

FACTS ABOUT PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania's Nickname is the Keystone State - During colonial times Pennsylvania was the middle colony of the original 13 colonies. It held the colonies together like the "keystone" in a window or door arch. Pennsylvania was settled in 1643. Philadelphia was our state capital during the Revolutionary War and York was the first capital of the United States.

Origin of Name: Penn's Woods (after Admiral William Penn's father)

Motto: Virtue, Liberty and Independence

Important Documents: Several important documents were written in Pennsylvania: The Constitution of the United States, The American Declaration of Independence, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

Flower: Mountain Laurel

Tree: Hemlock

Bird: Ruffed Grouse

Animal: Whitetail Deer

Insect: Firefly

Dog: Great Dane

Beverage: Milk

Fish: Brook Trout

Geography:

Area: 45,888 square miles

Rank: 32nd in nation

Capital: Harrisburg in Dauphin County

Counties: 67 **Population:** 12,009,000

Lakes: 76 natural lakes (over 20 acres wide) and 2,500 man-made lakes

Rivers and streams: 45,000 miles

State Parks: 116

Acreage: 282,500

State Forest Districts: 20

Acreage: 2,200,000

State Game Lands: 294

Acreage: 1,379,002

Farms: 55,000

Farmland: 9,000,000 acres

Rural Population: 3,700,000

Leading Farm products: dairy products, mushrooms, apples, tobacco, grapes, peaches, cut flowers

Christmas Tree Capital of the World: Indiana County

PA is First Among US in:

Rural Population, number of licensed hunters, State Game Lands, covered bridges, potato chip production, pretzel bakeries, licensed bakeries, meat packing plants, mushroom production, sausage production, scrapple production

PENNSYLVANIA FIRSTS

ARTS &

ENTERTAINMENT

- *Daily Newspaper – Pennsylvania Packet – 1784
- *Commercial Radio Station – KDKA – 1920
- *Public Television Station – WQED – 1954
- *American Theatre – Walnut Street Theatre – 1809
- *All-motion Picture Theater – The Nickelodeon – 1905

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

- *World's First Oil Well – Drake's Well – 1819
- *Commercially Packaged Toilet Paper – 1857
- *Windproof/waterproof lighter – Zippo – 1930
- *Slinky – 1948
- *World's First Gas Station – Gulf Refining Company – 1913
- *Commercially useful nuclear power plant – 1957

EDUCATION

- *American Public School – 1698
- *American University – University of Pennsylvania – 1779
- *Institute of Art – The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts – 1805
- *Library – The Philadelphia Library – 1731
- *Medical School – University of Pennsylvania – 1765
- *Fully Electronic Computer – University of Pennsylvania – 1946

FINANCE

- *United States Mint – 1792
- *American Stock Exchange – 1790
- *Savings Bank – 1816
- *First Christmas Club – Carlisle Trust Company – 1909
- *Modern Retail Bank – Philadelphia Savings Fund Society – 1780

FOOD

- *Pretzel baked – 1784
- *Brewery in the US – Yuengling Brewery – 1829
- *Bubble gum – 1928
- *Carbonated water – 1807

GOVERNMENT & MILITARY

- *Capital of the United States – 1777-1778
- *American Flag – 1777
- *American convention – 1787
- *Meetings of Congress – 1774
- *First Fire Fighting Company – 1736

HEALTH & SCIENCE

- *Oxygen discovered – 1774 – Joseph Priestley House
- *Independent Hospital - Pennsylvania Hospital – 1751
- *X-Ray taken – University of Pennsylvania – 1874
- *Polio Vaccine – University of Pittsburgh – 1955
- *Robotics Institute – Carnegie Mellon University – 1979

HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

- *Groundhog Day – 1884
- *Memorial Day Observance – 1864
- *Mothers Day – 1914
- *Flag Day – 1912
- *Official Thanksgiving Day celebration – 1817

SPORTS & LEISURE

- *American Zoo – Philadelphia Zoo – 1874
- *Oldest Golf Course in continuous use in U.S. – Foxburg Country Club – 1887
- *Professional Football Game – Jeanette vs. Latrobe – 1895
- *World's Fair – 1876
- *Flower Show – 1829
- *World Series – Pittsburgh vs. Boston – 1903
- *World Series Night Game – Pittsburgh vs. Baltimore – 1971

TRANSPORTATION

- *Turnpike in the United States – 1795 – Lancaster to Philadelphia
- *Iron Bridge in the United States – 1839
- *Superhighway Toll Road – 1940 – PA Turnpike
- *Iron Steamboat – The Codorus – 1825
- *Steam Locomotive to run on a railroad track in the United States – The Stourbridge Lion – 1829
- *Electrically Powered Street Car – 1826
- *Hard Surfaced Runway Airport – 1931
- *State to put its website on state license plates – 2000