

# ROAD TRIP

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Equinox 48

**Plan a continuous road trip** through the lower 48, trying to visit as many states as possible.

- ◇ You can start and end wherever you want.
- ◇ You can pass through a state as many times as you want. U-turns are allowed.
- ◇ You cannot fly. You cannot drive on lakes or oceans or take a ferry. You may cross rivers.
- ◇ If you create two or more disjoint road trips, only one counts in your score.

**The challenge:** you need a password to go from state to adjacent state. States are not considered adjacent if they only share a single point.

- ◇ *Scenic route passwords:* the postal abbreviations for the states are in the password, consecutively, in either order, anywhere in the word -- with no overlap. So to go from California to Oregon, or Oregon to California, you could use the password 'ORCA', 'Garcia LORCA', or 'labOR CAMP'.
- ◇ *Interstate passwords:* the postal abbreviations for the states are in the password, ***not*** consecutively, in either order, anywhere in the word. So to go from California to Oregon, or Oregon to California, you could use the password 'theORetiCAI', 'CAn of wORms', 'French EquatO-Rial AfriCA' or 'ORgan-pipe CActus'.

Interstate passwords are less desirable, but they may be necessary to connect parts of your trip.

**Acceptable passwords** can be any entry (or part of an entry) in Merriam-Webster's *11th Collegiate Dictionary*, capitalized or not, hyphenated or not, consisting of one or more words.

- ◇ You cannot use electronic aids, or any references.
- ◇ For people's names, you can use the full name, including first and middle names.
- ◇ You cannot use abbreviations, prefixes, suffixes, or other non-words.
- ◇ You cannot reuse a password, or use variations of the same password (e.g. 'theORetiCAlly' after using 'theORetiCAI', or plurals, etc.)
- ◇ An unacceptable password severs your trip into disjoint sections — only one section counts in your score.
- ◇ You can record more than one password for a crossing. Only one needs to be acceptable.

## Scoring:

- ◇ You get two points for every state you visit.
- ◇ You lose a point every time you use an interstate password.
- ◇ A state you visit more than once only counts the first time.

Use this format to keep track of your journey:

CA orca OR can of worms (CA)

'Can of worms' is underlined because it is an interstate password. The second CA is in parentheses because you've already visited the state once. The score for this trip is 3.

