

Pennsylvania

The Keystone State

Established 1787
2d state

EXTREMES

Highest: The highest point is Mount Davis, at 3,213 feet (979 m) above sea level.

Coldest: The lowest recorded temperature was -42°F (-41°C) at Smethport on 5 January 1904.

Lowest: The lowest point is sea level on the Delaware River.

Climate

There isn't an average temperature for the whole state. A northern July averages about 70°F (21°C), while down in Philadelphia the average is 77°F (25°C). In January, Philadelphia is about 34°F (1°C), while the north is a cold 26°F (-3°C). Pennsylvania has what's called a continental climate. Winds from the west make it very hot in the summer and very cold in the winter. Summer temperatures above 90°F (32°C) and winter temperatures below 0°F (-18°C) are ordinary. Flooding rivers are a problem during the summer, although the west and central parts get the least amount of rain. The north gets the most snow, about 7 feet (2 m) every year. The southeast doesn't receive as much.

Geography

The lowest part of Colorado is still taller than the highest part of Pennsylvania. However, hills or mountains cover all but two very small parts of the state. One is the Piedmont Plateau, a flat area at the foot of the Blue Mountains. Philadelphia is at its lowest end. The Appalachian Mountains run in a line going southwest to northeast. The Allegheny Mountains are on their west, and the Blue Mountains are on the south and east. Go northeast and you'll hit the



Hottest: The highest recorded temperature was 111°F (44°C) at Phoenixville on 10 July 1936.

Poconos. The land by Lake Erie is also a flatter area called the Allegheny Plateau. About 60 percent of the plateaus, mountains, and hills are covered with forests. There are more than 1,000 square miles (1,609 sq km) of natural and man-made lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams.

Resources and Economy

The Pittsburgh Steelers football team is named after the city's famous steel and iron industries. Other natural resources such as coal, natural gas, oil, and limestone are also mined there. The lumber industry has grown because of *reforestation* (when trees are planted to make up for those that were cut down). Philadelphia is the state's manufacturing center, and industries produce items from communications equipment to ice cream, chocolate, and sausages. Apples, grapes, and cherries are grown near Lake Erie and peaches are grown in the southeast. Pennsylvania is one of the leading producers of mushrooms and milk products. All these products are traded easily because of the excellent waterways.

History

Earliest Inhabitants

The Lenni-Lenape were the original inhabitants of Pennsylvania. Their name means the “original people.” They lived in river valleys in the east. Their neighbors were the Susquehannock, who lived by the Susquehanna River, and the Shawnee in western Pennsylvania. However, by the early 1700s the Iroquois Confederacy in New York had power over all other tribes, including those in Pennsylvania. After the *Walking Purchase* (when the Iroquois forced the Pennsylvanian tribes to sell their lands to the settlers) and the French and Indian War, few Native Americans were left in Pennsylvania.



Pennsylvania Dutch

The Pennsylvania Dutch aren't really Dutch at all. A long time ago, someone confused *Deutsch* (the German language) with *Dutch*. The Pennsylvania Dutch came from Germany in the early 1700s and settled in the southwest. Some of them belong to the Mennonite and Amish religions. The Amish do not accept modern technology such as cars or machines. Instead, they live in a simple manner. They make their own clothing and use horses and wagons for transportation. The Quakers were the



earliest European settlers, led by William Penn. Penn promised religious freedom in his colony, which encouraged other groups to settle there.

