

**PORT CHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PORT CHESTER, NEW YORK**

**LOCAL HISTORY/GOVERNMENT
CURRICULUM**



Curriculum Office

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Port Chester, New York

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Port Chester Grade Four Local History/Government Curriculum was planned and written by members of the professional staff. In this curriculum project, consultant services were provided by the Bureau of Social Studies, New York State Education Department.

In addition, Port Chester Public Schools recognizes the contribution of the following school districts who graciously shared their local history projects with the District:

Alexandria, Virginia
East Willeston, New York
Guilderland, New York
Herricks UFSD, New York
Ulser County BOCES, Niagara, New York

A special thank you to Chris Zidik and the entire Local History Committee for their dedication and hard work on this project.

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**GRADE FOUR
LOCAL HISTORY/GOVERNMENT PROGRAM**

INTRODUCTION

A Note to Boys and Girls in Grade Four

You are **Special!**

In fact, you are so **Special**, a book has been written just for you!

This book is about you and where you live.....

Port Chester, New York.

It's about your Community.

It's about long ago

And not so long ago.

It's about

big things,

little things,

and all the things

that make the history of your place

and your people

and you

Special!



“Chester” first appeared on the cover of Port Chester’s 100 Years in 1937. He was created by a Port Chester Student.
When you see “Chester”, he will help you find your place on the planet.



* “Mickey Finn” is a cartoon character created by Port Chester native, Frank “Lank” Leonard and appeared in the New York Daily Mirror [1936 – 1976]. When you see “Mickey Finn” you will complete a fun activity.



Yes, boys and girls, here it is. Your very own history test. See how much you know about your own past - - - (Relax! You get to grade it yourself!)

I. What is your father's full name?

First Middle Last

II. Where was he born? (town, state, or country) _____

III. What is his birthdate? (month, date, and year) _____

IV. What is your mother's full name? (first, middle, maiden and last)

First Middle Last

V. Where was she born? (town, state, or country) _____

VI. What is her birthdate? (month, date, and year) _____

VII. Now try to complete this chart for your grandparents.

	Name?	Born Where?	Born When?	Occupation
father's father				
father's mother				
mother's father				
mother's mother				

VIII. From which country did your father's family come originally?

(Unless you are a native – born American, they came from somewhere else.)

IX. From which country did your mother's family come originally?

(Is there a clue in one of the family names?)

X. When did your ancestors on both sides come to this country?

Father's ancestors*:

Mother's ancestors:

XI. Where did they land when they arrived in this country?

Father's ancestors:

Mother's ancestors:

XII. Where was the first place they settled?

Father's ancestors:

Mother's ancestors:

XIII. In which cities and states has your family lived?

Father's ancestors:

Mother's ancestors:

*** Ancestors – Ancestors are people in your family from earlier generations who were born before you were born.**

Your Community



Answer these questions about your community:

1. What is the name of your village ?

2. What is the name of your street?

3. What kind of home do you live in? (Circle one)
a. house b. apartment c. townhouse d. other

4. What is your telephone number?

5. Where can you mail letters and packages?

6. Where do you get your mail?

7. What is the name of the newspaper(s) your family reads?

8. What is the name of your school?

9. How do you get to school?

10. Name the store where your family usually buys groceries.

11. Do you live near a fire station?

12. Have you ever visited a police station?

13. Name some community buildings which you use.

a. _____ b. _____

c. _____ d. _____

Family Folklore Interview Guide



You can be a Port Chester historian. Interview your parents or other family members with the following set of questions. You may record your interview on videotape, audiotape, word processing or written by hand.

Questions to consider:

14. When did your ancestors come to America? Where did they come from?

15. Where did you first settle in America?

16. What occupation did you pursue here?

17. When did you first get a radio? A TV? What were the TV shows like when you were little? Are they the same or different from now?

