



New Jersey State History ~ In a Nutshell ~

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New Jersey State History In a Nutshell
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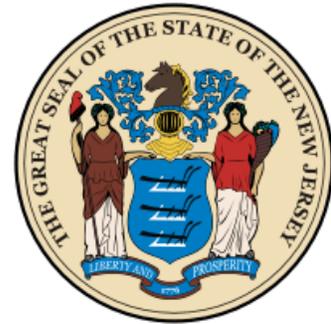
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What is the "In a Nutshell" series?

This is a series of concise, easy to understand information on many popular topics. You will find that many of products in this series can also be found as part of larger publications and/or curriculum on the publisher's website. At the end of each book, you will find a list of questions that may be used to help you review the material.

New Jersey State History Lapbook Journal Study Guide



The Great Seal of New Jersey

Welcome to New Jersey. New Jersey ratified the U.S. Constitution in 1787 becoming the third state to do so, and was the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights in 1789.

New Jersey is an aggressively industrial state, and has been throughout U.S. history. As far back as 1791, when Alexander Hamilton chose the Great Falls of the Passaic River as the site of a model factory town, industry began to shape the state.

Then, throughout the 19th century, New Jersey saw transportation feed industry, as canals, railroads, roads, and ports were built. And on into the 20th century, as its highway and transportation systems improved, it has continued to reign as one of the leading industrial states in the country.

Tourism is the second-largest industry in New Jersey. There are numerous attractions to enjoy in New Jersey, from the mountains of the northwest to the white sandy beaches of the Jersey Shore. Atlantic City with its fine dining, shopping and the famous Boardwalk welcomes and attracts visitors from around the world.

STATE NAME

Sir John Berkley and Sir George Carteret received a royal charter for a colony in the new land and named this colony for the island of Jersey in the English Channel. Carteret had been born on Jersey and had spent several years as Lieutenant Governor of the island.

STATE CITIZENS

People who live in New Jersey or who come from New Jersey are called New Jerseyites or New Jerseyans.

STATEHOOD

On December 18, 1787, New Jersey became the 3rd state to be admitted into the Union.



STATE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of the State of New Jersey is the basic governing document of the State of New Jersey. New Jersey has been governed by three constitutions. The first was issued on July 2, 1776, shortly before New Jersey ratified the United States Declaration of Independence; the second was issued in 1844; and the current document was issued in 1947.

New Jersey's first state constitution was adopted on July 2, 1776. The American Revolutionary War was underway and George Washington recently had been defeated in New York, putting the state in danger of invasion. The 1776 New Jersey State Constitution was drafted in five days and ratified within the next two days to establish a temporary government, thereby preventing New Jersey from collapsing and descending into anarchy. Among other provisions, it granted unmarried women and blacks who met property requirements the right to vote. It did not specify an amendment procedure and had to be replaced entirely in a constitutional convention.

The succeeding constitution, adopted on June 29, 1844, restricted suffrage to white males. It separated the government's powers into judicial, legislative, and executive branches and granted the people (as opposed to the legislature) the ability to elect a governor. It also formally limited state debt, a predecessor of many contemporary "debt ceiling" clauses. The constitution was amended in 1875, mainly to conform to the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. Additionally, the state's amendments required that the legislature provide for a free public school system.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Jersey_State_Constitution

New Jersey's third and current constitution was adopted in 1947. The governor's powers were increased and his or her term in office was extended to four years. The state court system was also reorganized.

Today, the constitution can be changed through amendments. Amendments can be proposed by the legislature. Three-fifths of both houses of the legislature must approve an amendment. It can also pass by receiving a majority vote for two straight years. Voters must also approve amendments in the general election.

PREAMBLE: *We, the people of the State of New Jersey, grateful to Almighty God for the civil and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing upon our endeavors to secure and transmit the same unimpaired to succeeding generations, do ordain and establish this Constitution.*

STATE GOVERNMENT

The government of the State of New Jersey, like that of the United States, is divided into three coequal branches: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. The principal function of the Legislature is to enact laws. The Executive Branch (the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and State agencies) carries out the programs established by law. The Judiciary (the Supreme Court and lower courts) punishes violators, settles controversies and disputes, and is the final authority on the meaning and constitutionality of laws.

Executive Branch

The chief of the executive branch is the governor. The governor's office is located in the State House in Trenton. The governor signs bills into law or vetoes them. He or she can also recommend laws and call the legislature into special session. The governor has the power to grant pardons and is the only person with the authority to call in the National Guard.

The governor's official residence is a mansion called Drumthwacket, which is located in Princeton. The governor may use the mansion for meetings, ceremonies, and other sorts of business.

The governor may serve any number of terms, but he or she cannot serve more than two terms in a row. To become governor, a person must be

- at least 30 years old,
- U.S. citizen for at least 20 years, and
- New Jersey resident for seven years prior to the election.

