



The Empire State

Established 1788
11th State

Did You Know?

- Baseball began in New York. The New York Nine played the New York Knickerbockers in the first baseball game on 19 June 1846.
- The Empire State Building has 73 elevators. One can take you from the lobby to the 80th floor in 45 seconds.
- The first public miniature golf course was built on the roof of a New York City skyscraper in 1926.
- New York was the first state to require license plates on automobiles.
- A Clayton housewife named Sophia LaLonde invented Thousand Island dressing; it is named after the Thousand Islands, which are located in the St. Lawrence River.
- “Uncle Sam” was a meatpacker from Troy. During the War of 1812, Sam Wilson stamped “U.S. Beef” on his products. Soldiers came to think of him as Uncle Sam.
- In 1857, Joseph C. Gayetty of New York invented toilet paper. He had his name printed on every sheet.
- The Adirondack Park is larger than the Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Glacier, and Olympic national parks combined.
- New Yorker Franklin Roosevelt was the only U.S. president to be elected four times.

The Place

Climate

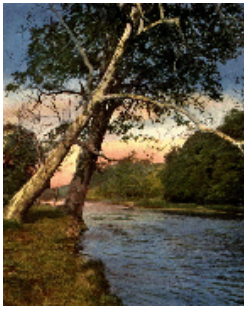


Sunny skies in the Empire State generally are hidden by clouds that form over the Great Lakes. The coast isn't as cloudy or as cold as the rest of the state. Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse get more snow than any other U.S. city. The Tug Hill Plateau area got over 29 feet (9 meters) in one long winter! It rains regularly in the summer. New York is often humid, which makes the temperatures seem more extreme. The average July temperature is 77°F (25°C) in the Big Apple (New York City) and 66°F (19°C) in the Adirondacks, up in the northern part of the state. The January average for the mountains is 14°F (-10°C), while New York City stays at about 33°F (1°C).

Average Seasonal High and Low Temperatures

Spring: 56/37°F
Summer: 79/60°F
Fall: 60/43°F
Winter: 35/21°F

Geography



Long ago, large glaciers melted, leaving more than four thousand lakes and rivers as well as long, skinny ridges of earth called *drumlins* throughout much of present-day New York. There is good farmland in the state's 54,475 square miles (141,090 square kilometers). Long Island and Staten Island are part of the Coastal Plain. In some areas, only oaks and scrub pines can grow. The Appalachian Mountains cover about half the state; they include the Catskills and the Adirondacks. The Adirondack Mountains have some of the highest peaks in the eastern United States. They're covered with trees, lakes, and beautiful waterfalls. Going west, the elevation decreases until you reach the Saint Lawrence River Valley and the Thousand Islands.



Resources and Economy



Tourism is very important to the state's economy. Millions come each year to visit Niagara Falls and the mountains. Even more people come to visit New York City. New Yorkers are the country's leaders in publishing newspapers, magazines, and books. Those who work in factories make everything from women's clothing to cameras to medical instruments. Fashion designers, large corporations, and farmers all contribute to a growing economy. Vineyards grow along Lake Erie, and apple orchards grow by Lake Ontario. Dairy farmers produce millions of gallons of milk each week, making New York a top U.S. dairy state. A mineral called *wollastonite* is used to make tile, matches, car bumpers, and materials to clean teeth. The only place in the United States to mine it is in Willsboro.

History

Time Line

	Thousands of years ago, the Iroquois and Algonquian tribes live in the New York area	
AD 1600		
AD 1609	Henry Hudson sails up the Hudson River	
1664	English troops take over the Dutch colony and name it New York	

1788 New York joins the United States as the 11th state

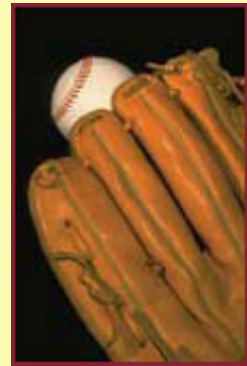


1800

1825 The Erie Canal is completed

1835 New York's worst fire destroys much of the original city

1845 New York organizes the first baseball team, the Knickerbockers



1851 The *New York Times* is first published



1883 The Brooklyn Bridge links Brooklyn and Manhattan




1886 The Statue of Liberty is dedicated

1900

1901 President William McKinley is assassinated in Buffalo, New York



1923 Yankee Stadium opens

1929	The New York Stock Exchange crashes	
1931	The Empire State Building is completed	
1932	Lake Placid hosts the Winter Olympics	
1942	Times Square is blacked out during World War II	
1952	The United Nations Headquarters is finished	
1964–65	In a summer marked by white harassment of blacks, the Harlem Riot of 1964 breaks out in response to a white police officer killing a 15-year-old African American; thousands of New Yorkers participate in the week of riots; New York City hosts its third World's Fair	
1980	Lake Placid again hosts the Winter Olympics	
2000		
2001	Nearly three thousand people are killed when terrorists hijack two airliners and crash them into the World Trade Center	
2003	A major power outage strikes across New York, several other eastern states, and parts of Canada	
2008	David Paterson becomes the first African American and the first legally blind governor of New York	
2011	New York legalizes same-sex marriage; the ongoing protest movement Occupy Wall Street begins in the financial district, leading to similar occupied protests and movements against social inequality and dishonesty around the world	

