

GREAT AMERICANS REQUIREMENTS

To become a Morris Brandon Great American, a student must complete the following six requirements. Students can complete the requirements in any order and may attempt the requirements as many times as needed. Volunteers will be available to assess the students from 7:30-7:55am two mornings a week during the program and each morning the last two weeks.

1. Write the Pledge of Allegiance with no spelling or punctuation mistakes
2. Recite the Preamble to the Constitution
3. Recite or sing the Star Spangled Banner
4. Recite the Gettysburg Address (students are allowed 3 prompts)
5. Identify the 50 states on a US map & write the state names and their capitals (spelling counts, three errors allowed)
6. Recite or write the 45 Presidents in chronological order (last names are fine)

REQUIREMENT 1: Write the Pledge of Allegiance with no spelling or punctuation mistakes

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

REQUIREMENT 2: Recite the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

REQUIREMENT 3: Recite or sing the Star-Spangled Banner

The Star-Spangled Banner

By Francis Scott Key

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

REQUIREMENT 4: Recite the Gettysburg Address (you are allowed 3 prompts)

The Gettysburg Address

*Delivered by President Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863
At the dedication of the Cemetery at Gettysburg*

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

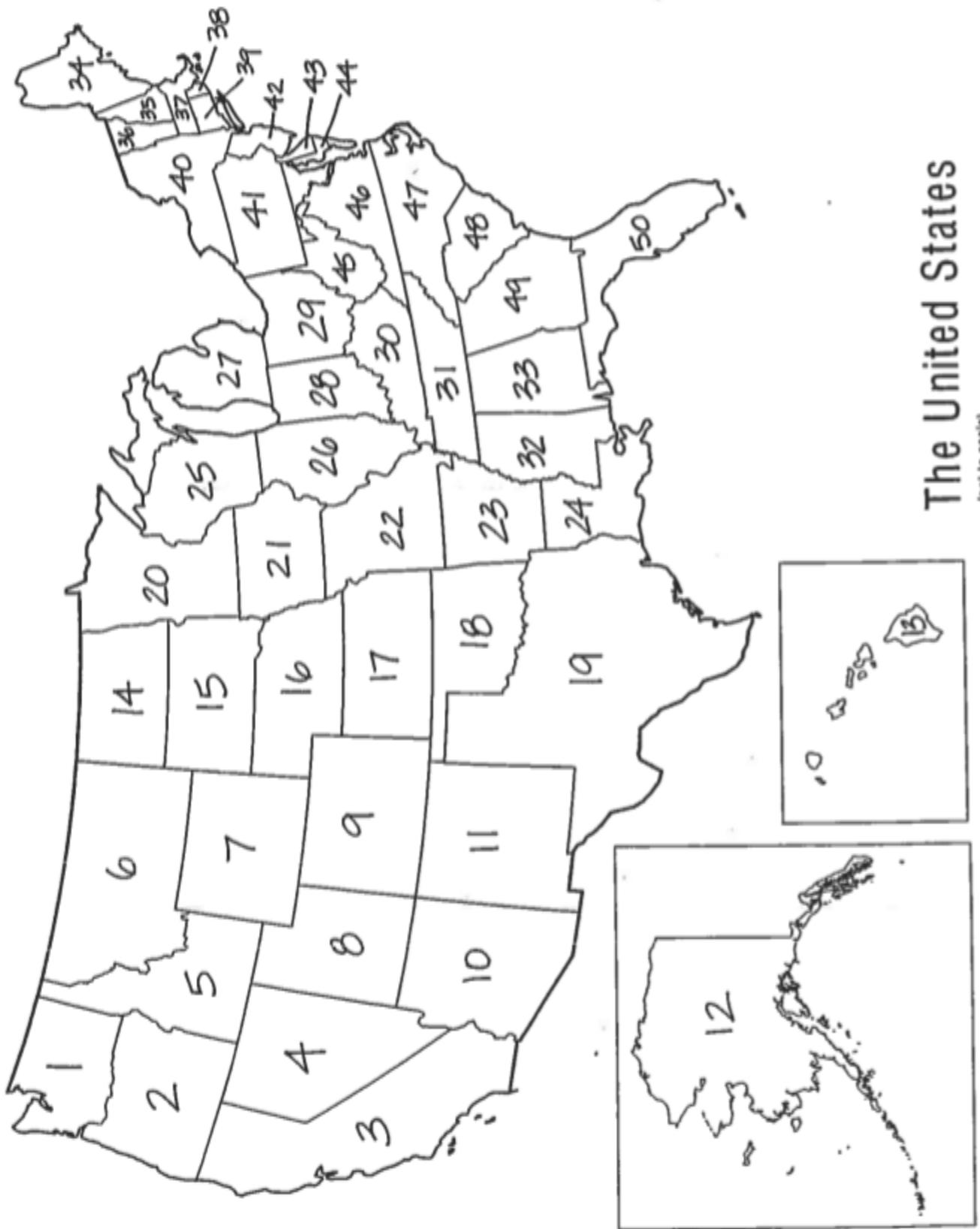
Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate...we can not consecrate...we can not hallow...this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

REQUIREMENT 5: Write state name AND its capital using numbers from map on next page (spelling counts, 3 errors allowed)

