

Vermont's environment is very important to the state's image. Vermont is called the Green Mountain State. The name was thought up by French explorer Samuel de Champlain because he loved all the green mountains when he came here. The state flower is a red clover. The red clover symbolizes the state's farming roots because the cows preferred meal was to munch on red clover. Vermont's state animal is a Morgan horse. Finally, the state bird is a Hermit Thrush. It is believed that this is because the Hermit Thrush has been sighted in all of Vermont's fourteen counties. All of these help to make Vermont's image one that people think of being outside and enjoying nature.

There is something about Vermont that showed me how surprising nature could be. Vermont has been my home away from home since we moved here from the Philippines last year. In the fall, leaf peeping, as the locals call it, made long drives more fun. It was amazing to see how colorful leaves could be, because from where I came from leaves were always green. Now when I color, I color the leaves green, yellow, orange, red and brown.

In addition, sledding in the snow and building snowmen were a few of the things I enjoyed outside in the winter. Before, I only got to see snow in a snow globe or through a snow maker so the moment I saw it settled on the ground I did what Elsa and Ana did in the movie "Frozen". I built a snowman! With so much snow around I never knew how fun snow sledding could be. Now I don't only look forward to a white Christmas in the winter, but also to making more snowmen and sledding. Being here for just over a year, I know I could experience more fun stuff to do. I want to try to ski and to hike because I have been hearing so many fun stories and experiences from my classmates and friends who have been sharing.

Vermont has really been a fun place to live in for me and my family because of the many awesome things it offers. We are looking forward to experiencing more.

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