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VERMONT

2008

The Green Mountain State

Vermont

The Green Mountain State

Leaders Guide

Objective of this lesson on Vermont will be to learn about:

- Geography
- History
 - Statehood & the Ante-bellum ear
 - Civil War era
- Agriculture
- Government
- Industry
- Recreation

Leaders packet:

- Leaders Guide
- Quiz/Answers
- Pictures
 - Map of Northeastern States
 - Map of Vermont Lake Champlain area
 - State House at Montpelier
 - Village Scene
 - Rock of Ages Granite Quarry
 - Fort Ste. Anne
 - Quechee Gorge
 - Gathering Maple Sap

Materials for Participants:

- Quiz

References:

Official Vermont Tourism web site

www.vermontvacation.com/ - 47k

AAA Travel Book

Vermont, Wikipedia About Vermont

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/vermont – 279k

Leaflet “A Walk through Vermont’s Historic State House

Leaflet “Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller” National Historical Park, Vermont

Developed for Oregon FCE by Lynda Nyseth
For Oregon State FCE Conference in Bend, Oregon 2008

Vermont “The Green Mountain State”

In many ways Vermont made me think of Oregon. As we traveled on our tours it was like going along our farming areas with corn fields or hay fields and cattle in the pastures. Many of the roads were like traveling to the coast or the mountains with trees and streams along side of the road. Many of the roads are narrow and like Oregon there is construction. I mentioned on one tour that everyone was expecting FCE because the lawns were mowed, green and very well kept. The lawns are green because it rains off and on in the summer. It seemed while we were there every day about 4 o'clock there was a rain shower, didn't last long but it was there. There are no billboards allowed, which is quite different from Oregon. I don't remember seeing litter along the roadsides either. Some were told “you know when Spring starts...there is no snow on your roof”.

We had 8 delegates from Oregon and 1 husband. Tom and Marlene Currin, Anne Engen and Olga Grant went to Montpelier and Stowe on this tour. Connie Leavitt and Lynda Nyseth went on a luncheon cruise on Lake Champlain, from there they were driven to St. Albans and St. Annes on their first tour.

Geography (show map of Vermont)

In comparison with most states, Vermont is small in total area. Still it is the second largest state in New England after Maine, just a few hundred square miles larger than New Hampshire.

The Green Mountain State is bordered by Canada, New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. It is 157.4 miles in length, 90.3 miles wide at the Canadian border and 41.6 miles along the Massachusetts border. (To compare with Oregon it is 147 miles from Salem to Bend, Portland to Eugene is 109 miles and Salem to Portland is 47 miles.) The Connecticut River forms the eastern boundary, while the western boundary runs down the middle of Lake Champlain for more than half of its length.

The state has 223 mountains over 2,000 feet in elevation. (Oregon Coast Range average less than 2,000 feet. Mary's Peak southeast of Corvallis 4,097 feet and Mt. Hood is our highest 11,245 feet above sea level.) The mountainous areas of the state are primarily forested. In fact, although Vermont was virtually clear-cut of timber during the late 19th century, more than 75 percent of the state's total area is now forested. By the mid-1800's most of Vermont's forests had been cut down, causing severe erosion and flooding. Vermonters faced their first environmental crisis. One of the first to respond to this crisis was George Perkins Marsh. As a child on his family's farm in Woodstock, Marsh became a keen observer of nature. After serving several terms in Congress he traveled the lands of the Mediterranean as an American diplomat and saw firsthand how the actions of humans had “brought the earth to a desolation almost as complete as that of the moon”. Marsh wrote the classic book, *Man and Nature (1864)*, which is one of the founding texts of the environmental movement.

In 1869 the Marsh family farm was purchased by Frederick Billings, who set out to build a farm that would serve future generations as a model of wise stewardship. He imported purebred Jersey cows and developed one of the nation's first programs of scientific forest management, so that in Billings's words, “many a barren hillside will once more glow with the glorious autumn foliage and the quiet village will see itself back in its old life and power”. After his death, his plan was carried on by three generations of

remarkable women, first by his wife Julia and their three daughters and then by his granddaughter, Mary French.

