

**New River Gorge Bridge in West Virginia** (THFK photo)

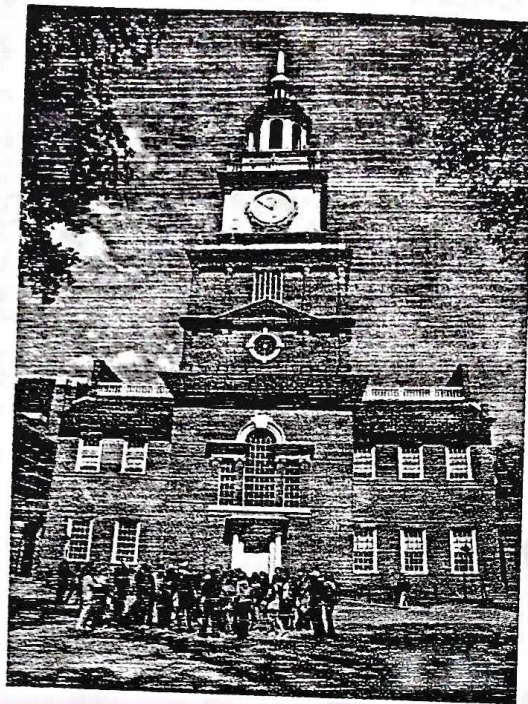
## CHAPTER SEVEN

# THE MID-ATLANTIC

There are six states in the Mid-Atlantic: **Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia.**

Here are some ways to learn them:

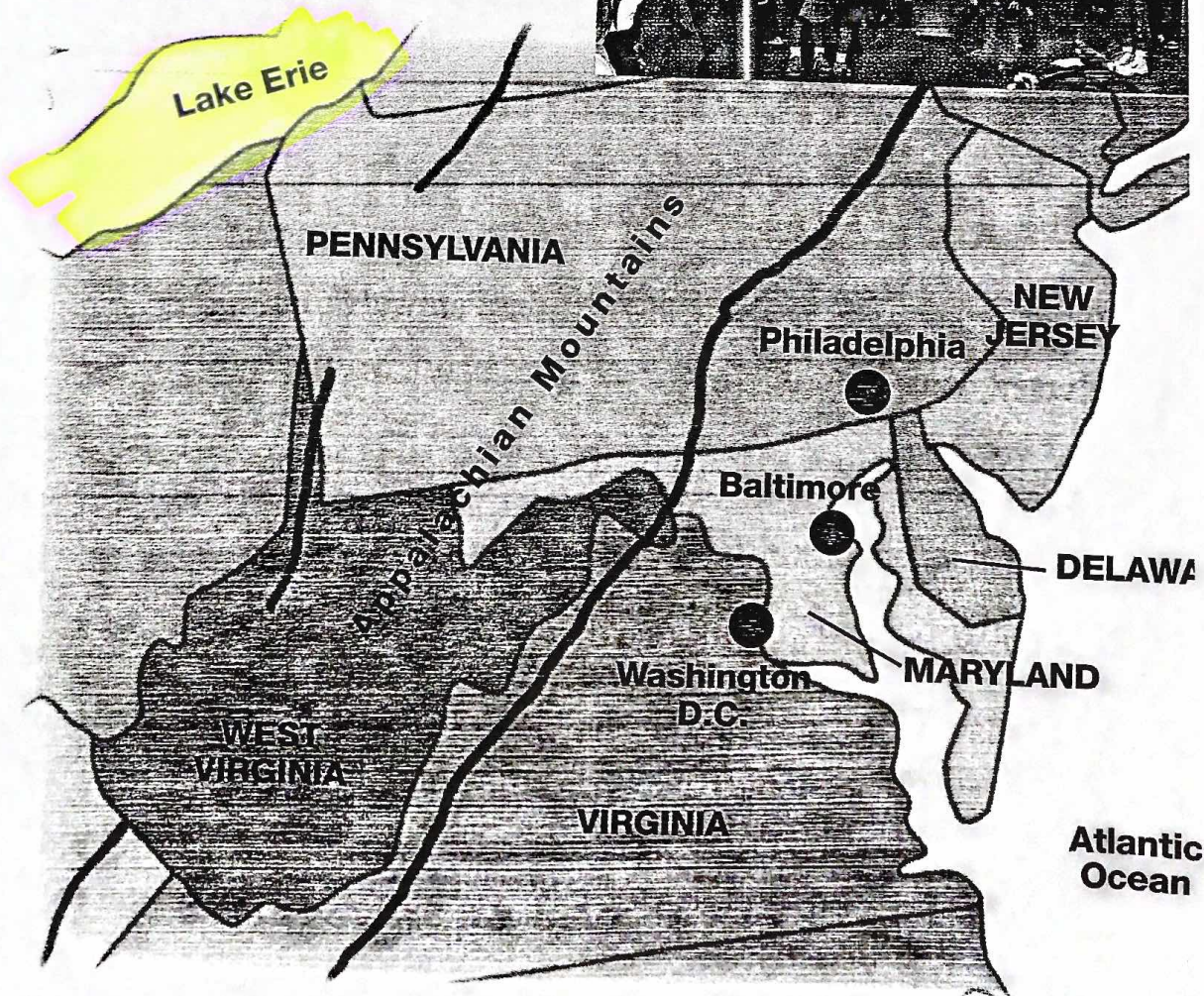
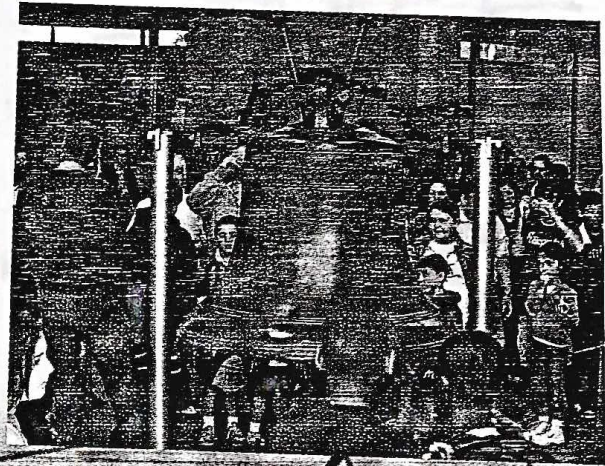
- **Pennsylvania is the largest state in the Mid-Atlantic.**
- NEW Jersey is a small state that borders NEW York.
- **Delaware is the second smallest state in the U.S.** Delaware is so small that people have a hard time finding it. This leads to the expression: "Dela... where?"
- WEST Virginia is, well, west of Virginia.



