



The Granite State

Established 1788

9th State

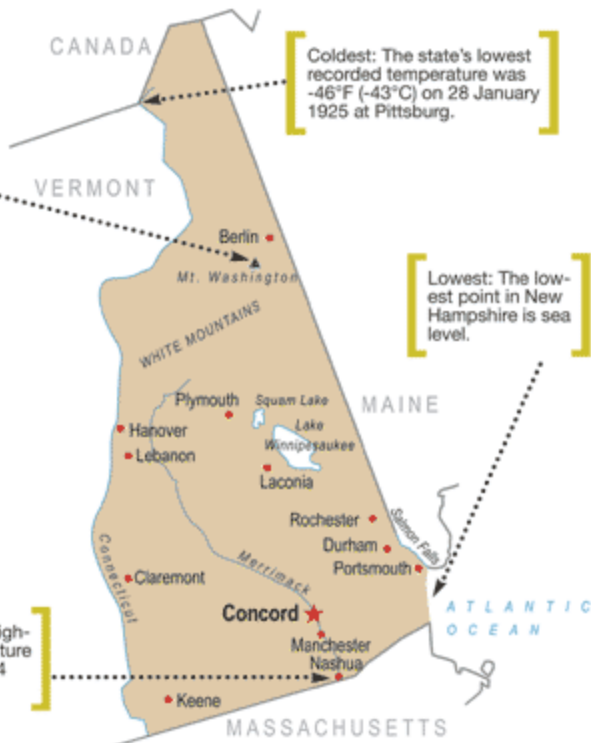
EXTREMES

Highest: The highest mountain in New Hampshire and New England is Mount Washington, at 6,288 feet (1,917 m).

Coldest: The state's lowest recorded temperature was -46°F (-43°C) on 28 January 1925 at Pittsburg.

Lowest: The lowest point in New Hampshire is sea level.

Hottest: The state's highest recorded temperature was 106°F (41°C) on 4 July 1911 at Nashua.



Did You Know?

- Mt. Washington holds the world record for the strongest surface wind. On 12 April 1934, observers measured a wind gust of 231 miles per hour (372 km/h)!
- In 1865, New Hampshire was the first state in New England to create a fish and game department.
- The Lincoln-for-President campaign started in New Hampshire.
- The first mountain-climbing railway in the world was built on Mount Washington.
- In 1911, White Mountain National Forest became the first national forest in the United States.
- New Hampshire was the first colony to declare itself independent from England.
- The first summer resort in the United States was in Wolfeboro.
- Fast Day, when people didn't eat or work, was a public holiday until 1991.
- New Hampshire was the first state to insist that the people approve of their constitution.
- You can go whale watching off the coast of Portsmouth.

Climate



New Hampshire's climate varies depending on where you are. Winters are long, especially in the north and west, where over 8 feet (2.4 m) of snow can fall in one year. However, on the coast only 4 feet (1.2 m) of snow falls yearly. The White Mountains have the coldest temperatures. During January, the temperature is usually about 16°F (-9°C) in the north and 22°F (-6°C) at the coast. Summers are short, cool, and rainy; temperatures are about 66°F (19°C) in the north and about 70°F (21°C) by the coast.

Geography

New Hampshire has some of New England's highest peaks, especially in the White Mountains Region. In between the mountains are deep, narrow river valleys left over from glaciers long ago. The state is sometimes called the Mother of Rivers because five of New England's rivers start in northern New Hampshire. In the central and southern parts of the state are tree-covered hills and more than 1,300 lakes. There are a few high mountains, but not many. Along the ocean, the beaches are more rocky than sandy. New Hampshire is the fifth smallest state, with only 9,351 square miles (24,219 sq km).

Resources and Economy



Although its nickname is the Granite State, New Hampshire is not a big mining state. Before the 1800s, agriculture was the main way to make a living. However, because the soil is generally acidic and filled with stones, farmers moved west. The soil is good for trees though, and more than 83 percent of the state is covered with forests. In the north, lumber and paper production are the major economic activities. The waterpower from the rivers once supplied energy for a fast-growing industrial economy. Today, nuclear energy, coal, and oil provide most of the state's electricity needs. Since the 1800s, New Hampshire has been known for its manufacturing. Factories produce computers and other electronic parts.

