Note to Parents and Teachers

If you aren't able to take an actual trip, this Travel Journal can easily be used as part of a geography or creative writing assignment. Instead of recording locations and events that happened on a real trip, have students plan a trip they could take. All you need is the Internet or a few books such as a road atlas and a book of famous places to see in the United States.

Students can trace their journey on the maps that are provided. Have them record what routes they would take and where they would stop. They can research famous places that they could see and list them. They can also write about them and draw or paste a picture of each location. These are all great geography projects that engage the imagination and let each student personalize the trip with what interests them.

They can also research what average temperatures and weather conditions are like in the places they have chosen to visit on their trip and record that information on the page provided. They can also use this as a prompt for a twist in their adventure—perhaps the place they visited got some unexpected or unusual weather! Encourage them to use their imaginations and have fun. If you need a page to record stories for extra writing prompts or projects, just print more copies of the lined page.

They can also imagine funny stories and adventures they may have along the way and record them on the comic strip template, which is excellent creative writing practice.

Wherever your students' journey takes them, have fun exploring the United States and letting their imaginations soar!

SAMPLE

How to Use

Are you ready to get started creating your own Travel Journal? It doesn't matter if you're taking a real trip or if you use this to imagine what a fictional trip would be like. You can use it either way, and you can use as many of the pages as you'd like!

Road Trip: The page that has "Road Trip" on the top and a map of the United States with lines on it is going to be the cover of your Travel Journal. You can write the name of your trip, the dates, or anything else you like on the map.

On the Road: You'll want to complete one of these pages each day of your trip. Write down where you are starting, the major routes you take as you travel, how far you travel on each route, where you stopped, and where you ended for the day. You can also write down interesting things you saw. This could be anything from an animal you've never seen before to a museum or just about anything else that was interesting!

License Plates: One fun thing to do on a road trip is watch to see how many different states you can spot on license plates. Each time you spot a license plate from another state, put a checkmark on the page. If you see one from a place not on the page (like a Canadian province or anywhere else that isn't on the list), just add it to the end of the list and put a checkmark beside it.

What's On The Menu?: A fun part of every road trip is the food! Write down what you have for each meal on each day of your trip. It can be a picnic lunch, a sandwich in the car, fast food, a meal at a restaurant, or a special dessert treat!

A to Z: As you are traveling, see if you can spot something that starts with each letter of the alphabet each day and write it down. It could be a statue at a museum or a skunk along the trail! You get two free spaces each day to help with those hard-to-spot letters!

Weather: Sometimes the weather can play a big part in a road trip. Each day, write down the date; what the lowest temperature was for the day; what the highest temperature was for the day; if it was sunny, cloudy, or both; and any kinds of precipitation you saw.

SAMPLE

Draw and Write: The page with the frame is for you to write about interesting things you saw and draw (or paste) a picture of them. You can make as many of these pages as you want! Don't forget to include the date and the name of what you saw when you write about it. There is an extra lined page if you want to write more than what will fit on the first page.

Comic: Did anything funny happen on your trip? Whenever something funny happens that you want to remember, you can create a comic strip that shows what it was. Draw a different part of the story in each box, and write anything you need to say to explain what was happening beneath the pictures.

Averages: At the end of each day, copy the low and high temperature and the distance you traveled onto this page. At the end of your trip, calculate the averages.

Visit the U.S.A.: You can use this page in a couple of different ways. You can color each state you visit and write the names in the boxes beneath the map. Or, you can trace your approximate route that you took while on vacation across the map.

Just for Fun: Enjoy a dot-to-dot and a map of the United States!

Packing List: Here is a handy place you can write down everything you need to take with you on the trip and mark when you've packed each item.

Places I Visited: There are several sheets here you can choose from to record important information about each of the places you stopped and what you thought of it. Don't forget to rate the stop on a scale of 1 to 5.

Postcards: Here is were you'll find several pages you can choose from to attach postcards that you collect on your vacation.

State Maps: The final pages include a map of each state and Washington, D.C. You can use these to draw your route in more detail. Add any towns, cities, or other places you stopped to the map along your route.