2012

Hurricane Sandy strikes New York, causing evacuations, power outages, and flooding across the state

PRESENT

Iroquois Federation



Dekanawidah, a Huron, dreamed that one day the five Iroquois tribes in the region would stop fighting each other. However, Dekanawidah stuttered, and no one took him seriously except for his friend Hiawatha, a Mohawk. Together, they called for a peace council. The *sachems*, or “peace chiefs,” from the tribes agreed to try peace. They created the Iroquois Confederacy. This federation united the Iroquois against all other tribes. It later expanded to include six tribes with the addition of the Tuscarora in 1722. The federation lasted more than two hundred years, until the confederacy split over the Revolutionary War. Today, many descendants of the Iroquois live on reservations in western and northern New York.

The Dutch West India Company

Dutch merchants created the Dutch West India Company in order to secure a *monopoly* (when one company controls the trade of goods) over trade in the West Indies and the Americas. They needed volunteers to settle the New York land, so they promised that any person who convinced 50 settlers to move to New York (which was called New Netherland at the time) within four years would get more land. These new landholders were called *patroons*. Towns grew rapidly. Soon, more than 20 languages and many different religions were represented in the colony.

At this time, the Dutch and the British fought a series of wars known as the Anglo-Dutch Wars for control of the seas and trade routes. The British first captured the colony of New Netherland in 1664. The Dutch West India Company refused to send military protection, and the settlers had no way to defend themselves. The Dutch governor, Peter Stuyvesant, finally chose to give up the colony to the British under the best terms he could reach. The Dutch recaptured New Netherland in 1673, but the British regained control the following year as part of the Treaty of Westminster, bringing an end to the Third Anglo-Dutch War.

The Battle of Saratoga



Almost one-third of American Revolutionary War battles took place in New York. The Battle of Saratoga was a turning point in the war. British General Burgoyne surrendered to American General Gates. The French heard of the surrender and decided that the Americans really had a chance to win the war. They entered the war to aid the American colonies. New York City became the temporary capital of the new nation in 1785.

Erie Canal



Before 1825, if you went from New York to the Midwest, it took weeks of traveling through marshes and over hard, rocky land. Governor Clinton of New York convinced the *legislature* (lawmaking body) to give him seven million dollars to build a canal. It linked Lake Erie with the Hudson River and was truly an engineering marvel. The canal helped New York City become the most important commercial city in the United States. All but two of New York’s biggest cities are along the Erie Canal.

Tammany Hall



Millions of immigrants poured into New York City in the 1800s. A group called Tammany Hall found jobs for immigrants in exchange for their votes. Tammany Hall unfairly controlled city and state elections. Even presidential candidates didn't want to upset this group. But many of these political "bosses" were dishonest and forced businesses to pay them money. Only a few politicians were brave enough to take on Tammany Hall. One of them, Theodore Roosevelt, later became the 26th U.S. president.

Harlem Renaissance



Many African Americans fled to northern cities during the 1920s in search of a better life. Harlem attracted talented musicians, poets, and authors. These artists often explored the themes of prejudice and unfulfilled dreams. Langston Hughes, Billie Holiday, Zora Neale Hurston, and Duke Ellington all came out of the Harlem Renaissance. Their works still inspire musicians and writers today.

