

Mississippi State History Lapbook Journal



Designed for
6th-12th Grades,
but could be
adjusted for
younger grade
levels.

Written & designed by
Cyndi Kinney & Judy Trout
of Knowledge Box Central



Mississippi History Lapbook Journal
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Mississippi State History Lapbook Journal

Thanks for purchasing this product. Please check out our Lapbook Journals for other states. The Lapbook Journals are designed for 6th-12th grades but could be adjusted for use with younger students.

Please also check out our Lapbooks for each state. The Lapbooks are designed for K-8th grades.

We are designing these products, Lapbook Journals and Lapbooks, so that they follow the same Study Guide. This will allow for a family to study State History TOGETHER, with each age group using the product (Lapbook Journal or Lapbook) that best suits that group. The parent may teach from ONE Study Guide and allow each student to document what he is learning in his own way.

How to Use This Product:

- 1. Supplies:** Gather the following supplies: 3-ring binder (2 inches), scissors, white paper, colored paper, light colored cardstock, glue, staples & stapler, ribbon, hole punch, metal brad fasteners (optional), and crayons or colored pencils. (If you purchased the printed format of this product, then you will need all of the listed supplies except the paper.)
- 2. Brochures/Pamphlets:** Contact a Chamber of Commerce or travel agent within your state, and request brochures and pamphlets. Place a pocket inside your binder, and keep your brochures and pamphlets there. During your study, you may refer to these to help with answering the questions. You may also choose to cut out some of the words or pictures from them and decorate the pages of your notebook.
- 3. Study Guide:** This guide contains an overview of this state's history. Websites where you can find additional information are included on the last page of the Study Guide.
- 4. Journal Pages:** These pages contain many questions that you will need to answer during your study of this state's history. There are 2 blank pages at the end of this section, and these are for your State Report. This will be a short essay that tells a brief overview of what you have learned during your study. You may add pages, as needed.
- 5. Lapbook Pages:** This is where you will create 6 booklets that further document what you have learned during your study. If you enjoy hands-on projects, you may complete these and glue them on the last 2 pages of this section. If you choose not to complete these booklets, then we suggest that you make sure to cover the requested information in your State Report in the previous section.

Mississippi State History Lapbook Journal

**The following
pages contain the
Study Guide**

Print on white paper.

Mississippi State History Lapbook Journal Study Guide



The Great Seal of Mississippi

Welcome to Mississippi. The character of the Old South can still be felt with the scents of the magnolia blossom floating on the warm, moist breeze. Stately antebellum mansions are preserved across the state, hosted by women in billowing hoop skirts during the spring and summer months. Mississippi is a state that is proud of its history and works hard to preserve the memory of the Old South.

When Mississippi was a one-crop state before the arrival of the boll weevil in 1907, plantations thrived, and cotton was king in the fertile soil of the Yazoo-Mississippi delta. Today, though Mississippi ranks among the leading producers, cotton competes with other crops, like soybeans, and manufacturing has replaced agriculture as the economic leader. Mississippi is the nation's largest producer of upholstered furniture.

Mississippi has not experienced the urban growth of other states and is still very much a land of small towns scattered among rolling farmlands and forested hills. About 40% of Mississippi is occupied by about 42,000 farms.

The state of Mississippi is named after the Mississippi River. Though the river was called by many different names, the name Mississippi given to it by the Indians was the name that was used on Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle's map of the area in 1695.

Mississippi means "large river" to the Chippewa Indians.

People who live in Mississippi or who come from Mississippi are called Mississippians.

STATEHOOD

In July of 1817, forty-eight delegates from Mississippi's fourteen counties met at Washington to draft the new state's constitution. The constitution established Mississippi's government and recognized Natchez as the state's capital. With the last requirement for statehood completed, President James Monroe on December 10, 1817, signed the resolution that admitted Mississippi as the nation's twentieth state.



Map of Mississippi – Capital, Major Cities and Rivers

STATE CONSTITUTION

The Mississippi Constitution that is currently in use was adopted on November 1, 1890. This document, with its subsequent amendments, sets the framework for the state government and outlines the duties and responsibilities of its officials.

The State of Mississippi has had four state constitutions: the original Constitution of 1817, the Constitution of 1832, the Constitution of 1868, and the present-day Constitution of 1890. Each of these constitutions marked major changes in Mississippi's history. The Constitution of 1817 was the state's first constitution written when Mississippi entered the Union as a state. Only 15 years later in 1832, however, a new Mississippi constitution was written to replace the original one. After Mississippi's defeat in the Civil War, a third constitution was written and adopted. Called the Constitution of 1868, this constitution made great change in Mississippi's government. Slavery was renounced, and the former slaves received basic civil rights.

