



The Constitution State

Established 1788
5th State

Did You Know?

- The world's first nuclear-powered submarine—the USS *Nautilus*—was built in Groton in 1954.
- Legally, a pickle in Connecticut can't be called a pickle unless it bounces.
- Newman's Own, Inc., of Westport donates all its profits to charity.
- Revolutionary War prisoners were locked up in the underground tunnels of what was the old New-Gate Mine, which later became the first state prison.
- People from Connecticut were sometimes called Nutmeggers after traveling peddlers selling nutmeg.
- Prudence Crandall is Connecticut's state heroine for creating the first school for African American women.
- "Yankee Doodle" is the official state song. British troops sang it to tease the Americans during the American Revolution.
- Noah Webster, who compiled the *American Dictionary of the English Language*, was born in West Hartford.
- The first can opener was made in Connecticut out of bayonets and sickles.
- Frisbee was born in 1920, when students at Yale University started throwing empty pie plates from Mrs. Frisbie Pies.
- The world's first artificial heart was invented in 1982 by Dr. Robert K. Jarvik, a Stamford native.

The Place

Climate



Connecticut's climate is humid and relatively mild. In summer, the average temperature is 70°F (22°C). In the winter, it rarely falls below 0°F (-18°C). The January average is 26°F (-3°C). *Northeasters*, or coastal storms, sometimes bring heavy winds and rain to the state. New York's Long Island Sound (a *sound* is an inlet) protects Connecticut from the worst storms. The state gets a fair amount of rain and snow, with an average of about 47 inches (119 cm) each year.

Average Seasonal High and Low Temperatures

Spring: 59/40°F
Summer: 81/62°F
Fall: 63/45°F
Winter: 39/23°F

Geography



The Connecticut River cuts the state in half. It starts in New Hampshire and goes down to the Long Island Sound. Some seagoing ships can travel on the river all the way up to Hartford. Thousands of years ago, when the glaciers decreased, they left behind boulders, rocks, and more than one thousand small lakes covering the state. About 60 percent of the land is covered with forest. Most of the cities are along the coast and center plain, where it is flat. The further north and west you go, the steeper and hillier the land becomes. The eastern part of the state has rolling hills and river valleys.

Connecticut is the third smallest state in the United States. The total area is only 5,544 square miles (14,359 sq km), including some small islands. The largest, Mason Island, is only 1.5 square miles (2 sq km). The state's many harbors were the center of the old whaling and shipping industries.

Resources and Economy




Hartford is America's insurance capital. Many insurance companies are based in Connecticut. Because the state is close to New York City and has a high standard of living, many big companies such as General Electric Company (GE) and Xerox Corporation have their headquarters there. Industrial cities, where helicopters, submarines, jet engines, and other transportation equipment are made, are found all over the state as well. Electric Boat in Groton is a major government contractor and builds a submarine every year or so.

Farming isn't as important an industry as it once was. However, one crop that remains important is *shade tobacco* (used as outer wrappers for fine cigars). In the summer, you can drive past tobacco farms protected from the sun by cheesecloth. Poultry, dairy products, and nursery plants are also valuable sources of farming income in Connecticut, and local farms are still an important part of small-town culture across the state.

History

Time Line

	Thousands of years ago, Native Americans settle the land	
AD 1600		
AD 1614	Adriaen Block, a Dutch explorer, is the first European to write about the area	
1633	Puritans unhappy with the Puritan settlement in the Massachusetts Bay Colony establish the first Connecticut town, Windsor	
1636–37	The Pequot War takes place	
1639	The <i>Fundamental Orders</i> (a document outlining colonial law) is approved	
1662	Connecticut receives its charter from King Charles II	
1700		
1701	Yale University is founded	
1754–63	Connecticut soldiers fight in the French and Indian War	

1776 The British hang Nathan Hale as a spy



1787 The Connecticut Compromise is adopted

1788 Connecticut becomes the fifth state



1800

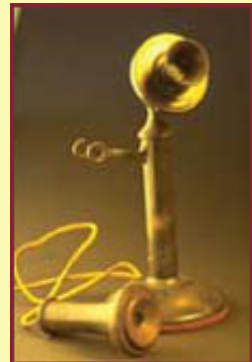
1814 The Hartford Convention leads to the downfall of the Federalist Party

1818 Church and state are separated under a new constitution

1839 The slave ship *Amistad* is seized, creating controversy over slavery and human rights

1848 Slavery is *abolished* (ended) in Connecticut

1878 The first telephone exchange opens in New Haven



1900

1938 A hurricane called the Long Island Express changes the landscape and causes heavy loss of life and property

1954 The *Nautilus*, the first nuclear submarine, is launched at Groton

1955 The flood of 1955 hits the Naugatuck Valley

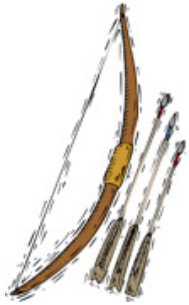
1965 A new state constitution guarantees equal protection under the law to all citizens

