



## The Garden State

Established 1787

3rd State

### EXTREMES

Highest: High Point, in the Kittatinny Mountains, is the highest point in the state, at 1,803 feet (549 m).

Coldest: The state's lowest recorded temperature was  $-34^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-37^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) at River Vale in 1904.

Hottest: The state's highest recorded temperature was  $110^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $43^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) at Runyon in 1936.

Lowest: The lowest point in New Jersey is the Atlantic Ocean.



## Did You Know?

- Atlantic City is home to the Miss America Pageant.
- The street names in the game of Monopoly come from the streets of Atlantic City.
- The Boy Scouts of America are headquartered in New Brunswick.
- Atlantic City has the longest boardwalk in the world.
- Vice President Aaron Burr challenged Alexander Hamilton to a duel in Weehawken and killed him.
- The state insect is the honeybee.
- In 1858, the first U.S. dinosaur skeleton was found in Haddonfield.
- Pitcher plants, which grow in the Pinelands, trap and eat insects.
- In 1902, an English family rented a six-story-tall metal elephant named Lucy on the Atlantic City Boardwalk for their summer resort. Lucy the Elephant is now a national historic landmark.
- The Sandy Hook Lighthouse is the oldest original lighthouse in the country (1764).

# The Place

## Climate

New Jersey summers are generally warm and humid, but ocean breezes help cool the coast a bit. The average temperature in July is about 74°F (23°C), but days often get over 90°F (32°C). Winters are cold, and people need a good snow shovel. The average January temperature depends on your location. If you live in the north, winter temperatures are about 28°F (-2°C). The south and coastal areas are a bit warmer (35°F or 2°C). Heavy snowstorms often hit the northwest. Hurricanes, like Hazel in 1954, start over the ocean and then sometimes hit the New Jersey coast.

## Geography



New Jersey is the fourth smallest state, with 8,722 square miles (22,590 sq km). It has marshes, sandy beaches, rugged cliffs, and some good farmland. The Atlantic Ocean, Delaware River, Hudson River, and New York Bay almost completely surround the state with water. The Pine Barrens in the south is 1,000 square miles of marshes and forests. Wild animals and birds are almost all that live there. New Jersey is smooth and flat until the north and far west by the Appalachian Mountains. The earth there has hues from bright reds to darker colors. A valley filled with lakes is on the southeast of the Appalachians. The center of the state has good farmland, while the coast has sandy beaches and dunes. Some New Jerseyans live on the sandbar islands off the coast. Cliffs called the Palisades are on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River.

## Resources and Economy

Chances are, when you eat M&M's chocolate candies, sip Campbell's soup, play with a toy, or wash your hair, you are enjoying a product made in New Jersey. New Jersey's biggest industry is chemicals, including everything from makeup and detergent to medicine and vitamins. Many scientists work there, making New Jersey one of the best research areas in the world. Factories also produce clothing, glass, and sporting equipment. The farmers grow such good fresh vegetables and fruits that New Jersey is called the Garden State. They mass-produce blueberries and cranberries near the Pine Barrens. New Jersey trees are too short to be sold for wood products, but their beauty is part of why tourism makes the second biggest contribution to the state's economy. Visitors come to the national parks and Atlantic City's boardwalk and casinos.

# History

## Time Line

Thousands of years ago, Native

Americans settle New Jersey

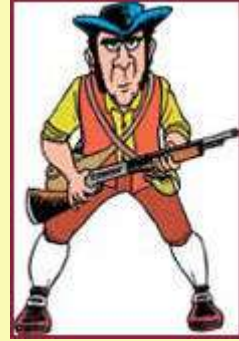
## A.D. 1500

A.D. 1524 Giovanni da Verrazano is the first European explorer in New Jersey

1664 The English take over the Dutch colony and call it New Jersey

## 1700

1776 George Washington's troops win the Battle of Trenton the day after Christmas



1787 New Jersey signs the U.S. Constitution and becomes the third state



## 1800

1804 New Jersey abolishes slavery 60 years before the Civil War

1807 The legislature prohibits women from voting



1838 Samuel Morse invents the first successful electric telegraph



1858 America's first dinosaur is discovered in Haddonfield

1879 Edison invents the electric light

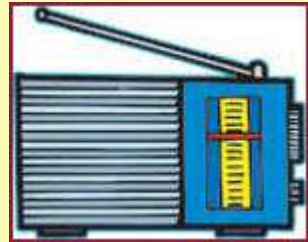


## 1900

1912 Governor Woodrow Wilson is elected the 28th U.S. president

1947 New Jersey adopts its third state constitution

1948 John Bardeen, Walter Brattain, and William Shockley invent the transistor radio at Bell Laboratories, Inc.



1952 The New Jersey Turnpike opens

1967 Four-day race riots in Newark cause \$10 million in damages

1969 Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, from New Jersey, is the second person to walk on the moon



