

**REVIEWING U.S.
AND
NEW YORK STATE HISTORY**



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HISTORY



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Of the Year 2003

AMSCO



AMSCO SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS, INC.
315 Hudson Street, New York, N.Y. 10013

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New Maps, Charts, Graphs: Nesbitt Graphics, Inc.

Photo Research: Tobi Zausner

Practice Tests: Ross Bloomfield

Cover Photos: Niagara Falls/Eyewire-Getty

Mount Rushmore/@ CORBIS

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REVIEWING U.S. AND NEW YORK STATE HISTORY

ISBN 1-56765-659-5 / NYC Item 56765-659-4

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Printed in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 09 08 07 06 05 04



PREFACE

Reviewing U.S. and New York State History is a review text for students completing the new 7th- and 8th-grade New York State Social Studies Core Curriculum. The text’s specific purpose is to reinforce the contents of this two-year course as preparation for the Intermediate-Level Social Studies Examination that follows it.

In suitably compact style, we present U.S. history with special emphasis on the important role of New York State within the national context. A broad chronology highlights the causes and effects of major events that have shaped the nation and the state. This multifaceted treatment embraces economics, culture and social history, domestic politics, international relations, and technology.

An introduction applies the five major geographic themes to New York State and its relationship to the United States and the world.

The first chapter of the text is also rich in geographical applications. It discusses the settlement of the Western Hemisphere from prehistoric times and traces how early peoples used available resources to meet their needs. After consideration of pre-Columbian cultures, the discussion turns to the impact of geography on the development of the United States and New York State.

In all, 33 chapters, in seven units, treat the full sweep of the American experience: New World explorations, colonial settlements, the trials of young nationhood, the Civil War and Reconstruction, industrialization and expansion, world leadership before and after the cold war, and the domestic and foreign policies of administrations up to and including that of George W. Bush.

Other significant emphases and special features include:

- the ongoing theme of how a national character developed over centuries from contributions of diverse people, including “ordinary” citizens, immigrants, women, and ethnic and racial minorities.
- a generous art program of charts, tables, graphs, cartoons, maps, drawings, and photos that summarize and compare political, economic, and cultural data, and also serve as exercise documents.
- mid-chapter “Info Checks” and end-of-chapter reviews—multiple-choice, constructed-response, and DBQ exercises—that will accustom students to question formats in the Intermediate-Level Social Studies Examination.
- an appendix on New York State’s local governments, finances, and citizenship; an extensive glossary of key social studies terms; and a comprehensive index for easy reference to topics in the text.
- two practice examinations modeled on the newly mandated intermediate test, to provide students with realistic test-taking experiences.

After completing this review text, students will be able to understand the flow of U.S. and New York State history and weigh great historical issues with an open mind. Such accomplishments are critical to a person’s ability to cope with change. We sincerely hope that our efforts will help to make young people knowledgeable and responsible citizens of the 21st century.

ELAINE FARRAN
ANN-JEAN PACI



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INTRODUCTION:

Five Major Themes of Geography

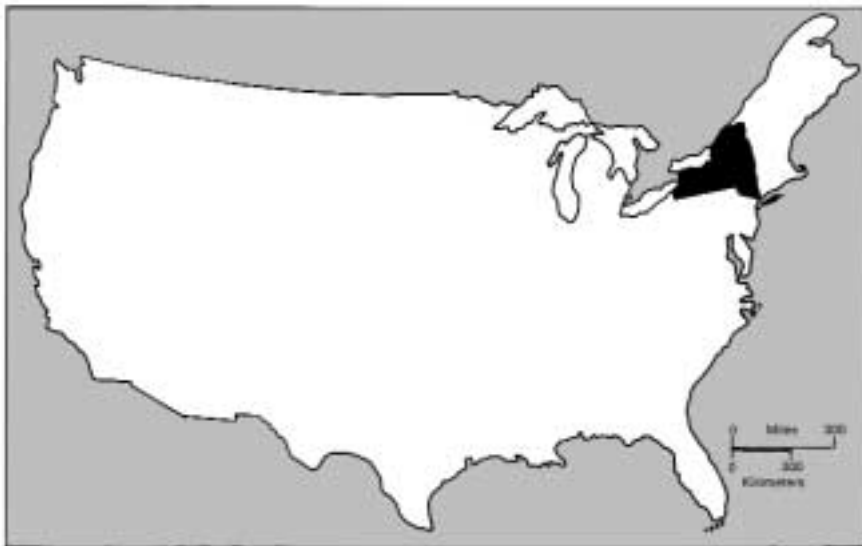
Geography is the study of different regions; their physical features and climates; regional and worldwide distributions of people, animals, plants, resources, and industries; and interactions of one region with another. This study has five major themes. For purposes of this review, we will apply those themes to New York State and its relation to the United States and the world:



