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# ZOOM

in on america

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## Twined by Ivy

Crimson, Big Red, Big Green, Bears, Lions, Bulldogs, Tigers, and Quakers all sound like sports teams' nicknames. And so they are. What makes them special is the fact that they all belong to well-known American universities: Harvard, Cornell, Dartmouth, Brown, Columbia, Yale, Princeton, and Penn (University of Pennsylvania.) These universities have a lot in common. They are all in the Northeast of the United States (in the states of Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.) They are among the oldest institutions of higher education in America, from Harvard which was founded in 1636, six others founded in the 18th century, before the Declaration of Independence, to Cornell, the "youngest" of them, in 1865.

Last but not least, a common décor of their old walls is ... ivy. This evergreen woody vine that grows on their facades is so characteristic that it coined for them a name by which they started to be called in the early 1930s: "Ivy Colleges," "The Ivy League," or simply "The Ivies." The Ivy League was formally established in 1956 as an athletic conference of the eight universities for intercollegiate American football and other sports. However, sports competition between the col-

leges dates back to the 1870s. The Ivy League was dominant in the early years of football in the United States, but in the 1920s it declined. The idea behind establishing the Ivy League was to "maintain the values of the game [football], while keeping it in fitting proportion to the main purposes of academic life."

In practice it meant that the colleges would keep rigorous academic standards and not grant athletics scholarships. Nevertheless, the conference sponsors over 35 varsity teams at each college that give excellent opportunities to athletes in 33 men's and women's sports. All eight Ivy universities are among the top 20 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I in number of men's and women's sports. The Ivy League students excel in such events as soccer, lacrosse, rowing, fencing, squash, football, track, field, wrestling, swimming, and basketball.

With time what once referred only to competition in sports came to denote academic affiliation. Now, the name "Ivy League" means a group of eight private universities that have a reputation for providing excellent education, and attracting the best students.



NCAA college football practice in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Photo © AP Images

In this issue: The Ivy League

Zoom in on America

# Meet the Ivies

## Harvard

Harvard College, as the University was first called, was founded in 1636 by a Puritan clergyman John Harvard. Located in Newton, today's Cambridge, it was the first such school in the then British colony in North America. In the 19th century the school was reformed by Charles William Eliot, grandfather of poet T.S. Eliot, who added research to teaching and practical knowledge to theoretical instruction.

Among famous Harvard graduates and affiliates are writer Henry James, poets: John Ashbery, the already mentioned T.S. Eliot, E.E. Cummings, Polish poet Czesław Miłosz, presidents: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama. Forty-three current and former faculty members received the Nobel Prize.

Harvard adopted *Veritas* (Truth) as its motto and crimson as its color. Today, the University educates about 20,000 students, and has about 2,100 faculty members and more than 10,000 academic appointments in affiliated teaching hospitals. An imposing number of living alumni exceeds 320,000 in the U.S and some 191 other countries. The endowment is higher than for any other such institution. For fiscal year 2008 it amounted to \$36.9 billion. Harvard boasts the largest university library in the world with about 16.2 million volumes. Its facilities include museums, labs, computer resources, performance spaces, 41 varsity teams, and recreational athletic facilities. Harvard University is made up of 11 principal academic units — ten faculties and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

## Yale

Founded in 1701 as a Collegiate School in New Haven, Connecticut, the school was renamed Yale College in 1718. Now, the total number of undergraduate and graduate students nears 11,500. The University is housed in 439 buildings. Yale's endowment is \$22.6 billion. There are 35 varsity athletic teams at Yale. The number of living graduates approximates 164,000. Three thousand and two hundred faculty members implement the school's motto "Light and Truth." Yale's color is Yale blue.

Notable alumni include presidents William Howard Taft, Gerald Ford, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, present Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, authors: Sinclair Lewis and Tom Wolfe, Academy Award winners: Paul Newman, Meryl Streep, Douglas Wick (producer of *Gladiator*), and Jodie Foster.

