did the water get there, and why is it so hot? Explain underground hot springs to your class.
3. The conductor of the Tootin Tater tells passengers potato jokes such as: King Russet Potato wouldn't let his daughter meet Walter Cronkite because he was just a commentator. Report on Boise's potato industry.
4. In Boise's Sawtooth Mountains, whitewater rafting is popular on the Boise River. You are the leader of a whitewater rafting expedition down the Boise River. Instruct the class on how to prepare for the trip and what its members may expect once they are on the river.
5. South of Boise is the Birds Of Prey National Reserve, nesting area to the greatest number of raptors, or birds of prey, in the world. Golden eagles, red-tailed hawks and prairie falcons are among the species that nest in the reserve's cliffs. Report on Boise's raptors.

BOISE
IDAHO

SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS

Exercise page: SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

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Research Items

1. Lexigram saw acres and acres of farmland while in his ship above Springfield. Report on Springfield's agricultural products.
2. Abraham Lincoln, America's 16th president, lived in Springfield for 25 years. Report on Lincoln's life in Springfield.
3. Lex was enchanted by the sounds of the Thomas Rees Carillon. In Springfield there is an annual International Carillon Festival each summer. Give a report on this unique musical instrument. Check your city library for a recording of carillon music.
4. Springfield is the birthplace of a famous American poet, Vachel Lindsay. His home in Springfield is a point of interest for many visitors. Report on Lindsay; be certain that you read at least one of his poems.

INDIANAPOLIS

INDIANA

Exercise page: INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. Since Lexigram visited Indianapolis in autumn, he couldn't attend the Indianapolis 500. Give a report to your class on this most famous auto race in America.
2. An unusual feature of Union Station is the Holiday Inn next door. It features 26 rooms located in antique Pullman sleeper cars. Train travel at the turn of the century was often elegant. Describe to your class a Pullman sleeper car from this time in history.
3. The Indianapolis Museum of Art has 600 varieties of orchids in its greenhouses. Give a report to your class on growing orchids.
4. Indianapolis is a sports center, and its centerpiece is the Hoosier Dome. What sports facilities are available inside the dome? What sporting events take place there? Report to your class on the Hoosier Dome.

Exercise page: DES MOINES, IOWA

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Research Items

1. Completed in 1886, Des Moines state capitol is a glittering masterpiece with its 23-karat gold leaf dome. The dome is patterned after that of Les Invalides, a famous landmark in Paris, France. There are many other interesting features of this building, including its hand-painted ceilings. Report on the Iowa state capitol.
2. Des Moines Living History Farms operates on 600 acres of land. One of the exhibits is a 1700's Ioway Indian village. You and your team are members of the Ioway tribe living in the Des Moines area during the 1700s. Describe your village and your way of life.
3. Another exhibit at Living History Farms is the Pioneer Farm of the 1850s. You and your team are a Des Moines pioneer family. Have each member of your team describe his/her duties on the farm. How was clothing made? How were the fields ploughed? How were meals prepared and what was eaten? Describe your way of life to your class.
4. The Granger Movement was popular in Iowa in the 1860s and 1870s. Report on this organization that protected the rights of American farmers.
5. Can you find information on the 1993 flood of the Des Moines River?

Exercise page: TOPEKA, KANSAS

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. Topeka's state capitol took 37 years to complete. It is considered one of the finest state capitols in America, a replica of the nation's Capitol. Report on the capitol of Kansas.
2. The sculpture, "Justice," at Topeka's Judicial Center depicts a kneeling woman holding aloft a prairie falcon, which is native to Kansas. A plaque in front of the sculpture states that the prairie falcon is the earth's swiftest creation, with vision eight times more powerful than the human eye. Report to your class on the prairie falcon.
3. At Topeka's Museum of History, Lex saw a Prairie Schooner, a large covered wagon used by pioneers to cross the American prairies. You and your team have just arrived in Topeka after a long journey in a Prairie Schooner. Describe the wagon and the trip to your class.
4. The Topeka Zoo houses a tropical rain forest within a geodesic dome. What is a geodesic dome? How is a rain forest different from other forests? Explain how a rain forest was duplicated inside the Topeka Zoo's geodesic dome.
5. There are many World War II planes at Topeka's Combat Air Museum: a B-25, two C-47's, and one Blue Angel, one Messerschmidt among others. Report on one of these World War II aircraft.

FRANKFORT KENTUCKY

Exercise page: FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. The state capitol in Frankfort overlooks the Kentucky River. The building is of the Ionic style of architecture. The Capitol's rotunda has statues of some prominent citizens. Give a report on Kentucky's state capitol.
2. Kentucky is known as "The Bluegrass State." Define "bluegrass" to your class and explain why the state adopted this name.
3. A famous Frankfort monument is the grave of Daniel Boone. Boone was active in the settlement of Kentucky and in its government. Report on this frontiersman's place in Frankfort's history.
4. Frankfort's Liberty Hall was built in 1798 by John Brown, the first US senator from Kentucky. Report on the career of Senator John Brown.

BATON ROUGE

LOUISIANA

Exercise page: BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. When Lexigram arrived in Baton Rouge, he landed on a levee. What is a levee? How and why it is made? Report on the levees of Louisiana.
2. Baton Rouge in the French language means "red stick." The influence of France is still present in Louisiana's culture. Report on France's role in Baton Rouge history.
3. Baton Rouge is famous for the food of its Cajun and Creole ethnic groups. They are descendants of early Louisiana settlers. Report on Louisiana's Creoles and Cajuns.
4. Mount Hope, Parlange, and Nottoway are three famous Baton Rouge plantations. You live on one of these plantations in 1810. Describe a typical day at the plantation.
5. In Baton Rouge, Lexigram enjoyed a ride on a Mississippi River steamboat. Explain how a Mississippi steamboat runs.

