

NORTH AMERICA: NORTHEASTERN U.S.

All eleven northeastern states were among the original 13 English colonies. The six New England states are Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Their historic past is evident in the names, monuments, schools, museums, and architecture of the area. The region is famous for the brilliant color of its autumn foliage. Northern New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine have long, cold winters.

Adjacent to New England are the mid-Atlantic states—New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. This major industrial region has the greatest population concentration in the nation. A megalopolis of major cities runs from Boston to Washington, D.C. Farther south are the culturally Southern states of Delaware and Maryland. These former slaveowning states remained in the Union during the Civil War, but loyalty among their populations was sharply divided.

Mountains that cover much of the Northeast are part of the ancient Appalachian chain, whose peaks have been worn smooth over the passage of time. The only flatland is the Atlantic Coastal Plain of eastern Maryland, Delaware, and southeastern New Jersey. Farther north, the plain narrows down to beaches and dunes, which give way to rugged cliffs and fiords when the coastline reaches Maine.

COMMECTICUTA

Area: 5,009 sq.mi.(12,963 km²). Population: 3,410,000. Capital: <u>Hartford</u>. 122,000. Economy: Aircraft engines, nuclear submarines, tobacco, dairying, insurance. ☐ The Connecticut (don't pronounce the middle "c") River is New England's longest. It separates Vermont from New Hampshire and flows south, through Massachusetts and Connecticut, on its way to Long Island Sound. In wooded and hilly Connecticut, the river valley is a low, fertile region where the most expensive tobacco (for wrapping cigars) is shade grown. Connecticut was known as the birthplace of many inventions and innovations that contributed to both the American and industrial revolutions. An industrial area around Waterbury was called the "arsenal of the nation." Hartford has been the insurance industry capital for 200 years. Yale is located in New Haven, and the Coast Guard Academy is in the active seaport of New London. The affluent southwest corner is home to many New York City commuters.

DELAWARE

Area: 2,045 sq.mi.(5,292 km²). Population: 807,000. Capital: Dover 32,000. Economy: Chemicals, poultry, food products, fishing. ☐ Sharing the Delmarva Peninsula with Maryland and Virginia, this second-smallest state spans less than 35 mi.(56 km) at its widest point. Delaware is the state with the lowest average elevation. The only hills are in the northern industrial region of Wilmington (73,000), the largest city. It is the home of Du Pont, the chemical giant that has dominated Delaware economically and politically for two centuries. Wilmington has been called the "Chemical Capital of the World." Delaware is known for liberal laws regulating business. Many U.S. companies (half of the top 500) are Delaware corporations, although located elsewhere. In 1638, Delaware was the Swedish colony of "New Sweden"; it was taken over by the Dutch and then the British, who made it part of Pennsylvania.

MAINE:

Area: 33,260 sq.mi.(86,076 km²). Population: 1,330,000. Capital: Augusta.
19,000. Economy: Paper products, seafood, potatoes, blueberries, shipbuilding.

☐ The northern half of Maine, the most easterly state, is completely surrounded by Canada. Maine is a major producer of paper products; 90% of the state is

covered by forests, mostly owned by paper companies. Hordes of visitors come to the scenic, rocky coast each summer. Mt. Desert Island is the site of Acadia, New England's only national park. Maine has so many islands that its name refers to the "mainland." The busy port of Portland (65,000) is the largest city. Potatoes are the principal crop, and the famed "Maine lobster" is the prize catch of the fishing industry.

MARYLAMD,

Area: 10,470 sq.mi.(27,096km²). Population: 5,400,000. Capital; Annanolis, 36,000. Economy: Trade, electronics, chemicals, food products, tobacco, poultry. ☐ The Chesapeake Bay, a bountiful provider of seafood (particularly crabs, clams, and oysters), nearly divides Maryland in two. The eastern shore is a flat, fertile vegetable-producing area. The larger western shore is densely populated, especially near Baltimore and Washington D.C. The land becomes progressively hillier toward the Appalachians. Baltimore (640,000) is one of the nation's busiest seaports and a center of trade and manufacluring. The city is famous for endless rows of attached brick houses with white marble steps. Nearby is Annapolis, the state capital, the site of the U.S. Naval Academy. The northern boundary of Maryland was once called the Mason-Dixon line, which divided the slave states of the South from the abolitionist North.

MASSACHUSETTS:

Area: 8,257 sq.mi.(21,369 km²). Population: 6,415,000. Capital: Boston, 550,000. Economy: Electronics, precision products, fishing, textiles, cranberries. ☐ Small only in size, Massachusetts is a leader in finance, trade, culture, industry, medicine, and education—almost all of which are centered in the greater Boston area, along with half the population. Cambridge is the site of Harvard, the nation's oldest university, and many other leading colleges, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Boston was founded in 1630, only 10 years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock on Cape Cod Bay. Colonial architecture, museums, monuments, and restored villages are visible reminders of the state's historic past. The Cape Cod peninsula and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket are popular summer resorts on the Atlantic coast. Massachusetts is no longer a major producer of clothing, textiles, and shoes; those mills and factories, which first went south and then overseas, have been replaced by electronics and engineering companies.

