

## PASSAGE

## LESSON 14

NAME \_\_\_\_\_



For this task, read the History of New Jersey's State Parks and Forests below. Underline each event and circle the year it occurred in red. The first has been completed for you.



### The History of New Jersey's State Parks & Forests

Just as New Jersey is so geographically beautiful and diverse, the state's parks and forests are just as beautiful and diverse. Today, we enjoy dozens of state parks, forests, recreation areas, marinas, and historic sites. But it took over 100 years to reach this point.

In the late 1890s the New Jersey palisades were being dynamited for stone to build growing cities. One site near Fort Lee was removing 12,000 tons of rock every day. By 1899, the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs petitioned Governor Foster Voorhees to stop blasting. In 1900, Gov. Voorhees worked with, then-New York Governor, Theodore Roosevelt to create the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. By 1901, Roosevelt became the first conservationist president. By 1909, the Palisades Interstate Park opened. By 1919, over a million people were visiting the park.

At the time, state owned parks were a new idea. In 1905, under Governor Edward Stokes, the Forest Park Reservation Commission made its first two purchases of land. In 1907, 5,432 acres in Sussex County were purchased becoming the heart of Stokes State Forest. The Commission managed the cutting and reforestation of the forest while trying to prevent forest fires.

In 1906, Governor Stokes recommended that all 108 of New Jersey's freshwater lakes be set apart as public parks, preserved for the use of the people of the state. In 1907, a law was passed so the Commission could purchase any land surrounding or covered by freshwater lakes or ponds. By 1914, the state began buying parklands and purchased Swartswood Lake. This was the first time the state bought land solely for use as a park.

Swartswood, the first state park, became so popular, the state was inspired to buy and develop other parks. Soon, people were inspired to donate their own land. In 1923, Anthony and Susan Kuser donated the over 10,000 acres, monument, and mansion that would become High Point State Park. This was the state's largest land donation ever and there was one condition; bird hunting would never be permitted.