History

Time Line

Thousands of years ago, Native Americans live in the area

A.D. 1600

A.D. 1603

Martin Pring is the first European to explore New Hampshire



1622

England gives Captain John Mason and Sir Ferdinando Gorges what is now New Hampshire and Vermont

1623

David Thomson creates a new settlement in Rye

1638

Massachusetts claims New Hampshire territory

1689–1760

Many battles are fought in New Hampshire during the French and Indian War



1700

1741

The English king declares New Hampshire a separate colony

1774

John Langdon, John Sullivan, and rebels steal British military equipment from Fort William and Mary

1776

The New Hampshire congress adopts a provisional constitution

1788

New Hampshire ratifies the U.S. Constitution and becomes the ninth state of the Union



1800

1822

The first free public library is established in Dublin

1823 The shoe industry begins in Weare



1852 Franklin Pierce, from New Hampshire,
becomes the 14th U.S. president

1900

1909 The primary election law is passed



1919 New Hampshire passes an anti-Bolshevik
law because of the communism scare



1952 The First-in-the-Nation Presidential
Primary begins

1986 The space shuttle *Challenger* explodes 73
seconds after takeoff. Among those killed
is Christa McAuliffe, a New Hampshire
teacher



1997 The New Hampshire Supreme Court rules
in favor of schools in the funding question

PRESENT

Early Inhabitants

Native Americans and the first European settlers in New Hampshire started out as friends. The Pennacook were farmers and hunters, but during the summers they would move to the coast to fish. When the Europeans arrived, Passaconaway, the Indian leader, declared peace and the Native Americans began to teach them how to survive. They taught the



Europeans how to grow corn, make clothes, get syrup from maple trees, and other things. In return, the Europeans sold them animal traps and weapons. There were originally around 12,000 Native Americans in the area. Because of the French and Indian War, diseases brought from Europe, and settlers taking their land, few Native Americans remained in New Hampshire by the middle of the 18th century.

First European Settlers

English trader Martin Pring was looking for *sassafras* (a spicy and fragrant root bark) when he first explored the New Hampshire coast in 1603. He didn't stay long, but he wrote home about what he saw. David Thomson and some fishermen came in 1623 and created the first settlement. By selling fish and timber, the early settlers were able to make a living. Many immigrants moved to New Hampshire during this time. Eventually, John Mason was given the land by England, which he named after his home county of Hampshire. After Mason's death, different people claimed New Hampshire. Massachusetts even took over for a while, but in 1741 the king declared that New Hampshire would be its own colony and would have its own governor.

The American Revolution

Not one battle of the American Revolution was ever fought on New Hampshire soil. However, the state was very involved in fighting for independence. Before the war started, American rebels sneaked into Fort William and Mary and stole military supplies. The New Hampshire Minutemen actually outnumbered the troops from Massachusetts and Connecticut in the Battles of Lexington and Concord. When the war ended, the debate within New Hampshire over whether to join the United States was intense, but in 1788, New Hampshire became the ninth state.

Westward and Industrial Expansion



Farming was not the best way to make a living in New Hampshire. The soil was good for trees but not for crops. So farmers packed up and moved west during the late 1800s and early 1900s. As the Dutch, French, and Germans left, others from Canada, Ireland, and several U.S. states came to work in the growing shoe and clothing industries. Rich men from outside the state bought the factories. They often bribed politicians. The Republican Party tried to stop this corruption by passing a law that changed the way candidates were chosen. Before, party leaders chose the candidates, but after the law passed, the people voted for candidates.