THEME 1: LOCATION

Relative and Absolute Location There are two kinds of location:

- **Relative location** is the position of one place in relation to another. New York's relative location can be seen on the map below. What else can you learn from this map?



New York State in the United States

The map on page x provides more details. New York has neighbors. On the east are Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Canada and Lake Ontario form its northern border. Lake Erie makes up most of its western border. Can you name three other important bodies of water that form parts of New York's borders? What states border New York on the south?



New York State in the Northeast

These details will be useful as you examine the state's past and present relationships with its neighbors and its key position within the United States and the world.

- **Absolute location** is the exact position of a place. New York has an absolute location on Earth. It is expressed in terms of imaginary lines that run east to west and north to south around Earth.

Latitude and Longitude Earth is a globe. Therefore, any line that extends around it is a circle. A full circle contains **360 degrees** (360°); each degree is divided into **60 minutes** ($60'$). This system of measurement is used to find the absolute location of any place on Earth.

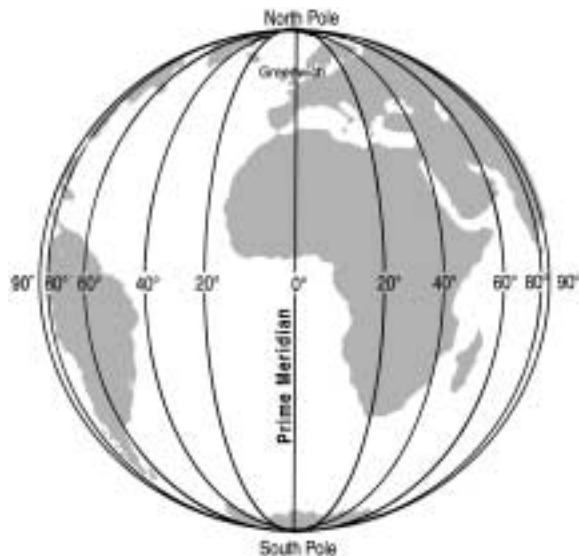
The imaginary lines circling Earth east to west are called **parallels of latitude**. The equator is the parallel of latitude that circles Earth halfway between the North and South poles. It divides Earth into Northern and Southern **hemispheres** (halves of the globe).

The equator's position is identified as 0 degrees (0°). As the map on the top of page xi shows, other latitude lines also circle the globe. They extend from the equator at 0 degrees to the North Pole at 90 degrees north latitude (90° N), and to the South Pole at 90 degrees south latitude (90° S). This half circle of 190 degrees ($90^\circ + 90^\circ = 180^\circ$) and the half circle on the "hidden" side of Earth make up the 360-degree global circle. Note two interesting facts about parallels of latitude: (1) every point along a particular parallel of latitude is the same distance from the poles and the same distance from the equator; (2) parallels of latitude never intersect (cross each other).



Parallels of Latitude

Another set of imaginary lines extends from the North Pole to the South Pole. These lines are Earth's **meridians of longitude**. A line passing through Greenwich, England, at 0 degrees is called the **prime meridian**. If you go east or west from that line, you cross other meridians until you reach the meridian at 180 degrees, on the opposite side of the globe. The eastern meridians and the western meridians ($180^\circ + 180^\circ$) make up the 360 degrees of a complete circle. The map below shows the meridian lines on one-half of the globe.



Meridians of Longitude

Meridians of longitude cross parallels of latitude to form an imaginary **grid** (pattern of vertical and horizontal lines) on Earth's surface. By using the degree numbers

of these crossing lines, you can give an absolute location for any point or area on a map. The map below, for example, shows New York's location within a very wide grid. The N and W markings on the grid immediately tell you that New York is in the Northern and Western hemispheres. The grid shows every 10 degrees of north latitude and every 20 degrees of west longitude. It does not show minute lines. From the information available on this map, how would you express New York's absolute location?



