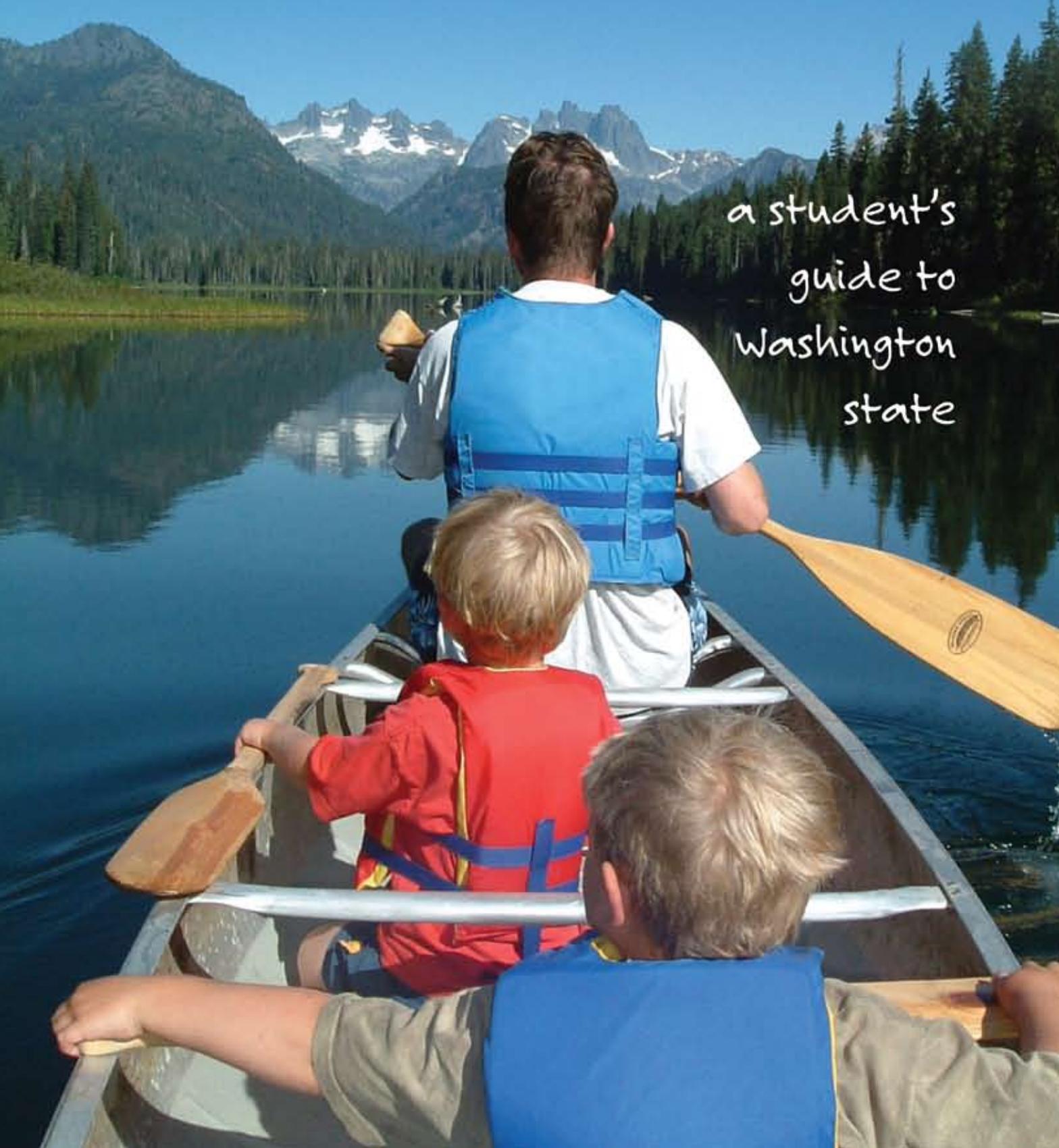


# WASHINGTON

a student's  
guide to  
Washington  
state



# wonderful > WASHINGTON



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Published by:  
Visitors Guide Publications  
215 W. Holly Street, H-24  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
360-676-8625

Publisher:  
Marcus Yearout

Written by: Audrey Fraggaloch  
Education Consultant: Brad Coulter

Graphic Design:  
Julie DeFoer, Good Eye Design

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# where in the world is WASHINGTON?



If you look at a map, Washington State is located in the far northwest corner of the U.S., right next to the Pacific Ocean. Our neighbor to the north is Canada, to the east is Idaho and to the south is Oregon. This beautiful region is called the Pacific Northwest.

Washington is special as we are the only state named after a president-George Washington. Our nickname is the Evergreen State, because of our lush forests. We also have miles of ocean beaches, snow-capped mountains, dry deserts and rocky river canyons.

We're overflowing with wild places and fun stuff to do. You can climb up a volcano or hike into a rainforest. Watch a whale splash or a bald eagle soar. Touch a starfish or a salmon. Dig for clams or for fossils. Kayak up a river or ski down a mountain. Visit a ghost town or an old logging museum. Take in a Wild West rodeo or an Indian powwow.

Every year thousands of visitors come to explore Washington. We are famous for apples, cherries, rain, Starbucks coffee, Boeing airplanes, Mount St. Helens, and Microsoft. We hope you will come and visit us soon too!





