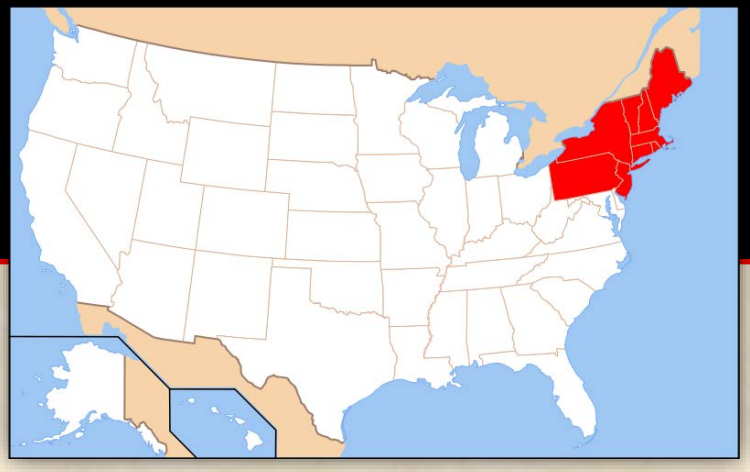
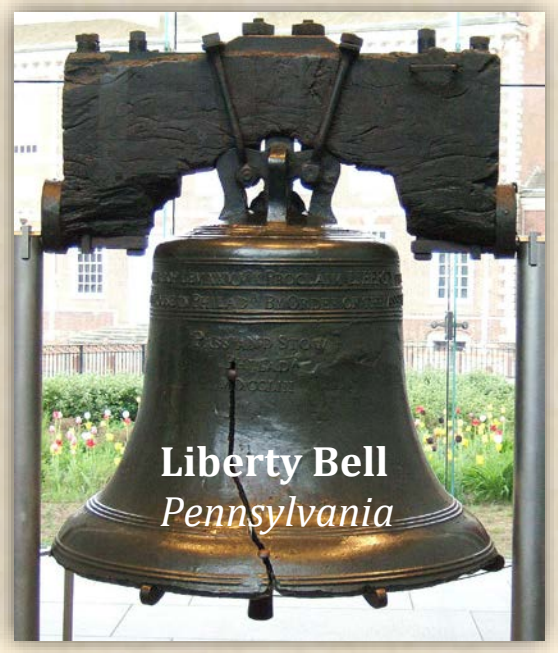
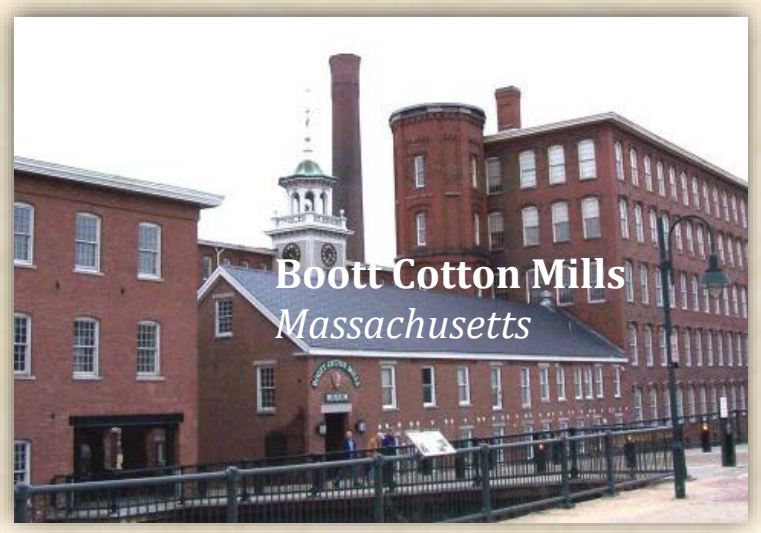
The Northeast







Marisela and her children picking apples in Maine.

Which Northeastern states will we visit during this trip?

Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts

Welcome Grammar Gallery Travelers!

We're very happy that you decided to join the tour of the Northeast. Marisela will be your guide to this region. Marisela lives in Maine, and she'll be taking you whale watching off the coast of Maine and to a Broadway play in New York City, New York. She'll also show you the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and tour an old textile mill in Massachusetts.