New York's Location



THEME 2: PLACE

Look at the map on page xiii. In addition to important New York cities, it shows the state's bodies of water and surface features.

Geology **Geology** is the study of Earth's physical history, as revealed by its rocks and other surface features. You might think that New York's hills, valleys, flatlands, waterways, lakes, and beaches were always as you see them today. Actually, these features are the result of billions of years of change. And the surface is still changing.

Rock Formations Some of the world's oldest rocks are in New York. They were formed at the bottom of the Grenville Sea, which covered the state about 2 billion years ago. Then, forces within Earth pushed up the sea floor to form the Adirondack Mountains.

About 550 million years ago, New York was part of a vast **plain**, or low flatland. The Adirondacks and some mountains to the east were the only extensive highlands. Once again, a shallow sea began to cover the region. The peaks of the Adirondacks, however, were high enough to rise above the water and form a group of islands.

For the next 300 million years, rivers carried mud, sand, and other matter from the mountains down to the sea. In time, these deposits on the sea floor hardened into layers of rock. Within the rocks were formed such natural materials as petroleum, natural gas, salt, and other minerals.

About 200 million years ago, the layered rock on the sea floor began to rise and form a **plateau**, or elevated flatland. The plateau was slowly worn down again by water,



New York State: Physical Map

wind, and ice. These forces of **erosion** reshaped the plateau into hills, stream channels, and river valleys.

Ice Age The most recent geological event in New York was the Ice Age. It lasted from 1 million to about 10,000 years ago. When it ended, the state's land and waters had been transformed.

The Ice Age began by cooling Earth's atmosphere. Snowfall increased. Water froze and did not melt. The ice thickened and, in time, sheets of ice grew into a giant **glacier**, two miles thick in places. The glacier slowly extended south. As ice sheets slipped to lower elevations, their huge weight scraped across the land. The ice tore up forests, rounded off hilltops and mountains, and made existing valleys wider and deeper. Boulders, stones, and mud frozen into the ice were carried along or pushed ahead.

When thaws interrupted long periods of cold, the glacier retreated until the next freeze. In the Ice Age's final stage, New York's surface was crushed under a sheet of ice that extended south to Long Island and Staten Island.

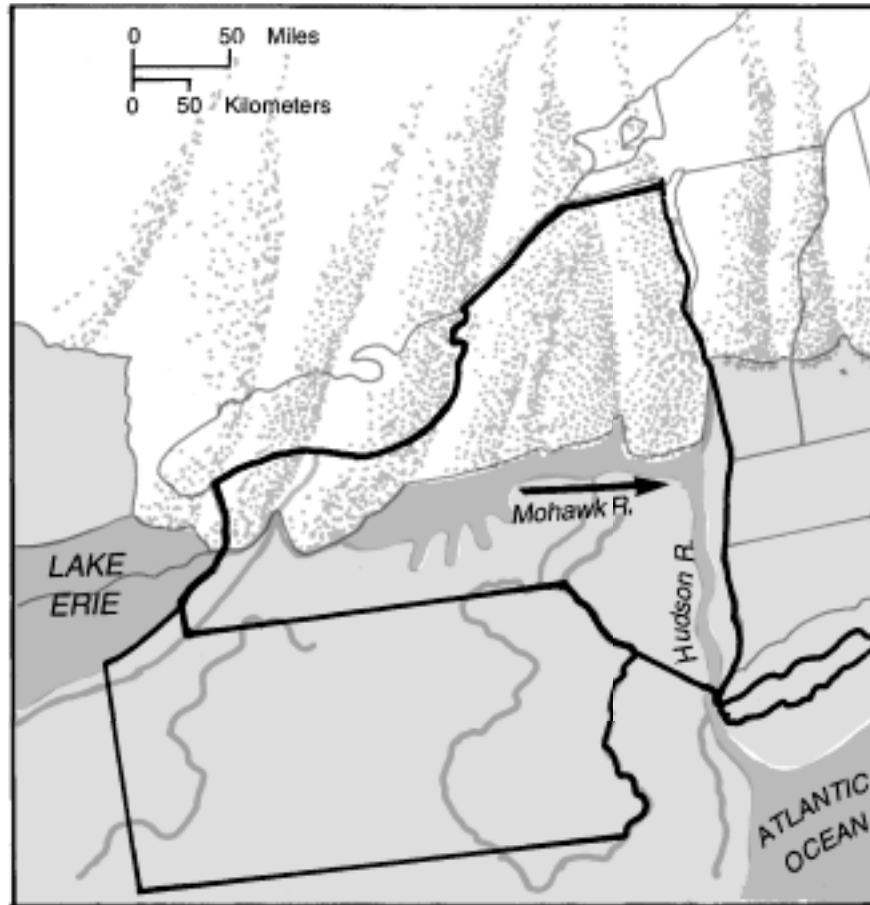
So much water was trapped in ice that the level of the Atlantic Ocean was much lower than it is now. Long Island was part of the mainland, and the Hudson River Valley extended nearly 100 miles beyond today's coastline. From this section of the sea floor, scientists have uncovered 15,000-year-old teeth from mastodons (extinct animals related to the elephant).

