

SAVVAS



A Popular State **New Jersey Life & Living**

Hook & Inspire! Connections to Today

Ignite students' interest by sharing these resources, which demonstrate connections between the past and present. Please be sure to preview all resources.

New Jersey

The State of New Jersey has a rich history, being one of the first colonies in North America. The colony, along with the other twelve original colonies, fought for and won independence from Britain in 1776. Its history of immigrants from Sweden and Finland, to name only a few, shows a blending of many cultures. New Jersey was the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution in 1787 and the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights in 1789. On top of being one of the first states to fight for the Union in the Civil War, New Jersey soldiers participated in almost every major Eastern battle. New Jersey has since welcomed immigrants from many other countries. Today, New Jersey is home to many industries, including steel and agriculture. The state is also a commercial hub for airlines and motor vehicles. Many people from all around the world travel to New Jersey for business and pleasure.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1). New Jersey has a history of tolerance and to this day is a hub for many cultures. What made people initially move to New Jersey when it was first established?**

Student answers may vary depending on their background knowledge. The British ruled New Jersey prior to the Revolutionary War. The British leaders sold the land to settlers for a good price and promised the new landowners religious and business freedoms. This created an interest for many to settle in the colony. Learn more [here](#).

- 2). New Jersey has become one of the most populated states on the East Coast. Why do you think people choose to live in the state? What makes it so convenient or popular?**

Student answers may vary depending on their background knowledge. New Jersey has a very modern railway system. Most of its inhabitants travel to New York and Pennsylvania daily for work. It is easy to live there because the railway system is convenient for many individuals. New Jersey also has a lower cost of living compared to its neighboring states.

- 3). They nicknamed New Jersey, "The Garden State." Why did it receive this nickname in its early years and is it still known today as "The Garden State?"**

Student answers may vary depending on their background knowledge. New Jersey was first identified as "The Garden State" because it became famous for its fertile land and it had a large population of people working in agriculture or gardening. At the beginning of the state's history many individuals worked in some type of agriculture. Today, farming is still an important industry in the state.

- 4). New Jersey has three natural borders. Can you name these borders?**

Student answers may vary depending on their background knowledge. The Delaware River borders New Jersey to its west and the Hudson River borders New Jersey to the north. The Atlantic Ocean borders the state to the east and south.

- 5). In 1998 New Jersey went to the Supreme Court due to land ownership issues with the state of New York. What was the argument concerning Ellis Island over? Why is this a landmark case?**

Student answers may vary depending on their background knowledge. The waters around Ellis Island are considered a part of the State of New Jersey. As New York added land to Ellis Island, New Jersey wanted to claim the added land as part of their state. The court ruled in favor of New Jersey and now part of Ellis Island belongs to New York and part belongs to New Jersey.

Share the online resources below with your class to stimulate discussion on these questions. Be sure to preview the clips before showing or sharing them in class to ensure the content is appropriate for your students.

LINKS TO RESOURCES

Videos

- 1). [New Jersey - The US Explained](#); This video gives an overview of the geography of New Jersey along with different issues in land rights.
- 2). [New Jersey for Kids | US States Learning Video](#); This video is a very kid-friendly video about New Jersey.
- 3). [New Jersey Legacy: The Two New Jerseys](#); This video gives a history of New Jersey.
- 4). [10 NJ History Locations to Visit](#); This video shows the top places to visit in New Jersey.
- 5). [New Jersey - The 10 Best Places To Live In 2021](#); This video shows the top places to live in New Jersey.

Media

- 1). [New Jersey Infographic](#); This website has a map with information about New Jersey.
- 2). [New Jersey Landmarks Infographic](#); This is another map of New Jersey. It lists where things are in the state using graphics.
- 3). [Facts and Statistics about New Jersey Lighthouses](#); This resource is a link to the lighthouses found in New Jersey and some interesting facts concerning them.
- 4). [NJ Population Density Map](#); This is a population density map of New Jersey.
- 5). [3-D NJ Population Density Map](#); This website shows 3-D density population maps of New Jersey.

Websites

- 1). [The Official Web Site for The State of New Jersey | A Short History of New Jersey](#); This website gives a history of New Jersey and is the state's official website.
- 2). [New Jersey | Capital, Population, Map, History, & Facts](#); This website gives general information about the state of New Jersey.
- 3). [New Jersey State Information – Symbols, Capital, Constitution, Flags, Maps, Songs](#); This website gives information concerning New Jersey and links to resources.
- 4). [Historical Timeline of Early New Jersey](#); This website contains a timeline of New Jersey's history.
- 5). [New Jersey Facts](#); This website contains New Jersey facts in an easy-to-read format.



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