



## The Empire State

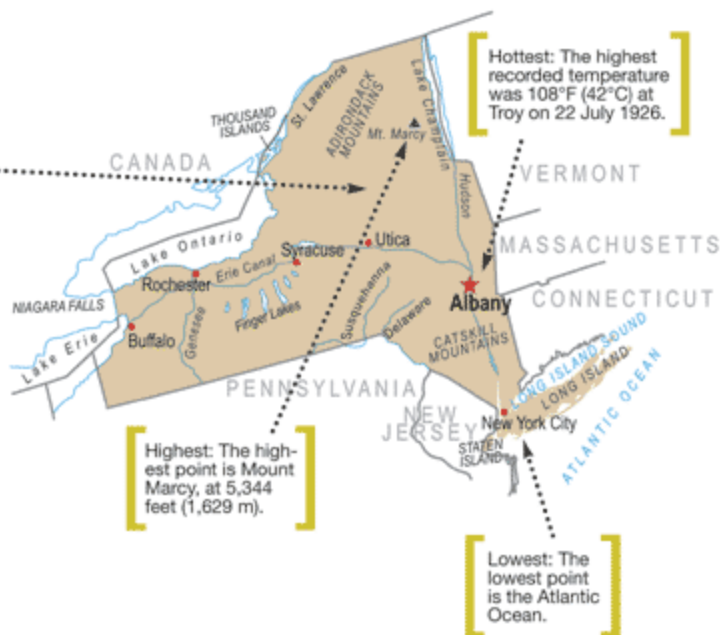
Established 1788

11th State

### EXTREMES

**Coldest:** The lowest recorded temperature was -52°F (-47°C) at Old Forge on 18 February 1979.

**Hottest:** The highest recorded temperature was 108°F (42°C) at Troy on 22 July 1926.



**Highest:** The highest point is Mount Marcy, at 5,344 feet (1,629 m).

**Lowest:** The lowest point is the Atlantic Ocean.

## Did You Know?

- The first public miniature golf course was built on the roof of a New York City skyscraper in 1926.
- The apple muffin is the official state muffin.
- The Empire State Building has 73 elevators. One can take you from the lobby to the 80th floor in 45 seconds.
- A Clayton housewife named Sophia LaLonde invented Thousand Island dressing; it is named after the Thousand Islands.
- Baseball began in New York. The first baseball game was played in Hoboken on 19 June 1845.
- "Uncle Sam" was a meatpacker from Troy. During the War of 1812, Sam Wilson stamped "U.S. Beef" on his products. Soldiers came to think of him as Uncle Sam.
- In 1857, Joseph C. Gayetty of New York invented toilet paper. It had his name on every sheet.
- Almost one and a half million stray dogs and cats live in the New York City area.
- New Yorker Franklin Roosevelt was the only U.S. president to be elected four times.

## The Place

## Climate

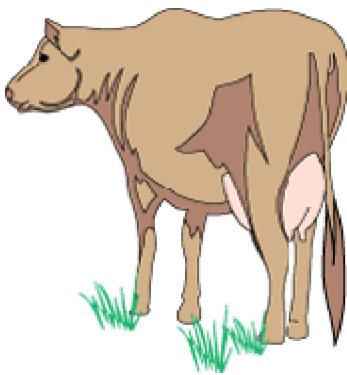
Sunny skies in the Empire State generally are hidden by clouds that form over the Great Lakes. The coast isn't as cloudy or as cold as the rest of the state. Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse get more snow than any other U.S. cities. The Tug Hill Plateau area got over 29 feet (9 m) in one long winter! It rains regularly in the summer. New York is almost always humid, which makes the temperatures seem more extreme. The average July temperature is 77°F (25°C) in the Big Apple (New York City) and 66°F (19°C) in the Adirondacks. The January average for the mountains is 14°F (-10°C), while New York City stays at about 33°F (1°C).

## Geography



Large glaciers melted, leaving more than four thousand lakes and rivers as well as long skinny ridges of earth called *drumlins* throughout much of present-day New York. There is good farmland in the state's 54,475 square miles (141,090 sq km). Long Island and Staten Island are part of the Coastal Plain. In some areas, only oaks and scrub pines can grow. The Adirondack Mountains have some of the highest peaks in the eastern United States. They're covered with trees, lakes, and beautiful waterfalls. Going west, the elevation decreases until you reach the Saint Lawrence River Valley and the Thousand Islands. The Appalachian Mountains cover about half the state; they include the Catskills and the Adirondacks.