When those mastodons were still alive, a major warming began. The ice sheet melted and retreated north. As it did so, the land was reshaped. Long Island and Staten Island acquired rows of low hills called **glacial moraines**—boulders, gravel, and mud dropped and left behind by the retreating ice. Water melting from the glacier also spread sand and gravel over Long Island, giving the area its well-drained soil, ideal for agriculture.

In some places, moraines blocked the flow of rivers. River valleys then filled with water from melting ice and formed lakes. The Finger Lakes of central New York, as well as many Adirondack lakes, came into being this way.

The advance and retreat of scraping ice created the Great Lakes too. As the Ice Age ended, those five lakes were much larger than they are today. Lakes Erie and Ontario covered much of the northwestern plain of New York. Where did the water go? Once the thaw freed the Mohawk River Valley of ice, tons of water roared down the Mohawk, into the Hudson, and south into the Atlantic Ocean (see the map below.) Over time, the rushing water widened and deepened those river valleys. Today, oceangoing ships can travel the Hudson from its mouth north to Albany, more than 140 miles.

As ice continued to melt, the overflow from the Great Lakes widened the St. Lawrence River Valley too. Lake Champlain grew in size and reached a depth of 400 feet.



New York During the Ice Age

Landforms Geology created New York State's varying natural surface features, or **landforms**. There are two main types, **uplands** and **lowlands**. Uplands are mountains and plateaus. They make up a large part of the state. The Adirondack and Catskill mountains are the two highest uplands areas. In addition, New York has several plateaus, which cover a large part of the state.

Lowlands include river valleys and **coastal plains** (low flatlands near large bodies of water).

Climate **Climate** is the average of weather conditions in a location over a long period. Weather changes daily, or even within hours. Still, New Yorkers can expect July to be warm and January cold.

Elements of Climate Several factors create climate: latitude; prevailing winds; **altitude**, or elevation, of the land; nearness to large bodies of water; and **precipitation** (rain, sleet, or snow).

New York's latitude of approximately 40–45° N is midway between the equator and the North Pole. Consequently, the climate is neither very hot nor very cold. A 5-degree difference in latitude, however, is enough to make the northern part colder than the south. Rochester has lower average temperatures than Yonkers in Westchester County. Shelter Island, protected between the two forks of eastern Long Island, is so mild that bamboo grows there. Owls Head in the Adirondacks is called the "ice box" of the state.

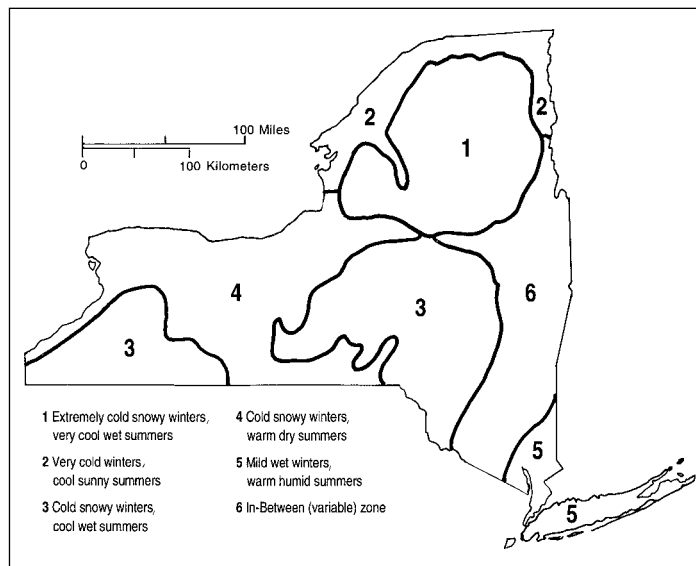
Winds bring cold, dry air from the north and warm, moist air from the south. Chilly air masses from Canada make for refreshing breezes in summer and bitter cold in winter. By contrast, air masses traveling north from the Gulf of Mexico bring hot, muggy days in summer and pleasant mild spells in winter.