## It's Officially Fun... Washington State Symbols

Watch the Yellow **Bird:** *Willow Goldfinch*

Smell the Pink **Flower:** *Coast Rhododendron*

A Washington Native **Tree:** *Western Hemlock*

An Endangered Marine **Mammal:** *Orca Whale*

That's a really old **Fossil:** *Columbian Mammoth*

It's not a creepy crawler **Insect:** *Green Darner Dragonfly*

A prized sport **Fish:** *Steelhead Trout*

That's a Yummy **Fruit:** *Apple*

An Eastern Washington **Grass:** *Bluebunch Wheatgrass*

It's a Perfectly Preserved **Gem:** *Petrified Wood*

Follow that **Dance:** *Square Dance*

Sing that **Song:** *Washington, My Home*

Woody Guthrie's **Folk Song:**

*Roll On, Columbia, Roll On*

Wear a Colorful **Tartan:** *designed by*

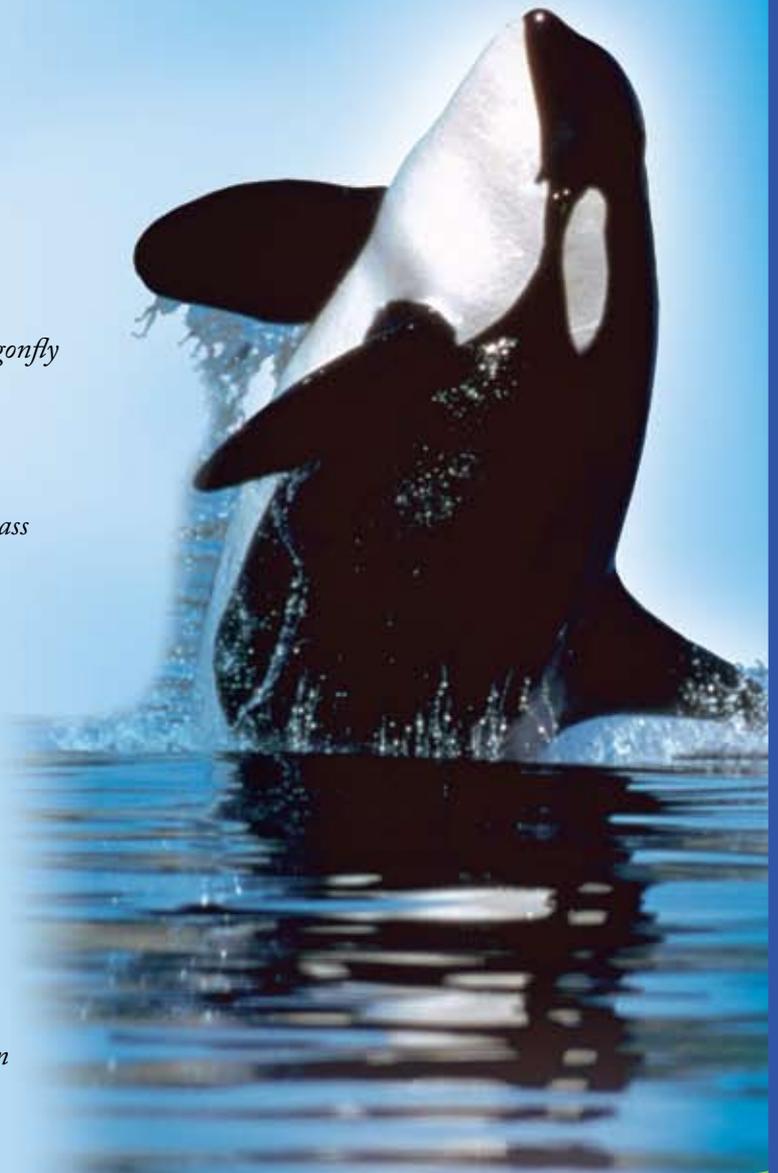
*Margaret McLeod Van Nus & Frank Cannonita*

Fly the **Flag:** *Green with the official seal*

It's a presidential **Seal:** *Portrait of George Washington*

Where's the State **Capitol:** *Olympia*

*For more information on Washington State's symbols  
visit [www1.leg.wa.gov/Legislature/Statesymbols](http://www1.leg.wa.gov/Legislature/Statesymbols)*



# geography > WASHINGTON



John Marshall

## fast facts

### Washington's Highest Mountains:

**Mount Rainier**  
(14,410 feet)

**Mount Adams**  
(12,276 feet)

**Mount Baker**  
(10,778 feet)

**Glacier Peak**  
(10,568 feet)

**Mount St. Helens**  
(8,365 feet)

## Our Extraordinary Landscape

Most people know that Washington has spectacular mountains and awesome ocean beaches, but did you know that we also have vast grasslands and dazzling deserts? We even have a real-live volcano that you can climb up! Amazing geological forces shaped our extraordinarily diverse landscape.

Over the course of millions of years fiery volcanic eruptions, giant floods and slow-moving glaciers shaped our mountains, valleys, lakes, and rivers. Thousands of years ago volcanoes spilled layer after layer of boiling hot lava across the land. Centuries ago huge ice sheets crawled over the land, carving out channels, lakes and rivers. Massive floods during the Ice Ages swept across the interior of Washington creating plateaus and canyons.

Large pieces of rock beneath the earth's crust also shape the land. These are called tectonic plates. They move and bump into each other very slowly, over millions of years. Sometimes we can feel the movement in an earthquake. Many volcanoes occur in places where tectonic plates bump together or pull apart.



## Take a Magic Carpet Ride

Perhaps the easiest way to picture what Washington's geography looks like is to imagine yourself flying over the state on a magic carpet. If you start at the Pacific Ocean, you will look down and see a coastline with sandy shores in the south and rugged, rocky stretches in the north.

There are hundreds of little islands and waterways. Moving inland, you will glimpse high mountain ranges, some with snow-capped peaks. Lush green forests grow down the slopes of the mountains and cover much of the western half of the state.

On the other side of the mountains in eastern Washington, the landscape changes to rolling farmlands, high plains, deep river canyons and dry desert. In the far northeastern corner of the state, you will see the Rocky Mountains.

## Western Washington

Western Washington is famous for its rain. Why is it so wet? When moist winds blow in from the Pacific Ocean and hit the high mountains of western Washington, their moisture cools and falls as rain. This amazing amount of rain helps our huge trees and rainforests grow.

## Olympic Peninsula & Mountains

The wettest area of the state is the Olympic Peninsula, which is drenched with over 130 inches of rain per year. This is where you can explore our rainforests and walk under tall trees, fantastic ferns, and monster mosses.

Rising up from the Olympic Peninsula are the Olympic Mountains. The highest peak is Mount Olympus (7,965 feet), which is located in beautiful Olympic National Park.

## Cascade Mountains & Volcanoes

The Cascades are Washington's largest mountain range. They run from north-to-south and cut the state almost in two, creating western and eastern Washington and our different climates.

Did you know that the five tallest mountain peaks in the Cascades are volcanoes? You can see their huge snow-capped domes from miles away. The tallest of these is Mount Rainier at 14,410 feet. This dormant



## Mount St. Helens

On May 18, 1980 a 5.1 magnitude earthquake struck the mountain and triggered a massive mudslide, the largest in recorded history. Rivers of hot mud poured down the mountain side ripping trees from the ground, clogging rivers and destroying over 200 square miles of timber. Winds reached 670 miles per hour and carried temperatures of 800 degrees Fahrenheit. Within minutes, an ash cloud blasted up over 10 miles into the air carrying 500 million tons of ash. Plant and animal life in the blast zone was decimated and fifty-seven people died.



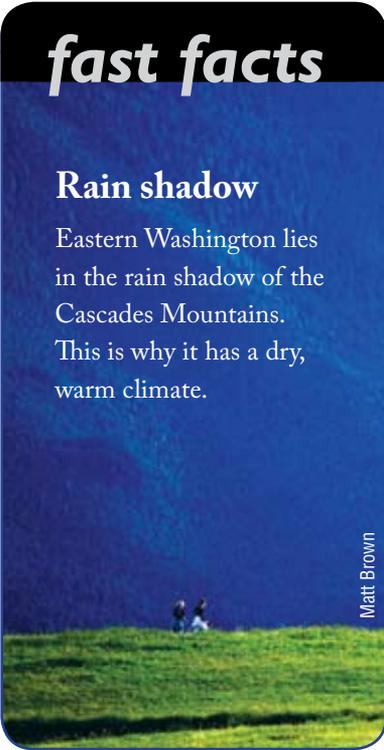
# geography > WASHINGTON

## fast facts

### Rain shadow

Eastern Washington lies in the rain shadow of the Cascades Mountains. This is why it has a dry, warm climate.

