

NEW JERSEY

HISTORY

New Jersey lies between two big rivers and two big cities. Lenape people, Dutch, Swedes, English and Americans all had a hand in building it.

The First Peoples

People have lived in New Jersey for more than 10,000 years. By the 1600s, the Lenape lived all across it. They grew corn, beans and squash, hunted deer and fished. In summer, many families went to the shore to gather clams and oysters.

Dutch, Swedes and English

In 1609, Henry Hudson explored the coast for the Dutch. Dutch traders came for furs, and Swedes settled along the Delaware River. In 1643, Dutch soldiers attacked a Lenape camp at Pavonia and killed many people. Lenape warriors and their allies then burned Dutch farms. The two sides made peace in 1645. In 1660 the Dutch built the village of Bergen, now part of Jersey City. England took the **colony** in 1664 and named it New Jersey.

Farms and Treaties

English, Dutch and Scottish settlers bought land from the Lenape and cleared farms. In the 1758 **Treaty** of Easton, the Lenape gave up their claims to New Jersey land for a payment. The colony set aside land called Brotherton for those who stayed. Those families later sold it and moved to New York. Most Lenape had already moved west. Lenape families live in New Jersey today.

Crossroads of the Revolution

New Jersey lay between New York and Philadelphia, so armies crossed it again and again. After his win at Trenton, George Washington beat the British at Princeton in January 1777. His army spent two hard winters camped at Morristown. In June 1778, the two armies fought all day at Monmouth, and the British marched away that night. On December 18, 1787, New Jersey became the third state.

Canals and Railroads

Workers dug the Morris **Canal** across the northern hills to carry Pennsylvania coal to Newark. The Delaware and Raritan Canal opened in 1834. In 1831, a steam engine called the John Bull began running on the Camden and Amboy Railroad. Enslaved people had worked on New Jersey farms since the 1600s. An 1804 law began to free them slowly, and slavery ended here for good in 1865.



Building Modern New Jersey

Paterson wove silk, Trenton made steel cable and pottery, and Camden canned soup. Many **immigrants** from Europe settled in the cities to work in them. At Menlo Park, Thomas Edison's team made a long-lasting light bulb in 1879. The George Washington Bridge joined New Jersey to New York City in 1931. In 1947, scientists at Bell Labs built the first transistor.

NEW JERSEY THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Oratam	Lenape leader. Made peace with the Dutch.
John Stevens	Built steamboats and railroads.
Clara Barton	Started a free school in Bordentown.
Thomas Edison	Inventor at Menlo Park and West Orange.
Alice Paul	Led marches for women's right to vote.

WORDS TO KNOW

colony	land ruled from far away
treaty	a written agreement between nations
canal	a waterway dug by people for boats
immigrant	a person who moves to a new country