18. What was your favorite food as a child?

19. Did you have any chores? What was your first job?

20. What was the first movie you saw in a theater? What was your favorite movie? What was your favorite book?

21. What about your first car trip? Plane trip? Train trip? (railroad)

22. Where did you go to school? How many children were in your class? Who was your favorite teacher and why?

23. What did you do for summer vacation?

24. What was your favorite song? What was it about?

25. Did you have any slang words or sayings when you were growing up?

26. Were you ever a soldier in the military (armed services)? How long? Where were you stationed?

27. What was your favorite holiday? Did you have any special family traditions?

28. Did you have any really special friend or relative? Who? What made that person special to you?

My Family's History

GRANDMOTHER (Mother's)

GRANDFATHER (Mother's)

GRANDMOTHER (Father's)

GRANDFATHER (Father's)

MOTHER

FATHER

MY MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY

MY FATHER'S BIRTHDAY

★ ★

My Sisters and Brothers

★ ★

Where my Grandparents were born and lived.

GRANDMOTHER BORN IN

MOVED TO

GRANDMOTHER BORN IN

MOVED TO

GRANDFATHER BORN IN

MOVED TO

GRANDFATHER BORN IN

MOVED TO



MORE FAMILY FUN:

Some families go to grandma's house every Sunday for dinner. Some families have reunions every Fourth of July. Some families read together every night before bedtime.

1. What traditions are parts of your family's life?

2. How did these traditions get started?

Use photographs or your own drawings or bring a family scrapbook to show your family traditions.

Using What I Have Learned



Complete this page using information you have gathered as a result of talking to people (include parents, teachers, relatives, and friends) and /or consulting the school or local library and the local telephone directory.

My Community

In my community, I have observed people at the following **occupations**:

_____, _____, _____,
_____, and _____.

The **Main Street** of my community is _____ (Street/Avenue) and
three places of business located on Main Street are:

(Name and Address)

(Name and Address)

(Name and Address)

A **park** in my community is _____.

This park is supported by local taxpayers so that people in my community can enjoy the following
activities: _____, _____, and
_____.

List the telephone numbers for the:

Local Police _____

Fire Department _____

In an emergency you can also call the following three-digit number: _____.

How We Fit Into the Big Picture

<http://earth.google.com/>



The Planet Earth

The Western Hemisphere – Half of the World (Earth)

The North American Continent

The United States of America

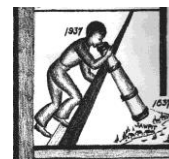
New York State

Westchester County

Port Chester-Village

Rye – Town

Rye Brook - Village



THE ARTS MAKE HISTORY COME ALIVE

READ: Read this passage from the popular American play **Our Town** by Thornton Wilder; first person reads Rebecca's part, second reads George, her brother.

REBECCA: I never told you about that letter Jane Crofut got from her minister when she was sick...He wrote Jane a letter and on the envelope the address was like this. It said: Jane Crofut, The Crofut Farm, Grover's Corners, Sutton County, New Hampshire, United States of America.

GEORGE: What's funny about that?

REBECCA: But listen, it's not finished: The United States of America, Continent Of North America, Western Hemisphere, The Earth, Solar System, The Universe, Mind of God – that's what it said on the envelope.

GEORGE: What do you know!

REBECCA: And the postman brought it just the same.

GEORGE: What do you know!

WRITE: Address a letter to yourself at “your place on the planet” by re-writing Jane's letter to include information about you.

Name (write your name here)_____

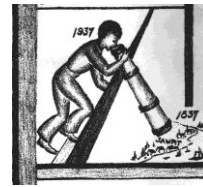
Address (write your address here)_____

Did you write on all of the lines? Go back and see how many lines were in Jane's letter.

SPEAK, LISTEN: Discuss why Rebecca was so interested in her friend Jane's letter.

Why did Rebecca's older brother George say, “What do you know” twice?

