

The Northeast

LAND OF BIG CITIES

BEFORE YOU READ

Reach Into Your Background

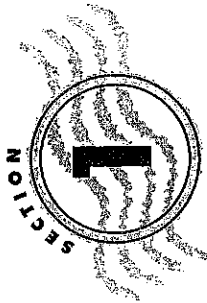
Draw a quick sketch of your neighborhood. Do the houses have big yards, or are they close together? Do you live in an apartment with other

families next door, or is your nearest neighbor some distance away? How do you think closeness to other people affects the way people live?

Questions to Explore

- How do the large cities of the Northeast contribute to the economy of the United States?
- Why is the Northeast a region of many cultures?

Key Terms
commute
megapolis
population density
Key Places
New York City
Philadelphia
Boston

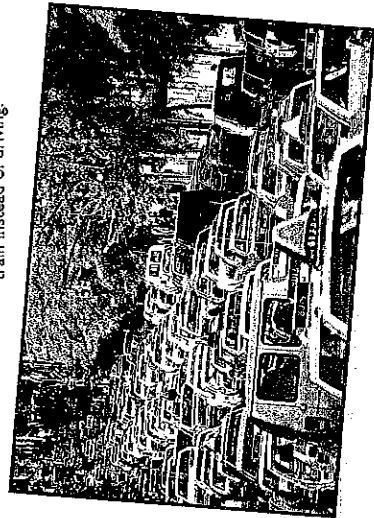


For or at least a century, life in New York City has been described in one way: crowded. One hundred years ago, horse-drawn carriages caused traffic jams. Now, almost 5 million riders squeeze into New York's subway cars every day. Others travel the 1,871 miles (3,011 km) of bus lines or catch one of the city's 12,000 taxis. And many people drive their own cars through the city's busy streets. The ferryboat is another way to travel in New York.

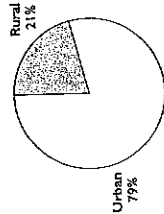
New York is not unique. Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Boston are also crowded. In these big cities, millions of people commute, or travel to work, each day. Many drive to work from suburbs that are far from the city's center. Even people who live in the city must travel from one area to another to work.

A Region of Cities

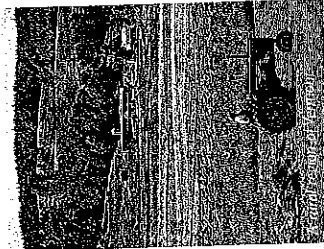
A nearly unbroken chain of cities runs from Boston to New York to Washington, D.C. This coastal region of the Northeast is a megapolis (meg uh LAHP uh lis). In this type of region, cities and suburbs have



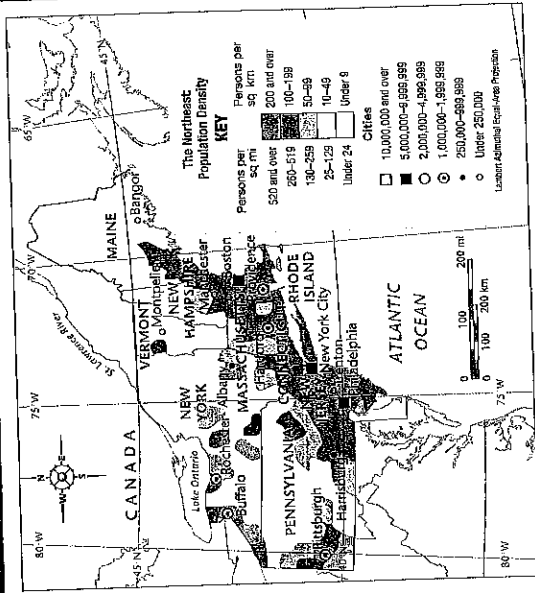
Urban and Rural Population



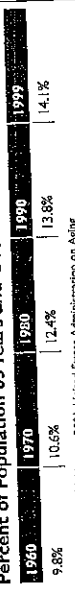
Sources: Statistical Abstract of the United States



The Northeast: Population



Percent of Population 65 Years and Over



Source: The World Almanac 2001; United States Administration on Aging

Check Your Understanding The map and charts above present information about the population of the Northeast. Note that the map shows the population of cities and their surrounding areas. **Map and Chart Study** (a) Describe the locations of the most densely populated areas in the Northeast. (b) What does the table show about the changing percentage of people 65 or older in the Northeast?



