



FIVE IDEAS EVERY NH KID SHOULD KNOW

1

Granite Staters cherish traditions but embrace change.

The idea that New Hampshire has always been as it is now is a myth. It wasn't until the 1940s and 1950s that Americans began to idealize New England as a land of church steeples and town commons whose people were resistant to new ideas and rejected change. Throughout its history New England has led the nation in embracing reform movements, new industries, and forward-thinking policies. Traditions are important, and they often convey cherished ideas or ways of doing things that we are right to honor, but Granite Staters have never been slow to adapt to the world around them or to push the world in a new direction when there is cause to do so.

2

New Hampshire is a land of immigrants.

The first immigrants arrived in New Hampshire at least 12,000 years ago. Each generation of immigrants that came after them has had to overcome the challenges of adapting to a new culture and face hostility and resistance from those who were here before them. Ultimately immigrants have contributed to New Hampshire's rich, multi-ethnic society. Each era of New Hampshire's history has seen clashes among those claiming New Hampshire for their own and those coming to New Hampshire seeking a better life, whether it was Scots-Irish, French-Canadians, or Latin Americans. All have challenged Granite Staters' traditional views of who belongs here and who can call New Hampshire home.

3

Granite Staters have a symbiotic relationship with the land.

The people of New Hampshire have valued the natural landscape and chosen to protect and preserve it. New Hampshire had early experience with the dangers of overusing natural resources, as the colony was heavily dependent on fish, fur, and timber in its early decades. As the years passed, the state relied on water power to fuel the hundreds of mills that shaped its economy while the glories of the natural landscape sustained a thriving tourist industry—one of the first in the nation. By the turn of the 20th century, the people of New Hampshire had become pioneers in the conservation movement to protect the environment in which they had made their homes.

4

The people of New Hampshire are independent.

This independent spirit can be seen most clearly in our system of governance, from town hall meetings to the citizen legislature to presidential politics. Sometimes viewed as Yankee stubbornness, this New Hampshire trait has bred a belief among Granite Staters that they are beholden to no one but their own consciences. It is a cultural inheritance that delights in surprising presidential frontrunners and the media every four years. But this Yankee stubbornness has also produced a reverence for participatory government that seems less robust in other parts of the country.

5

New Hampshire has had an outsized impact on American history.

Whether pioneering new industries, sparking new trends and cultural movements, or influencing who will become president of the United States, a lot has happened here—more than most people might think—and the Granite State has both led the country and mirrored its history. Learning about New Hampshire provides students with a foundation upon which they will understand American history when they become middle and high school students.