PREAMBLE: *We, the people of Mississippi in convention assembled, grateful to Almighty God, and invoking his blessing on our work, do ordain and establish this constitution.*

STATE GOVERNMENT

When Mississippi became a United States territory in 1798, its first government was made up of a territorial governor, a secretary to the governor, and three judges. Washington, Mississippi, served as the territorial capital. That is where the first Mississippi Constitution was drafted and sent to the United States Congress for the territory's admittance in the Union as a state. On December 10, 1817, Mississippi became the twentieth state, and since then, Mississippi's citizens and officials have shaped its state government into what it is today.

The Mississippi Constitution that is currently in use was adopted on November 1, 1890. This document, with its subsequent amendments, sets the framework for the state government and outlines the duties and responsibilities of its officials. Just like on the federal level, Mississippi has three branches of government: the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch. The three branches work together and have checks and balances against each other so that no branch becomes too strong.

Executive Branch

The executive branch is the chief law enforcement branch of state government. It is made up of the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state auditor, state treasurer, commissioner of agriculture and commerce, commissioner of insurance, three public service commissioners, and three transportation commissioners. These offices are responsible for specific functions of state government. The officeholders are elected to four-year terms and can be re-elected with the exception of the governor and lieutenant governor who are limited to two consecutive terms.

As chief executive officer of the state, the governor is charged with presenting a balanced budget to the Mississippi Legislature for its consideration. The governor either signs into law or vetoes all bills passed by the state legislature. Additionally, the governor serves as the commander-in-chief of Mississippi's militia. The governor appoints officials to various government positions as the law requires.

The lieutenant governor presides over the state Senate and votes in the event of a tie. He or she also serves as a member of the Senate Rules and Joint Legislative Budget committees, appoints standing committees of the Senate, and refers all bills to committees for consideration. If the office of the governor becomes vacant, by the governor's death, absence from the state, or by long illness, the lieutenant governor will have the powers to discharge the duties of the office.

The secretary of state is responsible for making sure that certain businesses in the state operate under the law. He or she also manages state-owned lands such as 16th Section School Trust Lands and Tidelands. This office is also responsible for ensuring fair, accurate elections throughout the state of Mississippi, as well as for publishing documents dealing with the acts of the state legislature among other official documents, including the *Mississippi Official and Statistical Register*, commonly called the Blue Book.

The attorney general is the chief legal officer of the state. He or she acts as the official lawyer for Mississippi, its public officials, and government agencies. The attorney general is the only official in the state who can bring or defend a lawsuit on behalf of the state. The attorney

general's office employs a staff of attorneys and investigators who help law enforcement investigate and prosecute criminal activity that happens in the state.

The state auditor maintains the state's accounting system; audits all state agencies, county governments, county school districts, community colleges and universities; and conducts investigation into abuse of public funds and violation of law.

The duties of the state treasurer parallel those of chief financial officer in the business world. The treasurer maintains various financial records for the state, including receipts, deposits, and disbursement of treasury funds. He or she provides oversight of the process of issuing bonds.

The agriculture and commerce commissioner promotes and regulates the business of aquaculture and agriculture in the state, including food and product labeling inspections.

The insurance commissioner executes all laws relative to all insurance companies, corporations, and their agents and adjustors operating in the state. The state's standard fire code is administered by the commissioner, as well as the licensing of manufacturers and dealers of mobile homes and regulating their practices.

The three public service commissioners supervise and regulate for-hire transportation, communication, electric, gas, water and sewer utilities.

The three transportation commissioners control and supervise all matters relating to airport development, highway construction and maintenance, weight enforcement, public transit, and rail planning.

Legislative Branch

The legislative branch is responsible for writing laws for the state of Mississippi. The state legislature is divided into two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The state is divided into 52 senate districts and 122 representative districts. Senators and representatives are voted into office by constituents in those districts for four-year terms. Each year in January the Mississippi Legislature begins its session where members bring proposed laws, called "bills," to the floor of either the House of Representatives or the Senate for debate and eventually a vote. Often during this process changes or "amendments" are made to the bill, which are incorporated before a final vote takes place.

If a bill is first presented on the floor of the House of Representatives, once that bill has been passed by the members of the House, it must then go to the Senate for debate and vote. The same principle operates if a bill is first introduced in the Senate. The House of Representatives is presented the final version of the bill for a vote. The second chamber has the opportunity to make changes to the bill. Those changes are then voted on by the original chamber.

Once a bill passes both chambers of the Mississippi Legislature it is sent to the governor for signature or veto. The governor has five days to either approve a bill by signing it into law, or to return it to the House of Representatives or the Senate with objections. If the governor does not take either action, the bill automatically becomes a law without the governor's signature. The legislature can override a governor's veto with two-thirds vote of both houses in favor of the bill's passage.

