

## PASSAGE

## LESSON 9

NAME \_\_\_\_\_



Read the passage below from chapter 12 of Nicky Fifth's New Jersey. On a separate sheet, explain why North Jersey is more populated than South Jersey. Use details from the text to support your answer.

*After driving for some time, we arrived at the Staten Island Ferry. My sisters had to go to the bathroom, so my mom brought them into the terminal. My dad looked so confused.*

*"Hey," my mom said as she returned to the van. "I was talking to a woman inside and she asked the girls if we were going on the ferry. When I told her we were lost, I mean on our way to the Liberty Science Center, she suggested we take the kids on a ferry ride, first."*

*"Why would we park here and take a ferry?" my dad asked slowly and quietly, like a volcano before the eruption.*

*"Because it's not just for commuters, it's also a tourist attraction and gives riders great views of the city and the Statue of Liberty," she said.*

*"Can we go, Dad?" asked Timmy. "I really want to go on a ferry."*

*"We're on our way to the science center," my dad explained. "Plus, do you have any idea how much it would cost for seven people to ride a ferry round trip?"*

*"I do," my mom smiled. "It's free."*

*"What?" my dad asked, looking even more confused.*

*"It's free and it's a 30-minute ride to Manhattan and a 30-minute ride back," she explained. "We're already here and it would be a great way to see New Jersey from the water."*

*I had to hand it to my dad; his mistake was fantastic. The ferry ride was unbelievable. The views of New York City, the Statue of Liberty, and New Jersey were breathtaking. It was definitely one of those pleasant surprises. We ended up sitting next to Liz, the same woman my mom had met earlier. When she found out we had never been to Staten Island, she laughed. "I'm not surprised; Staten Island gets very little respect."*

*"Hey, we're from Jersey," I said. "We know all about the no-respect thing."*

*"The funny thing is just like over in Jersey, Staten Island is a beautiful place with amazing parks, open spaces, history, and family entertainment," she explained.*

*"Did you say history?" asked T-Bone.*

*"Absolutely," she smiled. "There's the Conference House, named in honor and commemoration of the famous peace conference of 1776, when Continental Congress representatives John Adams, Edward Rutledge, and Benjamin Franklin met with the King's representative, Lord Richard Howe, at Colonel Christopher Billopp's home on Staten Island. The British would not agree to any terms that included independence and the colonists were only authorized to settle if independence was part of the deal. So, their efforts to stop the war failed and the rest is history."*

*"We have the Staten Island Zoo, Fort Wadsworth under the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, Historic Richmondtown, Great Kills Park and Beach, the Staten Island Yankees, the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, and South Beach," she said. "And there's so many other things, too."*