Matt Brown



volcano is covered by more than 35 square miles of snow and ice year-round! After Mount Rainier, the four tallest mountains are Mount Adams, Mount Baker, Glacier Peak and Mount St. Helens. Mount Baker holds the record for the most snowfall in the U.S. In 1999, an incredible 95 feet of snow fell!

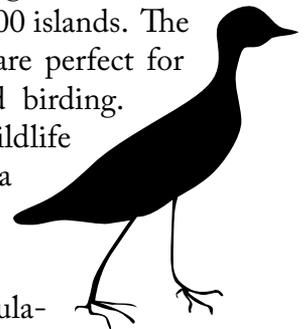
Our most famous and active volcano, Mount Saint Helens, blew its top in 1980 (see sidebar, page 5). Before the eruption, Mount St. Helens had a beautiful snow-capped peak. The top 1,312 feet of the mountain was blasted away and most of the north side, leaving a huge gaping hole big enough to fit a city. Since the eruption, plants have started growing back and wildlife has flourished again. In 1982, Mount St. Helens National Historic Volcanic Monument was created. You can visit this area, hike up and even peek into the crater of a real-live volcano!

## Puget Sound and Islands

Nestled between the Cascade and Olympic Mountains, is a huge glacial fjord known as Puget Sound (pronounced PYEW-jit). It is connected to the Pacific Ocean via the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Glaciers carved out this spectacular waterway with its rocky shoreline of over 1,300 miles.

Many large and small islands are found in Puget Sound. The San Juan Islands is the largest group, with over 200 islands. The protected waters around the San Juan Islands are perfect for kayaking, sailing, fishing, whale watching, and birding. Many of the smaller islands and rocks are wildlife refuges that provide homes for birds, seals and sea lions.

The scenic lowlands bordering Puget Sound are home to more than half of Washington's population. Many of our largest cities, including Seattle, are located here.



## Eastern Washington

While western Washington is famous for its rain, eastern Washington is known for its sunshine. This is because the Cascade Mountains block the moist Pacific air and create a rain shadow over eastern Washington. Some areas get as little as 6 inches of rain



Heather Steele



# geography > WASHINGTON



John Marshall



## *fast facts*

### **Grand Coulee Dam**

The Grand Coulee Dam is the largest concrete dam in the world. There is enough concrete in the dam to build a highway from Los Angeles to New York City.

each year. So pack away your umbrella and put on your sunglasses. It is dry and warm here and you can smell sagebrush in the air.

Eastern Washington has lots of farms, orchards, forested hills, dry grasslands, and wide open spaces. Large rivers and valleys cut across the landscape. Irrigation along the Columbia, Yakima, and Snake Rivers, has turned these valleys with their rich volcanic soil into fantastically fertile farmland. This is where the world's best apples and sweetest cherries and onions are grown.

### **Columbia River Plateau**

Immense lava flows and powerful Ice Age floods swept across this part of eastern Washington thousands of years ago, creating a high plateau with stunning rocky cliffs, dry falls, canyons coulees, and scablands.

The high plateau of the Columbia River was formed by lava that hardened from volcanic eruptions eons ago. Did you know that this is one of the biggest lava flows in the world, covering 100,000 square miles? In desolate rocky areas, you can still see patches of lava rock

on the surface of the plateau. These are called scablands. Only plants that need little water, such as sagebrush can grow here.

About 10,000 years ago a huge ice-dammed lake, Glacial Lake Missoula, in northwestern Montana suddenly burst its dam and emptied to the west. It released a gigantic tidal wave of water that flooded and shaped many of the landforms of the Columbia Plateau. Today you can still see dry canyons called coulees and dry falls—rocky reminders of the tremendous power of the floods.

### Palouse Prairie

The gently rolling hills of southeastern Washington with their distinctive wave-like shape are called the Palouse. These peculiar humps and hollows were formed during the Ice Ages when many layers of silt were left by huge floods and wind-blown dirt.

Until 150 years ago, much of the Palouse was still prairie with clumps of bunchgrasses and many different kinds of wildflowers. Today most of the land is farmed and this is where our wheat is grown. In late spring and early summer, the hills of the Palouse turn a beautiful green and gold.

### Rocky Mountain High

Northeastern Washington is a little like the old Wild West. Look for tumbleweeds, coyotes and maybe even a cowboy! This is a place where cattle roam free among forest and sagebrush. The rugged Rocky Mountains cut across this northeastern corner of the state.

### Water, Water Everywhere

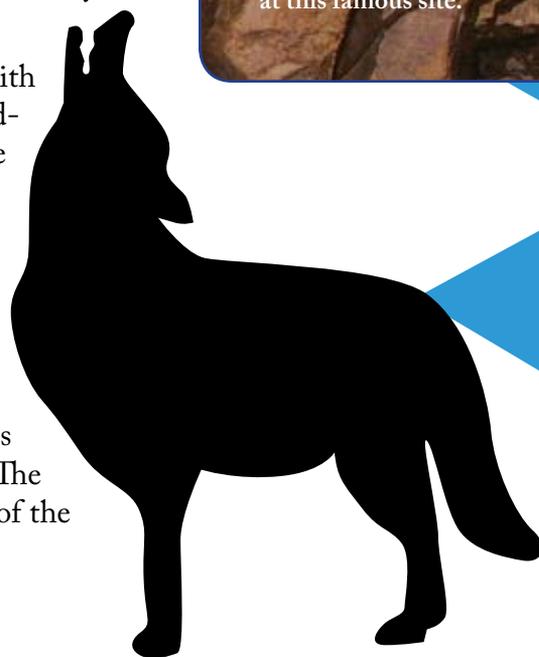
Washington is a watery playground with many bodies of water flowing in, out and across the state. We have hundreds of lakes and rivers and thousands of miles of shoreline.

