



For The Classroom

New Jersey My Home is not just a pretty melody!

A great deal of research went into its creation. Each line of the lyrics contains specific historic and geographic references. Use the facts below to create your own lesson plan

"There's a sailboat on the Hudson"

The Hudson River is named for the European explorer Henry Hudson, who explored it in 1609. Hudson was looking for a passing to the Asia when he discovered the river. In 1524, the Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazano first entered the Hudson but mistook it for an estuary.

The Hudson River flows both North and South. Near the Atlantic, the river flows north, and near its origin in Lake Tear of the Clouds, it flows south.

The Native American tribe of the Iroquois called the river Muh-he-kun-ne-tuk also known as the Great Mohegan. It actually means "the water that moves both ways".

Before the river was explored by Henry Hudson (traveling for the Dutch East India Company), the river was used for travel by the Native Americans.

The Hudson River valley played an important role during the French and Indian war in 1750s and the American Revolutionary war. In the 1750s, the British army made the Northern part of the Hudson Valley their defense against the invading French from Quebec.

During Colonial times from the 17th century to 1776, the Hudson River supported a very important and profitable fur trade. The Hudson Valley at this time was used for wheat and timber, which was taken to New York and from there made its way to the entire

western world.

The Dutch occupied New York State and settled in two cities on the Hudson. One was called Nieuw Amsterdam, which is now New York City, and the other was Beverwyck, which is today the state capital (Albany).

The major cities along the Hudson include Troy, Hudson, Kingston, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, Peekskill and Yonkers in New York, and Weehawken, Hoboken and Jersey City in the state of New Jersey.

The Hudson is surrounded by incredible beauty. In fact, so much so that it was nicknamed "America's Rhine" because it was being compared to the popular area surrounding the German Rhine River.

Another name for the southernmost portion of the Hudson is the North River. This refers to the area between Manhattan and Hudson County. Tapan Zee is the widest part of the river.

The Industrial Revolution to Today

The Erie Canal opened in 1825 and connected Lake Erie in the Great Lakes region to the Hudson and onward to Europe. The cost of moving goods was reduced as well as the time it took to transport them. This was very important for America as it created an increase in the trade of goods and gave the economy a big boost.

Inventor Robert Fulton started a new age of navigation when he piloted his North River Steamboat on the Hudson. Later, the boat was to be called the "Clermont".

Railroads were built along the Hudson in the 1850s, which increased the number of tourists in the area greatly. The Hudson River Rail Road was built along the shores of the river, and travelers could see the amazing beauty surrounding the river like never before.

Many artists and writers would try and capture the beauty in their art as well as in poetry and stories. Collectively, they formed the Hudson River School and included artists such as Thomas Cole, Asher B. Durand, and Frederick Church. These artists created marvelous paintings of the natural beauty surrounding the Hudson, which was then sold in New York art galleries. The first

internationally known American author, Washington Irving, drew his inspiration from the Hudson and wrote many stories about the people and the places surrounding the Hudson.

The Tappan Zee Bridge is the longest bridge crossing the Hudson, which links South Nyack and Tarrytown in New York State. Tappan is the name of a Native American tribe that lived near the Hudson while Zee comes from the Dutch word for "wide expanse of water".

People traveling from the state of New Jersey use the PATH (Port Authority Trans-Hudson) system, which is a subway-like rail system connecting New Jersey with Manhattan. The PATH system runs beneath the Hudson.

The Lincoln Tunnel is an old tunnel under the Hudson connecting 42nd Street in Manhattan with Weehawken in New Jersey.

West Point is the oldest military academy in the United States that started in 1802 and is situated along the Hudson.

