Cover page sample
like a book cover...

May include pictures, etc.

Colored details

Parker Llantero #20
Social studies
5th grade
April 20, 2012
Directions for the State Report (State Name)

State Nickname

Title Page
- Sample
- Simpler
- No photos

Brittany Spears
Social Studies
5th Grade
June 2002
Table of Contents

Table of Contents ........................................... Page 2

Introduction ................................................. Page 3

Statistical Information ................................. Page 4

Physical Characteristics ............................... Page 5

“Why is it Important?” ................................. Page 6

Climate ..................................................... Page 7

What People Do ........................................... Page 8

Conclusion .................................................. Page 9

State Flag ................................................... Page 10

Map .......................................................... Page 10

Bibliography ................................................. Page 11
Directions for the State Report

Notice that my writing does not begin half way down the page. This page is where you will introduce the state your report is about. It is not "your state" so please don't call it that. You need to put a heading in the top right hand corner of this page. Also, each new section needs a title centered at the top. DO NOT use the word "Introduction" for your title, use the name of the state or something else creative. Finally, make sure your paper is double spaced. Single spaced papers WILL NOT be graded.

Notice that I indented, again. That is because we always indent the first sentence of a new paragraph. This paragraph will still be introducing the State, but it will be about different information than the first paragraph. I will tell you now what information will make a good introduction. Your introduction should be 2 – 3 paragraphs and should inform the reader why you chose this state, what you hope to learn, and what makes it an interesting state to you. You might want to let us know a little bit about how and when this state began. Try to give us a short summary of the history. Remember, the beginning of your introduction is the most important part of your report because it will let the reader know what your report is going to be about.

If you have trouble getting started, you may want to write your introduction last. You could pick some of your favorite facts from the rest of the report. You could also include personal information like if your Aunt Sally lives there or maybe that you went there once for vacation. Okay, the introduction is done. Do you remember what comes next?
Statistical Information

Those of you who went back and looked at the Table of Contents and saw that it said “Statistical Information”, well done. As you can see, I started again with a title and I indented. The rest of the titles should be pretty easy to figure out. Also, please make sure that there is a page number at the bottom of the page, and that it matches what the Table of Contents says. You might just have a section of your report that goes more than one page long.

Okay, on to the details of this section. Find and include the answers to these questions and you will be ready to write your paper. What is the states official flower, bird, song, motto, and any others you can find. Some states have some pretty funny official state things. (Insects?) What is the states nickname? What is the states area and population? (Be sure to use the most current information possible, and please include the date of the figures.) How does it rank compared to the other states? (ex. It is the 5th largest state, but it has the 24th largest population) What is the states capital? When did it become a state? Was it first, 23rd, 38th, last, etc. to become a state. Finally, what are the MAJOR universities found in the state.

I know that when you go to write your report you will find a creative way to share that information, and you won’t just simply write a list. Also, make sure that you start each section with a topic sentence and end with a small concluding idea.
Physical Characteristics

By now I'm sure you have got the pattern of titling your sections figured out, as well as remembering to indent each new paragraph. For this section you are going to try to describe the state of your report with words, so that we can see it in our minds. Make sure you use lots of good adjectives! You should make sure that you let us know what region of the United States the state is in. Also, try to describe the general shape of the state. "It looks like a piece of pizza that has a big bite taken out of the bottom," or, "a box that someone sat on," or something like that.

You will also want to make sure that you include some other important pieces of information. What other states or bodies of water make up the borders? What types of landforms are found in the state? (ex: desserts, mountains, rivers, lakes, etc.) You might also discuss how people are affected by the type of land where they live. How big is the state compared to other states?

You could probably write enough on each of those questions for them to be their own paragraph. You can have as many paragraphs for each section that you need, just make sure they are each about one main idea, and that there is enough information to support a paragraph. In your descriptions, make sure you have written about what we would see. Colors are good to describe the state, but different areas of the same state might look quite different. For example, California has some large dessert sections which are very flat and brown. It also has large green lush forested areas. The bay area is full of blue water and hills.
"Why This State is Important"

Once again there is a title and a page number, and I started out by indenting. This is a fun section to write, and each state has its’ own unique advantages. I’ll give you a list of questions to get you thinking about important stuff, but I WON’T come up with every possible thing that is important. If you find some reason the state is important that I didn’t put on the list, GREAT! Oh, and if some question doesn’t work, you are not going to answer no. Do not just answer questions, write sentences and paragraphs that make sense, with information from the questions below.

So, why is your state so important? (Remember not to write that it is your state.) Was it the first state or the last state to do something? Did some very important historical event happen there? Is it the biggest or the smallest, the hottest or coldest? Were lots of famous people or presidents born there? Are there famous parks or attractions there? This should be enough to get you thinking of important stuff.

Now remember, do not just write a list of answers to the questions above. Also, don’t answer questions that do not apply. For example, the sentence “no, there were not any presidents born here,” does not make much sense in a report. You may also want to include why you think this is a special state. There must be some reason you chose it.
Climate

One of the topics that you may choose to pick is Climate. You need to explain what the temperature is like in your state (oops, it isn’t “your” state) throughout the year. You can break it down by season, or month to month. Be sure to include how much rainfall or snowfall the state might get during a year.

An interesting addition would be to explain how the climate affects the people. Things like clothing, jobs, agriculture, and recreation can all be affected by climate. It might be different in certain areas of the state. You may be able to figure this out from pictures you see, or from what you read.
What People Do

Another topic of your choice is what people do in the state. Each state has their own special things that people do. For example, in Alaska, whaling and fishing are huge industries. People hold dog sled races for fun there. There is no whaling or fishing in Kansas, and to the best of my knowledge, there are no dog sled races there either. Kansas does have a ton of farmers, growing grain. As you can see different states have different main industries. How does the state make most of it’s money? What does the state grow or produce for its main export?

When the people are not working, what do they do for fun and recreation? For example, here in California there are many people who like to go to the beach to sunbathe or surf, and others who like to go and camp in the forests and mountains, but very little of either in Illinois. Also, what famous attractions are there in the state? What is the one or two things that every visitor must do or see? Are any professional sports teams from there? Basically, what do the people who are there do.
Conclusion

After your two choice pages, of which I DIDN'T CHOOSE OR DESCRIBE ANIMALS OR NATURAL DISASTERS, (but you can), it is time for you to write a conclusion. Tell us what was the most interesting thing that you learned. This will probably be your shortest section, but that is ok. This is a good place to write any information you really liked and couldn't figure out where to put it. Try to convince each of us that this is the best state and we should go there on our next visit. Make sure you end with a great closing sentence.
Illustrations

After you are done writing all the information you must include TWO DRAWINGS! and a population chart/line graph!

- The State
- A physical map – population chart

The Map should include a key, any major mountains or bodies of water, the state capital and other major cities, and all of the borders of the state. Any really famous attractions should also be labeled. Make sure you color it appropriately.

- Each picture needs to be a full size paper (8 ½ x 11) and they should be done neatly and with a high quality.

- You may include extra drawings as well if you like.

ex) State bird, flower, etc.
Bibliography


Remember list your sources ALPHABETICALLY by last name. Also, each little punctuation mark is important, so make sure you get them each right. Each entry is NOT numbered. The indentation is different! Finally, do not double space this part, but do skip a line in between each new entry.

→ go to www.mrspechen.com → STUDENTS.
→ Scroll down the Technology column to the line: CITATION MAKER.