Mary married Laurance S. Rockefeller and together they carried on the strong commitment to conservation. They made the gift that established Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park as Vermont's first national park. The 550-acre woodlands continue to be managed for protection of natural resources, education, recreation, sustainable forestry, historic character and scenic beauty. Site includes: A working farm and museum, Mansion (which contain an extensive art collection with American landscape paintings), gardens and greenhouse and trails that crisscross 20 miles of Mount Tom.

Beneath the mountains and rolling hills are the fertile valleys that support an extensive dairy industry.

As mountain ranges go, the Green Mountains are very old and have been sculpted to their present form during several ice ages. Granite, marble, slate asbestos and talc have all been mined from the range.

History

Vermont played an important role in the American Revolution, resisting the advances of the neighboring colonies and declared itself an independent republic. This took place January 17, 1777 in a meeting held at Westminster. This independent course, with the little republic minting its own coin and providing postal service, was followed until 1791 when Vermont was admitted to the union, the first state to join the original thirteen. The first governor was Thomas Chittenden.

For the first six months of the republic's existence, the state was called New Connecticut. On June 2, a second convention of 72 delegates met at Westminster, known as the "Westminster Convention". At this meeting, the delegates adopted the name "Vermont" on the suggestion of Dr. Thomas Young of Philadelphia, a supporter of the delegates who wrote a letter advising them on how to achieve statehood. The delegates set the time for a meeting one month later. On July 4, the Constitution of Vermont was drafted during a violent thunderstorm at the Windsor Tavern owned by Elijah West. It was adopted by the delegates on July 8 after four days of debate. This was the first written constitution in North America to provide for the abolition of slavery, suffrage for men who did not own land and public schools. The tavern has been preserved as the Old Constitution House, administered as a state historic site.

Abenaki, a tribe of the Algonquin nation, were the Native American inhabitants of the area now known as Vermont. Archaeologists have discovered evidence of their villages along the shores of Lake Champlain near the mouth of the Winooski River. "Winooski" is an Abenaki term for "wild onion". Their villages were also located along the Connecticut River.

The first European to see the area that is now Vermont is thought to be Jacques Cartier, in 1535. In July 1609, Samuel de Champlain, an early French explorer of North America, was the first European to discover the Green Mountains. He gave them the name *les Verts Monts* (the Green Mountains). A possible alternative name was "Vers Monts", meaning "towards mountains". Champlain was coming from the relatively flat plains south of Quebec towards mountainous Vermont, this explanation of the name seems to make more sense.

In the summer of 1609, Champlain left his encampment on the St. Lawrence in Quebec and joined the Algonquians in an expedition against their enemies, the Iroquois. The journey up the river brought Champlain onto the lake that now carries his name.

France claimed Vermont as part of New France, and erected Fort Sainte Anne on Isle La Motte in 1666 as part of their fortification of Lake Champlain. This was the first European settlement in Vermont and the site of the first Roman Catholic mass. (show pictures of St Annes and Champlain & Indian, map of Lake Champlain)

The first permanent English settlement was established along the Connecticut River in 1724 at Fort Dummer, near what is now Brattleboro. The fort was maintained by the colonial governments of Massachusetts and New Hampshire as a defensive outpost throughout the French and Indian Wars. The second British settlement at Bennington in the southwest corner of Vermont would not be made until after 37 years of conflict in the region.

In 1731, the French arrived at Chimney Point. Here they constructed a small temporary wooden stockade until work on Fort St. Frederic began in 1734. The fort, when completed, gave the French control on the New France/Vermont border region in the Lake Champlain Valley and was the only permanent fort in the area until the building of Fort Carillon more than 20 years later. In 1759 a combined force of 12,000 British regular and provincial troops under Sir Jeffrey Amherst captured the fort. The French were driven out of the area and retreated to other forts along the Richelieu River, the northern outlet of Lake Champlain. One year later, a group of Mohawks burnt the Chimney Point settlement to the ground, leaving only chimneys and giving the area its name.