Supporting the governor is his or her staff. The governor's staff deals with the media and makes his or her schedule. Certain staff members may also write speeches or do research to help the governor make policy decisions. Staff also informs the heads of different departments and legislative leaders about the governor's agenda.

In addition to the Governor's Office, there are 16 executive departments and many boards and commissions. Most executive officials serve four-year terms. The executive departments carry

out the policies set by the governor. The officials who lead these agencies are appointed by the governor and approved by the state Senate. Officials appointed by the governor include the following:

- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- State Treasurer
- Commissioners of the Departments of Agriculture, Banking and Insurance, Commerce, Community Affairs, Corrections, Education, Environmental Protection, Health and Senior Services, Human Services, Labor, Military and Veterans Affairs, Personnel, and Transportation
- Judges (including the State Supreme Court)
- County Prosecutors
- County Boards of Election and Taxation
- Members of Boards and Commissions

Legislative Branch

The Senate and General Assembly make up the legislative branch. The Senate has 40 members, and the General Assembly has 80 members. One senator and two assembly members are elected from each of the 40 districts of New Jersey. The Senate and Assembly chambers are located in the State House in Trenton.

The Legislature's main job is to enact laws. The Legislature can also propose amendments to the New Jersey Constitution.

The Senate and General Assembly meet for about 40 sessions a year. Sessions are held on Mondays and Thursdays. During the rest of the week, the legislators often hold committee meetings or public hearings. Since the legislature does not meet year-round, legislative work is a part-time job. Most legislators have another job as well.

The leader of the Senate is the Senate President. The Speaker of the General Assembly heads the General Assembly.

The President and the Speaker schedule meetings and determine which bills will be considered within their respective houses. They also lead the legislative sessions.

While both houses work on making and passing laws, the Senate and Assembly have individual powers, too. The Senate approves the people that the governor appoints to official positions. The Assembly is the only group that can bring impeachment charges. Impeachment is a charge of misconduct against an official. But the Senate is the court of impeachment in New Jersey, where the charges are tried. Any bills requiring revenue to be raised start out in the Assembly, but by custom, the Senate handles the state budget.

A legislator must live in the district he or she represents. Senators must be

- at least 30 years old and
- state residents of New Jersey for at least four years prior to election.

Members of the Assembly must be

- at least 21 years old and
- state residents of New Jersey for at least two years prior to election.

There is also leadership within the political parties in both houses. The majority and minority leaders and the assistant leaders come up with the each party's policies on the issues raised in the bills. Additionally, there are many committees that review legislation.

The legislative branch is also made up of a number of staff members. The Office of Legislative Services provides legal advice and research to members of both political parties. They also take care of writing the bills. In addition, each party has its own staff that performs similar functions, but only for that party. Each legislator also has his or her own district office with a full staff.

Judicial Branch

The judicial branch decides how state laws should be applied. The governor appoints judges to the Supreme and Superior courts with the Senate's approval. The judges serve seven-year terms, but after they have been re-appointed once, they can serve until they are 70.

The highest court in the judiciary branch is the state Supreme Court. This court hears cases involving constitutional problems and other major matters. The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and six associate justices.

The chief justice investigates complaints against the courts, supervises the clerks and court workers, and oversees the court finances.

The state Superior Court is divided into the Appellate, Law, and Chancery divisions. Superior Court is where most trials take place. The Appellate Division hears appeals of decisions from lower courts and state agencies. Law hears cases in its Criminal Division and Civil Division. Criminal deals with people accused of crimes while Civil deals with lawsuits. Chancery consists of a General Equity Division and Family Division. General Equity cases involve matters such as contracts. The Family Division deals with family and children's legal matters.

Source: http://www.state.nj.us/hangout_nj/government.html

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government in New Jersey is more complex than in most U.S. states. With five *types* and twelve *forms* of local government (plus several non-standard forms in municipalities with special charters), some areas of New Jersey are administered significantly differently from other states.

All of New Jersey is included in one of the state's 21 counties and part of the state's 566 municipalities. That means there are no independent cities or consolidated city-counties in New Jersey. There is no unincorporated territory.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_government_in_New_Jersey

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

The legislative branch of the United States government makes laws for our nation and raises and distributes money to run the United States government. The most evident part of the legislative branch is the United States Congress. Congress is divided into two parts, called houses. The two parts are the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress is referred to as a bicameral body because it is made up of two houses. The Latin roots of the word bicameral, "bi" and "cameral," mean two chambers or rooms.

Members of the Senate are called Senators and members of the House of Representatives are called Representatives. Senators and representatives serving in these two bodies are sometimes referred to as congressmen, or women, and sometimes as legislators because their business is to legislate or make laws. The role of the legislative branch is defined in the United States Constitution.