Southern New York, along the coastal plain, lies in the path of Atlantic storms. In winter, wet and blustery storms called **northeasters** blow in from the ocean. In summer and fall, **hurricanes** roar west from Africa and then north from the Caribbean Sea. The winds of these destructive storms spiral around a central "eye" and may strike anywhere along the Gulf and eastern coasts of the United States.

Large bodies of water like the Atlantic Ocean, the Great Lakes, and the Finger Lakes also affect the state's climate. Long Island and the lower Hudson River Valley have relatively mild winters because they are close to the ocean. They also receive lots of rain. New York City averages 42 inches of precipitation each year. Farther inland, Rochester's average is only 33 inches.

Climate is also affected by landforms. Mountains, for example, force passing air masses to rise. As air rises, it cools. Because cold air is unable to hold as much moisture as warm air, cold air masses often release rain or snow as they pass over uplands. Consequently, the Adirondacks, the Tug Hill Plateau, and the Catskills have frequent rain, sleet, or snow. They also have colder winters and cooler summers than other regions in the state.

Climate Zones New York State has five climate zones (see the map below.) They blend into one another, with in-between areas experiencing a mixture of climate patterns.



New York State's Climate Zones



THEME 3: HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

People and Their Environment People change the world around them. They clear land, blast mountains to build tunnels, cut down trees, and dig canals.

The end results are positive and negative. On the positive side is the increased ability to trade, travel great distances in less time, connect regions of the nation by complex transportation systems, and provide the people of various regions with resources that they need for an adequate standard of living. People also cultivate the land for foods and build cities to be economic, governmental, and cultural centers.

However, there is a price to pay for these changes, such as pollution from factories and vehicles and the problems of urban overpopulation. Can you think of others?

Natural Resources **Natural resources** are found in land and water. New York is rich in natural resources that help satisfy such human needs as food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and recreation.

Water Water is one of the state's key resources. Think of how important water is in your daily life. Each day, New Yorkers use 3 billion gallons for personal uses, such as drinking, cooking, washing, and watering lawns.

Water also produces electric power. Each day, the state's electrical generating plants use more than 108 billion gallons of water to process coal, oil, gas, and nuclear fuels into electricity. Billions more gallons help produce **hydroelectric power** (conversion of power from rapidly flowing or falling water into electricity).

Water is in demand throughout the state. Factories need water to cool big machinery. Farmers need it for crops and livestock. Cities draw on distant supplies for apartments and offices.

New York has 70,000 miles of rivers and streams, at least 5300 square miles of lakes, and, in the southeast, ready access to the Atlantic Ocean. Lakes Erie and Ontario and the waters off Long Island support a large fishing industry. The use of waterways for transportation has declined since the rise of railroads in the 1800s, but barges and other vessels still deliver tons of raw materials and manufactured goods to points around the state. Recreational uses of lakes and rivers make New York a year-round vacation state. Visitors find ideal conditions for fishing, swimming, ice skating, boating, and canoeing.

New York's shorelines on the Atlantic Ocean and Lakes Erie and Ontario have helped make it a world leader in commerce. The port of New York City has a rich history. It spurred U.S. trade with the entire world and welcomed millions of **immigrants** arriving here from other countries. Buffalo's port on Lake Erie served as New York's natural link to the Midwest.

Forests Forests cover half the state. The Adirondack and Catskill mountains, for instance, are almost entirely forestland. In the 1800s, New York's forests were nearly destroyed by overcutting. Since then, the state government has acted to protect this natural resource by setting aside forest preserves. Millions of additional forested acres, under private ownerships, produce lumber, wood products, and wood pulp for paper.