AUGUSTA MAINE

Exercise page: AUGUSTA, MAINE

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. Maine is known as the Pine Tree State. The capitol dome in Augusta is topped with a statue of a golden woman holding a golden pine cone. Report on the pine trees of Augusta. What are the varieties? What are their uses in Augusta industry?
2. At the State Cultural Building, Lexigram learned about the traditional occupations of Maine's residents. Examples: quarry workers, ship builders, commercial fishing, and lumberjacks. Choose one of these occupations to represent. Then report on the responsibilities of your job. If possible, show the class some tools of your trade.
3. Augusta's Fort Western was built in 1754 as protection during the French and Indian War. Report on Maine's involvement in the French and Indian War.
4. Have you ever seen a lobster? Bring a picture of a lobster to class and report on this sea crustacean that is a native to Maine's waters.

ANNAPOLIS

MARYLAND

Exercise page: ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. Because the city of Annapolis borders the Chesapeake Bay, many ships are in the harbors and the docks. Lexigram saw a schooner, a yawl, a cruiser, skipjacks, and crabbing vessels. Report on one of the ships commonly found in Annapolis harbors.
2. The United States Naval Academy is a famous Annapolis landmark. Give a report on the academy. When was it founded? How is it similar to and different from other national service academies?
3. Beneath the academy's chapel is the marble crypt of John Paul Jones, a naval hero of the Revolutionary War. Report on the naval career of John Paul Jones.
4. In the Maryland Statehouse in Annapolis, the Treaty of Paris was signed. Give a report to your class on this great moment in American history.

Exercise page: BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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Research Items

1. The American Revolution began in Boston in 1770. One of the first acts of protest by the "colonists" was The Boston Tea Party, which wasn't really a party at all. Imagine you attended this protest and describe to your class what took place.
2. The Declaration Of Independence was first proclaimed from the balcony of Boston's Old State House. Report on the drafting of this famous document. You may want to read the Preamble aloud.
3. During the night of April 18-19, 1775, Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Samuel Prescott spread the news to Lexington and Concord that British troops were approaching. This mid-night ride is immortalized in a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Read this poem for your class. *Be dramatic!*
4. The last sight on Freedom Trail is the navy ship, USS Constitution, known as "Old Ironsides." Report on this oldest commissioned navy ship afloat in the world.

LANSING MICHIGAN

Exercise page: LANSING, MICHIGAN

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. In 1899, Ransom Olds brought the automotive industry to Lansing. Report on the life and automotive career of R. E. Olds.
2. Lexigram's ship had a problem and was repaired by an Oldsmobile mechanic. Lansing is a center of the automotive industry. You have a job working on an auto assembly line. Explain the process of building a car on "the line."
3. Lexigram enjoyed canoeing on the Red Cedar River. You and your team have taken a canoe trip in Michigan. On a Michigan map, show your class the route you took. Then explain the construction and operation of a canoe.
4. Michigan State University was the nation's first agricultural college and the nation's first land grant college. Report on Michigan State University.

Exercise page: SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. St. Paul's weather comes in extremes. A bright spot during the cold winter is the St. Paul Winter Carnival, one of the leading festivals in the United States. Report on St. Paul's Winter Carnival.
2. A St. Paul center that stays green all year long is Town Square Park, said to be the nation's largest indoor park, surrounded by waterfalls, pools, streams, and greenery. Report on this modern shopping center.
3. Minnehaha Park, bordering both St. Paul and Minneapolis, is the site each summer of Svenskarnas Dag (Swedish Day), the largest annual Swedish celebration in America. Almost one out of seven Minnesotans trace their heritage to Scandinavia. Give a report on why this area is called America's Little Scandinavia.
4. While visiting St. Paul, Lexigram enjoyed a smorgasbord, a unique Scandinavian invention where tables are laid out with dozens of items to create a gourmet feast. You and your team are Scandinavian cooks. Prepare a smorgasbord menu to hand out to your class and explain each dish on your menu.
5. The citizens of St. Paul and Minneapolis are very proud of their professional athletic teams: The Minnesota Vikings, the Minnesota Twins, and the Minnesota North Stars. Report to your class one of these pro teams.

JACKSON MISSISSIPPI

Exercise page: JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. Jackson is called "Crossroads Of The South." Explain when, how, and why Jackson came by this nickname.
2. Jackson is named after Andrew Jackson, the seventh US president. Give a report on the life of "Old Hickory."
3. Mississippi was a Confederate state during the Civil War era. The Secession Convention was held in Jackson in 1861. Report on the Secession Movement that preceded the Civil War.
4. In Jackson, Lexigram visited the Petrified Forest of Mississippi. Explain the process by which these trees became petrified.

JEFFERSON CITY MISSOURI

Exercise page: JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

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Research Items

1. In the Jefferson City state capitol are murals painted by Thomas Hart Benton. Give a report on the artwork of this famous Missouri native. Perhaps you can find photographs of his Capitol murals in an art book from your local library or from a Capitol brochure.
2. The huge doors on the capitol are made from bronze. Explain how bronze is made, and the process by which these doors were cast in bronze.
3. Lincoln University was established in 1866 by the 62nd and 65th black volunteer infantry regiments after the Civil War. Report on Lincoln University.
4. There are hundreds of caves in the Jefferson City area. People who explore caves as a hobby are called "spelunkers." Imagine you are a spelunker and describe spelunking in Missouri caves.