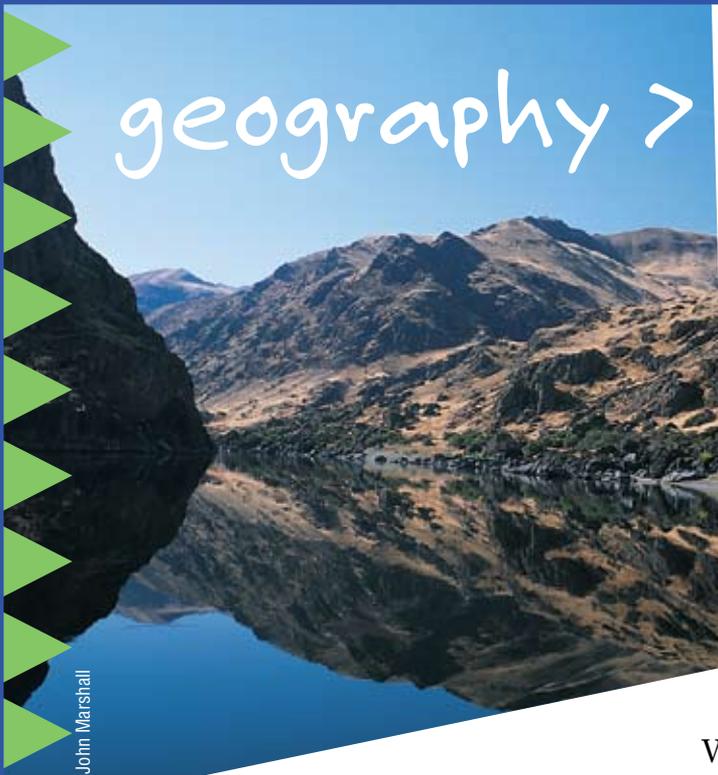


### DIG it....

#### Stonerose Fossils

In a remote northeastern corner of Washington, 50-million-year-old plants, insects, and even fish are recorded in stone. These vivid fossils also hold clues to the Pacific Northwest's geologic and biologic past. You can visit the Stonerose Interpretive Center in Republic, Washington and even dig for your own fossils at this famous site.





John Marshall

## Rivers

Washington's most important and largest river is the Columbia. It carries more than half of the water that falls in the state and covers more than 1,000 miles! The Columbia begins in British Columbia, Canada and flows thru Washington, creating the border between Washington and Oregon, before emptying into the Pacific Ocean. Its large tributaries include the Snake, Spokane, Okanogan and Yakima Rivers. The largest dam in the world, the Grand Coulee Dam is built on the Columbia River.

Washington also has many wild and scenic rivers named for some of our Native tribes, such as the Skagit, Snohomish, Yakama and Klickitat. These are important for wildlife and are popular for fishing and birdwatching. And we are world-renowned for our white-water rivers, like the Methow, Skykomish and Wenatchee, where you can enjoy rafting, kayaking, and canoeing.



## Washington's Largest Natural Lakes

- Lake Chelan 32,000 acres
- Lake Washington 22, 138 acres
- Lake Ozette 7,787 acres
- Moses Lake 6,815 acres
- Lake Osoyoos 5,723 acres
- Lake Crescent 5, 187 acres
- Lake Whatcom 5,003 acres
- Lake Sammamish 4,897 acres
- Lake Quinault 3,729 acres

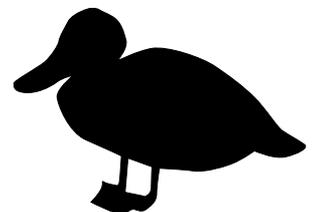
## A River Runs Thru it ... The Columbia River Gorge

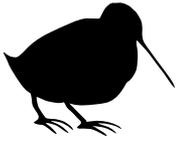
"The Gorge" as Washingtonians call it, is the only natural break through the Cascade Mountains. This spectacular river canyon is 90 miles long and up to 4,000 feet deep with the north canyon walls in Washington State and the south canyon walls in Oregon State. It's so "gorge-ous," it's been declared a U.S. National Scenic Area. Here you can see more waterfalls than anywhere else in the Northwest and enjoy some of the best windsurfing in the world.

## Lakes

Did you know that there are more than 1,000 natural lakes in Washington? Some were formed by glaciers others are man-made lakes called reservoirs.

Washington's largest and deepest natural lake is Lake Chelan. It is 55 miles long with clean, glacier-fed waters. The state's largest lake, Lake Roosevelt, is actually a man-made lake. It stretches for 151 miles behind the Grand Coulee dam. Other large man-made lakes are Umatilla Lake (behind John Day Dam), Lake Wallula (behind McNary Dam) and Ross Lake (behind Ross Dam). These are fun recreational areas for camping and swimming.





## Pacific Coastline

Including the Pacific Ocean, Puget Sound and Hood Canal, Washington has more than 3,000 miles of saltwater shoreline to explore. On the rugged northern coast, south of Cape Flattery, you can see sea stack rocks, gray whales, seals, sea lions and many shorebirds. At low tide, look for tide pools filled with bright orange, purple and red starfish. Did you know that we have more kinds of starfish or sea stars than anywhere else in the world?

The southern half of Washington's coast has long stretches of sandy beach. Here you can enjoy kite flying, surf-fishing, beachcombing and bicycle and horseback riding. The longest uninterrupted stretch of beach is the 28-mile Long Beach Peninsula.

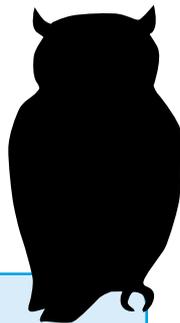


# historic > WASHINGTON



## Native Americans

Washington's fascinating history begins with the Native Americans. For thousands of years before European explorers arrived, the land that is now Washington was home to about 70 tribes of Indians.



## Life in a Native Coastal Village

Imagine life in a coastal Indian village, thousands of years ago. Children are running and playing on the beach, while men in dugout canoes are spearing salmon for food. On the beach, some women are digging into the sand for clams with sticks. Others are weaving intricate baskets, mats and clothing from cedar bark. A young woman coils two fresh diapers from soft-shredded cedar bark and then runs to a crying baby. In the distance, smoke rises from a smoldering fire, where fish is being smoked for winter use.

Some tribes, like the Quinault, Makah and Quileute, lived on the Pacific Coast. Others, like the Yakama, Colville and Spokane, lived on the plains and valleys of eastern Washington. Many villages were clustered along the ocean or rivers, so they could fish for salmon. Hunting for deer, elk, bear and small game forced the interior tribes to move around more than coastal Indians.

Coastal Indians met with interior tribes for trade. They traveled in big canoes or walked along foot trails that followed streams and valleys. Coastal canoes traveled up the Columbia River to the annual trade fair at The Dalles where goods were exchanged with inland tribes. Indian families from all over the Northwest came to visit, dance, gamble, tell stories and exchange goods.

When the first white explorers arrived, the Indians traded goods with them and showed them where to fish, find plants to eat and survive. The whites unfortunately brought small pox and other diseases with them that killed thousands of Indian people, sometimes up to 90% of the population of villages. Then large numbers of settlers arrived and changed the Indian way of life forever.

Many cities, counties, towns, rivers, lakes and mountains in Washington still have their original Indian names. Seattle, our largest city, was named after Chief Sealth (pronounced See-elth). Today Washington is home to 29 Indian tribes with their own governments. The traditions of ancient days are kept alive in the stories, songs, dances, powwows, canoe races and art of today's Indian nations.

## Early Explorers

Why do people explore? Some to claim new territory...some to further knowledge...some to experience adventure...others to increase wealth.

About 250 hundred years ago, explorers first arrived along Washington's Coast in tall ships with huge sails. A steady stream of



ships, Spanish, English, American and Russian, came looking for a Northwest Passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean.

These adventurers charted and named many of the bays, rivers, sounds, and islands of the Northwest Coast. For example, Captain Robert Gray, discovered the Columbia River in 1792, and named it after his ship, the Columbia. And Captain George Vancouver named Mt. Baker after a crew member and Mt. Rainier after a friend and Admiral.

