New York State Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which fruit is an official New York state symbol?
   A. Apple
   B. Pear
   C. Peach
   D. Blueberry
   Correct answer: A. Apple
   The state designated the apple as its official fruit in 1976.

2. Which word on the New York State seal is the motto commonly translated as “ever upward”?
   A. Forward
   B. Eureka
   C. Excelsior
   D. Liberty
   Correct answer: C. Excelsior
   The Latin motto Excelsior appears on New York’s coat of arms and means “ever upward.”

3. Which tree represents New York State and is also used to produce maple syrup?
   A. Silver birch
   B. Sugar maple
   C. Eastern white pine
   D. American elm
   Correct answer: B. Sugar maple
   New York recognizes the sugar maple as its state tree. Its sap is used to make maple syrup.

4. Which body of water lies directly south of Long Island?
   A. Lake Champlain
   B. Lake Ontario
   C. Long Island Sound
   D. Atlantic Ocean
   Correct answer: D. Atlantic Ocean
   On the state’s map, Long Island lies between the Atlantic Ocean to its south and Long Island Sound to its north.

5. Which Great Lake empties directly into the Niagara River upstream of Niagara Falls?
   A. Lake Ontario
   B. Lake Erie
   C. Lake Huron
   D. Lake Superior
   Correct answer: B. Lake Erie
   The Niagara River flows from Lake Erie past the falls and continues into Lake Ontario.

6. A map shows a point at the eastern tip of Long Island facing the Atlantic. Which label belongs there?
   A. Montauk Point
   B. Rouses Point
   C. Bemus Point
   D. Stony Point
   Correct answer: A. Montauk Point
   Montauk Point marks the eastern tip of Long Island. Rouses Point is in the state’s northeast on Lake Champlain.

7. Which Adirondack summit is the highest point in New York State?
   A. Slide Mountain
   B. Algonquin Peak
   C. Whiteface Mountain
   D. Mount Marcy
   Correct answer: D. Mount Marcy
   Mount Marcy is the state’s highest summit at 5,344 feet. Algonquin Peak is the next highest.

8. Which city at Lake Erie was the western endpoint of the original Erie Canal?
   A. Oswego
   B. Albany
   C. Buffalo
   D. Schenectady
   Correct answer: C. Buffalo
   The original Erie Canal stretched from Buffalo on Lake Erie to Albany on the Hudson River.

9. Watkins Glen State Park is near the south end of which Finger Lake?
   A. Seneca Lake
   B. Cayuga Lake
   C. Keuka Lake
   D. Skaneateles Lake
   Correct answer: A. Seneca Lake
   The Watkins Glen trail map places the park just south of Seneca Lake.

10. Which pair names New York’s two major mountain regions on the west side of the Hudson Valley and in the north of the state?

A. Alleghenies and Blue Ridge
B. Catskills and Green Mountains
C. Adirondacks and White Mountains
D. Catskills and Adirondacks

Correct answer: D. Catskills and Adirondacks
The Catskills lie west of the Hudson Valley. Farther north, the Adirondacks include the state’s High Peaks region.

11. Which river crosses the deep gorge in Letchworth State Park and drops over its three major waterfalls?

A. Hudson River
B. Mohawk River
C. Genesee River
D. Delaware River

Correct answer: C. Genesee River
Letchworth State Park follows the Genesee River through the gorge and includes the Upper, Middle, and Lower Falls.

12. Which city hosted the first New York State Senate meeting in 1777 at the home now known as Senate House?

A. Albany
B. Kingston
C. Saratoga Springs
D. Poughkeepsie

Correct answer: B. Kingston
The first state Senate met in Abraham Van Gaasbeek’s house while representatives were convened in Kingston.

13. Which lake forms the eastern boundary of New York’s Essex County along Vermont?

A. Lake Ontario
B. Lake George
C. Lake Placid
D. Lake Champlain

Correct answer: D. Lake Champlain
Lake Champlain lies between Essex County in northeastern New York and Vermont.

14. New York’s official state fossil belongs to which group of extinct arthropods often called sea scorpions?

A. Eurypterids
B. Trilobites
C. Ammonites
D. Crinoids

Correct answer: A. Eurypterids
New York designated the eurypterid as its state fossil in 1984. Fossils of these arthropods occur in the state’s ancient sedimentary rocks.

15. Lake Tear of the Clouds lies in the High Peaks area. Its water belongs to which major river watershed?

A. Genesee River
B. St. Lawrence River
C. Hudson River
D. Delaware River

Correct answer: C. Hudson River
New York’s Department of Environmental Conservation identifies Lake Tear of the Clouds as the highest-elevation body of water in the Hudson River watershed.