Exercise page: HELENA, MONTANA

Planning your group presentation

1. Examine the Research Items below. They contain persons, places, events, music, pictures you can research.
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4. Write some notes and draw some illustrations. You will then first present what you have learned to your group members.
5. Work with your leader and your group members to plan and make your group presentation. Fill out your plan on the PLANNING YOUR PRESENTATION outline.
6. Your group can come up with other Research Items on your own.
7. Remember to use your imagination. Do not just read or speak to your class. You can also show illustrations you have drawn. You can also play or sing music. You may even wish to dance.
8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Lex landed his ship near Helena on The Continental Divide, which forms a North American watershed. Report on The Continental Divide and how it acts as a watershed.
2. In Helena's Museum of the Historical Society are paintings by Charles Russell, Montana's favorite artist. Report on Charles Russell. He is most famous for his painting and sculpture of cowboys.
3. Gates of the Mountain Gorge was named by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Report on these two famous American explorers travels in Montana.
4. Helena National Forest is the site of a ranger district office. You are a park ranger in Helena National Forest. Describe the duties of a ranger to your class.

Exercise page: LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Planning your group presentation

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6. Your group can come up with other Research Items on your own.
7. Remember to use your imagination. Do not just read or speak to your class. You can also show illustrations you have drawn. You can also play or sing music. You may even wish to dance.
8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. The capitol in Lincoln is nicknamed, "The Tower on the Plains." Give a report on Nebraska's unique capitol.
2. At the University of Lincoln, Lex saw fossilized dinosaurs. Explain to your class how these fossils were uncovered and the process by which a living dinosaur became a fossil.
3. Lexigram enjoyed his visit to the National Museum of Roller Skating. Do you have a pair of roller skates? Maybe you have roller blades. Report on the history of this fast-moving sport. Maybe you could give your report while on roller skates!
4. Lincoln is the capital of the "Cornhuskers State." Before modern machinery and agri-business farms, neighbors would gather for cornhusking bees. Demonstrate to your class how corn is husked, and describe a husking bee.

LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

CARSON CITY

NEVADA

Exercise page: CARSON CITY, NEVADA

Planning your group presentation

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8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. The capitol in Carson City has a silver dome. This is a symbol of the area's rich silver mines. The Comstock Lode, a enormous vein of silver, was discovered in the Carson City area, and contributed to the silver stampede. Report on the history of silver in Carson City.
2. Carson City was named for Kit Carson. Report on the life of this colorful American frontiersman.
3. Carson City borders the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. Report on this mountain range that stretches from the Mojave Desert to the Cascade Range.
4. At the Warren Engine Company, Lex saw a Hunneman Handpumper. Explain to your class how these antique fire engines operated as opposed to modern fire engines.

CONCORD NEW HAMPSHIRE

Exercise page: CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Planning your group presentation

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7. Remember to use your imagination. Do not just read or speak to your class. You can also show illustrations you have drawn. You can also play or sing music. You may even wish to dance.
8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Concord is a wonderful place to observe autumn's brilliant leaves. Explain to your class the process by which leaves change color.
2. Concord is the capital of the Granite State. Give a report on Concord's granite. I'm sure you can find a piece of granite to show to the class.
3. The Concord Coach, popular in the 19th century, was built in Concord, New Hampshire. Report on the Concord Coach.
4. Lexigram enjoyed fishing in the Merrimack River. Explain the art of fly fishing to your class. Demonstrate if possible.
5. Concord is the home of Franklin Pierce, 14th president of the United States. Report on the life of President Pierce.

Exercise page: TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

Planning your group presentation

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8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Washington Crossing State Park commemorates the spot where George Washington crossed the Delaware. Report on this historic crossing.
2. Lex visited Trenton's Old Barracks Museum. You are a British soldier in Trenton in 1785. Tell your class what barracks life is like as a British soldier in "the colonies." Describe your uniform, your equipment, and your duties.
3. New Jersey Museum houses one of the few Space Transit Planetaria in the world, one of which duplicates space travel. Report on the operation of this unique planetarium.
4. Trenton has been a leading pottery and rubber manufacturing city since colonial times. Report on the manufacturing of either rubber or pottery. How have the items produced in Trenton's rubber and pottery factories changed since colonial times?

Exercise page: SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Planning your group presentation

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8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Santa Fe is the oldest capital city in the United States. Give a report on the founding of Santa Fe, and how it became a U. S. capital.
2. Santa Fe is the heart of Pueblo Indian country. Pueblo is not a tribal name; pueblo refers to the dwellings in which certain southwestern native Americans live, including Hopi and Zuni. Report on pueblo communities in the Santa Fe region.
3. The influence of Spain is still very apparent in Santa Fe. Lex purchased a sombrero, he took a siesta, and he ate huevos rancheros. Lexigram would like to know more Spanish words commonly used in Santa Fe. Give a report on frequently used Spanish words. You could make a chart with Spanish words on one side and the English translation on the other. Check your library for a Spanish/English dictionary.
4. Lexigram took his siesta in Santa Fe Plaza which marked the end of the Santa Fe Trail. Report on the blazing of this famous American roadway.

SANTA FE
NEW MEXICO

Exercise page: ALBANY, NEW YORK

Planning your group presentation

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8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. The Erie Canal runs between Buffalo on Lake Erie and Albany on the Hudson River. Report on the building of this canal. Have you heard the song about the Erie Canal? Try to find a recording of it; if you can't, could you sing it for the class?
2. The state capitol is an imposing building. Report on Albany's capitol.
3. Albany is a United State port of entry. Explain the term, "port of entry" to your class and the service it provides.
4. In Albany, Lex took a tour of historic Dutch homes. Report on the Dutch involvement in the settling of Albany.