Judicial Branch

The judicial branch, the state's court system, is responsible for making sure Mississippi laws are not in conflict with the state Constitution. The courts also settle disputes and punish those who break Mississippi's laws. The highest court in the state is the Mississippi Supreme Court, and its nine justices are voted into office by the citizens to serve eight-year terms, which are staggered to provide continuity. Like the United States Supreme Court, the Mississippi Supreme Court hears appeals from lower courts. The Mississippi Supreme Court also hears cases about Mississippi laws and makes determinations as to whether those laws violate the Mississippi Constitution.

In 1994, Mississippi established the Mississippi Court of Appeals. There are ten judges who sit on the court of appeals, elected by the state's voters to serve eight-year terms, which are staggered to provide continuity. They hear appeal cases from lower courts that are assigned to it by the Mississippi Supreme Court.

Mississippi has two other courts that operate on a statewide level, chancery and circuit courts. Mississippi has twenty chancery court districts. They hear cases involving family matters, such as divorce and child custody, the carrying out of wills, and other issues.

Judges who sit in Mississippi's twenty-two circuit court districts hear cases that involve criminal matters and some that involve civil matters. Civil matters usually involve a person suing another person or an organization for some harm they might have received. Chancellors and circuit court judges are all elected to four-year terms. Ordinarily, circuit courts use juries and chancery courts do not.

Source: <http://mshistorynow.mdah.state.ms.us/articles/276/government-of-mississippi-how-it-functions>

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Tribal Government operates separately from Mississippi State Government. For more information, visit: <http://www.doi.gov/governments/tribalgovernments.cfm>

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

The legislative branch of the United States government makes laws for our nation and raises and distributes money to run the United States government. The most evident part of the legislative branch is the United States Congress. Congress is divided into two parts, called houses. The two parts are the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress is referred to as a bicameral body because it is made up of two houses. The Latin roots of the word bicameral, "bi" and "cameral," mean two chambers or rooms.

Members of the Senate are called Senators and members of the House of Representatives are called Representatives. Senators and representatives serving in these two bodies are sometimes referred to as congressmen, or women, and sometimes as legislators because their business is to

legislate or make laws. The role of the legislative branch is defined in the United States Constitution.

Each state elects people to represent them in the United States Congress in Washington, DC. The citizens of each state elect two senators to represent them in the Senate. They also elect representatives to represent them in the House of Representatives. The number of representatives each state sends to the House of Representatives is not a specific number like the Senate, but is based on the population of the state. The people, that are elected to represent the state's citizens in the United States Congress, are referred to as the Congressional Delegation.

There are 100 senators in the U.S. Senate. Each is elected to a term, in the Senate, of six years. There are 435 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each is elected to a term, in the "House," of two years.

The citizens of Mississippi elect two people, like every other state, to represent them in the Senate and five people, based on Mississippi's current population in the most recent federal census, to represent them in the House of Representatives.

STATE SEAL

When Mississippi gained statehood in 1817, it decided to use the seal that it had been using since 1798 when Mississippi was still a territory. And even today, this is Mississippi's Great Seal. The design of the seal is based upon the American eagle of the national arms.



The eagle is proudly positioned in the center of the seal, with its wings spread wide and its head held high. A bunting of stars and stripes adorns its chest. In its talons, the eagle grasps an olive branch symbolizing a desire for peace and a quiver of arrows representing the power to wage war. The outer circle of the seal holds the words "The Great Seal of the State of Mississippi".

STATE CAPITAL (Jackson)

The capital city of the state of Mississippi is Jackson. Jackson is the most populous city in the state of Mississippi. Jackson has been the capital city of Mississippi since 1822. Prior to Jackson, Columbia was the capital city from 1821-1822, and Natchez was the capital city from 1817-1821.

The Mississippi State Capitol building is located in Jackson and has been the home of Mississippi's state legislature since 1903. The Mississippi State Capitol building is a designated Mississippi landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



The state capitol is the third capitol building built in the capital city of Jackson. The first building was completed in 1822, the second building in 1833 and the current capitol building was completed in 1903.

The building was erected on the site of the old state penitentiary and was designed by Theodore Link, an architect from St. Louis, Missouri. The building cost \$1,093,641 dollars, which was paid by the Illinois Central Railroad by the back taxes they owed the state.

In 1979-1983, the capitol building underwent a complete restoration, which cost \$19 million. The renovation remained true to the original building and strived to maintain the original design when at all possible.

The Beaux Arts style building was designed to house all branches of the Mississippi state government. Currently, only the Legislature and the executive branches are contained in the capitol. The judicial branch is housed in the Gartin Justice Building across High Street.

The capitol is 402 feet long and 180 feet to the top of the dome. The dome interior contains 750 lights which illuminate the blind-folded lady representing "Blind Justice" and four scenes: two Indians, a Spanish explorer and a Confederate general. The eagle which sits atop the dome is made of solid copper coated with gold leaf. The eagle is 8 feet high and 15 feet wide.