Fertile Soil Fertile soil is a precious natural resource. It makes possible New York's plentiful and varied agriculture (see the map on page xvii). The crops grown on the Erie-Ontario Coastal Plain, in the Finger Lakes district, and on Long Island keep New York among the nation's leading agricultural producers of fruits and vegetables.

Beef cattle, dairy cows, and poultry feed off the rich land as well. In recent years, New York’s milk industry has declined, but its production of milk by-products—butter, cheese, yogurt, and ice cream—remains outstanding.



New York State Agriculture and Manufacturing

Minerals New York has widespread mineral resources. Long ago, formation of the Adirondacks created deposits of iron, zinc, titanium, and garnet. Later, petroleum, natural gas, and salt formed beneath the shallow sea that covered the region. And Ice Age glaciers dropped gravel and sand throughout the state. By means of mining, drilling, and dredging, many of these riches are recovered and used to increase New York’s wealth and industrial production.

MINERAL RESOURCES OF NEW YORK STATE		
Mineral	Location*	Uses
Garnet	Adirondacks	Watch jewels, sandpaper, emery boards, other abrasives
Iron	Adirondacks (especially Clinton, Essex, Hamilton counties)	Iron and steel products
Lead	St. Lawrence County	Storage batteries, chemical products, anti-rust agent, gasoline additive, radiation shield
Titanium	Adirondacks (especially Hamilton and Warren counties)	Steel, paint
Zinc	St. Lawrence County	Electric batteries, roof gutters, tank linings, alloys

*See the map on page xxii for the location of New York State’s 62 counties.

MINERAL RESOURCES OF NEW YORK STATE (<i>continued</i>)		
Mineral	Location*	Uses
Gypsum	Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe counties	Building materials (cement, stucco, wallboard)
Talc	Hamilton, Herkimer, St. Lawrence counties	Insulation, paint, paper, powder, roofing, rubber
Slate	Washington County	Chalkboard, roofing
Marble	Putnam and Washington counties	Building surfaces, ornamentation, statues, sculpture
Clay	Hudson Valley; Columbia, Erie, Onondaga counties	Bricks, cement
Sand and gravel	Throughout state (especially on Long Island)	Concrete, pavement
Salt	Livingston, Schuylcr, Tompkins, Wyoming counties	Table salt, animal feed, meat packing, hide curing, ice melting
Natural gas	Cattaraugus, Lewis, Oswego counties	Cooking, heating
Petroleum	Allegany, Cattaraugus, Steuben counties	Gasoline, kerosene, heating oil, lubricants, plastics

*See the map on page xxii for the location of New York State's 62 counties.



THEME 4: MOVEMENT

Geography is also concerned with patterns of movement of people, products, and information. What major forms of transportation have New Yorkers developed and used? What have been the state's major exports and imports? How have its people exchanged ideas through ever more complex communications systems?

These and many other questions about patterns of movement throughout New York State's history—human, commercial, and informational—will be answered in the chapters ahead.



THEME 5: REGIONS

Physical features, language dialects, political divisions, and native vegetation distinguish the eleven regions of New York State. As you will see, people derive benefits from their regions. Moreover, human interaction and movement result from people adapting to their environments or changing them to meet changing needs.

As you read about New York State's 11 regions, refer also to the physical map on page xiii.

Chautauqua-Allegheny Region (*Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany Counties*) The *Allegheny Plateau*, located in western New York, is the largest geographic region in the state. Once, it was high and flat. Over millions of years, however, the



Travel and Tourism Regions of New York State

plateau has been eroded by the retreating Ice Age glacier, streams, and weather. Today, the region is hill country. The southern section of the plateau is the highest and is divided by several river valleys. The region includes Allegheny, Lake Chautaugua, and Lake Erie state parks, as well as the lands of the Seneca Nation of Native Americans.

Greater Niagara Region (*Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties*) Stretching across western New York is the *Erie-Ontario Coastal Plain*, containing three major cities—Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo. Buffalo is further defined by being at the far western end of the state.

The flat, marshy Erie-Ontario Coastal Plain follows the New York shoreline along those two lakes. Places of importance include Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and Letchworth State Park on the Genesee River.

