

Every US state has its own flag: six state flags are shown on the page opposite. Several states were named after kings and queens of England – in the days when these states were English colonies. For example, North and South CAROLina use the Latin name for King Charles I; MARYland is named after his wife, Queen Mary, and GEORGia is named after King George II. But LOUISiana is named after King Louis XIV of France because France colonized a vast area along the Mississippi river. The map on page 73 shows the names of all the states.

GREAT LAKES

Try using the first letters of the Great Lakes to make a sentence:

Superior	Super
Michigan	Man
Huron	Helps
Erie	Every
Ontario	One

If you remember these, you'll never forget the west-to-east order of the five Great Lakes!

THE MISSISSIPPI



The **Mississippi River** was known as the 'Great River Road' because it was an important route into the heart of the United State of America. 'Stern-wheeler' paddle-steammers travelled the river with cargoes. It is still an important river today. Dams (above) and locks make it easier for big barges to use the river. The dams also help to reduce the risk of floods.



▲ **Performing whales at Orlando, Florida.** These killer whales have been trained to perform to the audience. Florida is a popular state for holidays. Orlando is one of the world's most popular tourist resorts, with Disney World and other theme parks.