













The Federal States

If the federal states were introduced by “postcards”, they would only have room to give basic information. The following are “postcards” of the federal states of Germany.

<p>1. Baden-Württemberg, the third largest state, lies in the south-west of the Federal Republic of Germany. It borders on France and Switzerland and is the location of the famous Black Forest, from where people bring the cuckoo clock as a popular souvenir. In this state, the automobile was invented by Daimler and Benz. State capital: <i>Stuttgart</i>.</p>	
<p>2. The state of Bavaria is the largest of all the federal states and is world famous for the Alps and their charming surroundings. When most foreigners think of Bavaria, they think of beer and the Oktoberfest. But electrical industry plays an important role in Bavaria as well. Firms like BMW, MAN, and Siemens have their headquarters in Bavaria. State capital: <i>Munich</i>.</p>	
<p>3. Berlin is Germany’s capital and has a population of almost 4 million people. It has a fascinating history and today is a cultural metropolis that attracts visitors from all over the world. The Berlin Bear is the city’s most important symbol and appears in all kind of different facets.</p>	
<p>4. Brandenburg was the heart of the former country of Prussia. King Friedrich II set up an architectural memorial to himself with his Castle Sanssouci (“free of worries” in French). Pine woods, lakes and heaths (or “moorlands”) define the picture of this state and the production of pickled cucumbers has a great tradition. State capital: <i>Potsdam</i>.</p>	
<p>5. The state of Bremen is characterized by trade and shipping. This German port is the largest container transfer center in Europe. During the 19th and 20th centuries, more than 7 million emigrants used to leave Europe from this port to cross the Atlantic and head for America. The Bremen Town Musicians are the most famous inhabitants of this city-state.</p>	
<p>6. The state of Hamburg is Germany’s largest port and an important trade center. Hamburg enjoys a reputation not only as a center of finance, trade, and transportation, but also as a city of media (i.e. newspapers, T.V.) and as a cultural center.</p>	

The Federal States

<p>7. The state of Hesse lies almost in the geographic center of Germany. The great international airport in Frankfurt has made Hesse a gateway for travelers from all over the world. Äppelwoi (cider) is a very popular regional beverage in Hesse. State capital: <i>Wiesbaden</i>.</p>	
<p>8. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, in the northeast, is predominantly rural. On the coast, for example in Rostock, the main occupations are shipbuilding and fishing. The numerous beaches attract many tourists every year. State capital: <i>Schwerin</i>.</p>	
<p>9. The second largest state of the Federal Republic of Germany is Lower Saxony. The famous VW Beetle is produced in Wolfsburg. In addition to having densely populated industrial areas, Lower Saxony contains some of the most important farmland in Germany. State capital: <i>Hanover</i>.</p>	
<p>10. North Rhine-Westphalia is the most heavily populated state with about 10 million inhabitants. It is also the most important economic power, although such centers as the Ruhr region, famous for its coal deposits and steel-working industry, are changing their economies. But people also know how to celebrate – especially during the carnival season between November and February. State capital: <i>Düsseldorf</i>.</p>	
<p>11. Rhineland-Palatinate is a center of industry and trade, but in addition contains many charming agricultural regions and is famous for its vineyards. Cities like Mainz, Worms, Speyer and Trier witness to the 2000-year-old cultural history of this region. State capital: <i>Mainz</i>.</p>	
<p>12. Saarland did not join the Federal Republic of Germany until January 1, 1957. Its geographical position allows an intensive economic and cultural exchange with France and Luxembourg. The huge Völklinger Ironworks were once the largest in Germany and today are the first industrial monument to be declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage. State capital: <i>Saarbrücken</i></p>	

The Federal States

Page 3

13. The state of Saxony, with almost 5 million people, is the most populous of the five new federal states. Saxony is a heavily industrialized state. Traditional artwork like the production of nutcrackers plays an important role in its rural areas. Leipzig, the old trade fair city, and Dresden with its famous art galleries like the “Zwinger” or the “Green Vault”, are considered the cradles of the democratic movement in the former German Democratic Republic. State capital: *Dresden*.



14. Saxony-Anhalt was formed only after the Second World War. The Harz Mountains as well as many farming areas demonstrate a state with an attractive natural environment. Martin Luther’s reformation began in Wittenberg. State capital: *Magdeburg*.



15. Schleswig-Holstein is the connecting link between the European Union, Scandinavia, and the Baltic countries. It lies between the North Sea and the Baltic, was earlier a purely agricultural land, but now has some noteworthy light industry, and above all is developed for tourism. The most heavily traveled waterway in the world, the Kiel Canal, connects the North Sea with the Baltic Sea. State capital: *Kiel*.



16. Thuringia is called the “Green Heart of Germany”. The city of Weimar is the birthplace of German Classicism, where Goethe and Schiller worked for most of their lifetime. The National Assembly of the Weimar Republic met here in 1919 to compose the first German democratic constitution after the fall of the German monarchy. The famous Christstollen derives from here. State capital: *Erfurt*.