Neath the great cliffs of the Palisades

The Palisades, basalt bluffs 200–540 feet (60–165 metres) high along northeastern [New Jersey](#), U.S. Rising vertically from near the water's edge, they are characterized by uplifts, faults, and columnar structure developed by slow cooling of molten material near the end of the [Triassic Period](#) (245 to 208 million years ago). The Palisades Interstate Park Commission, established in 1900 and headquartered in Bear Mountain, New York, oversees 24 park units, occupying a total area of 150 square miles (388 square km), in New York and New Jersey. Linking the various units is the 42-mile (68-kilometre) Palisades Interstate Parkway, extending northward from [George Washington Bridge](#), [Fort Lee](#), New Jersey, to Bear Mountain Bridge, New York. The largest unit is Harriman State Park (73 square miles [189 square km]). Facilities for hiking, swimming, fishing, boating, camping, picnicking, golfing, rock climbing, and skating are available. An inn is open all year long at Bear Mountain.

The term Palisades, now quasi-generic for a line of cliffs, was apparently first used in reference to these columnar formations along

the Hudson.

And a campfire by the Delaware

The Delaware River

- Is 330 miles long
- 13,539 sq. mile watershed
- Barrier between states of PA/NJ and most of the DE/NJ barrier
- Flows through NY, NJ, PA, & DE
- BEGINNING/END: Catskill Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean
- Supplies water to 15 million people ~ 5% of the Nation
- Fish Species include Smallmouth Bass, Shad, Walleye, Carp, Trout, Perch, Salmon, American Eels
- First mapped out in 1609 by Dutch Explorer Henry Hudson and his expedition
- The most famous crossing involved George Washington during the night of December 25-26, 1776 when he led a successful surprise attack on the Hessian troops in Trenton, NJ

First Native Americans habited the river valley in 8000 B.C.

There's a lighthouse that is silent

Located in some of the most beautiful areas of the state, visitors are amazed by the 11 majestic lighthouses that have guarded mariners sailing the Atlantic Ocean and intercoastal waterways for over a century.

You're the cry of revolution

N J and the revolutionary war

Besides being the location of several important battles, New Jersey was also helpful in disrupting British supply units. Forts on the [Delaware River](#) could attack British supply troops as they sailed to Philadelphia. Men in whaleboats crossed the Hudson and raided New York City and Long Island, and captured shipping in the Sandy Hook staging area outside New York Harbor. Ships based in south Jersey ports raided British shipping at sea. New Jersey also had several ironworks that provide iron and iron products, such as

cannon, for the war effort, besides its food production. The Ford family in Morristown ran a black powder mill that supplied needed powder for the early war effort. The Continental army encamped three years in New Jersey, in the winters of 1777 at Morristown, 1778-79 at Middlebrook (near Bound Brook), and in 1780 again at Morristown. Large parts of the Continental forces wintered in other years in NJ. Raids from British held New York City across the Hudson into New Jersey happened very frequently. The British sent men into New Jersey looking for supplies, firewood, cattle, horses, sheep and pigs, and looking to capture leading patriots.

You're the singing of a children's choir

The Newark Boys Chorus School (NBCS)

is a unique independent school located in Newark, NJ. Founded in 1969, the school provides academic and musical education to young men from the greater Newark area in grades five through eight. Our students graduate with the maturity, discipline and self-confidence to succeed in life.

The chorus has been heard throughout the world, performing a diversified repertoire that includes traditional classical music, spirituals, folk music and jazz. NBCS has performed at renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center

The Newark Boys Chorus School is also committed to academic excellence. Our small class sizes provide students with opportunities for individualized instruction. Our graduates continue their education at prestigious secondary schools and more than 90% enroll in college, with several pursuing advanced degrees.

You're the voice of Thomas Edison

(February 11, 1847 – October 18, 1931) was an [American inventor](#) and [businessman](#). He developed many devices that greatly influenced life around the world, including the [phonograph](#), the [motion picture camera](#), and a long-lasting, practical electric [light bulb](#). Dubbed "The Wizard of Menlo Park",^[3] he was one of the first [inventors](#) to apply the principles of [mass production](#) and large-scale teamwork to the process of invention, and because of that, he is often credited with the creation of the first industrial [research laboratory](#).^[4]

Edison was a [prolific inventor](#), holding 1,093 [US patents in his name](#), as well as many patents in the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. More significant than the number of Edison's patents was the widespread impact of his inventions: [electric light](#) and power [utilities](#), [sound recording](#), and [motion pictures](#) all established major new industries world-wide. Edison's inventions contributed to [mass communication](#) and, in particular, telecommunications. These included a [stock ticker](#), a mechanical vote recorder, a battery for an electric car, electrical power, recorded music and [motion pictures](#).