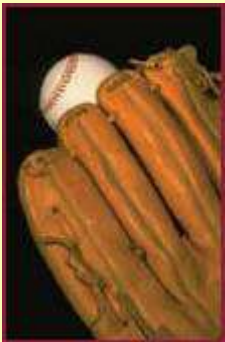

## Resources and Economy





Tourism is very important to the state's economy. Millions come each year to visit Niagara Falls and the mountains. Even more people come to visit New York City. New Yorkers are the country's leaders in publishing newspapers, magazines, and books. Those who work in factories make everything from women's clothing to cameras and medical instruments. Fashion designers, large corporations, and farmers all contribute to a growing economy. Vineyards grow along Lake Erie, and apple orchards grow by Lake Ontario. Dairy farmers produce more than 20 million gallons of milk each week, making New York a top U.S. dairy state. You might not have heard of *woolastonite*. It's used to make tile, matches, car bumpers, and materials to clean teeth. The only place in the United States to mine it is in Willsboro.

## History

Time Line

Thousands of years ago, the Iroquois and Algonquian tribes live in the New York area	
A.D. 1600	
A.D. 1609	Henry Hudson sails up the Hudson River
	
1664	English troops take over the Dutch colony and name it New York
	
1788	New York joins the United States as the 11th state
1800	
1825	The Erie Canal is completed
1835	New York's worst fire destroys much of the original city
1845	New York organizes the first baseball team, the Knickerbockers
	
1851	<i>The New York Times</i> is first published
	
1883	The Brooklyn Bridge links Brooklyn and Manhattan
1886	The Statue of Liberty is dedicated
1900	

1901	President William McKinley is assassinated in Buffalo, New York	
1923	Yankee Stadium opens	
1929	The New York Stock Exchange crashes	
1931	The Empire State Building is completed	
1932	Lake Placid hosts the Winter Olympics	
1942	Times Square is blacked out during World War II	
1952	The United Nations Headquarters is finished	
1964–65	New York City hosts its second World's Fair; race riots occur	
1980	Lake Placid hosts the Winter Olympics	
<b>2000</b>		
2001	About 2,800 people are killed when terrorists hijack two airliners and crash them into the World Trade Center	
<b>PRESENT</b>		

## Iroquois Federation



Dekanawidah, a Huron, dreamed that one day the five Iroquois tribes in the region would stop fighting each other. However, Dekanawidah stuttered, and no one took him seriously except for his friend Hiawatha. Together, they called for a peace council. The *sachems*, or “peace chiefs,” from the tribes agreed to try peace. They created the Iroquois Confederacy. This federation united the Iroquois against all other tribes. It lasted more than two hundred years until the confederacy split over the Revolutionary War. Today, many descendants of the Iroquois live on reservations in western

and northern New York.

## Early Settlers

New York fur traders created the Dutch West India Company. They needed volunteers to settle the land, so they promised that if a person convinced 50 settlers to move to "New Netherland" in four years, that person would get more land. These new landholders were called *patrons*. Towns grew rapidly. Soon, more than 20 languages and many different religions were represented in the colony. The Dutch governor, Peter Stuyvesant, was so unpopular that when the English took over the colony, no one would fight them. The settlers preferred to be ruled by the English rather than Stuyvesant and the Dutch West India Company.

## American Revolution

Almost one-third of American Revolutionary War battles took place in New York. The Battle of Saratoga was a turning point in the war. British General Burgoyne surrendered to American General Gates. The French heard of the surrender and decided that the Americans really had a chance. They entered the war to aid the American colonies. New York City became the temporary capital of the new nation in 1785.

## Erie Canal

Before 1825, if you went from New York to the Midwest it took weeks traveling through marshes and over hard, rocky land. Governor Clinton of New York convinced the legislature to give him seven million dollars to build a canal. It linked Lake Erie with the Hudson River and was truly an engineering miracle. New York City became the most important commercial city in the United States. All but two of New York's biggest cities are along the Erie Canal.

## Immigrants and Political Bosses



Millions of immigrants poured into New York City in the 1800s. A group called Tammany Hall found jobs for immigrants in exchange for their votes. Tammany Hall controlled city and state elections. Even presidential candidates didn't want to upset this group. But many of these political "bosses" were corrupt and forced businesses to pay protection money. Only a few politicians were brave enough to take on Tammany Hall. One of them, Theodore Roosevelt, later became the 26th U.S. president.

## Harlem Renaissance

Many African-Americans fled to northern cities during the 1920s in search of a better life. Harlem attracted talented musicians, poets, and authors. These artists often explored the themes of prejudice and unfulfilled dreams. Langston Hughes, Billie Holiday, Zora Neale Hurston, and Duke Ellington all came out of the Harlem Renaissance. Their works still inspire artists and writers today.

