

Lesson 4

A Tour of the Northeast

What are different parts of the Northeast like?



Introduction

Get ready to embark on a historic tour of the Northeast. During this tour, you will visit many states in this region. Which states do you already know in the Northeast?

This tour is special because you will be experiencing places that are important to the history of the United States. You will visit one of the earliest British colonies established in North America. You will walk in the footsteps of Patriots who fought in the American Revolution. You will even go inside the very building where the United States Constitution was written and signed.

This tour will take you to many places with historical landmarks. Each has a story to tell about the Northeast, its people, and historic events that occurred.

As we visit these places, look for answers to these three questions.

1. Why do we call the Northeast the “birthplace of our nation”?
2. Why did our nation’s first factories start here?
3. What large cities are found in the Northeast?

You’ll hear and see clues to the answers to these questions as we travel along. There will be nine stops on the tour of the Northeast. Your first stop will be in the beautiful state of Maine.

Vocabulary

canal

lock

mass production

peak

skyscraper

This train travels through a mountain range in New Hampshire, one of the states in the Northeast region.

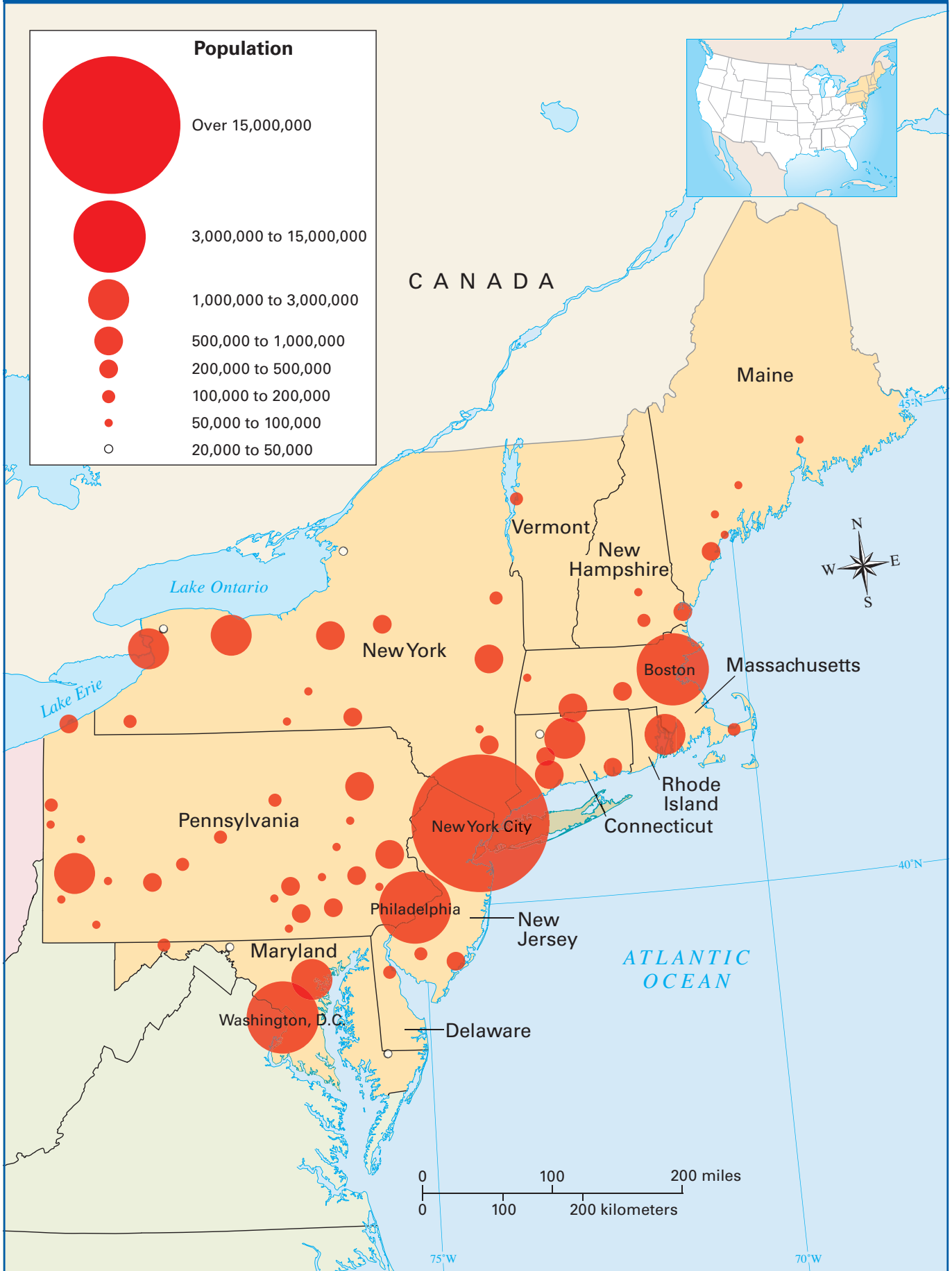


The Northeast Region

- Northeast states
- Midwest states
- Southeast states
- National capital
- State capital
- City
- Mountain peak
- Lighthouse



Population of the Northeast Region



Preview Activity

Activity
Online

