

New York State

Activities Book



Compliments of

Assemblyman Tom McKeivitt

The New York State Motto: Excelsior

The New York state motto is “Excelsior,” which means “ever upward.” In 1784, during a tour of the state’s harbors, waterways and interior, George Washington referred to New York as the “Seat of the Empire.” Since then, New Yorkers have worked to live up to the state’s motto and to make New York, now known as “The Empire State,” the national leader it is today.

The State Flag

The state flag was adopted in 1778. It has a dark blue background with the state coat of arms in the center that shows figures representing Liberty and Justice standing on either side of a shield. Emblazoned on the shield is the sun rising behind a range of mountains. A three-masted, square-rigged ship and a Hudson River sloop on the shield signify commerce. Beneath the shield is the state motto, Excelsior. The original flag is at the Albany Institute of History and Art.



Geography

At the northern boundary of New York state are Lake Ontario and Canada; to the east, New York borders Lake Champlain, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut; New Jersey and Pennsylvania are to the south; and to the west is Lake Erie. Long Island is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the south and the Long Island Sound to the north. The boundaries are fixed by accepted agreements and are marked by natural waterways or monuments.

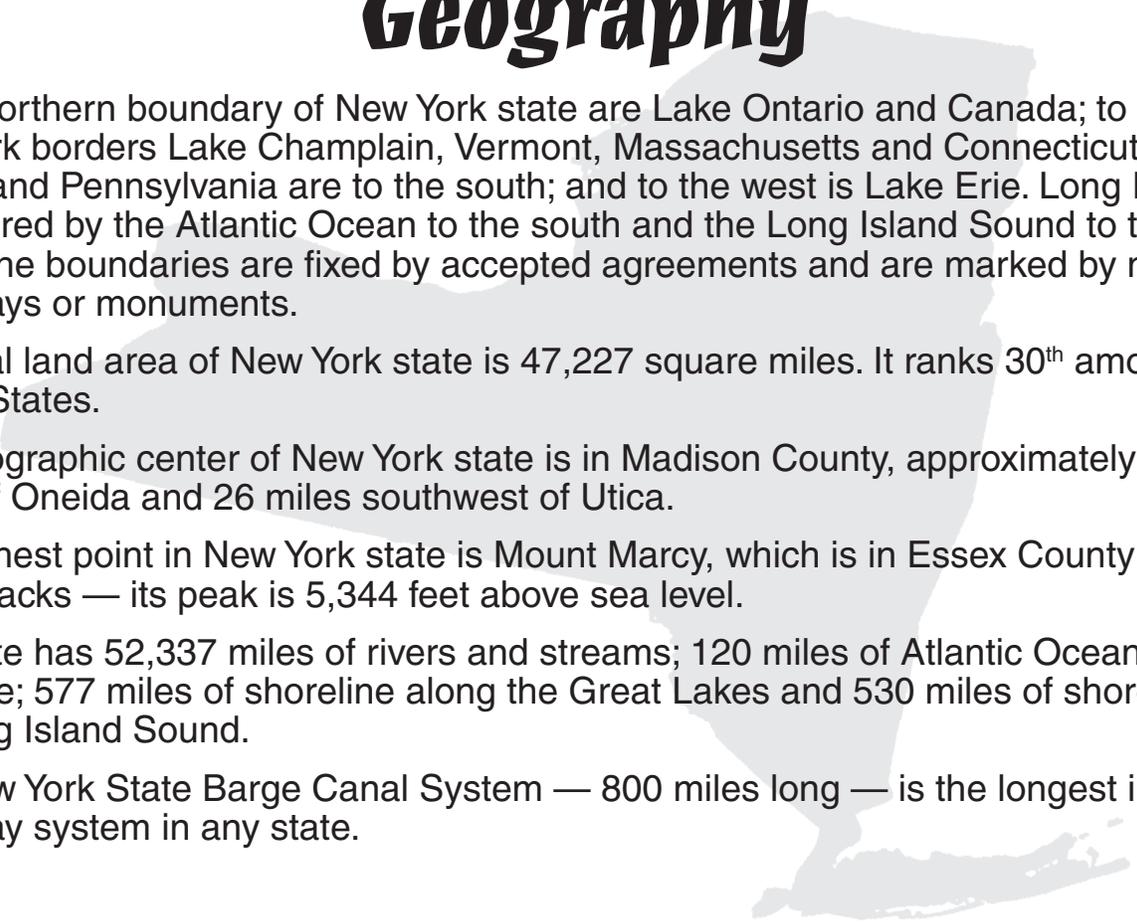
The total land area of New York state is 47,227 square miles. It ranks 30th among the United States.