Once the coastline was mapped, interest shifted inland. Expeditions were sent to set up trading posts along rivers and to find a route to the Pacific.

### Follow the Path of Lewis & Clark

The first expedition across the continent was led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. They traveled thousands of miles by foot, on horseback, and by canoe.... across rugged mountain ranges, through dense forests, over endless plains and raging waters.

The journey was long and hard. After 18 months, Lewis & Clark finally reached the Pacific Ocean and the mouth of Columbia in November 1805. They wouldn't have made it without the help of Indian tribes along the way, in particular an Indian woman named Sacagawea. Her courage and knowledge of the land, plants, and other Indian languages contributed to the success of the expedition.

Lewis & Clark made maps of the west, kept records of hundreds of plants and created new opportunities for trade.

### Fur Traders

Explorers claimed the land, charted it and left. In the early 1800s many fur traders and trappers arrived, eager to make their fortune in furs or "soft gold". Fur hats and capes had become stylish in Europe and beaver pelts were extremely valuable.

Both Britain and the U.S. set up trading posts in the Pacific Northwest. The Hudson's Bay Company was one of the largest trading companies and in 1825 established Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River. It became the biggest and most important community in Washington at the time.



### Lewis & Clark Expedition

Lewis & Clark were the first explorers to cross the continent and reach the Pacific Ocean in 1805.



# historic > WASHINGTON

## The Oregon Trail

Men, women and children walked and coaxed their heavy wagons and tired oxen over 2,000 miles. The covered-wagon trip could last from 15-28 weeks, depending on weather, flooding, disease and other unpredictable factors and hardships. Families would form long wagon trains, one wagon after another. Close friendships often developed along the trail and many young people met their future wives and husbands on the trip.

While looking for furs, many mountain men discovered rivers, valleys, and mountain trails. They knew which rivers were navigable and which ridges were passes through mountains. When beaver became scarce in the 1840s, some trappers became guides for settlers who came west.

## Settlers & The Oregon Trail

As more people moved to the Northwest, the United States and Britain agreed to divide the land they had previously shared. The British moved their fur trading operations north into Canada. In 1848, the U.S. Congress created the Oregon Territory. It included all of present-day Washington, Oregon, Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming.

Starting with the first wagon in 1842, thousands of settlers followed the Oregon Trail west. Many were lured by gold to California but over 50,000 headed to the Oregon Territory. Here most of the early pioneers settled south of the Columbia River, but some moved north and found their way to the Puget Sound area.

## Washington Territory & Statehood

By 1853, Washington had enough people (3, 965) to form its own separate territory from the Oregon Territory.

The new governor, Isaac Stevens, wanted Native Americans to give up their claim to land in Washington Territory to make room for more settlers. He made treaties with the Indians, promising them certain rights if they gave up their land. Many Indian leaders didn't want to lose their land or give up their traditional way of life.

When news of these treaties spread, more settlers poured in from the east. The thick forests and tall trees brought lumber-jacks. Sawmills sprung up around the Puget Sound. Towns around the sawmills grew into cities.

It was not until the 1880s that the population of Washington reached 125,000, a number considered large enough for statehood. On November 11, 1889, Washington became the 42nd state of the United States.



# wild > WASHINGTON

## Natural History

Washington is teeming with living things from tiny tree frogs to burly bears. Step into our rainforests and you'll see some of the biggest slugs and tallest trees in the world. Along our coastal rivers, you'll see more bald eagles than in any other state, except Alaska. Our saltwater is home to the world's largest octopus, orca whales, seals, and sea lions... just to name a few of our special animals.

## Our Evergreen Forests

Did you ever wonder why we are nicknamed the evergreen state? It's because more than half of Washington was once covered by forests. Most of our trees are evergreens or conifers. This means they don't lose their leaves or needles and stay green all-year long.

The state tree is the western hemlock. It grows all over Washington. Our largest and thickest forests grow on the slopes of the western Cascade and Olympic Mountains. Here you can see an old growth forest with trees that are more than 300 feet tall and 600 years old. On the east side of the mountains, there are dry ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forests as well as wide open stretches with no trees.

## What's Blooming?

Washington is a wildflower wonderland, with more than 3,000 different kinds of flowers. Our fields and meadows look like they were painted with the bright colors of the rainbow. Some common flowers are pink fireweed, red Indian paintbrush, purple lupines, and goldenrod. In spring, the pink flowers of the Coast Rhododendron, our state flower, cover the hillsides and slopes of western Washington. In summer, our mountain meadows burst with colorful blooms.

## Nature Preserves

- 120 State Parks
- 13 National Parks & Recreation Areas
- 6 National Forests
- 20+ National Wildlife Refuges & Marine Sanctuaries



# natural > WASHINGTON



## Our Wild Beaches

Washington has miles of wild beaches to explore. Enjoy the roar of crashing waves, calls of gulls, and stunning sunsets.

At low tide you might find tidepools filled with starfish, urchins, anemones and other small sea animals. You'll also probably see the footprints of shore birds all over the beach, but you may also find those of bear, deer, raccoons, and river otters.



## Mountain Goats, Marmots and more...

Perhaps Washington's best-known animals are our marine mammals. Orca whales, seals, porpoises, sea lions and otters are often seen in our coastal waters. Gray whales can be spotted blowing offshore during spring and fall migration. Washington's forests, fields, meadows and marshes are home to many animals. Coyotes, foxes, beavers, and raccoons are native to much of the state. You might be lucky and see a black bear, elk, or deer in our forests. Sightings of mountain lions are rare. Marshes are home to beaver, mink and muskrat. High up on our mountain slopes watch for scraggly mountain goats, and furry marmots and pikas.

Washington's rivers and saltwater are home to five types of salmon as well white fish, giant sturgeon and several kinds of trout. Crabs, shrimp, clams, oysters and some of the largest octopus in the world live in our cold ocean waters.

## Feathered Friends

Hundreds of birds live in Washington or pass through on migration.....from huge bald eagles to tiny hummingbirds. The willow gold finch, which is found all over Washington, was chosen by school children as our state bird. In our rainforests, you'll hear ravens and woodpeckers, and the beautiful song of wood thrushes. Bring your binoculars to our shorelines so you can get a close-up



view of a great blue heron or bald eagle and check out the large flocks of shorebirds, ducks and geese. It's fun to take a boat trip up the Skagit River in winter and get close to hundreds of bald eagles feeding on spawned salmon.