## September 11

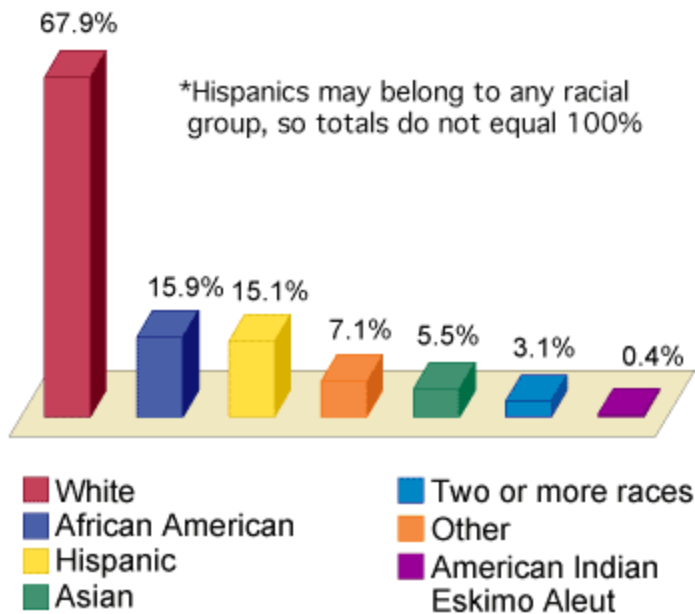
On 11 September 2001, terrorists hijacked four airliners. They flew two of the planes into the World Trade Center in New York City, eventually causing the Trade Center's two massive towers to collapse. Another airliner was flown into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the fourth plane crashed in a field in western Pennsylvania. In all, more than 3,000 people were killed.

## The People

### Population

Rural and urban New York are completely different. Rural citizens are mostly white and own a lot of land, while urban areas are ethnically diverse. About 40 percent of all New Yorkers live in New York City alone. New Yorkers come from almost every country and speak more than 80 languages. Spanish is the second most spoken language. After New York City, the largest cities are Buffalo, Rochester, Yonkers, Syracuse, and Albany. New York City has the largest African-American population of any city in the country.

**Total Population: 19,157,532**



### Government

**Capital:** Albany

**U.S. Senators:** 2

**U.S. Representatives:** 29

**Counties:** 62

- In New York City, Democrats outnumber Republicans five to one. However, in rural areas, most people vote Republican.
- New York City alone has five counties.

- New York has an appeals court instead of a supreme court.

## Famous People

- *Eleanor Roosevelt* — U.S. first lady and ambassador
- *Elizabeth Cady Stanton* — Suffragist
- *George Balanchine* — Choreographer for the New York City Ballet
- *Henry Louis (Lou) Gehrig* — Baseball player
- *Herman Melville* — Author of *Moby Dick*
- *Humphrey Bogart* — Actor in *Casablanca*
- *John D. Rockefeller* — Industrialist, philanthropist, and founder of the Standard Oil Company
- *Joseph Smith Jr.* — Religious leader
- *Martin Van Buren* — Eighth U.S. president
- *Millard Fillmore* — Thirteenth U.S. president

## Fun Facts & Contacts

### State Symbols

#### State Animal

Beaver—Early settlers bought beaver skins from Native Americans and sold them abroad to make clothes and hats.



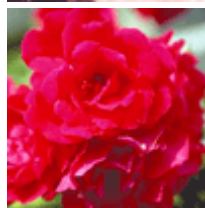
#### State Bird

Bluebird—Strangely enough, the bluebird is red-breasted. It is one of the first birds to fly home after spending a warm winter down south.



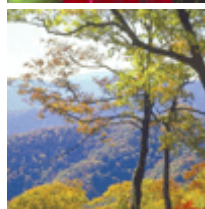
#### State Flower

Rose—The rose beat the goldenrod and daisy when schoolchildren voted in 1890, but it wasn't until 1955 that the rose was officially adopted.



#### State Tree

Sugar maple—Maple leaves turn brilliant reds, oranges, and yellows in the fall. The tree is used for furniture, firewood, and maple syrup.



### Cultural Note

New York has inspired many athletes and artists, who then inspire the nation and the world. Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Mickey Mantle thrilled baseball fans everywhere with their exploits at Yankee Stadium. James Fenimore Cooper used his experiences in Cooperstown to write *The Last of the Mohicans*. The



Gershwin and Irving Berlin back in the 1920s and '30s wrote musicals that are still favorites. Neil Simon set his plays *Lost in Yonkers* and *The Odd Couple* in New York City. The Juilliard School trains some of the best musicians, actors, and dancers in the world. The Hudson River School's artists created the first American style of painting. Modern American art started in the Big Apple.

### For More Information

See [www.state.ny.us](http://www.state.ny.us) or contact the New York State Department of Economic Development, 30 South Pearl Street, Second Floor, Albany, NY 12245; phone (800) CALL-NYS; web site [www.iloveny.com](http://www.iloveny.com).

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