

MISSISSAUGA, CANADA'S ODDEST CITY

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The numerical positions of all the vowels in the alphabet are odd numbers. Designating their placement by number, we get A=1, E=5, I=9, O=15, U=21 and Y=25. Thus, only words that have no vowels, like NTH (14-20-8) can be written with letters whose numeric alphabetic position is strictly even.

Finding long words which consist of only odd-numbered letters is difficult because most of the commonly-occurring consonants (D=4, L=12, N=14, R=18, T=20) are even. In fact, the editor points out that in random English text odd consonants appear only one-quarter as often as even consonants; words with six or more odd consonants (and no even ones) are hard to find.

I did a quick scan of Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary and came up with the following words which represent the longest ones I could find consisting of only odd letters:

A acquiesces (10)	O osmosis (7)
C causeways (9)	Q quaggas (7)
E Eskimos (7)	S sequacious (10)
G gamecocks (9)	U usages (6)
I isogamous (9)	W wigwams (7)
K koumisses (9)	Y yuccas (6)
M massasaugas (13)	

This dictionary does not have COCKAMAMIE, but it can be found in Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary.

The only odd country is MACAU. Its capital (MACAU) and MOSCOW represent the only odd capital cities. The only other major odd international cities are MECCA and OSAKA.

Turning to the United States, the only odd state is IOWA -- a fact David Morice has alluded to. A quick scan of the 1982 Rand McNally Road Atlas provided the following odd cities and counties:

ALABAMA Autauga, Coosa, Coy
 ALASKA Kake, Skagway
 ARIZONA Mesa, Miami, Yuma
 ARKANSAS Wickes
 CALIFORNIA Keyes, Muscoy, Saugus, Siskiyou, Wasco
 COLORADO Kiowa, Mesa
 FLORIDA Cocoa, Kissimmee, Mayo, Miami, Mims
 GEORGIA Meigs, Muscogee, Waco
 HAWAII Aiea, Ewa, Kaaawa, Kauai, Keaau, Makawao, Maui, Waimea
 IDAHO Camas, Cassia, Gem, Mackay, Moscow

ILLINOIS Casey, Cass, Cook, Massac, Oswego, Skokie, Wamac
 INDIANA Cass, Cayuga, Kosciusko, Mecca, Miami
 IOWA Ames, Keokuk, Keosauqua, Osage, Sac, Waukee
 KANSAS Gas, Kiowa, Miami, Osage, Oswego, Wamego
 KENTUCKY Ages, Maceo
 LOUISIANA Iowa, Mamou
 MAINE Saco
 MARYLAND Accokeek, Wicomico
 MASSACHUSETTS Saugus
 MICHIGAN Amasa, Cass, Ogemaw, Okemos, Owosso
 MINNESOTA Cass, Cook, Osakis, Osseo, Waseca
 MISSISSIPPI Como, Iuka, Kosciusko, Magee, Osyka
 MISSOURI Cass, Osage
 MONTANA Saco, Simms
 NEBRASKA Cass, Gage, Macy
 NEW HAMPSHIRE Coos
 NEW JERSEY Secaucus
 NEW MEXICO Quay
 NEW YORK Cayuga, Oswego, Owego, Quogue, Sycaway
 NORTH CAROLINA Emma, Wake
 OHIO Geauga, Mack, Maumee, Meigs, Miami, Scio
 OKLAHOMA Kay, Keyes, Kiowa, Mayes, Miama, Muskogee, Okay,
 Osage, Owasso, Waukomis, Wewoka
 OREGON Coos
 PENNSYLVANIA Emmaus, Moosic, Moscow, Muse, Oaks, Yoe
 SOUTH CAROLINA Yemassee
 SOUTH DAKOTA McCook
 TENNESSEE Cocke, Meigs, Moscow, Siam
 TEXAS Ames, Cass, Coke, Como, Gause, Kamay, Kosse, McCamey,
 Miami, Waco, Waskom, Wise, Yoakum
 UTAH Kamas
 VERMONT Moscow
 VIRGINIA Accomac, Accomack, Keokee, Wise
 WASHINGTON Camas, Omak, Sekiu, Sequim, Skyway, Sumas, Yakima
 WEST VIRGINIA Gassaway
 WISCONSIN Iowa, Kewascum, Muskego, Osseo, Sauk, Wausau,
 Wausakee, Weyauwega
 WYOMING Osage

The editor was able to find examples for the three missing states in the 1985 Rand McNally Commercial Atlas & Marketing Guide:

CONNECTICUT Occum (New London)
 NEVADA Acoma (Lincoln), Massie (Churchill), Oasis (Elko)
 RHODE ISLAND Moscow (Washington)

The largest odd United States city is MIAMI, and the longest one has nine letters (KEOSAUQUA, KISSIMMEE, KOSCIUSKO, WEYAU-WEGA). As a proud Canadian, I am happy to announce that MISSISSAUGA, a city of 300,000 in Ontario, has 11 letters: I challenge readers to top this!

I leave the reader with an odd quiz: what odd screen character (first and last name) has remained popular for over fifty years?