

Lesson 2: The Northeast

☐ Getting Started

Today you will begin your journey to the northeast region of the United States. Have you ever visited the Northeast? Maybe you live there. Think about what you know about this region.

The Northeast is known for its cold winters and heavily populated states. Although the states in the Northeast are small in land size, they are large in population. Most of the states in the Northeast have a coastline bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

Stuff You Need

- "Timeline of American History"* (Activity 2 - optional)
- *Smart About the Fifty States* by Jon Buller
- colored pencils* (Activity 2 - Option 2)
- journal
- supplies to make a short book* (Activity 2 - Option 2)

Ideas to Think About

- How are the regions within the United States similar and different?
- What do the regions of the United States offer their citizens?
- What relationships exist among the different regions of the United States?

Things to Know

- The Northeast includes the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Delaware, Massachusetts, and Maryland.
- Many American immigrants arrived on the northeast seaboard and remained in the area.
- The states in the Northeast are small in land size but have large populations.

☐ Reading and Questions

In *Smart About the Fifty States* read about the states in the Northeast region. List an important fact about each state in your journal as you read.

1. Maine

2. Vermont

3. New Hampshire

4. Massachusetts

5. Connecticut

6. Rhode Island

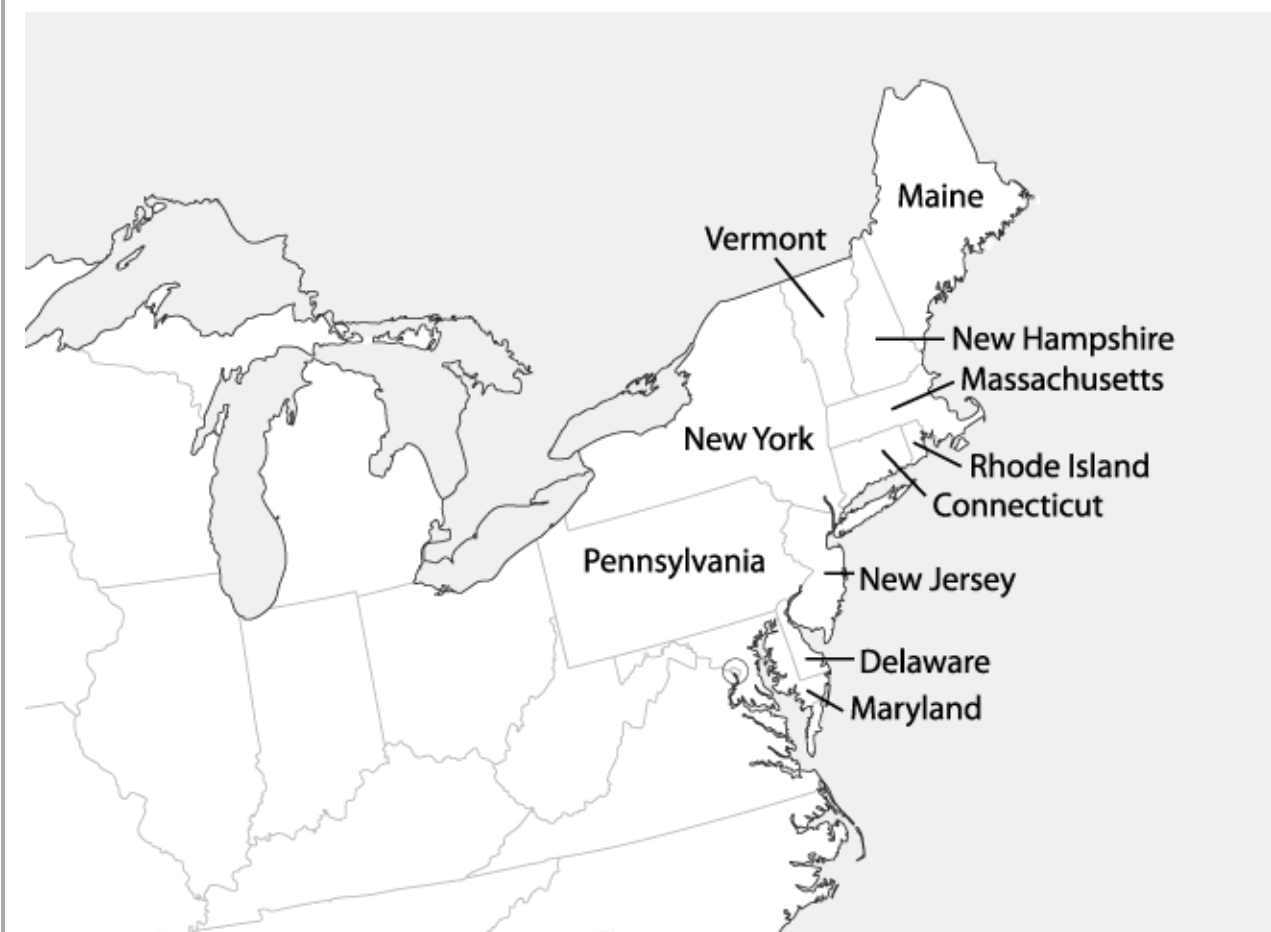
7. New Jersey

8. New York

9. Pennsylvania

10. Maryland

11. Delaware

Northeastern States

Activities

☐ Activity 1: About the Northeast

On the "About the Northeast" pages, summarize the information you learned about the region. Some of the information for these pages will come from the book *Smart About the Fifty States*, but you will also need to use other sources such as the Internet or an encyclopedia.

These pages can include illustrations as well as written information. Include the following information:

- States (List the names.)
- Climate (Describe the overall climate of the region and how it changes with the seasons.)
- Natural resources (List and/or illustrate at least five natural resources found in the region.)
- Important landforms and bodies of water (Describe important landform(s) and bodies of water in the region. Include at least one landform and one body of water.)
- Culture (Describe the people and their way of life. What unique traditions do they have? How are they recognized by the rest of the country?)
- Wildlife (Illustrate and label at least two plants and two animals found in the region.)
- Famous person (Describe a famous person from the region and what the person has accomplished.)
- Jobs (List two important industries in the region.)

