Plan and take a road trip through your state

Student guide

In this activity, you will learn about various towns, cities, and places of interest within our state by planning and taking a two-week road trip.

**Step 1**   
**Plan and map your route**

On the Internet, research the geography of your state to help you identify places you might want to visit. For example, you can visit the official Web site of your state, use an online encyclopedia, use the Geography link on the netstate.com Web site <http://www.netstate.com/states/index.html>, or type locations in a search engine to help you identify the places that fit the lesson and interest you.

Make a list of the places you want to visit. Check to make sure that the locations you have entered include:

* One or more major cities with populations of 1,000,000+
* Two or more cities with population between 500,000 and 999,999
* One or more minor cities with population of 100,000-499,999
* One or more towns with population between 20,000 and 99,000
* The state capital
* Two or more other areas of geographical interest within the state. Look for places beyond the familiar tourist attractions, for example, an old growth forest, a historic site like an abandoned mining town, the geographic center, the highest peak, and so on. If you do choose a familiar attraction, research its history or try to find unusual information about it.

Open Bing maps (<http://www.bing.com/maps/>). Click the Route Planner icon on the bottom left of the page and then enter the locations you wish to visit and plan the route you wish to take.

On your route, calculate the miles between locations. You will need the number of miles between locations for your postcards.

Calculate how many hours and/or days you plan to stay at each location.

If you want, you can customize your map by using the **My places** editor to draw special route lines on your map, mark and color different areas (red for historical, green for natural, and so on), and so on.

Save your map and route plan.

**Step 2**

**Research destinations and write postcards home**

Visit each place on your route, research it, and mark it on your map with a push pin. Click the **My places** icon to open the My places editor. Enter a push pin in each location with a title, a brief description, and a photo. Be sure to save your places by signing in with your Windows Live ID.

For each stop on your trip, write one postcard home using Microsoft Office Publisher. Each postcard should include:

* Location
* Latitude and longitude of location (Click the Aerial button to find this information.)
* Date
* Miles driven since last postcard (location and date)
* Number of days you've been at the location
* Brief description of the location (Use the Internet to search for information about the interesting sights, history, significance of the location.)
* A different photo of the location than the one you used for your push pin
* Place you plan to go next

**Create your postcard**

Select one of the postcard templates and a theme in Office Publisher to create your postcard. Use the same template and theme for all of your postcards. See a sample postcard (<http://download.microsoft.com/download/2/4/b/24bb8c05-8bd4-4cac-89ff-0901bf3b8468/RoadTrip.pub>).

Enter the required information in the list above using complete sentences in a narrative format.

Check to make sure you have included all required information.

Proofread your postcards.

Save your work.

**Step 3**   
**Complete your trip and record it**

When you have completed your trip, print all postcards, your Bing map, and route planner.