On the first floor, the Hall of Governors is located. Portraits of Mississippi's governors since the creation of the Mississippi Territory in 1798 are on display. The State Library and the Supreme Court chambers, now both committee meeting rooms, are located on the second floor. The Legislature is housed on the third floor, along with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House's offices. The public viewing for both chambers is located on the fourth floor.

The grounds of the capitol building contains one of the 53 replicas of the original Liberty Bell and a statue erected in memory of the ladies, mothers, sisters, wives and daughters of the Confederate soldiers. Among the trees on the grounds is the state tree, the magnolia, along with two Japanese magnolias. The battleship figurehead is from the second USS Mississippi. The ship was sold to Greece in 1914 but the figurehead was presented to Mississippi by the United States Navy in December 1909.

Source http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/htms/cap_info.htm:

STATE MOTTO

"By Valor and Arms"
(*Virtute et Armis* in Latin)

The Mississippi state motto has not been adopted and an official Mississippi motto but has appeared on the Mississippi coat-of-arms since 1894. Other mottos and slogans of Mississippi:

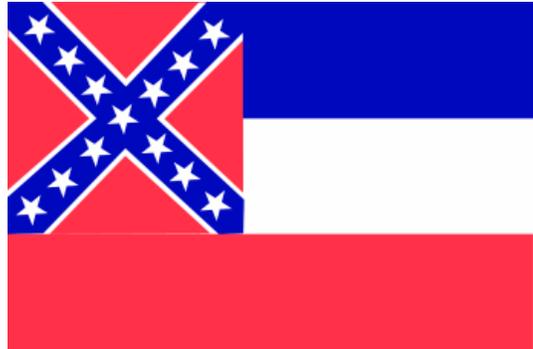
- Feels Like Coming Home
- The South's Warmest Welcome

STATE FLAG

The initial legislation that led to the adoption of the current official State flag was approved on February 7, 1894. The legislation authorized a committee to design a State flag and authorized that this flag should become the State flag.

The committee recommended a flag, "...with width two-thirds of its length; with a union square, in width two-thirds of the width of the flag; the ground of the union to be red and a broak blue saltier thereon, bordered with white and emblazoned with thirteen (13) mullets or five-pointed stars, corresponding with the original number of States of the Union; the field to be divided into there bars of equal width, the upper one blue, the center one white, and the lower one, extending the whole length of the flag, red--the national colors; the staff surmounted with a spear-head, and a battle-axe below; the flag to be fringed with gold, and the staff guilded with gold." Mississippi had a new flag to replace the "Magnolia flag" adopted in 1861.

Current State Flag of Mississippi (1894)



The official description of the Mississippi's State Flag:

The canton of the flag, sometimes referred to as the Confederate battle flag, is actually referred to as the "union square" in the original description.

The thirteen stars, sometimes said to represent the number Confederate States and those that might have been Confederate, are said to represent the "original number of States of the Union;" in the original description.

The field of the flag consists of the same three bar theme as the "Stars and Bars" but the top stripe is blue. The colors of these three bars are said to represent the "national colors."

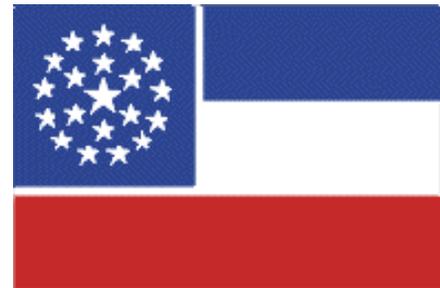
This flag served the State for 107 years when, in 2001, Governor David Ronald (Ronnie) Musgrove signed House Bill No. 524 on January 12, 2001: an act to provide for a statewide special election for the purpose of selecting the official flag of the state of Mississippi; to set the date of April 17, 2001, for the statewide special election; to allow the electorate to vote for one of two flag designs; to specify that one of the designs shall be the 1894 flag design and that the other shall be a proposed new design

This bill was precipitated by a series of design proposals intended to remove the representation of the Confederate battle flag from the canton corner of the current State flag. Some Mississippians were offended by the official design and proposed a new design they thought would be more acceptable to the entire populace of the State. The legislature and the Governor

decided to put an end to the controversy over the State flag and passed a law that would put the design of the Mississippi State Flag to a vote. This vote would determine whether the State flag that had flown over Mississippi for 107 years would continue to fly over the State or whether a new design would be raised over the State capitol.

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The new proposed State flag design was similar to the 1894 design except that the canton corner color was changed from red to blue and the representation of the Confederate Battle Flag was replaced with 19 small white stars surrounding one large white star. The 19 small stars represented the number of states that were already part of the Union when Mississippi joined in 1817. The large white five-pointed star in the center represented the State of Mississippi.



