CONNECTICUT

THE CONSTITUTION STATE *Became a state January 9, 1788 (5th)*

Connecticut is one of the smallest states, but its people have long been busy making things. Clocks, submarines and famous books have all come from this corner of New England.



Why the Constitution State?

In the 1630s, English settlers built three towns along the Connecticut River: Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield. In January 1639 the towns agreed on written rules for governing themselves, called the Fundamental Orders. Some historians call them one of the first written constitutions, a plan that says how a government works. Others disagree. The nickname became official in 1959.



A Clock in Every Home

In 1800, a clockmaker working by hand finished only a few clocks a year. In 1807 a Connecticut clockmaker named Eli Terry agreed to make 4,000 wooden clock movements, the working insides of a clock, in three years. No clockmaker had ever made so many. Terry built water-powered machines that cut every part exactly alike, so any part fit any clock.



Mark Twain's Hartford Home

Samuel Clemens grew up beside the Mississippi River in Missouri and wrote under the name Mark Twain. In 1874 he moved his family into a new brick house in Hartford. During the 17 years he lived there, he published his most famous books, including The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.



The Last Wooden Whaleship

Before electric lights, people burned whale oil in their lamps. Whaling ships sailed from New London and Mystic on voyages that could last for years. For a time New London was the country's second-busiest whaling port. Today whales are protected. At Mystic Seaport, visitors can board the Charles W. Morgan, built in 1841, the last wooden whaleship in the world.



Under the North Pole

In 1954 a shipyard in Groton launched the Nautilus, the world's first submarine driven by nuclear power. Older submarines had to come up often for air to run their engines. The Nautilus could stay underwater for weeks. In 1958 it became the first ship to reach the North Pole, traveling beneath the Arctic ice. It is now a museum in Groton.



A Lake Made on Purpose

Candlewood Lake did not exist before 1928. A power company built a dam across a valley, then pumped water uphill from the Housatonic River to help fill it. When people needed more electricity, the water ran back down through a pipe and spun machines that made power. Farmland and the small community of Jerusalem were flooded to make the lake.

BY THE NUMBERS

Population	About 3.7 million (29th most)
Size	About 5,500 square miles (3rd smallest)
Highest point	South slope of Mount Frissell, 2,380 feet
Counties	8 in name only, with no county governments
Neighbors	New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island

DID YOU KNOW?

- The top of Mount Frissell is in Massachusetts. Connecticut's highest point is a spot on the mountain's side.
- The actor who built Gillette Castle was famous for playing the detective Sherlock Holmes on stage. His castle has 24 rooms.
- The first telephone directory came out in New Haven in 1878. It listed 50 names and no phone numbers.
- The story goes that in 1687 colonists hid Connecticut's charter in a hollow oak tree to keep it from the king's governor.

FIND IT ON THE MAP

1. Which city is closest to Yale University?
2. Which red gemstone is used to make sandpaper?
3. Which city is the largest in Connecticut?

Answers: 1. New Haven 2. Almandine Garnet 3. Bridgeport