

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Exploring Pennsylvania's Rich History

Pennsylvania, often referred to as the Keystone State, holds a storied history that spans centuries and is deeply intertwined with the founding of the United States. From the early Native American inhabitants to the pivotal events of the American Revolution and beyond, Pennsylvania's history is a fascinating journey through time.

### Early Inhabitants

Long before European settlers arrived, Pennsylvania was home to several Native American tribes, including the Lenape and the Susquehannocks. These indigenous peoples inhabited the diverse landscapes of Pennsylvania, from the fertile valleys to the rugged mountains.

### Colonial Pennsylvania

In 1681, King Charles II granted a vast land tract to William Penn, a Quaker, to settle a debt. This land became Pennsylvania, and Penn envisioned it as a haven for religious freedom and tolerance. The city of Philadelphia, founded in 1682, became the colony's capital and a hub of commerce and culture.

### The American Revolution

Pennsylvania played a pivotal role in the American Revolution. The Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. Valley Forge, located nearby, served as the winter encampment for General George Washington's Continental Army in 1777-1778.

### The Constitution and Beyond

In 1787, Pennsylvania hosted the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Delegates from across the nation gathered to draft the United States Constitution,



Name \_\_\_\_\_

a document that continues to shape the country's governance. Pennsylvania ratified the Constitution on December 12, 1787, becoming the second state to do so.

### **Industrialization and Growth**

During the 19th century, Pennsylvania experienced rapid industrialization, particularly in steel production, coal mining, and manufacturing. Pittsburgh, known as the "Steel City," became a global center for steel production.

### **The Civil War and Beyond**

During the Civil War, Pennsylvania played a significant role, with the Battle of Gettysburg being one of the war's turning points. President Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg Address there in 1863.

### **Modern Pennsylvania**

In the 20th century, Pennsylvania continued to evolve, becoming a diverse and thriving state. It's known for its rich cultural heritage, including the Pennsylvania Dutch traditions, as well as its contributions to music, sports, and industry.