Schools



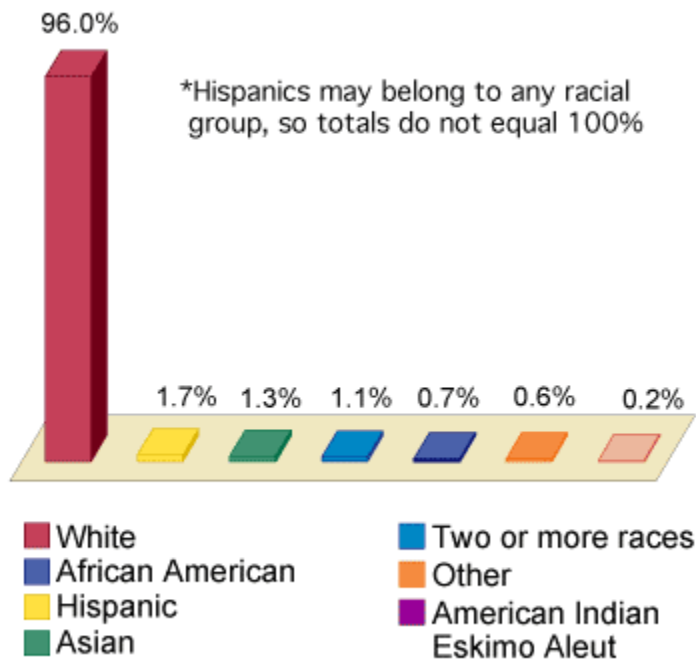
To bring new businesses into the state, New Hampshire decided not to have income or general sales taxes. It sounds great in some ways: you can buy more because you don't have to pay taxes. But there is a down side. Public schools receive money for teachers, books, and buildings from the state. Because the state doesn't get as much money from taxes, neither do the schools. They depend almost entirely on local property taxes, so in poorer areas schools have little money. The schools went to the state supreme court to challenge the law. The supreme court ruled that the state acted unconstitutionally because the funding wasn't fair to all school districts. Now New Hampshire hopes to increase funding for public schools through statewide property taxes.

The People

Population

More than 50 percent of the people live in cities. Manchester is the biggest city, with about 100,000 people. Nashua and Concord are next. Most people have English, Irish, French, Canadian, or German ancestors. Now they are called *Yankees*—a name used to describe the people of New England. They are said to be careful with their money, conservative, and business-like.

Total Population: 1,275,056



Government

Capital: Concord

U.S. Senators: 2

U.S. Representatives: 2

Counties: 10

- There is no lieutenant governor in New Hampshire. Instead, a five-member executive council is elected by the people.
- New Hampshire has more state legislators than any other state.

Famous People

- *Alan B. Shepard Jr.* — Astronaut
- *Augustus Saint-Gaudens* — Sculptor
- *Benjamin Champney* — Artist and co-founder of the Boston Arts Club
- *Celia Loughton Thaxter* — Poet
- *Franklin Pierce* — Fourteenth U.S. president
- *J. D. Salinger* — Author
- *Mary Baker Eddy* — Founder of the Christian Science religion
- *Robert Frost* — Poet
- *Salmon Portland Chase* — Co-founder of the Republican Party
- *Sarah Josepha Hale* — Author of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Fun Facts & Contacts

State Symbols

State Animal

White-tailed deer—This is one of the larger animals found throughout the forests of New Hampshire.



State Bird

Purple finch—The purple finch was voted the state bird in 1957.



State Flower

Purple lilac—It was brought from England and chosen as the state flower because it showed the hardy character of the people of New Hampshire.



State Tree

White birch—Native Americans used it to make canoes and paper.



Cultural Note



More people in New Hampshire vote in local and national elections than anywhere else in the United States. Voters have more political power, too. Each voter can elect officials and vote on the budget and other issues. Towns are called "little republics" because they are almost pure democracies. New Hampshire's *presidential primary* (when you vote on who should run for president) happens before all the other states'. Presidential hopefuls want to make a good impression on Americans by winning in the first primary. Politicians and citizens watch to see who does well in New Hampshire's primary. This has become such an important part of New Hampshire's culture that they passed a law about it. It says that if any state changes the date of their presidential primary to come before New Hampshire's, then New Hampshire will change their date as well. This way they will always be first. Their primary has even been given a name: First in the Nation Presidential Primary.

For More Information

See www.state.nh.us or contact the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development, 172 Pembroke Road, Box 1856, Concord, NH 03302; phone (800) FUN-IN-NH; web site www.visitnh.gov.

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