His advanced work in these fields was an outgrowth of his early career as a [telegraph](#) operator. Edison developed a system of electric-power generation and distribution^[5] to homes, businesses, and factories – a crucial development in the modern industrialized world.

You're 'Leaves of Grass''

is a poetry collection by the [American poet Walt Whitman](#) (1819–1892). Though the first edition was published in 1855, Whitman spent his entire life writing and re-writing *Leaves of Grass*,^[1] revising it in several editions until his death. This resulted in vastly different editions over four decades – the first a small book of twelve poems and the last a compilation of over 400 poems. Walt Whitman made his home in Camden New Jersey from 1873 until his death.

and Salem's Oak

The Great Salem Oak was already mature when John Fenwick signed his treaty with the Lenni Lenape Indians to start the Quaker Settlement there in 1753. It was honored during the town's 325th Anniversary.

The following tablet about the tree is located on the brick wall surrounding the burial ground.

A historical marker about the Salem Oak Tree is located just outside the burial ground. The marker was placed by the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission and it reads as follows:

Salem Oak Tree. Most famous New Jersey tree stands in a cemetery. By tradition, John Fenwick made his treaty with the Indians in its shade, 1675.

There is probably no historic site in Salem County better known than the Salem Oak. It has been celebrated in poetry and prose for over a century, and incorporated as a symbol of the county by both private and public enterprises.

Unlike any other local landmark, the oak is a living reminder of the county's history. Estimated to be more than 400 years old, this ancient tree is said to have shaded the Lenni Lenape, and local lore maintains that John Fenwick treated with Native Americans beneath its branches upon his arrival here in 1675. What is certain is that the Religious Society of Friends, Salem Monthly Meeting, has owned the tree and surrounding property since 1681. This was the site of Salem's first meetinghouse and is still maintained as the Friends Burial Ground. The Friends Meeting cares for the grounds and the tree to this very day.

For as long as violets blossom

New Jersey's State Flower

The Common Violet

(*Viola sororia*)

- The distinctive feature of the Common Meadow Violet is its leaves, some of them are cut or divided into lobes.
- The prototypical early blue violet has lobed leaves, usually with five to eleven lobes.
- Leaves of the Common meadow violet all arise from the base of

plant.

- Habitat of these Common meadow violet are slopes, open and low woods, thickets, streambanks, and limy areas.
- Common meadow violet stems have thick underground caudex.
- The Common meadow violet flowers are used in making candies and jellies.

Common meadow violets are high in vitamin A and contain more vitamin C than oranges.

In the gardens by the Jersey shore

Abraham Browning of Camden is given credit for giving New Jersey the nickname the Garden State. According to Alfred Heston's 1926 two-volume book Jersey Waggon Jaunts, Browning called New Jersey the Garden State while speaking at the Philadelphia Centennial exhibition on New Jersey Day (August 24, 1876). (source: nj.gov)

The **Jersey Shore** is the **coastal region** of the state of **New Jersey**. Geographically, the term encompasses about 127 miles (204 km) [1] of oceanfront from **Sandy Hook** in the north to **Cape May** in the south.

Famous for its many **boardwalks** with arcades, water parks, and amusement parks boasting hundreds of rides and attractions, the Jersey Shore is a popular vacation spot for New Jerseyans, **New Yorkers**, and **Pennsylvanians**, and various other states in the **Northeastern United States**. **Canadian** provinces of **Quebec** and **Ontario**.

