

Welcome To Pennsylvania

I live in Pennsylvania. It is a northern state. Pennsylvania is famous for chocolate, oil, hunting, Quakers, steel, ketchup, pretzels, and cheesesteaks. It is the 33rd largest state. That makes it a little below average in size, but it is 6th in population, which is one of the highest. You might know some of the major cities, like Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Erie, Reading, and Scranton. The state capital is Harrisburg. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Pennsylvania, let me tell you a little more about my state.

Pennsylvania was settled by several Indian tribes before Europeans came. The Dutch came first, followed by Sweden. England started colonies later, and after a few fights, they took control of the land. Pennsylvania was given to the Penn family, which Pennsylvania was named for. William Penn made the colony as a place of religious freedom, and the Quaker people especially made it their home, giving the state the nickname, *The Quaker State*. Pennsylvania was one of the original 13 colonies of America. Pennsylvania was the 2nd to join the nation after the American Revolution, beaten only by Delaware. The city of Philadelphia in particular has been an important city since the colony was founded. It was actually the largest city in America for awhile, and was even the capital of our country, too!

Today, Pennsylvania is sometimes referred to as the snack capital of the country. It is famous for making lots of snacks, like pretzels and chips. Heinz, famous for ketchup and sauces, is in Pennsylvania. There is also Hershey, Pennsylvania, which you might know as the chocolate company. Add to that the famous Philly Cheesesteak sandwich, and you have quite a mouth full of snacks and treats! Pennsylvania doesn't just make snacks, either. There are steel companies in the state, as well as a lot of colleges and the first chartered bank in our country.

There are things to do in Pennsylvania. There are several major sports teams from the NFL, NBA, NHL, and MLS. There are zoos and quite a few amusement parks, too. Pennsylvania has 121 state parks, and they all have free entry! Hunting is popular here, too. There are nearly a million registered hunters in Pennsylvania, and the turkey hunting is particularly good.

Now that you know a little more about Pennsylvania, are you thinking about visiting? There are a lot of snacks to try and a lot of nice parks to walk off those calories in. Hope to see you soon!



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

1. What is Pennsylvania's population ranking?
 - A. 5th
 - B. 6th
 - C. 7th
 - D. 8th
2. True or False: Pennsylvania NOT known for chocolate.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. Which of these foods is Pennsylvania famous for?
 - A. hot dogs
 - B. hamburgers
 - C. ribs
 - D. cheese steaks
4. What is important about Philadelphia?
 - A. It's a pretty city.
 - B. It used to be our country's capital.
 - C. It is still the largest city in the country.
 - D. It is gone now.
5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Pennsylvania? Why or Why Not?

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