During the French and Indian War, 1755-1761, some Vermont settlers (known as the Green Mountain Boys), including Ethan Allen, joined the colonial militia assisting the British in attacks on the French. Fort Carillon on the west shore of Lake Champlain, was the site of two British offensives under Lord Amherst's command. In 1759 with no major resistance (most of the garrison had been removed to defend Quebec, Montreal and the western forts), Fort Carillon was taken over by the British and renamed Fort Ticonderoga. This became the site of two later battles during the American Revolutionary War. (show Fort Ticonderoga)

Statehood and the ante-bellum era (show pictures of capitol)

Vermont continued to govern itself as a sovereign entity based on the eastern town of Windsor for 14 years. Thomas Chittenden, who came to Vermont from Connecticut in 1774, acted as chief magistrate of Vermont from 1778 to 1789 and from 1790 to 1791.

The gold leaf dome of the Vermont State House in Montpelier is visible for many miles around the city. This is the third State House on the site and like the second, was built in the Greek Revival architectural style. It was completed in 1857. Montpelier became the state capitol in 1805.

In 1791, Vermont joined the federal Union as the fourteenth state—becoming the first state to enter the union after the original thirteen colonies and as a counterweight to slaveholding Kentucky, which was admitted to the Union later the same year.

Vermont's State House is one of the nation's oldest and best preserved state capitols. After 140 years, it still commands the landscape of Montpelier, the smallest capital city in America.

Vermont did not always have a state house, or for that matter, a state capital. From 1777 when the Republic of Vermont was founded during the early years of revolution, until 1807, Vermont's General Assembly met 46 times in 14 different towns.

In 1805 Montpelier was chosen as the "permanent seat of the legislature for holding all their sessions". There were two conditions. First, Montpelier had to give land for the capitol. Second, the State House had to be built by September, 1808.

Thomas Davis, son of Montpelier's first permanent settler Col. Jacob Davis, donated the land and the first State House was built on it at a cost of \$9,000. It was a three-story wooden meetinghouse-type structure located near the present site of Vermont's Supreme Court building.

The first State House had steep winding staircases flanking recessed galleries on its front façade and a belfry surmounting its hipped roof. Warmed by a two-story stove in the center of its single legislative chamber, members of the General Assembly sat at pine desks on plank seats with straight backs. One historian notes that many of the desks and much of the building itself were "whittled out of use" by legislative jackknives. At any rate, the building deteriorated and was outgrown by the state's emerging bicameral legislature, so it was torn down.

Vermont's second State House, designed by Ammi Young, was completed in 1838 at a cost of \$132,000. With a front portico modeled after the temple of Theseus in Greece, this classically-inspired building displayed a low saucer-shaped Roman dome and was the perfect embodiment of the chaste principles that typified the Greek Revival fashion then sweeping the country.

This State House was constructed of Barre granite. It took a team of four horses and a yoke of oxen 18 hours to deliver a load of granite and return to the Barre quarries about ten miles away.

Built on an elevated site blasted out of the hillside, the State House enjoyed a stronger foundation and grander approach. The high ground would also serve to protect the building from the flooding Winooski River across the road.

On a cold night in January, 1857, a fire caused by the wood-burning heating system, destroyed nearly everything within the granite walls. Ultimately the walls themselves would come down, leaving only the Grecian portico to be incorporated into the design of the third State House.

The third and present State House was built on the same site as the second. Its basic plan is similar to Young's, but it was built on a larger scale with a distinctly different ornamental scheme reflecting the Renaissance Revival style popular at the time. This State House was constructed over a two and a half year period, cost \$150,000 and was dedicated in 1859. Additions in the rear date from 1888, 1900 and 1987.