And spirits walk through Princeton's halls

Princeton

Founded in 1746 in **Elizabeth** as the College of New Jersey, Princeton was the fourth chartered institution of higher education in the American colonies [6][a] and thus one of the nine **Colonial Colleges** established before the **American Revolution**. The institution moved to **Newark** in 1747, then to the current site nine years later, where it was renamed Princeton University in 1896.[11] The present-day **College of New Jersey** in nearby **Ewing Township**, New Jersey, is an unrelated institution. Princeton had close ties to the **Presbyterian Church**, but

has never been affiliated with any denomination[12] and today imposes no religious requirements on its students.[b]

Princeton provides undergraduate and graduate instruction in the [humanities](#), [social sciences](#), [natural sciences](#), and engineering.[14] It does not have schools of medicine, law, [divinity](#), education, or business, but it offers professional degrees through the [Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs](#), the [School of Engineering and Applied Science](#), the School of Architecture and the Bendheim Center for Finance. The university has ties with the [Institute for Advanced Study](#), [Princeton Theological Seminary](#), and the [Westminster Choir College of Rider University](#). [c] Princeton has been associated with 37 [Nobel laureates](#), 17 [National Medal of Science](#) winners, two [Abel Prize](#) winners, eight [Fields Medalists](#) (more so than any other university), nine [Turing Award](#) laureates, three [National Humanities Medal](#) recipients and 204 [Rhodes Scholars](#).

"spirits walk through Princeton's halls" alludes to the spirit of [Albert Einstein](#), 14 March 1879 – 18 April 1955) was a German-born [theoretical physicist](#) and [philosopher of science](#). [3]

Einstein was affiliated with the [Institute for Advanced Study](#) in [Princeton, New Jersey](#), until his death in 1955.

Fact #1: Einstein wasn't a beautiful baby. When [Einstein was born](#) on March 14, 1879, the back of his head was reportedly so huge that his family worried something was wrong with him. But within the first few weeks, the shape of his head became more normal-looking.

Fact #2: Einstein was slow to talk. Some say he didn't start speaking [until age four](#). Stanford economist [Dr. Thomas Sowell](#) even coined the controversial term "[Einstein Syndrome](#)" to describe exceptionally bright people whose speech is delayed.

Fact #3: Einstein did NOT flunk math. It's long been rumored that Einstein was a bad student -- and these rumors have been fueled in part by headlines like one in a "Ripley's Believe it or Not!" newspaper: "[Greatest living mathematician failed in mathematics](#)." In

fact, Einstein was not a poor student. [He was conversant in college physics](#) before he was 11 years old, was a "brilliant" violin player, and received high marks in Latin and Greek. Before age 15 he had already mastered calculus.

Fact #4: Einstein set weird rules for his wife. Einstein demanded a lot from [Mileva](#). In fact, he gave her a set of rules to follow. Included on the list was that she [had to serve three meals day](#), to stop talking if he asked her to, and to expect no romance from him.

Fact #5: Einstein got along *really* well with his cousin. So well, in fact, that she -- Elsa Einstein -- became his wife in 1919.

Fact #6: Wearing socks wasn't Einstein's thing. In another letter to Elsa, Einstein wrote that he ["got away without wearing socks"](#) at the University of Oxford. The world-renowned genius eventually became known for his unkempt appearance -- though more attention was focused on his hair than on his feet.

Fact #7: Einstein was a member of the NAACP. Specifically, the chapter in Princeton, N.J., where he lived and worked. But even before [Einstein moved permanently to America](#) in 1933, he [corresponded with civil rights activist and scholar W.E.B. Dubois](#), a founder of the NAACP. And during a 1946 speech at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, [Einstein called racism](#) "a disease," the Harvard Gazette reported.

Fact #8: Einstein may have hastened his death. Einstein died on April 18, 1955 after suffering a burst blood vessel. According to the website of the American Museum of Natural History, [doctors suggested surgery](#), but Einstein declined, saying, "It is tasteless to prolong life artificially."

Truly, New Jersey is the Mirror of America!

Additional Facts:

New Jersey

It is s a peninsula

Has the highest elevation along the entire Eastern seaboard, from Maine to florida

Ranks 5th among wine producing states

The Passaic River was the site of the first submarine ride by inventor John P. Holland.