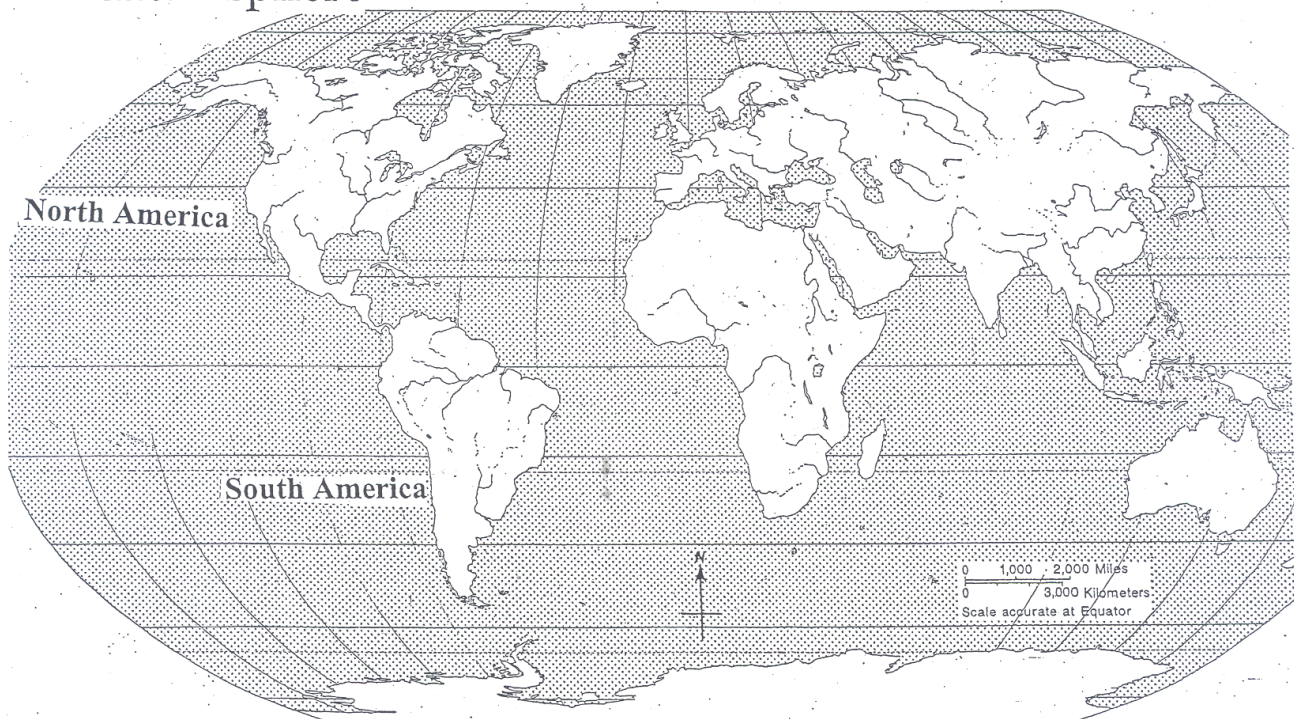
What ideas about “your place on the planet” does it bring to mind?



We are all part of this world. Read on to find exactly where Port Chester is located.

