

THE MAN IN THE MAP

Hi! My name is Mimal. I am the man in the map. I live near the center of the United States. I am called Mimal because each letter in my name is the first letter of a state in the United States. This is what my name stands for:

M is for **Minnesota**

I is for **Iowa**

M is for **Missouri**

A is for **Arkansas**

L is for **Louisiana**

The shapes of these five states look like part of my body and clothing. Can you find me on a United States map?

First, I always wear a warm hat in Minnesota to protect me from the cold. I have on my favorite green one now. I sometimes call it a Minnesota hat because the shape of Minnesota looks like a hat.

My face is Iowa. Iowa is just south of Minnesota. My nose is pointing east. Some people draw a big smile on my face to show how happy I am. They also draw an eye so that I can

see where I am going. I have two eyes, you know. You just can't see the other one because of the way my face is turned.

If you travel south of Iowa to the next state, you will be in Missouri. The shape of Missouri looks like a shirt. I am wearing this shirt today because I have grown too big for some of my other ones.

My shirt, Missouri, looks good tucked into my pants, I think. The state south of Missouri is Arkansas and its shape looks like a pair of my pants.

Just south of Arkansas is Louisiana. Do you like my Louisiana water boots? Most of the time, I call them "swamp stompers" since I am always stomping around in the Louisiana swamps. I also need my boots because, as you can see, I am standing right on the Gulf of Mexico.

That is who I am and why my name is Mimal. Come visit me sometime. All you need for your trip is a United States map.

1 Which of these is **NOT** a fact from the story?

- A Iowa is south of Minnesota.
- B Louisiana has swamps.
- C Arkansas is south of Louisiana.
- D Missouri is south of Iowa.

2 What is this story mostly about?

- A states that look like a man
- B how to draw a man
- C the Gulf of Mexico
- D Louisiana swamps

3 What states do the letters of Mimal's name represent?

- A Maine, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana
- B Minnesota, Iowa, Maine, Arkansas, and Louisiana
- C Minnesota, Iowa, Montana, Alaska, and Louisiana
- D Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana

4 How does Mimal feel about his Louisiana water boots?

- A ashamed
- B scared
- C proud
- D smart

5 Mimal is wearing this shirt because –

- A he likes it best.
- B he outgrew his other ones.
- C he looks good in it.
- D his other shirts are dirty.

6 Five states are called “The Man in the Map” because –

- A a man discovered them near the center of the United States.
- B their shapes look like parts of a man's body and clothing.
- C men wear water boots in Louisiana.
- D these five states are lined up from north to south.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

THE MAN IN THE MAP

Materials Needed:

NYSTROM United States Readiness Desk Map or Wall Map

20" piece of string and 12" ruler

Water-soluble marking pen

OPTION: Notebook paper and pencil for answers

- ♣ Locate the five states that make up Mimal on the United States map. State names are printed in black.
 - ♥ Trace over the borders of each of Mimal's states.
 - ♥ Draw a smile on the **east** side of Iowa. • Begin the smile halfway between the city of Davenport and the southern tip of Iowa.
 - ♥ Draw Mimal's eye and an eyebrow just **north** of the "wa" part of the label for Iowa on the map.

- ♣ Minnesota is the first **M** in Mimal's name. • Write down the names of **eight** states that begin with an **M**. _____

- ♣ Arkansas is the **A** in Mimal's name. On this map, each state is a different color from a state next to it. Color is a symbol on a map.
 - ♥ Make a check mark beside the labels of the states on the map that are the same color as Arkansas.
 - ♥ What color is Texas on the map? _____

- ♣ Locate the "Scale in miles" in the legend or map key. • One inch equals how many miles? _____
 - ♥ With a piece of string, measure the **shortest** distance between the most **northern** tip of Minnesota and the most **southern** part of Louisiana.
 - Hold your measurement tightly.
 - ♥ Measure on a ruler the exact length of the string between the two places you measured on the map. • About how many inches is it? _____
 - ♥ According to the "Scale in miles" in the legend, how many **miles** is it from the most **northern** part of Mimal's hat to the most **southern** part of his boot? _____

- ♣ Locate Florida on the map. Some people think its shape looks like a dolphin diving into the water. • Write a make-believe story about a dolphin diving and swimming near Florida.