

Summary: What's Special About New England

Where People Live

There are six states in New England: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The biggest city is Boston in Massachusetts. It has a big harbor. Boston was once a major shipping center. Now, Boston is a center for banking and insurance. There are factories that make goods and high-tech products. Publishing and printing are important industries.

In the mid-1800s, many immigrants from Ireland moved to Boston. Many Italian people came to Boston in the late 1800s. After World War I, many African Americans moved from the South to Boston. Immigrants from Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa have come to live in Boston and the suburbs around it. Some of these people work in the city. They have to drive to work or take the subway. Boston was the first U.S. city to build a subway.

The Puritans who founded the city created strong social institutions. They built the first free school and Harvard, the first American college. It became a university. Religion was an important subject in these schools. Puritans wanted their children to learn to read the Bible. Today, there are many schools, universities, and places of worship in Boston.

Rural New England

Rural New England includes New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. Most people in rural areas work in service industries, such as tourism. Some work in manufacturing. Many workers are commuters who work in nearby cities. There are farmers in New England. The soil is rocky and the growing season is short. Most New England farmers grow one crop or raise dairy cows.

Many people travel to New England for their vacations. Tourists like to visit historical places. They go skiing in the mountains or swim at the beach. Some tourists go to festivals.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

suburb *noun*, a community that grows up outside of a larger city

university *noun*, a school with several colleges that each focus on one area of study

manufacturing *noun*, making goods from other materials

commuter *noun*, a person who travels between home and work every day



After You Read

REVIEW What kinds of social institutions did the Puritans build? Circle two social institutions that were started by the Puritans.

REVIEW In what ways do rural New Englanders make a living? Highlight sentences that tell about the work people who live in rural areas do.