In addition to learning about the Northeastern region of the United States, you'll also learn about the language spoken in the Northeast and across the United States—ENGLISH! Pay close attention to the "Let's Look at the Language" boxes. When the trip is over, you'll have a chance to earn vacation points when you answer questions about what you read.

Have fun!

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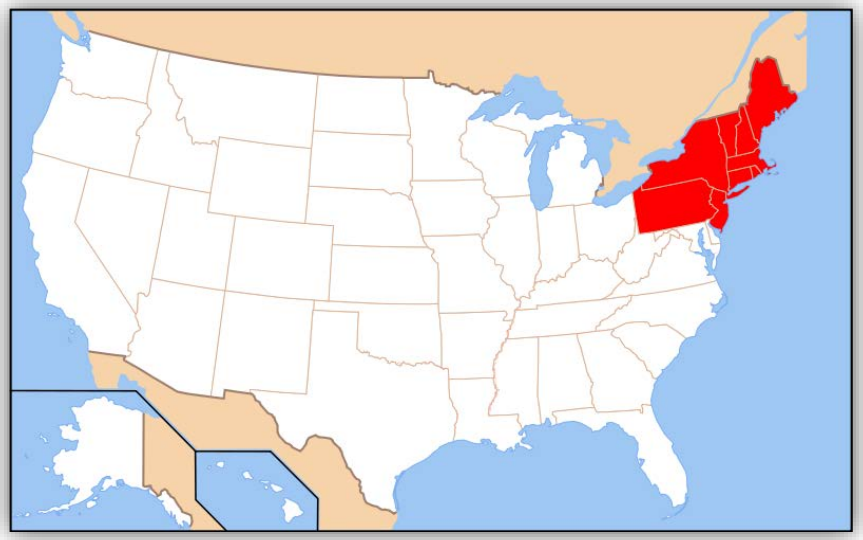
What is the Northeast?



The Northeast is a region of the United States. It includes nine states—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. This Northeast is one of the oldest regions in the country. As of 2010, about 55 million people lived in the Northeast. It is not the most populous region, but it accounts for about one-quarter of the country's gross domestic product. That means the people living in the Northeast produce 25% of all the goods and services produced in the United States. The Northeast includes about 800 of miles of coastline. The region is generally the most liberal in terms of religion and politics.

Let's Look at the Language

The words shown in green are called superlative adjectives. We use superlative adjectives to compare a person/group, place, or thing with two or more other people/groups, places, or things. Many superlatives are formed by adding *–est* or *–st* to the end of the adjective: *oldest.* If the adjective has more than two syllables and does not end with *–y*, we put the word *most* before the adjective to make it a superlative: *most populous*, *most liberal.* Some superlatives are irregular and do not follow any rules. For example, *worst* is the superlative form of the adjective *bad*.

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People often say that Maine's a vacation wonderland. You can climb mountains, hike in the forests, or kayak down one of the rivers or lakes. However, we're going on a whale-watching trip. Just off the coast of Bar Harbor, Maine, we'll see whales—lots of them. It looks like they're playing, but it's serious business for the whales. They actually come to the waters in this area to feast on the abundant sea life here. If we're fortunate, we'll see humpback whales, pilot whales, and maybe even some orcas. Whales are beautiful and fascinating to observe. They're the largest living animals in the world. I can't wait to show them to you!

Let's Look at the Language

A contraction is a shortened form of a word or words. An apostrophe (') usually marks the letters that are left out. The words shown above in green are contractions. We use contractions often in speech and informal writing. Contractions make English speaking and writing sound more fluid and conversational. SPECIAL NOTE: Many people confuse the contraction *it's*, which stands for *it is*, with the possessive form *its*. The possessive form of *it* is *its*. Here's a sentence to help you remember this rule: *It's* [it is] *fun to watch the whale eat because its* [the whale's] *mouth is so big.*

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Welcome to New York!