Finger Lakes Region (*Wayne, Ontario, Yates, Monroe, Onondaga, Seneca, Cayuga, Tompkins, Tioga, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben Counties*) Although located within the Erie-Ontario Coastal Plain, Syracuse and Rochester are also considered part of the Finger Lakes Region, according to New York's travel and tourism guidelines. Located north of the Allegheny Plateau, the graceful Finger Lakes are part of the uplands that stretch from northeastern Canada to central Alabama. At its eastern end, the plateau rises into the Catskill Mountains.

Native Americans so named the region because its lakes, remnants of Ice Age glaciers, resembled giant fingerprints. There are eleven parks along the lakefronts, six of them with gorges and waterfalls.

Thousand Islands–Seaway Region (*St. Lawrence and Oswego Counties*) Approximately 1800 islands make up the Thousand Islands. The scenic land of the Thousand Islands–Seaway Region is part of the *St. Lawrence–Lake Champlain Lowland*. Native Americans called the area “Land of the River Without End.” From its source in Lake Ontario to the Canadian city of Cornwall, the St. Lawrence River forms the border between Canada and the United States. From Cornwall, it flows northeast through Canada.

Most of the lowland area consists of 125-mile-long Lake Champlain, which is part of New York’s border with Vermont. The lake drains northward through Quebec’s Richelieu River, which then empties into the St. Lawrence northeast of Montreal.

The St. Lawrence Seaway, completed in 1959, has boosted the region’s economy. The project makes use of the St. Lawrence River to connect the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean. The seaway has a canal deep enough for oceangoing vessels and three large dams, which produce electrical power.

Adirondacks Region (*Clinton, Warren, Essex, Hamilton, Franklin, Lewis Counties*) The Adirondacks, New York’s greatest mountain range, are rich in history. Old forts, museums, and antique shops are scattered throughout. Many peaks reach 4000 feet. The beautiful scenery—forests, large lakes, waterfalls, and gorges—has made the region famous. Adirondack State Park is larger than Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Glacier, and Olympic national parks combined. Some Adirondack lakes, such as George, Saranac, and Placid, were created when the retreating ice sheet blocked rivers.

Tug Hill Plateau (*Jefferson, Oswego, Oneida, Lewis Counties*) The Tug Hill Plateau, located directly west of the Adirondacks, is another of the state’s eroded uplands. It is flat, rocky, and 1800 feet high. Because of the harsh climate and poor soil, the plateau is one of the least populated regions in the state.

Central-Leatherstocking Region (*Broome, Chenango, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida, Schoharie Counties*) Located between the Catskills and the Adirondacks, this region’s name is a tribute to the writings of James Fenimore Cooper. He was so inspired by the natural beauty and the people of the region that he wrote tales and novels to celebrate it. The region is also home to five halls of fame at Cooperstown—Baseball, Boxing, Distance Running, Soccer, and Twirling.

Some of the land owned by the Oneida Indian Nation is now the site of Turning Stone Casino Resort. It employs more than 3100 central New Yorkers, most of whom are non-Native Americans. Over the past ten years, the Oneidas have created an economic miracle in the region by using proceeds from the casino and other ventures to provide their people with housing, health care, and educational programs.

Another new use of the land is for “agri-tourism.” It provides tourists with a variety of farm experiences and offers them products for sale.

Capital-Saratoga Region (*Albany, Saratoga, Rensselaer, Washington Counties*) This region is home to the state capital, Albany. In this region, Grandma Moses painted her famous folk canvasses of historic villages, forests, farmlands, and general landscapes. Visitors to the region are delighted by a variety of elegant Victorian homes, music and art, mineral baths, geysers, and thrilling thoroughbred horse racing.

Catskills Region (*Delaware, Greene, Ulster, Orange, Sullivan Counties*) Rising west of the Hudson River, the Catskill Mountains, an eastern extension of the Allegheny Plateau, are the second highest range in the state. Millions of years ago, the

region was a plateau of very hard rock. Years of erosion created today's mountains and narrow valleys. The mountains rise from about 2000 to 4000 feet above sea level. Slide Mountain, at 4204 feet, is the highest. Good soil is limited to narrow valleys, so there is little agriculture in the region. It is best known as both a summer and a winter vacationland.

The Catskills have played an important part in American art and literature. Many of Washington Irving's quaint stories are set in the Catskills. Its rugged mountains and valleys also inspired 19th-century painters of the Hudson River School.

