

## **5th Grade State Projects**

Dear Parents and Guardians of our 5th Grade Students,

It's that time of year for our Annual 5th Grade State Project. There are 3 parts of this project that all of our soon to be 6th graders will take part in:

1. **State Research Report:** Students will choose a state to research (**EXCEPT California**), complete the "state research packet" and write an informational report about their state.

Students can learn about their state by doing research online or access free online state books from the Contra Costa County Library website.

Links to useful websites:

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/states/>

<https://www.ducksters.com/geography/usgeography.php>

<https://www.coolkidfacts.com/united-states-facts/>

<https://ccclib.org/ebooks-and-eaudiobooks/>

After completing the research portion, students will write an informational report about their state and turn it in on Edmodo.

Reports Due: Friday, May 22nd.

***In order to complete your project on time you should stick to these suggested completing dates:***

- Select a state by Wednesday, May 1st and let your teacher know by sending them a message on Class Dojo.
- Finish research by Monday, May 4th.
- Write a rough draft by Monday, May 11th.

- Finish editing and revising by Monday, May 18th.
- Submit your final draft by the due date of Friday, May 22nd.

**2. State Souvenir Plates:** Calling all creative family members!! This is the part of the project where the family is encouraged to help their child. They will need help gathering materials and designing/decorating their plate.

**\*\*\*More detailed information and requirements below.**



Plates Due: Friday, May 22nd

**3. Zoom State Presentations:** There will be a scheduled Zoom meeting for each class where students will share their State Souvenir Plates with the class and share important information about their state.

Date: Week of May 26th. Specific day TBD by your teacher.



***Paragraph 2: Geography***

Population: \_\_\_\_\_

State Size: \_\_\_\_\_

State geography/region: (What is the land like? How is the weather? Be sure to list major land features such as mountains, lakes, rivers, etc.)

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***Paragraph 3: State Symbols***

*(Name and describe each of these items, the best you can, in your report.*

*You will be able to draw what they look like on your State Souvenir Plate.)*

State Flag:

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State Flower/Tree/Plant:

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State Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

State Bird: \_\_\_\_\_

State Fish/Marine Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

State Colors: \_\_\_\_\_

State Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

State Motto (English translation): \_\_\_\_\_

State Song: \_\_\_\_\_

***Paragraph 4: Things to See & Do***

Historical Sites, Landmarks & National Parks:

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Attractions: (Entertainment and popular places to visit)

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Fun Facts: (Regional food, festivals, traditions, etc.)

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**Paragraph 5: Agriculture and Economy (How does the state make money?)**

Crops Produced:

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Types of Jobs/Industry:

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## **Writing your Informational Report:**

Once you are finished researching your state and completing the research notes, you will begin drafting your informational report. You will write several paragraphs using the information you learned about your state. Be sure to group ideas together and use subheadings (Be creative!) for each section of your report. You should have 5 paragraphs with subheadings.

- **Paragraph 1: Introduction.** This is where you will introduce your state, the capital, date of statehood and important historical events.
- **Paragraph 2: Geography.** In this paragraph you will give the population of your state, size of your state and important geographical information about your state such as major land features and climate.
- **Paragraph 3: State Symbols.** Your paragraph will include all the state symbols you researched as well as the state nickname, motto and song. Write these into complete sentences, not just a list.
- **Paragraph 4: Things to See and Do.** In this paragraph of your report, you will share information about historical sites, landmarks, national parks, attractions and any other fun facts you learned about your state.
- **Paragraph 5: Agriculture/Economy.** In the final paragraph, you will discuss how your state earns money.

Remember to follow the writing process by writing a rough draft and revising and editing your work before publishing. You can use your writing journal to write the rough draft of your report. Ask a family member to help you revise and edit your work. Then begin typing your final draft on Edmodo. You can login to Edmodo via Clever.

\*\*\*Sample Informational Report attached below.

