



Reading Comprehension – U.S. – North Dakota

Name: _____ Date: _____

North Dakota



North Dakota was the 39th state admitted to the United States. It was admitted to the United States on November 2, 1889. The capital of North Dakota is Bismarck, which is located in the southern half of the state. The states that border North Dakota are Minnesota, Montana, and South Dakota.

The word Dakota is the Sioux Indian word for "friend". North Dakota has three nicknames. One of the nicknames is "The Peace Garden State". This appears on North Dakota's license plates in honor of the Peace Garden which is on the International Boundary between North Dakota and Canada. "Flickertail State" is another nickname that is in honor of the Richardson Ground Squirrel, which is known for flicking its tail. The third nickname for North Dakota is "Roughrider State". It is in honor of the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, organized to fight in the Spanish-American War.

Some famous North Dakotans include: Elizabeth Bodine, humanitarian; Angie Dickinson, actress; Phil Jackson, basketball coach; Louis L'Amour, author; Lawrence Welk, entertainer; and Harold K. Johnson, army general.

North Dakota's state bird is the western meadowlark. The western meadowlark is also the state bird of Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, Oregon, and Wyoming. The meadowlark is about 8.5 inches in length, and has a sharp and pointed bill. It has buff and brown stripes on its head. The breast is bright yellow with a black V. The western meadowlark likes to inhabit open spaces.

The state tree of North Dakota is the American elm. The American elm tree is common across the state. They can grow to be 120 feet or more. The state flower of North Dakota is the wild prairie rose. The wild prairie rose grows in meadows, along roadsides, and in pastures. The flower has five pink petals with yellow stamens in the center.

North Dakota's current population is approximately 642,200. It is the 4th least populous state in the United States of America.



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Comprehension

Respond using complete sentences.

1. What are the three nicknames of North Dakota?

2. What is the capital of North Dakota?

3. Name two famous people from North Dakota. What are they famous for?

4. How long has North Dakota been a state?

5. Which states border North Dakota?

6. What is the origin of the name 'Dakota'?



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Answers

Answers will vary—accept all reasonable answers.

1. North Dakota's 3 nicknames are "The Peace Garden State", "The Flickertail State", and the "Roughrider State."
2. The capital of North Dakota is Bismarck.
3. Answers will vary. Accept any reasonable answer. Elizabeth Bodine-humanitarian, Angie Dickinson-actress, Phil Jackson-basketball coach, Louis L'Amour-author, Lawrence Welk-entertainer, Harold K. Johnson-army general
4. North Dakota has been a state for 115 years.
5. The states that border North Dakota are Minnesota, Montana, and South Dakota.
6. Dakota is a Sioux Indian word, meaning friend