USA Bingo

Frankfort, Kentucky; Hartford, Connecticut; Honolulu, Hawaii… Come fifth grade, your child will face the seemingly daunting task of learning the states and their capitals, but with some healthy repetition and a variety of learning methods, it can be done! If your child is having trouble with state and capital memorization, have him try this entertaining game that draws on the classic game of bingo. It's easy to make and can be repeated over and over again!

What You Need:

- Bingo card templates (one per person)
- Index cards
- Pen
- Markers for bingo such as buttons, pennies, poker chips, etc.
- Scissors

What You Do:

1. Print enough bingo card templates for each person playing, and ask your child to cut them out.
2. Using the chart at the bottom of this activity, have her fill each empty box on the bingo card templates with the name of a state. There will not be room for every state on each bingo card and the cards will not match, but that's part of the fun!
3. Have her cut each index card in half.
4. Now, ask your child to write each of the fifty state capitals on half of an index card. He can use the chart at the bottom of this activity for reference.
5. Ask her to place the index cards in a hat, box or bowl and mix them up without looking.
6. Determine which player will draw the cards out of the bowl and read them aloud. The reader can either be someone who is playing or a designated card reader.
7. Have each player take a handful of markers and start by covering up the free space!

Playing the Game:

1. Have the designated person take a card from the bowl and read it. Any player with the corresponding state on her bingo card will cover it up with a marker. For example, if the reader draws Dover, the players can cover up Delaware (if they have it on their cards). If a player does not have a corresponding state, he does nothing and waits for the next card to be drawn.
2. Continue to draw cards until one person gets five in a row and yells "BINGO!"

Play again and again to reinforce those states and capitals in your child's mind! To add a little variety and more intense grammar review, try playing "blackout." This variation of bingo requires the winning player to mark ALL of the spaces on his or her card. Other variations include "four corners" and "picture frame," depending on which spaces you need to mark to win!

Reference Chart:

State	Capital
Alabama	Montgomery
Alaska	Juneau
Arizona	Phoenix

Arkansas	Little Rock
California	Sacramento
Colorado	Denver
Connecticut	Hartford
Delaware	Dover
Florida	Tallahassee
Georgia	Atlanta
Hawaii	Honolulu
Idaho	Boise
Illinois	Springfield
Indiana	Indianapolis
Iowa	Des Moines
Kansas	Topeka
Kentucky	Frankfort
Louisiana	Baton Rouge
Maine	Augusta
Maryland	Annapolis
Massachusetts	Boston
Michigan	Lansing
Minnesota	St. Paul
Mississippi	Jackson
Missouri	Jefferson City
Montana	Helena
Nebraska	Lincoln
Nevada	Carson City
New Hampshire	Concord
New Jersey	Trenton
New Mexico	Santa Fe
New York	Albany
North Carolina	Raleigh
North Dakota	Bismarck
Ohio	Columbus
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City
Oregon	Salem
Pennsylvania	Harrisburg

Rhode Island	Providence
South Carolina	Columbia
South Dakota	Pierre
Tennessee	Nashville
Texas	Austin
Utah	Salt Lake City
Vermont	Montpelier
Virginia	Richmond
Washington	Olympia
West Virginia	Charleston
Wisconsin	Madison
Wyoming	Cheyenne

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