NEW YORK

THE EMPIRE STATE *Became a state July 26, 1788 (11th)*

New York reaches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes. It holds the country's biggest city, and also mountains, forests and farms that many visitors never see.



A Colony Built on Beaver Fur

The first European settlers here were sent by the Dutch, and they came for fur. In 1624 a Dutch trading company brought about 30 families. Many settled along the Hudson River. They traded with Native nations for beaver pelts. In 1664 English warships sailed into the harbor of New Amsterdam, and the town gave up without a fight. It was renamed for the king's brother, the Duke of York.



Cannons Across the Snow

At dawn on May 10, 1775, Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys surprised the British soldiers at Fort Ticonderoga. Nobody was killed. That winter Henry Knox, a 25-year-old bookseller, hauled about 60 tons of captured cannons by boat and sled to Boston, about 300 miles away. Once the guns were aimed at the British, their army sailed away.



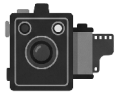
Clinton's Ditch

Governor DeWitt Clinton wanted to dig a canal, a waterway made by people, across New York. People laughed and called it Clinton's Ditch. Work began in 1817. Eight years later the canal ran 363 miles and was only four feet deep. Shipping by boat cost far less than by wagon. Rochester, Syracuse and Buffalo grew into cities along it.



Pennies for a Pedestal

The people of France gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States. It arrived by ship in 1885, packed in crates, but there was not enough money for the pedestal, or base, it would stand on. A New York newspaper asked readers for help. About 120,000 people sent money, most of them a dollar or less.



You Press the Button

George Eastman was a bank clerk in Rochester who became interested in photography. Back then, cameras used plates instead of film. Eastman and his company learned to make film on a roll. In 1888 he sold a camera called the Kodak, loaded with enough film for 100 pictures. His slogan was "You press the button, we do the rest."



A Waterfall on the Move

Niagara Falls formed more than 10,000 years ago, when the glaciers of the last ice age melted. Water from Lake Erie rushes down the Niagara River and drops over a cliff on its way to Lake Ontario. The pounding water wears away the rock. Since the falls formed, they have crept almost seven miles upstream.

BY THE NUMBERS

Population	About 20 million (4th most)
Size	About 54,600 square miles (27th largest)
Highest point	Mount Marcy, 5,344 feet
Counties	62
Neighbors	Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Canada to the north

DID YOU KNOW?

- No one knows who first called New York the Empire State. George Washington once wrote that it was "the seat of the empire."
- The Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois, joined five nations into one league long ago. Six nations belong today, and many members still live in New York.
- Adirondack Park covers about 6 million acres. It is the largest park in the lower 48 states.
- From 1892 to 1954, about 12 million people arriving from other countries passed through Ellis Island in New York Harbor.

FIND IT ON THE MAP

1. Which river flows south past Albany?
2. Which city is closest to the George Eastman Museum?
3. Who captured Fort Ticonderoga in 1775?

Answers: 1. The Hudson River 2. Rochester 3. The Green Mountain Boys