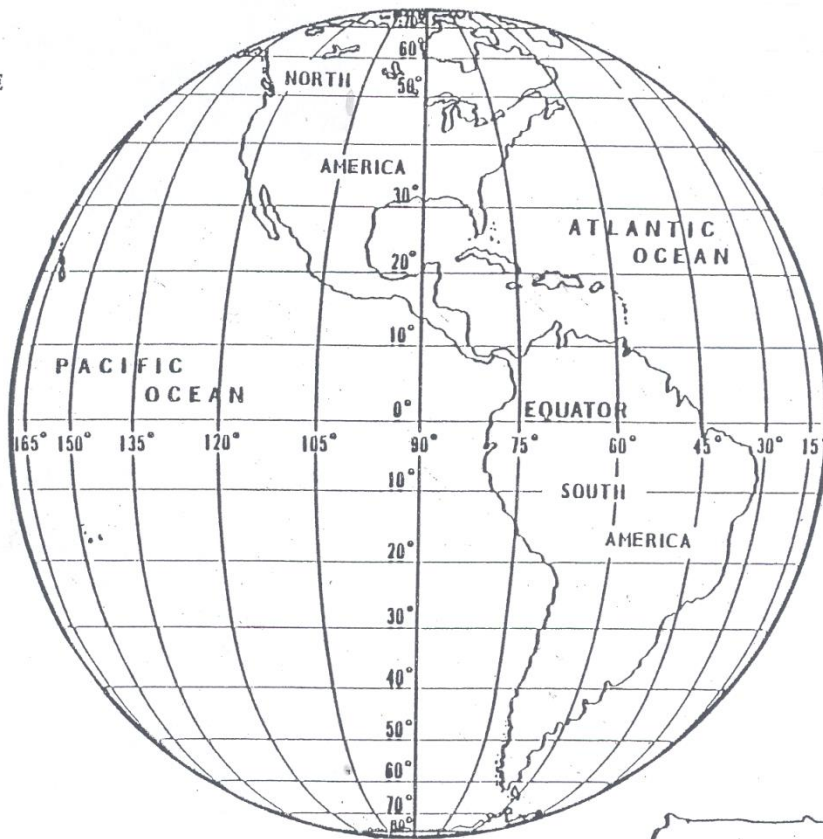
The World

The Western Hemisphere



The continents of North America and South America are in the Western Hemisphere.

Map of The Western Hemisphere



Fill in the blanks. Then follow each direction.

- The Western Hemisphere is made up of two continents:

- Our continent is called:

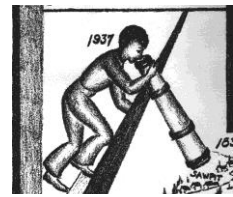
- It is made up of

and _____
Color it **green**.
- The other continent is _____
Color it **yellow**.
- The ocean to the east is called the _____.
- The ocean to the west is called the _____.
Color them **blue**.
- Find the Equator.
Color it **red**.
- Cut out the United States. Paste it on the continent of North America.
Color it **purple**.
- Cut out New York State. Paste it on the United States.
Color it **brown**.
- The lines running north and south are called Longitude. East-west lines are called Latitude. New York is _____ degrees Longitude, and _____ degrees Latitude.





The United States is a country on the continent of North America. The continent of North America is made up of three large countries: Canada, The United States of America, and Mexico, and several smaller ones. Find the names of the smaller countries that are also part of North America. <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci>



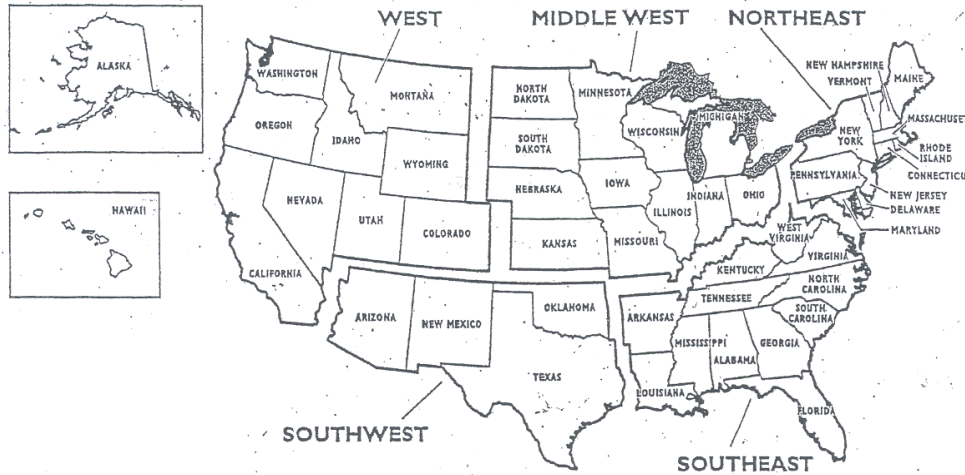
MAP ACTIVITY:

Use the maps on the following page to answer the questions.

