

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Pennsylvania

### Reading and Discussion

In 1681, **King Charles II** granted a land charter to **William Penn**. He granted the charter in order to repay a debt owed to William's father. This land was called **Pennsylvania**, which meant "Penn's Woods." The name was meant to honor William's father, **Admiral Penn**.

Pennsylvania is a commonwealth. The abbreviation for this state is PA. Some people still use the older abbreviations for Pennsylvania, Penn or Penna. In the south, Pennsylvania borders Delaware and Maryland. It borders West Virginia in the southwest. It also shares borders with Ohio, New York, and New Jersey. It even has a water border with Canada.

Pennsylvania is one of the original thirteen colonies. It has been known as the **Keystone State** since 1802 because of its central location amongst the original thirteen colonies. In addition, Pennsylvania was a keystone state economically because it had both industry and agriculture. The state industry consisted of manufacturing things like **rifles** and **Conestoga wagons**. Agriculturally, Pennsylvanians grew feed, fiber, tobacco, and many other things.

Pennsylvania is also called the **Quaker State**. At one time, it was officially known as the **Quaker Province**. This was mainly to recognize William Penn's constitution for Pennsylvania that guaranteed liberty of conscience. In colonial times, Quakers were sometimes viewed with hostility because they opposed taking oaths, war, military service, and religious rituals. Penn's constitution was meant to recognize the Quaker's right to have their own beliefs. Many Germans settled in Pennsylvania, and there is a Pennsylvania Dutch culture present there. The Pennsylvania Dutch language descends from German. The Pennsylvania Dutch language is rarely used as a first language, but many Pennsylvanians in the eastern and central parts of the state use it as a second language.

The capital of Pennsylvania is **Harrisburg**, but its largest city is Philadelphia. The state tree is the **eastern hemlock**, and the state bird is the **ruffed grouse**. In addition, the state flower is the **mountain laurel**, and the state animal is the **white-tailed deer**. Pennsylvania was originally admitted into the union on December 12, 1787. It was the second state to be admitted into the union. Pennsylvania is a large state, but there are several larger states. It has the 6<sup>th</sup> largest population in the USA.

Pennsylvania leads all other states in **pretzel** and **potato chip** manufacturing. In fact, the Sturgis Pretzel House first introduced America to the pretzel. Pennsylvania is also home to the famous **Hersey's Chocolate Factory**, which is located in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Historically, Pennsylvania has also been called the **Coal State** because it is rich in coal, and many coal factories were established there. The city of Allentown, Pennsylvania, has also been the subject of a famous song by Billy Joel.

Politically, Pennsylvania is often considered a swing state. This is because it has no clear political majority. Typically, Democrats are prevalent in the urban areas of Pennsylvania, while Republicans are dominant in the many rural areas of the state.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Activities

### Activity A: Multiple Choice:

1. The name Pennsylvania meant:

- a. Penn's Woods
- b. Penn's Charter
- c. Penn's State
- d. Penn's Homestead

2. Pennsylvania was the \_\_\_\_\_ state admitted to the Union.

- a. thirteenth
- b. sixth
- c. second
- d. fourth

3. The Keystone State refers to:

- a. New York
- b. Quaker Township
- c. Allentown
- d. Pennsylvania

### Activity B: Fill in the Blanks:

1. The Capital of Pennsylvania is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. A famous chocolate factory is located in \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Pennsylvania's state flower is the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Pennsylvania Dutch is a culture that came from \_\_\_\_\_ settlers.

### Activity C: True or False:

\_\_\_\_ 1. Pennsylvania was one of the original 13 colonies.

\_\_\_\_ 2. Quaker Province was a name for Pennsylvania at one point.

\_\_\_\_ 3. Coal is not a very common resource in Pennsylvania.

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## Answer Key

### Activity A

1. The name Pennsylvania meant:

- a. **Penn's Woods**
- b. Penn's Charter
- c. Penn's State
- d. Penn's Homestead

2. Pennsylvania was the \_\_\_\_\_ state admitted to the Union.:

- a. thirteenth
- b. sixth
- c. **second**
- d. fourth

3. The Keystone State refers to:

- a. New York
- b. Quaker Township
- c. Allentown
- d. **Pennsylvania**

### Activity B

1. The Capital of Pennsylvania is \_\_\_\_\_ Harrisburg \_\_\_\_\_.

2. A famous chocolate factory is located in \_\_\_\_\_ Hershey \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Pennsylvania's state flower is the \_\_\_\_\_ Mountain Laurel \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Pennsylvania Dutch is a culture that came from \_\_\_\_\_ German \_\_\_\_\_ settlers.

### Activity C

T 1. Pennsylvania was one of the original 13 colonies.

T 2. Quaker Province was a name for Pennsylvania at one point.

F 3. Coal is not a very common resource in Pennsylvania.

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**Lesson Summary:**

This is an introductory lesson about Pennsylvania.

**Lesson Objectives:**

- to identify and discuss some of Pennsylvania's key cities;
- to describe and discuss Pennsylvania's history.

**Suggested Level:**

Grades 2, 3, and 4.

**Subject Area:**

Social Studies: Pennsylvania