To find more information about this region, use the following websites or an encyclopedia. **NOTE:** The maps at the following websites do not display correctly on an iPad. Use a computer to view the websites or look for specific information using a search engine (for example, "New England climate").



Interactive Map of New England

www.beyondthepage.com/link/13687/

This interactive map features information about the Northernmost states of the Northeast region (New England).

**Interactive Map of Mid-Atlantic States**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/13688/

This interactive map provides information about the Mid-Atlantic states, the more southern portion of the Northeastern region.

**New World Encyclopedia: Northeastern United States**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/13689/

☐ **Activity 2: Letter to an Immigrant or Nature Field Guide**

The Spanish founded St. Augustine in Florida in 1565, and the English came to Virginia in 1607 and called their settlement Jamestown. (Both Florida and Virginia are part of the Southeast). Before we had states, we had regions called colonies. Many of the people who came to America arrived in the states of the Northeast; that is where the original thirteen colonies were established. In 1620, the Pilgrims landed in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts, and established Plymouth Plantation. If you are using the "Timeline of American History," add the date the Pilgrims came to Plymouth Rock.

The colonial Americans were not the only immigrants to come to the Northeast region of our country. The waves of immigrants who arrived throughout the 1800s and into the early 1900s came by boat to Ellis Island, New York.

One reason the Northeast is so populated is because many of the early immigrants stayed in this area and raised families. Most of the early commerce and government in our country started in this region.

Complete one of the following options:

Option 1

Pretend you are writing a letter to an immigrant who will arrive in New York in two months. In your letter, describe what he will discover upon his arrival. Also describe the climate, geography, and anything you know about the culture of the Northeast.

Option 2

Pretend it is the early 1880s, and your family lives in the Northeast. Create a field guide for a new immigrant to the Northeast that describes the plants and animals the immigrant will find when he arrives. Remember to draw a realistic picture of each living thing so that the immigrant can accurately identify it. Write a sentence or

two to describe each one and possibly how the plant or animal might be of use. Include at least ten items in your field guide.

Wrapping Up

Review the information you provided on your "About the Northeast" pages. Review the "Things to Know" section from the beginning of the lesson.

Start playing "Learn the 50 States" using the following link. See how many levels you can reach.



Learn the 50 US States

www.beyondthepage.com/link/13690/

Start on Level 1 in learn the 50 States.