WEW HAMPSHIRE

Area: 9,380 sq.mi.(24,275 km²). Population: 1,260,000. Capital: Concord. 41,000. Economy: Wood products, electronics, granite, shoes, dairying. ☐ The "Granite State" is known for its large deposits of many varieties of granite. New Hampshire is almost completely mountainous except in the southeastern Merrimack River valley, in which Concord, the capital, and Manchester (110,000). the largest city, are located. The state barely has a coastline—only 13 mi.(21 km) separate Maine from Massachusetts. In the dramatic White Mountains of the north is the tallest peak in the northeast, Mt. Washington (6,288 ft.,1,917 m). Around its summit swirled the highest winds ever clocked: 231 mph (370 kmh).

WEW JERSEY:

Area: 7,790 sq.mi.(20,160 km²). Population: 8,650,000. Capital: Trenton, 90,000. Economy: Chemicals, pharmaceuticals, food products, fishing. ☐ The "Garden State" is named for its flower-filled hothouses, fruit orchards, and productive truck farms. But New Jersey is also a major industrial state. It has the nation's highest population density, and the greatest percentage (95%) of town and city dwellers. Many residents commute to Philadelphia and New York. Even so, the state does not have a single major city; Newark (273,000) is the largest. New Jersey is the shipping hub of the Northeast; its ports in New York Harbor handle almost all of the container traffic. Atlantic City, with its gambling casinos, heads the list of the state's popular seaside resorts.

WEW YORKH

Area: 52,730 sq.mi.(136,465 km²). Population: 20,500,000 Capital: Albany, 96,000. Economy: Manufacturing, finance, trade, clothing, produce, dairying. ☐ Though overtaken by California in population and manufacturing output, New York remains the national leader in business and trade. New York City, the "Big Apple," with over 8 million people, is the business capital of the U.S., if not the world. It is also the center of finance, trade, fashion, advertising, publishing, music, theater, and the arts. New York's dominance in commerce began with the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. The canal, linked to the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers, gave midwestern cities on the Great Lakes access to the Atlantic Ocean. The Dutch settlers originally called the area "New Netherlands" and the city "New Amsterdam." They built a wall across lower Manhattan for protection against the Indians and the British; "Wall Street" is now America's financial center. The Empire state Building, built in 1931, was again NewYork City's tallest structure (1.250 ft., 391 m) when the twin towers of the World Trade Center were destroyed in 2001 by airliners hijacked by terrorists. Rural NY is a farming region. At the Canadian border are the Niagara Falls, grinding up the Niagara River toward Lake Erie at the rate of 1-3 in.(2.5-8 cm) per year.

PEWWSYLVAMIA

Area: 46,040 sq.mi.(119,151 km²). Population: 12,360,000. Capital: Harrisburg, 50,000. Economy: Manufacturing, iron and steel, coal, food products, dairying, and mushrooms. ☐ William Penn founded Pennsylvania as a religious sanctuary. It is called the "Keystone State" because of its central location within the original 13 colonies. Philadelphia (1,500,000), the largest city, was the nation's first capital and the economic, political, and cultural center of the colonies. It is still a major river port and a center for trade, busness, culture, and education. The Pittsburgh area is the heart of a huge steel and coal industry. Some of the nation's richest farmland is found in the southeastern area—the Pennsylvania Dutch (a mispronunciation of "Deutch," meaning German) country, home of the Amish and Mennonite religious sects.

RHODE ISLAND

Area: 1,214 sq mi.(3,142 km²). Population: 1,130,000. Capital: Providence, 195,000. Economy: Jewelry, silverware, textiles, and poultry (Rhode Island Red hens).

Red hens).

Roger Williams was banished from Massachusetts in 1636 for being too liberal. He founded Rhode Island as a sanctuary for political and religious freedom—engendering an enduring distrust of big government and an adherence to the separation of church and state. Rhode Island is an important manufacturing center, known for its jewelry and silverware. It has the highest proportion of industrial workers; only about 1% of the population is involved in agriculture. Island-filled Narragansett Bay is a recreational area that occupies a large part of the state. Newport, at its mouth, is best known for yacht races, music festivals, and the most palatial summer estates in the nation. Providence the capital, has over 65% of the state's population.

VERMONTA

Area: 9,610 sq.mi.(24,870 km²). Population: 690,000. Capital: Montpelier, 8,100. Economy: Timber products, precision manufacturing, maple syrup, granite, marble, asbestos, dairying. \square Vermont, the least populous state east of the Mississippi, has the smallest percentage of city dwellers (30%). Burlington (40,000) is the largest city. Lakes and rivers define most of Vermont's boundaries. It is the only northeastern state without an Atlantic coastline. The scenic Green Mountains run through the center of the state. The name "Vermont" comes from the French "vert mont," meaning "green mountain." Stone quarries in these mountains provided most of the granite and marble used in building the nation's cities. Extensive forests supply many products, including the pure maple syrup for which Vermont is famous.