September 11



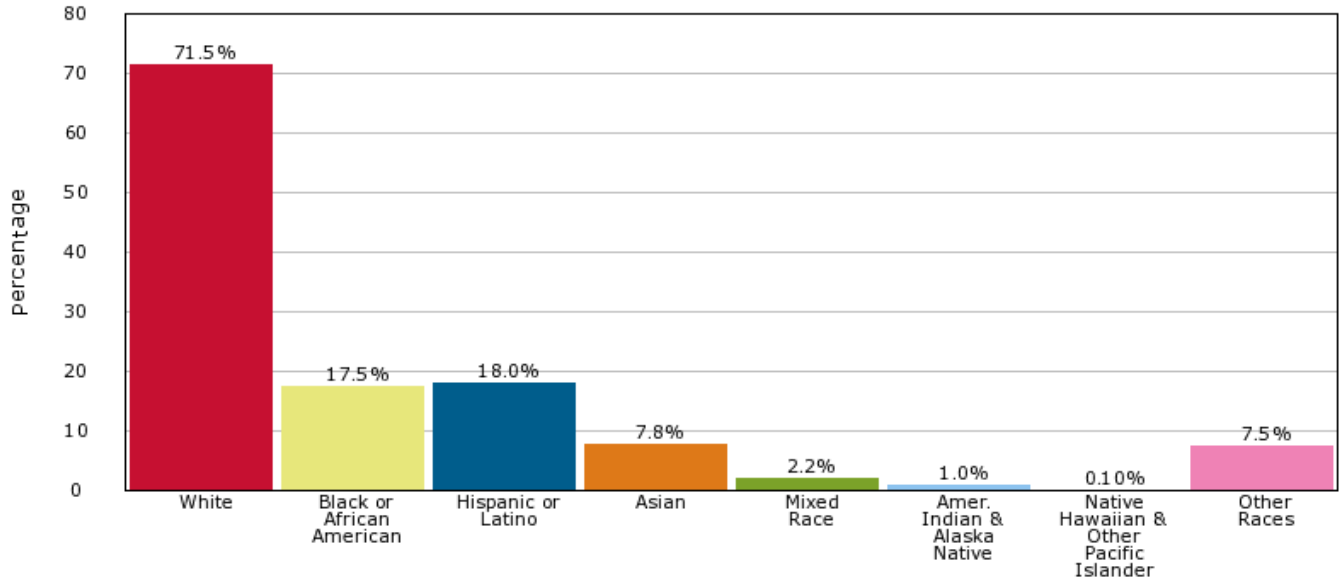
On 11 September 2001, terrorists hijacked four airliners. They flew two of the planes into the World Trade Center in New York City, causing the Trade Center's two massive towers to collapse. Another airliner was flown into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a fourth plane crashed in a field in western Pennsylvania. In all, close to three thousand people were killed.

The People

Population

Countryside and city areas of New York are completely different. City areas are home to a much larger variety of people. About 40 percent of all New Yorkers live in New York City alone. New Yorkers come from almost every country and speak more than 80 languages. Spanish is the second most spoken language. After New York City, the largest cities are Buffalo, Rochester, Yonkers, Syracuse, and Albany. New York City has the largest African American population of any city in the country.

Total Population: 19,465,197



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

Government



Capital: Albany
State Abbreviation: NY
Governor: Andrew Cuomo (Democrat)
U.S. Senators: 2
 Charles Schumer (Democrat)
 Kirsten Gillibrand (Democrat)
U.S. Representatives: 27
 Democrats: 18
 Republicans: 9
State Senators: 62
State Representatives: 150
Counties: 62

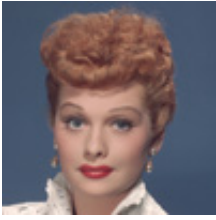
- In New York City, Democrats greatly outnumber Republicans. However, in the countryside, most people vote Republican.
- New York City alone has five counties.

Famous People



Woody Allen

Woody Allen — Academy Award–winning director and actor
George Balanchine — Choreographer for the New York City Ballet
Lucille Ball — Actress
Humphrey Bogart — Actor
Tom Cruise — Actor
Millard Fillmore — 13th U.S. president
Lou (Henry Louis) Gehrig — Baseball player
George Gershwin — Composer
Billy Joel — Musician
Madeleine L'Engle — Author of *A Wrinkle in Time*
Herman Melville — Author of *Moby Dick*



Lucille Ball

Rosie O'Donnell — Comedian and actress
John D. Rockefeller — Industrialist, philanthropist, and founder of the Standard Oil Company
Eleanor Roosevelt — U.S. first lady and ambassador
Franklin Delano Roosevelt — 32nd U.S. president
Theodore Roosevelt — 26th U.S. president
Joseph Smith Jr. — Religious leader
Elizabeth Cady Stanton — Suffragist
Barbra Streisand — Academy Award-winning singer, actress, and director
Martin Van Buren — 8th U.S. president



Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Barbra Streisand

Native America



Centuries before European explorers arrived, the area that is now New York was occupied by the great Iroquois Confederacy. The confederacy was made up of five related tribes: the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, and Seneca. They were later joined by the Tuscarora to become a six-member confederacy. They were based in what is now central New York, and their reign extended over an area reaching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. The tribes farmed the land and lived in separate communities led by local chiefs. Each community elected an official to send to the head council over all the Iroquois. This council was in charge of major decisions that would affect the entire confederacy. Families lived in longhouses covered with tree bark.

