



# LAND-GRANT COLLEGES

**GRADE LEVEL:** 6-8

**SUBJECT:** Geography

**NATIONAL STANDARD(S):**

(6-8) GEO: 12.1, 13.4, 16.1, 17.1-3

**THEME:** College and Careers

**FOOD AND FIBER TOPIC:** II-D, E

## LEARNER OBJECTIVE

Students will explore the Morrill Acts and how the agricultural system is involved in education through the land-grant colleges.

## VOCABULARY

**4-H Club**—An organization for boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 20, organized under the guidance of Cooperative Extension Service workers and volunteer, adult local 4-H club leaders. The program is the youth phase of the national system of Cooperative Extension work in which the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the land-grant colleges and universities, and the counties participate.

**Hatch Act**—An Act of the U.S. Congress in 1887 that allocated \$15,000 annually to each state and territory for the development and operation of an agricultural experiment station. This Act was amended in 1955 to include subsequent acts of Congress that appropriated funds for the operation of these experiment stations.

**Land Grant Universities**—State colleges and universities started from federal government grants of land to each state to encourage further practical education in agriculture, homemaking, and the mechanical arts.

**Morrill Act**—An act of the U.S. Congress approved July 2, 1862, which provided for the establishment of colleges of agriculture and mechanical arts in the various states. The main feature of this and later acts was the donation of public lands for the support of the land-grant educational institutions in each state.

**Second Morrill Act**— Passed in 1890, the act allocated an annual federal grant of \$25,000 to each land-grant college and university.

## BACKGROUND

The passage of the Morrill Act of 1862 made it possible for the new western states to establish colleges for their citizens. Ever since colonial times, basic education had been a central tenet of American democratic thought. By the 1860s, higher education was becoming more accessible, and many politicians and educators wanted to make it possible for all young Americans to receive some sort of advanced education.

Sponsored by Congressman Justin Morrill of Vermont, who had been pressing for it since 1857, the act gave to every state a grant of 30,000 acres of public land for every member of its congressional delegation. Since under the Constitution every state had at least two senators and one representative, even the smallest state received 90,000 acres. The states were to sell this land and use the proceeds to establish colleges in engineering, agriculture and military science. Over seventy "land grant" colleges, as

they came to be known, were established under the original Morrill Act. A second act in 1890 established the “historically black” land grant colleges in sixteen southern states.

The importance of the land grant colleges cannot be exaggerated. Although originally started as agricultural and technical schools, many of them grew, with additional state aid, into large public universities which over the years have educated millions of American citizens who otherwise might not have been able to afford a college education.

### **STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Share background information. Tell students the difference between 1862 land-grant colleges and 1890 land-grant colleges.
2. Pass out student worksheets and copies of a US map. Read through the list of colleges and ask students if they are familiar with any of the listed schools.
3. Have students use dictionaries to complete the student worksheet. On the US maps, have students label each state with the appropriate abbreviation. Provide map pencils and direct students to color in each state that has a land-grant university. There is a land-grant university in each state.
4. Divide the class into five groups and assign ten states to each group. Have groups use encyclopedias to locate each land-grant university in their assigned states and use fine-line markers to mark the locations.
5. Have students make small pennants and glue them to straight pens. On a large US map, have group members place pennants to locate the land-grant universities in their assigned states.

### **RELATED ACTIVITIES**

1. Have groups find the addresses of the land-grant universities in their assigned states and write a letter to the student relations office of each school. Have students write for information about areas of specialization, campus life, and school athletics. Use the materials to make a display.
2. Have students look in a telephone book for the county extension office located in their county seat.
3. Discuss the following statement: “Agriculture was the nation’s main pursuit in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Strengthening agriculture meant strengthening the nation.” Ask students what they think the statement means.

### **RESOURCES**

#### ***Student Books***

Adair, G. (1989). George Washington Carver. Chelsea.

Collins, D. (1990). George Washington Carver. Watts.

Stanley, J. (1992). Children of the Dust Bowl: The True Story of the School at Weedpatch Camp. Crown.