Label this map of the Northeast with the answers to the Geography Challenge questions. Include the number of the Geography Challenge in front of each answer.



0 100 200 miles
0 100 200 kilometers

Vocabulary Activity

Activity
Online

Complete the sentences by matching the vocabulary word term the image.

Vocabulary Word Bank

canal

lock

mass production

peak

skyscrapers



A _____
is a water elevator used to raise and
lower boats.



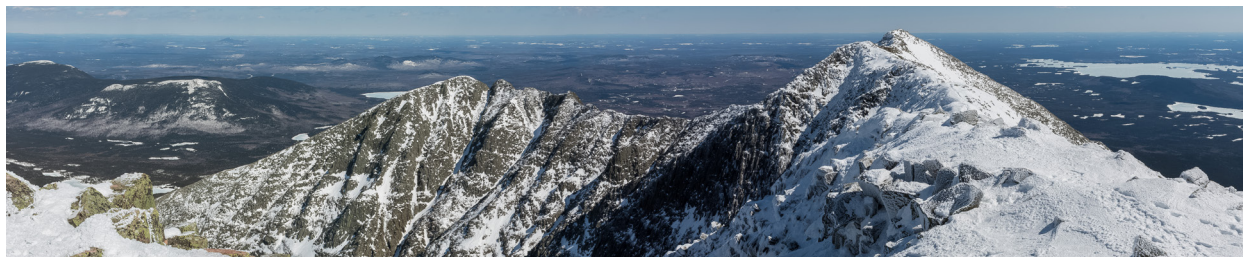
The Empire State Building is one of
the tallest _____
in the Northeast.



allows for large quantities of products
to be made.



A _____
is formed by a ditch dug across land
to connect waterways.



This is a panoramic view of the _____,
or the tallest
point, of Mount Katahdin in the Northeastern state of Maine.



Take a video tour of the Northeast and write fun questions for each stop.

Directions: Tour the Northeast

- 1. Sit with a partner.** You will visit all the stops in the Northeast together.
- 2. Watch the video about the Northeast.**
- 3. Answer the question that follows the video.**
- 4. Read Section 1.** Learn more about the Northeast.
- 5. Complete your Activity Notes.** You will create your own question about the Northeast. Be sure to include an answer.
- 6. Repeat Steps 1–5 for Sections 2–11.**
- 7. Sit with another group and answer each other's questions.**

1. The Northeast Coast

The first tour stop is at West Quoddy Head in the eastern corner of Maine. The tribal name of the Native Americans living here is Wabanoki, which means “living at the sunrise.” West Quoddy Head is the most eastern point of land in the United States, where the sun rises before anywhere else in the country.