1970 Kenneth A. Gibson is the first African-American mayor of Newark

1976 Gambling is made legal in Atlantic City casinos



1981 A state fund for cleaning up toxic waste is created

## 2000

2001 Christine Todd Whitman, first woman governor in New Jersey, is chosen to head the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

## PRESENT

### Early Inhabitants

The Lenni-Lenape called New Jersey



*Lenapehoking*. These Native Americans were peaceful. Other tribes called them grandparents because they settled arguments. Their name means “genuine people” or “ordinary people.” They always left food on the fire in case someone came by. They lived in small round houses made of bark and wood called *wigwams*. They made canoes and sailed on the rivers and lakes. They hunted, fished, and farmed. The *Walum Olum*, or “painted records,” is a record they kept of their history and legends. They loved to tell stories, dance, and make music.

## Discovery and Settlement

When Italian Giovanni da Verrazano landed his ship, *La Dauphine*, at Sandy Hook, the Lenni-Lenape were curious. They climbed into the ship and started to learn about these new people. As Europeans learned of the area's rich farmland and furs, many moved there. The Dutch and English both claimed New Jersey. Swedish settlers also arrived. Cities and towns sprung up everywhere, but land claims were confused in this time. Numerous conflicts arose over who owned the land. But in 1702, New Jersey became an English royal colony. Because it was so close to other major colonial cities, New Jersey's trade and industry grew quickly. “Jersey wagons” were America's first covered wagons, made in New Jersey for trade.

## American Revolution

New Jersey has been described as the Cockpit of the Revolution. Three major battles and about one hundred smaller battles were fought in the state. The night before the Battle of Trenton was cold and dark. General Washington's army had been defeated, and the soldiers were depressed. Few soldiers had winter clothing and some had no shoes. In fact, one officer said that he could follow the soldiers by the blood left on the snow from walking barefoot. The army crossed the Delaware River in the middle of the night. Washington's other troops were supposed to surround Trenton from the other sides, but most couldn't because of the heavy ice. Still, his troops won the battle. This gave them courage to continue fighting.

## Industrialization

In the 1800s, New Jerseyans built roads, canals, and railroads. The improved transportation system helped factories in the area sell and ship their goods. It also made it possible for more people travel to New Jersey. Many immigrants came to the state after the Civil War because of the good factory jobs available. Later on, during both world wars, New Jersey's industries grew stronger as the citizens worked hard to



produce goods needed for the soldiers. But when the wars were over, the state's factories began making things that the average citizen needed. In 1947, the governor announced a new roadway. Ground was broken for the New Jersey Turnpike in 1950. Today, this is the busiest and widest road in the country. It connects New York City and Philadelphia through New Jersey, allowing many people to commute to work each day and for goods to be transported from place to place.

## Issues Today



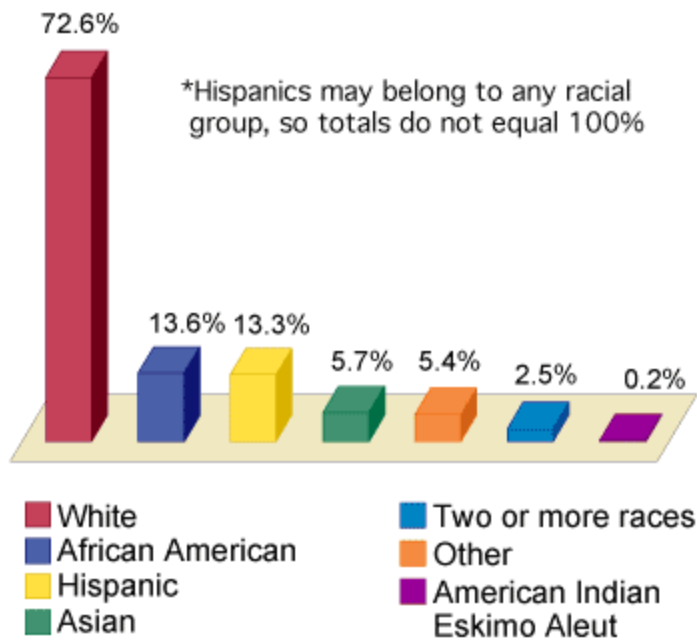
Industries create many jobs, but they can also cause problems. New Jersey has more than one hundred hazardous waste sites identified on the National Priorities List as needing to be cleaned up. Some of these sites are especially dangerous because they are near people. The state is working hard to clean up its environment. Businesses and the government have reduced the levels of toxic chemicals in the environment. They are also finding creative ways to improve the water supply. In the 1960s, the legislature passed the strictest laws against pollution in the country. Many other states began to use these as a model.