Northeastern States

1. Maine

Fact: _____

2. Vermont

Fact: _____

3. New Hampshire

Fact: _____

4. Massachusetts

Fact: _____

5. Connecticut

Fact: _____

6. Rhode Island

Fact: _____

7. New Jersey

Fact: _____

8. New York

Fact: _____

9. Pennsylvania

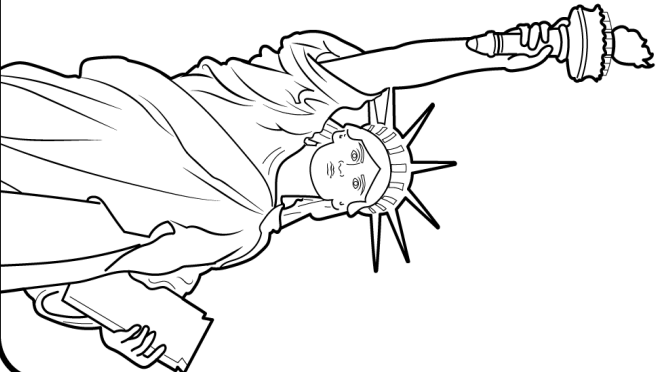
Fact: _____

10. Maryland

Fact: _____

11. Delaware

Fact: _____

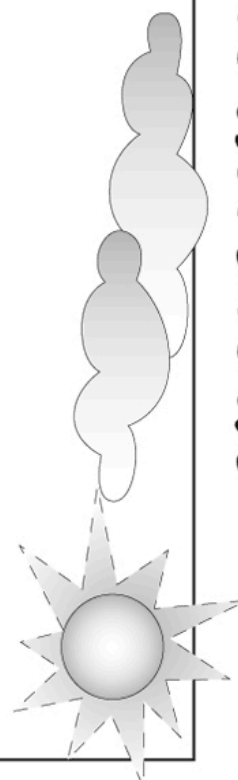


About the Northeast

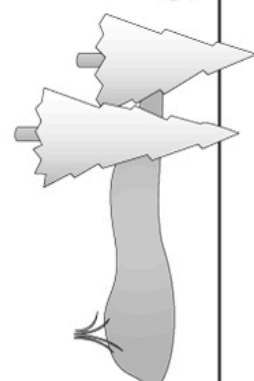
States



Climate

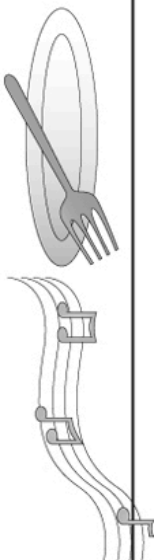
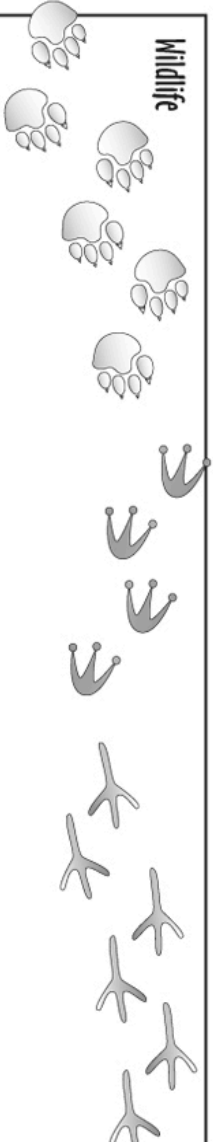
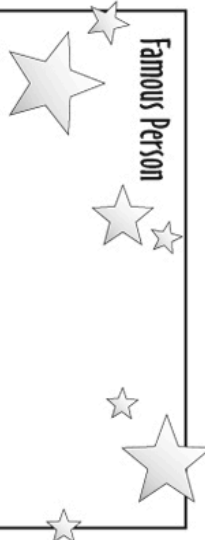


Natural Resources



Important Landforms and Bodies of Water



	Culture 
	Wildlife 
Famous Person 	Jobs 

Lesson 2: The Northeast

Getting Started

✿ Ideas to Think About

- How are the regions within the United States similar and different?
- What do the regions of the United States offer their citizens?
- What relationships exist among the different regions of the United States?