The West Quoddy Head Lighthouse was built in 1808. Its light and foghorn let ships know where the coastline is. This prevents them from crashing into Maine’s rocky shore. Some people find the foghorn annoying, but the lobster fishers whose boats bob up and down near the foggy coastline depend on it. “On a foggy day,” one fisher said, “there is no prettier sound than a foghorn’s bellow.”

The Northeast coastline is dotted with harbors where boats and ships can anchor safely. These harbors were not always here. This coastline was smooth until Earth entered a long cold period known as the Ice Age, a time when mile-thick sheets of ice called glaciers spread over much of the Northeast.

As the glaciers slowly moved across land, they carved deep grooves into the coastline. Later, the ice melted, causing the sea to flow into these low places. That’s why there are so many harbors along the Northeast coast today. At your next stop, you’ll see what glaciers did to the mountains of the Northeast.



The West Quoddy Head Lighthouse is still used today as a guide for ships at sea. This lighthouse is located on the coast of Maine.

2. The Mountains of the Northeast

Welcome to Mount Washington in New Hampshire. At 6,288 feet tall, Mount Washington is the highest **peak** in the Northeast. On a clear day, visitors can see for hundreds of miles from its top.

Mount Washington sits in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The White Mountains are part of the Appalachian mountain range, which is one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world.

Mount Washington has some of the world's most severe weather. It can snow here all year long. The peak is also one of the windiest places on Earth.

To get to the top of Mount Washington, you can ride the Mount Washington Cog Railway, which is the second-steepest mountain-climbing railway in the world. At the top of the mountain, there are very high winds. In 1934, scientists measured the wind speed there at 231 miles per hour. Only tornadoes and hurricanes have stronger wind.

At 6,288 feet high, Mount Washington is the highest peak in the Northeast. Many hikers climb the mountain each year.



3. Democracy Takes Root at Plymouth

Your next stop is Plymouth, Massachusetts, where the Pilgrims landed almost 400 years ago. You can visit a copy of their ship, the *Mayflower*, in Plymouth Harbor.

In 1620, the *Mayflower* left England with 102 passengers headed for the colony of Virginia. Many passengers were Pilgrims in search of religious freedom. Others wanted to make a new home in America.

Storms blew the *Mayflower* off course. Instead of Virginia, the ship reached New England. Sick of stormy seas, the Pilgrims and other passengers decided to stop there instead. But they had a problem. There was no government in New England, and the passengers did not get along.

The Pilgrims made a decision that had a huge impact on our nation's history. Before going ashore, they drew up an agreement called the Mayflower Compact. It said that they would set up a government and make laws for the good of everyone. Most of the men signed the compact, and then the passengers elected a governor to lead the government.

Today, Americans believe that people should make their own laws and elect their own leaders. We call this form of government a democracy. During the Pilgrims' time, when kings and queens ruled countries, this was a bold idea.



In Plymouth Massachusetts, you can visit the *Mayflower II*. This is a copy of the Pilgrims' ship.

4. Boston Leads the Fight for Freedom

Your next stop is the Boston Commons, America's first public park. Boston is one of America's oldest cities. It is also where the fight for America's freedom from Great Britain began.

In 1775, many people in the 13 colonies did not want to live under British rule anymore. Fighting broke out between these colonists and British troops about 20 miles outside of Boston. The conflict moved into Boston later that year.

This was the beginning of a six-year war called the American Revolution. The American Revolution led to the overthrow, or end, of British rule of the colonies.

Two historic trails begin at the Boston Common. The first is the Freedom Trail. This walking tour takes you to places where the fight for freedom began. The trail ends at Bunker Hill. One of the early battles of the American Revolution was fought near this hill.

The second trail is the Black Heritage Trail. Many enslaved people from the South came to Boston. In other places, fugitives from slavery were often returned to the South if they were caught. But in Boston, many people, called abolitionists, helped African Americans escape slavery. On this walking tour, you will learn about the long history of African Americans in Boston. The trail ends at the African Meeting House, the oldest standing African American church building in the United States.