2001 Flag proposal

When all the votes were counted the message was clear. The 107 year old Mississippi State Flag would continue to fly over the State. The vote, nearly 2-1, sent a clear message that most Mississippians valued the historic symbolism of the 1894 flag.

STATE NICKNAMES

The Magnolia State

The most well-known nickname for Mississippi is "The Magnolia State." This nickname honors the stately beauty of the Magnolia Trees of Mississippi. The Magnolia is Mississippi's official State Tree and the blossom is Mississippi's official State Flower. "The Magnolia State" appears on the Mississippi 50 States commemorative quarter issued in October of 2002.

The Bayou State

Mississippi is sometimes referred to as "The Bayou State" for its slow-moving streams that wander through marshes and lowlands along the Mississippi River and the southern section of the state to the Gulf coast.

The Eagle State

This name came from the Mississippi Coat of Arms which depicts a Bald Eagle claspng arrows and an olive branch in its talons. The Mississippi Coat of Arms, based on the National Coat of Arms, can be seen on the Mississippi Great Seal.

The Border-eagle State

This nickname is attributed to the Mississippi Coat of Arms as well though it is not known why the "Border-eagle" is specified.

The Mud-cat State

Large catfish wandering the swamps and rivers of the states were referred to as Mud-cats. This humorous name references these large fish.

The Mud-waddler State

In John Goff's 1892 *Book of Nicknames*, Mississippi is referred to as "The Mud-waddler" state. No explanation is given.

The Ground-hog State

It is assumed that this name originated at some point due to the population of ground hogs in Mississippi. Though referred to in John Goff's 1892 *Book of Nicknames*, this name, like "The Mud-waddler State," is not explained.

STATE BIRD

The Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) was designated the official state bird of Mississippi in 1944.

Northern Mockingbirds have extraordinary vocal abilities - they can sing up to 200 songs, including the songs of other birds, insect and amphibian sounds, even an occasional mechanical noise.

The northern mockingbird is also the state bird symbol of Florida, Texas, Tennessee and Arkansas.



**Mississippi State History
Lapbook Journal**

**The following
pages contain the
Journal Pages**

Print on white paper.

Mississippi

Label the capital city, major cities, and major bodies of water.

When did this state become a state? _____

Rank in statehood: _____

Capital city &
its population:

Northern border: _____

Southern border: _____

Eastern border: _____

Western border: _____

Total area:

State's rank in size
(area):

State's total population: _____

City with largest population: _____

State's rank in population: _____

Number of Counties:

Mississippi

State Flag

Draw the state flag above.

State Flag Information:

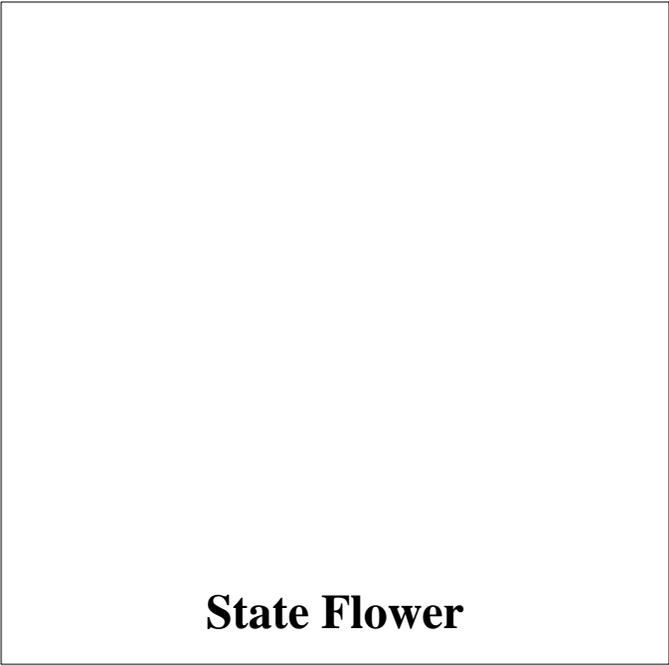
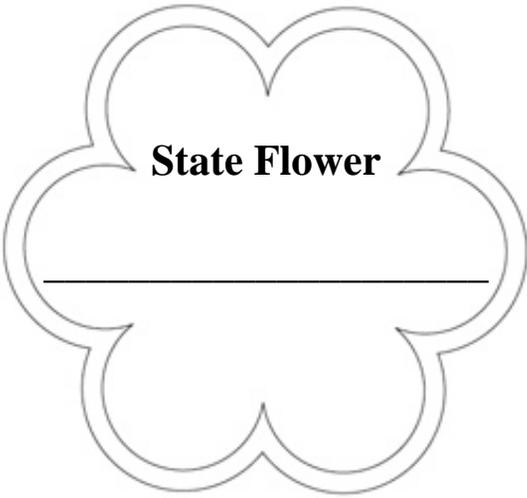
When adopted: _____

