

STUDENT WORKSHEET #1:

U.S. STATES WITH NATIVE AMERICAN NAMES (3 pages)



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 **Alabama**: From the Alibamu/Choctaw tribe, meaning "clearing of the thicket" or "herb gatherers".

 **Alaska**: From the Aleut word *alaxsxaq*, meaning "the mainland" or "the place where the sea crashes".

 **Arizona**: Derived from the Tohono O'odham word *alī şonak*, meaning "small spring".

 **Arkansas**: From the Quapaw (via French spelling) word *Acansa*, meaning "southern place" or "wind people".

 **Connecticut**: From the Mohican/Algonquian word *Quinnehtukqut*, meaning "beside the long, tidal river".

 **Hawaii**: From the Polynesian/Hawaiian word *Hawai'i*, meaning "homeland" or "place of the gods".

 **Idaho**: Widely popularized (though debated) as a Shoshone word meaning "gem on the mountains" or "light on the mountains".

 **Illinois:** From the Miami-Illinois/Algonquian term *Illiniwek*, meaning "men" or "warriors" (or "he speaks the regular way").

 **Iowa:** From the Ioway (Siouan) tribe name, often translated as "sleepy ones" or the people of the "beautiful land".

 **Kansas:** From the Kansa (Kaw) tribe name, meaning "People of the South Wind".

 **Kentucky:** Derived from an Iroquoian/Shawnee word (*Kentake*), meaning "on the meadow" or "land of tomorrow".

 **Massachusetts:** From the Algonquin word *Massadchues-et*, meaning "near the great hill" or "great-hill-small-place".

 **Michigan:** From the Ojibwe/Algonquin word *Mishigamaw* or *Michigami*, meaning "big lake" or "great water".

 **Minnesota:** From the Dakota Sioux word *Mnisota*, meaning "cloudy water" or "white water" (where the waters reflect the skies).

 **Mississippi:** From the Ojibwe word *Misi-ziibi*, meaning "great river" or "father of waters".

 **Missouri:** From the Missouria tribe name, meaning "big canoe people" or "those who dig canoes".

 **Nebraska:** From the Omaha-Ponca word *ñí brásge*, meaning "flat water" or "shallow river".

 **New Mexico:** While heavily shaped by Spanish and Nahuatl history, "Mexico" derives from the Aztec/Nahuatl word *Mēxihco*.

 **North Dakota** & South Dakota: Named after the Dakota Sioux tribe, meaning "allies" or "friends".

 **Ohio:** From the Seneca/Iroquois word *Ohi-yo'*, meaning "good river" or "great river".



Oklahoma: From the Choctaw words *okla* (people) and *humma* (red), meaning "red people".



Oregon: The exact origin is uncertain, though etymologists have linked it to Algonquian or Shoshone terms for a river or beautiful stream.



Tennessee: Named after the Cherokee village *Tanasi* (or *Tanasee*).



Texas: From the Caddo word *Taysha* (or *Tejas*), meaning "friends" or "allies".



Utah: From the Apache word *Yuttahih*, meaning "one that is higher up" or mountain people.



Wisconsin: Derived from an Algonquian/Miami-Illinois or Ojibwe word (such as *Miskonsing* or *Miskwah*) referring to a red place or river running through a red bank.



Wyoming: Derived from the Munsee-Delaware word *xwé:wamənk*, meaning "at the big river flat."

Reference: <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/opa/online-press-release/origin-names-us-states>