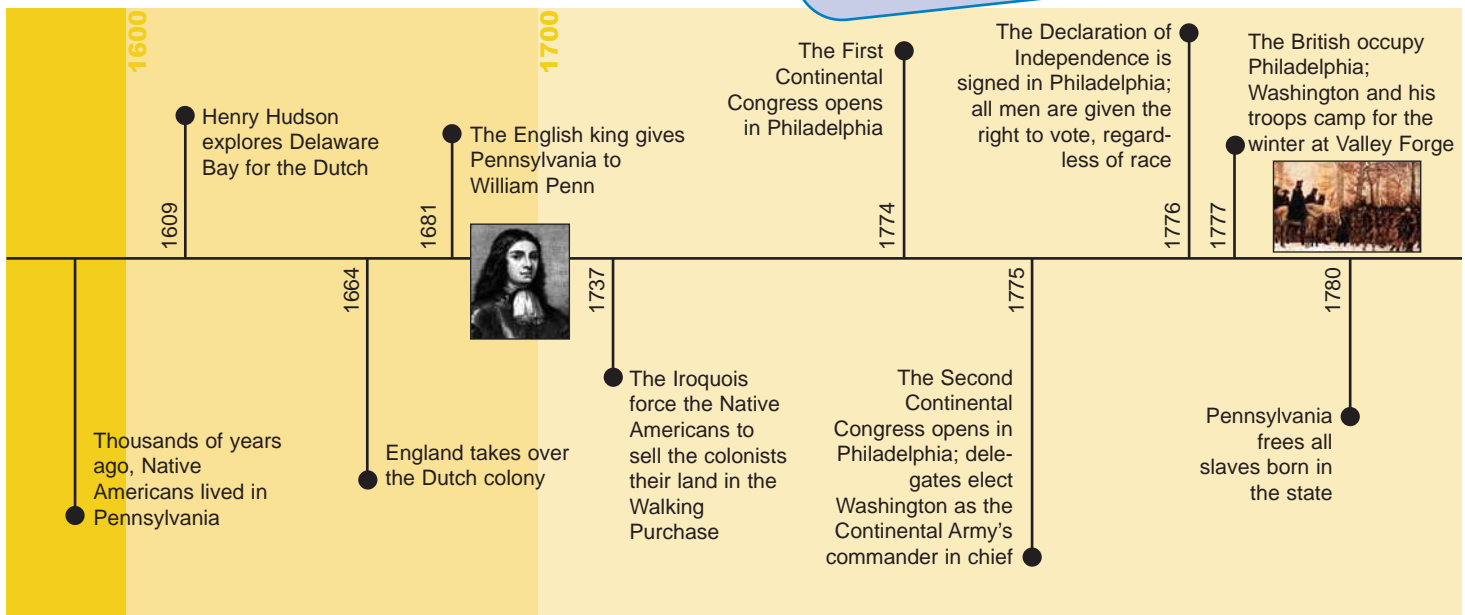
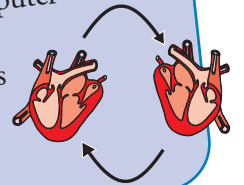
American Revolution

Philadelphia was the center of revolutionary activity. In 1774, Philadelphia was the largest city in the colonies. Delegates from 12 of the colonies gathered there to talk about the unjust British laws. This First Continental Congress decided to draft a petition to the English king, protesting their treatment. They also organized Committees of Safety, which made sure that colonists stopped buying British products. This was the first time the colonies made an organized policy against the British. *(cont. next page)*



Cultural Note

Have you heard the expression, “Fall back, spring forward”? Every state but Indiana, Arizona, and Hawaii participates in daylight savings time, an invention of Pennsylvanian Benjamin Franklin. This famous statesman also invented bifocals and the *odometer* (which tells you how far you’ve driven). J. D. Daugherty invented the typewriter, and the Big Mac was first made at a McDonald’s in Uniontown. The first modern computer was developed at the University of Pennsylvania in 1946. Pittsburgh is the heart of nuclear research and also organ transplant research.



Two years later, the Second Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia's State Hall (now Independence Hall). Washington's troops stayed a winter in Valley Forge trying to regain strength. They left with renewed determination to fight for their freedom.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

More than 48,000 people died in the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. It was the turning point in the Civil war for the Union army. Four months later, President Lincoln gave the famous Gettysburg Address: "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal . . . and . . . that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people for the people, shall not perish from the earth."