1	Washington – Olympia		26	Illinois – Springfield
2	Oregon – Salem		27	Michigan – Lansing
3	California – Sacramento		28	Indiana – Indianapolis
4	Nevada – Carson City		29	Ohio – Columbus
5	Idaho – Boise		30	Kentucky – Frankfort
6	Montana – Helena		31	Tennessee – Nashville
7	Wyoming – Cheyenne		32	Mississippi – Jackson
8	Utah – Salt Lake City		33	Alabama – Montgomery
9	Colorado – Denver		34	Maine – Augusta
10	Arizona – Phoenix		35	New Hampshire – Concord
11	New Mexico – Santa Fe		36	Vermont – Montpelier
12	Alaska – Juneau		37	Massachusetts – Boston
13	Hawaii – Honolulu		38	Rhode Island – Providence
14	North Dakota – Bismarck		39	Connecticut – Hartford
15	South Dakota – Pierre		40	New York – Albany
16	Nebraska – Lincoln		41	Pennsylvania – Harrisburg
17	Kansas – Topeka		42	New Jersey – Trenton
18	Oklahoma – Oklahoma City		43	Delaware – Dover
19	Texas – Austin		44	Maryland – Annapolis
20	Minnesota – St. Paul		45	West Virginia – Charleston
21	Iowa – Des Moines		46	Virginia – Richmond
22	Missouri – Jefferson City		47	North Carolina – Raleigh
23	Arkansas – Little Rock		48	South Carolina – Columbia
24	Louisiana – Baton Rouge		49	Georgia – Atlanta
25	Wisconsin – Madison		50	Florida – Tallahassee



REQUIREMENT 6: Recite or write the Presidents in chronological order (last names are fine)

1	George Washington		26	Theodore Roosevelt
2	John Adams		27	William Howard Taft
3	Thomas Jefferson		28	Woodrow Wilson
4	James Madison		29	Warren G. Harding
5	James Monroe		30	Calvin Coolidge
6	John Quincy Adams		31	Herbert Hoover
7	Andrew Jackson		32	Franklin D. Roosevelt
8	Martin Van Buren		33	Harry S. Truman
9	William Henry Harrison		34	Dwight D. Eisenhower
10	John Tyler		35	John F. Kennedy
11	James K. Polk		36	Lyndon B. Johnson
12	Zachary Taylor		37	Richard Nixon
13	Millard Fillmore		38	Gerald Ford
14	Franklin Pierce		39	Jimmy Carter
15	James Buchanan		40	Ronald Reagan
16	Abraham Lincoln		41	George H. W. Bush
17	Andrew Johnson		42	Bill Clinton
18	Ulysses S. Grant		43	George W. Bush
19	Rutherford B. Hayes		44	Barack Obama
20	James Garfield		45	Donald Trump
21	Chester A. Arthur			
22	Grover Cleveland			
23	Benjamin Harrison			
24	Grover Cleveland			
25	William McKinley			

TIPS: HOW TO MEMORIZE STATE CAPITALS

There aren't any magic shortcuts to memorization, but there are several ways to make memorizing state capitals painless and even fun.

STEP 1: Spend time looking at a map that has just the capitals marked. For example, the map here: <https://www.50states.com/cap.htm> If you have a few days to memorize, print out the map and put it somewhere where you can study it for several minutes at a time.

STEP 2: Listen and learn to sing the state capitals song. It may be annoying, but it will be stuck in your head for days! Here are a few versions to try:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNUDDaEOvuY>
- <http://www.songsforteaching.com/recall/50statescapitals.htm>
- <http://mrsjonesroom.com/songs/50capitals.html>

STEP 3: Take a quiz on the state capitals. There are lots of quizzes available online. Here are a few to try:

- <http://www.ilike2learn.com/ilike2learn/capitalunitedstates.html>
- <https://lizardpoint.com/geography/usa-quiz.php>
- http://sheppardsoftware.com/web_games.htm

Another way to test yourself is write the numbers 1-50 on a piece of paper and use the map in this packet to practice writing. Or print a list of the states and fill in the capitals.

STEP 4: Quiz yourself several times in a row. You may want to make it into a game by timing yourself or giving yourself a reward as you memorize capitals! Try challenging your parents or someone else who thinks they already know the state capitals.

If you can sing the state capitals song from memory or consistently get the capitals right on your quiz, you are done!

TIPS: HOW TO MEMORIZE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS

There are several songs to help you learn the presidents. Just remember that if you do a search, some of the songs won't have the most recent presidents as they were recorded a while ago!

The requirement is that you can recite or write last names in chronological order, so here is a link to one song that just uses last names in order:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQAuNnCbEz8>

And, here are the written lyrics, so you can follow along. Though, you can see, we changed the ending to add Trump:

The Presidents Song

Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison
Monroe, Quincy Adams, Jackson, Van Buren
Harrison, Tyler, Polk and Taylor
Fillmore, Pierce, Buchanan

Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, and Hayes
Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland, Harrison
Cleveland, McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft
Wilson, Harding, Coolidge

Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower
Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford
Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton
Bush, Obama, Trump

Here's another song, though it uses with full names:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj-q2VNa89c>