STATE LETTER BANKS: THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

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Take each of the 50 US state names in turn. For each state name, reduce the name to the list of different letters occurring in the state name, ignoring repeated occurrences of letters (for example, Alabama to ABLM). For each such sequence, what is the longest and the shortest word that can be made from all of the different letters, allowing repeated use of any letter? (In the National Puzzlers’ League, collections of such words, not merely the longest and shortest possible, are known as a Letter Bank.)

In some cases, the shortest word possible appears to be the state name itself—obviously for a state such as Iowa or Utah with no repeated letters. Similarly, the longest word possible may be the state name, especially when it is a long name with many repeated letters, such as Mississippi. For a handful of states, both the longest and shortest words are the state name, such as Kentucky or Wyoming. Where possible I have replaced the state name with a transposition.

Most of the words are from Webster’s Second or Third editions, although a smattering of words from other sources have been included (and references provided at the end of the article).

lamb
lask
Azorin
ranks
florican
cardol
counite
wardle
forlaid
og aire
hawi
Idaho
lions
naid
Iowa
sank
Kentucky
allusion
amine
land-army
mustache
chingma
somniate
imps
rimous
manto

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
Florida
Georgia
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana

ambalam
Kalkaska
Arizonian
Arkansans
craniofacial
local road
uncontinence
well-rewarded
Firoloida
Gregoria
Wahiawa
Hodaiah
nonillions
Indianian
Iowa
kanakas
Kentucky
nonillusionsal
manienie
Maryland Day
Mattachussetts
chimichanga
testamentations
Mississippi
missouriums
montanto
bankers: Nebraksa, snake bearers
vaned: Nevada, Vandeau
New Hampshire: New Hampshire, New Hampshireare
New Jersey: New Jersey, Jenny-wrens
New Mexico: New Mexico, New Mexico
ywroken: North Carolina, North Dakota
antichlor: North Dakota, North Dakota
North Dakota: Ohio, New Yorker
holm-oak: Oklahoma, Oklahoma?
goner: Oregon, Oregon
Paynesville: Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania
drain-holes: Rhode Island, Rhode Island
unhistorical: South Carolina, South Carolina
South Dakota: South Dakota, South Dakota
sent: Tennessee, Tennessee
taxes: Texas, Texas
haut: Utah, Utah
Vermont: Vermont, Vermont
raving: Virginia, Virginia
nowanights: Washington, Washington
West Virginia: West Virginia, Wiconisco
Wisconsin: Wisconsin, Wiconisco
Wyoming: Wyoming, Wyoming

Oxford English Dictionary
- drain-holes (saucer, 1856q), hawl (haw), holm-oak, land-army (army, see definition),
- missouriums (mastodon, 1847q), ywroken

Random House Dictionary
- Azorin, nonillusional, unanachronistical, Wahiawa

Bartholomew Gazetteer of the British Isles
- Weavering Street (a hamlet in Kent, England)

English Dialect Dictionary
- hooi (of the wind, to whistle)

Hodge, Handbook of Indians North of Mexico
- Mattachussets (early spelling)

Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary
- Jenny-wrens (plural of Jenny-wren, the herb Robert—not a wren!)

Harrap Book of Boys & Girls Names
- Gregoria (feminine form of the given name Gregory)

Times Index Gazetteer
- Paynesville (towns in Indiana, Minnesota, West Virginia and Wisconsin)

Webster's Geographical Dictionary
- Kalkaska (town and county in Michigan), Wiconisco (locality in Pennsylvania)