

NEW HAMPSHIRE

HISTORY

Abenaki families, English fishermen, farmers and mill workers each helped build New Hampshire.

The First Peoples

People have lived in New Hampshire for about 12,000 years. The Abenaki lived along its rivers and lakes. One Abenaki group, the Pennacook, lived in the Merrimack River valley. They grew corn, beans and squash, hunted deer and moose, and caught fish at the river falls. They traveled in birchbark canoes. Many places still carry Native names, such as Winnepesaukee and Merrimack.



An English Colony

In 1623, English settlers built fishing and trading posts along the coast and the Piscataqua River, where Rye and Dover are now. Captain John Mason was given the land and named it New Hampshire. He never saw it. Four towns grew first: Portsmouth, Dover, Exeter and Hampton. Massachusetts ran them for almost 40 years. In 1679, the king made New Hampshire its own **colony**. Settlers fished, farmed and cut timber. The tallest white pines were saved for the king's navy to use as ship **masts**.

Wars on the Frontier

England and France fought four wars over this part of America between 1689 and 1763. Most Abenaki were **allies** of the French. In 1689, Pennacook fighters attacked Dover. They killed about two dozen settlers and took others captive. Settlers and soldiers raided Native villages too. In 1759, Robert Rogers and his rangers burned the Abenaki town of St. Francis in

Canada. Britain beat France in 1763. Many Abenaki moved north to Canada, and others stayed. Abenaki people live in New Hampshire today.

A New State

In January 1776, New Hampshire set up its own government. John Stark led New Hampshire soldiers at Bunker Hill and won the Battle of Bennington in 1777. Some enslaved Africans worked in Portsmouth homes, shops and ships. Slavery faded out in the state after the Revolution. On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire became the ninth state to approve the United States Constitution. Nine states were needed, so its vote put the new government to work. Concord became the capital in 1808.



Building New Hampshire

Settlers cleared stony farms and built stone walls, towns, schools and roads. Dartmouth College was founded in 1769. In 1827, a Concord shop began building Concord coaches. These strong stagecoaches carried people across the West. Rivers gave power to mills. At Manchester, the Amoskeag mills on the Merrimack River made cotton **textiles**. They grew into one of the largest mill yards in the world. Workers came from Canada, Ireland and other countries to run the looms. Railroads reached the mountains, and big hotels opened for summer visitors. In 1944, leaders from 44 nations met at a hotel in Bretton Woods to plan world money rules.

NEW HAMPSHIRE THROUGH TIME

1623	1679	1769	1788	1808	1827	1905	1944	1961
First English settlements	Becomes its own colony	Dartmouth College is founded	Becomes the 9th state	Concord is the capital	First Concord coach is built	Treaty of Portsmouth is signed	Bretton Woods meeting	Alan Shepard flies into space

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Passaconaway	Pennacook leader in the 1600s.
John Stark	General who wrote "Live free or die."
Daniel Webster	Famous speaker and U.S. senator.
Sarah Josepha Hale	Wrote "Mary Had a Little Lamb."
Alan Shepard	Born in Derry. First American in space.

WORDS TO KNOW

colony	a settlement ruled by a faraway country
mast	the tall pole that holds up a ship's sails
ally	a friend who takes your side in a war
textile	cloth made by weaving thread