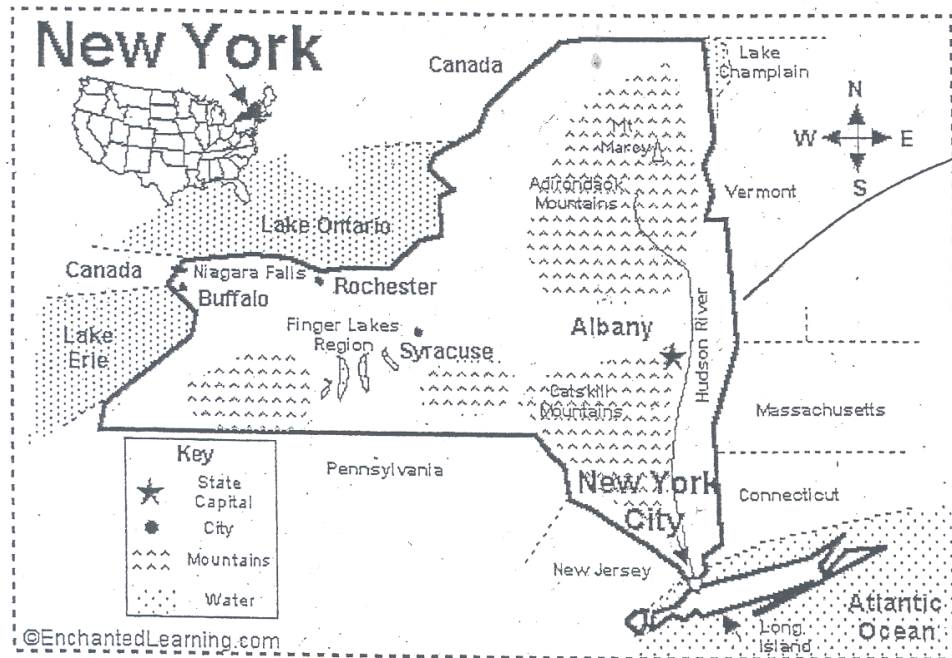
1. Our country is called the _____ of _____.
2. Our country is made up of _____ states.
3. The name of our state is _____. It is found in the _____ part of our country. (Color our state blue)
4. Put a dot on the part of our state that is our Village of _____.
5. Find the Great Lakes. Name the two Great Lakes that border New York: _____ and _____. (Color them blue)
6. Compare New York State with its neighboring states. Which of these neighboring states comes closest in size to New York State? _____