Three Mile Island Disaster

The country's worst nuclear disaster happened at Three Mile Island, near Harrisburg. Three Mile Island is located in the middle of the Susquehanna River and is not far from Washington, D.C.; Baltimore, Maryland; and Philadelphia. Early in the

morning on 28 March 1979, a valve didn't close. The valve was supposed to keep the nuclear core from getting too hot and melting. The core quickly heated up and radiation began to leak from the plant. During the week that scientists struggled to contain the problem, more than 140,000 residents fled their homes. The problem was resolved, but questions over the safety of nuclear reactors remained.



Buchanan



Thorpe



Alcott



Fulton



Famous People

Milton S. Hershey: Founder of Hershey's chocolates

Rachel Carson: Author, scientist, and conservationist

Jonas Salk: Scientist who found the cure for polio

James Buchanan: 15th U.S. president

Robert Fulton: Inventor

Mary Cassatt: Painter

August Wilson: Playwright

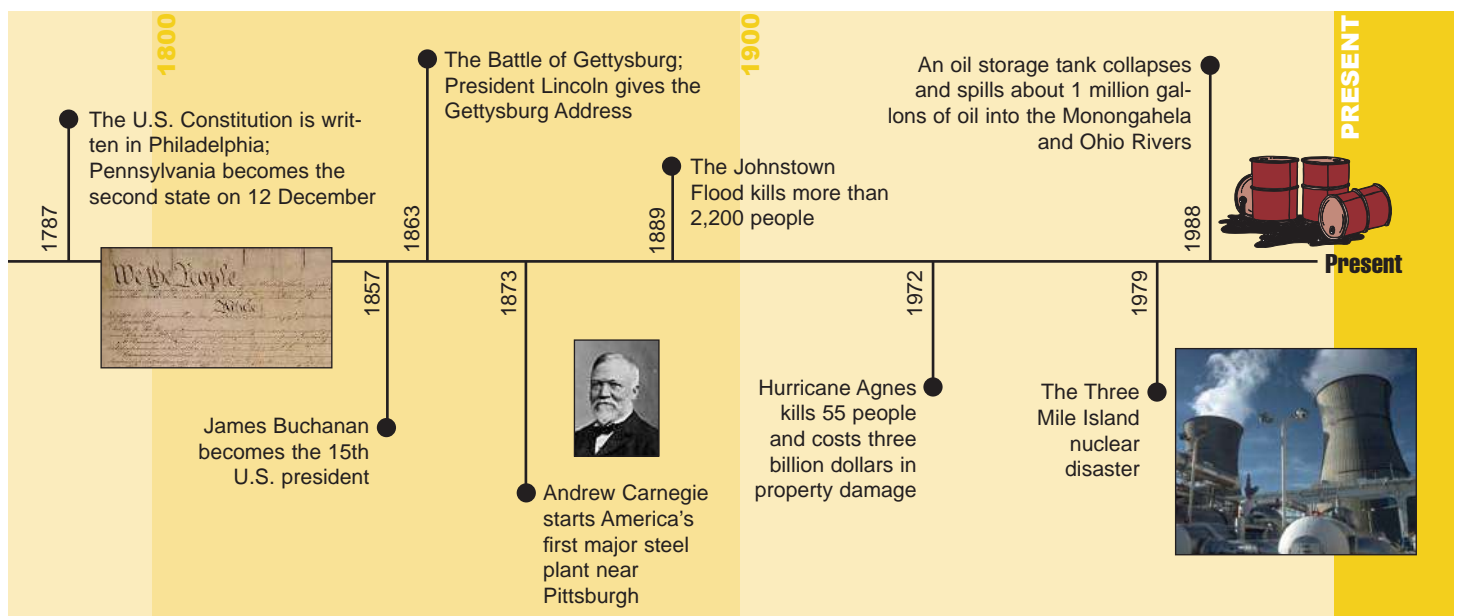
Louisa May Alcott: Author

Jonathan Taylor Thomas: Actor

Suzie McConnell Serio: WNBA player

Jim Thorpe: Track, football, and baseball star

Gene Kelly: Dancer and actor



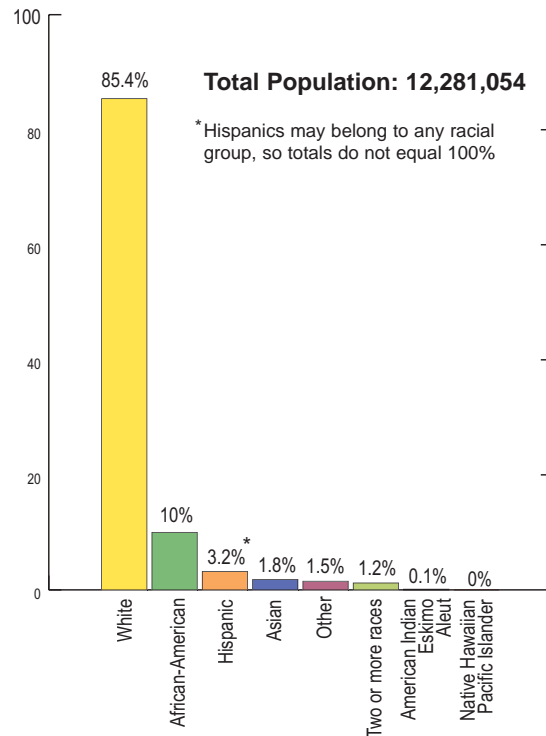
Did You Know?

- Pennsylvania was the first U.S. state to put their *URL* (Web address) on their license plates.
- Hershey is known as the Chocolate Capital of the World.
- Pennsylvania claims to be the home of the first cheesesteak factory and the first slinky toy.
- Kennett Square is the Mushroom Capital of the World. Be sure to visit its Mushroom Museum.
- More than one million people every year visit the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia with its famous 2-foot-long crack.
- Washington's Delaware River crossing is reenacted every year on Christmas Day.
- Philadelphia was the U. S. Capital for a while.
