VERMONT

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE *Became a state March 4, 1791 (14th)*

Vermont is a small state of forested mountains, dairy farms and little towns. Only Wyoming has fewer people, and for 14 years Vermont was a country of its own.



Why the Green Mountain State?

A long chain of forested mountains runs down the middle of Vermont like a backbone. The French words for green and mountain are vert and mont. In 1777 the people here put the two together and named their land Vermont. Mount Mansfield is the tallest peak. From the side, its ridge looks like the face of a person lying down.



A Country of Its Own

New York and New Hampshire once both claimed this land. Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys stood up for the New Hampshire side. In 1777 Vermont declared itself independent. It ran its own mail and made its own copper coins. The coins carried Latin words meaning the fourteenth star. In 1791 Vermont became the 14th state.



Forty Gallons for One

Late in winter, freezing nights and warmer days make sap flow inside sugar maple trees. Farmers collect the sap and boil it until most of the water is gone. It takes about 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. Native peoples of the Northeast were the first to make it. Vermont now makes about half of the country's syrup.



A Very Deep Hole

Near the city of Barre is a quarry about 600 feet deep. Workers have cut granite from it since about 1880. Barre granite is a gray stone that stands up well to weather, so it is used for monuments and statues. Skilled stonecutters came from Italy, Scotland and other countries to carve it.



One Small Horse

In 1792 a singing teacher named Justin Morgan was given a young horse to settle a debt. He brought it to Vermont. The horse, named Figure, was small, but he became known for pulling heavy loads and winning races. His foals took after him. Figure became the founding father of a whole breed, the Morgan horse.



Faces in the Rock

Beside the Connecticut River at Bellows Falls, two groups of faces are carved into the rock. Each has eyes and a mouth, and there are 24 in all. They are believed to be the work of the Abenaki, whose name means People of the Dawn Land. Their homeland covered most of northern New England. No one knows how old the carvings are.

BY THE NUMBERS

Population	About 645,000 (2nd fewest)
Size	About 9,600 square miles (45th largest)
Highest point	Mount Mansfield, 4,393 feet
Counties	14
Neighbors	New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, and Canada to the north

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1998 a new law counted Lake Champlain as one of the Great Lakes. The change lasted only 18 days.
- Montpelier has fewer people than any other state capital.
- The steamboat at Shelburne Museum was hauled there over land in 1955, riding on railroad tracks laid just for the trip.
- Vermont does not allow billboards along its roads. Its law took effect in 1968.

FIND IT ON THE MAP

1. Which city is closest to the Morgan Horse?
2. How long is Lake Champlain?
3. What is Vermont's motto?

Answers: 1. Bennington 2. 120 miles 3. Freedom and Unity