



STATE FACTS

Origin of the State Name

New Hampshire was named for Hampshire, England, by Captain John Mason.

Nicknames

New Hampshire has 4 nicknames. The first is the one by which the state is commonly known.

- Granite State: for our extensive granite formations and quarries
- Mother of Rivers: for the rivers of New England that originate in our Mountains
- White Mountain State: for the White Mountain Range
- Switzerland of America: for our beautiful mountain scenery

Capital

Concord is the seat of New Hampshire government. It is centrally located in the state on the Merrimack River.

Statehood

New Hampshire became the 9th state on June 21, 1788. It was one of the original 13 colonies.

Population

1,275,000 (2002 estimates)

Local Government

New Hampshire has 10 counties, 13 municipalities, 221 towns and 22 unincorporated places.

State Seal, Flag and Symbols

New Hampshire has adopted many symbols over the past 200 years, beginning with the first state seal in 1775 and continuing to the most recent symbol, the [State Tartan](#) in 1995.

The flag, seal and various symbols are all ways the state identifies itself. They had been adopted by the legislature as symbolic of the state in one way or another.

State Symbols

- State Bird. The purple finch. Adopted in 1957.
- State Tree. The white birch. Adopted in 1947.
- State Insect. The ladybug. Adopted in 1977.
- State Flower. The purple lilac. Adopted in 1919.
- State Amphibian. The red-spotted newt. Adopted in 1985.
- State Animal. The white tailed deer. Adopted in 1983.
- State Gem. Smokey Quartz. Adopted in 1985.
- State Mineral. Beryl. Adopted in 1985.
- State Rock. Granite. Adopted in 1985.
- State Wildflower. Pink Ladyslipper. Adopted in 1990.
- State Butterfly. Karner Blue. Adopted in 1992.
- State Freshwater Game Fish. Brook Trout. Adopted in 1994.
- State Saltwater Game Fish. Striped Bass. Adopted in 1994.
- [State Tartan](#). Adopted in 1995.
- State Sport. Skiing. Adopted in 1998.

Motto

Live Free or Die. The motto comes from a statement written by the Revolutionary General John Stark, hero of the Battle of Bennington.

State Seal

In the center is a broadside view of the frigate "Raleigh", in the left foreground is a granite boulder, and in the background a rising sun. A laurel wreath and the words Seal of the State of New Hampshire surround the whole.

Flag

The state flag has the state seal centered on a blue field surrounded by laurel leaves with nine stars

State Emblem

A replica of the Old Man of the Mountain surrounded with the name of the state above and the motto below.

Land

New Hampshire is located in northeastern United States. The total area of the state is 9,304 sq miles (24,097 sq km), comprising 9,027 sq miles (23,380 sq km) of land and 277 sq miles (717 sq km) of inland water. New Hampshire is bordered on the north by the Canadian province of Quebec; on the east by Maine and the Atlantic Ocean; on the south by Massachusetts; and the on the west by Vermont. Its geographic center lies in Belknap county, 3 miles (5 km) east of the town of Ashland.

It is one of the six New England states, the others being Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Geographies sometimes speak of the state as the "Mother of Rivers." Five of the great streams of New England originate in its granite hills. The Connecticut River rises in the north; the Pemigewasset River starts in the Profile Lake in the Franconia mountains and joins the Winnepesaukee at Franklin to form the Merrimack River; the Cocheco and Salmon Falls rivers join at Dover to form the Piscataqua River; and two of the principal rivers of Maine, the Androscoggin and the Saco, have their beginnings in northern New Hampshire.

New Hampshire has 1,300 lakes or ponds and about 40 rivers with a total mileage of about 41,800 miles.

Elevation

The highest point is Mount Washington at 6,288 feet (1,918 m); lowest point is sea level; approximate mean elevation is 1,000 feet (305 m).

Climate

New Hampshire has a changeable climate, with wide variations in daily and seasonal temperatures. The variations are affected by proximity to the ocean, mountains, lakes or rivers. The state enjoys all four seasons. Our summers are short and cool; winters are long and cold; fall is glorious with foliage. The weather station on Mount Washington has recorded some of the coldest temperatures and strongest winds in the continental United States.

Flora and Fauna

New Hampshire is heavily forested with an abundance of elm, maple, beech, oak, pine, hemlock and fir trees. Mount Washington features rare alpine plants such as Greenland sandwort, Labrador tea, alpine bearberry, dwarf cinquefoil and dwarf birch, willow and balsam fir.

Among native New Hampshire mammals are the white-tailed deer, muskrat, beaver, porcupine and snowshoe hare. Threatened animals include the pine marten, arctic tern, purple martin, peregrine falcon, whip-por-will and osprey. The Karner Blue butterfly, lynx, bald eagle, shortnose sturgeon, Sunapee trout, Atlantic salmon and dwarf wedge mussel are on the state's endangered species list.