Colors: _____

Specific design: _____

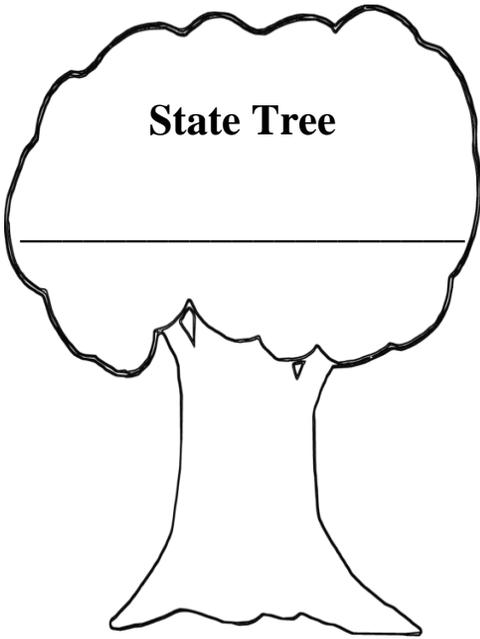
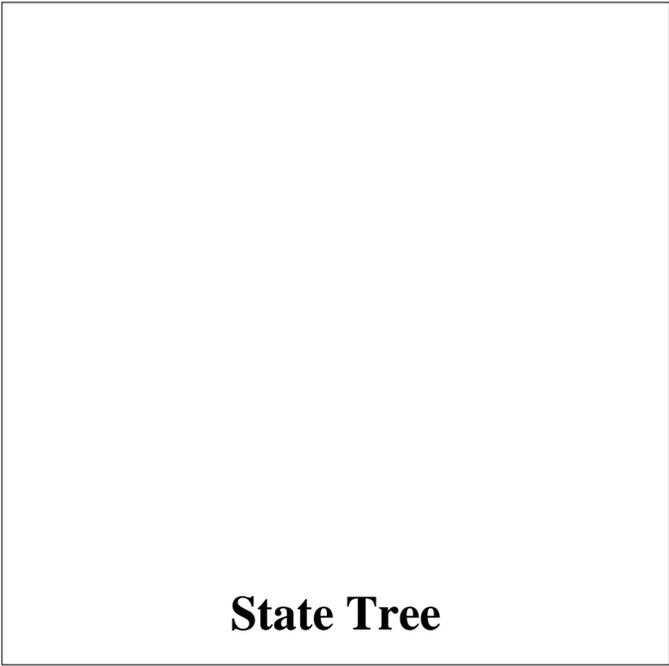
History: _____

Mississippi



Draw the state flower above.

State Symbols



Draw the state tree above.

Mississippi

**Mississippi State History
Lapbook Journal**

**The following
pages contain the
Lapbook Pages**

On the pages in this section, you will find:

1. Pictures of completed Lapbook Page:

This is just a SAMPLE (The one in the picture is for Alabama, but each state will have the same booklets).

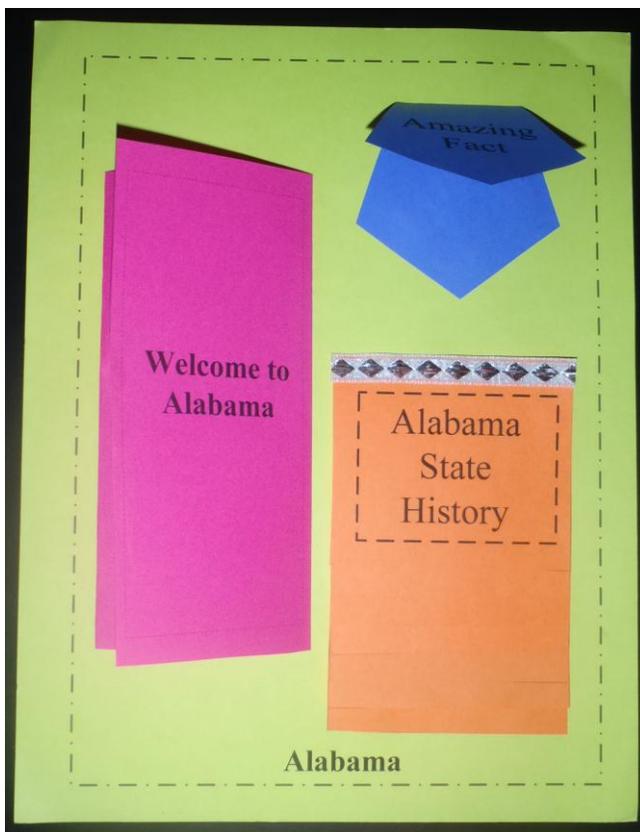
2. Lapbook Booklet Instructions: This is where you will find instructions for cutting out, assembling, and completing each booklet.