Exercise page: RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Planning your group presentation

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8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Raleigh specializes in electronics. Give a report to your class on Raleigh's electronics industry.
2. Raleigh's Triangle Universities are North Carolina State, Duke, and Chapel Hill. Report on one of these universities.
3. While in Raleigh, Lexigram whistled a tune. Each year in April, Raleigh hosts the National Whistler's Convention. Give a report on whistling. How did whistling begin? What are reasons for whistling? What do these slang terms mean: "Blow the whistle on someone" ... "Whistle in the dark"?
4. In Mordecai Historic Park is the home of Andrew Johnson, America's 17th president. Report on the life of Andrew Johnson.

BISMARCK NORTH DAKOTA

Exercise page: BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. Bismarck was named for German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck in hope of encouraging German investment in the railroad. Report on the history of the German influence in Bismarck.
2. Lex flew over fields of sunflowers and sugar beets on his way into Bismarck. These are two of Bismarck's many agricultural products. Report on either North Dakota's sunflower or sugar beet industry.
3. Bismarck's acpitol is called the "Skyscraper of the Prairies." Give a report on this unique building.
4. While in Bismarck, Lexigram attended the United Tribes Pow-Wow. You are a Bismarck native American: describe the ancient ceremony of pow-wow.

COLUMBUS OHIO

Exercise page: COLUMBUS, OHIO

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. Columbus is the capital of "The Buckeye State." The buckeye is any of various trees of the horse-chestnut family. It has large, shiny, brown seeds. Report on Ohio's buckeye.
2. Printing is a major industry in Columbus. Printing is the production of printed matter. There are many types of printed material: books, magazines, and newspapers, for example. You work in a Columbus newspaper office. Explain how your newspaper is printed.
3. Columbus has 13 universities. Report to your class on one of them.
4. In the Ohio Historical Center, Lexigram saw the skeleton of a mastodon. The mastodon has been extinct for centuries. Did it once roam in the Columbus area? Report on this ancestor of the elephant.
5. At the Franklin Park Conservatory, Lex observed a plant that ate ants. Report on the varieties of carnivorous plants you might see at the conservatory.

OKLAHOMA CITY

OKLAHOMA

Exercise: OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Planning your group presentation

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8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. The towers Lex saw on Oklahoma City's capitol lawn are called oil derricks. Report on the oil derrick and explain how it works.
2. Oil is burned to provide heat, but there are many other uses of this Oklahoma commodity. Report on some of the other uses of oil.
3. Lex visited the Nocturnal Building at the Oklahoma City Zoo. Define "nocturnal" and describe the animals that could dwell inside the zoo's nocturnal building.
4. There is a well-known musical production titled "Oklahoma." Perform a musical number or a skit from "Oklahoma" for your class.

Exercise page: SALEM, OREGON

Planning your group presentation

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8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Salem is situated in the Willamette Valley between two mountain ranges: The Cascades and the Coast Range. Report on one of these two mountain ranges.
2. In Mission Mill Village, Lexigram watched a wool-making demonstration. Where does raw fleece come from? How is it made into wool? What products are made from the wool?
3. Lexigram rode a bobsled down Ice Mountain. Describe a bobsled and explain or demonstrate its operation.
4. Salem is home to Willamette University. Report on this Oregon education center.

HARRISBURG PENNSYLVANIA

Exercise page: HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Planning your group presentation

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8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. The capitol has a dome that was modeled after the dome of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy. Report on Pennsylvania's magnificent capitol building.
2. While in the State Museum, Lexigram saw exhibits of Pennsylvania's geology. Explain the science of geology to your classmates.
3. In Harrisburg, Lexigram ate sauerbraten, red cabbage, and shoofly pie. These are specialties of the Pennsylvania Dutch. You are a member of the Pennsylvania Dutch community. Describe your history and your customs.
4. Just outside Harrisburg is the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Facility. Report on the event that made this facility headline news throughout the world.

PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND

Exercise page: PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Planning your group presentation

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8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Lexigram has seen Providence's "Mile Of History," but your classmates have not. Take them on an imaginary tour of this historic mile.
2. The site of Providence was purchased from the Narragansett tribe by Roger Williams in 1638. For what particular purpose did Williams purchase the land? Report on Roger Williams' life in Providence.
3. Providence's Brown University is the seventh oldest university in America. Report on this prestigious school.
4. Give a report to your class on Providence's Crawford Street Bridge, the widest bridge in America.
5. In Providence, Lex enjoyed a custard made with eggs from a Rhode Island Red. Describe this breed of chicken to your classmates.

Exercise page: PIERRE, SOUTH CAROLINA**Planning your group presentation**

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8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Columbia has many varieties of beautiful flowers, but one of its best known is the azalea. Give a report on the South Carolina's lovely azalea.
2. The capitol is a popular site with tourists—not only because of its historic interior, but also because photographic exterior. Report on Columbia's capitol.
3. The University of South Carolina at Columbia is a very old and honored institution. Give a report to your class on this university.
4. At the university, Lexigram saw a film exhibition. On Kazam, Lex is entertained by holograms. Define "holography" to your classmates and explain how a hologram is produced.
5. In Columbia, Lex visited Congaree Swamp. Report on this natural, national monument.

Exercise page: PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. Lexigram visited Badlands National Park. What are "badlands"? How are their strange shapes formed? Can badlands support wildlife? Give a report on South Dakota's badlands.
2. The capitol in Pierre is made from raindrop sandstone. Report to your class on South Dakota sandstone. If possible, bring a piece of sandstone to your classroom.
3. Lexigram swam in Capitol Lake, which is warmed by artesian wells. What is an artesian well? How does it differ from other wells? Give a report on artesian wells.
4. Before Pierre was settled, vast herds of buffalo lived in this area. What happened to them? Give a report on the American buffalo.
5. Lex's final stop in Pierre was the Oahe Dam. Report to your class on this impressive engineering wonder.