Take it to the NET
Data Update For the most recent data on the Northeast, visit www.phschool.com.

grown so close together that they form one big urban area. Look at the map on the next page to see how large this area is.
The Northeast is the most densely populated region of the United States. A region's population density is the average number of people per square mile (or square kilometer). The population is denser in parts of New Jersey than in crowded countries like India or Japan!
The Northeast's economy is based on cities. Many were founded in colonial times, along rivers or near the Atlantic Ocean. These cities began as transportation and trade centers. Today, manufacturing, finance, communications, and government employ millions of urban Northeasterners.

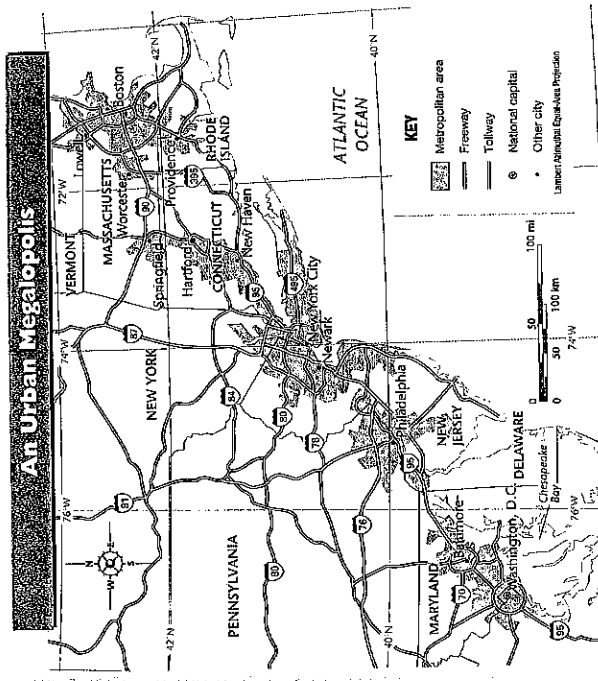
LINKS TO LANGUAGE ARTS

Good-bye City Life In 1845, Henry David Thoreau moved to Walden Pond in Massachusetts. His life there was an experiment in living alone and with only the essentials. He cut down trees and built a one-room house. He planted a vegetable garden and gathered wild fruit. And he wrote *Walden*, a classic of American literature.

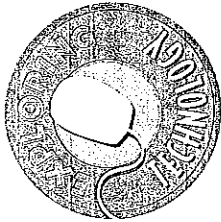
Philadelphia and Boston Philadelphia and Boston were important in our nation's early history. In Philadelphia, America's founders adopted the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Some early struggles against the British took place in Boston. In Philadelphia and Boston, you can visit buildings that date from before the American Revolution. Yet you will find that they are very modern cities, too.

Today, Philadelphia is an industrial powerhouse. It is located near the mouth of the Delaware River. Important land and water transportation routes pass through here. Ships, trucks, and trains bring in raw materials from other parts of Pennsylvania and from all over the world. Thousands of factories process food, refine petroleum, and manufacture chemicals. Hundreds of products are then shipped out for sale.

The Boston area is famous for its more than 20 colleges and universities. Cambridge (KAM bri) is the home of Harvard, which is America's oldest university. The city is also famous for its science and technology centers. Boston's universities and scientific companies often work together to design new products and to carry out medical research.



Map Study You can drive from Washington, D.C., to Boston, Massachusetts, almost entirely within urban areas. Place Compare this map with the one in the Regional Profile. What similarities are there between the two maps?