## The People

### Population

There are about 985 people per square mile (380 per sq km) in New Jersey. It's the most densely populated state in the U.S. Almost 90 percent of New Jerseyans live in cities. Three out of five people live within 30 miles (48 km) of New York City, where many work. Most of the other residents live by Trenton and Camden, which are closer to Philadelphia. If you live in the south or the northwest, you probably live near farms and forests. New Jerseyans are from very diverse backgrounds.

**Total Population: 8,590,300**



## Government

**Capital:** Trenton

**U.S. Senators:** 2

**U.S. Representatives:** 13

**Counties:** 21

- The 1776 state constitution allowed women to vote.
- New Jersey judges aren't elected but are chosen by the governor or the municipal government.

## Famous People

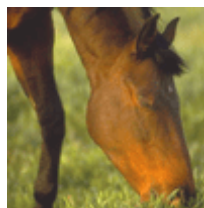
- *Anne Morrow Lindbergh* — Author
- *Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin* — Astronaut
- *Frank Sinatra* — Singer and actor
- *Joan Bennett* — Actress
- *Mary Mapes Dodge* — Author and editor of children's literature
- *Meryl Streep* — Oscar award-winning actress
- *Patricia McBride* — Ballerina
- *Shaquille O'Neal* — Basketball player
- *Whitney Houston* — Singer
- *William (Count) Basie* — Jazz musician
- *Woodrow Wilson* — Twenty-eighth U.S. president and New Jersey governor

## Fun Facts & Contacts

### State Symbols

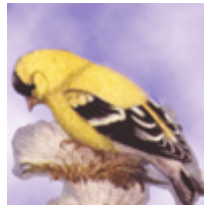
### State Animal

Horse—New Jersey is home to the U.S. Equestrian Team.



### State Bird

Eastern goldfinch—This yellow bird has a cheerful song and loves to be around others of its kind.



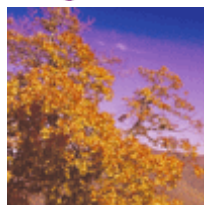
### State Flower

Purple violet—Violets are said to be shy flowers.

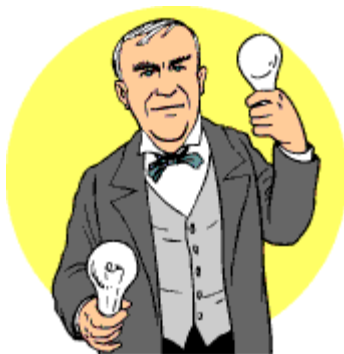


### State Tree

Red oak—There are 20 different kinds of oak trees in the state.



## Cultural Note



When you walk into a room and turn on a light, thank Thomas Edison. He not only invented the light bulb but also the phonograph (record player) and many other everyday items. He was called “the wizard of Menlo Park” for his world-changing inventions. You may also have heard of some of New Jersey's famous authors, such as James Fenimore Cooper, Walt Whitman, and Stephen Crane. Harriet Adams (Carolyn Keene), author of the *Nancy Drew* series, and Judy Blume are writers who appeal to younger readers. In drama, the Crossroads Theatre Company is one of the most important African-American theater companies in the country.

## For More Information

See [www.state.nj.us](http://www.state.nj.us) or contact the New Jersey Travel Office, PO Box 820, 20 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625; phone (800) VISIT-NJ; web site [www.state.nj.us/travel](http://www.state.nj.us/travel).