

LICENSED CONFUSION

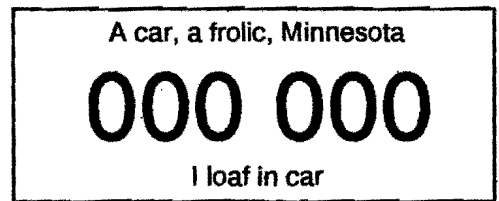
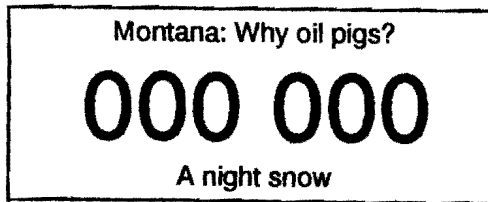
MIKE MORTON

Honolulu, Hawaii

Some politicians have proposed that prisoners need to have jobs and improve their literacy skills. In a pilot project, prisoners went back to their traditional job of making license plates. To meet the educational goals of the program, prisoners had to look up the capital city of each of the fifty U.S. states and five territories, and make plates with the capital's name instead of the usual slogan. For instance, they were supposed to replace ALOHA STATE with HONOLULU, HAWAII.

Unfortunately, the prisoners thought it was more fun to rearrange the movable type used to stamp out the plates. Below are given their results, with the full name of each capital and state scrambled at the top of the plate. Can you figure out which belong to which state? For some states, they made it a little easier for you by including the name of the state at the bottom of the plate--but still scrambled.

To make it tougher, the prisoners often found state or capital names hiding in longer names. For example, in a state that sometimes suffers from heavy rains, they could have scrambled the capital and state to FACE ASTRONOMICAL RAIN, but for the plate they chose the more confusing A CAR, A FROLIC, MINNESOTA, hoping the Minnesota clue will mislead you.



Scoring: 55--you deserve a vanity plate, 50-54--almost to home plate (check an almanac for those territories), 35-49--are you sure yo u can tell a license plate from a hot-plate?, 20-34--you probably suffer from what stamp collectors call a "plate block", 10--19--do you have a plate in your head?, 0-9--perhaps you've been living on a Petri plate.

- 3 calming a shining; I'm aching
- 4 a chic duet for Trenton
- 5 Alaska yet? cult hit!
- 6 apex in a horizon
- 7 Austin: no aural boogie; oil in a U.S.A.
- 8 barely know any
- 9 bravery? ha, I spurn Lansing; navy in Naples
- 10 constructing Hawaii's bold motif

- 11 darker upstate Ohio; aha, took dust
 12 dawdle over ERA; lewd area
 13 Denver: hidden Acropolis; harden, solid
 14 disown insomniacs
 15 Dover: clean odor; cool road
 16 drench Iowa's corn, hemp; her new mishap
 17 even Helena isn't less; seen teens?
 18 face women in Texas; we mix one
 19 forestall, sail ahead; old, fair
 20 gee, so normal
- 21 get Albany aroma, Mom?
 22 ha, I'm rediscovering all Atlantis; driving snails
 23 hark! trot back, Madison; drank to oath
 24 I hid minor craving
 25 Inn liaison--Diana paid
 26 inspire solid filling
 27 interpret novel, Mom
 28 it's a sax tune
 29 joy if crises, misfortune
 30 Ma! Pa! a Macon, Georgia soap
- 31 Maine: so, so wide
 32 no eyeing my wench; on my wig
 33 non-liberal snack; a banker's
 34 o, I haul, I haul now
 35 oh, amoral, bucolic Austin; also no haircut
 36 Ohio abides
 37 Ohio can arrange thrill; anchor no trial
 38 Omaha, cook my hot alkali; look! a ham
 39 ouch, mob Louis
 40 oust Maine plants; nominates
- 41 Pop is sick--miss Janis
 42 re-entry, no new jets
 43 rotate again, gal
 44 shake a gala acorn
 45 sly, inland panorama; my lad ran
 46 sneak past oak
 47 so, snob matches status; must stash case
 48 sun aura projection; I cue torpor
 49 talk, talks, carries on
 50 tardy? no vacancies
- 51 then a man alone; not a man
 52 try knock after funk
 53 U.S.A., mute again
 54 Um, AAA gang?
 55 Wisconsin: the great rival; sewing trivia