The Governors Chair, The Constitution Chair, carved from timbers of the frigate USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) has been the official Governors chair since 1858.

In 1853, Vermont passed a strict law prohibiting the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Some towns followed the law, others ignored it.

(show pictures of Barre Quarry) (water is used to cool the drills etc., picture of 25 ton section of granite being lifted out of the quarry. Drilling left holes at base of block of granite, explosives will be inserted to "shoot the line", causing granite to crack along drill lines freeing the block)

Civil War era

The mid to late 1850's saw a transition from Vermonters mostly favoring slavery's containment, to a far more serious opposition to the institution, producing the Radical Republican and abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens. As the Whig party shriveled, Vermont changed its allegiance to the emergent Republican Party. In 1860, it voted for President Abraham Lincoln, giving him the largest margin of victory of any state.

More than 28,100 Vermonters served in Vermont volunteer units. Nearly 5,000 others served in other states' units, in the United States Army or the United States Navy. The 54th Massachusetts Infantry (Colored) included 66 Vermont blacks; a total of 166 black Vermonters served out of a population of 709 in the state. Vermonters, if not Vermont units, participated in every major battle of the war. A large proportion of Vermont's state and national-level politicians for several decades after the Civil War were veterans. The northernmost land action of the war, the St. Albans Raid, took place in Vermont.

Agriculture

Vermont's agriculture is very diverse. Approximately 6,000 farms in Vermont produce everything from emus to sheep's milk cheese. Nearly a million and a half acres of Vermont land are in agriculture, sustaining the pastoral landscape that has made Vermont famous.

Dairying is the primary farm industry in Vermont, producing more than two billion pounds of milk annually. Approximately half the milk consumed in New England is produced on Vermont farms. Milk, cheese, ice cream (Ben & Jerry's), butter, yogurt and other popular dairy foods are produced from Vermont's rich milk.

Vermont is America's largest producer of maple syrup and also produces substantial crops of Macintosh apples, potatoes, eggs, honey, vegetables, Christmas trees, lumber, pulp wood and green house nursery products. Aquaculture, sheep, goat, turkey and horse raising, especially of the famous Morgan horse, have been steadily increasing during recent years.

Vermont has hundreds of roadside farm stands and dozens of farmers markets. The farms in our rural communities provide a sense of place, an identity and a connection to land and heritage that is invaluable to Vermonters. As one farmer put it, "Vermont without farms could still be a good place, but it could never be Vermont."

Government

Vermont felt the effects of recessions and financial panics, particularly the 1873 Panic which resulted in a substantial exodus of young Vermonters. The transition in thinking about the rights of citizens, first brought to a head by the 1854 Vermont senate report on slavery and later Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in changing how citizens perceived civil rights, fueled agitation for women's suffrage. The first election in which women were allowed to vote was on December 18, 1880, when women were granted limited suffrage and were first allowed to vote in town elections and then in state legislative races.

The Green Mountains effectively split Vermont in two. Culturally the eastern Vermonters were often descended from immigrants from New Hampshire. Western Vermonters often had their roots in New York. Recognizing this as a source of potential problems, politicians began following an unwritten "mountain rule", rotating the Lieutenant Governor and Governor residing in opposite sides of the state.

Vermont government is distinctive for its local tradition of Town Meeting Day, held the first Tuesday in March. In many towns and villages, municipal and school budgets are voted from the floor as they have been for nearly 200 years.

The State legislature consists of two houses: 30 senators and 150 representatives are selected from designated electoral districts on the basis of population. Legislative and Gubernatorial elections are held every two year.

In 1940, Ida M. Fuller of Ludlow becomes the first recipient of a monthly Social Security check, for \$22.54. 1968, Vermont becomes the first state to ban roadside billboards. In 1984, Madeleine M. Kunin became the first woman governor of Vermont. In 1998 the Scrabble tile factory in Fairfax closed.

