NEW HAMPSHIRE

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New Hampshire is a constituent state in the United States of America. It is located in the New England region of the northeastern United States. New Hampshire was named by Captain John Mason after the Hampshire English county in 1629. *The Granite State* is the nickname given to New Hampshire because of its enormous granite formations and quarries. Granite was recognized as the official state rock of New Hampshire in 1985. New Hampshire is also known as *The Mother of Rivers* for the rivers of New England that originate in The New Hampshire Mountains, *The White Mountain State* for the White Mountain Range, and *The Switzerland of America* for the beautiful mountain scenery.

Algonquian-speaking people lived in New Hampshire at least 12,000 years ago. Explorers from France and England started to come in the 1500s, and in 1623 the English founded the first permanent European settlement. The English and French engaged in conflict throughout the late 1600s and early 1700s. In 1629, the Province of New Hampshire was founded. New Hampshire was the first colony to create a constitution and declare independence from Great Britain during the American Revolution. It was admitted to the Union as the 9th state on June 21, 1788.

It is bordered by Vermont to the west, Massachusetts to the south, Maine and the Gulf of Maine to the east, and the Canadian province of Quebec to the north. With a total distance of around 41,800 miles, New Hampshire features about 40 rivers and 1,300 lakes or ponds.

It is the fifth smallest state with a total area of 9,349 sq mi (24,214 sq km). The state's total population, according to the census 2020, is 1,377,529. New Hampshire is the tenth least populated state in the U.S.

Manchester is the largest city, while Concord is the state's capital.

In 2015, the Bobcat was declared New Hampshire's official state wildcat, and in 1977 the Ladybug was chosen as the state's official state insect.

"Live Free or Die," is New Hampshire's official state motto. It was chosen in 1945, as World War II was concluding. The state motto is a phrase from a toast given by General John Stark who was the state's most prominent hero of the Revolutionary War.

The interesting fact is that Derry, New Hampshire, was the birthplace of Alan Shepard, the first American in space. He made his famous flight in 1961.

The official state bird of New Hampshire is the Purple finch, whereas the white Birch was named the official state tree in 1947.

In 1995, New Hampshire declared English the official state language.