Things to Know

- The Northeast includes the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Delaware, Massachusetts, and Maryland.
- Many American immigrants arrived on the northeast seaboard and remained in the area.
- The states in the Northeast are small in land size but have large populations.

⦿ Skills

- Explain the geographic factors that influence patterns of settlement and the distribution of population. (SS)
- Compare and contrast the physical and cultural characteristics of regions within the United States. (SS)
- Identify clusters of settlement in the United States. (SS)
- Describe the absolute and relative location of major landforms, bodies of water, and natural resources in the United States. (SS)
- Compare and contrast the physical and cultural characteristics of regions within the United States. (SS)
- Explain how and why population distribution differs within the United States. (SS)

Introducing the Lesson

Introduce your child to the Northeast region of the United States, the starting point of this geographic journey. This region holds great historical significance, as it is where many of the earliest American colonies were established and where waves of immigrants first arrived, shaping the cultural and economic landscape.

Encourage your child to think about what she already knows about the Northeast. Has she ever visited any of the states in this region? What stands out about them? Discuss how the Northeast is unique—though the states are small in land size, they are densely populated and play a major role in the country's economy, history, and culture. Many of these states border the Atlantic Ocean, influencing their climate, industries, and way of life.

Throughout this lesson, your child will explore the geography, resources, culture, and history of the Northeast, discovering how this region connects to the rest of the United States.

Reading and Questions

1. *Maine: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- Pine Tree State; Capital- Augusta; Products- wood (canoes, ice-cream sticks, toothpicks), potatoes, blueberries; Geography- first to see the sunrise, coastline with rocky cliffs and beaches; Earmuffs invented in Maine.*
2. *Vermont: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- Green Mountain State; Capital- Montpelier; Products: maple syrup, Ben & Jerry's ice cream; Geography- 80% covered in forest (tourists come to see leaves change); Small population*
3. *New Hampshire: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- The Granite State; Capital- Concord; Products- granite, rocks, gravel, ships, submarines; One of the first original 13 colonies; First to declare independence from England; First potato planted in the U.S.; Home of Mount Washington- highest point in New England; Home of the first free public library*
4. *Massachusetts: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- Bay State or Old Colony State; Capital- Boston; Official Dessert- Boston Cream Pie; Mayflower arrived at Plymouth Rock in 1620; Home to Harvard University and Basketball Hall of Fame; Firsts: basketball game, Thanksgiving Day, original state, passed a law requiring towns with 100 or more families to build a school*
5. *Connecticut: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- The Constitution State or the Nutmeg State; Capital- Hartford; Firsts- hamburger, color TV, one of the original states, first to write up laws and rules; Home to- Dinosaur State Park, Yale University, whaling center*
6. *Rhode Island: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- The Ocean State; Capital- Providence; State Bird- Rhode Island red hen; Official Name: The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations; Smallest state; Known for- making silverware, Narragansett Indian Reservation burial ground, first circus, hideout and shipwrecks from pirates*
7. *New Jersey: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- The Garden State; Capital- Trenton; Geography- open land with farms, woods, marshes, and beaches; Products- eggplant; State bug- honeybee; Home to- Thomas Edison, large seaports, Atlantic City (street names for Monopoly), Miss America Pageant*
8. *New York: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- The Empire State; Capital- Albany; Home to Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, dairy farms, the first macaroni factory*
9. *Pennsylvania: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- Keystone State; Capital- Harrisburg; Products- steel, mushrooms; Home to: first Little League Baseball, Crayola Crayon factory, Hershey, Philadelphia-Declaration of Independence, Liberty Bell, Benjamin Franklin*
10. *Maryland: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- The Free State of Old Line State; Capital- Annapolis; First umbrella factory; Products- blue crab and oysters; Home to Francis Scott Key and The Star-Spangled Banner, U.S. Naval Academy*
11. *Delaware: Answers will vary but may include: Nickname- The First State; Capital- Dover; State Bug- ladybug; Firsts- log cabins, first state to join the Union; Home to: swamps, marshlands, ducks and geese, horseshoe crabs*

After your child has read about the Northeast region in *Smart About the Fifty States*, have her list an important fact about each state in her journal. These facts may include historical events, geographical features, major industries, or cultural highlights that make each state unique. Once she has completed this activity, review her statements together. Encourage discussion by asking her what she found most interesting or surprising about the region. If any details are unclear or need more explanation, guide her in

researching additional information to deepen her understanding of the diverse and historically rich Northeast.