The Old State House is located in Boston. It is one of the many sights along the Freedom Trail.



The Boston Commons was established in 1634, making it the oldest public park in the United States. In the park, you can find the Boston Massacre Memorial, which honors those who were killed during the attack.



5. The Erie Canal Links the Northeast and the Midwest

You can find the remains of the Erie Canal in New York. A **canal** is a constructed waterway that allows boats and ships to pass from one body of water to another. Although it is no longer in use, the Erie Canal was one of the world's greatest engineering marvels of its time. It was a 340-mile-long ditch that connected the Hudson River with the Great Lakes.

Work on the Erie Canal began in 1817. At that time, there was no good way to transport goods from the Northeast to the Midwest. Carrying goods by horse and wagon was slow and costly. Moving goods by boat was faster and cheaper, but there was a problem. No river crossed the Appalachian Mountains, which lay between the Northeast and the Midwest.

The men who built the Erie Canal solved that problem by digging a 40-foot-wide ditch from the Hudson River to Lake Erie. Along the way, they built 83 **locks** to help carry boats over the mountains. Locks are used to raise and lower boats in the water.

The Erie Canal opened for use in 1825, and it was an instant success. Freight prices between Lake Erie and New York City dropped from \$100 a ton by road to just \$10 a ton by canal. New York City was soon the nation's busiest seaport.

This is a lock on the Erie Canal. Locks are used to raise and lower boats in the water.





On clear days, visitors to the top of the Empire State Building can see parts of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, as well as New York.

6. New York City: Where Buildings Touch the Sky

New York City is the largest city in America. More than 8 million people live here.

Many different people have called New York City home, even before it was a city. Thousands of years ago, Native Americans were the first to settle in the area. In the 1600s, the Dutch came to the area looking to trade fur. Soon, people from other parts of Europe followed, bringing with them enslaved African people. Over the next few centuries, people from all over the world came to live in New York City.

New York City is a city of many cultures, or ways of life. If you listen to people talking on the streets, you may hear Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, and many other languages. You can find restaurants that serve food from different countries. There are music performances and art exhibits that showcase cultures from around the world.

Are you wondering how New York City finds room for everyone who lives there? The answer is—up in the air! A hundred years ago, New Yorkers began building **skyscrapers**. People live and work in these very tall buildings.

The Empire State Building is one of New York City's most famous skyscrapers. This office building has 103 stories, or floors, and visitors can go to the very top of the building and look out at the view. You could climb the 1,860 stairs, but the elevator would be much faster!

In New York City, performers play many kinds of music.



7. Hershey, Pennsylvania: A Town Built on Chocolate

The next stop is a factory that produces one of the most beloved treats on Earth—chocolate! Hershey, Pennsylvania, is the home to one of the largest chocolate factories in the world.

More than 100 years ago, Milton Hershey started a candy business here in Pennsylvania. In his factory, he used a system called **mass production**, which is a way of making very large quantities of the same product. The Hershey bar was America's first mass-produced chocolate bar. Hershey's factory was one of many built in the Northeast.

Many of America's first factories are found in the Northeast. One reason for this is waterpower. The first factories were built alongside rivers that rushed down out of the mountains. This rushing water turned big waterwheels that made the machines in the factories run.

A second reason was people power. The Northeast was a good place for people who wanted to start businesses. Hershey was one of these people. There were many people working in these businesses.

The introduction of factories changed life in the Northeast. People left farms and moved to cities to work in factories and offices.

A worker at this factory checks the quality of a large vat of chocolate. The factory is located in Hershey, Pennsylvania.



8. Independence Hall: The Birthplace of the United States

You are looking at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was here that the United States was born. Americans celebrate the country's birthday each year on Independence Day.

The United States was formed on July 4, 1776. On that day, leaders from the 13 colonies met in Independence Hall to approve the Declaration of Independence. This statement told the world that the colonists had established their own country called the United States of America.

Americans fought a long war to win their independence. Great Britain finally agreed that Americans should govern themselves. The leaders of the new country needed to create a plan of government.

In 1787, some of the best thinkers in the nation met in Independence Hall to create a plan. They talked and argued for months. Then they wrote a new constitution, or plan of government, for the country. We still live under that plan today.

The United States Constitution is based on the idea of democracy. In a democracy, the citizens of a country have the power to choose their elected leaders. The Constitution also recognizes Native American tribes as their own governments. Today, tribal governments and the U.S. government work together to create laws for Native Americans.



The Declaration of Independence was approved in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Today, Independence Hall is part of a national historic park.



The Capitol building is in Washington, D.C., and it is the home of our national government. This is where Congress meets to make our nation's laws.

9. Washington, D.C.: Our Nation's Capital

Does this building look familiar to you? It is the Capitol building, one of the great landmarks of the city of Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C., is the capital of the United States and the home of our national government. Here, the people who have the power to make decisions for our country do their jobs. The work of our government is important because the government creates the rules we live by.

Our government's laws help to make sure that each person's rights are protected. Our rights include the right to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness.

The government also works for the common good. This means that it tries to act in ways that serve all people, not just a few. Our government seeks to provide an equal chance for all people, and it tries to make fair laws.

Our government is a republic. In a republic, the power lies with the people, and they exercise their power by electing leaders. The Constitution says that Americans can choose representatives to make laws for them. People choose representatives by voting in elections. Voting is a key part of being a good citizen.

10. Our Government Buildings

The national government of the United States has three branches, or parts. Each branch has a different role and operates in a different building. However, all branches help promote the common good and protect people's basic rights.

Congress is the legislative branch. It makes laws for our country. Voters in each state elect lawmakers to represent them in Congress. Congress works in the Capitol building.

The president of the United States is the head of the executive branch. The president's main job is to make sure that laws passed by Congress are carried out. The president is also elected. The president lives and works in the White House.

The judicial branch is the third branch of government, which is made up of the nation's courts. This branch guarantees that the laws passed by Congress are obeyed. The courts also seek truth and justice, and they decide answers to questions and disagreements about our laws. For example, courts decide whether someone has broken a law.

The highest court is the Supreme Court. Its home is also in Washington, D.C.—in the Supreme Court Building. One of the Supreme Court's jobs is to make sure that laws passed by Congress follow the United States Constitution. The Constitution explains what the U.S. government and its leaders can and cannot do. The Supreme Court also helps make sure that the government treats all people fairly.



The president of the United States lives and works in the White House. The president is the head of the executive branch.

The top court in the United States meets in the Supreme Court Building. The Court is located next to the Capitol building.



11. Our National Monuments

Washington, D.C., is more than a home to our government. It also has many famous landmarks. You have visited the Capitol building and have seen the White House and the Supreme Court Building. Some landmarks honor the ideas and the people that have helped make our country great, while others hold some of our national treasures.

Washington, D.C., has many monuments. These are structures that help us remember important people or events. The Washington Monument celebrates George Washington, the first president of the United States.

The Stone of Hope honors Martin Luther King Jr., who was an important leader in the civil rights movement. In 1963, he led a march in Washington, D.C., and delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. After this march, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed and outlawed discrimination based on race.

The Lincoln Memorial (left), Washington Monument (middle), and the Capitol (at right) are all located in Washington, D.C. These are three of the most famous landmarks in America.





The National Archives is one of the city's great museums. It holds the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights, which lists our most cherished freedoms, was added to the Constitution in 1791. Thanks to the Bill of Rights, we have the freedom of speech. We can speak out if we are unhappy with our government. The Bill of Rights also promises us freedom of religion.

As you have learned, there is much to see and do in Washington, D.C. You can find out about our nation's history. You can learn about the ideas that are important to our country and explore our past.

The Stone of Hope is a granite statue of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. "Out of a mountain of despair is a stone of hope" is carved on the statue's side.

