

Origins of State Names

State	Etymology
Alabama	"to clear vegetation" (Choctaw)
Alaska	<i>alaxsxaq</i> "object towards which the action of the sea is directed, mainland" (Aleut)
Arizona	<i>arizuma</i> (Pima) <i>aleh-zon</i> , <i>ari-sonac</i> , <i>ali-shonak</i> (Papago) "little spring"
Arkansas	<i>ugakhpa</i> "those going downstream" (Sioux)
California	"hot oven" (Spanish), name of Island in "The Exploits of Esplandián" by García Ordóñez de Montalvo
Colorado	<i>colorado</i> "red" (Spanish)
Connecticut	<i>Quonehtacut</i> "long tidal river" (Pequot)
Delaware	Sir Thomas West, Lord De la Warr
Florida	<i>florida</i> "flower-covered," discovered on Easter <i>Pascua florida</i> (Spanish)
Georgia	King George II
Hawaii	<i>Hawaki</i> one of the Society Islands (Polynesian), Hawaii Loa (founder of the Island)
Idaho	<i>E-da-how</i> "It is sunup," "gem of the mountains" (Shoshone), probably just Indian-sounding coinage
Illinois	<i>Illiniwek</i> , "men" singular <i>ilini</i> (Algonquian)
Indiana	"Indian land"
Iowa	<i>ayuxwa</i> "one who puts to sleep," "beautiful land" (Dakota), "dusty faces" (Sioux)
Kansas	<i>kansa</i> "wind people" (Sioux)
Kentucky	<i>kentake</i> "prairie" (Wyandot/Huron)
Louisiana	"land of Louis" (King Louis XIV)
Maine	"mainland," possibly Mayne (French province)
Maryland	Queen Henrietta Mary (wife of King Charles I)
Massachusetts	"near the great mountain" (Algonquian)
Michigan	"great lake" (Algonquian)
Minnesota	<i>minni</i> "water" <i>sota</i> "sky-tinted" (Sioux)
Mississippi	"large waters" (Native American ??)
Missouri	"canoe possessor" (Sioux)
Montana	<i>montaña</i> "mountain" (Spanish)
Nebraska	<i>nebraska</i> "shallow or spreading water" (Oto)
Nevada	<i>nevada</i> "snow-covered" (Spanish)
New Hampshire	Hampshire County (England)
New Jersey	Island of Jersey (for George Carteret)
New Mexico	Mexico, from <i>Mexitli</i> Aztec war god
New York	Duke of York and Albany (brother of Charles II)
North Carolina	<i>carolina</i> "land of Charles" (Charles I)
North Dakota	<i>lakota</i> , <i>dakota</i> "allies" (Sioux)
Ohio	"beautiful river" (Iroquois)
Oklahoma	"red people" (Choctaw)
Oregon	unknown, name of legendary River of the West, possibly Native American
Pennsylvania	"Penn's Woods" (William Penn)
Rhode Island	<i>roodt eylandt</i> "red island" (Dutch)
South Carolina	<i>carolina</i> "land of Charles" (Charles I)
South Dakota	<i>lakota</i> , <i>dakota</i> "allies" (Sioux)
Tennessee	<i>Tanasi</i> (Cherokee village)
Texas	<i>texas</i> , <i>tejas</i> "friends, allies" (Caddo)
Utah	Ute (Native Americans)
Vermont	<i>vert mont</i> "green mountain" (French)
Virginia	Virgin Queen Elizabeth I
Washington	George Washington
West Virginia	Virgin Queen Elizabeth I
Wisconsin	<i>ouisconsin</i> "gathering of waters" (Chippewa)
Wyoming	Wyoming Valley (Pennsylvania), "large plains" (Delaware)