NASHVILLE TENNESSEE

Exercise page: NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Planning your group presentation

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Research Items

1. Nashville's Grand Ole Opry has a long and colorful history. Report on this famous Nashville landmark.
2. In Nashville, Lex heard lots of musical instruments including the banjo, the fiddle, and the slide guitar. Report on one of these instruments. Try to bring in a recording of country music that features the instrument you choose. Or if you know someone who plays one of these instruments, ask him/her to play for the class.
3. Nashville is called "The Athens of the South" and has a replica of the Parthenon. Report on the original Parthenon. Who built this structure? What did this building mean to the ancient Greeks?
4. Nashville is home to 16 universities. Choose one to report on to your class.
5. The Hermitage in Nashville was the estate of Andrew Jackson. Report to your class on the life of America's seventh president.

Exercise page: AUSTIN, TEXAS

Planning your group presentation

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8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. The capitol in Austin is the largest in America. Report on this big Texas building.
2. In the capitol, Lexigram learned that six different flags have flown over Texas. Report on Texas history previous to its statehood.
3. America's 36th president, Lyndon Baines Johnson, was a native of Texas. Give a report on the life of LBJ.
4. Lex heard "Big Bertha" being played at Memorial Stadium. Report to your class on Big Bertha's home, the University of Austin.
5. The university mascot is a Texas Longhorn. Give a report on this Texas breed of cattle.

AUSTIN
TEXAS

SALT LAKE CITY

UTAH

Exercise page: SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Planning your group presentation

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8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Lexigram went swimming in the Great Salt Lake. How was it formed? Why is it so salty? Why is it easy to float in? Report on Utah's Great Salt Lake.
2. In Salt Lake City, Lex visited the Mormon Tabernacle. Give a report on Utah's Mormon people.
3. The Tabernacle's organ has 12,000 pipes. Report to your class on this magnificent musical instrument. Explain how the music is produced.
4. The capitol in Salt Lake City has a dome covered in copper, which is plentiful in Utah. What are some other objects made from copper? Do you have a copper coin in your pocket? Report on Utah's copper industry.
5. In Salt Lake City, Lex bought some salt water taffy. Describe this delicious candy and how it is made. Perhaps your team could demonstrate with a taffy pull.

MONTPELIER

VERMONT

Exercise page: MONTPELIER, VERMONT

Planning your group presentation

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5. Work with your leader and your group members to plan and make your group presentation. Fill out your plan on the PLANNING YOUR PRESENTATION outline.
6. Your group can come up with other Research Items on your own.
7. Remember to use your imagination. Do not just read or speak to your class. You can also show illustrations you have drawn. You can also play or sing music. You may even wish to dance.
8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. In Montpelier, Lexigram noticed that the Green Mountains were rounder and lower than the Rocky Mountains of the western states. Report on Vermont's Green Mountains and explain why they look different from the Rockies.
2. Report on the capitol in Montpelier, the nation's smallest state capital.
3. Because it was autumn, Lex saw rows of pumpkins in Montpelier. Give a report on the pumpkin and its various uses. How do they grow? What climate is necessary for their growth? Be sure to include information on the two holidays that include the pumpkin as tradition. What would Halloween and Thanksgiving be without the pumpkin?
4. Vermont is famous for its maple syrup. Describe to your class how maple sap is gathered and processed to make syrup and maple sugar candy.

RICHMOND VIRGINIA

Exercise page: RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Planning your group presentation

1. Examine the Research Items below. They contain persons, places, events, music, pictures you can research.
2. Your group leader will divide the items among your members.
3. Use encyclopedias, books, magazine ads, and materials sent to you from a capital city's Chamber of Commerce.
4. Write some notes and draw some illustrations. You will then first present what you have learned to your group members.
5. Work with your leader and your group members to plan and make your group presentation. Fill out your plan on the PLANNING YOUR PRESENTATION outline.
6. Your group can come up with other Research Items on your own.
7. Remember to use your imagination. Do not just read or speak to your class. You can also show illustrations you have drawn. You can also play or sing music. You may even wish to dance.
8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Thomas Jefferson was minister to France when he was asked by Virginia legislators to design a state capitol for the new capital of Richmond. Report on this remarkable building.
2. Another famous Richmond landmark is the home of John Marshall, who, in 1801, was appointed Chief Justice of the United States. Give a report on this respected Richmond native.
3. Richmond's history boasts many American patriots. At Saint John's Episcopal Church, Patrick Henry delivered his famous speech, in which he said: "Give me liberty or give me death." Report on the statesman, Patrick Henry. Try to include part of his speech in your report.
4. In Richmond, Lexigram toured the Edgar Allan Poe Museum. Give a report to your class on this renowned American writer. Read one of his poems aloud.

OLYMPIA WASHINGTON

Exercise page: OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

Planning your group presentation

1. Examine the Research Items below. They contain persons, places, events, music, pictures you can research.
2. Your group leader will divide the items among your members.
3. Use encyclopedias, books, magazine ads, and materials sent to you from a capital city's Chamber of Commerce.
4. Write some notes and draw some illustrations. You will then first present what you have learned to your group members.
5. Work with your leader and your group members to plan and make your group presentation. Fill out your plan on the PLANNING YOUR PRESENTATION outline.
6. Your group can come up with other Research Items on your own.
7. Remember to use your imagination. Do not just read or speak to your class. You can also show illustrations you have drawn. You can also play or sing music. You may even wish to dance.
8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Olympia is a popular vacation spot because of its breathtaking mountain views. Report on Washington's beautiful Olympic Mountains.
2. Another natural attraction of Olympia is Puget Sound. Define "sound" as in a body of water and report on Olympia's Puget Sound.
3. Washington's Mount Saint Helen's made world-wide headlines on May 18, 1980. Report on this natural disaster.
4. In South Puget Sound, Lexigram found Olympia oysters. Give a report on this tasty marine mollusk.