1983 The Mashantucket Pequot Indian tribe is formally recognized by the federal government and claims Connecticut land

1991 Connecticut adopts its first state income tax to balance the state's budget

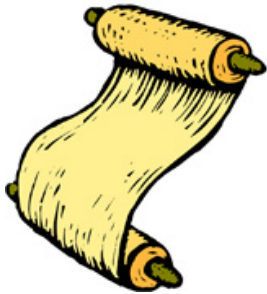
2000	
2008	Connecticut legalizes same-sex marriage
2012	Connecticut becomes the 17th state to <i>repeal</i> (outlaw) the death penalty; twenty children and six adults are killed and two more injured at Sandy Hook Elementary
PRESENT	

The Pequot



The Algonquian-speaking tribes of Connecticut lived in wooden huts by the rivers or the coast. The Pequot was the most powerful tribe. When the European settlers began to take over Native American land, the Pequot resisted, so the colonists declared war in 1636. With the help of the Mohegan and Narragansett tribes, the colonists attacked a Pequot village, killing more than six hundred men, women, and children. The attack crushed the Pequot.

Discovery and Settlement



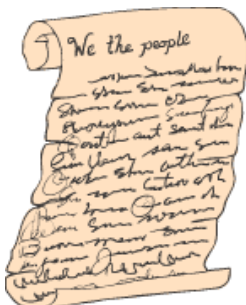
Dutch sailor Adriaen Block claimed Connecticut for the New Netherland colony in 1614, but in 1633 the English were the first to settle the land. This led to some conflict between the English and the Dutch. Many Europeans came for political freedom and to follow their own religious traditions. A Congregational minister named Thomas Hooker taught that government should be what the people want. In 1639, Connecticut colonists gained the right to vote for government representatives when they adopted the *Fundamental Orders*, a kind of written constitution.

American Revolution



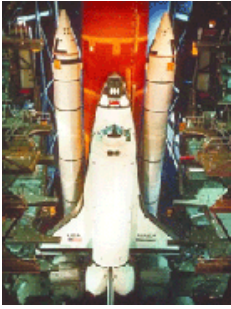
Governor Jonathan Trumbull, or Brother John, held office throughout the American Revolution. He provided supplies of all kinds to American troops. General George Washington gave Connecticut the nickname the Provision State as a result of the food it regularly gave his army. Nathan Hale, a 21-year-old schoolteacher, was captured by the British while on a spy mission for General Washington. The British hanged him without a trial, and his legendary patriotic last words have made him famous: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Connecticut Compromise



After the American Revolution was over, leaders from each colony gathered to work out a constitution. Large states wanted national representation by population. Small states wanted national representation to be equal for all states. This disagreement divided the states. The Connecticut representatives helped make an agreement called the Great Compromise, or the Connecticut Compromise. This compromise created two representative bodies, one based on population and one with an equal number of representatives for each state. Connecticut ratified the U.S. Constitution on 9 January 1788.

Industry



Inventors and manufacturers contributed to the quick growth of Connecticut industry. Eli Terry built the first clock factory in the United States, Rodney and Horatio Hanks established the first silk mill, and Samuel Colt was a pioneer in the mass production of guns. These individuals and others helped move the state's economy from farming to industry. In the 1800s, new trains, roads, and immigrants helped to make the factories successful. During the two world wars, Connecticut strengthened its reputation as the *arsenal* (place where weapons are stored) of the nation. Weapons factories made submarines, airplane engines, and shell cases. After World War II, the factories began to make space products used by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Cleaning Up



After World War II, the people of Connecticut began to rebuild their neighborhoods. They tore down the *slums* (poor areas) and constructed new buildings. They passed laws to protect the environment, worked to reduce water and air pollution, gave money to poorer schools, and made it illegal to build any more nuclear power plants. To help pay for some of these programs, the government created a state income tax for the first time in 1991. The state also legalized gambling to bring in more money.

