



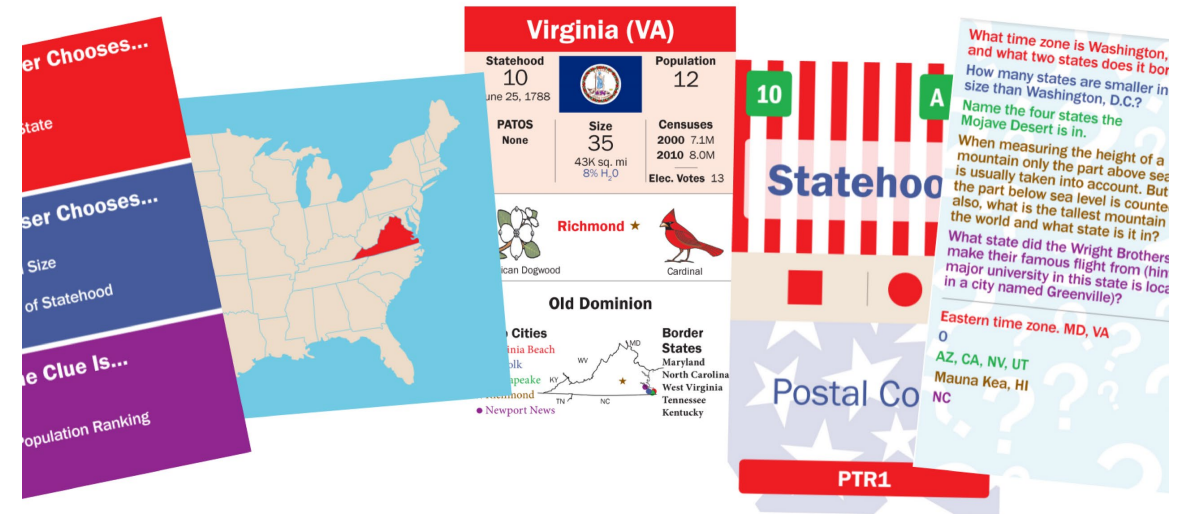
LEARNINGPLUNGE[®]

GeoPlunge

Using GeoPlunge in the Classroom


U.S. GEOGRAPHY GEOPLUNGE



- If you gave your students a blank map, could they fill it in with the state names? With the names and the capitals? How about identify the states in the order they became states?
- Teachers say that most GeoPlunge players can
 - They learn because they are having fun playing a game
 - They learn because they are working together
 - And best of all – they learn because they want to, not because they have to



GeoPlunge – What Do Students Learn?

West Virginia (WV)

Statehood 35 June 20, 1863		Population 38
PATOS Abraham Lincoln 16 th President	Size 41 24K sq. mi 1% H ₂ O	Censuses 2000 1.8M 2010 1.9M Elec. Votes 5

 **Charleston** ★ 

Rhododendron Cardinal

What is the official bird of Washington, D.C.?

Among the contiguous 48 states, which has the westernmost point?

Did people flock to the east coast or the west coast in connection with the gold rush that occurred in the 1800s?

What state are Maui, O'ahu, and Kaua'i located in?

College football rivalries. Which are closer to each other: (1) South Bend, IN and Los Angeles, CA or (2) Eugene, OR and Palo Alto, CA?

Wood Thrush

WA

West coast

HI

Eugene and Palo Alto

- State Names
- State Capitals
- Where each state is on the map
- Rankings – Size, population and the order states entered the Union (and who was President)
- 5 top cities in each state
- Border states
- Time zones/postal abbreviations
- State nickname, flag, bird and flower
- Facts about the District of Columbia
- Rivers, mountains, territories and more...