CHARLESTON WEST VIRGINIA

Exercise page: CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

Planning your group presentation

1. Examine the Research Items below. They contain persons, places, events, music, pictures you can research.
2. Your group leader will divide the items among your members.
3. Use encyclopedias, books, magazine ads, and materials sent to you from a capital city's Chamber of Commerce.
4. Write some notes and draw some illustrations. You will then first present what you have learned to your group members.
5. Work with your leader and your group members to plan and make your group presentation. Fill out your plan on the PLANNING YOUR PRESENTATION outline.
6. Your group can come up with other Research Items on your own.
7. Remember to use your imagination. Do not just read or speak to your class. You can also show illustrations you have drawn. You can also play or sing music. You may even wish to dance.
8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Charleston's capitol is built in the Renaissance style. Report on Charleston's state capitol.
2. In Charleston's early years, the Kanawha River was lined with salt mines. Explain how salt was mined and why it was used to preserve meat.
3. Charleston is the home of the University of Charleston. Report on this institution of higher learning.
4. Lex visited a Charleston glass factory. West Virginia manufactures more handmade glass than any other state in the U.S. Charleston glass companies produce stained glass for church windows as well as water pitchers from molds dating from the 1800s. You are employed by a Charleston glass factory. Explain to your class how various glass objects are made in your factory.

Exercise page: MADISON, WISCONSIN

Planning your group presentation

1. Examine the Research Items below. They contain persons, places, events, music, pictures you can research.
2. Your group leader will divide the items among your members.
3. Use encyclopedias, books, magazine ads, and materials sent to you from a capital city's Chamber of Commerce.
4. Write some notes and draw some illustrations. You will then first present what you have learned to your group members.
5. Work with your leader and your group members to plan and make your group presentation. Fill out your plan on the PLANNING YOUR PRESENTATION outline.
6. Your group can come up with other Research Items on your own.
7. Remember to use your imagination. Do not just read or speak to your class. You can also show illustrations you have drawn. You can also play or sing music. You may even wish to dance.
8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Jean Nicolet was the first Frenchman to set foot in Wisconsin. Many more followed his lead. Report on France's role in the settling of Wisconsin.
2. Madison's First Unitarian Church was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Give a report on the life and art of this Wisconsin-born architect.
3. Wisconsin is "America's Dairyland." From cow to carton in your refrigerator—how does milk get from the farm to your house?
4. At a Madison farm, Lex learned that cheese does not come directly from cows. You and your team run a Madison cheese factory. Explain to your class what types of cheese your factory produces and how it is produced.

CHEYENNE

WYOMING

Exercise page: CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Planning your group presentation

1. Examine the Research Items below. They contain persons, places, events, music, pictures you can research.
2. Your group leader will divide the items among your members.
3. Use encyclopedias, books, magazine ads, and materials sent to you from a capital city's Chamber of Commerce.
4. Write some notes and draw some illustrations. You will then first present what you have learned to your group members.
5. Work with your leader and your group members to plan and make your group presentation. Fill out your plan on the PLANNING YOUR PRESENTATION outline.
6. Your group can come up with other Research Items on your own.
7. Remember to use your imagination. Do not just read or speak to your class. You can also show illustrations you have drawn. You can also play or sing music. You may even wish to dance.
8. Both at home and at school practice your contribution to your group presentation. *Be enthusiastic!*

Research Items

1. Cheyenne was named after the Cheyenne tribe of Algonquian speaking native Americans. Give a report to your class on the Algonquian nation and their place in Wyoming history.
2. Each July, Cheyenne hosts Frontier Days, a formal rodeo competition that began in 1897. Although Lex missed this contest, he did attend a rodeo. Typical rodeo events include: calf roping, bronc busting, bull riding, and bulldogging (steer wrestling). Choose one of these events and describe it from start to finish.
3. Lexigram tried his best to be a cowboy. You are a cowboy competing in Cheyenne's Frontier Days Rodeo. What are you wearing and why? What equipment do you carry and how do you use it in the rodeo?
4. At the rodeo, Lex saw several breeds of horses: Appaloosas, Palominos, Indian Ponies, Quarter Horses, and Arabian stallions. Report on one of these breeds.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/VISITORS BUREAU - 1

Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce
41 Commerce Street
P.O. Box 79
Montgomery, AL 36101

Juneau Office of Tourism
P.O. Box 110801
Juneau, AK 99801-0801

Phoenix Chamber of Commerce
16042 N. 36th Street, #B-1A
Phoenix, AZ 85032

Little Rock Visitors Bureau
Statehouse Plaza
P.O. Box 3232
Little Rock, AR 72203

Sacramento Visitors Bureau
1421 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Denver Chamber of Commerce
1445 Market Street
Denver, CO 80205

Hartford Visitors Bureau
One Civic Center Plaza
Hartford, CT 06103

Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce
Suite 2-A, Treadway Towers
Box 576
Dover, DE 19903

Tallahassee Visitors Bureau
200 W. College Ave.
Box 1639
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau
233 Peachtree Street NE
Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30343

Honolulu Visitors Bureau
2270 Kalakaua Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815

Boise Visitors Bureau
168 N. 9th St., Suite 200
P.O. Box 2106
Boise, ID 83701

Springfield Visitors Bureau
109 N. 7th St.
Springfield, IL 62701

Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce
320 N. Meridian St., Suite 928
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Des Moines Visitors Bureau
2 Ruan Center, Suite 222
601 Locust St.
Des Moines, IA 50309

Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce
3 Townsite Plaza
120 E. Sixth
Topeka, KS 66603