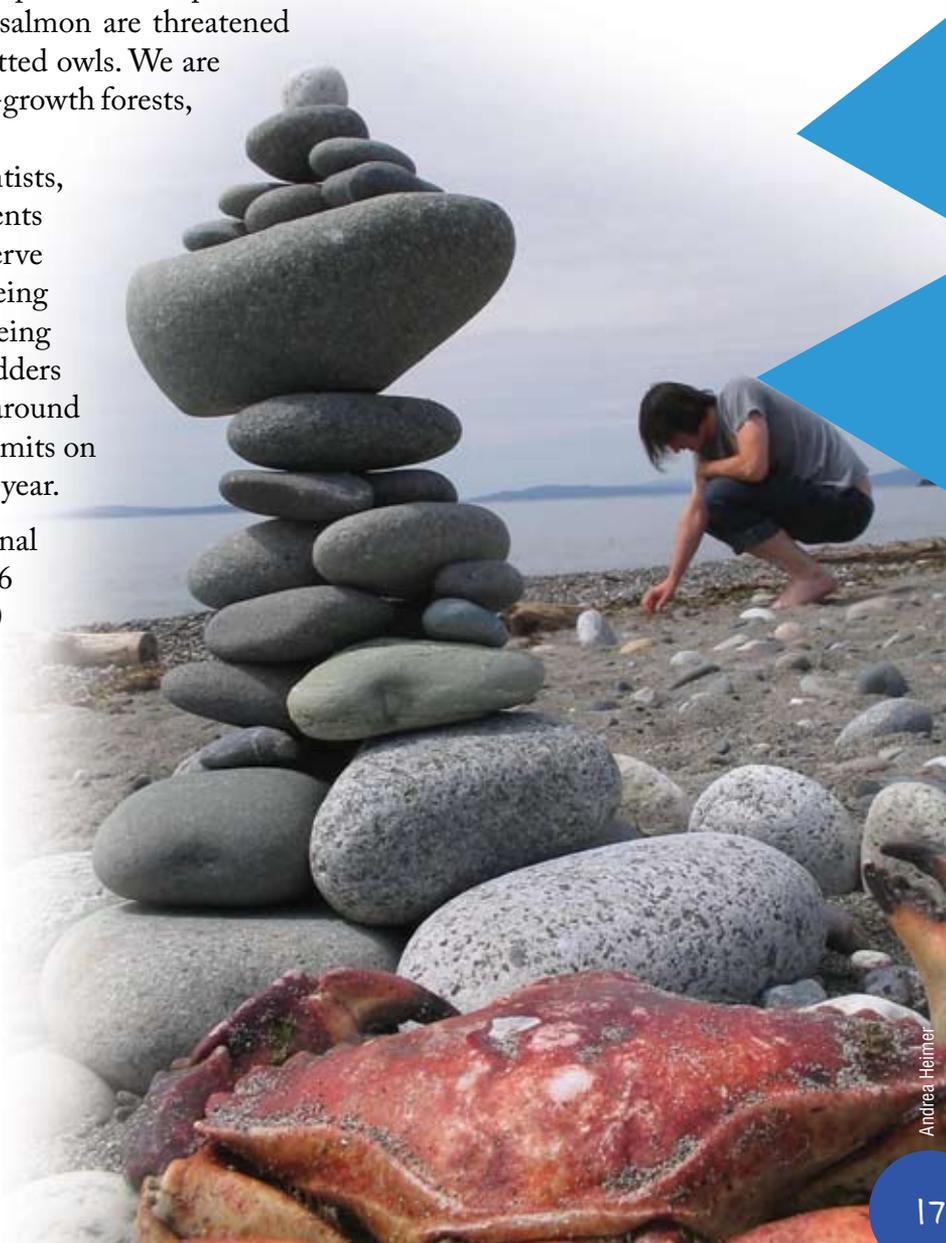
Eastern Washington is known for its colorful songbirds. Bluebirds and meadowlarks are common. If you're lucky you might see a bright yellow and red western tanager perched in a ponderosa pine. One of the most spectacular and rare sightings is sandhill cranes in the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, near Othello.

## Think GREEN

Since we are located in one of the most naturally beautiful areas in the world, it is important to Washingtonians to preserve and protect our environment. We are home to many endangered species. Our salmon are threatened and so are our orca whales and spotted owls. We are concerned about protecting our old-growth forests, where trees have never been cut.

Thinking green means that scientists, environmentalists, and governments are working hard together to conserve our resources. Logged areas are being reforested, salmon streams are being cleaned up and preserved. Fish ladders are being built to help salmon get around dams and the government has set limits on the number of salmon caught each year.

We have 120 State Parks, 13 National Parks and Recreation Areas, 6 National Forests and over 20 National Wild Refuges and Marine Sanctuaries that help preserve plants and animals and important nesting and spawning grounds. We hope you will visit some of these special places and help us preserve and keep them clean! Remember, when you're visiting our wild forests, parks, lakes and beaches, take only pictures and leave only footprints.



# wonderful > WASHINGTON



## Fun Stuff to Do

There are almost too many ways to have fun here in Washington. Sometimes it's difficult to choose what to do. You can go whale watching, explore miles of ocean beach, hike in an ancient rainforest, climb up a volcano or ski down it, visit a ghost town, experience a rodeo or ride up the Space Needle...just to name a few.

We have lots of open space and great places to hike, bike, horseback ride, kayak, ski, sail, or windsurf. There is camping, hiking and picnicking in our national and state parks.

Washington also has cool cultural places to visit...museums, native cultural centers and art galleries. Here are just a few of our favorite ways to have fun.

## Let's Go

### Whale Watching

Do you want to see whales in the wild? From May to October, orca whales are found in the waters of Puget Sound, and are most commonly seen around the San Juan Islands. It's really exciting to watch these large marine mammals breach out of the water or spy-hop. You can also see huge gray whales surface off Washington's coast during spring and fall migration.

### Visit a Ghost Town

Catch a taste of the glamour and gold of the Wild West by visiting one of Washington's ghost towns. Old Molson, in eastern Washington just below the Canadian border, is an abandoned gold mining town that has been preserved as a museum. Here you can see ghostly weathered buildings, old mines and even a saloon with bullet holes. Nearly every county in Washington has at least one ghost town. (*visit [www.ghosttowns.com](http://www.ghosttowns.com)*)



### Ride to the Top of the Seattle Space Needle

It looks like a spaceship perched on a pole, but it's actually Seattle's Space Needle. Built for the 1962 World's Fair, you can now ride up to the top of the 605-foot tower and get a great view of the city, water and surrounding mountains.



## Hop on a Ferry

Hop on a Washington State Ferry and grab a seat. It's a fun way to enjoy a ride through Puget Sound or into the San Juan Islands. You'll see some of the most beautiful scenery and sunsets in the country. If you're lucky you might spot seals, porpoises, sea lions or even orca whales off the decks.

## Hike in Mt. Rainier National Park

Don't miss a visit to Mt. Rainier National Park, where you can get a first-hand look at our highest mountain, which is a dormant volcano. You can hike on over 300 miles of park trails and see old-growth forests, massive glaciers and vast snowfields, and alpine meadows with hundreds of wildflowers.

## Go Fly a Kite at Long Beach

For colorful fun in the sun, check out Washington's International Kite Festival on the beautiful Long Beach Peninsula. This week-long kite celebration in August draws famous kite fliers from all around the world. You can join the fun with your own kite flying adventure on the longest natural beach in the U.S. That's why it's called Long Beach!

