NEW JERSEY

THE GARDEN STATE *Became a state December 18, 1787 (3rd)*

New Jersey is one of the smallest states, yet it is the most crowded of all. Between its busy cities lie vegetable farms, pine forests and long sandy beaches.



Why the Garden State?

New Jersey sits between two big cities, New York and Philadelphia, and its farms have long helped feed both. The story goes that in 1876 a lawyer named Abraham Browning called it the Garden State. He compared the state to a barrel of food, open at both ends, with Pennsylvanians eating from one end and New Yorkers from the other.



Christmas Night on the Delaware

Late in 1776, George Washington's army was cold, tired and losing the war. On Christmas night he led about 2,400 soldiers across the Delaware River through sleet and snow. In the morning they surprised the Hessians at Trenton, German soldiers hired by the British, and captured nearly 1,000 of them. The victory gave Americans new hope.



The Invention Factory

In 1887 Thomas Edison built a large laboratory in West Orange and worked there for more than 40 years. His teams developed the motion picture camera, better phonographs for playing recorded sound and a new kind of battery. They also built the Black Maria, known as the world's first movie studio. It could turn to keep sunlight on the actors.



Taming the Blueberry

Blueberries once grew only in the wild. Elizabeth White, who lived on her family's cranberry farm in the Pine Barrens, wanted to farm them. She paid local woodsmen one to three dollars for each wild bush they found with extra-large berries. A government scientist, Frederick Coville, helped her raise the best plants. In 1916 they sold their first crop.



A Waterfall That Ran Factories

The Great Falls of the Passaic River drop 77 feet. Alexander Hamilton, one of the nation's founders, saw all that falling water as power. In 1791 he helped start a company to build a factory city beside the falls. It was named Paterson. Canals called raceways carried water to the mills, which made cloth, paper and locomotives.



The Forest on the Sand

The Pine Barrens cover about a fifth of New Jersey. Settlers called the land barren because its sandy soil was too poor for crops. Pitch pines grow there anyway. Some of their cones stay sealed until a forest fire heats them open, so new trees sprout after a fire. Beneath the sand lies a huge store of fresh water.

BY THE NUMBERS

Population	About 9.5 million (11th most)
Size	About 8,700 square miles (4th smallest)
Highest point	High Point, 1,803 feet
Counties	21
Neighbors	New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware

DID YOU KNOW?

- New Jersey is named for Jersey, an island in the English Channel.
- Almost 300 battles and smaller fights of the Revolutionary War took place in New Jersey.
- Around Sterling Hill Mine, about 90 kinds of minerals glow in bright colors under ultraviolet light.
- Legend says a winged creature called the Jersey Devil has haunted the Pine Barrens since 1735.

FIND IT ON THE MAP

1. Which state lies west of New Jersey?
2. Which city is closest to Washington Crossing?
3. In what year was Princeton University founded?

Answers: 1. Pennsylvania 2. Trenton 3. 1746