Frankfort Tourist Bureau
100 Capital Ave.
Frankfort, KY 40601

Baton Rouge Visitors Bureau
730 North Blvd.
P.O. Box 4149
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce
University Drive
P.O. Box E
Augusta, ME 04330

Annapolis Visitors Bureau
1 Annapolis Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Greater Boston Visitors Bureau
Prudential Plaza
P.O. Box 490
Boston, MA 02199

Visitors Bureau of Greater Lansing
119 Pere Marquette
P.O. Box 15066
Lansing, MI 48901

St. Paul Visitors Bureau
101 Norwest Center
55 E. Fifth Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Jackson Chamber of Commerce
201 S. President Street
Jackson, MS 39205

Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce
213 Adams Street
P.O. Box 776
Jefferson City, MO 65102

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/VISITORS BUREAU - 2

Helena Chamber of Commerce
201 E. Lyndale Street
Helena, MT 59601

Lincoln Visitors Bureau
1221 "N" Street
Lincoln, NB 68508

Carson City Chamber of Commerce
Information Bureau
1900 S. Carson Street, Suite 200
Carson City, NV 89701

Concord Chamber of Commerce
244 N. Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Mercer County Chamber of Commerce
214 W. State Street
P. O. Box 2708
Trenton, NJ 08607

Santa Fe Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 909
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Albany Visitors Bureau
52 S. Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12207

Raleigh Visitors Bureau
225 Hellsborough Street, Suite 400
Box 1879
Raleigh, NC 27602

Bismarck-Madan Visitors Bureau
523 N. Fourth Street
P.O. Box 2274
Bismarck, ND 58501

Columbus Visitors Bureau
One Columbus Bldg.
10 W. Broad Street, Suite 1300
Columbus, OH 43215

Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce
4 Santa Fe Plaza
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Salem Chamber of Commerce
1313 Mill Street SE
Salem, OR 97301

Capital Region Chamber of Commerce
114 Walnut Street
P.O. Box 969
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Greater Providence Visitors Bureau
30 Exchange Terrace
Providence, RI 02903

Greater Columbia Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 15
Columbia, SC 29202-0015

Pierre Chamber of Commerce
100 E. Missouri
P.O. Box 548
Pierre, SD 57501

Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
161 4th Ave. N.
Nashville, TN 37219

Austin Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

Salt Lake City Visitors Bureau
180 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1493

Richmond Visitors Bureau
6th Street Marketplace
550 E. Marshall Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 336
Barre, VT 05641

Greater Olympia Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 7249
Olympia, WA 98507

Charleston Visitors Bureau
Civic Center
200 Civic Center Drive
Charleston, WV 25301

Greater Madison Visitors Bureau
615 E. Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

Cheyenne Visitors Bureau
309 W. Lincolnway Street
P.O. Box 765
Cheyenne, WY 82003

MODEL LETTER

October 20, 1996

Denver Chamber of Commerce
1445 Market Street
Denver, CO 80205

Dear Chamber/Bureau,

My class is learning about America's 50 state capitals. We are teaching Lexigram about each state capital. He is a cute, very bright alien from the planet Kazam. Now Lexigram has also been assigned the task of learning about all America's state capitals. My group must teach him about Denver and give a class report. Would you please send me information on Denver as soon as possible? Any brochures and pictures would really help us. A color poster for our room's bulletin board would also be very nice. Just think. Someday when I'm grown up, I may visit your state and go through your capitol building. And I'll bring along all my kids!

Thank you,

Amanda Swanson

Amanda Swanson, Grade 4, (Mrs. Anderson's room)
Elm Street Elementary School
2345 Elm Street
Lansing, MI 48923

GROUP PRESENTATION OUTLINE

State capital and state your group will present:

Chairperson of your group: _____

Who will do what?	How much time?

GROUP PRESENTATION OUTLINE

State capital and state your group will present:

Monument View, Navajo

Chairperson of your group: Telicia Washington

Who will do what?	How much time?
Large map—state of Navajo on butcher paper (Held up by Billy and Heidi and explained by Telicia)	1 minute
How Monument View began as a city (Role-play by Mary, Susan, and Brett)	2 minutes
Drawings of nearby monuments with explanation of Mountain View's Seven Legends (Held up by Billy, explained by Andy and Jenny—with Heidi singing original song "Mornings at Mountain View")	3 minutes
Imaginary meeting between two most famous citizens in Monument View's history Jeremy and Mary play roles: Falling Rain (Indian chief) and Wilma Winston, community founder)	2 minutes
Question Period (Telicia conducts Questions/Answers period, but all group members help with answers.)	2 minutes
<div>Total Time = 10 minutes</div>	

STATE CAPITAL NOTES

The state: Navajo

The state's capital city: Monument View

- The state of Navajo is shaped like a long rectangle with a large triangle looking bump on the eastern end.
- First settlers of Monument View came to the Southwest from Colorado. They were quite religious. They loved the view looking up from the Rainbow River to a big monument on the horizon.
- From its start, the city was a place where artists loved to live. The sunsets were so colorful that the Native Americans who lived there made sand paintings and all kinds of jewelry. The paintings and jewelry always had many monuments on them.
- Today many photographers, musicians, and artists still live in Monument View. It is called “an artists’ colony.”
- Tourists love to come all year to see the monuments. Most of all they enjoy the Spring Festival. Native Americans dance at sunrise and sunset near the monuments. Many photographs are taken at this time.

Note: Imagine that on the back of this sheet the student made a copy of the Navajo state outline. In this outline the student also placed a star to show where the capital city, Monument View, is. Then the student added a color drawing of something interesting about the state and its capital city.

