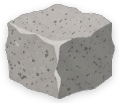
NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE GRANITE STATE *Became a state June 21, 1788 (9th)*

New Hampshire is a small New England state of rocky mountains, thick forests and clear lakes. Its people are proud of their independence, and the state motto is Live Free or Die.



Why the Granite State?

Granite is a hard, speckled rock, and New Hampshire is full of it. Workers cut it from quarries, which are open pits dug into the rock. Granite from Concord went into the State House and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Granite ledges called the Old Man of the Mountain looked like a giant face until they fell in 2003.



The Railway to the Moon

Sylvester Marsh wanted to build a railroad up Mount Washington. The story goes that one lawmaker joked he might as well build it to the moon. Marsh finished it in 1869. A toothed wheel under the engine grips a ladder-like rail and pulls the train up the steep slope. It was the world's first mountain-climbing cog railway.



First to Vote

Every four years, New Hampshire holds the first primary, an early vote that helps each party choose who will run for president. In tiny Dixville Notch the voting starts at midnight, a tradition that began in 1960. State law lets a polling place close once every registered voter has voted. With so few voters, that can take only minutes.



A Library for Everyone

In 1833 the town of Peterborough tried something new. Led by its minister, Abiel Abbot, the town used tax money to buy books that anyone could borrow for free. The books were kept at the general store, and the postmaster was the librarian. It is known as the first tax-supported free public library in the United States.



The Gunpowder Raid

In December 1774, Paul Revere rode to Portsmouth to sound an alarm. Several hundred colonists stormed the British fort at the mouth of the harbor, where the lighthouse stands. They overpowered the six men on guard and carried off about 100 barrels of gunpowder. Nobody was killed. The first battles of the Revolutionary War came four months later.



The Mountain That Stands Alone

Mount Monadnock rises 3,165 feet, nearly 1,000 feet higher than any peak within 30 miles. Its name probably comes from Abenaki words for a smooth or lonely mountain. Scientists borrowed the word. Today a monadnock is any lone mountain of hard rock left standing after the softer land around it has worn away.

BY THE NUMBERS

Population	About 1.4 million (10th fewest)
Size	About 9,350 square miles (5th smallest)
Highest point	Mount Washington, 6,288 feet
Counties	10
Neighbors	Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Canada to the north

DID YOU KNOW?

- New Hampshire has the shortest ocean coastline of any state. It is less than 20 miles long.
- Wind on top of Mount Washington was once measured at 231 miles per hour.
- In 1776 New Hampshire became the first colony to set up its own government, free of British rule.
- The state is named for Hampshire, a county in England.

FIND IT ON THE MAP

1. What is New Hampshire's largest city?
2. Which city is closest to the Maple Syrup bucket?
3. In what year did the Cog Railway open?

Answers: 1. Manchester 2. Berlin 3. 1869