The Northeast Region

Land and Water of the Northeast

The region between the coast of the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes is called the Northeast region. The Northeast region includes eleven states.

The Northeast region has broad valleys, rolling hills, and low mountains. The Appalachian Mountains stretch from Maine in the Northeast region down to Alabama in the Southeast region. Several different mountain ranges make up the Appalachian Mountains, including the Allegheny Mountains, the Pocono Mountains, the Adirondack Mountains, and the Catskills.

The Appalachian Mountains are one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world. Although they used to be very tall, they are much smaller now. Over time, water, wind, and ice have caused the rock of the mountains to slowly break down. Now the peaks of the Appalachian Mountains are smooth and rounded. The longest hiking trail in the world is the Appalachian Trail. It goes from Maine to Georgia, along the spine of the mountain range, through more than 2,000 miles of valleys, hills, and rivers. The Appalachian Trail is a very popular place to hike. There are many people who have hiked the entire trail!
Mount Washington in New Hampshire is part of the Appalachian Mountain range. At 6,288 feet tall, Mount Washington is the highest peak in the Northeast. Mount Washington has some of the world's most severe weather. It can snow all year long. The peak of Mount Washington is also one of the windiest places on Earth. The highest wind speed ever recorded there was 231 miles per hour.

The land in the lower part of the Northeast region is good for farming, but the upper part of the region does not have much fertile land. The soil in that part is very rocky. Long ago, mile-thick sheets of ice called glaciers covered much of the land. As the glaciers moved across the land, they wore down mountains, carved deep grooves into the coastline, and carried away most of the fertile soil. The melting glaciers formed many lakes. Rocks and sand left behind by glaciers formed islands and capes. Today, jagged cliffs rise up to a hundred feet above the ocean on the northern coast.

There are many lighthouses along the rocky coastline of the Northeast region. Their lights and foghorns keep ships from crashing into the rocky shore. The most well known lighthouse is in West Quoddy Head, Maine. West Quoddy Head is the most northeastern point of the United States.

The most important waterway in the region is the Erie Canal, which connects the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. A canal is a ditch dug across land to connect one waterway with another. The Erie Canal is 363 miles long. Work on the Erie Canal began in 1817 and was
The Great Lakes

There are five Great Lakes: Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie, and Lake Superior.

The Great Lakes are a group of five freshwater lakes located in eastern North America, on the border between Canada and the United States. The Great Lakes are so large they can be seen from the moon! The Great Lakes hold one fifth of all the fresh water in the world. As water flows out of Lake Erie into Lake Ontario, it flows over Niagara Falls. Niagara Falls is a 160-foot tall waterfall, the second largest waterfall in the world.

Lake Ontario and Lake Erie form part of the border of the Northeast region. Lake Ontario and Lake Erie are two of the five Great Lakes.

Climate

The Northeast region is about halfway between the North Pole and the equator, so the climate is very different than the climate of the Southeast. Winters in the Northeast are long and cold, with lots of snowstorms. One kind of snowstorm, called a northeaster, can bring over a foot of snow at one time. During the cold winter months, Lake Erie may freeze over completely. Summers are warm, but short compared to those in the Southeast region.
The climate affects the people, animals, and plants that live there. People have to cope with cold winters. Animals’ food supplies change with the seasons. Squirrels bury nuts to dig up in winter. Bears and other animals hibernate. They sleep for up to 100 days. Trees like maples and oaks drop their leaves each winter to survive the lack of water.

**Products and Natural Resources**

The Northeast region has lots of forests, and logging is an important industry there. Trees are cut down to make houses, paper, furniture, and fuel. Vermont is known throughout the world for its delicious maple syrup produced from the sap of the sugar maple tree.

Some of the resources of the Northeast come from underground, like granite, marble, and coal. Granite and marble are used to make buildings. Vermont has the largest granite quarries in the country.

The Northeast region has many rivers and waterfalls. This was very important in the growth of the region because the power produced by the running water made it possible for people to build mills, or factories. By using water driven power, people could run machines and make things much faster than people could at home by hand. Today, factories use other sources of power instead of waterpower, but the Northeast region continues to be an important manufacturing center in the United States. Iron, glass, steel, and many chemicals such as shampoos, paints, and medicines are manufactured in the Northeast.