7. Which neighboring state also shares a boundary with Canada?

REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

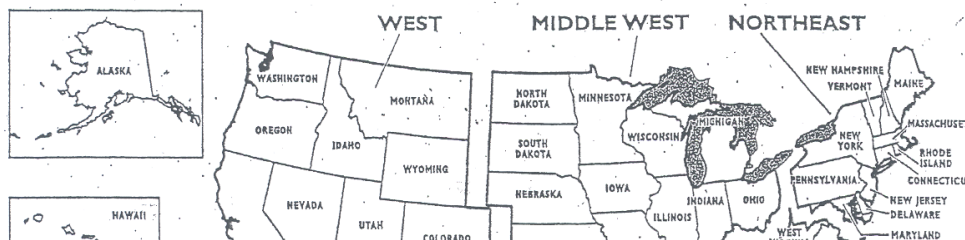


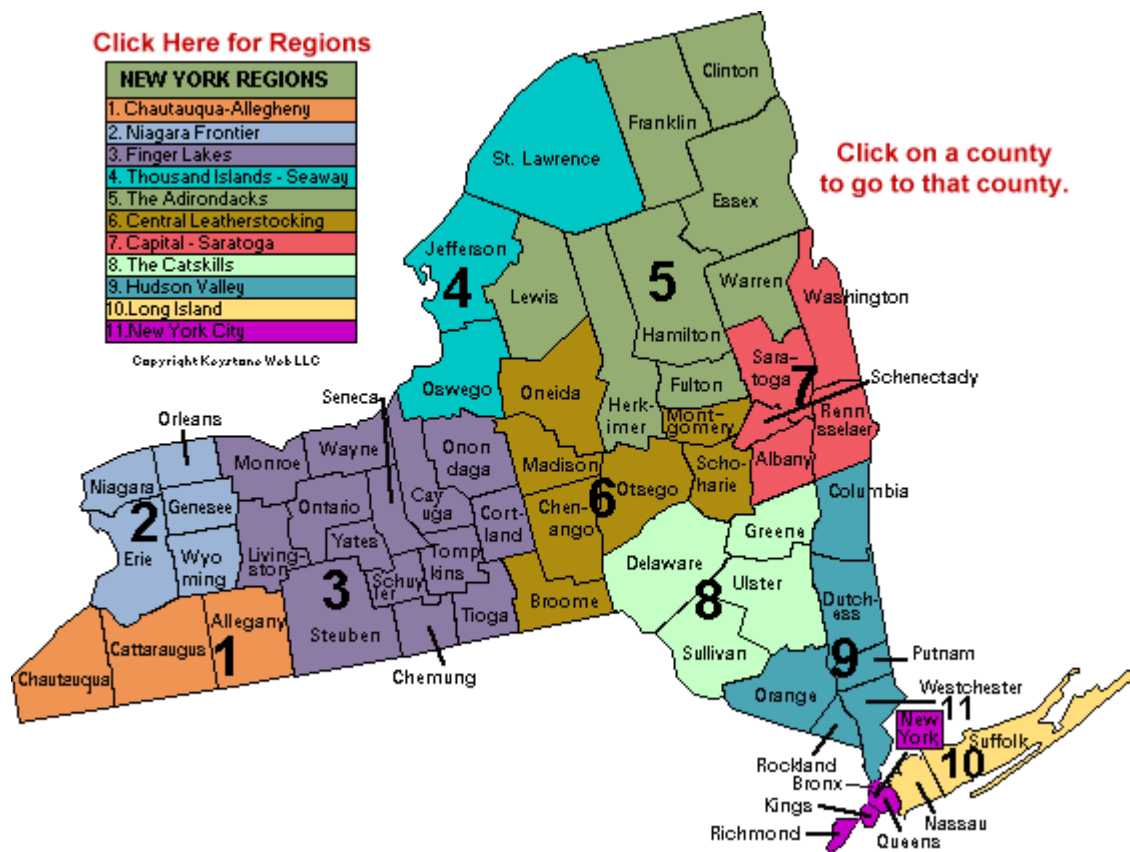
There are fifty states in the United States



New York is in the northeastern part of the United States of America

REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES





<http://visitnewyorkstate.net/regions/>

New York State is divided into 62 counties. Port Chester is located in Westchester County. Use the map of New York State on the next page to answer the questions.

1. Find Westchester County on the map.

It is in the southeastern corner of New York State.

Color Westchester County **green**.

2. Put a **red** dot where Port Chester is located.
3. Color the other counties different colors.

Questions:

1. Name the county that is north of Westchester _____.

2. Identify the city that is the county seat* of Westchester County:

_____.

3. Name some New York State counties you have visited or lived in.

_____, _____, _____, _____.

4. Name the largest county in New York State:

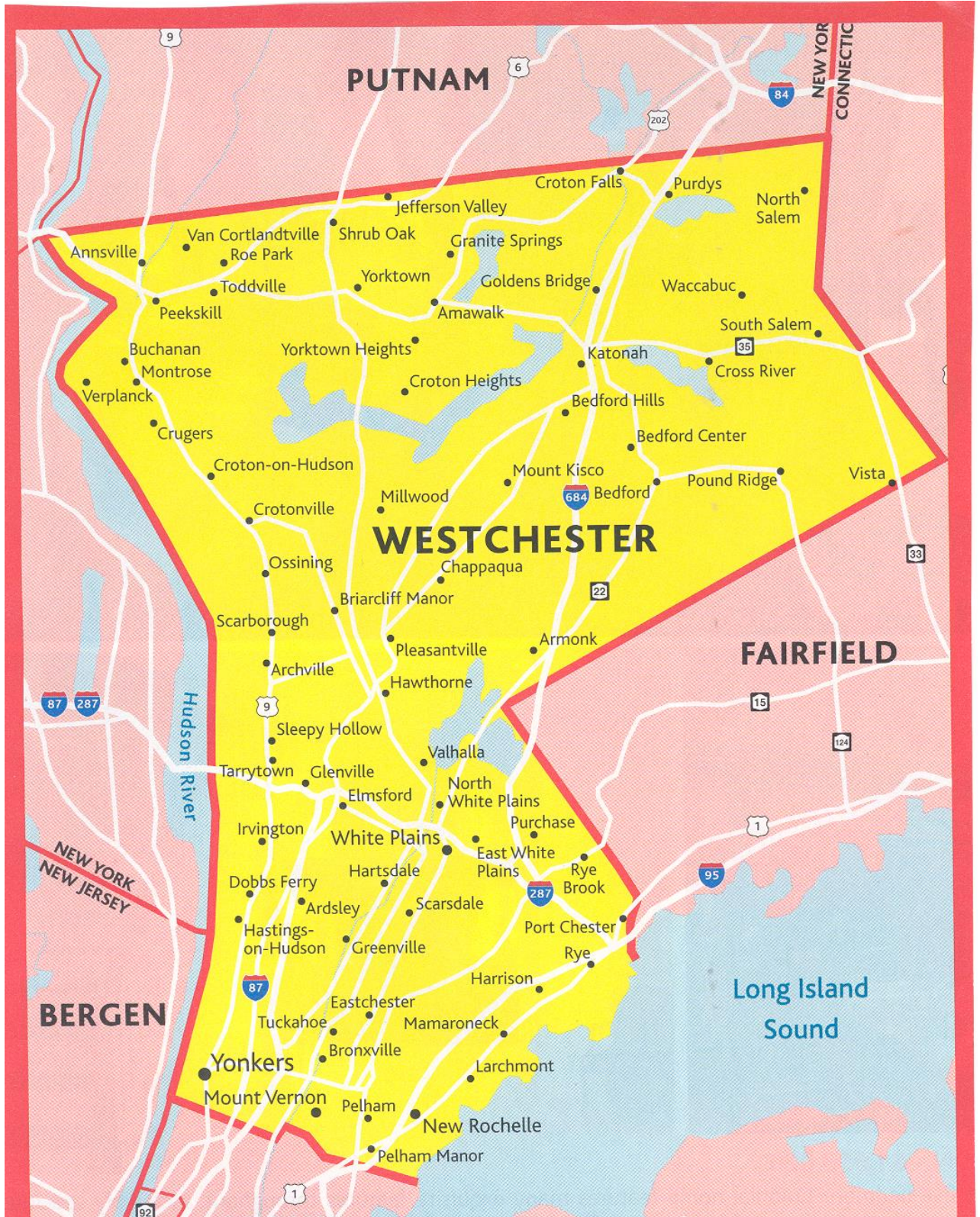
_____.

5. Name the county our state capital is located in:

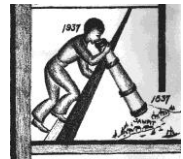
_____.

* county seat – The city or town that contains (“houses”) the government (administrators and offices) of the county

WESTCHESTER COUNTY



Dot-To-Dot New York State Map



"CONNECT THE DOTS"