*Sample Informative Report:*

Mrs. Ayotte

April 15, 2020

## **California: The Golden State**

### ***How California Became a State***

California became the 31st state on September 9, 1850. The state capital is Sacramento. Spanish explorers originally claimed the land in the 1700's. Mexico broke away from Spain in 1821 and gained control of California. After the Mexican-American War in 1848, California became a U.S. territory. A miner struck gold in 1849 at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, CA. Rumors of gold spread and more than 100,000 people moved to California hoping to strike it rich. They were called the "Forty-Niners." A year later, California became an official state.

### ***Geography***

As of July 2015, there were 39,144,848 people living in California. The state covers 155,959 square miles. California is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west, Oregon to the north, Nevada and Arizona to the west and Mexico to the south. The state is lined with sandy beaches and cliffs along the west coast and Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east. The upper northeastern part of the state is home to the large California redwood trees that can grow as big as 300 feet tall! The Mojave Desert is in the southern part of the state which includes Death Valley, the hottest desert in



North America. California has miles of farmland in the Central Valley, which is located in the center part of the state.

### ***State Symbols***

The state flag is also known as the Bear Flag. It includes a red stripe along the bottom, a single red star in the upper left hand corner, a picture of the state animal, the California grizzly bear, and a caption that reads "California Republic." The state flower is the California poppy and the state tree is the California redwood. The state bird is California valley quail. There are two state fish: the Golden Trout which lives in freshwater and the Garibaldi which lives in saltwater. The state colors are blue and gold. The blue represents the sky and the sea. The gold represents the gold found by the "Forty Niners". California is nicknamed the Golden State after the gold rush of 1849. The state motto is, "Eureka! I have found it." The state song is called. "I Love You, California" written by Francis Bernard Silverwood.

### ***Things to See and Do in California***

Some popular historical sites and landmarks in California include the Golden Gate Bridge, the State Capital and Old Town Sacramento, Alcatraz Island, Hearst Castle, and Mission San Diego. You should also check out the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, Jack London State Park, Big Basin Redwood Trees State Park, Yosemite Valley, and Death Valley (the hottest desert in North America). There are also a lot of popular attractions to visit such as Disneyland, Universal Studios, San Francisco, the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk (the oldest amusement park in California), and the San Diego Zoo. California is also home to Hollywood and has filmed more movies than any other state. California has some of

the most famous technology companies like Google and Facebook located in the Silicon Valley. Waves off the coast of California can reach over 50 ft high and that attracts a lot of surfers from all over the world. Another fun fact is that the very 1st McDonald's was established in 1940 in San Bernardino.

### ***How the State Makes Money***

California is the top producer of crops in the United States. California farmers grow several different types of fruits, vegetables, and nuts as well as dairy. Some important crops include lemons, tomatoes, avocados, grapes, and almonds to name a few. California is also home to many big technology companies like Google. The state also earns revenue from movie production and tourism.

**State Research Report Rubric**

State Name, Capital, Date of Statehood	/10
History of State	/10
Geography (population, state size, major land features)	/10
State Symbols/Nickname/Motto/Song	/10
Historical Sites/Landmarks/Attractions	/10
Agriculture & Economy	/10
Subheadings	/10
Spelling and Grammar	/10
Explanation and Elaboration	/20
<b>Total</b>	<b>/100</b>

## State Souvenir Plates

You may use any size paper plate you'd like. If your plate is waxy and difficult to draw on, put all your information onto a piece of white paper cut into the shape and size of your plate. You can glue that paper onto the plate if you'd like. You must include the following information on your plate in the most well thought out, colorful, neat, and organized way possible:

- State capital, name of state, and nickname
- Outline of your state's shape
- State colors
- State bird, plant/flower, and animal
- Landforms (mountains, oceans, rivers, lakes, etc.)
- 2 ways your state makes money

### State Plate Rubric

<b>State capital, name &amp; nickname</b>	<b>/5</b>
<b>State outline</b>	<b>/5</b>
<b>State colors</b>	<b>/5</b>
<b>State bird, plant/flower &amp; animal</b>	<b>/5</b>
<b>Landforms</b>	<b>/5</b>
<b>Two ways your state makes money</b>	<b>/5</b>
<b>Spelling &amp; Grammar</b>	<b>/10</b>
<b>Organization &amp; Neatness</b>	<b>/10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>/50</b>

### Example