The soil in parts of the Northeast region is rocky and the growing season is short, but some fruits and vegetables are grown in the Northeast. Farmers grow blueberries and potatoes. Other farms produce chickens, milk from dairy cows, and flowers. Cranberries are grown in sandy marshes in the Northeast region. Massachusetts is called the Cranberry Capital of America because it produces nearly two million barrels of cranberries a year.
The Atlantic Ocean is an important resource for fish, lobster, and shellfish. Once these shellfish are caught, they are shipped to food stores and restaurants all over the country. Fish farming is called aquaculture. Fish are raised on farms and are sold for the purpose of eating. This helps protect the populations of fish that are born in a natural environment.

**Landmarks**

There is beautiful scenery throughout the Northeast region. Many tourists visit the Northeast region in the fall to see the brightly colored autumn leaves. These tourists are known as “leaf peepers.”

The capital city of the United States is located in the Northeast region. The capital city is called Washington, D.C. “D.C.” stands for District of Columbia. The White House, the Capitol, the Supreme Court, and many other government buildings are located in Washington, D.C.

Philadelphia’s historical museums welcome people from around the U.S. each year. You can visit Independence Hall where the U.S. Constitution was written. The Liberty Bell, Betsy Ross’s house and Ben Franklin’s Post Office are also located in Philadelphia.

Visitors to the Northeast can also take a tour of the Crayola Factory. Fascinated visitors can watch swinging vats of heated wax spin around and dump their colorful contents into molds. Just minutes later, 1,200 perfect crayons pop out and move along the line toward sorting, boxing, and packaging machines. Tourists can also create art projects with many of Crayola’s products and visit “Big Blue,” the World’s Largest Crayon.

Lobsters are harvested year-round in Maine, although most are caught between late June and late December when the lobsters are most active.

Many tourists visit the Northeast region to see the beautiful fall leaves.

“Big Blue” is 15 feet long, weighs 1,500 pounds, and was formed from blue crayon scrap “leftiolas” mailed in from kids around the country as part of Crayola’s 100th birthday celebration.
Tourists can also visit Hershey, Pennsylvania, “the sweetest place on Earth.” A hundred years ago, Milton Hershey started a candy business using mass production, a way of making large amounts of the same product. The Hershey bar was America’s first mass-produced candy bar. Today, Hershey’s factory is the largest chocolate factory in the world. Visitors can design their own candy bar, work in the factory packaging Kisses, and ride the roller coasters at Hersheypark. Because of the factory, the whole town smells like chocolate.

New York City, New York is the largest city in the United States. It is home to over 8 million people. To make room for all of these people, New Yorkers began building skyscrapers. The first skyscrapers were built over a hundred years ago. People live and work in these very tall buildings. The Empire State Building is New York’s most famous skyscraper. This office building has 102 floors. Millions of tourists visit New York every year. They enjoy museums and plays. They visit famous places like the Statue of Liberty.

**Culture**

Two of our most popular sports were invented in the Northeast region. Dr. James Naismith in Springfield, Massachusetts, invented basketball in 1891. You can visit the Basketball Hall of Fame there. Four years later, William Morgan invented volleyball in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

A group of people called the Amish live in Pennsylvania. Because of their religious beliefs, they do not use electricity or telephones in their homes, or use cars or tractors.

Clam chowder, crab cakes, lobster, and other seafoods are among the Northeast region’s most popular foods. Because there are so many dairy farms in this region, people eat a lot of dairy products, too. In fact, Northeasterners eat more ice cream per person than any other region in the United States. Baked beans, potato chips, and buffalo wings were all invented in the Northeast region.
Thank you!

Thank you for downloading this item. If you have questions, concerns, or general comments, please feel free to contact me at

jillsruss@gmail.com

If you are pleased with your purchase, please leave feedback at TpT to let others know how this resource can help them.

Thank you again for your purchase!

~Jill

View a full listing of my products at
http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Jill-Russ

Copyright © 2011 by Jill Russ.
All rights reserved by the author.
Permission to copy for classroom use only.
Electronic distribution limited to classroom use only.