The Brooklyn Bridge

The Brooklyn Bridge is a suspension bridge in New York City. A suspension bridge hangs from cables that are anchored at either end and supported by several towers along the bridge's length. Completed in 1883, the bridge crosses the East River, connecting two boroughs, or sections, of the city—Manhattan and Brooklyn. At the time of

its completion, the Brooklyn Bridge was the longest suspension bridge in the world. There are six lanes for traffic. A wide walkway for pedestrians runs along the center of the bridge.

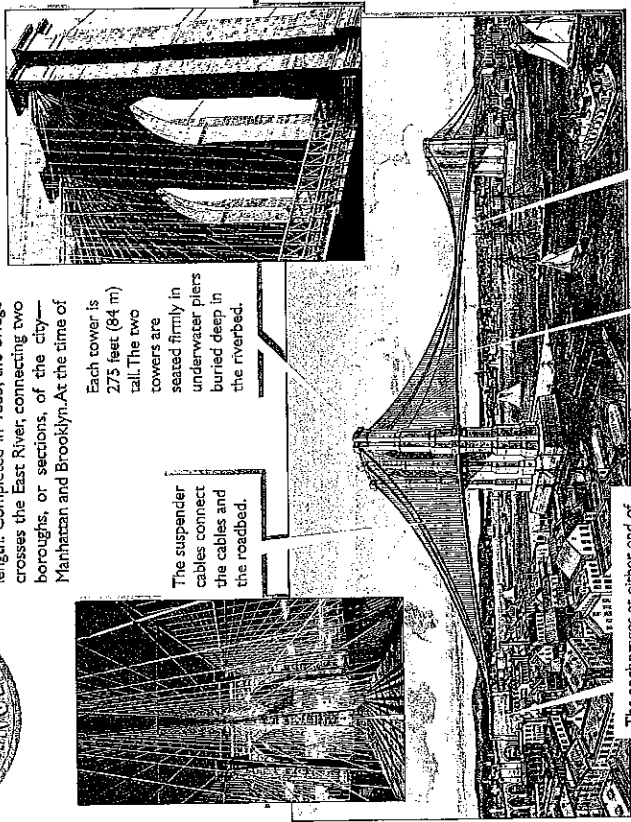
Each tower is 275 feet (84 m) tall. The two towers are seated firmly in underwater piers buried deep in the riverbed.

The suspender cables connect the cables and the roadbed.

The anchorages at either end of the bridge are huge blocks of concrete, set deep in the ground.

The roadbed, or deck, has special braces, called trusses, that prevent the bridge from swinging during high winds.

The main cable runs from one anchorage, across two towers, to a second anchorage. This cable is nearly 16 inches (41 cm) thick and is made of steel.



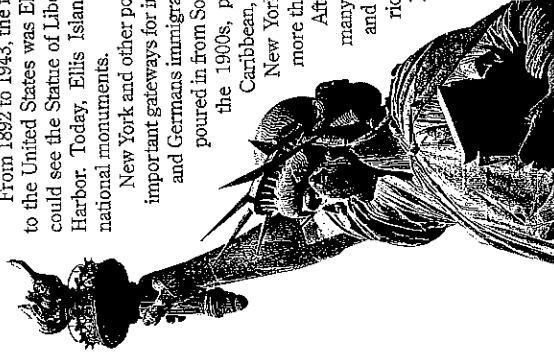
A Gateway for Immigrants

On January 1, 1892, 15-year-old Annie Moore made her way down the gangplank of a steamship onto American soil. Annie and her two younger brothers had sailed from Ireland. Annie stepped into the registry room of the Ellis Island Immigrant Station. Here she received a \$10 gold piece for being the first immigrant to arrive at the new station.

From 1892 to 1954, the first stop for millions of immigrants to the United States was Ellis Island. From here, immigrants could see the Statue of Liberty, half a mile away in New York Harbor. Today, Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty are national monuments.

New York and other port cities of the Northeast have been important gateways for immigrants. In the 1800s, many Irish and Germans immigrated to New York. Later, immigrants poured in from Southern and Eastern Europe. During the 1900s, people also have come from the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa. In one recent year, New York City welcomed immigrants from more than 100 different countries.

