



The Aftoneer 2016



It's Sparkle Isn't Just Casinos

Think Atlantic County, New Jersey. What comes to mind? Casinos? A boardwalk? Conventions? Maybe surf and sand and a chance to get rich? If so, your mind is right: Atlantic County's got it. At least the Atlantic City part does. Millions come here every year to experience its glamour, glitter, bright lights, and excitement. They arrive betting on having a good time. The odds are in their favor!



What about the rest of Atlantic County? It too has alluring qualities. The Atlantic Ocean crashes into the eastern shore boundary of the county with the same name. The Mullica River forms most of the northern border, flowing into Great Bay and Little Egg Inlet. Great Egg Harbor River flows south of the Atlantic City Expressway and through the capital, Mays Landing. The Tuckahoe River separates Atlantic and Cape May counties. Great Egg Harbor and Tuckahoe rivers both empty into Great Egg Harbor before heading out to sea through Great Egg Harbor Inlet. To the west lies the largest portion of New Jersey's third largest county — miles and miles of pinelands.

The shore north of the city that avidly endeavors to attract humans is preserved to avoid human touch.

(Continues on page 2.)

**You,
New Jersey,
And The World**
*has more on the
Pine Barrens. See
The Pine Barrens
in Geography and
People Who Care
in Environment.*



New Jersey iMap

This is the Atlantic County section of the iMap. The complete map has links for Atlantic County and the entire state. View it on your computer; project it on your interactive whiteboard.

[Click here to see a larger interactive sample.](#)

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"New Jersey"
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for a free
subscription.*

**2017
Digital Edition
Available This
Summer**



Afton

Publishing LLC
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North of the Absecon Lighthouse and inlet, the sights, scents, and sounds are of natural seaside. This is the Absecon Wildlife Management Area and the Brigantine Division of Edwin B Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.



For more on Lucy, go to www.lucytheelephant.org

The towns south of Atlantic City gradually become more typical of communities facing the surf. They have the usual shore attractions and one very special one — Lucy, the Margate Elephant. West of the Garden State Parkway is

New Jersey Pine Barrens. Don't let the name fool you. Barren it is not! An estimated 17 trillion gallons of water lie beneath the Pine Barrens (an area that also includes parts of the New Jersey counties of Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean). This is the water source for one quarter of the state. Myriad species of plants and animals thrive here. Observant eyes might spot sundews, orchids, ferns, mosses, minks, beaver, foxes, deer, snakes, hawks, humming birds, chickadees, wrens, bald eagles ... Wildlife Management Areas include Makepeace Lake, Maple Lake, Great Egg Harbor, and Port Republic. Care for a midnight stroll in the woods near Penny Pot, Sweetwater, Pleasant Mills, or Dorothy? With a little bit of moonlight — and possibly a dash of imagination — you may spot the Jersey Devil.



Penny Pot, Sweetwater, Pleasant Mills, or Dorothy? With a little bit of moonlight — and possibly a dash of imagination — you may spot the Jersey Devil.

In the early 1600s, adventurers hunted whales off the county coast. Eric Mullica explored the river named for him in the 1640s. More than a hundred years later, George May sailed up the Great Egg Harbor River. He opened a store to supply the ships that came up the river for timber. By the time of the Revolution, Mays Landing prospered.

Atlantic County residents supported the Revolutionary War at the forges and on the water. Iron men supplied ammunition. Sailors turned privateers and sailed in and out of the Mullica River raiding British ships. The British labeled them a “nest of rebel pirates”

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Available as an eBook on the Afton eStore or from Amazon as a Kindle™ edition \$4.95

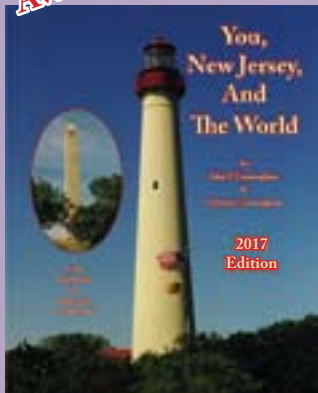


Ten-year-old Jessica and six-year-old Jonathon hear the story of the Revolution from their grandparents — including a privateer story.