Hudson Valley Region The Hudson River region crosses many counties and takes in two physically diverse areas west and east of the river itself. Among the unifying features of the region are the *Hudson Highlands*. These craggy hills extend southwest from the Taconic Mountains, cross the lower Hudson River, and pass between Newburgh on the west and Peekskill on the east. The cliffs of the highlands rise on both sides of the Hudson River as it flows south. (On the New Jersey side of the lower Hudson, these cliffs are known as the *Palisades*.)

Hudson Valley West (Albany, Greene, Ulster, Orange, Rockland Counties)

The Hudson and Mohawk river valleys form the *Hudson-Mohawk Lowland*, connecting the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The Hudson begins in the Adirondacks at Lake Tear-of-the-Clouds. At Hudson Falls, it enters a broad, fertile valley. Flowing south, it is joined by the Mohawk River near Troy. From this point, the Mohawk-fed Hudson becomes an **estuary**—an inland arm of the Atlantic Ocean.

Before joining the Hudson, the Mohawk flows between the Allegheny Plateau and the Adirondacks. Pioneers, laden with their possessions, moved up the Mohawk Valley to the Great Lakes and beyond. The valley thus became known as the "Gateway to the West."

Hudson Valley East (Rensselaer, Columbia, Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester Counties) Included within this region are some areas already mentioned, such as Upper Ulster County in the Catskills and the Capital-Saratoga Region.

The Taconic Mountains and the areas stretching south from them to New York City form the *New England Upland*, part of New York's eastern border with Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. (In Massachusetts, the mountains are known as the Berkshires.) The southern portion of the region includes Westchester County and two boroughs of New York City—Manhattan and the Bronx.

New York City Region (New York [Manhattan], Bronx, Queens, Kings [Brooklyn], Richmond [Staten Island] Counties) New York City is located among three of the state's important landforms. Most of Manhattan and the Bronx are part of the New England Upland. The lower Hudson River Valley also embraces parts of both boroughs. The three remaining boroughs—Staten Island, Brooklyn, and Queens—lie on the *Atlantic Coastal Plain*.

No one in New York City is far from water. The Hudson River separates Manhattan from New Jersey to the west. The so-called East River separates Manhattan from Brooklyn and Queens to the east. It is not really a river; it is a **strait** (a narrow waterway linking two large bodies of water). The East River connects New York Bay with Long Island Sound and thus shortens the water route to New England and the North Shore of Long Island. The Harlem River, which separates Manhattan from the Bronx, is another strait, connecting the East and Hudson rivers. The Atlantic Ocean forms the southern shoreline of Brooklyn and Queens.

New York's magnificent harbor was the original source of the city's greatness and remains its greatest natural resource. Here, fleets of ships can lie at anchor, sheltered

from storms. From the early days of European settlement to the present, the harbor has been a hub for water traffic between central and northern New York and the port cities of the Atlantic coast and Europe.

Atlantic Coastal Plain The Atlantic Coastal Plain is the lowland bordering the Atlantic Ocean from eastern Canada to the tip of Florida. Two islands in the southeastern part of New York—Staten Island and Long Island—are located in the plain. Staten Island is in New York Bay.

Regional Importance New York City is one of the most important cities in the world. Some of its most famous sites include the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, Central Park, and Times Square. Its world-class museums include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Guggenheim Museum, and the American Museum of Natural History. The “New York Experience” also includes the finest in hotels, restaurants, theater, and shopping. Moreover, the city is home to some of the world’s leading industries and financial institutions.

Long Island Region (Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, Suffolk Counties) Long Island, the largest island adjoining the continental United States, is home to 7.5 million people. It contains two of New York City’s boroughs, Brooklyn and Queens, as well as Nassau and Suffolk counties. Suffolk is the easternmost part of the state.

Some of the world’s finest white-sand beaches stretch along the Atlantic Ocean from Brooklyn’s Coney Island, through Queens, and east to Long Island’s tip at Montauk Point.

With its rich history of centuries-old farming, fishing, and whaling, its seaside villages and ports, beaches and open plains, Long Island is a magnet for tourists, shoppers, and surfers.

In addition, Long Island’s Gold Coast mansions along Nassau’s North Shore offer a glimpse into the opulent world recreated by F. Scott Fitzgerald in his world-famous novel *The Great Gatsby*.



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