- has 50+ resort cities and towns, some of the nations' most famous: Asbury Park, Wildwood, Atlantic City, Seaside Heights, Long Branch and Cape May.
- has the most stringent testing along our coast line for Water Quality Control than any other seaboard state in the entire country.
- is a leading technology and industrial state and is the largest chemical producing state in the nation when you include pharmaceuticals.
- Jersey tomatoes are known the world over as being the best you can buy.
- is the world leader in blueberry and cranberry production.

New Jersey rocks! The famous Les Paul invented the first solid body electric guitar in Mahwah in 1940.

New Jersey is home to one of the nation's busiest airports at Newark Liberty International.

- George Washington slept here. Several important Revolutionary War battles were fought on New Jersey soil, led by General George Washington.
- The light bulb, phonograph (record player) and motion picture projector were invented by Thomas Edison in his Menlo Park and West Orange laboratories.
- We also boast the first town ever lit by incandescent bulbs.

- The first seaplane was built in Keyport, NJ.
- The first airmail (to Chicago) was started from Keyport, NJ.
- The first phonograph records were made in Camden, NJ.
- New Jersey is home to the Miss America Pageant held in Atlantic City.
- The game Monopoly, played all over the world, uses actual streets in Atlantic City.
- Atlantic City has the longest boardwalk in the world.
- New Jersey has the largest petroleum containment area outside of the Middle East countries.
- The first Indian reservation was in New Jersey, in the Watchung Mountains.
- New Jersey has the tallest water-tower in the world -- in Union.
- New Jersey had the first Medical Center, in Jersey City.
- The Pulaski SkyWay, from Jersey City to Newark, was the first skyway highway.
- NJ built the first tunnel under a river, the Hudson. (Holland Tunnel).
- The first baseball game was played in Hoboken, NJ, which is also the birthplace of Frank Sinatra.
- The first intercollegiate football game was played in New Brunswick in 1889. (Rutgers College played Princeton.)
- The first Drive-in Movie theater was opened in Camden, NJ, (but they're all gone now!)
- New Jersey is home to both of "NEW YORK'S " ProFootball Teams!
- The first radio station and broadcast was in Paterson, NJ.

The first FM radio broadcast was made from Alpine, NJ, by Maj. Thomas Armstrong.

New Jersey natives include, Jack Nicholson, Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi, Queen Latifa, Susan Sarandon, Connie Francis,, Judy Blume, Aaron Burr, Dionne Warwick, Sarah Vaughn, Budd Abbott, Lou Costello, Alan Ginsberg, Norman Mailer, Marilyn McCoo, Flip Wilson, Alexander Hamilton, Whitney Houston, Eddie Money, Linda

McElroy, Eileen Donnelly, Grover Cleveland, Woodrow Wilson, Walt Whitman, Jerry Lewis, Tom Cruise, , Joyce Kilmer, Bruce Willis, Caesar Romero, Lauryn Hill, Ice-T, Nick Adams, Nathan Lane, Sandra Dee, Danny DeVito, , Joe Pesci, Joe Piscopo, Robert Blake, John Forsyth, Meryl Streep, Loretta Swit, Norman Lloyd, Paul Simon, Jerry Herman, Gordon McCrae, Kevin Spacey, John Travolta, , , Eva Marie Saint, , , James Fennimore Cooper, Admiral William Halsey, Jr., Dave Thomas(Wendy's), William Carlos Williams, Ray Liotta, , , Paul Robeson, Ernie Kovacs, , and, of course.....Frank Albert Sinatra

Bibliography

NJ Facts source: <http://www.funtravels.com/Features/new-jersey-firsts.html>)

<http://www.brighthubeducation.com/help-with-geography/119949-learn-about-the-hudson-river-interesting-facts/>

Newark Boys choir: <http://nbcs.us/about/>

The [Salem County Historical Society](#) provides the following history of the oak tree: (source:

http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM4H1D_Great_Salem_Oak_Salem_NJ)

Albert Einstein source: (source: /'ælbərt 'aɪnstain/; German: [ˈalbɐrt ˈaɪnfʃtaɪn]

Wikipedia