

NYS Facts & History Quiz

Answer Sheet

1. Fort Ticonderoga

Originally built by the French in 1757, Fort Ticonderoga played a major role in the French and Indian Wars and later in the American Revolutionary War. Its strategic location between Lake George and Lake Champlain made it an especially valuable target for the Continental Army, who captured the fort from British forces on May 10, 1775, providing the Americans with their first victory of the Revolutionary War.

2. New Netherland

This 17th-century colony was founded by the Dutch West India Company in 1621 as a means of capitalizing on the North American fur trade. Areas claimed by the Dutch as New Netherland extended from present-day southern Massachusetts to northern Delaware, with its power and population centered in its capital settlement: New Amsterdam on the island of Manhattan. After conflict and mismanagement, the colony was surrendered by the Dutch to the English 1664, whereby King Charles II of England gifted the territory to his younger brother James, the Duke of York. The province and city were renamed in his honor.

3. New York City

Before Philadelphia and Washington DC, the first official capital of the United States was New York City. In 1785, the Congress of the Confederation made New York City the national capital shortly after the end of the Revolutionary War. In 1789, George Washington was inaugurated there as first President of the United States at Federal Hall on Wall Street. In 1790 the national capital was moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania while construction was underway on the new national capital, "Washington City".

4. Theodore Roosevelt

Born in Manhattan in October of 1858, President Theodore Roosevelt was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 for his efforts in helping negotiate an end to the Russo-Japanese War, as well as providing the Hague international court with its first case.

5. 1776

New York was represented at the Continental Congress, which signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. However, New York's delegates abstained from voting throughout the Congress until July 9 because their home assembly hadn't yet been given permission to vote in favor of independence.

6. Battle of Saratoga

This battle, which took place between September and October of 1777, gave the Americans a decisive victory over the British in the Revolutionary War. The battle resulted in the surrender of British General John Burgoyne to American General Horatio Gates and convinced the French to join the war in aid of the Americans.

7. George Clinton

George Clinton was a busy man in early America! His many titles included soldier, statesman, and Founding Father. However, Clinton is often best known as New York State's first governor from 1777 to 1795, during the years of the American Revolutionary War. He was again elected as governor and served from 1801 to 1804 and following that served as vice-president to Thomas Jefferson and James Madison consecutively from 1804 until his death in 1812. George's nephew, DeWitt Clinton, continued the New York Clinton Political dynasty after his uncle's death.

8. Erie Canal

The Erie Canal is a man-made series of river canals that crosses New York State in an east-to-west direction between the Hudson River in Albany and Lake Erie in Buffalo. It originally ran 363 miles long and was built to create a waterway for transporting goods and passengers from The Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes in America's new western region. At the time of completion in 1825, it was the second longest canal in the world after the Great Canal in China.

9. Five

Martin Van Buren: born 1782, Kinderhook, NY

Millard Fillmore: born 1800, Cayuga County (Finger Lakes), NY

Theodore Roosevelt: born 1858, Manhattan, NY

Franklin D. Roosevelt: born 1882, Hyde Park, NY

Donald Trump: born 1946, Queens, NY

10. Giovanni Verrazano

Italian explorer Giovanni Verrazano is credited by historians as being the first European to observe the Atlantic coast of North America during his 1524 voyage. On this voyage, Verrazano is also noted as having sailed into New York Bay, near present-day Staten Island, but mistaking the mouth of the Hudson River as a lake, felt it was less important and sailed north to Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island.

11. The Statue of Liberty

This famous quotation, now associated with the Statue of Liberty, is part of a sonnet written by poet Emma Lazarus. In 1883, to raise funds for the construction of the statue's pedestal, Lazarus wrote a poem entitled "The New Colossus". The sonnet was later engraved on a bronze plaque and has been displayed as part of the Statue of Liberty exhibit since 1903.

12. Mario M. Cuomo

Mario Cuomo, father of current New York governor Andrew Cuomo, served as the Secretary of State of New York from 1975 to 1978. He later was elected for three terms as governor of New York from 1983 to 1994.

13. Oswego

The Iroquois most likely gave the river that runs through this county that name in reference to the way in which the Oswego River empties into Lake Erie.

14. Cattaraugus

The name derives from the odor of natural gases leaking from seams in the local rocks.

15. Elizabeth Blackwell

On January 23, 1849, Blackwell became the first woman to achieve a medical degree in the United States.