On April 25, 2000, as a result of the Vermont Supreme Court's decision in Baker v. Vermont, the Vermont General Assembly passed and Governor Howard Dean signed into law H.0847, which provided the state sanctioned benefits of marriage to gay and lesbian couples in the form of civil unions. Controversy over the civil unions bill was a central issue in the subsequent 2000 elections.

Industry

Vermont's highly skilled workers are employed primarily in producing electronic components and equipment, machine tools, specialty consumer products, wood products, quarried and finished stone and printing. Manufacturing is the major employer and the second largest sector of the state's economy (after services), producing \$2.2 billion in goods ranging from computer chips to canoes, tombstones to teddy bears.

In the past 30 years, a thriving electronics industry has developed in the Burlington and Rutland areas, the state's most populous regions. The world's largest quarries are found in Barre and marble is quarried and finished in Proctor. Large and small wood products companies are found throughout the state.

Higher education is a significant industry in Vermont employing an estimated 8,500 people. In 2005, more than 40,000 students were enrolled in public and private universities and colleges in Vermont. The largest and oldest institution, the University of Vermont in Burlington, was founded in 1791. Norwich University in Northfield, established in 1819, is the oldest private military college in the United States.

Emma Willard, a crusader for women's rights in education, was a Vermonter, as was John Dewey, who is regarded as the father of modern progressive education in America.

Recently, Vermont schools have received national acclaim for innovating programs that include multi-grade classes in elementary schools, student writing projects and use of student "portfolios" to measure learning progress rather than traditional grade cards.

Recreation

Skiing is the top favorite thing to do in Vermont, followed by skiing and more skiing. Snowmobiling, heats up winter chills on more than 1,800 miles of well-marked "corridor" throughout the state. Snowboarding and cross-country skiing are also very popular. Hiking and biking trails also accommodate cross-country skiers and snowmobilers. Fishing and boating become icefishing and iceboating in winter and ski slopes run alpine slides in summer. In fall, catch the blast of fiery color from the air while ballooning in Quechee. Picnicing, horseback riding, sailing, inner tubing, fly-fishing, golf, rock climbing and camping are also very popular. (Quechee Gorge is known as "Vermont's Little Grand Canyon" one of the most outstanding natural spectacles of the state. 165 feet down below the road is the rushing water of the Ottauquechee River.)

Vermont Quiz

1. Vermont is called:
 - a. State of many presidents
 - b. Home of President Hoover Coolidge
 - c. The green mountain state
 - d. None of the above
2. The capitol of Vermont is:
 - a. Bennington
 - b. Champlain
 - c. Burlington
 - d. Montpelier
3. The Green Mountain Boys are:
 - a. group that fought the Redcoats with Ethan Allen and Seth Warner
 - b. a singing group
 - c. servants for Vermont's Governor
 - d. none of the above
4. Which of these states are without a coast line on the Atlantic Ocean:
 - a. Maine
 - b. New York
 - c. Vermont
 - d. Massachutes
5. Vermont was the _____ state on March 4, 1791:
 - a. 12th
 - b. 13th
 - c. 14th
 - d. 15th
6. What body of water borders more than half the state of Vermont:
 - a. Lake Champlain
 - b. Lake Erie
 - c. Connecticut River
 - d. Lake Memphremagog
7. What are the main agricultural products:
 - a. diary products and honey
 - b. maple sugar and syrup and hay
 - c. nursery products and pears
 - d. maple syrup and diary products

8. At the top of the capitol dome is a statue of:
 - a. Ceres, The Roman goddess of agriculture
 - b. A pioneer
 - c. A soldier
 - d. None of the above

9. 1968 Vermont becomes the 1st state to ban:
 - a. picking roadside flowers
 - b. roadside billboards
 - c. women governors
 - d. skiing