After entering through the port cities, many immigrants stayed in those cities and built a new life. Today, New York is rich in ethnic diversity. You can visit Little Italy, Little India, and Chinatown. To get a real sense of the ethnic diversity of the United States, just look at a list of restaurants in a big city like New York.

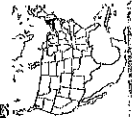


READ ACTIVELY

Ask Questions What questions would you like to ask a recent immigrant to the United States?

▶ The Statue of Liberty symbolizes the United States' tradition of providing a home to immigrants. The statue stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor.

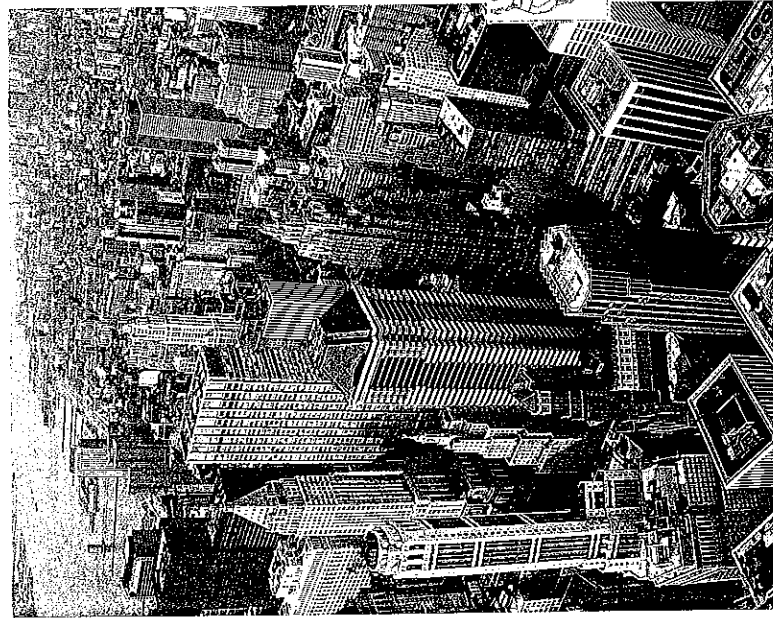
◀ New York City's financial district is a maze of skyscrapers. One of the streets hidden among these towers is Wall Street, the heart of New York's banking and financial industries.



New York City One word describes New York City—huge. In terms of population, it is the largest city in the United States and one of the 10 largest in the world. More than 8 million people live in New York City. Most states do not have populations that large. The city covers an area of about 320 square miles (830 sq km) on islands and the mainland around the mouth of the Hudson River. The various parts of the city are connected by tunnels and bridges. One of the oldest and most interesting bridges is the Brooklyn Bridge. The diagram on the opposite page shows how the Brooklyn Bridge was built.

New York City is our nation's "money capital." The word *millionaire* was invented here. About 500,000 New Yorkers work for banks and other financial institutions. The headquarters of many of the country's wealthiest corporations are in New York. The famous New York Stock Exchange is on Wall Street.

New York is also a center of fashion, publishing, advertising, television, radio, and the arts. New York's Broadway is famous for its plays. About eight million people see plays in New York every year.



SECTION 1 REVIEW

1. Define (a) commute, (b) megalopolis, (c) population density.
2. Identify (a) New York City, (b) Philadelphia, (c) Boston.
3. (a) How does the population density in the Northeast compare with densities in other regions of the country?

(b) How does population density affect the ways people live and work?

4. If you were looking for work in the Northeast, what kinds of jobs might you find?
5. How have immigrants affected the culture of the Northeast?

Critical Thinking

6. Making Comparisons Think about the histories of, and major industries in, Philadelphia and Boston. How are the two cities similar? How have they developed differently?

Activity
7. Writing to Learn Which city described in this section are you most interested in learning more about? Make a list of things you would like to learn about this city. Then write a brief paragraph explaining why you want to learn these things.