The geographic center of New York state is in Madison County, approximately 12 miles south of Oneida and 26 miles southwest of Utica.

The highest point in New York state is Mount Marcy, which is in Essex County in the Adirondacks — its peak is 5,344 feet above sea level.

The state has 52,337 miles of rivers and streams; 120 miles of Atlantic Ocean coastline; 577 miles of shoreline along the Great Lakes and 530 miles of shorefront on the Long Island Sound.

The New York State Barge Canal System — 800 miles long — is the longest internal waterway system in any state.



New York State Facts

New York state has 62 counties, 62 cities, 557 villages and 931 towns.

The first railroad in America ran between Albany and Schenectady, a distance of 11 miles.

New York was the first to:

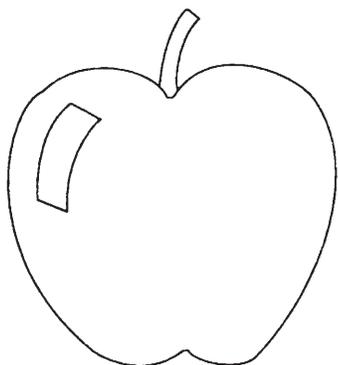
1. preserve an historic site (Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh).
2. establish a state park (Niagara Reservation).
3. declare land "forever wild" (the Adirondack and Catskill forest preserves).

The Catskill Mountains are the home of the legend of Rip Van Winkle and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving, brown trout and flycasting.

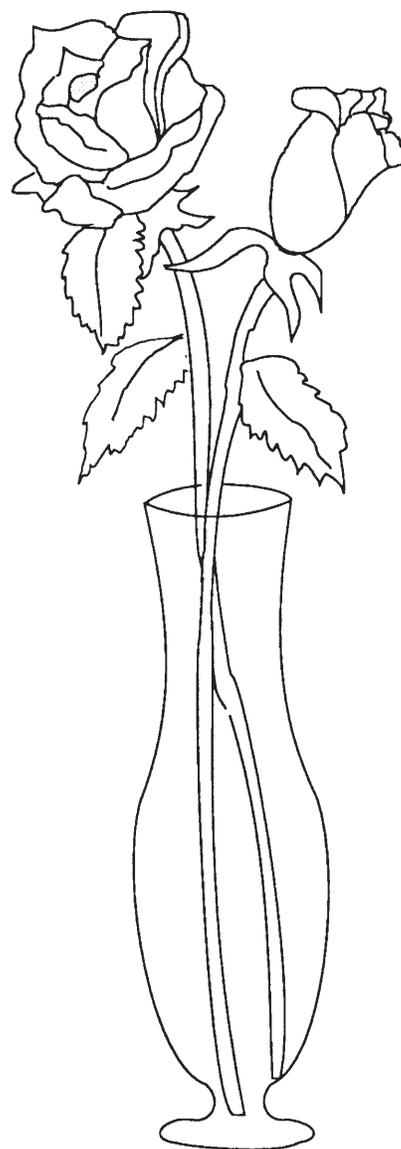
The term "The Big Apple" was coined by touring jazz musicians of the 1930s who used the slang expression "apple" for any town or city. Therefore, to play New York City is to play the big time — THE BIG APPLE.