Each state elects people to represent them in the United States Congress in Washington, DC. The citizens of each state elect two senators to represent them in the Senate. They also elect representatives to represent them in the House of Representatives. The number of representatives each state sends to the House of Representatives is not a specific number like the Senate, but is based on the population of the state. The people, that are elected to represent the state's citizens in the United States Congress, are referred to as the Congressional Delegation.

There are 100 senators in the U.S. Senate. Each is elected to a term, in the Senate, of six years. There are 435 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each is elected to a term, in the "House," of two years.

The citizens of New Jersey elect two people, like every other state, to represent them in the Senate and thirteen people, based on New Jersey's current population in the most recent federal census, to represent them in the House of Representatives.

STATE SEAL

New Jersey's state seal was adopted in 1777 as the legislature met on the second floor of the Indian King Tavern in Haddonfield.

Skirmishes between the Continental Army and the British made the northern part of the state an unstable place to meet, so the legislature left Trenton and used the inn's facilities. The Indian King served well as an assembly place, and it was here that Pierre Eugene du Simitere's design for the state seal was accepted.



Symbols on the state seal: the three plows on the shield honor the state's agricultural tradition. The helmet above the shield faces forward, an attitude denoting sovereignty and thus particularly fitting for one of the first governments created under the notion that the state itself is the

sovereign. The crest above the helmet is a horse's head (the horse is also New Jersey's official state animal).

The supporting female figures are Liberty and Ceres (Roman goddess of grain - a symbol of abundance). Liberty carries the liberty cap on her staff and Ceres holds a cornucopia filled with harvested produce.

Liberty originally held her staff in the crook of her arm rather than her right hand. The female figures now face straight ahead but once looked away from the shield. The cornucopia that Ceres holds upright was once inverted, its open end upon the ground. In 1928 the year of statehood (1776) first appeared in Arabic figures.

A banner below the shield proclaims "Liberty and Prosperity", and across the top arc of the shield are the words "The Great Seal of the State of New Jersey."

STATE CAPITAL (Trenton)



The New Jersey State House is located in Trenton, the capital city of New Jersey. The New Jersey State House is the second oldest still in use today (Maryland has the oldest.) For more than 200 years, New Jersey Senators, Assemblymen, and Governors have been making the laws of the state in this building.

In 1999, the restoration of the State House dome was completed. The project began in October, 1996. The dome is covered with 48,000 pieces of gold leaf. Each piece of gold leaf cost \$1.00 and was paid for with money raised by New Jersey school kids through the "Dimes for the Dome" program. As a thank you for their contributions, the dome stands in honor of New Jersey children.

While the recent dome restoration cost more than \$9 million, the original State House cost only \$400 to construct. Architect Jonathan Doane designed the building, and it was completed in 1792. The building originally had a bell tower instead of a dome. The Senate and Assembly met on the first floor, and the Governor's office was on the second floor.

As New Jersey got more legislators, it needed a bigger State House. In 1845, famous architect John Notman began the project of enlarging and improving the building. Notman designed a rotunda with an 80-foot dome to connect the old building to a new structure. He also added a porch with eight pillars and modernized the Senate chamber. In 1872 the Capitol was further

renovated as new Senate and Assembly chambers were constructed. Architect Samuel Sloan oversaw the project.

Unfortunately, on March 21, 1885, most of the State House was destroyed in a devastating fire. The building blazed for hours. Luckily, no one was hurt, and the Governor's Office, Senate and Assembly chambers, and the courts remained standing. Most of the historical documents were saved as well, thanks to Notman's fireproofing of the building 40 years earlier. However, the walls and roof were weakened, and the rotunda and dome were destroyed.

In 1889, Lewis Broome began planning the repair of the State House. The rotunda and a new 145-foot dome were built, bigger and better than before. The dome is made of cast iron covered with copper and gold leaf. It weighs 205,640 pounds. The Latin phrase "Fiat Justitia Ruat Coelum" is written on the rotunda. It means "There must be justice even though the heavens fall."

Broome further expanded the State House in American Renaissance style with a three-story wing on State Street and a redesigned Assembly wing. Occasional expansions were made through 1912. The main corridor was updated in the 1950s, but no major structural changes have been made since then.

Today the State House continues to serve New Jersey as both a historical monument and a place of work.

Source: http://www.state.nj.us/hangout_nj/government_statehouse.html

STATE MOTTO

"Liberty and Prosperity"

New Jersey's state motto is "*Liberty and Prosperity*" (the state motto appears on New Jersey's great seal and state flag). New Jersey was the first state to sign the Bill of Rights.

STATE FLAG

The beautiful buff color of the New Jersey State flag dates all the way back to 1779 and the New Jersey Regiments mustered for the Revolutionary War. The color was chosen by General George Washington when he was directed by the Continental Congress to prescribe the uniform for the regiments of the New Jersey Continental Line.

