

## My State Research Lesson Plan

<b>Title:</b> My State Research		<b>Grade Range:</b> 4
<b>Integrated Curriculum Area:</b> Language Arts Social Studies	<b>Concepts and Competencies:</b> Research State history, Map Reading	<b>Tool:</b> Web Browsing
<b>Summary:</b> Students participate in electronic communities by visiting their state websites and finding information.		

### Warm-up

- Make sure students have completed the EasyTech lesson **Basic Web Browsing: Browsing and URLs** and its prerequisites.
- Read [Yo, Sacramento: And All Those Other State Capitals You Don't Know](#) with the class.
- Talk about state capitals and how all states have them. What are some other things that all states have in common? What are some things that make states different?
- Talk about your state and some things that make your state unique, such as geography, history, etc.

### Activity

Students find information about their state by visiting their state web pages:

- Review the skills taught in the assigned EasyTech lessons and the functionality of the specific browser students will be using.
- Provide the students with the URLs for your state's Historical Society and official state websites. (You can use a search engine to find the URLs if necessary.)
- Students complete the activity page by visiting the two state websites and answering questions about their state.

### Wrap-up

- Students share the interesting facts they learned about their state.

### Extension

- Students use the notes on their activity page to write a short report about their state.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## My State Research Activity Page

My state is:

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The two websites I am using to research my state are:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Home page URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Home page URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the information on these sites to find the answers to the following questions:

1. The state bird is: \_\_\_\_\_

2. The state tree is: \_\_\_\_\_

3. The state motto is: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Draw a picture of the state flag.



Find a map on one of the websites and answer the following questions:

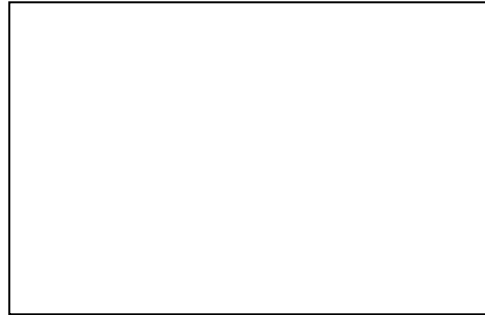
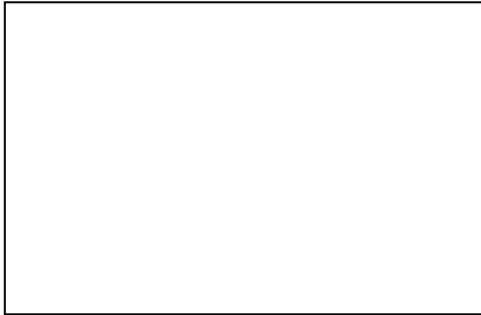
1. What is the title of the map? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does the map show? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is there a map scale? What is the ratio between distance and length (for example:  
1 inch = 50 miles)

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Draw two symbols from the map and label what they represent.



Find three facts about your state that you didn't know.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## My State Research Model

My state is:

Iowa

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The two websites I am using to research my state are:

Title: State Historical Society of Iowa

Home page URL: http://www.iowahistory.org

Title: Iowa Official State Website

Home page URL: http://www.state.ia.us

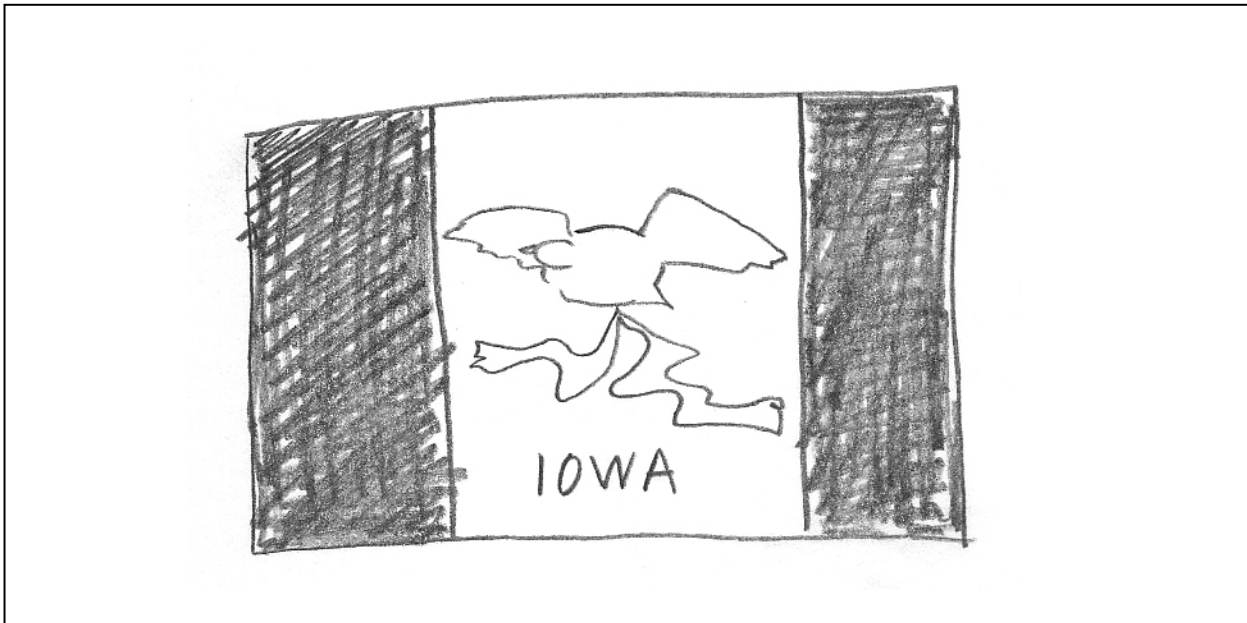
Use the information on these sites to find these state symbols:

1. The state bird is: Eastern Goldfinch

2. The state tree is: Oak

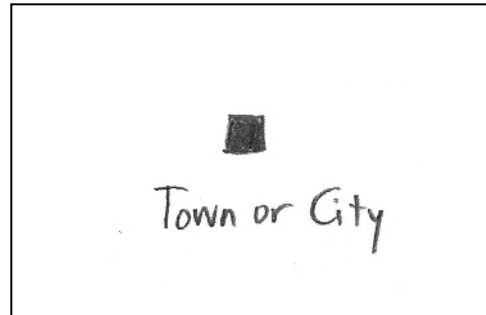
3. The state motto is: Our liberties we prize, and our rights we will maintain

4. Draw a picture of the state flag.



Find a map on one of the websites and answer the following questions:

1. What is the title of the map? Map of Iowa
2. What does the map show? All the cities and major roads in Iowa
3. Is there a map scale? What is the ratio between distance and length (for example: 1 inch = 50 miles)?  
There is a map scale. 1 inch = 30 miles
4. Draw two symbols from the map and label what they represent.



Find three facts about your state that you didn't know.

1. The capital of Iowa was moved to Des Moines in 1857.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Iowa was part of the Louisiana Purchase.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The only death during the Lewis and Clark Expedition occurred in Iowa. Sergeant Charles Floyd is buried in Sioux City.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## My State Research Rubric

### Student Evaluation

- \_\_\_\_\_ Websites are listed
- \_\_\_\_\_ State symbols are listed
- \_\_\_\_\_ State flag is drawn
- \_\_\_\_\_ Questions are answered about map reading
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two symbols from the map are drawn
- \_\_\_\_\_ Three state facts are listed

### Teacher Evaluation

- \_\_\_\_\_ Websites are listed
- \_\_\_\_\_ State symbols are listed
- \_\_\_\_\_ State flag is drawn
- \_\_\_\_\_ Questions are answered about map reading
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two symbols from the map are drawn
- \_\_\_\_\_ Three state facts are listed

## My State Research Resources

Alvarez, Mark and Will Cleveland. Yo, Sacramento: And All Those Other State Capitals You Don't Know. Brookfield: Millbrook Press, 1007.

This book includes the capitals for all fifty states. Each city has a fun way to remember its name, fun facts, and illustrations.

Boyd, Dr. Candy Dawson, et al. Social Studies, Texas, Grade 4 Teacher's Edition, Texas Edition. United States of America: Scott Foresman, 2003.

This entire book is dedicated to state history and information. Chapters include lessons on map skills, discussion points, and more.