#### ***Teacher Resources***

Nevins, A. (1962). The State Universities and Colleges.

Harderod, F.F. (1987). Colleges and Universities for Change

Christy, R. D. (1992). A Century of Service: Land Grant Colleges and Universities, 1890-1990

***Related Internet Websites***

The Morrill Act and relevant information is located on this website.

*<http://www.civnet.org/teaching/basic/part5/27.htm>*

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension 1890 Land Grant Colleges and Universities: History of the 1890 Programs. *<http://www.reeusda.gov/1890/history.htm>*  
Grown in the USA. This page describes the importance of land-grant universities in relation to agricultural research and our country's food supply.

*<http://loki.ur.utk.edu/alumnus/summer94/eat.html>*

**EVALUATION**

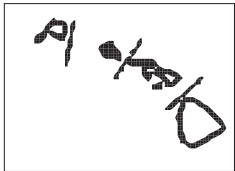
Teacher answer keys are provided for the student worksheets.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

This lesson adapted from Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom, Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and 4-H Youth Development, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078.

# United States Map

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Adapted from Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom.

Food & Fiber Systems Literacy  
Agricultural Education, Communications and 4-H Youth Development  
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK





Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Land Grant Colleges

Look in the dictionary for the listing of four-year colleges and universities. Fill in the blanks below by writing the name of the city or town where the land grant college is located and the abbreviation for the state.

## LAND GRANT COLLEGES—1862

- University of Alaska—Fairbanks, AK
- American Samoa Community College—Pago Pago, AS
- University of Arizona \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Arkansas—Little Rock, AR
- Auburn University \_\_\_\_\_
- University of California—Oakland, CA
- Clemson University \_\_\_\_\_
- Colorado State University \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Connecticut \_\_\_\_\_
- Cornell University \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Delaware \_\_\_\_\_
- University of the District of Columbia—Washington, D.C
- University of Florida \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Georgia \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Guam—Mangilao, Guam
- University of Hawaii \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Idaho \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Illinois—Urbana, IL
- Iowa State \_\_\_\_\_
- Kansas State University \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Kentucky \_\_\_\_\_
- Louisiana State University \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Maine—Orono, ME
- University of Maryland—Adephi, MD
- University of Massachusetts—Amhurst, MA
- Michigan State University \_\_\_\_\_
- College of Micronesia—Kolonias, Pohnpei
- University of Minnesota—St. Paul, MN
- Mississippi State University \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Missouri—Columbia, MO
- Montana State University \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Nebraska—Lincoln, NE
- University of Nevada—Reno, NV
- University of New Hampshire \_\_\_\_\_
- New Mexico State University \_\_\_\_\_
- North Carolina State \_\_\_\_\_
- North Dakota State \_\_\_\_\_
- Northern Marianas College—Saipan, CM
- Ohio State —Columbus, Ohio
- Oklahoma State University \_\_\_\_\_
- Oregon State University \_\_\_\_\_
- Pennsylvania State—University Park, PA
- University of Puerto Rico—Mayaguez, PR
- Purdue—West Lafayette, IN
- University of Rhode Island \_\_\_\_\_
- Rutgers—Cook College \_\_\_\_\_
- South Dakota State \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Tennessee—Knoxville, TN
- Texas A & M University \_\_\_\_\_
- Utah State University \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Vermont \_\_\_\_\_
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University \_\_\_\_\_
- University of the Virgin Islands \_\_\_\_\_
- Washington State \_\_\_\_\_
- West Virginia University \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Wisconsin—Madison, WI
- University of Wyoming \_\_\_\_\_

## LAND GRANT COLLEGES—1890

- Delaware State University \_\_\_\_\_
- Florida A & M University \_\_\_\_\_
- Langston University \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Maryland—Eastern Shore \_\_\_\_\_
- South Carolina State University \_\_\_\_\_
- Tennessee State University \_\_\_\_\_
- Virginia State University \_\_\_\_\_
- Prairie View A & M University \_\_\_\_\_
- University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff, AR
- Lincoln University—Jefferson City, MO
- Southern University—Baton Rouge, LA
- Alcorn State University \_\_\_\_\_
- North Dakota State University \_\_\_\_\_
- Tuskegee Institute \_\_\_\_\_
- Alabama A&M \_\_\_\_\_
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University \_\_\_\_\_
- Kentucky State University \_\_\_\_\_
- Fort Valley State University \_\_\_\_\_



Adapted from Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom.