**Independence Hall in Philadelphia** (THFK photo)

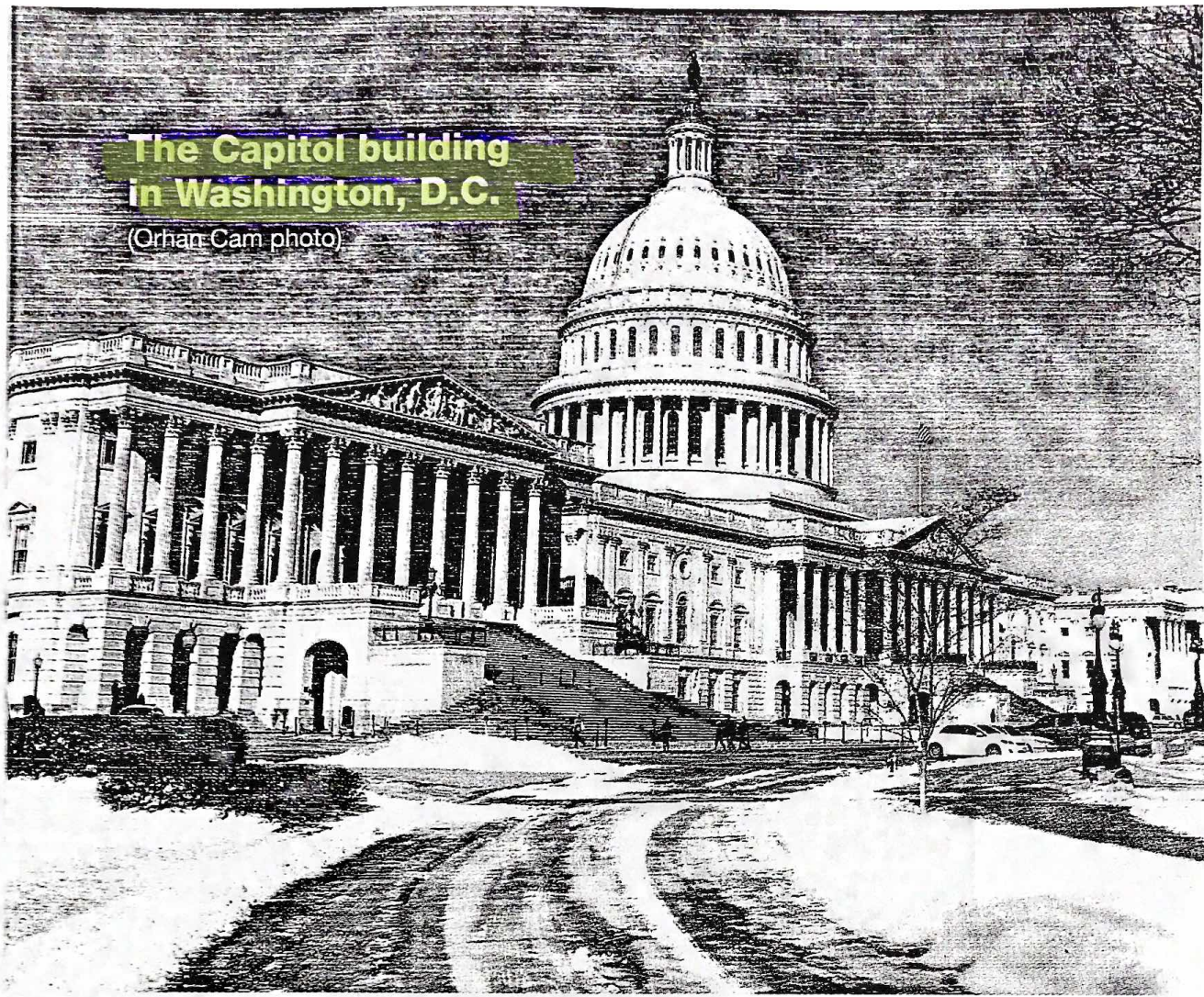
**The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia** (THFK photo)

The Mid-Atlantic area also contains the District of Columbia (D.C.), which isn't part of a state. Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States, is in the District of Columbia. The government of the United States meets and makes law in Washington, D.C.



## The Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

(Orhan Cam photo)



Speaking of American government and history, the Mid-Atlantic states also contain the cities of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Baltimore, Maryland.

Philadelphia was capital of the U.S. in 1796, when Tennessee became a state. Baltimore Harbor is where the “Star Spangled Banner”—our national anthem—was written in 1814.

The Mid-Atlantic is not a large area. But it contains a surprising amount of diverse landforms. Delaware is one of the flattest states in the country. However, just about every inch of West Virginia is mountainous, which is why it is known as the “Mountain State.” 🌐

The Gateway Arch in  
St. Louis, Missouri

(Rudy Balasko photo)

