

Long Island (LI)

is located east of Manhattan on the southeastern tip of New York State.

A Native American name for Long Island is *Paumanok*, meaning "The Island that Pays Tribute". More powerful tribes in the surrounding areas forced the relatively peaceful Long Islanders to give tributes to others.

The Holland's sailor, Adrian Block was the first European who discovered in 1613 that this land is an island and first called it; *Lange Eylant* = Long Island which depicts it well; it takes approximately half an hour to drive by car across and 3 hours along side.

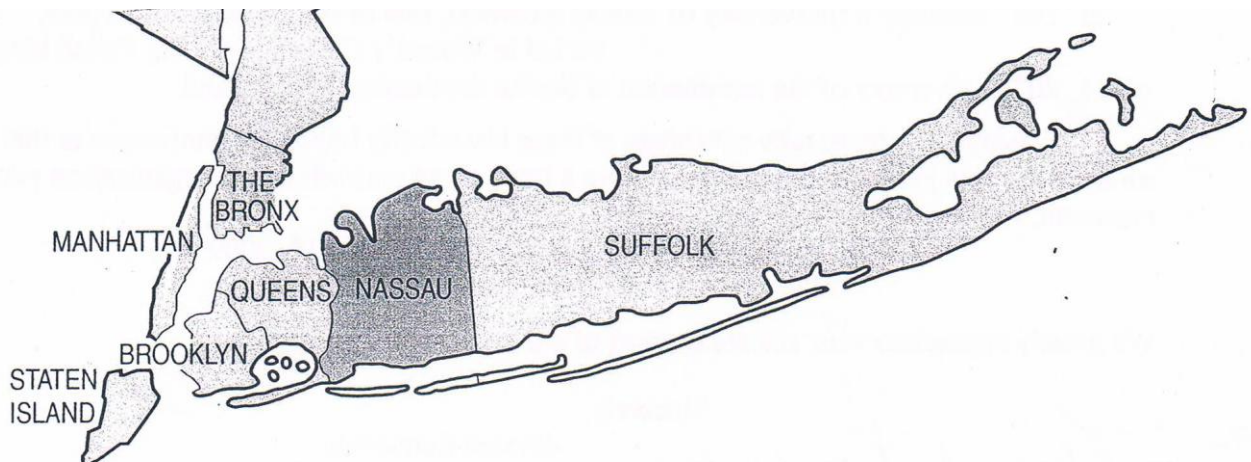


The shape of the island reminds a fish with her mouth towards Manhattan.

It is comprised of 4 counties; Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk.

Brooklyn and Queens are part of the 5 boroughs of New York City.

Inhabitants of the New York Metropolis when they talk about Long Island, they mean Nassau and Suffolk.



Data...

From the U.S. Census Bureau 1 July, 2012

(Kings County) Brooklyn	Queens	NASSAU	SUFFOLK	
Population	2,539,206	2, 230,722	1.3 million	1.4 million
Polish-Americans	66,792	59,757	72,081	89,379
Area (sq. miles)	71	109	287	911
County Seat		Mineola	Riverhead	
Other NYC boroughs:	population	area (sq..miles)		
Manhattan (New York County)....	1,585,873	23		
The Bronx.....	1,385,108	42		
Staten Island (Richmond County)....	468,730	58		

The research that was conducted by Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicates that on average less than 30% of Polish-Americans know Polish language.

Some historical facts...

- **8 000 - 6 000 BC** – Indians move east onto LI, after the last glacier retrieves north, when island is covered only with tundra
- **1524** - Italian Explorer Giovanni Verrazano spots the South Shore
- **1609** – Englishman Henry Hudson sails through the New York narrows
- **1613** – Holland’s Adrian Block and Hedrick Christiansen initiated a serious of trading voyages.
- **1621** – Netherlands’ government charters the Dutch West India Company to establish an outpost on the tip of Manhattan that is named New Amsterdam
- **1640** - Southold and Southampton are the first settlements
- **1643** – Dutch militiamen attack and massacre two bands of friendly Indians. This sparks widespread fighting; over 1200 Indians and settlers die before calm returns
- **1674** - New York colony becomes English, including Long Island
- **1782** – the “Boat Fight” by LI; the last battle of the American Revolution
- **1796** - Lighthouse at Montauk is NY's first coastal beacon
- **1909** - LI becomes "Cradle of American Aviation."
- **1922** - First trans-Atlantic radio telephone transmitter at Rocky Point
- **1927** - Lindbergh takes off at Roosevelt Field on first non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean to Paris
- **1939** - Pan American commercial air service to Europe from Port Washington begins
- **1940** - LI becomes major center for war production
- **1947** - Brookhaven National Laboratory opens to study peaceful uses of atomic energy

Beaches...

- Long Island's south shore is bordered by hundreds of miles of clean, white sand beaches along both the ocean and the bay on barrier islands, with dunes, cliffs, bluffs and lighthouses. Here are some of **the best public beaches in the world**, just to mention a few in the Hamptons, on Fire Island, Robert Moses State Park and Jones Beach.
- Jones Beach is a 2,400 acre park which offers a six mile stretch of ocean beach, two mile boardwalk, bay beach, pool, golf, and the concerts at the picturesque outdoor marine theater.