Activities

Activity 1: About the Northeast

Review the information your child provided on the "About the Northeast" pages. Discuss where she might need to add more detail or correct her information. **NOTE:** The maps at the websites provided do not display correctly on an iPad. Your child should use a computer to view the websites or look for specific information using a search engine (for example, "New England climate").

Answer Key:

- Answers will vary. Sample answers are provided below. Accept other accurate responses.
- States: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- Climate: The Northeast has four distinct seasons. Winters are generally cold and snowy, while summers are warm and sometimes humid. Spring brings milder temperatures and rain, and fall is known for cooler weather and colorful leaves. Northern areas tend to have colder winters than southern areas.
- Natural Resources: Fertile soil, forests (timber), freshwater, fish, granite, limestone, and natural gas.s
- Important Landforms and Bodies of Water: The Northeast includes the Appalachian Mountains, Adirondack Mountains, and coastal plains along the Atlantic Ocean. Important bodies of water include the Atlantic Ocean, Chesapeake Bay, Hudson River, Delaware River, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario.
- Culture: The Northeast is known for its historic cities, diverse population, and important role in early American history. Many immigrants settled in the region, bringing different foods, languages, and traditions. The region is known for its seafood, maple syrup, fall foliage, and historical landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty, Independence Hall, and Fort McHenry in Maryland.
- Wildlife:
 - Plants: Sugar maple, eastern white pine
 - Animals: White-tailed deer, black bear
- Famous Person: Benjamin Franklin lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he became a famous inventor, writer, and statesman. He helped write the Declaration of Independence and played an important role in the founding of the United States.
- Jobs: Finance and banking, manufacturing. Other important industries include healthcare, education, tourism, and fishing.

Activity 2: Letter to an Immigrant or Nature Field Guide

For this activity, your child can select one of the following options:

Option 1

For this option, your child writes a letter to an immigrant who will be arriving in New York. Review the letter to be sure it includes accurate information about the Northeast's climate, geography, and culture. Your child might describe the region's four distinct seasons, including cold, snowy winters and warm, humid summers. Geographical features may include the Appalachian Mountains, Hudson River, Atlantic Ocean, and coastal plains. The letter might also describe the Northeast's large cities, diverse population, historical landmarks, and cultural traditions. Encourage your child to include specific examples, such as the Statue of Liberty, New York City's busy streets, or the many foods and traditions brought to the region by immigrants. The letter should help a newcomer understand what life in the Northeast might be like.

Option 2

For this option, your child creates a field guide to help an immigrant identify plants and animals found in the Northeast during the early 1880s. Review the guide to be sure it includes at least ten living things, realistic illustrations, and brief, accurate descriptions. Plants might include sugar maple trees (used to make maple syrup), eastern white pines (used for lumber), oak trees (which provide wood and acorns), blueberry bushes (which produce edible berries), and cattails (used for weaving mats and baskets). Animals might include white-tailed deer (a source of meat and hides), beavers (valued for their fur), wild turkeys (a source of food), red foxes (which help control rodent populations), and brook trout (a source of food). Encourage your child to describe identifying features, such as a sugar maple's distinctive leaves or a beaver's flat tail, and explain how each plant or animal might have been useful to people living in the Northeast during that time.

Wrapping Up**Questions to Discuss**

- (If you don't live in the Northeast) How does the Northeast region compare to our region? Would you want to live in the Northeast? Why or why not?
- (If you do live in the Northeast) What do you enjoy about living in the Northeast?
- What did you learn about the Northeast that you did not know before?
- What does the Northeast provide for other regions of the country? (*The Northeast provides important things for the rest of the country, like history, business, and resources. Big cities like New York and Boston are major centers for banking and shipping. The region's factories make steel, clothing, and electronics, while farms grow apples, cranberries, and maple syrup. Its ports bring in goods from other countries and send out American products. Many people visit for its history, landmarks, and beautiful fall colors. The Northeast plays a big role in connecting and supporting the rest of the U.S.!*)

Things to Review

Review the information your child recorded about the Northeast.