

March 4, 1791

Vermont Becomes a State

Vermont is a state of contrasts. Although it is the only New England state that does not border the Atlantic Ocean, it is bordered by water on more than half of its borders. Although Vermont's Green Mountain Boys, which Ethan Allen led, began fighting early in the Revolutionary War, the state was not admitted to the Union with the original colonies. Vermont remained an independent republic for about 10 years after the end of the war. In spite of the fact that Vermont has only three cities with populations of more than 15,000, it has an extensive highway system that crosses the state. Although it has forests to supply wood for building and granite and marble for use in buildings and memorials, it has the smallest population of any state east of the Mississippi River. Vermont's lack of overcrowded cities is one of the things that makes it most attractive to tourists. The scenery in the mountains is beautiful in the fall, with the bright autumn colors of the leaves. The small towns and villages attract many with their white churches, maple sugarhouses, craft fairs, antique shows and skiing. A state full of beauty and history, Vermont beckons people to come there to relax and slow down from the hectic day-to-day lives they so often lead. Many famous people are from Vermont, including Chester A. Arthur, Calvin Coolidge, John Deere, Stephen A. Douglas, Thaddeus Stevens, Grace Anna Coolidge, Wilson Bentley, and Simon Fraser.

Look at the map of Vermont below. Label the capital of Vermont. Locate the cities of Burlington, Chelsea, Rutland, Springfield, Manchester Center, Bennington, Brattleboro, Morrisville, Swanton, St. Albans, Newport, Barre, Middlebury, Winooski, and Vergennes, and label them on the map. Now label the Green Mountains, Taconic Mountains, Northeast Highlands, Gore Mountain, Burke Mountain, Mount Monadnock, Millstone Hill (Quarry Hill), Mount Mansfield, Killington Mountain, Mount Ellen, Camels Hump, Equinox Mountain, Dorset Peak, Mother Myrick Mountain, Bear Mountain, and label them on the map. Also, locate the Batten Kill River, Missisquoi River, Lamoille River, Winooski River, Otter Creek, Lake Memphremagog, Bomoseen Lake, and Lake Champlain, and label them. Lastly, label the states or bodies of water that border Vermont. When you have finished, move on to the timeline of Vermont history on the next page and the research prompts that follow.



Timeline of Vermont History

1666

1724

1770

1777

1781

1791

1823

1824

1837

1849

1864

1871

1911

1921

1922

1934

1954

1970

1984

2011

1. Green Mountain Boys organize as a military force
2. First butter creamery is established
3. Admiral George Dewey is born in Vermont
4. The first woman governor of Vermont is elected
5. The Champlain Canal opens, linking Lake Champlain with the Hudson River
6. The first woman elected lieutenant governor of any state in the United States is elected in Vermont
7. Vermont's first radio station begins broadcasting
8. Fort Dummer is built at present-day Brattleboro
9. Tropical Storm Irene causes terrible flooding in Vermont
10. Vermont becomes the 14th state in the Union
11. Vermont is the first state to have an official publicity bureau
12. Twenty-two Confederate soldiers steal over \$20,000 from banks in Vermont and flee to Canada
13. Vermont declares itself an independent republic named "New Connecticut"
14. The first ski tow in the United States is used in Woodstock, Vermont
15. The Vermont Anti-Slavery Party is formed
16. Vermont's first woman legislator is elected
17. The French build a fort on Isle La Motte in Lake Champlain
18. The Environmental Control Law is passed
19. The railroad from Boston to Burlington is completed
20. Vermont's first newspaper is published

Research Prompt #1

On August 2, 1923, President Warren G. Harding died in the White House. Vice President Calvin Coolidge, a native of Vermont, was at his boyhood home in Plymouth Notch, Vermont, at the time. Since there were few telephones in the area at the time, it was hard to get word to him concerning the death of the president. It was late at night and everyone was asleep. Research how Calvin Coolidge got word of the death of President Harding and how Coolidge was sworn in as the new president. Write about your findings.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Research Prompt #2

In 1902, in Manchester, Vermont, there was a meeting in which the people voted to stop the construction of an electric trolley system. It appears that even in 1902, Vermont was a place that tourists liked to visit, and it was feared that the noise and appearance of the wires would keep the tourists away. Do you think a trolley system would have been an advantage or a disadvantage to tourism? Write about your ideas.

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Research Prompt #3

On April 21, 1920, four hundred women gathered together in Montpelier, in the rain, to show support for the nineteenth amendment giving women the right to vote. When was the nineteenth amendment passed? When was it approved by three-fourths of the states? Why do you think it took so long in the history of the United States for women to receive the right to vote? Write about your findings.

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Timeline of Vermont History

Answer Key

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	1849	The railroad from Boston to Burlington is completed
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	1921	Vermont's first woman legislator is elected
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	1934	The first ski tow in the United States is used in Woodstock, Vermont
The first woman elected lieutenant governor of any state in the United States is elected in Vermont	1954	
	1970	The Environmental Control Law is passed
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	2011	Tropical Storm Irene causes terrible flooding in Vermont