

Send North America: Philadelphia

Philadelphia Fun Facts

1. In 1682, William Penn founded the city to serve as the capital of Pennsylvania Colony.
2. During the American Revolution, Philadelphia played an instrumental role as a meeting place for the Founding Fathers of the United States, who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the Constitution in 1787.
3. Philadelphia was one of the nation's capitals during the Revolutionary War, and the city served as the temporary U.S. capital while Washington, D.C., was under construction between 1790-1800.
4. The city has more outdoor sculptures and murals than any other American city.
5. William Penn named the city Philadelphia, which is Greek for brotherly love. The church at Philadelphia is one of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation (Revelation 3:7-13).
6. As a Quaker, William Penn had experienced religious persecution and wanted his colony to be a place where anyone could worship freely.
7. Before Penn left Philadelphia for the last time, he issued the Charter of 1701, establishing it as a city.
8. Benjamin Franklin, a leading citizen, helped improve city services and founded new ones, such as fire protection, a library and one of the American colonies' first hospitals.
9. Philadelphia's importance and central location in the colonies made it a natural gathering place for America's revolutionaries. The city hosted the First Continental Congress before the war; the Second Continental Congress, which signed the United States Declaration of Independence during the war; and the Constitutional Convention (1787) after the war. Several battles were fought in and near Philadelphia as well.
10. Betsy Ross is commonly credited with sewing the first American flag in 1776 at the request of General George Washington in Philadelphia. The Betsy Ross House is a favorite tourist attraction today.
11. Philadelphia cream cheese was first created in New York in 1872 by an American dairyman named William Lawrence. In 1880, he branded it "Philadelphia" because the city of Philadelphia was well known at that time for its high-quality food.
12. Philadelphia is famous for its Philly Cheesesteak and Italian hoagie sandwiches, as well as the soft pretzel and Tastykake brand snack cakes.
13. 6.56 million people live in the metro Philadelphia area.
14. There is one Southern Baptist Convention church for every 59,000 metro Philadelphia residents.

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