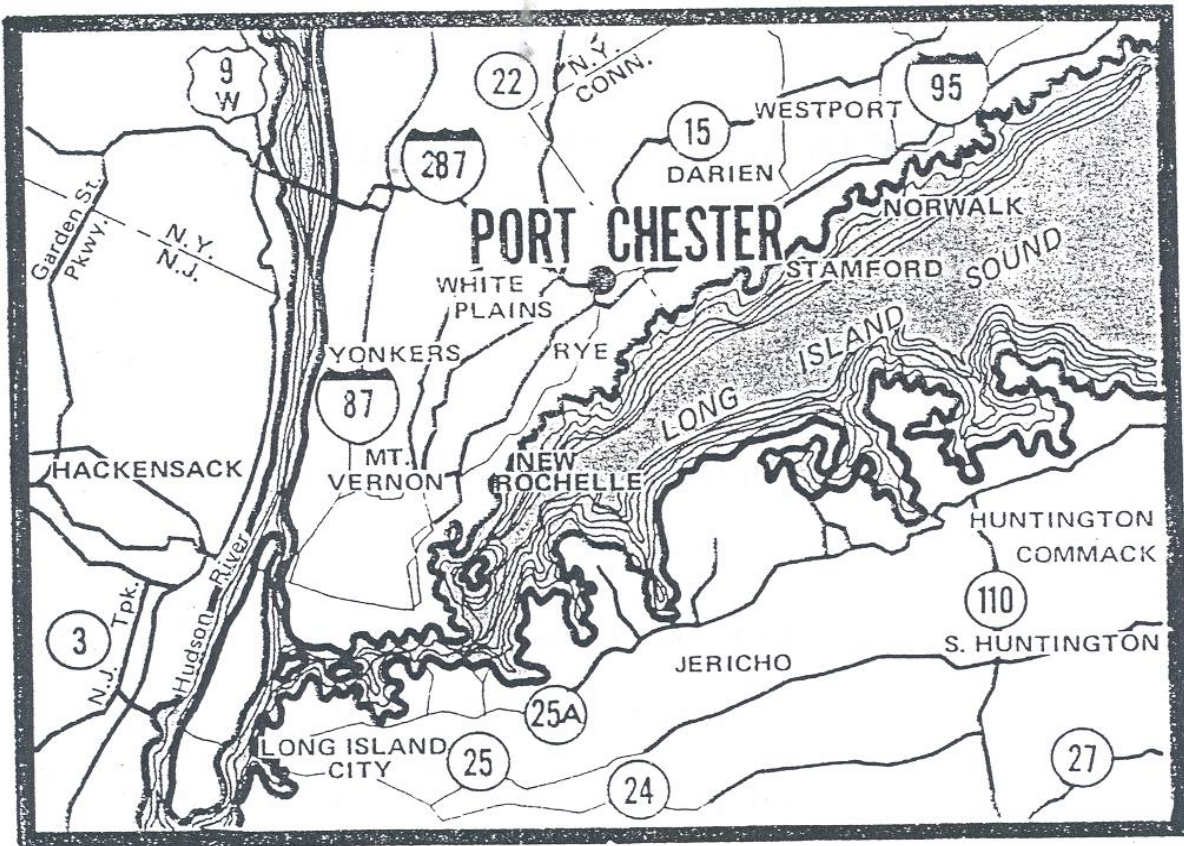
Begin at **Dot 1** and connect the dots in order. Connect **Dot 43** with **Dot 1**.
Write "New York State" inside the state outline you have just drawn.

Place a ☆ at the location of your school.

Fill in the blanks below:

I _____ am studying the Village of Port Chester at the
(Name of Student)
_____ School in _____ of
(Name of School) (Name of City / Village / Town)
_____, during the 19__ school year.
(Name of County)

Port Chester is ... A place on a Map



Port Chester is a **village** in the **state** of New York. New York is divided into villages, towns, cities, and counties.

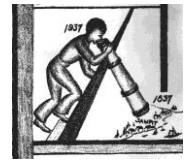
New York is in the northeastern part of the United States of America.
There are fifty states in the United States.

The United States is a **country** on the **continent** of North America. The continent of North America is made up of three large countries: The United States, Canada, and Mexico. The area called Central America connects North America to the continent of South America. There are many countries in Central and South America.



On the next page there is a street map of Port Chester. Use the map and the local phone book to answer these questions.

- A. Name three important streets in our village: _____,
_____, and _____.
- B. Put a **red** “X” where you live.
- C. Draw an **orange** box of your school.
- D. Draw a **purple** box at the Middle School (Bowman Avenue).
- E. Draw a **brown** box at the Senior High School (Tamarack Road).
- F. Draw **green** boxes for Lyon Park, Columbus Park, Edgewood Park, Joseph Curtis Recreation Park and Abendroth Park.
- G. Put a **blue** “X” for the Post Office, Public Library, Village Rooms, and the Police Station.
- H. Using your house as a starting point; give directions that you would follow to go to
(1) School (2) the Post Office (3) the Police Station.



PROJECT – SEARCH AND FIND

Using your street map of Port Chester/Rye Brook, try to locate streets that can be put into the following groups:

- A. Names of Presidents of the United States
- B. Names of trees
- C. Girls' names
- D. Boys' names
- E. Indian names
- F. The name of a French General during the Revolutionary War

G. The name of an explorer who lived around 1492

H. The name of a Revolutionary War Hero

I. The name of an inventor who conducted experiments with lightning

Presidents & Famous People	Trees	Girls	Boys	Indians
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				