

MAINE

HISTORY

Wabanaki nations, French and English settlers, loggers and shipbuilders each helped build Maine.

People of the Dawnland

People have lived in Maine for about 12,000 years. The Native nations here are called the Wabanaki, which means People of the Dawnland. They include the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, Mi'kmaq and Abenaki. They hunted moose and deer, fished, dug clams and traveled the rivers in birchbark canoes. In the south they also grew corn, beans and squash.

Two Early Colonies

In 1604, French settlers with Samuel de Champlain built a **colony** on St. Croix Island. Many of them died that winter, and the rest moved away. In 1607, English settlers built Popham Colony at the mouth of the Kennebec River. They built a small ship named Virginia and sailed home after about a year. English fishing and trading posts lasted longer. In the 1650s, Massachusetts took charge of Maine.

Wars for Maine

England and France both wanted Maine. Most Wabanaki were **allies** of the French, their trading partners. Six wars were fought here between 1675 and 1763. Wabanaki and French fighters burned English towns, including York in 1692, and took captives. In 1724, English soldiers attacked the Abenaki town of Norridgewock and killed many people there. Britain beat France in 1763. Many Abenaki moved to Canada. In later **treaties** with Massachusetts, the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy

gave up most of their land and kept reservations. Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet and Mi'kmaq people live in Maine today.

A New State

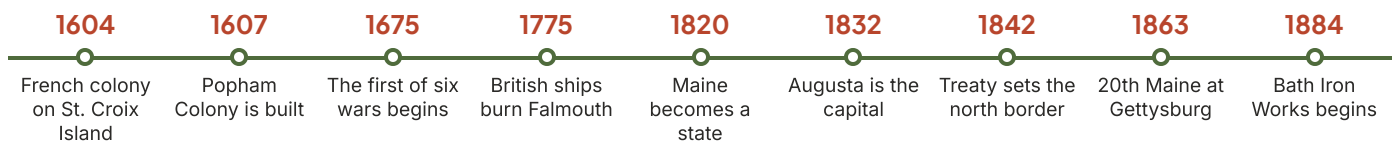
In 1775, during the American Revolution, the men of Machias captured a British navy ship. That fall, British ships burned Falmouth, the town that is now Portland. In the War of 1812, British troops held eastern Maine. Afterward, Maine voters chose to leave Massachusetts. Maine became the 23rd state on March 15, 1820. Under the Missouri Compromise, Maine joined as a free state, with no slavery, and Missouri was allowed to join as a slave state. Augusta became the capital in 1832. A treaty with Britain set the northern border in 1842.



Building Maine

Settlers cleared farms and built towns, schools and sawmills. Loggers floated pine logs down the rivers to Bangor, a leading lumber port. **Shipyards** in Bath and other coast towns launched wooden sailing ships. Workers cut ice from the Kennebec River and granite from the coast and shipped both to far cities. Mills beside the falls at Lewiston and Biddeford wove cloth. Many French Canadian families came to work in them. In the Civil War, Joshua Chamberlain led the 20th Maine at Gettysburg. Later, big paper mills rose beside the rivers.

MAINE THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Samoset	Abenaki leader who greeted the Pilgrims.
Henry W. Longfellow	Poet born in Portland in 1807.
Joshua Chamberlain	Civil War general, then governor.
L.L. Bean	Started his boot company in Freeport.
Margaret Chase Smith	Served in the U.S. House and Senate.

WORDS TO KNOW

colony	a settlement ruled by a faraway country
ally	a friend who takes your side in a war
treaty	a written agreement between nations
shipyard	a place where ships are built