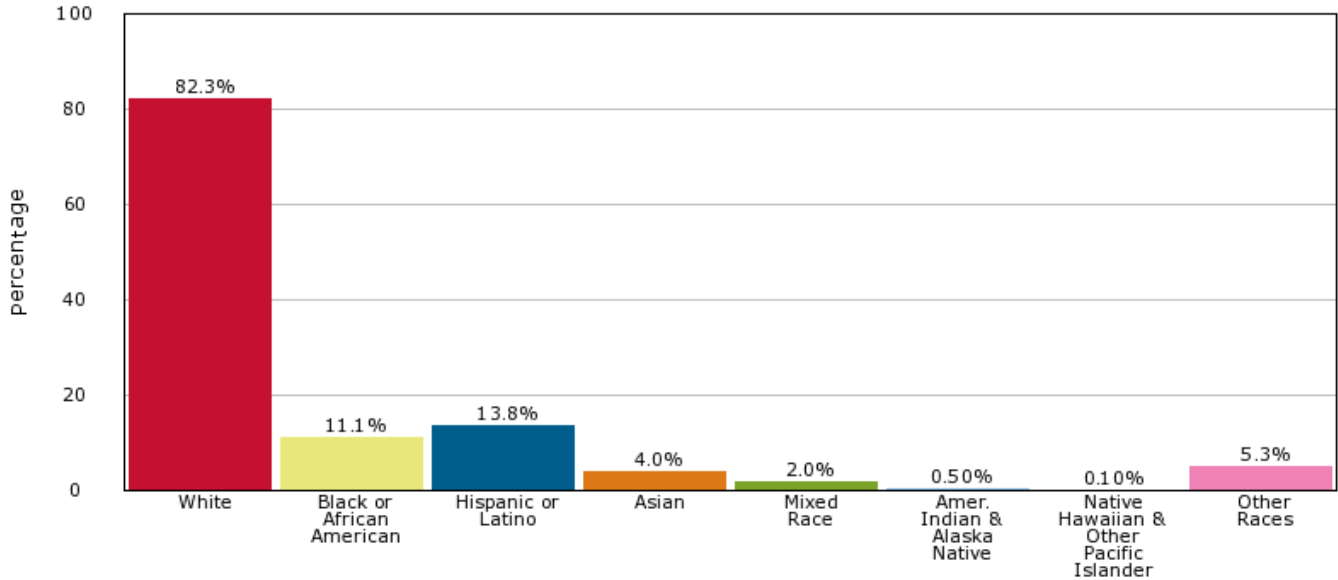
The People

Population

Connecticut's southwest is called the Gold Coast because it is the richest part of the state. Because it is so close to New York City, many wealthy Wall Street executives and bankers live in Connecticut and many businesses have moved out of New York and into places like Stamford. Most towns and cities have a *green*, or a central public park. This tradition is common in much of New England and was first established in England for the local townspeople to graze their cattle on common land.

The biggest cities are Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury, and Stamford. Most residents of Connecticut live in cities. While many people living in the state have Italian, Irish, German, and English ancestry, newcomers also come from Asia and eastern Europe. Many Connecticut residents also trace their ancestry to the Caribbean and Latin America. Today, more people are moving out of Connecticut each year than are moving in.

Total Population: 3,580,709



Hispanics may belong to any racial group. Totals may not equal 100%.

Government



Capital: Hartford
State Abbreviation: CT
Governor: Dan Malloy (Democrat)
U.S. Senators: 2
 Richard Blumenthal (Democrat)
 Chris Murphy (Democrat)
U.S. Representatives: 5
 Republicans: 0
 Democrats: 5
State Senators: 36
State Representatives: 151
Counties: 8

- Connecticut has no county government. Government services are provided by towns and cities.
- A new constitution was adopted in 1965 after the federal government ruled that the old way of choosing state *legislators* (lawmakers) was unconstitutional.

Famous People



Topher Grace

Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens) — Author of *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*
Benedict Arnold — American Revolution general and traitor
Glenn Close — Actress
Samuel Colt — Inventor of the revolver
Topher Grace — Actor
Ella Grasso — First woman elected governor of a U.S. state (who was not the widow of a former governor)
Nathan Hale — American Revolution hero
Dorothy Hamill — Olympic champion figure skater



Katharine Hepburn



Joseph Lieberman



Meg Ryan

Katharine Hepburn — Actress
Charles Ives — Composer
Joseph Lieberman — First Jewish vice-presidential candidate
Seth MacFarlane — Animator, actor, and comedian
John Mayer — Musician
Moby — Musician
Rosa Ponselle — Soprano
Meg Ryan — Actress
Benjamin Spock — Pediatrician and author
Harriet Beecher Stowe — Author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
Eli Terry — Inventor
Noah Webster — Author of the first American dictionary
Emma Hart Willard — Educator and founder of one of the first girls' schools in the nation

Native America



Early Connecticut tribes included the Pequot, the Mohegan, the Podunk, the Narragansett, and the Nipmuc. These peoples lived in separate territories, each under their own leadership. Their chiefs were known as *sachems*. They fished and grew crops such as corn and squash and lived in houses called *wigwams*, which were made of wood covered with tree bark, or in longhouses. They made their clothing from the skins of animals such as deer, wolf, and beaver. Each tribe prepared for the cold winter months by drying enough bear and deer meat to last them until spring came again.

