The Geography of MS
Just the Facts:

1. The state of Mississippi takes its name from the Mississippi River, which is named from Native American words that mean “father of waters.”
2. Mississippi officially became a state on December 10, 1817.
3. MS was the 20th state to join the Union.
4. MS consists, politically, of 82 counties.
5. MS’s capital if Jackson.
6. MS’s population is around 2.9 million.
The State Flag
The State Tree
and Flower
Magnolia

1938

1952
The State Wildflower
Coriopsis
1991
The State Bird
Mockingbird
1944
The State Fish
Largemouth Bass
1974
The State Land-Mammal
White-tailed Deer and Red Fox

1974

1997
The State

Water Mammal
Bottlenose Dolphin
The State Waterfowl
Wood duck

1974
The State
Reptile
Alligator

2005
The State Insect
Honeybee
1980
The State Butterfly
Spicebush Swallowtail

1991
The State Fossil
Prehistoric Whale
1981
The State Stone
Petrified Wood
1976
The State Shell
Oyster Shell
1974
The State Beverage
Milk
1984
The State Toy
Teddy Bear
2002
The State Dance
Square Dance
1995
The State Song
Go, Mississippi
Words and Music by Houston Davis
1962

Verse:
States may sing their songs of praise
With waving flags and hip-hoo-rays,
Let cymbals crash and let bells ring
'Cause here's one song I'm proud to sing.

Choruses:
Go, Mississippi, keep rolling along,
Go, Mississippi, you cannot go wrong,
Go, Mississippi, we're singing your song,
M-I-S-S-I-P-P-I
• Go, Mississippi, you're on the right track,
Go, Mississippi, and this is a fact,
Go, Mississippi, you'll never look back,
M-I-S-S-I-P-P-I
• Go, Mississippi, straight down the line,
Go, Mississippi, ev'rything's fine,
Go, Mississippi, it's your state and mine,
M-I-S-S-I-P-P-I
• Go, Mississippi, continue to roll,
Go, Mississippi, the top is the goal,
Go, Mississippi, you'll have and you'll hold,
M-I-S-S-I-P-P-I
• Go, Mississippi, get up and go,
Go, Mississippi, let the world know,
That our Mississippi is leading the show,
M-I-S-S-I-P-P-I
The State
Nickname
Official: The Magnolia State

Unofficial: The Hospitality State
The State Motto
Virtute et Armis which is Latin for By Valor and Arms
There are two types of location.

1. **Absolute location** gives the exact location of a place using latitude and longitude.
   a. **Latitude** is the distance north or south of the equator.
   b. MS lies between 30° and 35° north latitude.
   c. **Longitude** is the distance east or west of the **Prime Meridian**.
   d. MS lies between 88° and 91° west longitude.

2. **Relative location** gives the location of a place in relation to some other place or landform.
   a. MS’s relative location is in the **southeastern U.S.**
   b. You can also give MS’s relative location using its borders.
Latitude and Longitude

Latitude (North/South)

- Latitude varies from 0° at the equator to 90° North and South at the poles.

Longitude (West/East)

- Longitude varies from 0° at Greenwich to 180° East and West.
MS’s Latitude and Longitude
MS’s Relative Location

[Map showing the relative location of Mississippi within the United States and the surrounding region, including the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.]
1. The state of MS covers **47,923** square miles.
2. MS is the **32nd** largest state in the Union.
Weather vs. Climate

1. Weather is different from climate.
2. **Weather** refers to the day-to-day conditions of the atmosphere.
3. **Climate** refers to the long-term average weather conditions of an area.
MS’s Climate

1. MS has a **humid-subtropical** climate, which means our summers are hot and humid while our winters are short and mild.
2. Our average yearly temperature is **62° F**.
3. Our average yearly rainfall is around **55 inches**.
4. The coldest temperature ever recorded in MS was **-19° F** (1966) and the hottest was **115° F** (1930).
MS’s Natural Disasters

Became of MS’s location and climate, we suffer from many natural disasters, including:

1. thunderstorms
2. tornadoes
3. hurricanes
4. flash floods
5. droughts
6. earthquakes
MS’s Landform Regions

- Yazoo Basin (Delta)
- Loess Hills (Bluffs Hills)
- North Central Hills
- Pine Hills
- Coastal Meadows

- Tombigbee Hills
- Black Prairie
- Flatwoods
- Panola Ridge
Yazoo Basin

1. More commonly known as the **Delta**, it is a flat, alluvial plain that runs along the MS. River.

2. **Alluvial soil** is deposited by floods.

3. This is the richest agricultural area of MS.

4. The Delta is protected by a system of levees that were built by the Army Corp of Engineers.

5. A **levee** is a soil bank built along a river to prevent flooding.
The Delta
1. The Loess and Brown Loam Hills were formed by prehistoric dust storms.

2. **Loess Soil** is deposited by the wind.

3. **Loam** is soil composed of clay, sand and some organic matter.

4. **Erosion** is a huge problem for this area.

5. **Kudzu** was brought in to control the erosion and became an even bigger problem.
The Loess and Brown Loam Hills
Kudzu
Tombigbee Hills

1. The Tombigbee Hills are also known as the Tenn-Tom Hills.

2. This region is the most rugged area of the state.

3. **Woodall Mountain** is located in this region.

4. At **806 ft above sea level**, Woodall Mountain is the highest point in the state.
The Tombigbee Hills
Woodall Mountain
Black Prairie

1. This region takes its name from the dark, fertile soil of the area.

2. This is the largest prairie region of MS.

3. A prairie is an area of rolling grasslands.
The Black Prairie
1. The Pontotoc Ridge is a narrow strip of land composed of fertile, sandy loam that is excellent for orchards.
The Pontotoc Ridge
Flatwoods

1. The Flatwoods is a narrow strip of land with very poor soil.

2. It is an mainly an area of forests, pastures, hay fields and some small farms.
The Flatwoods
North Central Hills

1. This area is also known as the Red Clay Hills because of its soil.

2. This region relies on the lumber industry and livestock raising.
The North Central Hills
Jackson Prairie

1. The Jackson Prairie is similar to the Tombigbee Prairie but has more **woodland** areas.

2. Jackson, the capital of MS, is located within this area.

3. The economy of this region is based largely on **trade**, commerce and small industry.
The Jackson Prairie
1. This region is also known as the **Piney Woods** or the **Pine Belt** and takes its name from the pine forests that cover most of the region.

2. The lumber industry is the main economic activity of the region.
The Pine Hills
Coastal Meadows

1. This region of MS was the **first** to be settled by Europeans because it was accessible by sea.

2. **Fishing** and **tourism** has long been the main economic activities of the coastal meadows.

3. The MS Gulf Coast has the world’s largest **man-made** beach.
The Coastal Meadows