Legend says the Jersey Devil was born in Leeds Point — one of the many quiet, secluded spots in Atlantic County. Your students will love **A Devil In The Pines!** A Delightfully illustrated story of a boy's day in the Pine Barrens, it has 15 full-page, full color illustrations. Afton also has a Jersey Devil poster and a story on CD. See our catalog at www.aftonpublishing.com for more information.



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 Jersey Devil
 How A Bill Becomes A Law
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This Is New Jersey —
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NJ Reference Books.
 Also see *Collectibles* for first
 editions of this and other titles.

and in 1778 invaded and destroyed a major privateer hideout at Chestnut Neck.

In 1820, the village of Absecon welcomed one of the area's first settlers to arrive by land — Dr. Jonathan Pitney. When Atlantic County's fifty-year struggle to separate from Gloucester County finally succeeded in 1837, Pitney became first director of the Atlantic County Board of Freeholders.

Weymouth Furnace produced bog-iron for about 60 years beginning in 1802. From the 1860s until 1897 Atlantic Paper Mills and Weymouth Paper Mills made paper. Part of the area is now a county park and historic site.

In 1854, the Camden & Atlantic Railroad opened a public route into Atlantic City. It quickly became a seaside resort. Here are some fun facts from *History of Atlantic City* at cityofatlanticcity.org —

- The first boardwalk of 1870 was picked up each winter.*
- The Atlantic City Beach Patrol started in 1881.*
- Trolley service began in 1893 and ran until 1955.*
- In 1915, a nickel bought a jitney ride around town.*

As the 1800s progressed, the railroads continued to work their magic — good and bad. Traskside Atlantic City, Hammonton, and Egg Harbor City all prospered,

but the iron industry soon disappeared. Hammonton settlers cultivated fruit and berries. Grapes grew outside Egg Harbor, and a winery opened. Pleasantville prospered on the mainland opposite Atlantic City. The railroads, however, also brought anthracite from Pennsylvania to iron works in the north. Bog-iron forges could no longer complete.

Except for hard times during the Depression, Atlantic City continued to grow until the 1960s. When the city began to decline, politicians and hotel owners pushed for the legalization of casino gambling in Atlantic City. In 1976, New Jersey voters agreed. City residents and business owners celebrated. Good times were on the way!

(Continues on page 4.)



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•Our Immigrant Heritage DVDs



Glitzy casinos rose and attracted people from around the world. Local businesses and private homes were torn down to make room for the beautiful tall buildings or sometimes just parking lots. Some residents landed casino jobs, but as evidenced from the miles of cars parked along the Atlantic City Expressway, most of the new jobs were filled by out-of-towners. Over the years, casinos continued to rise. They succeeded or not. Some sold. Some closed. Others closed, reopened, and closed again. The city's landscape fluctuated along with its economy.

Today gambling is legal in an ever-growing number of nearby places, offering unwelcome competition. Are the glory days over for Atlantic City? How much the casino industry has left to offer remains to be seen.

With or without casinos, however, Atlantic County will always have its valuable assets of surf and sand, pinelands, underground water, bays, and rivers. Within its boundaries lie natural and preserved wildlife areas, parks, historic sites, acres of gardens, and blueberries.

If you visit Atlantic County in early summer, you might pick blueberries. The county is the leading blueberry-producing county in the state that ranks fifth in the nation in producing blueberries.



Click here to go to *Student Links from You, New Jersey, And The World* including:

- Find your legislators
- NJ Parks & Forestry
- Jersey Fresh
- The White House
- The governor
- US Constitution
- Original & current NJ Constitution
- NJ Lighthouse Society
- NJ Tall Ship & Bayshore Discovery

The AJ Meerwald, a frequent visitor to Atlantic County waters, became the state's official tall ship on April 21, 1998.



Symbols of the Garden State Poster \$7.95

The picture in the 2014 *Aftoneer* is a playground on the Asbury Park beach. It was built with funding by the Jules L. Plangere Jr. family foundation to celebrate the life of Rachel D'Avino. A teacher, Rachel gave her life at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT on December 14, 2012 attempting to shield her students.

Her boyfriend had already requested permission from her parents and was to propose marriage on Christmas Eve.

