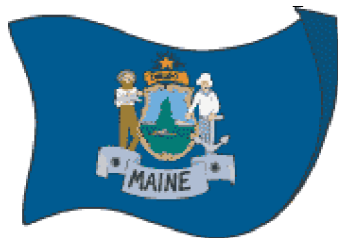


The Pine Tree State

Established 1820

23rd State



EXTREMES

Highest: Mount Katahdin, at 5,268 feet (1,606 m) above sea level, is the state's highest point.

Hottest: The highest recorded temperature was 105°F (41°C) on 10 July 1911 in North Bridgton.

Coldest: The lowest recorded temperature was -48°F (-44°C) on 19 January 1925 in Van Buren.



Did You Know?

- The leaves of dandelions (or dandelion greens) are the only item canned at a Wilton cannery.
- The first lighthouse in Maine (1791) was built by the order of U.S. president George Washington.
- Chester Greenwood invented the first pair of earmuffs.
- Maine makes 99 percent of the nation's toothpicks.
- Jonesport holds the World's Fastest Lobster Boat Race every 4th of July.
- Freeport native Joan Samuelson was the first woman to win the Olympic gold medal in the women's marathon.
- Maine is the only state that has declared war on a foreign country. They declared war on England over a boundary argument.
- Senator Margaret Chase Smith was the first female U.S. presidential candidate.
- A *groaner* in Maine is a foghorn that has one long tone; a *grunter* has two.
- The tide off the coast of Maine in the Bay of Fundy can reach up to 25 feet (8 m).

The Place

Climate



Maine is a great place for winter sports like skiing because of the long winters. Snowfall averages between 60 and 90 inches (152 cm–228 cm). The average winter temperature is 22°F (-6°C), but the wind chill can make it seem even colder. Maine summers are generally comfortable. Temperatures stay around the 70s (21–26°C) in the daytime. Every once in a while it gets into the 90s (32–37°C). Maine's climate is humid, with rain and snow spread evenly throughout the year.

Geography

Maine is about as big as the other five New England states combined. *Glaciers*, or mountains of ice, covered Maine during the Ice Age. When the last glacier melted, it left hundreds of harbors, bays, and inlets and more than two thousand islands off the coast. The state's jagged coastline, with its numerous inlets and bays, measures nearly 3,500 miles (5,633 km) in length. The glaciers also left behind *eskers*, or long skinny ridges of dirt and rocks. The glaciers didn't just change the coastline; they left Maine covered in boulders, clay, and stones. The boulders changed the course of some of the 32,000 miles (51,500 km) of rivers and streams, created new lakes, and molded the hills and mountains.

Resources and Economy



The phrase *turf and surf* is sometimes used to describe a meal of steak and seafood. It could also be used to describe Maine's natural resources and economy. Because of Maine's many forests, wood products such as paper, toothpicks, lumber, and wood pulp are a big part of Maine's economy. In fact, forests cover more than 88 percent of the land. Lobster and shellfish are another large part of how Mainers earn their living. More than 47 million pounds of lobster are harvested there each year! What is less well-known is that Maine is the third biggest potato producer. Much of the soil is too acidic; however, if you head to the most northeastern corner, there is sandy soil perfect for potato farming. Maine also produces 99 percent of the country's blueberries.

History

Time Line

Thousands of years ago, Paleo-Indians
are Maine's first inhabitants

A.D. 1500

A.D. 1524

Giovanni da Verrazano is the first European to explore the coast of Maine



1600

1604

The first European settlement in Maine is by the Saint Croix River

1640

York becomes America's first chartered city

1652

Massachusetts takes over the territory of Maine as a defense against the French and Native Americans

1675–1763

European powers fight for control of New England in the Seven Years' War; the English win

1775

British troops burn Portland



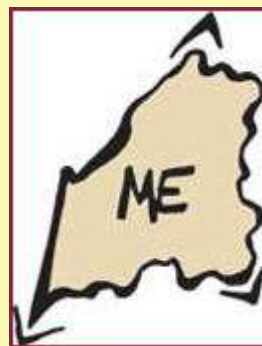
1800

1814–18

The British occupy Eastport during the War of 1812; Mainers are upset that Massachusetts didn't better defend them

1820

Maine becomes the 23rd state through the Missouri Compromise



1839

Maine declares war on England

1851

The Maine law against alcohol is signed

1866

A fire destroys much of Portland



1900

1948

Margaret Chase Smith is the first woman elected to be a U.S. senator



1974

James Longley becomes the first U.S. popularly elected independent governor

1980

President Jimmy Carter signs the Native American Land Claims arrangement



1994

Governor Angus S. King Jr. becomes the second popularly elected independent governor in the United States

PRESENT

Early Mainers



Some of the first inhabitants of Maine were hunters who lived thousands of years ago. These Paleo-Indians (*paleo* means "early") disappeared probably because of changes in the climate. Later Native Americans were of the Micmac and Wabanaki tribes. The Micmac were warriors, and the Wabanaki were fishers and farmers. When the first Europeans began to settle New England, Maine's harsh winters discouraged many. However, Scottish, Irish, and Quakers from the other colonies began to gather in Maine. Later, Germans, French, Italians, Poles, Russians, and African-Americans also made Maine their home.

American Revolution

The population in Maine had divided loyalties during the American Revolution.



For people on the coast, England was an important overseas market for the colonists to sell their products. Others were opposed to the unfair tax policies of the British and wanted to fight for independence. Generally, the people living away from the coast supported the Revolution. Thousands of men went off to fight the British. While no major battles were fought in Maine, the people suffered from the war. When Mainers refused to help the British navy, British troops set fire to the city of Portland. The sea industry was destroyed. Also, most of the American military maneuvers in Maine ended up as disasters.