The Mountain State

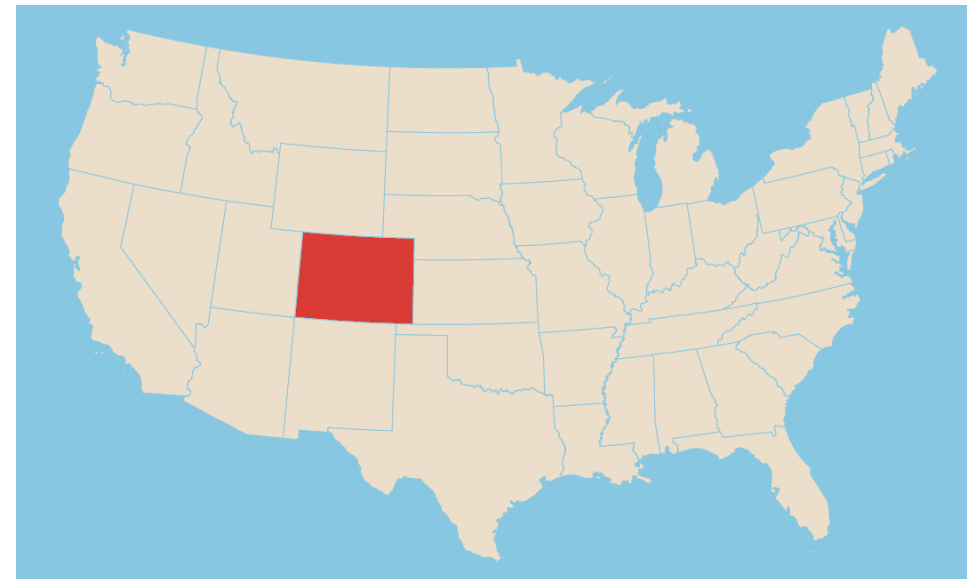
5 Top Cities

- ★ Charleston
- Huntington
- Parkersburg
- Morgantown
- Wheeling



Border States

- Pennsylvania
- Maryland
- Ohio
- Virginia
- Kentucky



Beyond Content

- Critical thinking/strategic thinking
- Decision-making
- Communication skills
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Sportsmanship



There are Many Ways to Use GeoPlunge In the Classroom

➤ **As an instructional resource. Here are some lesson plans that we've created, or you can create your own.**

- [The ABCs of States](#)
- [Major U.S. Cities](#)
- [10 Day GeoPlunge Unit or 10 Week GeoPlunge Unit](#)
- [Birds, Flowers, Nicknames](#)

➤ **As a whole class activity**

- Class members pick a map card and arrange themselves in alphabetical order by state
- Teacher or a student gives clues from a state card to whole class; the person that guesses correctly gives the next set of clues (this can be done virtually or in-person)
- Teacher or a student asks questions from challenge cards; the person who guesses correctly gets to choose the next question.


➤ **Students play GeoPlunge games as a center-based activity in small groups**

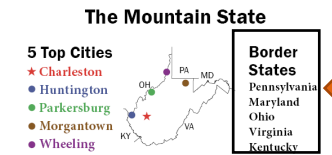
- There are several decks of cards in each GeoPlunge box -- 12 or more students can play at once with the cards from one box. Six or more can play Dashing States while six others play games with the GeoPlunge state cards. Another set of students could be playing with the trivia cards.

Racing to Learn Where the States are on the Map

- [BorderUp](#) – Teams are each dealt 18 cards. Then it's a race to see which team can find 2 sets of 3 states that border each other fastest.

- Ideal team size: 3 students per team
- Cards used: GeoPlunge cards
- Prior knowledge needed: None -- but it's a race so the more they know, the faster they can go

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- [Dashing States](#) – Teams are dealt 5 map cards with one state colored red. They discard 1 card. Then it's a race to see which team can organize its cards in alphabetical order by state first.
 - Ideal team size: 1 v 1 or teams of 2 or 3
 - Cards used: Map cards
 - Prior knowledge needed unless students use [maps](#) as a resource until they start learning where the states are located.
 - Adaptations: When students have mastered the game, it can be adapted so they race to organize cards in alphabetical order by state capital or the order of statehood




Content + Strategy




Learn information about each state, including state name and abbreviation, time zone, capital, and border states at the easiest levels and much more as students advance.

State IQ – Teams each get one GeoPlunge card. Each team tries to guess its opponent's card based on clues given. The team that guesses with the least amount of clues wins that round. There are a maximum of 3 clues given for each round.

- **Ideal team size:** Any size team can work, or this game can be played with the teacher or a student giving the clues to the whole class.
- **Cards used:** GeoPlunge cards + at higher levels Power cards, Clue cards, and card cover with flag cut-out
- **Prior knowledge needed:** Depends on level played (see below). Students seem to pick up the knowledge necessary very quickly.
- **At the beginning levels**, only 3 clues can be given, and the strategy is figuring out the best order to ask the question based on the card:
 - 1st letter of the state abbreviation
 - 1st letter of the capital
 - 1 border state
- **At more advanced levels**, students use the power cards and clue cards to decide which clues to give and all of the information on the card can be used.

