



# The 50 States

*Gabrielle Balkan , Sol Linero*

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**The 50 States** Gabrielle Balkan , Sol Linero

Be inspired by the inventiveness, beauty and diversity of the United States in this curious collection of fact-filled maps. Explore thousands of wondrous locations and be awed by the achievements of hundreds of people who helped make America what it is today. Celebrate, explore, enjoy!

## The 50 States Details

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Author : Gabrielle Balkan , Sol Linero

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# From Reader Review The 50 States for online ebook

## Laura says

Graphically interesting guide to the states. I even found a couple of interesting spots I haven't visited in my area.

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## Savannah Webster says

This book does not have typical maps that teach you about geographical features or roads. This is what they are referring to as an infographic map that guides you through the states identity. You will learn information ranging from the state nickname, key facts, famous people, landmarks, moments in history, and more telling the story of each state in a two page layout. In the beginning of the book it has a graphic for what to look out for throughout the book and a legend for symbols you will see to help you explore easier. In the back of the book you will also find double page layouts for all the State flags and the Presidents.

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## Andréa says

*Note: I accessed a digital review copy through Edelweiss.*

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## Heidi says

As someone who had early access with thanks to an ARC, I have to say that I like what I saw. I think calling this a collection of maps is a little different from what I expected, but I like the collections of facts and information in a very colorful format. As a parent of a child who got interested in states rather early, I think this will appeal where the traditional geography books have been too much. It was a little hard to read the detailed writing in the ARC, but I look forward to looking at this in person with my child once it becomes available in stores.

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## Alicia says

The genre of this book is informational nonfiction, because it gives a variety of "fast facts" about each state. The intended audience is 2nd-5th grade, because it has a lot of words on each page, but it also has colorful pictures. I paired this book with Sisters by Raina Telgemeier, because it is about a family on a road trip. The 50 States book and Sisters could be paired together to showcase some of the states and sites the family will see when driving from California to Colorado.

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## **Lauren- The Smile Lines says**

Thank you to the kidlitexchange for a copy of this book. All opinions are my own.

My kids Did NOT read any of these books! I did not even let them see them! Why?? Because I hid them so fast and ordered them as a gift for my 6 year old!!! He is obsessed with maps and visiting new places in the United States. He is going to LOVE them all!! All four of these books are so neat!! I learned a ton myself! There are puzzles and activities! One of my favorite parts is in 50 Cities of the USA. There is a section on each page that breaks down what you could do in a day in each city. I have done almost all on the New York page! These books can be read over and over because of the amount of information on each page. Can't wait for my son to open his surprise!

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## **Jessica says**

Thanks to @kidlitexchange #partner for access to a free review copy. All opinions are my own.

Visit the 50 states (and Washington DC too!) with this book of maps of each state, and the maps are covered with short blurbs about famous places, people, historical events, and key facts. The facts range from basic history to very quirky.

First off, this is a beautiful book. The graphic design is amazingly well done. However, it's got an overwhelming amount of "fun facts" on each page. The Exploring this Book section is great for helping avoid mental overload with all the different kinds of information. I don't think this will deter upper elementary readers, since we live in the age of the National Geographic Kids Weird But True series, Almanacs, and similar fast fact type books. My third grade students can't get enough of books like these, and I know they'd love to pick up this book and flip through the pages. But definitely not the core curriculum if you want to learn about the 50 states!

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## **Kelli says**

This is *that* book! You know the one. You pick it up off the floor in your child's room and you just have to open it before you put it in the library basket...the next thing you know, two hours have passed like fifteen minutes and you are armed with more state trivia than you could ever reasonably be expected to remember.

Deliberately designed to pack tons of information on two pages, fun info graphics tell the story of each state. Key facts, notable residents, and loads of interesting information make this a book that you, I mean, your children will return to again and again. Be aware though that the pages could be too busy and overwhelming for some.

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## **Online Eccentric Librarian says**

*More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>*

The 50 States is one of those books that a) I wish you had growing up and b) should be in every school in the US or that teaches about the US. Authors Linero and Balkan have smartly broken down every state into colorful yet educational info/pictographics that make learning fun and interesting. I am greatly enjoying going over each state with my daughter and enjoying her enthusiasm over historical subjects. Because the wording doesn't talk down to kids, it's great for parents to go over with younger kids or for older kids up to tweens to enjoy.

Each State is represented by a large image. Within each state image, icons tell the story of that state's people, places and history (recent and old). Some significant dates are included and callouts spotlight events/people/dates that deserve more description. A separate callout square, consistent on every page, discusses the moments and dates that mark the state's history - from ancient times 12,000 years ago to modern. As well, there is a small welcome box to each page that tells a bit about it - an introduction to the State.

Each map contains information about neighbor states, bodies of water, state parks, battlefields, national forests, reservations, state flags, capitals/important cities, and more. At the end of the book there is a gallery of the US Presidents to date.

The real treat of the book is the consistency - this isn't a wild jumble of facts thrown onto a page with abandon; rather, each page is carefully laid out like the previous to make the reading experience easier and to make researching/looking up facts easy and simple. Colored fonts are used sparingly and each page keeps its design elements intact - allowing for some white space and breathing room. As a graphic educational device, it succeeds brilliantly.

