Classifying the States

In this activity you are to classify certain states in the United States using a taxonomic key. A taxonomic, or classification, key is a listing of specific characteristics. To identify the states, you will need a map of the United States. You may also use any reference books that will help you to identify the states.

Read each phrase and follow the directions given. Write the name of the state on the line provided. Choose your answers from the following list.

Arkansas  Kentucky  New York  
California  Louisiana  North Carolina  
Colorado  Minnesota  Tennessee  
Illinois  Mississippi  Wisconsin  
Iowa  Missouri

A Taxonomic Key

1. A. Borders on the Mississippi River ........................................ Go to 2
   B. Does not border on the Mississippi River ............................... Go to 11

2. A. Begins with the letter M .................................................... Go to 3
   B. Does not begin with the letter M ......................................... Go to 5

3. A. Shares a border with Tennessee .......................................... Go to 4
   B. Does not share a border with Tennessee ............................... 

4. A. Its capital is Jackson ....................................................... 
   B. Its capital is not Jackson .................................................

5. A. Has eight or more letters in its name .................................. Go to 6
   B. Has fewer than eight letters in its name ............................... 

6. A. Entire state lies south of 40° latitude ................................ Go to 7
   B. Entire state does not lie south of 40° latitude ......................... Go to 10