

## Comparing and Contrasting Kansas and Missouri

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Kansas**

Kansas, located in the Great Plains section of the Midwestern United States, became the 34th state on January 29, 1861. It was the last state admitted before the Civil War. Kansas borders four states: Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Colorado. It is known as the Sunflower State. The Missouri River forms part of its border with Missouri, and the Arkansas River flows through the center and western parts of the state. Topeka is the capital of Kansas and Wichita is its largest city. Kansas is well-known as the setting for the timeless class *The Wizard of Oz*, and is in the center of what is known as Tornado Alley, a region of the United States that is prone to powerful tornadoes. The western meadowlark is the state bird of Kansas.

### **Missouri**

Known as the Show-me State, Missouri is located in the Midwestern United States. It became America's 24<sup>th</sup> state on August 10, 1821. Missouri borders eight states: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The great Mississippi River forms the eastern border of Missouri. The Missouri River, the longest in America, is a large tributary of the Mississippi River that flows west through the state. Jefferson City is the capital of Missouri – named after America's third president, Thomas Jefferson. With a population approaching 500,000 people, Kansas City is the state's largest city. The Gateway Arch, a memorial to America's westward expansion is located in St. Louis, and is one of the state's most popular attractions. Most of northern and western Missouri are characterized by plains, whereas southern Missouri features hills, highlands, and the Ozark Plateau. The state bird of Missouri is the Eastern Bluebird.

Which facts belong in each category?

|   |
|---|
| <b>Its largest city is Wichita</b>                          |
| <b>Capital is named after a president</b>                   |
| <b>Part of the state is filled with hills and highlands</b> |
| <b>Nicknamed the Sunflower State</b>                        |
| <b>State bird is the western meadowlark</b>                 |
| <b>Borders Nebraska</b>                                     |
| <b>The Missouri River flows through</b>                     |
| <b>Borders more states</b>                                  |
| <b>Part of Tornado Alley</b>                                |
| <b>Became a state after the Civil War</b>                   |

|                 |
|-----------------|
| <b>Kansas</b>   |
| <b>Both</b>     |
| <b>Missouri</b> |
| <b>Neither</b>  |

**Answers:**

**Kansas**

**Its largest city is Wichita  
Nicknamed the Sunflower State  
Part of Tornado Alley**

**Both**

**State bird is the western meadowlark  
Borders Nebraska  
The Missouri River flows through**

**Missouri**

**Capital is named after a president  
Part of the state is filled with hills and highlands  
Borders more states**

**Neither**

**Became a state after the Civil War.**