

Long Island History Questions — Answer Key

Education

Did New York State ever create town-wide school districts?

A: Yes, in 1919, but it was very unpopular and was repealed the next year.

What Supreme Court decision ruled that courts could not impose “multi-district, area-wide remedies on local districts,” for segregated schools by requiring cross-district integration? This decision insulated Long Island’s small school districts from court-ordered integration or busing.

A: Milliken v. Bradley

When was the last school district consolidation on Long Island?

A: 2004, when Eastport UFSD (k-6), South Manor UFSD (k-6), and Eastport-South Manor Central High School District merged. A Newsday report found that the consolidation led to an enrichment of academic and sports programs for students.

This 13-year, landmark legal battle over education funding culminated in 2006 decision by New York State’s highest court that the State had failed to provide a “sound basic education” to all students, and an order to provide increased funding to under-resourced school districts.

A: Campaign for Fiscal Equity

Find the [answers here](#).

Energy:

On June 3, 1979, just three months after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, 15,000 protesters gathered, and 571 were arrested on Long Island, in opposition to what?

A: The Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant.

The Long Island Solar Farm constructed in 2011, the East Coast’s largest solar photovoltaic array spanning 200 acres, is housed at which Long Island federally-owned facility?

A: Brookhaven National Laboratory

Which 130 megawatt, 12-wind-turbine project located 30 miles east of Montauk was approved by the LIPA Board of Trustees in 2017 as the first offshore wind farm for New York State? Just the third offshore wind farm built in the US, this project began construction in 2022 and started delivering power to the grid in December 2023.

A: South Fork Wind

In 1985, what hurricane hit Long Island and caused greater damage to the electric grid than expected, due to LILCO neglecting investment in the grid in order to increase profits and divert spending to the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant.

A: Hurricane Gloria

Find the [answers here](#).

Environment

Which leading national environmental organization was originally founded on Long Island to fight the impact of the pesticide DDT that poisoned ospreys and thinned their eggshell.

Organizing efforts which began on Long Island, lead to a national banning of DDT; Osprey populations have since recovered.

A: Environmental Defense Fund.

How did the infamous 1987 incident involving the Islip Garbage Barge ultimately reshape the United States' approach to waste management and environmental policy?

A: The incident sparked national public discussion about waste disposal and was likely a factor in increased recycling rates in the late 1980s and after.

What was the first town on Long Island to establish a voluntary curbside recycling program?

A: Islip

What NY State law enacted in 1993 protected over 50,000 acres of woodlands and open space by prohibiting new development in a "Core Preservation Area".

A: The Pine Barrens Protection Act.

Suffolk County's Drinking Water Protection Program, which was first approved by voters in a referendum in 1987, has generated over \$1 billion dollars for preserving open space and protecting the quality of drinking water aquifers. How much does it add to the sales tax on every purchase in Suffolk?

A: ¼¢ per dollar.

Passed in 2000, this law requires commercial landscapers to notify residents adjoining properties 48 hours' notice before applying certain pesticides. The law aimed at protecting public health, particularly for vulnerable populations like children and pregnant people, from chemicals linked to cancer, neurological harm, and groundwater contamination.

A: The Neighbor Notification Law

Find the [answers here](#).

Local Government:

Who was the first English settler on Long Island in 1637?

A: Lion Gardiner, who settled on Gardiners Island.

What was the last Town established on Long Island?

A: Babylon was created from the southern half of Huntington in 1872.

When was Nassau County created?

A: The towns of Hempstead, North Hempstead, and Oyster Bay succeeded from Queens County, and Nassau County was created on January 1, 1899, after the western parts of Queens voted to become part of New York City in 1898.

Find the [answers here](#).

Land Use and Housing

What large-scale Long Island suburban housing development built in the 1940s originally had leases and deed covenants that forbid residents who were “not of the Caucasian race” – a racial covenant soon struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court?

A: Levittown

What pattern of land use that many say originated on Long Island is characterized by low-density development, a preponderance of single-family home zoning, and automobile dependence?

A: Sprawl

What land use philosophy focuses on redeveloping downtowns and centers, with mixed-use zoning, providing a mix of multi-family and single-family housing choices, walkability, and multiple transportation options?

A: Smart Growth

Which Long Island village did a federal judge rule in 2013 “acted with discriminatory intent” by rezoning property to prevent construction of affordable, multi-family housing, and was ordered to pay a penalty of \$5.3 million?

A: Garden City

Blockbusting in what Long Island community led to the first real estate agent in the New York State to lose their license for the practice in 1962?

A: North Bellport.

Who was the first executive director of the Nassau Suffolk Regional Planning Board and served in that position for more than 40 years?

A: Lee Koppelman

Find the [answers here](#).

Transportation:

What Long Island landmark, built in 1796 and completed in less than two years, was one of the U.S. federal government’s first public works projects?

A: The Montauk Point Lighthouse

Long Island was an early leader in the adoption of the automobile. Opened in 1908, what was the world’s first limited-access highway, which was built on Long Island?

A: Long Island Motor Parkway (A.K.A Vanderbilt Motor Parkway)

From where on Long Island did Charles Lindbergh and his plane, the *Spirit of Saint Louis*, depart from for the first-ever transatlantic flight in 1927?

A: Roosevelt Field

Although currently heavily used for commuting, the Wantagh, Southern State, Northern State, and other Long Island parkways were all originally conceived to provide access to which Long Island destinations?

A: State Parks

Which highway, begun in 1939, did Robert Moses push ahead with the construction of before a study of mass transit options along the right of way could be completed?

A: The Long Island Expressway

What Long Island airport, which opened for commercial service in 1960, is owned and operated by a Long Island town?

A: Long Island MacArthur Airport (Islip)

In what Long Island town did Grumman Aerospace employ almost 100,000 workers while manufacturing NASA's Lunar Module that landed Apollo astronauts on the Moon?

A: Bethpage

Find the [answers here](#).