Symbols of New York State

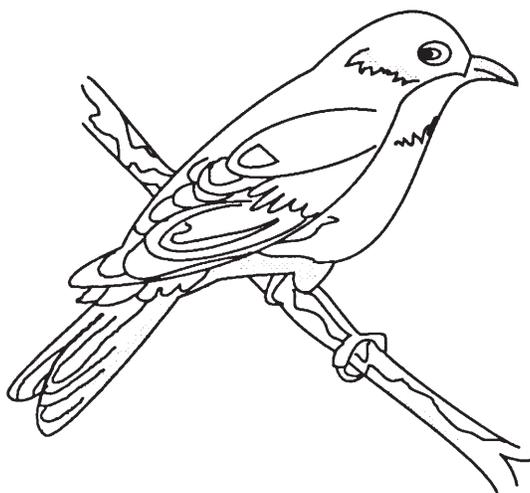
State Fruit
APPLE



State Flower
ROSE



State Bird
BLUEBIRD



State Tree
SUGAR MAPLE

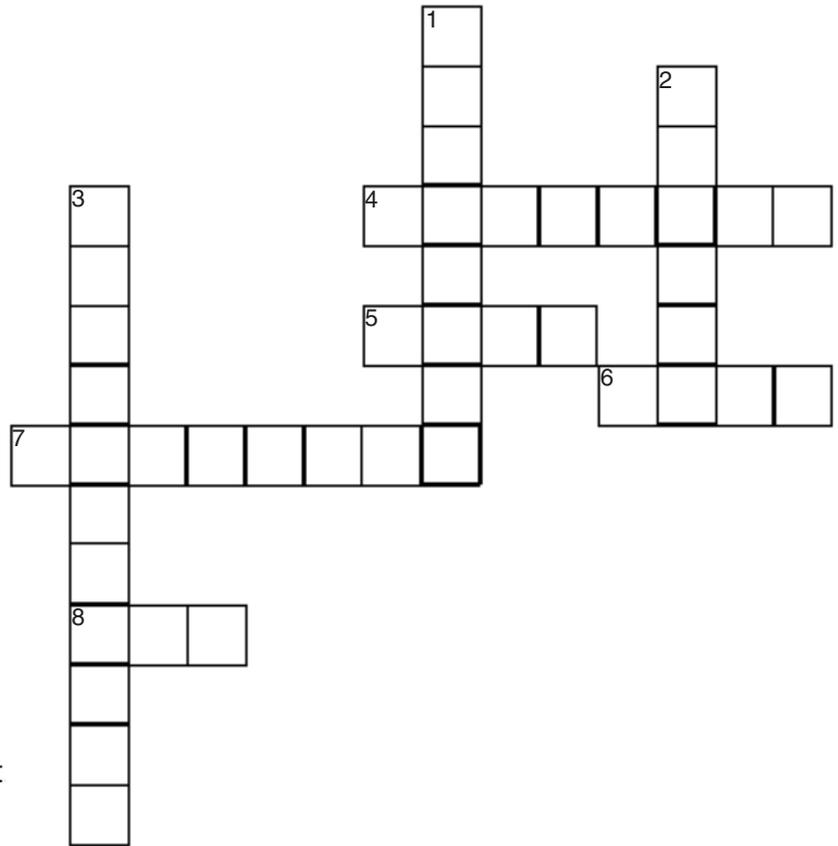
Crossword Puzzle

Down:

1. More than half of a group.
2. Sixty-two members are in this house.
3. A proposed or enacted law.

Across:

4. This person has the power to veto.
5. A suggested law for legislative approval.
6. When the Governor disapproves of a bill.
7. One hundred fifty members are in this house.
8. Money collected from people and businesses to run the government



Word Search

Can You Find The Words You Just Learned? (There are 8 words hidden in this puzzle.)

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

Answer Key

Crossword Puzzle:

- Down -
1. Majority
 2. Senate
 3. Legislation

- Across -
4. Governor
 5. Bill
 6. Veto
 7. Assembly
 8. Tax

Word Search:

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