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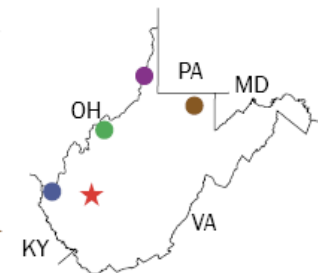


RhododendronCardinal

The Mountain State

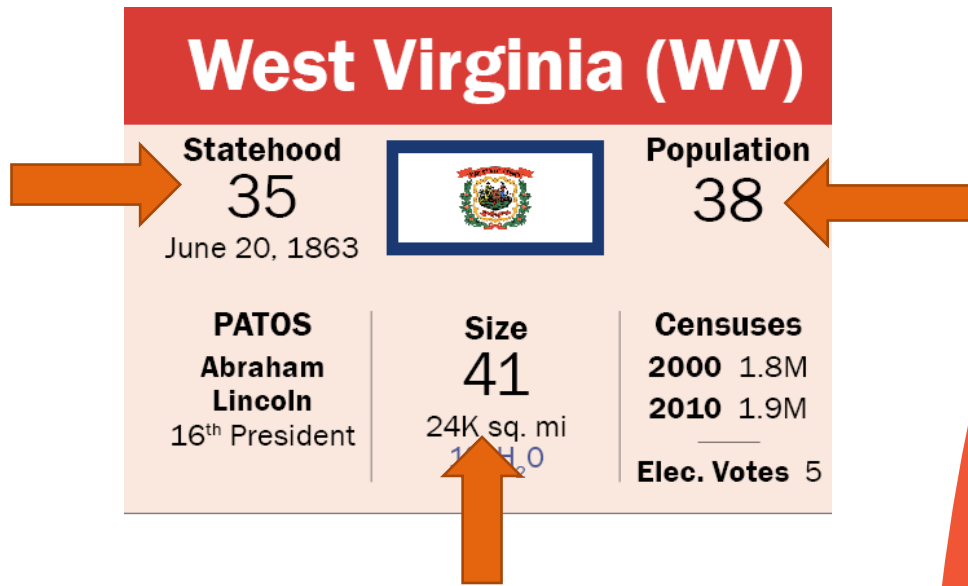
5 Top Cities

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Border States

Pennsylvania
Maryland
Ohio
Virginia
Kentucky



Content + Critical Thinking

Learn state rankings: order of statehood, size and population

Play the Ranks

- **Ideal team size:** Teams of 1-3 are ideal
- **Cards used:** GeoPlunge cards
- **Prior knowledge needed:** no prior knowledge needed -- students become familiar with the information while playing
- **Adaptations:** As students advance and start learning the rankings, they can play their cards face down

- Teams are dealt 7 cards and discard 1. With the 1st 3 “tricks,” rankings closer to 1 win. With the last 3 “tricks,” rankings closer to 50 win.
- So if we are playing one of the first 3 tricks, the lead team will play a card and say which ranking they are playing. To win that “trick” the other team has to play a card with the same ranking that is closer to 1.
- The winner of that “trick” then becomes the lead team for the next “trick.”

Content

Learn information about mountains, rivers, territories, Washington, D.C. and much more using the Challenge cards

Chummy Challenge: Teams ask opposing teams questions from our Challenge cards. Which color question they ask is governed by the Clue Cards. Click on the link for detailed instructions on how to play this game.

- Chummy Challenge is usually played at the more advanced levels in our GeoPlunge tournaments. However, this is a game that can be played in-person or virtually with the teacher asking questions to the whole class.
- In a non-virtual setting, this game can be played as a whole class or in a small group where a student asks a question from a card and the first student that answers correctly can ask the next question from a different card.
- NOTE: the red and blue questions tend to be the easier questions.

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We're here to help!

[Contact us](#) if you would like free, training, ideas, help in getting started.

Our [Kids' Zone](#) has flashcards and quizzes to help students learn.

We also have a GeoPlunge – Dashing States app for at-home practice for Dashing States