

December 18, 1787

New Jersey Becomes a State

During the early days of the country, New Jersey had many raw materials and provided much of the iron used to make artillery during the American Revolution. Many American Revolutionary battles were fought on New Jersey soil—so many, in fact, that the state was nicknamed “Cockpit of the Revolution.” New Jersey has seen much history made. Thomas Edison invented the electric light and the phonograph at his laboratories in New Jersey, Samuel F.B. Morse produced the first successful electric telegraph near Morristown, and Albert Einstein worked at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. Although New Jersey is the fifth-smallest state in the nation, it ranks eleventh in population, making it the most densely populated state. Today, New Jersey imports almost all of its raw materials, but is still an important manufacturing state. There are many places to visit in New Jersey. The state is filled with historic sites, seaside resorts, and state parks and forests full of natural beauty. Many famous people are from New Jersey, including Buzz Aldrin, Aaron Burr, Grover Cleveland, Antonin Scalia, Samuel Alito, Stephen Crane, Norman Schwarzkopf, Anna Harrison, James Fenimore Cooper, and Virginia Apgar.

Look at the map of New Jersey below. Label the capital of New Jersey. Locate the cities of Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson, Atlantic City, Ocean City, Cape May, Menlo Park, Edison, Morristown, Clifton, Piscataway, Woodbridge, Perth Amboy, and Hoboken, and label them on the map. Now label the Kittatinny Mountains, New Jersey Highlands, Sourland Mountain Range, Watchung Mountain Range, High Point, and Murray Hill. Also, locate the Hudson River, Passaic River, Ramapo River, Raritan River, Delaware River, Hackensack River, Millstone River, Musconetcong River, Lake Hopatcong, Budd Lake, Culvers Lake, Lake Manahawkin, Lake Mohawk, Swartswood Lake, Lake Sonoma, and Rainbow Lake, and label them. Lastly, label the states or bodies of water that border New Jersey. When you have finished, move on to the timeline of New Jersey history on the next page and the research prompts that follow.



Timeline of New Jersey History

1524

1660

1664

1676

1702

1746

1750

1774

1776

1777

1778

1787

1804

1876

1877

1919

1933

1951

1952

2012

1. The colony of New Jersey is divided into East Jersey and West Jersey
2. Hurricane Sandy hits the Atlantic Coast of New Jersey
3. New Jersey's first public library is founded in Trenton
4. Battle of Monmouth takes place during the Revolutionary War
5. Thomas Edison begins his research laboratory in Menlo Park
6. Bergen, New Jersey's first permanent European settlement, is established
7. The first coast-to-coast direct dialing system is founded in Englewood, New Jersey
8. General George Washington turns the tide of the Revolutionary War at the Battle of Trenton
9. The first regular air passenger service in the United States is offered between Atlantic City and New York City
10. Princeton University is founded
11. Duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton takes place at Weehawken
12. The New Jersey Turnpike opens
13. Giovanni da Verrazzano explores the coast of New Jersey
14. The first interstate long-distance telephone call is made from New Brunswick, New Jersey, to New York City
15. The Greenwich Tea Burning occurs
16. Morristown National Historical Park is established
17. New Jersey comes under English control
18. New Jersey's first weekly newspaper begins publication in Burlington, New Jersey
19. New Jersey becomes the third state in the Union
20. New Jersey is reunited as one colony

Timeline of New Jersey History

Answer Key

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Morristown National Historical Park is established	1933	
	1951	The first coast-to-coast direct dialing system is founded in Englewood, New Jersey
The New Jersey Turnpike opens	1952	
	2012	Hurricane Sandy hits the Atlantic Coast of New Jersey