- Each Groundhog's Day you can wait for Punxsutawney Phil (a famous groundhog) to do a little weather forecasting.
- The oldest roller coaster in the world is in Pennsylvania's Lakemont Park. It was built in 1902 and goes about 10 mph (16 km/h).



Population

The Pennsylvania Dutch and Quakers were not the only religious groups to settle in the state. The French Huguenots came for religious freedom, as did the Irish and Scottish Presbyterians. Others came because of the work in mines, factories, and oil wells. Most came from Europe, but during the 1900s many African-Americans moved to the industrial north from the south. Today, Pennsylvanians are less likely than those from any other state to move. Almost two-thirds live in either Philadelphia or Pittsburgh.



State Symbols



State Animal
White-tailed deer—Native Americans and the early settlers relied on deer for food and clothing (called *buckskin*).



State Flower
Mountain laurel—These beautiful pinkish flowers fill the woods, but the leaves are poisonous to some animals.



State Tree
Eastern hemlock—The state was originally covered with hemlock, which is used to make homes and furniture and for firewood.



State Bird
Ruffed grouse—These reddish-brown birds are also called partridges or pheasants.

State Motto: Virtue, Liberty, and Independence—The Pennsylvania state motto is shown on the commemorative state quarters.

Government

Capital: Harrisburg

U.S. Senators: 2

U.S. Representatives: 19

Counties: 67

- Philadelphia is a city and a county all in one.
- There are four area divisions: counties, townships, cities, and boroughs. Boroughs are smaller than cities but can choose to be a city after the population reaches 10,000.

For more information: See www.state.pa.us or contact the Economic and Marketing Office, Tourism and Film, 400 North Street, Fourth Floor, Commonwealth Keystone Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; phone (800) VISIT-PA; Web site www.experiencepa.com.