PENNSYLVANIA

THE KEYSTONE STATE *Became a state December 12, 1787 (2nd)*

Pennsylvania is where the United States got its start. The country's two most important documents were written here, and for ten years Philadelphia was the nation's capital.



Why the Keystone State?

A keystone is the wedge-shaped stone at the very top of an arch. It locks all the other stones in place. Pennsylvania sat in the middle of the 13 original colonies and played a key part in holding the new country together. That is why people began calling it the keystone.



Penn's Woods

In 1681, King Charles II of England gave a huge piece of land to William Penn. Penn was a Quaker, a member of a religious group that was often treated badly in England. He wanted a place where people could worship as they chose. The name means "Penn's Woods." Sylvania comes from the Latin word for forest, and Penn honors William's father, an admiral in the king's navy.



Where the Nation Began

In 1776, leaders from the colonies met at Independence Hall in Philadelphia and approved the Declaration of Independence. Eleven years later, the Constitution was written in the same building. Philadelphia was the nation's capital from 1790 to 1800, while Washington, D.C., was being built.



Oil, Coal and Steel

Pennsylvania powered a growing country. Near Titusville in 1859, Edwin Drake drilled the first well in the United States made to find oil and sell it. Miners in the northeast dug anthracite, a hard coal that burns hot with little smoke. Pittsburgh's mills made so much steel that it became known as the Steel City.



Three Days at Gettysburg

In July 1863, the largest battle of the Civil War was fought in the fields around the town of Gettysburg. The Union, or the North, won, and the war began to turn its way. That November, President Abraham Lincoln came to dedicate a cemetery for the soldiers and gave the Gettysburg Address, a speech only about 270 words long.



The Town That Chocolate Built

Milton Hershey's first two candy businesses failed. He kept trying, and his third, a caramel company, made him rich. In 1903 he began building a chocolate factory in the farm country where he was born, close to dairy farms that could supply fresh milk. Then he built a town around it for his workers, with houses, schools, a park and a trolley line.

BY THE NUMBERS

Population	About 13 million (5th most)
Size	About 46,000 square miles (33rd largest)
Highest point	Mount Davis, 3,213 feet
Counties	67
Neighbors	New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio

DID YOU KNOW?

- Pennsylvania's official name is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Three other states are called commonwealths too.
- Every February 2, crowds gather in Punxsutawney to see whether a groundhog named Phil sees his shadow.
- In Lancaster County, many Amish families do not own cars. They travel by horse and buggy.
- The Philadelphia Zoo is known as America's first zoo. It was planned in 1859 and opened in 1874.
- Pine Creek Gorge is about 47 miles long and more than 1,400 feet deep at its deepest point.

FIND IT ON THE MAP

1. Which Great Lake touches Pennsylvania?
2. Which city is closest to Independence Hall?
3. Which river flows past the capital?

Answers: 1. Lake Erie 2. Philadelphia 3. The Susquehanna River