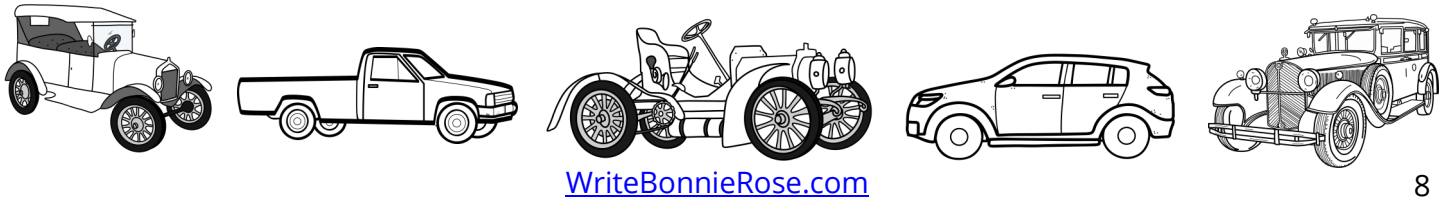
Have fun recording your adventure!

SAMPLE

License Plates

State	✓	State	✓	State	✓	State	✓
Alabama		Kansas		New Mexico		Virginia	
Alaska		Kentucky		New York		Washington	
Arizona		Louisiana		North Carolina		West Virginia	
Arkansas		Maine		North Dakota		Wisconsin	
California		Maryland		Ohio		Wyoming	
Colorado		Massachusetts		Oklahoma			
Connecticut		Michigan		Oregon			
Delaware		Minnesota		Pennsylvania			
Florida		Mississippi		Rhode Island			
Georgia		Missouri		South Carolina			
Hawaii		Montana		South Dakota			
Idaho		Nebraska		Tennessee			
Illinois		Nevada		Texas			
Indiana		New Hampshire		Utah			
Iowa		New Jersey		Vermont			

SAMPLE



What's On The Menu?

Day _____

Breakfast: _____

_____

_____

_____

Lunch: _____

_____

_____

_____

Dinner: _____

_____

_____

_____

Snacks: _____

_____

_____

_____

Other Meals: _____

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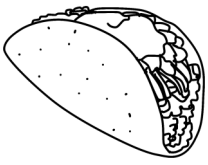
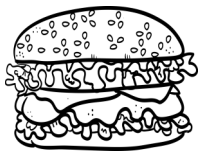

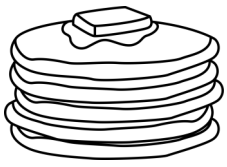

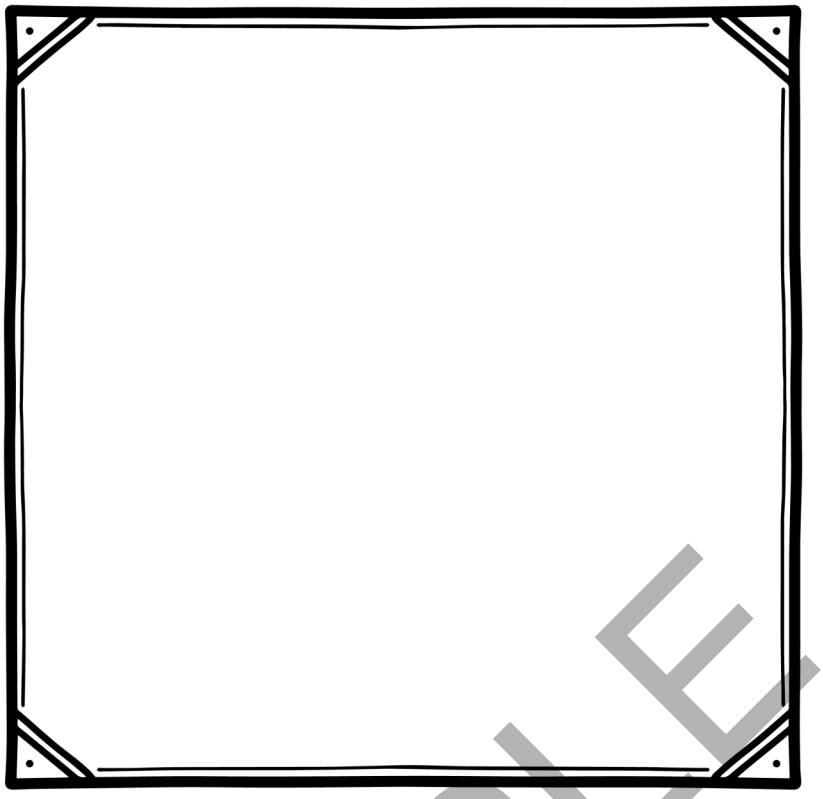

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_____

Location/Address: _____

_____

Date Stopped: _____ Time Spent: _____ Cost of Entry: _____

Animals Seen: (Note if endangered)	Plants Seen: (Note if endangered)

Highlights or Interesting Information: _____

_____

_____

_____

My Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆

Reason for Rating: _____

Stamps or Rubbings:

SAMPLE