When European explorers arrived, the native peoples began trading fur with the Europeans in exchange for guns, alcohol, and other goods. When conflict arose between the natives and the newcomers, the tribes often gave up land in an attempt to be left alone. The confederacy was still strong by the time of the American Revolution. Many of the tribes fought with the colonists against the British and were given sections of land as reward for their services. However, these treaties were not honored, and the natives were forced to live on reservations or leave their homeland.

Today, there are seven federally recognized tribes in New York. These include the Oneida, Seneca, Cayuga, and Onondaga nations. Their members descend from the original members of the Iroquois Confederacy. Several of these tribes are working to regain some of the reservation land they were originally given by the United States government and that was later lost to the state of New York. They hold regular powwows and celebrations to keep their traditions alive and to remind their youth of their long history. Another way they keep their history alive is by interviewing tribal elders and recording their stories and memories for future generations.

Cultural Notes

Juilliard



Located at the Lincoln Center in New York City, the Juilliard School trains some of the best musicians, actors, and dancers in the world. Juilliard was founded in 1905, at a time when serious American musicians had to travel to Europe to study and train. The founders wanted the school to be the most respected music academy in America. Originally, it had a hundred students but has now grown to accommodate eight hundred students, who can choose to focus on music, dance, or theater. Applying to Juilliard is a competitive process, ending with the most important portion—a live audition in front of a panel of Juilliard faculty members. The school also offers a pre-college division for elementary, junior high, and high school students.

The Yankees



New York has inspired many athletes, who then inspire the nation and the world. Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Mickey Mantle thrilled baseball fans everywhere with their exploits at Yankee Stadium. The New York Yankees are one of the most popular sports teams in the world. They are also the most successful Major League Baseball team, winning 27 World Series titles, more championships than any other sports team in North America. The Yankees and the Boston Red Sox have one of the longest running rivalries in sports history, dating back more than a hundred years to when the Red Sox sold Babe Ruth to the Yankees. The Yankees are known for their classic pinstripe uniforms and their extremely loyal fans, who often follow their team on the road.

Fun Facts & Contacts

State Symbols

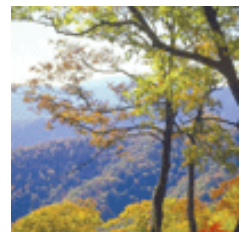
State Bird

Eastern bluebird—Strangely enough, the bluebird is red-breasted. It is one of the first birds to fly home after spending a warm winter down south.



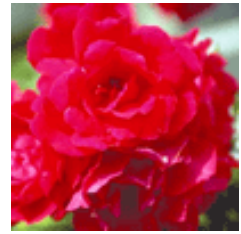
State Tree

Sugar maple—Maple leaves turn brilliant reds, oranges, and yellows in the fall. The tree is used for furniture, firewood, and maple syrup.



State Flower

Rose—The rose beat the goldenrod and daisy when schoolchildren voted in 1890, but it wasn't until 1955 that the rose was officially adopted.



State Animal

Beaver—Early settlers bought beaver skins from Native Americans and sold them abroad to make clothes and hats.



Other Symbols

- Beverage: Milk
- Fish: Brook, or speckled, trout
- Fossil: Sea scorpion
- Fruit: Apple
- Gemstone: Garnet
- Insect: Ladybug
- Muffin: Apple muffin
- Shell: Bay scallop
- Snack: Yogurt
- Song: "I Love New York"

State Motto

Excelsior—This is Latin for "Ever Upward."

Major League Sports Teams

- Buffalo Bills (NFL)
- Buffalo Sabres (NHL)
- New York Giants (NFL)
- New York Islanders (NHL)
- New York Jets (NFL)
- New York Knicks (NBA)
- New York Liberty (WNBA)
- New York Mets (MLB)
- New York Rangers (NHL)
- New York Yankees (MLB)
- New York Red Bulls (MLS)
- Brooklyn Nets (NBA)
- New York Lizards (MLL)
- Rochester Rattlers (MLL)
- Western New York Flash (NWSL)

For More Information

See www.ny.gov or contact the New York State Division of Tourism, phone (800) CALL-NYS; web site www.iloveny.com.

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New York

EXTREMES

Colest: The lowest recorded temperature was -52°F (-47°C) at Old Forge on 18 February 1979.

Highest: The highest point is Mount Marcy, at 5,344 feet (1,629 m).

Hottest: The highest recorded temperature was 108°F (42°C) at Troy on 22 July 1926.

Lowest: The lowest point is the Atlantic Ocean.