UNIT 1 EXAM

Your group: _____

Your name: _____

Directions: Place the name of the capital city before its state:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------------|
| 1. Want summary | _____ | Alabama |
| 2. You know | _____ | Alaska |
| 3. He fix | _____ | Arizona |
| 4. Little dock | _____ | Arkansas |
| 5. Back memento | _____ | California |
| 6. Yen fer | _____ | Colorado |
| 7. Chart word | _____ | Connecticut |
| 8. Over | _____ | Delaware |
| 9. Calla grassy | _____ | Florida |
| 10. Fat Santa | _____ | Georgia |

UNIT 2 EXAM

Your group: _____

Your name: _____

Directions: Place the name of the capital city before its state:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------|
| 11. Don a tu tu | _____ | Hawaii |
| 12. Noisy | _____ | Idaho |
| 13. Sing squealed | _____ | Illinois |
| 14. (state name) + polis | _____ | Indiana |
| 15. Free join | _____ | Iowa |
| 16. Go seek | _____ | Kansas |
| 17. Swank port | _____ | Kentucky |
| 18. Hat and shoes | _____ | Louisiana |
| 19. Adjusted | _____ | Maine |
| 20. A map of this | _____ | Maryland |

UNIT 3 EXAM

Your group: _____

Your name: _____

Directions: Place the name of the capital city before its state:

21. Lost in _____ Massachusetts

22. Dancing _____ Michigan

23. Quaint small _____ Minnesota

24. Relax in _____ Mississippi

25. Chef person city _____ Missouri

26. Cantina _____ Montana

27. Blinkin' _____ Nebraska

28. Star sun city _____ Nevada

29. On board _____ New Hampshire

30. Went on _____ New Jersey

UNIT 4 EXAM

Your group: _____

Your name: _____

Directions: Place the name of the capital city before its state:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------|
| 31. Chant away | _____ | New Mexico |
| 32. All can see | _____ | New York |
| 33. Jolly | _____ | North Carolina |
| 34. Quiz mark | _____ | North Dakota |
| 35. Go plumb bus | _____ | Ohio |
| 36. (state name) City | _____ | Oklahoma |
| 37. Fail him | _____ | Oregon |
| 38. Fairest burg | _____ | Pennsylvania |
| 39. Confidence | _____ | Rhode Island |
| 40. Go thumbia | _____ | South Carolina |

UNIT 5 EXAM

Your group: _____

Your name: _____

Directions: Place the name of the capital city before its state:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------|---------------|
| 41. Steer | _____ | South Dakota |
| 42. Dash 'til | _____ | Tennessee |
| 43. Frost in | _____ | Texas |
| 44. Malt Cake City | _____ | Utah |
| 45. Want peeler | _____ | Vermont |
| 46. Which one | _____ | Virginia |
| 47. Shrimp-ia | _____ | Washington |
| 48. Car'll run | _____ | West Virginia |
| 49. Add a ton | _____ | Wisconsin |
| 50. I can | _____ | Wyoming |

COMPREHENSION EXAM

(PAGE 1)

Your group: _____

Your name: _____

Directions: Place the name of the capital city before its state:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------------|
| 1. Want summary | _____ | Alabama |
| 2. You know | _____ | Alaska |
| 3. He fix | _____ | Arizona |
| 4. Little dock | _____ | Arkansas |
| 5. Back memento | _____ | California |
| 6. Yen fer | _____ | Colorado |
| 7. Chart word | _____ | Connecticut |
| 8. Over | _____ | Delaware |
| 9. Calla grassy | _____ | Florida |
| 10. Fat Santa | _____ | Georgia |
| 11. Don a tu tu | _____ | Hawaii |
| 12. Noisy | _____ | Idaho |
| 13. Sing squealed | _____ | Illinois |
| 14. (state name) + polis | _____ | Indiana |

COMPREHENSION EXAM

(PAGE 2)

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------|---------------|
| 15. Free join | _____ | Iowa |
| 16. Go seek | _____ | Kansas |
| 17. Swank port | _____ | Kentucky |
| 18. Hat and shoes | _____ | Louisiana |
| 19. Adjusted | _____ | Maine |
| 20. A map of this | _____ | Maryland |
| 21. Lost in | _____ | Massachusetts |
| 22. Dancing | _____ | Michigan |
| 23. Quaint small | _____ | Minnesota |
| 24. Relax in | _____ | Mississippi |
| 25. Chef person city | _____ | Missouri |
| 26. Cantina | _____ | Montana |
| 27. Blinkin' | _____ | Nebraska |
| 28. Star sun city | _____ | Nevada |
| 29. On board | _____ | New Hampshire |
| 30. Went on | _____ | New Jersey |
| 31. Chant away | _____ | New Mexico |
| 32. All can see | _____ | New York |

COMPREHENSION EXAM

(PAGE 3)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------|
| 33. Jolly | _____ | North Carolina |
| 34. Quiz mark | _____ | North Dakota |
| 35. Go plumb bus | _____ | Ohio |
| 36. (state name) City | _____ | Oklahoma |
| 37. Fail him | _____ | Oregon |
| 38. Fairest burg | _____ | Pennsylvania |
| 39. Confidence | _____ | Rhode Island |
| 40. Go thumbia | _____ | South Carolina |
| 41. Steer | _____ | South Dakota |
| 42. Dash 'til | _____ | Tennessee |
| 43. Frost in | _____ | Texas |
| 44. Malt cake city | _____ | Utah |
| 45. Want peeler | _____ | Vermont |
| 46. Which one | _____ | Virginia |
| 47. Shrimp-ia | _____ | Washington |
| 48. Car'll run | _____ | West Virginia |
| 49. Add a ton | _____ | Wisconsin |
| 50. I can | _____ | Wyoming |

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Age of Student: _____ (print)

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

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