This is highly recommended for home and educational use. It's something I would have loved as a kid since it is fun and fascinating. Reviewed from an advance reader copy provided by the publisher.

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### **Darcie Caswell says**

pPresents each of the united states alphabetically in this big, beautifully illustrated book, with a two page spread for each state with facts and information laid out in attractive, infographic style. In addition to the "Key Facts" including capital, largest cities, state bird, state flower and the like, readers will also find famous people from each state (both historical and contemporary), key places to visit, and key moments in the state's history. This is not really a book to read from cover to cover, but rather one to explore by hunting around for fun tidbits about each state as you travel or talk about traveling.

Grades: 3-6

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### **Caleb R says**

There is not much content cross over beyond it giving some history of each state. The children that would like this book would be 2nd through 5th grade. I liked it because it gives a variety of "fast facts" about each state. I paired this book with Sisters by Raina Telgemeier, Published 2014. because it is about a family on a

road trip. The 50 States book and Sisters could be paired together to showcase some of the states and sites the family will see when driving from California to Colorado. Which allows the children to find a connection to when they took a road trip.

Strategy I would use is webbing I would find out where all my students have been.

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### **Selena says**

I've learned so much already just thumbing through the pages! I can't wait to share this with my little friends and see their faces when they look at the illustrations!

LOVE it!

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### **Ali Book&Seaglasshunter says**

What a fantastic book! It is endlessly engaging, attractive, and informative. "50 States" is like a cooler upgrade to an atlas. Each page shows a state map with highlights of influential people, history, places to visit, and more. Also included on the pages are some general state facts such capital, statehood date, and region; a timeline of events important to state history, and a brief welcome message giving a quick summary of the state. The illustrations are wonderful, and a key part of what makes these books stand out. They are reminiscent of the vintage 50s/60s travel posters and brochures. The colors used are at that perfect spot between being too blah or too bold. And while there are certainly a lot of images on each page, they come across as interesting and integral to the text, rather than overwhelming.

This book has a little something for everyone. I'd highly recommend this to all elementary and middle grade teachers, especially those with US geography units. Honestly, I think "50 States" will appeal to any age from 1-100. Both of my toddlers loved looking at the pictures, each page is just brimming with interesting objects to be named and talked about. Many school aged kids will love learning all the little facts, and topics ranging from arts and culture, history, and influential citizens to food, sports, transportation, and more ensure that there will be something to pique any child's interest. I loved learning new facts and history, and I think most adults could learn more than a few trivia tidbits here!

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### **Jill says**

Since I love both infographics and state trivia, it's as if this book were made just for me, for it combines both of those features into one big book. It begins:

"Welcome explorers, investigators, and lovers of knowledge...."

Yes, yes, that is I! (Well, if you add the word "armchair" before the word "explorers"....)

For each state, there is a "Welcome Box" providing an introduction to the state, a map full of interesting factoids as well as prominent geological features, and side bars about key facts, state icons, inspiring people,

moments to remember, and a spotlight on one particular region in the state.

I have *several* favorite states, but my *most* favorite is actually not a state at all, but a federal district; that is, Washington, D.C. Thankfully, it is included at the back of the book, although I wish the author had shown D.C.'s license plate, which memorably declares: "Taxation Without Representation." (The author does, however, mention that D.C. is a zone of taxation without representation.)

But what it does include is fun and interesting, such as a nod to "Ben's Chili Bowl," a long-time favorite area restaurant; a blurb on the "Racing Presidents" - mascots of the Washington Nationals baseball team; the length of the Woodley Park metro escalator (the longest escalator in D.C., and one I occasionally walked up, in my salad days); and even a mention of the bookstore "Busboys and Poets." In addition, it also provides the necessary sampling of monuments, museums, and memorials, all packed in one two-page spread.

Right next door to D.C. is the state of Maryland, where I grew up. How did I not know about "Smith Island Cake"? Obviously, I didn't have this book when I grew up.

But I would think there would also be a lengthier description of crab feasts - she only mentions that you can find delicious blue crabs in quiet fishing villages, but in fact, approximately 50 percent of the country's blue crab harvest comes from Maryland waters, and crab feasts are a Maryland staple! I would also have loved to have seen a reference to the McCormick Spice Factory, which graced Baltimore with the smell of cinnamon for 125 years. But as anyone knows, you can put ten people from a state in a room, and come up with ten totally different lists of the most iconic features of the state. It doesn't really matter; I love the parts that *are* included, and I love learning new things about all of the states, especially the others where I have lived (The Badger State, The Grand Canyon State, The Keystone State, and now The Prairie State.) You will learn all these nicknames from the book, and there are bonus infographics at the end showing all the presidents and all the state flags (of which Maryland's is the most spectacular, I'm sure you will agree!).

The illustrations by Sol Linero are perfect for the book.

**Evaluation:** I love this book; it's very fun, and would make a great gift.

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**LynnDee (The Library Lush) says**

This is a very aesthetically pleasing book, with lots of interesting information about the different states.

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