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Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Land Grant Colleges (answers)

Look in the dictionary for the listing of four-year colleges and universities. Fill in the blanks below by writing the name of the city or town where the land grant college is located and the abbreviation for the state.

## LAND GRANT COLLEGES—1862

- University of Alaska—Fairbanks, AK
- American Samoa Community College—Pago Pago, AS
- University of Arizona TUSCON, AZ
- University of Arkansas—Little Rock, AR
- Auburn University AUBURN, AL
- University of California—Oakland, CA
- Clemson University CLEMSON, SC
- Colorado State FT. COLLINS, CO
- University of Connecticut STORRS, CT
- Cornell University ITHACA, NY
- University of Delaware NEWARK, DE
- University of the District of Columbia—Washington, D. C.
- University of Florida GAINESVILLE, FL
- University of Georgia ATHENS, GA
- University of Guam MANGILAO, GUAM
- University of Hawaii at Manoa HONOLULU, HI
- University of Idaho MOSCOW, ID
- University of Illinois—Urbana, IL
- Iowa State AMES, IA
- Kansas State MANHATTAN, KS
- University of Kentucky LEXINGTON, KY
- Louisiana State A&M BATON ROUGE, LA
- University of Maine—Orono, ME
- University of Maryland—Adelphi, MD
- University of Massachusetts—Amhurst, MA
- Michigan State EAST LANSING, MI
- College of Micronesia—Kolonia, Pohnpei
- University of Minnesota—St. Paul, MN
- Mississippi State MISSISSIPPI STATE, MS
- University of Missouri—Columbia, MO
- Montana State BOZEMAN, MT
- University of Nebraska—Lincoln, NE
- University of Nevada—Reno, NV
- University of New Hampshire DURHAM, NH
- New Mexico State LAS CRUCES, NM
- North Carolina State RALEIGH, NC
- North Dakota State FARGO, ND
- Northern Marianas College—Saipan, CM
- Ohio State—Columbus, OH
- Oklahoma State STILLWATER, OK
- Oregon State CORVALLIS, OR
- Pennsylvania State—University Park, PA
- University of Puerto Rico—Mayaguez, PR
- Purdue—West Lafayette, IN
- University of Rhode Island KINGSTON, RI
- Rutgers—Cook College NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ
- South Dakota State BROOKINGS, SD
- University of Tennessee—Knoxville, TN
- Texas A & M COLLEGE STATION, TX
- Utah State LOGAN, UT
- University of Vermont BURLINGTON, VT
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University BLACKSBURG, VA
- University of the Virgin Islands—St. Croix, USVI
- Washington State PULLMAN, WA
- West Virginia University MORGANTOWN, WV
- University of Wisconsin—Madison, WI
- University of Wyoming LARAMIE, WY

## LAND GRANT COLLEGES—1890

- Delaware State DOVER, DE
- Florida A & M TALAHASSEE, FL
- Langston LANGSTON, OK
- University of Maryland—Eastern Shore PRINCESS ANNE, MD
- South Carolina State ORANGEBURG, SC
- Tennessee State NASHVILLE, TN
- Virginia State PETERSBURG, VA
- Prairie View A & M PRAIRIE VIEW, TX
- University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff, AR
- Lincoln University—Jefferson City, MO
- Southern University—Baton Rouge, LA
- Alcorn State LORMAN, MS
- North Dakota State FARGO, ND
- Tuskegee Institute TUSKEGEE, AL
- Alabama A&M NORMAL, AL
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University GREENSBORO, NC
- Kentucky State FRANKFORT, KY
- Fort Valley State FORT VALLEY, GA

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