The water in the park's faucets originated as rain that fell in the north side of the island about 1000 years ago. To get enough pressure **the water tower modeled on the 11-century Venetian bell tower** was erected in the nineteen twenties when a huge project of Robert Moses of building roads, parking lots and beaches facilities was taking place.

- A few Long Island beaches are open only to residents, but most, including all of the major state parks, are open to everyone. All beaches have either a parking or entrance fee from Memorial Day to Labor Day.



Horseshoe crabs...

they are interesting creatures thriving along the East Coast including Long Island. Their name is misleading because they are not crabs, their closest relatives are spiders and ticks.

Fossils show they existed before dinosaurs over 400 million years ago. Their blood is bluish-green because is cooper- based, unlike ours that is iron-based and thus is red.



Formation...

In geological times the island was formed yesterday;

10 thousand years ago, the rising sea from melting glaciers encircled a fish shaped pile of debris left by the receding ice.

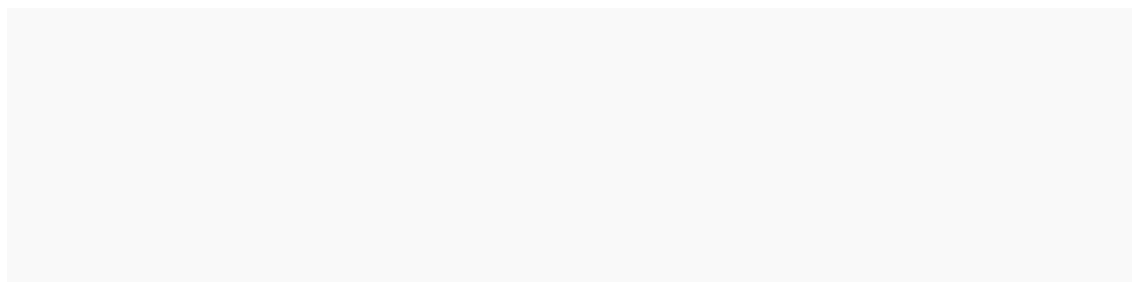
20 thousand years ago, it was a waste land of woolly mammoths and iceberg lakes in the shadow of humongous glacier.

A three million years ago, the place that would become Long Island was a dinosaur swampland.

To build skyscrapers here is much harder than in Manhattan because a pressure cooked bedrock is buried much deeper under a porous sand, from the eroded Appalachian Mountains brought by glaciers.

If sea level keeps rising, many LI shore and inland communities can expect wet changes.

Original inhabitants came on LI 8 000 years ago. At the time of European contact, 400 years ago, the western end of the Island was inhabited by the Lenape people (named the *Delaware* by Europeans), who spoke the Munsee dialect of the Algonquian language family. Giovanni da Verrazano was the first European to record an encounter with these people when he entered what is now New York Bay in 1524. The eastern portion of the island was inhabited by speakers of the Mohegan-Montauk-Narragansett language group of the same language family, representing their ties to the aboriginal peoples inhabiting what is now Connecticut and Rhode Island. The area was central to the production of sacred shall beads (Wampum).



Those left tried to adapt to a new reality. One of them was Stephen Pharaoh, a Montauk Indian (1819-1879) who participated in adopting the LI Indian's economic, social and technological cultures to life in the time of European hegemony. In addition to his other abilities, he was a legendary long-distance walker, who won a number of competitions across the country (like for instance the race from Boston to Chicago) that helped to bring him a large public attention. A stone monument marks his grave in the traditional Indian cemetery in Montauk.

From the late 19th century, population of Long Island doubled every twenty years. The Brooklyn Bridge (1883) was the first of seven bridges constructed across the East River until then only connection with LI was by boat. Two tunnels followed and with the spread of new roads and public transportation LI started becoming a bedroom of Manhattan pushing farms more and more to the east.



About Revolutionary War...

The Battle of Long Island, the largest Revolutionary War battle, ranged across Kings County, now the Borough of Brooklyn in New York City.

Colonists conducted numerous raids on Long Island during the war, usually by whaleboats from Connecticut.

The island remained a British stronghold until the end of the war.

Because of extensive trading and business ties with the English, there were many Loyalists in Manhattan and on Long Island, especially in Hempstead.

Yankees in northern and eastern parts of the island were more inclined to affiliate with the rebellious colonists.

After the war, many Loyalists abandoned their homes and left for Upper Canada rather than live under the new regime. Numerous Loyalists were essentially run off in the aftermath of war; their colonial neighbors satisfied personal grudges and competition in the disruption of the times. Some families were physically attacked, and their property destroyed or commandeered.

The British settled Loyalists in Upper Canada, in the area that became Ontario, which it wanted to develop with more farmers.

Close family and trading ties with England and New England may account for similarities between English accents and the New York Accent, most notably the non-rhotic pronunciation.

POLONICA – under “investigation”

The End