General Washington directed that the coats of the soldiers should be dark blue faced with buff. These colors were chosen by General Washington to honor the original Dutch settlers of New Jersey. Dark Blue (Jersey Blue) and Buff were the colors of Holland or the Netherlands.



On February 28, 1780, the Continental War Officers directed that each regiment should carry two flags; one that of the United States and the other a state flag that should be the color of the Uniform facing and the New Jersey State Flag has carried that color with it for over 200 years.

In 1896, New Jersey made it official and properly described the New Jersey State Flag in a joint resolution of the legislature. The flag is described as "... shall be of a buff color, having in the center thereof the Arms of the state properly emblazoned thereon."

STATE NICKNAMES

The Garden State

This nickname seems to have originated at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia on Jersey Day, August 24, 1876. Alfred M. Heston states in his 1926 work, *Jersey Waggon Jaunts*, that "The Garden State" was used by Abraham Browning, of Camden. "In his address Mr. Browning compared New Jersey to an immense barrel, filled with good things to eat and open at both ends, with Pennsylvanians grabbing from one end and the New Yorkers from the other. He called New Jersey the Garden State, and the name has clung to it ever since."

In later years, the explanation has evolved to reference New Jersey truck farms that provide floral and agricultural produce to cities in the area instead of an "immense barrel." These farms have catered, particularly, to the New York and Philadelphia metropolitan areas. Some support the nickname with stories of the Revolutionary War and the food provided to soldiers by the small farms of New Jersey.

Probably the most intense promotion of this nickname for New Jersey began when the legislature voted to add the legend "Garden State" to New Jersey license plates in 1954, in spite of the Governor's refusal to sign the bill, in part because "New Jersey is noted for its great strides in manufacturing, mining, commerce, construction, power, transportation, shipping, merchandising, fishing and recreation, as well as in agriculture. I do not believe that the average citizen of New Jersey regards his state as more peculiarly identifiable with gardening for farming than any of its other industries or occupations."

The Clam State

This nickname refers to the clams taken off the coast and in the Delaware Bay. New Jersey is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the east.

The Camden & Amboy State

"The Camden & Amboy State" or "The State of Camden and Amboy" is a reference to the old Camden and Amboy railroad and highlights the powerful influence of this railroad in the state.

The Jersey Blue State

This historical nickname recalls the blue uniforms of the New Jersey Revolutionary War soldiers.

The Pathway of Revolution

Another nickname recalling the Revolutionary War period, "The Pathway of Revolution" is a reference to the battles fought on New Jersey soil during the war.

The Switzerland of America

New Jersey, like other states with mountainous areas, has been referred to as "The Switzerland of America." This reference, made by early settlers, was to the western part of the state and the Kittatinny range and to the Watchung, Sourland and Pickle mountains in the southeast. Perhaps the most famous are the Palisades along the Hudson River.

The Mosquito State

New Jersey has sometimes been referred to as "The Mosquito State" obviously in reference to the irritating, bloodthirsty little insects. New Jersey really does not have more of these insects than other states, and it is not clear how this appellation originated.

New Spain

"New Spain" or "The State of Spain" came about when Joseph Bonaparte, the King of Spain, fled to New Jersey around 1812. He bought about 1,400 acres of land in the state and built a "palatial mansion" where he entertained foreign dignitaries until 1822. It's rumored that Philadelphians were jealous of New Jersey's good fortune to have such an illustrious resident and they referred to New Jersey, humorously, as "New Spain" or "The State of Spain."

The Foreigner State

In the same vein as "New Spain," this nickname evolved from the humorous gibe to New Jersey, that it was a foreign land filled with foreigners under the social influence of the previous King of Spain. New Jersey was sometimes referred to as "The Foreign State."

STATE BIRD

New Jersey designated the American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) as the official state bird in 1935. Also called a wild canary, the goldfinch eats mainly seeds from dandelions, sunflowers, ragweed, and evening primrose.

The male goldfinch has a bright yellow body with black wings and tail, and black on top of his head. The female's plumage is more muted with an olive-yellow body and dark brown tail and wings (the male goldfinch also displays this same dull plumage in the winter months).



Below, you will find 15 general questions to help review what you have learned. Use the following page(s) for documenting your answers. Older students may choose to write a State Report as well.

Review Questions:

1. List the states and/or bodies of water that border this state.
2. What was the date of statehood?
3. What is the state capital?
4. What is the state motto?
5. Name at least one state nickname.
6. Describe the state flag.
7. What is the state bird?
8. What is the state flower?
9. List at least 5 other state symbols.
10. Describe this state's government.
11. Name the major imports and exports for this state.
12. Describe the weather and climate in this state.
13. List at least 5 famous people from this state.
14. Describe at least 5 significant events in this state's history.
15. What other interesting information have you learned about this state?

Answers to Review Questions:

