

Welcome To New Jersey

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

I live in New Jersey. It is a New England State. New Jersey is famous for medicines, shipbuilding, blueberries, cranberries, sub sandwiches, and music! It is one of the smallest states, number 47 of 50, beating only Connecticut, Delaware, and Rhode Island. It is 11th in population size, beating most states. It has the second highest average household income by state! You might know some of the major cities, like Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, Atlantic City, or Elizabeth. The state capital is Trenton. Now that you know some of the basic facts about New Jersey, let me tell you a little more about my state.

New Jersey was one of the original 13 Colonies, but it was settled by the Dutch and Swedes before the British took over. Prior to that, there were several Indian tribes in the area. Since the colony was founded, there has been a lot of ethnic and religious diversity. Many kinds of people have called New Jersey home. New Jersey was also very important during the American Revolution. New Jersey has the 2nd highest populations of people of the Jewish and Muslim faiths in our country. They have some of the highest populations of Korean, Chinese, Filipino, Cuban, Italian, and Asian Indian people in our country, too. It really is very diverse. Just imagine all the good food that comes from all of these cultures! Not only that, but it's centrally located near New York and Philadelphia, with Boston and Washington D.C. just a bit farther away.

New Jersey has always had a lot of manufacturing. Whether building ships or running large factories, New Jersey has been a large industrial force for our nation. There are also good agricultural points about New Jersey. They have some of the highest production rates of: blueberries, cranberries, spinach, bell peppers, peaches, and lettuce in the country. Maybe that's part of why New Jersey is known as *The Garden State*. Don't think that it is all business and farming, either, because there are famous colleges here, too, like Rutgers and Princeton.

New Jersey, as one of the oldest and more populous states, has a lot of famous people that have come from here or have lived and worked here. Thomas Edison did a lot of his work creating motion pictures at West Orange. Have you heard of Frank Sinatra, the famous actor and singer? He was born here. How about the Jonas Brothers, Bruce Springsteen, Queen Latifah, Redman, or Jon Bon Jovi? The list goes on, with many names you might know, depending on what kind of music you like.

Now that you know a little more about New Jersey, are you thinking about visiting? There are many things to see and do. Hope to see you soon!



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Which of these states does New Jersey NOT beat in size ranking?
 - A. Delaware
 - B. Rhode Island
 - C. Vermont
 - D. Connecticut

2. True or False: New Jersey is known as *The Garden State*.
 - A. True
 - B. False

3. Which of these singers is New Jersey NOT famous for?
 - A. Frank Sinatra
 - B. Bruce Springsteen
 - C. Michael Jackson
 - D. The Jonas Brothers

4. Which of these foods is New Jersey famous for?
 - A. peaches
 - B. oranges
 - C. hot dogs
 - D. cherry pie

5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit New Jersey? Why or Why Not?

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