When European settlers arrived in what is now Connecticut, several thousand natives inhabited the land. The Podunk and the Mohegan were relatively friendly to the early settlers, offering to trade goods with them. But the Pequot did not want to give up any of their land to the newcomers, and they often fought wars and raided the European settlements. Eventually, the Pequot were almost completely wiped out by war and disease. The signing of the Hartford Treaty officially ended the Pequot War. Under the terms of the treaty, the Pequot were not allowed to set foot on their former lands, speak their native language, or go by their traditional names. Most were sold into slavery. Over time, the remaining tribes grouped together for safety and to keep what was left of their way of life alive.

In recent years, some Connecticut Native Americans have been able to return to their lands. The Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan are both federally recognized tribes in the state. They run their own affairs, and their reservation lands are considered separate nations from the United States. In order to support themselves, the tribes have started several businesses on their reservations including resort casinos, vegetable farming, and maple syrup production.

The Mashantucket opened a museum and research center as a way of keeping tribal history alive and encouraging education in Native American culture and history. The

Mashantucket are some of the wealthiest Native Americans in the country.

To celebrate their roots, the Mohegan have brought back the ancient tradition of the annual Green Corn Festival. The festival dates back several centuries and was traditionally held to thank the Creator for all their many gifts, including corn—a symbol of a plentiful harvest. Today, the festival centers on locally grown foods, crafts, native dancing, and storytelling.

Cultural Notes

Famous Inventor



The inventor Eli Whitney helped change the world. Until 1799, all parts for machines had to be created by hand. This took a long time and many hours of training. Whitney invented a process allowing one machine to create the parts for another. He used this process to make guns, the early version of Connecticut's military and weapons industry. This was the beginning of mass production.

Louis' Lunch

Louis' Lunch, a tiny hamburger restaurant in New Haven, is the home of some of the first hamburgers served in the United States. Founded in 1895 by Louis Lassen, it was originally just a sandwich shop in a small wagon. Legend says that one day a customer came in asking for something quick to go. Louis stuck a broiled meat patty between two pieces of bread and gave it to the man.

More than a hundred years later, the tiny restaurant is still run by the Lassen family. They continue to serve traditional hamburgers, refusing to put condiments like ketchup or mustard on them. The burgers are served on two pieces of white toast, and the only approved toppings are cheese spread, onion, or tomato. Customers still dash in the door and call out their orders, and the only form of payment accepted is cash.

Fun Facts & Contacts

State Symbols

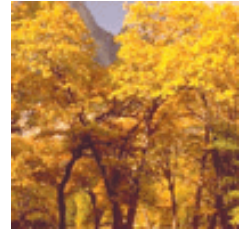
State Bird

American robin—This bird isn't really a robin, but early colonists called it one because it looked like the English robin.



State Tree

White oak—Connecticut’s charter was hidden in an oak in 1687, when the English governor tried to take it away.



State Flower

Mountain laurel—These pink and white blossoms are sometimes called calico bush or ivy.



State Animal

Sperm whale—This whale has the largest brain of any living thing. It is now on the endangered species list.



Other Symbols

- Composer: Charles Ives
- Folk Dance: Square dance
- Fossil: *Eubrontes giganteus*
- Hero: Nathan Hale
- Heroine: Prudence Crandall
- Insect: Praying mantis
- Mineral: Garnet
- Shellfish: Eastern oyster
- Ship: *USS Nautilus*
- Song: “Yankee Doodle”

State Motto

Qui Transtulit Sustinet—This is Latin for “He Who Transplanted Still Sustains.” It is thought to be taken from Psalms 80 of the Bible.

Major League Sports Teams

- Connecticut Sun (WNBA)

For More Information

See www.ct.gov or contact the Connecticut Office of Tourism, One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06103; phone (888) 288-4748; web site www.ctvisit.com.

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106 USA
Toll Free: 1.800.521.3042
Fax: 1.800.864.0019
www.culturegrams.com

Connecticut

EXTREMES

Highest: The highest point is on the south slope of Mount Frissell, at 2,380 feet (725 m). The upper part of Mount Frissell is in Massachusetts.

Coldest: The lowest recorded temperature was -32°F (-36°C) in Falls Village on 16 February 1943.

Hottest: The highest recorded temperature was 106°F (41°C) in Danbury on 15 July 1995.

Lowest: The lowest point in the state is sea level at Long Island Sound.