Hands-On Activity Notes

Activity
Online

Write a question about the Northeast for each tour stop. You can use any or all of the three types of questions you saw in the slides: **multiple choice**, **fill in the blank**, or **true/false**. Be sure to note the answer beneath each question.



Section 1

Question:

Answer:



Section 2

Question:

Answer:



Section 3

Question:

Answer:



Section 4

Question:

Answer:



Section 5

Question:

Answer:



Section 6

Question:

Answer:



Section 7

Question:

Answer:



Section 8

Question:

Answer:



Sections 9-11

Question:

Answer:

Write a question that involves information from multiple places.

Answer:

Summary

This tour began with three questions. The first question is: Why do we call the Northeast the “birthplace of our nation”? Boston is where the American Revolution began, and Philadelphia is where Americans first declared their independence from Great Britain.

The second question is: Why were the nation’s first factories built in the Northeast? This region had a lot of waterpower for running factories, people who enjoyed the challenge of starting new businesses, and people who wanted to work in factories.

The last question is: What large cities are found in the Northeast? You visited some of the largest cities in the Northeast, including Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. You also stopped at two smaller towns: Plymouth and Hershey.

You learned a lot about the history and government of our nation at each of the nine stops on our tour of the Northeast. What do you think makes this region special?

Show What You Know



Label the map below with the nine stops on the tour of the Northeast.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

Name your favorite stop and explain why you chose it.

The Most Important Cities in Your State

Every state has a variety of cities. Each city has features that make it special. These might be buildings, colleges, sports teams, historical places, or outdoor activities.

Illinois, for example, has the third largest city in the United States—Chicago. It sits on Lake Michigan and has many skyscrapers. The city of Springfield is the state capital, and was home to Abraham Lincoln before he became president. Then there is Champaign, a city where more than 40,000 students attend the big, exciting University of Illinois.

Which city do you think is the most important in your state? Can you persuade someone else to agree with you? First, you should research some strong facts about three cities. Then, you must develop and present a convincing argument about the best city, in your opinion.

Before you start your research, draw a blank research table similar to this example. Pick three well-known cities in your state, and write the city names in the top row. Then find out the size, job opportunities, and points of interest of each.

A student made this table about three Illinois cities. She can use the information to argue why she thinks that one city is the most important city in the state.

Illinois Cities	Chicago	Springfield	Champaign
Population	2,718,782	117,006	83,424
Popular Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecommunications and publishing • Manufacturing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government jobs • Transportation and warehousing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University jobs • Health care
Points of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millennium Park • Wrigley Field • Lake Michigan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lincoln Home National Historic Site • State Capitol Building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Illinois • Orpheum Children’s Museum

Do your research using several reliable sources. For example, do an internet search for a city name, and choose websites that have current information. They could be government websites or the state tourism site. You can also look in encyclopedias and reference books.

Build Your Case!

Which is the most important city in your state? There is not one right answer. People have different opinions, and there are many reasons to be a fan of a city. Some people think the state capital is most important, while others like the city with the most people. Still others may choose a small city with lots of parks and activities.

You and your classmates should each pick what you think is the most important city in your state. Prepare a presentation to try to convince others to agree with you.

First, state your opinion using opinion words such as *I think*, *I believe*, and *most important*. Next, support your opinion with three reasons. They may include the city's size, activities, historical places, sports teams, work opportunities, or natural features. Support each reason with facts from your research. Facts are true statements that tell who, what, when, where, and how much. You can check that a fact is true by looking in other sources that you trust.

Present your argument to a classmate, and then listen to your classmate make his or her argument. Evaluate your classmate's presentation. Did it begin with an opinion? Was it supported with reasons? Were the reasons supported with strong facts? Did the presentation change your opinion? Tell your classmate what you thought of his or her presentation and why.

There are many reasons why a city is important. Illinois government leaders work in the Capitol building in Springfield (top). Chicago has tall buildings, a large lake, and manufacturing jobs (bottom).