10. Madeleine M Kunin becomes the 1st woman governor:
 - a. 1968
 - b. 1978
 - c. 1980
 - d. 1984

11. Canada and what three states share Vermont's borders:
 - a. New York
 - b. New Hampshire
 - c. Massachusetts
 - d. Maine

12. Barre, Vermont is the site of:
 - a. Quechee Gorge "Vermont's Little Grand Canyon"
 - b. Rock of Ages Granite Quarry
 - c. Northern Lights
 - d. Vermont Teddy Bear Company

True or False

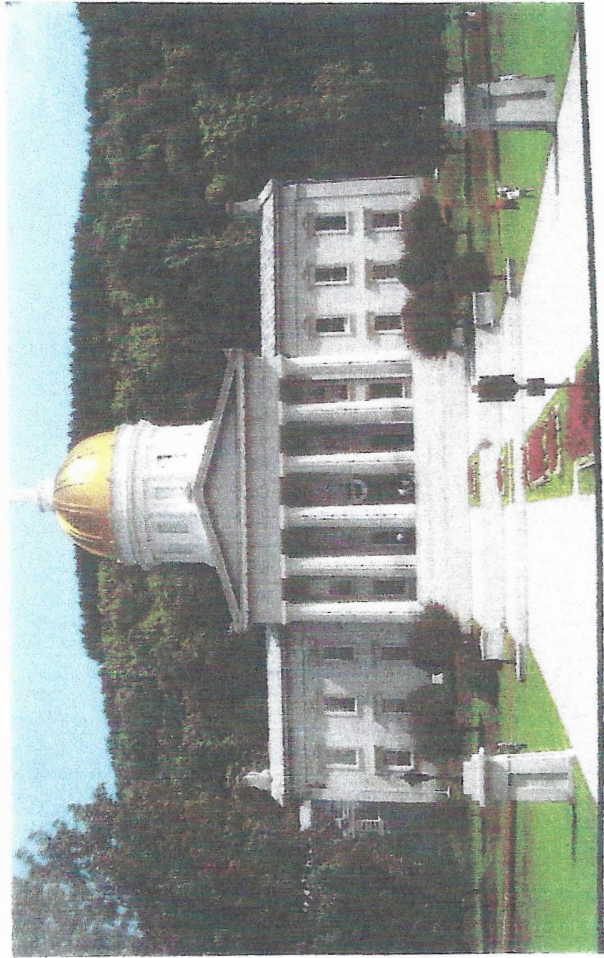
- T or F 1. Vermont's first governor was Thomas Chittenden.
- T or F 2. Lake Champlain was named for Charles de Champlain.
- T or F 3. Fort Carillon was renamed Fort Ticonderoga.
- T or F 4. Vermont is famous for Tom and Jerry's ice cream.
- T or F 5. Lake Champlain runs down the eastern border of Vermont.
- T or F 6. Vermont is American's largest producer of maple syrup.

Quiz Answers

1. Vermont is called (c) The green mountain state.
2. The capitol of Vermont is (d) Montpelier.
3. The Green Mountain Boys are (a) group that fought the Redcoats with Ethan Allen and Seth Warner.
4. Which of these states are without a coast line on the Atlantic Ocean (c) Vermont.
5. Vermont was the (c) 14th state on March 4, 1791.
6. What body of water borders more than half the state of Vermont (a) Lake Champlain.
7. What are the main agricultural products (d) maple syrup and dairy products.
8. At the top of the capitol dome is a statue of (a) Ceres, The Roman goddess of agriculture.
9. 1968 Vermont becomes the 1st state to ban (b) roadside billboards
10. Madeleine M. Kunin becomes the 1st woman governor (d) 1984
11. Canada and what three states share Vermont's borders (a,b,c) New York, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.
12. Barre, Vermont is the site of (b) Rock of Ages Granite Quarry.

True or False

1. True
2. False Samuel de Champlain
3. True
4. False Ben and Jerry's ice cream
5. False western border of Vermont
6. True



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