## Penn - University of Pennsylvania



University of Pennsylvania, the Castle, Source: Wikipedia, photo by Pennalumni

It was Benjamin Franklin, one of the most versatile "Renaissance" personages (a statesman, economist, writer, inventor, educator, activist, etc.) that America has ever had, who purchased Penn's first campus in Philadelphia in 1750. However, the school traces its origins to 1740, when trust to establish the Charity School of Pennsylvania was formed. Franklin's educational program focused on practical education for commerce and public service as much as on the classics and theology was a breakthrough for the times. Today, Penn is particularly well-known for its medical school, dental school, business school, law school, social sciences and humanities programs and its biomedical teaching and research capabilities.

Nine signers of the Declaration of Independence and eleven signers of the Constitution are associated with the University. Poets Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams, linguist and political theorist Noam Chomsky, and various Nobel laureates graduated from this school.

Penn has over 24,000 students and 4,127 faculty staff and a \$5.17 billion endowment. There are over 268,700 living alumni. The school's motto is "Laws without morals are in vain," and the chosen colors are red and blue.

## Princeton

Founded in 1746 as the College of New Jersey in Elizabeth, the institution was moved to Princeton in 1756. At first it was a seminary for Presbyterians. Since 1812 a separate Princeton Theological Seminary has been in operation. A great reformer of the school was James McCosh in the 19th century. The school obtained university status then and was renamed Princeton University.

Princeton's motto says: "Under God's power she flourish-es." Its colors are orange and black.

Today, more than 1,100 faculty members instruct approximately 5,000 undergraduate and 2,500 graduate students in 180 buildings. Among famous alumni we find presidents: James Madison, Woodrow Wilson. First Lady, Michelle Obama, graduated from this college.

Within the University there are: School of Architecture, School of Engineering and Applied Science, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

## Columbia

The school was established in 1754 in New York City, as King's College by royal charter of King George II of England. The American Revolution brought the growth of the college to a halt. Teaching was suspended in 1776 for eight years. In 1784 the college reopened as Columbia University. The university adopted the words "In Thy light shall we see light" as its motto. It chose Columbia blue and white as its colors.

Each year, Columbia awards Pulitzer Prizes for journalists and boasts more Nobel Prize winners (alumni and faculty combined) affiliated with it than with any other institution in the world.

Famous alumni and affiliates include the Founding Fathers of the United States, present U.S. president Barack Obama, poets Langston Hughes, Federico García Lorca, Joyce Kilmer and John Berryman, writers Eudora Welty, Isaac Asimov, J. D. Salinger, Upton Sinclair, Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Phyllis Haislip, Roger Zelazny, Herman Wouk, Hunter S. Thompson, Aravind Adiga, Apostolos Doxiadis, and Paul Auster.

A faculty of 3,566 teaches nearly 25,500 students.

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## Brown

Brown College opened its doors to students in Providence, Rhode Island in 1764. It was the first institution of higher education in the United States to accept students regardless of religious affiliation.

Today, it is a university with 681 faculty staff and over 2,260 students. It has 37 varsity teams. It has an endowment of \$2.01 billion.

The University's motto is: "In God we hope", while its colors are seal brown, cardinal red, and white.

Among famous graduates are CNN founder Ted Turner, actor John Krasinski, actress Laura Linney, singer Lisa Loeb, and football coach Joe Paterno.



*An autumn view of Cleveland tower at the graduate college, Princeton University. Source: Wikipedia, Copyright 2006 David Liao.*

## Dartmouth

Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire chose a motto: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness," and green for its color. Founded in 1769 by Congregational minister Eleazar Wheelock, the College was established "for the education and instruction of Youth of the Indian Tribes in this Land ... and also of English Youth and any others."

Today, Dartmouth College has 34 varsity sports teams and over 60,000 living alumni. Famous graduates include 8 Pulitzer winners: Thomas Burton, poet Richard Eberhart, poet Robert Frost, Paul Gigot, Jake Hooker, Nigel Jaquiss, Martin Sherwin, and David Shipler.

