

## ***GEOGRAPHY STORIES: STATES & PROVINCES!***

**What, Why, & Who:** It is difficult to find a range of stories for older students who are emergent readers. In addition, students need a variety of stories that are age-appropriate, engaging, and curriculum-related. These stories were created at workshops, and represent the geography and culture of regions. They were developed by teams at several workshops.

**How:** See story writing tips in the January, 2006 Tip of the Month at this website: [www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com)

Most of these stories are very simple, 'transitional' stories. Read about story types in the article, 'Beginning Literacy Framework.'

[www.donjohnston.com/research/beg\\_lit\\_framework.pdf](http://www.donjohnston.com/research/beg_lit_framework.pdf)

Remember, working in teams is a GREAT way to create and EDIT stories for maximum usefulness!

### ***ONTARIO STORIES: Durham School District Workshop, December 06***

#### **Active in Ontario!**

Ski Ontario,

What fun!

Swim Ontario,

What fun!

Play Ontario,

What fun!

Camp Ontario,

What fun!

Grow Ontario,

What fun!

Discover Ontario,

What fun!

Love Ontario,

We do!

*Features:* Carrier phrase: 'Verb Ontario.'

Repeated line, 'What fun!'

## Geography Stories Tip

### In Ontario

You can ski in the snow in the winter . . . in Ontario.

Eh!

You can swing in the park in the spring . . . in Ontario.

Eh!

You can swim in the lake in the summer . . . in Ontario.

Eh!

You can jump in the leaves in the fall . . . in Ontario.

Eh!

What can YOU do . . . in Ontario?

*Features:* predictable phrases, with slots to fill:

'You can verb in the place in the season . . . in Ontario'

Turnaround ending (turns it to the students, to encourage them to add pages).

### Going to Ontario, Eh?

You're going to Ontario, eh?

You're going to see Niagara Falls, lakes, and rivers.

You're going to Ontario, eh?

You're going to see the CN Tower, apartment buildings, and houses.

You're going to Ontario, eh?

You're going to see Dalton McGinty, David Mella, and Craig Birch.

(Premier)

(Mayor)

(Board Director)

You're going to Ontario, eh?

You're going to see the Toronto Zoo, a moose, and a beaver.

You're going to Ontario . . . Yours to discover.

P.S. Keep it beautiful!

*Features:* repeated line, 'You're going to Ontario, eh?'

Carrier phrase: 'You're going to see \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.'

## Geography Stories Tip

### Ontario, Land of Colour

Autumn red maple leaves.  
Ontario, land of colour.  
Clear blue lakes.  
Ontario, land of colour.  
Rolling green pastures.  
Ontario, land of colour.  
Crisp white snow.  
Ontario, land of colour.  
Golden yellow corn fields.  
Ontario is a rainbow of colour.

*Features:* repeated line, 'Ontario, land of colour'  
Predictable structure (descriptor colour noun)  
Poetic structure

### Ontario is a Place to Grow

In Ontario, we like to ski.  
In Ontario, we like to hike.  
    See me go!

In Ontario, we like to swim.  
In Ontario, we like to bike.  
    See me go!

In Ontario, we like to skate.  
In Ontario, we like to grow.  
    See me go!

In Ontario, we like to run.  
Ontario, where do you want to go?  
    See me go!

*Features:* Carrier phrase: 'In Ontario, we like to verb.'  
Repeated line, 'See me go!'

## Geography Stories Tip

### Ontario: Yours to Discover

Ontario: Yours to discover!

The Big Nickel,

Ontario: Yours to discover!

Niagara Falls,

Ontario: Yours to discover!

C.N. Tower,

Ontario: Yours to discover!

The Polar Express,

Ontario: Yours to discover!

Toronto Blue Jays,

Ontario: Yours to discover!

Toronto Maple Leafs,

Ontario: Yours to discover!

Toronto Raptors,

Ontario: Yours to discover!

The Parliament Building,

Ontario: Yours to discover!

Ontario:

What have you discovered??

*Features:* repeated line, 'Ontario: Yours to discover!' (taken from Ontario license plate!)

***LOUISIANA STORIES:***  
***Literacy Institute, State of LA, November 06***

**Louisiana: The Boot-Shaped State**

Louisiana - The Swampy State.

Louisiana - The Winding Mississippi River State.

Louisiana - The Hot, Muggy State.

Louisiana - The Spicy Food State.

Louisiana - The Big Mosquito State . . . Ouch!

Louisiana - Les Bon Temps Roulé!

*Features:*

- starter, 'Louisiana'
- uses common monikers for the state, which students are likely to have heard

## Geography Stories Tip

### Louisiana Is Special

I love Louisiana because it has swamps.

I love Louisiana because it has cotton fields.

I love Louisiana because it has sugarcane fields.

I love Louisiana because it has praries.

I love Louisiana because it has crayfish farms.

I love Louisiana because it has rice fields.

I love Louisiana because it has salt domes.

I love Louisiana because it has bayous.

I love Louisiana because it has levees.

I love Louisiana because it has oilfields.

I love Louisiana because it has lakes.

I love Louisiana because it has rivers.

I love Louisiana because it has timber land.

Louisiana is special!

#### *Features:*

- starter, 'I love Louisiana because it has \_\_\_\_\_.'
- describes natural and manmade features

## Geography Stories Tip

### Did You Ever . . . ?

Did you ever go down the bayou in Louisiana?

Yes, I did.

Did you ever go on the coast in Louisiana?

Yes, I did.

Did you ever go in the swamp in Louisiana?

Yes, I did.

Did you ever go over the hills in Louisiana?

Yes, I did.

Did you ever go through the woods in Louisiana?

Yes, I did.

Did you ever go in the mountain snow in Louisiana?

No, I didn't . . . there's no mountain snow in Louisiana!!

#### *Features:*

- starter, 'Did you ever go \_\_\_\_\_.' (note the prepositions!)
- repeated line, 'Yes, I did.'

## Geography Stories Tip

### What We Do In Louisiana

We fish in the lakes . . . in Louisiana.

We hunt in the woods . . . in Louisiana.

We paddle the pirogues in the bayou . . . in Louisiana.

We cook gumbo . . . in Louisiana.

We dance the Cajun Two-Step Chank a chank . . . in Louisiana.

We roll down the levees . . . in Louisiana.

Aw-eeee!

*Features:*

- action story
- repeated phrase, '. . . in Louisiana.'

### How Did the Cajun Cross the Bayou?

How did the Cajun cross the bayou?

You can swim across the bayou.

You can ride a pirogue across the bayou.

You can ski across the bayou.

You can paddle across the bayou.

How did the Cajun cross the bayou?

You can ride an alligator across the bayou.

That Cajun got across the bayou!

*Features:*

- repeated line: 'How did the Cajun cross the bayou?'
- slot-filler: 'You can \_\_\_\_\_ across the bayou.'



## *Wyoming Story*

### Wyoming is First . . . AGAIN!

Wyoming . . . women get the vote.  
Wyoming is first,

Wyoming . . . first woman governor.  
Wyoming is first . . . again!

Wyoming . . . first woman doctor.  
Wyoming is first again!

Wyoming . . . first woman juror.  
Wyoming is first again!

Wyoming . . . first African-American state senator.  
Wyoming is first again!

Wyoming . . . first woman to head the US mint.  
Wyoming is first again!

Wyoming . . . first national park.  
Wyoming is first again!

Wyoming . . . first national monument.  
Wyoming is first again!

Wyoming . . . first woman hanged.  
Oops! Maybe first is not ALWAYS best!