



Colorful Vermont

“Vermont” comes from the French words “vert,” meaning green, and “mont,” meaning mountain. Its nickname is the Green Mountain State.

Our 14th state, Vermont has long been famous for its independent spirit.

Native Americans, including Abenaki and Mohawk peoples, lived in the area for about 12,000 years. The first European to explore the region was French explorer Samuel de Champlain in 1609. England took control after the French and Indian War ended in 1763.

Vermont did not become a state until 1791. Instead, it stayed an independent republic for about 10 years after the Revolutionary War. It was the first state to outlaw slavery, in 1777.

Vermont has the smallest percent of people living in cities of all the states. Only about one-third of the population lives in urban areas. Out of 50 states, Vermont is 49th in population, with about 650,000 people.

Natural Vermont

When Europeans arrived, Vermont was almost 100% forested. By the 1850s, only about one-fourth of the state had any forestland. Today, forests have recovered to fill almost 80% of the state.

Maple trees give the state its extra-colorful

fall foliage. Vermont produces about 2 1/2 million gallons of maple syrup each year, more than any other state. The sugar maple is the state tree.

The Connecticut River forms to Vermont’s eastern border. The state is also bordered by Canada, New York, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The Green Mountains, some of the oldest mountains in the world, run through the middle of the state, dividing the east and west.

Living in Vermont

Montpelier (mont-PEEL-yer), in the state’s center, is Vermont’s capital, but Burlington is the largest city. About 225,000 people live in Burlington’s metropolitan area.

Vermonters work in tourism and manufacturing, along with services such as real estate and government. Farming is also important to the state.

Outdoor sports include cross-country and downhill skiing, hiking, snowboarding, snowshoeing, rock climbing, canoeing and rafting.



A farmer pours sap that’s been gathered from a maple tree to make syrup in 1940.

photo by Stanley Zimny

Mini Fact:

Presidents Wilson, Coolidge and Theodore Roosevelt all had summer homes in Vermont.

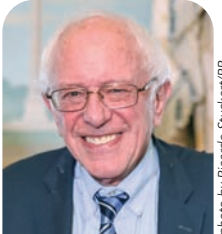
Famous Vermonters

• **Norman Rockwell** was an American painter who lived in Arlington, Vermont, during the time when he created some of his most famous works. He was known for his paintings of American everyday life, which were featured on magazine covers and in books.



“Freedom From Want,” a 1943 painting by Norman Rockwell.

• **Bernie Sanders** is a U.S. senator from Vermont. He has held that office since 2007. Although he is an Independent, Sanders ran for president in 2016, hoping to be the Democratic Party’s nominee.



Bernie Sanders

• **John Deere** was a blacksmith who started Deere & Co., which makes equipment for construction and farming. He was born in 1804 in Rutland, Vermont.



John Deere

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPVermont

At the library:

- “Vermont” by Casey Englund
- “Now and Then at Grampy’s Sugar House” by Ashley Sevigny

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Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of Vermont are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ABENAKI, COLORFUL, DEERE, FARMING, FOREST, GREEN, INDEPENDENT, MAPLE, MOHAWK, MONTPELIER, MOUNTAIN, REPUBLIC, ROCKWELL, SANDERS, SKIING, SYRUP, TOURISM, VERMONT.

E M F A R M I N G T S E R O F
C R I R E I L E P T N O M Z V
O U E F D Z S M O H A W K P E
L W R E P U B L I C I B N S R
O T N E D N E P E D N I E K M
R K M S I R U O T L A T E I O
F B L L E W K C O R P P R I N
U B Y M O U N T A I N A G N T
L R F S A N D E R S W O M G Y
V I K A N E B A P U R Y S W A

Cook’s Corner

Maple Beans

You’ll need:

- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 (16-ounce) cans baked beans
- 1/3 cup maple syrup

- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon mustard



What to do:

1. Cook onion pieces and butter in a medium pot over medium heat for 5 minutes. Stir frequently.
2. Add remaining ingredients. Cook 20 minutes or until warm. Stir frequently. Serves 6.

* You’ll need an adult’s help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. path between city buildings (5) _____
2. messaging on a phone (7) _____
3. brother of D.W. and Kate (6) _____
4. water comes out of it (6) _____
5. once every 24 hours (5) _____
6. coat (6) _____
7. far away (7) _____

JA	DA	ING	FAU
ART	DIST	LEY	ANT
XT	AL	CET	ET
HUR	ILY	CK	TE

Answers: alley, texting, Arthur, faucet, daily, jacket, distant.

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Mini Jokes



Sydney: How’s the new movie about maple syrup?
Sam: It starts out sappy, but ends up sweet.

Eco Note



Goldfish discarded into Canadian waterways by careless pet owners are becoming an increasing threat to the ecology of stormwater ponds and the Great Lakes, where they are growing into a supersized problem. “They can eat anything and everything,” Christine Boston, an aquatic research biologist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The quick breeders can survive in extreme conditions, including water with toxic blue-green algae. Growing to up to 16 inches in length, they quickly become too large to be eaten by other predatory freshwater fish species.

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For later:

Look for newspaper articles that mention things happening in Vermont.

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