Dartmouth College enrolls approximately 4,100 undergraduates in the liberal arts and 1,700 graduate students. In addition to 19 graduate programs in the arts and sciences, it boasts the nation's fourth oldest medical school: the Dartmouth Medical School, founded in 1797; the nation's first professional school of engineering: the Thayer School of Engineering, founded in 1867; and the first graduate school of management in the world: the Tuck School of Business, established in 1900.

The University holds a \$2.8 billion endowment.

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## Cornell

The youngest Ivy was founded in 1865 in Ithaca, New York by Ezra Cornell and Andrew Dickson White as a coeducational, non-sectarian institution where admission was offered irrespective of religion or race. Its founders insisted on the university making contributions in all fields of knowledge - from the classics to the sciences and from the theoretical to the applied. These ideals are revealed in Cornell's motto, an 1865 Ezra Cornell quotation: "I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study." The school's colors are carnelian and white.

Famous Cornellians (Cornell graduates) include: Nobel Prize winners in Literature: Toni Morrison and Pearl Buck. Other famous writers include Junot Diaz, Thomas Pynchon, Kurt Vonnegut, and Lauren Weisberger.

It is home to the nation's first colleges devoted to hotel administration, industrial and labor relations, and veterinary medicine.

There are over 21,300 students, 2,908 faculty, and 245,000 living alumni.

# Activity Page

## Win a Prize! May 2010 CONTEST

Which is the oldest Ivy League University?

Send the answer  
(with your home address) to:  
zoom@usinfo.pl

Deadline: June 5

## Win a Prize!

The answer to the April contest was, for example:

Arches, Bryce.

Thank you for participating

The winners are:  
Magda from Stara Łomnica,  
Oliwia from Częstochowa,  
and Julia from Warsaw

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
The prizes will be sent to you  
by mail.

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## Exercise 1 Vocabulary

Match the words and phrases with  
their meanings:

1. freshman
2. valedictorian
3. salutatorian
4. conference
5. varsity
6. sophomore
7. liberal arts

a. general courses in such areas as  
maths, writing, science, history, and  
social science.

b. a student, typically having the high-  
est academic achievements of the  
class, who delivers the farewell speech  
at a graduation ceremony.

c. an association of sports teams that  
play each other.

d. a second-year college or high school  
student.

e. the student who ranks the second  
highest on a graduating class at a high  
school or college.

f. a sports team representing a school  
or college.

g. a first-year student at a university or  
college.

*(The New Oxford American Dictionary)*

## Exercise 2 What do the states' names mean?

Match the Ivy League school with the state it is in and then the state's name  
with its meaning:

1. Harvard, 2. Cornell, 3. Dartmouth, 4. Brown, 5. Columbia, 6. Yale, 7. Princeton, 8. Penn.

a. New York, b. Massachusetts, c. Connecticut, d. New Hampshire, e. New  
Jersey, f. Pennsylvania, g. Rhode Island.

I. named after Hampshire in England, II. from a tribe of Native Americans,  
meaning "at the great hill," III. from the Greek Island of Rhodes, IV. from an In-  
dian word meaning "beside the long tidal river," V. named for the Duke of York,  
who was the owner of the colony in 1664, VI. Penn's Woodland, VII. from the  
Channel Isle of Jersey.

## Exercise 3 Study the words:

Is there a difference between colleges and universities?

The answer is yes, although very often the terms "college" and "university" are  
used interchangeably.

College - a four-year institution of higher education that does not offer or of-  
fers few post-graduate programs at the master's or and doctorate levels OR  
a two-year institution (such as a community college) where students get an  
associate degree that may transfer to a four-year institution, where they can  
receive a bachelor's degree.

University - an institution that offers degrees at the undergraduate (bachelor's)  
and graduate (master's and doctorate) levels.