Reforming Society



Mainers have long been interested in improving their society. In the 1830s, they created the Maine Antislavery Society. In 1851, the legislature passed a law banning alcohol. It was the first such *prohibition* law in the country. The law also gave police the right to go into any home to search for illegal alcohol. Later, other states adopted laws similar to the Maine law. But some people were afraid that these laws gave too much power to the police. The Maine law was later changed, but Mainers argued about alcohol for many years.

Freedom and Slavery



Before the Civil War, the United States was divided on the issue of slavery. Northern states were free states, and no slavery was allowed. Southern states were slave states. There was a delicate balance in government between the free states and the slave states. Maine had never been considered its own state; it was a territory of Massachusetts. In order to keep the balance in government, Maine was allowed to become a separate state only if Missouri was allowed to become a state as well. Maine was to be a free state and Missouri a slave state. This agreement was known as the Missouri Compromise.

The Growth of Industry

After the Civil War, Maine's industries grew rapidly, and farming decreased in importance. Mainers manufactured textiles, leather, ships, and paper products. At the end of the 19th century, Maine began developing a valuable power source for its industries. Hydroelectric power was generated for the first time from the state's rivers. Maine's industrial growth continued into the 20th century.

Protecting the Environment

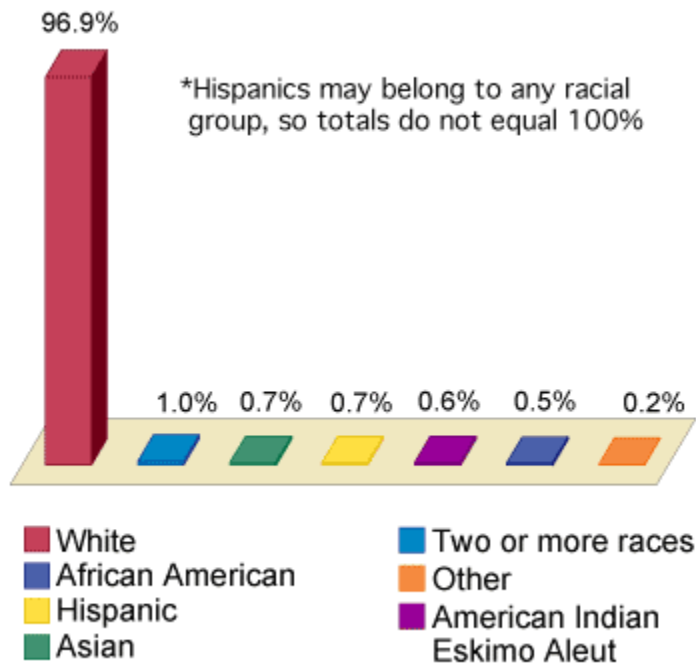
Many Mainers are concerned about the environment. During the 1960s and 1970s, environmentalists embarrassed businesses by writing about their bad environmental practices in the newspapers. Like other states, Maine also has to balance protecting the environment with keeping its economy strong. But the state has worked hard to control such problems as pollution, overfishing, overcrowding, and the destruction of forestland. Maine's strong environmental laws have set a standard for other states to follow.

The People

Population

Initially, Maine's population didn't grow as fast as other states' because of the harsh climate and repeated attacks on the settlers by Native Americans. In the mid-1700s, the Massachusetts government offered free land to attract settlers to Maine. The population grew by more than 10 times by the end of the century. One of the reasons people move to Maine today is to enjoy the beauty and peace of the countryside. In fact, most Mainers live in rural areas instead of cities. Maine is the third most rural state in the United States. More than half of all Mainers live in the southwest part of the state. The largest city is Portland, with around 64,000 people.

Total Population: 1,294,464



Government

Capital: Augusta

U.S. Senators: 2

U.S. Representatives: 2

Counties: 16

- Maine's governor is elected for a term of four years. No governor may serve more than two terms in a row.
- There are more independent voters in Maine than Democratic or Republican voters.

Famous People

- *Dorothea Dix* — Civil rights reformer
- *E. B. White* — Author of children's literature
- *Edna St. Vincent Millay* — Poet
- *Edwin Arlington Robinson* — Poet
- *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* — Poet
- *John Ford* — Film director
- *L. L. Bean* — Inventor and businessman
- *Liv Tyler* — Actress
- *Margaret Chase Smith* — Politician
- *Marston Morse* — Mathematician
- *Sarah Orne Jewett* — Author
- *Stephen King* — Author
- *Walter Piston* — Composer of orchestra and chamber music

State Symbols

State Animal

Moose—Moose are good swimmers and often will wade into lakes and ponds to eat the plants there.



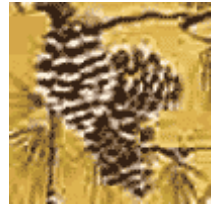
State Bird

Chickadee—Chickadee make their nests from the hair of four-legged animals, such as cows.



State Flower

White pine cone and tassel—Mainers chose the pine cone as the state flower in 1894.



State Tree

White pine—These trees were once used to create the masts for the British Royal Navy ships.



Cultural Note



Maine was the first state in the United States to connect all its schools and libraries to the internet. Access to the internet for all school-age children helps them to learn more about the world around them from their own classrooms. And there are efforts by Maine's researchers to enhance the capabilities of computers even more. Some students and teachers at the University of Maine are working to create a computer that can think more like humans do.

For More Information

See www.state.me.us or contact the Maine Office of Tourism, 59 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333; phone (888) MAINE-45; web site www.visitmaine.com.