

Comparing and Contrasting Michigan and Wisconsin

Name: _____

Michigan

Michigan, nicknamed the Wolverine State, or Great Lakes State, has two parts separated by Lakes Michigan and Huron. The upper part is called the Upper Peninsula or “U.P.” and the lower, and much larger mitten-shaped part, is called the Lower Peninsula. Michigan borders Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin and is part of the Midwestern United States. It also borders Canada. Waters from four great lakes: Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie, wash upon Michigan’s shores. Michigan became America’s 26th state on January 26, 1837. Its capital is Lansing and its largest city is Detroit. Detroit, aptly nicknamed “Motor City,” was once the car-producing capital of the world. It was also called “Motown” because many famous rhythm and blues singers and groups got their start in Detroit under Motown Records including: The Jackson 5, the Supremes, Marvin Gaye, and Stevie Wonder. Today, a little less than 10 million people live in Michigan, which ranks its tenth among states.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin, known as the Badger State, is located in the Midwestern United States. It borders Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, and Michigan. Its western border is formed by the Mississippi River. It is also a Great Lakes state because its borders Lake Michigan to the east and Lake Superior to the north. Wisconsin became America’s 30th state on May 29, 1848. Its capital is Madison, named after America’s fourth president, James Madison, and its largest city is Milwaukee, located on the southern shores of Lake Michigan. Wisconsin is one of the nation’s leading dairy producer, and famous for its vast cheese industry and is sometimes called “America’s DairyLand.” In fact, fans of the Green Bay Packers, Wisconsin’s professional football team, are called “cheeseheads.” Almost six million people live in Wisconsin, making it the nation’s 20th largest state in terms of population.

Which facts belong in each category?

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|---|
| Capital is named after a president |
| Became a state first |
| Borders Iowa |
| Located in the Midwestern United States |
| Borders more than two great lakes |
| Has more people |
| Borders Canada |
| Is the milk-producing capital of America |
| The Mississippi River forms its western border |
| Called the Wolverine State |

| |
|------------------|
| Michigan |
| Both |
| Wisconsin |
| Neither |

Answers:

Michigan

**Became a state first
Borders more than two great lakes
Has more people
Called the Wolverine State**

Both

**Located in the Midwestern United States
Borders Canada**

Wisconsin

**Capital is named after a president
Borders Iowa
The Mississippi River forms its western border**

Neither

Is the milk-producing capital of America