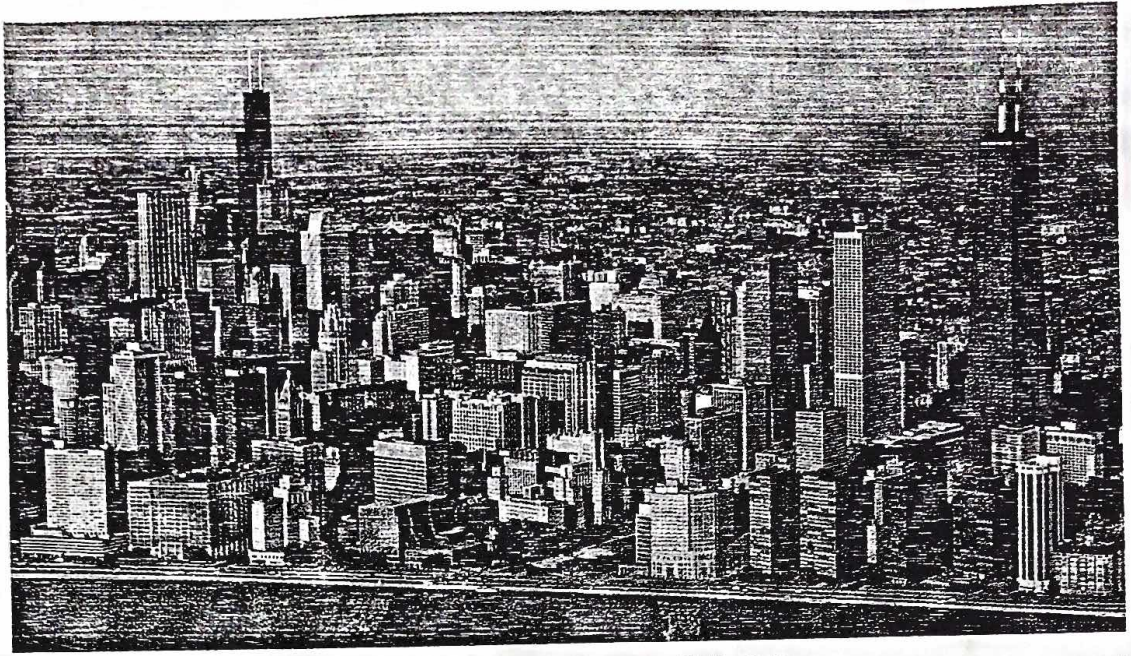
## CHAPTER EIGHT MIDWEST



Now we move to the region know as the Midwest. There are 9 States in the Midwest: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri and Kentucky. Here are tips to learning them:

- Michigan is split by the Great Lake for which it is named.
- There are three states in the Midwest that start with the letter I and which border each other: Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. Remember that the most westward of the three only has 4 letters.
- Ohio is the only state that is round in the sides and “hi” in the middle. Get it? O..hi..O!

The Midwest contains three of the five Great Lakes. From top-left to bottom right, they are Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Lake



**Chicago, Illinois, which is on Lake Michigan** (American Spirit photo)

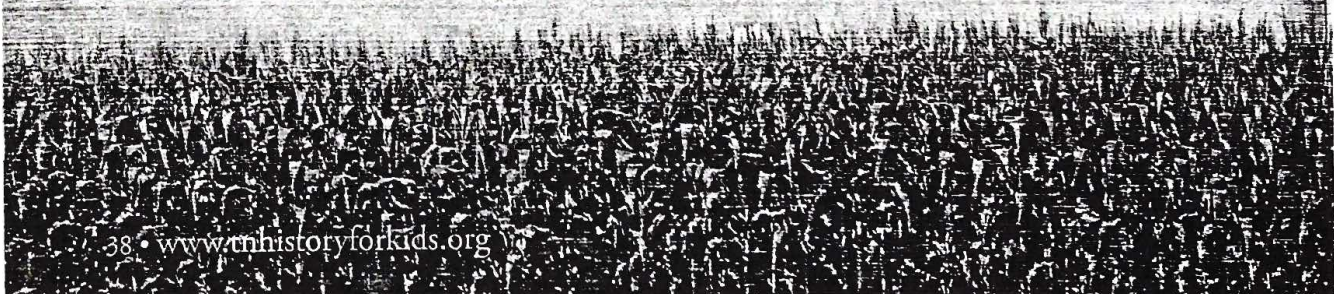
**Huron.** Remember that the “superior” one is at the top and that the one called “Lake Michigan” has Michigan on two sides.

The largest city in the Midwest is Chicago, Illinois. Chicago became large because it was there that many Midwestern farm products—cattle and wheat, for instance—would be processed and put on railroads to be sent to the east.

Another famous Midwestern city is St. Louis, Missouri. It is known as the “Gateway to the West” because many settlers passed through it on their way west.

The Midwest contains two important rivers. One is the Ohio River, which starts in Pennsylvania and flows westward. The Ohio River forms the southern boundary of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

**There is so much corn growing in the Midwest that it can be hard to see over it or around it** (Mailsonpignata/Shutterstock)



It then flows into the Mississippi River, which starts in Minnesota and flows south. The Mississippi River drains parts, or all, of 31 U.S. states (including Tennessee).

The Midwest is known for corn. Iowa and Illinois alone grow about a third of the corn grown in the entire U.S.!

The climate in the Midwest varies depending on what part of the Midwest you are in. The weather in southern Illinois is about the same as the weather in Tennessee. But the weather in Minnesota is cold! The average temperature in International Falls, Minnesota, in January is three degrees (35 degrees colder than the average temperature in Nashville!) ❄️