## Take in the Ellensburg Rodeo

Ready for some Wild West fun? Don't miss the Ellensburg Rodeo, in early September. This is one of the oldest and most popular rodeos in the country. Dressed in their finest regalia, the Yakama Indian Nation starts off each evening's events with a traditional dance in the arena.



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## **Boeing Tour & Future of Flight Aviation Center**

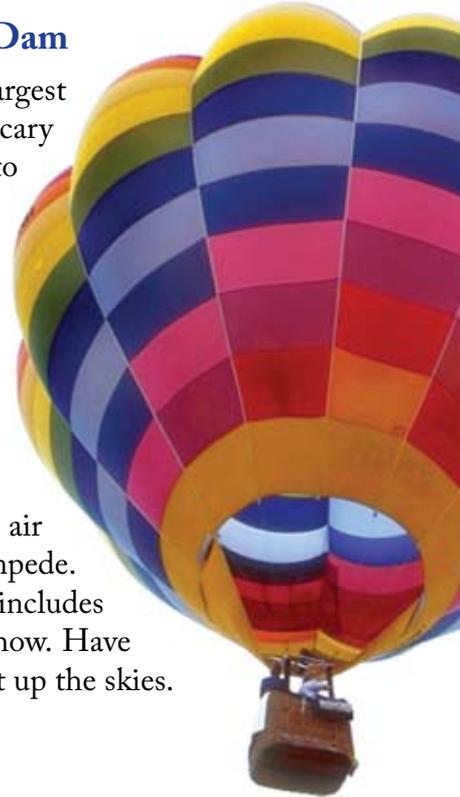
Want to see the largest building in the world, according to the Guinness Book of Records? It's the Boeing Factory in Everett, just north of Seattle. Here you can watch how the latest and largest jet aircraft are built. You'll also want to visit the new Future of Flight Aviation Center, where you can digitally design and test your own jet, ride the XJ5 Flight Simulator and "fly" at supersonic speeds.

## **Look Inside the World's Largest Dam**

Don't miss the Grand Coulee Dam, the largest dam in the world! You can take a steep, scary ride in a glass-enclosed elevator down into the dam and get a look inside at the giant turbines. Every evening, from Memorial Day through September, you can enjoy the world's largest laser light show projected on the dam's spillway.

## **Walla Walla Hot Air Balloons**

Experience the excitement of hot air ballooning at the Walla Walla Balloon Stampede. This festival, which occurs in mid-May, includes breath-taking flights and a Nite Glow Show. Have fun watching over 40 hot air balloons light up the skies.



## Windsurf in the Columbia Gorge

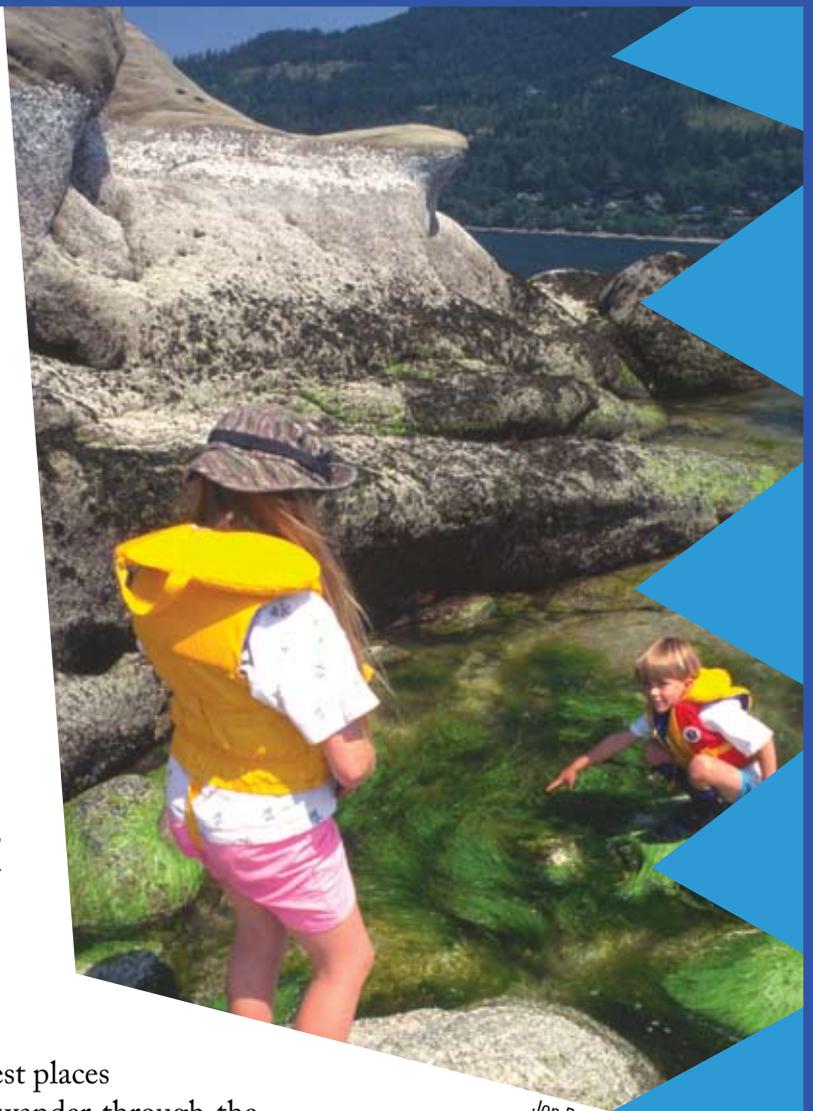
Grab your board and catch some of the best winds in the world at the Columbia Gorge. The deep narrow gorge is not only a great wind tunnel but one of the most scenic places in the state...and country. It has been declared a U.S. Scenic Area.

## Lake Chelan Boat Ride

Lake Chelan, with its clean and fresh water, is one of the best swimming, camping and hiking spots in eastern Washington. Take a spectacular boat-trip up to the remote upper lake to see towering granite cliffs, deep evergreen forests, and jagged snow-capped peaks.

## Visit a Rainforest

Experience one of the greenest and wettest places on earth, a Washington rainforest. If you wander through the ancient Hoh Rain Forest, in Olympic National Park, you will see huge trees and monster mosses and ferns. Some of the trees are over 300 feet tall! If you're lucky you might even see a flying squirrel or endangered spotted owl high up in the canopy. Don't forget your rain gear!



Jon Brunk



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## Want more fun things to do in Washington?

Go to the official state website, [www.experiencewashington.com](http://www.experiencewashington.com) for more activities and attractions you can visit.

## Washington's People—Who are we?

At one time, Native Americans were the only people living on the land that we now call Washington. Today, Washington is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, with a population of over six million.