For years, people have been suggesting that visitors must see a play on Broadway when they come to New York City. It's one of the city's most popular attractions! I have been wanting Broadway tickets to "The Lion King" or "Mamma Mia." Have you seen the film versions of these plays? Of course, we can also visit the Statue of Liberty or the Empire State Building. Or if you're interested in finance, we can take a tour of the New York Stock Exchange. The intersection of Wall Street and Broad has been serving as the country's financial hub for more than 100 years.

Let's Look at the Language

We use the present perfect progressive tense to indicate that the action or condition is continuing from the past into the present time and possibly into the future. The words shown in orange are examples of the present perfect progressive tense. We form this tense we use *has been* or *have been* with a present participle (the *-ing* form of a verb).

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Welcome to Pennsylvania!

While we're in Pennsylvania, we're going to see one of America's most cherished symbols of independence. Have you already guessed I'm talking about the Liberty Bell? The bell was in the steeple of Independence Hall and rang when the Declaration of Independence was read on July 4, 1776. After it was damaged, it was officially moved to its indoor location and isn't rung anymore. It's extremely large and heavy, but still lifts my spirits every time I see it. We are very fortunate to live in the United States!

Let's Look at the Language

An adverb describes or adds meaning to a verb, an adjective, another adverb, or a phrase or sentence. An adverb can indicate how, how much, when, where, or how frequently. Many adverbs are easy to recognize because they end with the letters –ly: *extremely, officially*. Specialized adverbs are words such as *already*, *yet*, *still*, and *anymore*. In the sentence above, the adverb *still* refers to something that began in the past, but continues into the present.

This is a reproduction of a historical painting by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris called "The Bell's First Note."

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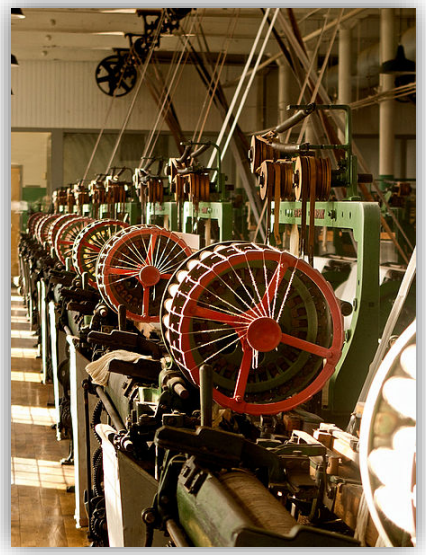
Welcome to Massachusetts!

Massachusetts offers many historical sites, but one of my favorite places to take visitors is the Boott Cotton Mills of Lowell. Its location on a canal on the Merrimack River helped Lowell become a busy industrial town in the 1800s. Lowell was home to many large mills that produced carpets, woolens, and other textiles. We can see the machines the workers used, their tools, and their working conditions. These factories are important reminders of our history as Americans.



➢ *These are original looms in the Boott Cotton Mill and Museum.*

Let's Look at the Language

The words shown in green in the text above are possessive pronouns. We use possessive pronouns to take the place of nouns (or noun phrases) to show ownership. Don't confuse the contraction *it's*, which stands for *it is*, with the possessive form *its*. The possessive form of *it* is *its*.

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Attention Grammar Gallery Travelers!

There's still a lot more to do and explore. What's next?

TAKE A QUIZ. Click on the link below. You can test your knowledge AND impress your family.

http://www.grammargallery.org/nequiz1.html

VISIT OTHER SITES IN THE NORTHEAST. Check out links to other places in the Northeast that you can "visit." There are also links to sites with more information about the places we explored together. Click here to get started.

WRITE A STORY ABOUT THE NORTHEAST. We are looking for student authors! Can you write a story about one of the places you visited in the Northeast? It can be a made-up story, a story with facts, or a story that combines facts with made-up characters and events. Click here to submit your story.

Thank you so much for traveling with us to the Northeast!

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Cover

Bar Harbor Whale Watching Company (*whale watching*)

Tony Fischer (*Liberty Bell*)

Page 4

Bar Harbor Whale Watching Company (*whale watching*)

Page 5

Andreas Praefcke (*New Amsterdam Theatre*)

Page 6

Tony Fischer (*Liberty Bell*)

Page 7

Jlpapple (*looms*)

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