3. Lapbook Booklet Templates: Each booklet will be labeled so that you can easily find them when reading through the Lapbook Booklet Instructions. Print these on colored paper.

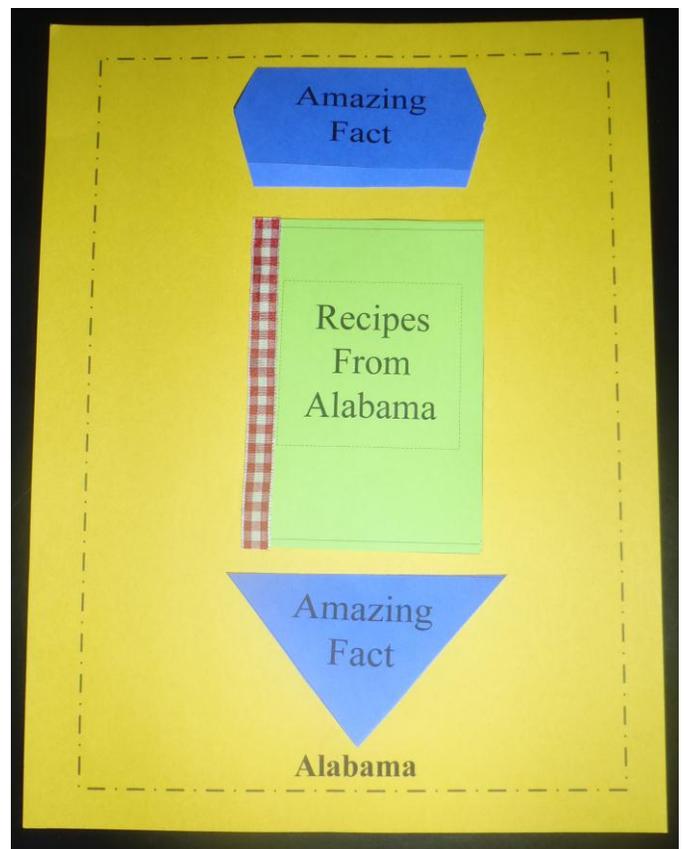
2. Lapbook Background Pages – This is where you will glue each of your Lapbook Booklets. We suggest printing this page on white or another light color of cardstock.

Mississippi State History Lapbook Journal Lapbook Pages

This is a SAMPLE of completed Lapbook Pages.
You may choose to arrange your booklets
differently. Be creative!



Page 1



Page 2

Mississippi State History

Lapbook Journal

Lapbook Pages

Booklet #1: State History

Assembly Instructions: Cut out each page along the outer black lines. Stack the pages so that the title is on top and the pages get longer toward the back of the stack. Along the top of the stack, secure with staples. You may choose to cover the stapled area with a ribbon like in the picture. Instead of staples, you may choose to punch 2 holes and secure with metal brad fasteners or tie a ribbon.