Our people have interesting cultural roots and traditions that are celebrated in many festivals. There are Norwegian Yule Fests, Japanese Cherry Blossom Festivals, Chinese New Year Celebrations, and the Indian Powwows, to name just a few. Most Washingtonians have European ancestors, but we also have strong Asian and Hispanic communities.

So why do so many people want to live in Washington? They like its natural beauty and outdoor fun, the climate is mild, the people are friendly and there are many different types of jobs.

## Where do we Live?

Washington is a great place to live and work. Some of our cities, like Spokane in eastern Washington and Bellingham in western Washington, have been voted in the top ten towns to live in the United States.

Our state's population is unevenly distributed. Some areas of eastern Washington have very few people, while parts of western Washington are crowded. Almost two-thirds of our population lives west of the Cascade Mountains, in western Washington.

Over four million of Washington's residents live around Seattle on the Puget Sound.

## What do we Do?

Every state depends on certain industries so that its citizens will be able to work and earn money for their houses, food, cars and fun things to do.

In Washington, we started off with forestry, fishing and farming but now we are famous for Boeing airplanes, Microsoft computers and Starbucks coffee.

## Experience the EMP!

Don't miss the Experience Music Project, one of Seattle's most exciting buildings and inter-active museums. Here you can grab a guitar. Hold a mic. Bang the drums. Learn about rock and roll history. Check out the extensive memorabilia and artifacts from legends like Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, Kurt Cobain...to name just a few.

## Washington's People

Population:  
6,287,759 (in 2005)

John Marshall

Since Washington is closer to Asia than most other states, many of Washington's products are shipped to Mexico and Canada and across the Pacific Ocean to Japan, China and Korea. You can see tall cranes and huge cargo ships and barges in ports around Puget Sound loading and unloading goods from around the Pacific Rim.

### Boeing

The world's largest aircraft manufacturer, Boeing, was founded in Seattle. They built the first jet that took flight in the U.S. and started the first commercial jet airliner service in the U.S. in the 1950s.

The Boeing plant is located in Everett, just north of Seattle. It is in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest building in the world. It covers over 98 acres and is so large that it has its own fire department. You can tour the factory and watch how the latest and largest jet aircraft are built.

### Microsoft

Bill Gates started writing computer programs when he was only 13 years old. In 1975, he and a friend, Paul Allen, started Microsoft, a company that makes software for computers and in 1985, Microsoft released its first version of Microsoft Windows. Today Microsoft is a world-wide leader in computer software, and is still based in Redmond (northeast of Seattle), Washington. Although Bill Gates is one of the richest men in the world, he is widely recognized for his humanitarian efforts through the Gates Foundation.



### Washington's Largest Cities

1. Seattle
2. Spokane
3. Tacoma
4. Vancouver
5. Bellevue
6. Everett
7. Yakima
8. Bellingham

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## Starbucks

In 1971, Starbucks Coffee opened its first store in Seattle. Thirty-five years later, there are more than 6,500 Starbucks coffee shops around the world, including China. They are popular with students and young professionals. Starbucks' headquarters are still in Seattle and we are famous around the world for coffee and latte lingo.

## Amazon.com

Seattle is also home to one of the world's largest and most popular on-line stores. Amazon.com was founded in 1994 by Jeff Bezos in a Seattle garage. It was one of the first internet stores. Amazon began as an online bookstore, but soon added music CDs, DVDs, electronics, appliances, and more. It now has separate websites in Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, France, China and Japan and is the "Earth's largest bookstore".

## Forestry

Lumber has a long and important history in Washington. Many of the early settlers were loggers and lots of cities began as sawmill towns, including Tacoma, Bellingham, Everett and Anacortes. Seattle was home to the original "Skid Road". Today Washington is second among all states in lumber production.

## Fishing

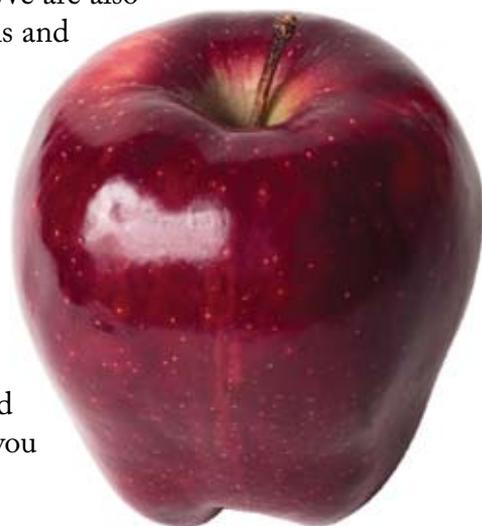
Washington salmon comes in many colors...pink, red and silver. We catch and package more salmon than any other state, except Alaska. Believe it or not, there are more than two hundred other edible fish and shellfish caught in our coastal waters and inland rivers. We are also famous for our delicious Olympia oysters, Penn Cove mussels and Hood Canal shrimp.

## Farming

Washington is first in the nation when it comes to apples, pears, sweet cherries, red raspberries, and hops. We also have the sweetest onions, our famous Walla Walla onions. Did you know that Washington's apple orchards produce about 15 billion apples each year, more than any other state? We have all kinds of varieties...Fuji, Jonagold, Granny Smith, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious and Braeburns. The next time you bite into an apple, check to see if it's from Washington.

## Cherries and Apples

*Washington grows more cherries and apples than any other state.*



# Twenty Brain Teasers.... Test your Washington I.Q.

1. What is Washington's nickname?
2. What is the largest city in Washington?
3. The world's largest building is located in Everett, Washington. What do they build here?
4. What is name of Washington's largest river?
5. What ocean borders Washington on the west?
6. What is the name of Washington's highest mountain?
7. The world's largest dam is located in central Washington. What is its name?
8. What is the name of Washington's largest natural lake?
9. Name an endangered species that is also our state mammal.
10. What is our state bird?
11. What is the name of our most famous volcano? And when did it last erupt?
12. When did Lewis & Clark reach the Pacific Ocean?
13. Bill Gates is one of the world's richest men. What company did he create?
14. Seattle is the espresso capital of the U.S. What coffee company started here?
15. Are salmon freshwater or saltwater fish?
16. Red Delicious and Fuji are names of one of Washington's most famous fruits. What are they?
17. What is an old-growth forest and how old are the trees?
18. What geographic feature makes western Washington so wet and eastern Washington so dry?
19. What mountain in Washington holds the record for the most snowfall in the U.S. ?
20. Where is the state Capitol?

**Answers:** 1. The Evergreen State 2. Seattle 3. Boeing Airplanes 4. Columbia River 5. Pacific Ocean 6. Mount Rainier 7. Grand  
Mountains 19. Mount Baker 20. Olympia  
Both: they live in the ocean, but spawn in rivers 16. Apples 17. Where trees have never been cut and can be 600 years old 18. Cascade  
Coulee Dam 8. Lake Chelan 9. Orca Whale 10. Goldfinch 11. Mount Saint Helens in 1980 12. 1805 13. Microsoft 14. Starbucks 15.

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