



is for ATHLETICS...

In Philadelphia, sports fans root for their home teams all year long. Philadelphia is one of just a few cities with teams in all four major-league sports: the Eagles (football), the Flyers (hockey), the 76ers (basketball), and the Phillies (baseball).

In fact, professional baseball was born in Philadelphia in 1865, when the Philadelphia Athletics became the first team to pay a player. Second baseman Alfred J. Reach was paid what was then a big salary—twenty-five dollars per week!

Philadelphia also has several minor-league teams: the Wings (indoor lacrosse), the Phantoms (hockey), and the Kixx (indoor soccer). College

sports draw big crowds too, especially when the city hosts the annual Army-Navy football game or when there is a home game for one of the Big 5 basketball teams: Temple University, Villanova University, the University of Pennsylvania (Penn), St. Joseph's University, and La Salle University.

Spring in Philadelphia brings two more exciting events: the Penn Relays, an amateur track meet, and the Dad Vail Regatta, one of the largest college rowing competitions in the country. Each June, at the Pro Cycling Championships, bicyclists race along a hilly course that runs for more than 150 miles. In September, runners compete in the Philadelphia Distance Run, a half-marathon that winds its way through downtown Philadelphia and Fairmount Park.



is for
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN...

Benjamin Franklin is Philadelphia's most famous citizen. Born in Boston, Franklin came to Philadelphia when he was seventeen years old. He left Boston to escape working in his bossy older brother's print shop.

In Philadelphia, Franklin began publishing a newspaper and his popular *Poor Richard's Almanack*. He also became deeply involved in politics. In 1776 he played a key role in the drafting and signing of the Declaration of Independence. At the Constitutional Convention in 1787, he signed the U.S. Constitution. Even in these serious meetings, Franklin never lost his sense of humor. Instead, he liked to try to trip the other delegates as they made their way up the

aisle of the Pennsylvania State House!

Franklin is probably best known as a gifted scientist and inventor. (Philadelphia's Franklin Institute Science Museum is named for him.) During his lifetime, Franklin invented many useful devices, including bifocal glasses, the lightning rod, and a new type of clean-burning stove. He was also the brains behind the country's first volunteer fire company, hospital, and library.

When he died in 1790, people of many different religious faiths followed his casket. This was a tribute to the man who had believed so firmly in religious freedom for everyone. Benjamin Franklin is buried at Philadelphia's Christ Church Burial Ground on Arch Street.



is for CHEESE STEAKS...

What do people like to eat in Philadelphia? For one thing, they like to eat cheese steaks—a tasty sandwich piled with sliced beef, onions, and melted cheese.

According to many people, the cheese steak was born in 1930, at Pat's King of Steaks, a restaurant in South Philadelphia (South Philly). Pat's, which is still run by the same family, continues to serve cheese steaks today. Across the street is another famous cheese steak restaurant: Geno's Steaks. Most Philadelphians have strong opinions about which restaurant makes better cheese steaks—Pat's or Geno's!

Other Philadelphia food favorites include hoagies (deli sandwiches made with meat and cheese), soft pretzels, water ice, cinnamon sticky buns, and scrapple. Scrapple was first made by Dutch settlers using cornmeal,

seasonings, and boiled pig scraps. Today it is often served with eggs at breakfast time.

Philadelphia food lovers also flock to South Philly's Italian Market for spices, fruits and vegetables, homemade pasta, and cheese. Another popular spot is the Reading Terminal Market near the Pennsylvania Convention Center. At this busy marketplace, merchants and farmers sell fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, cheese, and foods from all over the world.

A growing Philadelphia food tradition is The Book and the Cook, one of the largest food festivals in the country. At The Book and the Cook festival, people sample food, listen to talks held by chefs and cookbook writers, and enjoy musical and theatrical performances. All of these events celebrate the good food found in Philadelphia.



is for
DELAWARE INDIANS...

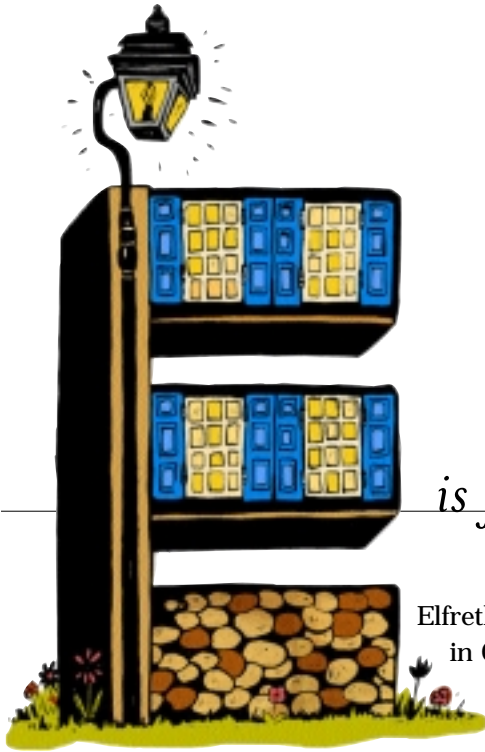
The Delaware Indians lived in the Philadelphia area well before European settlers arrived. The Delawares called themselves Lenape or Lenni-Lenape. English settlers later gave them the name Delawares.

The Delawares included several different groups: the Munsee, Unalachtigo, and Unami. The Unami, or Turtle Tribe, lived in the area around Philadelphia in wigwams clustered along the Delaware River. They survived by hunting game and farming maize (Indian corn).

Shortly after William Penn arrived, he befriended the Delawares. Unlike most English governors of the time, he treated them fairly.

According to some historians, in 1682 the Delawares signed a treaty with Penn in their village, Shackamaxon. The site of this treaty is known today as Penn Treaty Park.

As Europeans continued to settle in the area, the Delawares sold more and more of their land. Thomas Penn, one of William Penn's sons, tricked them out of still more territory. Many Delawares died of smallpox and measles, diseases that Europeans had brought to America. With a dwindling amount of land and the constant danger of attack by other tribes, the Delawares began to move westward. Many eventually settled in what is now Oklahoma.



is for ELFRETH'S ALLEY...

Elfreth's Alley is a narrow cobblestone lane in Center City, tucked neatly between Arch and Race Streets on Second Street. With its small brick houses, white doorways, and busybody mirrors (which let people on the second floor see who is at the front door), the alley provides a charming glimpse into Philadelphia's colonial past. It is the oldest street in the United States where people have lived continuously.

Elfreth's Alley is named for Jeremiah Elfreth, a blacksmith. The street's oldest home, the house at 120-122 Elfreth's Alley, was built in the 1720s. The street's newest homes were built in the early 1800s. During colonial times, families moved in and out quickly. Many of the early residents worked as haberdashers, bakers, printers,

carpenters, or artisans. Today, the house at 126 Elfreth's Alley is a museum. Every year on the first weekend in June, the houses on Elfreth's Alley are open to the public for guided tours.

Within walking distance of Elfreth's Alley are many other historical spots. At the Betsy Ross House on Arch Street, visitors can see where the seamstress is said to have sewn the nation's first flag. This typical colonial house also has a cellar kitchen, tiny bedrooms, and model work areas.

The U.S. Mint is another important building near Elfreth's Alley. (The first mint was actually built two blocks from this location.) The Philadelphia Mint is the oldest and largest of the four U.S. Mints. Today the Philadelphia Mint makes money at a lightning-fast pace. It can produce 1.8 million coins every hour!