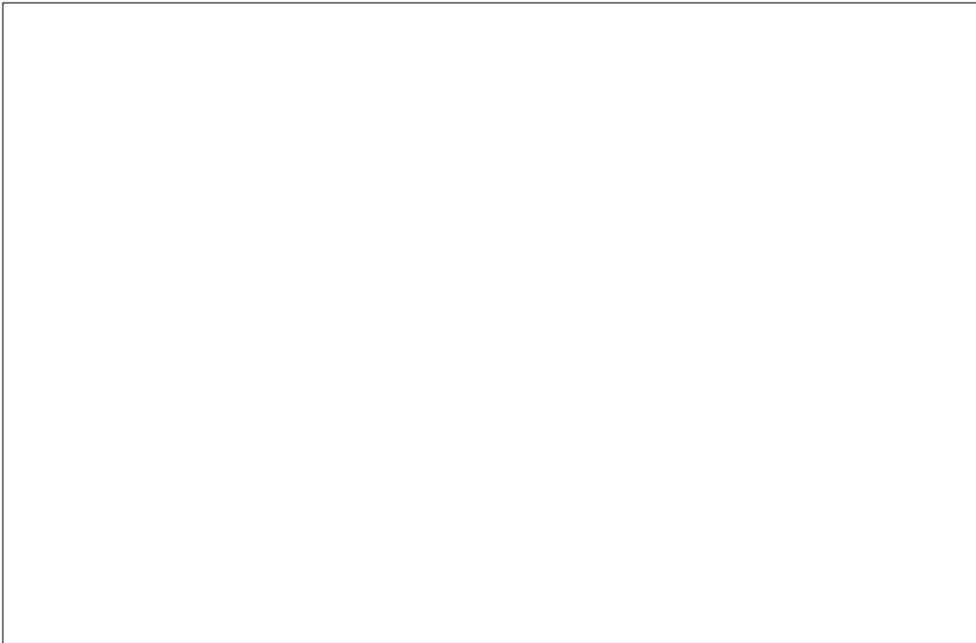
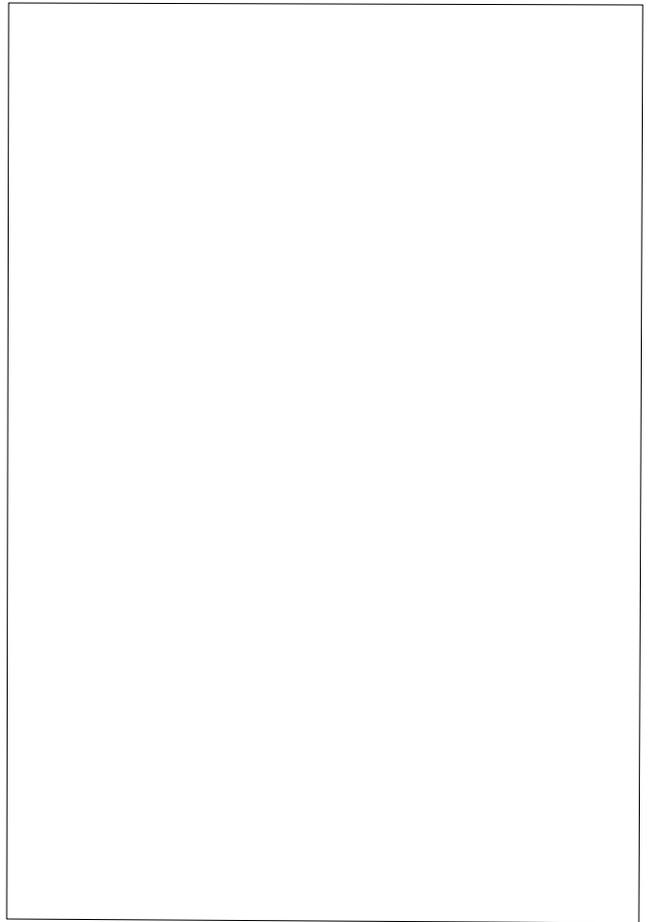
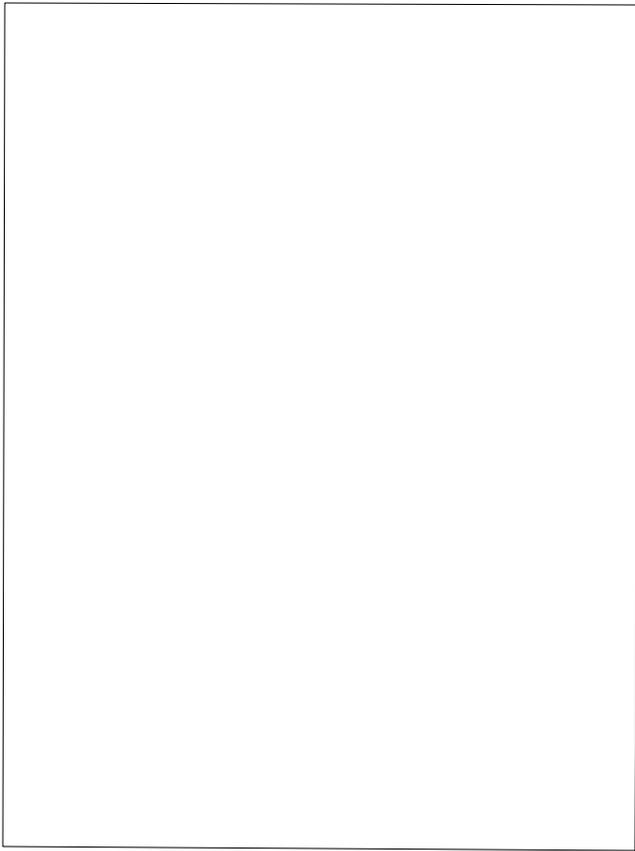
Completion Instructions: During your study of this state, you have learned about many different aspects of the state's history. Inside this booklet, tell what you remember from your study. You may choose to also draw/glue pictures in this booklet. Notice how each page is a little longer than the one before. This creates "tabs" on the bottom of each page. Use this space (bottom of each page) to write the subject of what you will tell about on each page. For example, you may want to label one page "War" or "Constitution" or whatever you choose.

Booklet #2: State Brochure

Assembly Instructions: Cut out each page along the outer black lines. Tri-fold this booklet so that the title is on the front.

Completion Instructions: There are so many wonderful places to visit and facts to know about each state. Pretend that you are creating a travel brochure that would be seen by people who were considering visiting this state. Inside (and on the outside) this booklet, tell about all of the reasons that someone should visit. You may choose to draw and/or glue pictures also.

Mississippi
State
History



**Welcome to
Mississippi**