

ALL ABOUT GRANITE

What is New Hampshire's nickname? Why, the Granite State, of course! You've probably seen lots of granite in your community on sidewalks, in buildings, or in parks and yards. Granite is a very important part of New Hampshire's landscape and history.

What is granite?

Granite is a kind of rock that is very hard. It's harder than lots of other rocks! At the end of the last ice age, the glaciers left behind a huge amount of granite in New Hampshire. There are still granite boulders all over the state. New Hampshire has many famous natural rock formations made of granite, like the Old Man of the Mountain and the Flume. About half of New Hampshire is covered with granite under the soil.

Why is granite useful?

Granite is a great material for buildings. For example, it was used to make the New Hampshire State House in Concord and the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. It is also used to make curbs for roads and in parking lots. Because it is so hard, it stands up to harsh weather without chipping or crumbling.

How did people get granite?

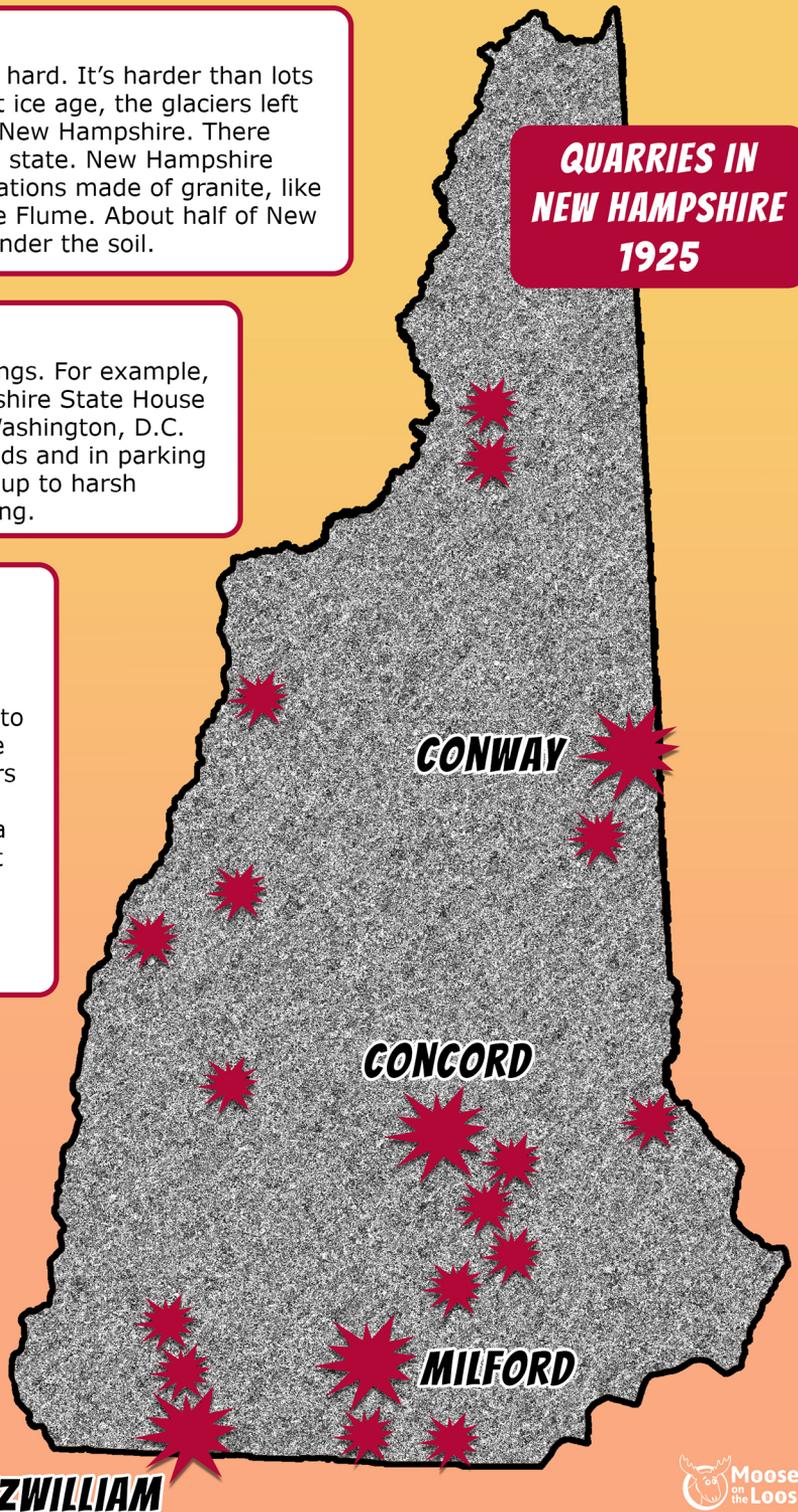
The process of turning granite into blocks of stone is called quarrying. Quarries are places where there is a lot of granite naturally. People dig into the earth to reach more of it. People used tools called feathers and wedges that would allow them to hammer a crack into the granite. It split the granite in a straight line! This is how they made the square blocks to use in curbs and buildings.



Why is New Hampshire called the Granite State?

In the early 1800s, people began to quarry granite in New Hampshire. The state got a reputation for having lots of granite that was both beautiful and strong. In 1825, a man named Philip Carrigain wrote a poem and a song that described New Hampshire as the Granite State. People liked the nickname and started using it right away!

**QUARRIES IN
NEW HAMPSHIRE
1925**



1. Why do you think some of the marks on the map are bigger than others?
2. Why is granite such an important natural resource for New Hampshire?
3. Where have you seen granite in your house, neighborhood, school, or town?
4. People liked the nickname the Granite State not only because it described the state's natural resource, but also because New Hampshire's people can be compared to granite. What do you think that means?