

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL FACTS AND SYMBOLS

State Seal:



State Capital: Olympia
Governor: Christine Gregoire

- 1579: Sir Francis Drake sailed up the Pacific Northwest Coast and named the entire region New Albion.
- 1775: Spain laid claim to the area.
- 1792: Many of our state landmarks named by Captain George Vancouver. Captain Robert Gray explored the lower reaches of the Columbia River.
- 1805-06: Lewis and Clark expedition explored the Northwest and reached the Pacific Ocean at the mouth of the Columbia River.
- 1818: Fort Walla Walla built by the North West Company. This enabled the United States to claim joint occupancy of the Oregon Territory with England.
- 1819: Spain gave the United States any and all rights claimed by Spain to the Oregon country.
- 1846: Oregon Territory became a part of the United States when the United States and Great Britain agreed to the 49th parallel as the northern U.S. boundary.
- 1848: Oregon Territory was established with Washington as the northern part of the territory.
- 1853: Washington Territory, separate from Oregon, was created. Isaac Stevens was the first territorial governor.
- 1863: Idaho Territory was created from part of the Washington Territory.
- 1889: Washington admitted to the United States on November 11 as the forty-second state. Elisha Ferry was the first elected governor of Washington State.
- 1941: Grand Coulee Dam completed.
- 1980: Mount St. Helens erupted in May.
- 1989: Washington celebrated 100 years of statehood on November 11.

Nickname: The Evergreen State

Song: "Washington, My Home" by Helen Davis

Tree: Western Hemlock

Flower: Coast Rhododendron

Colors: Green and Gold

Motto: Alki, meaning "bye and bye"

Bird: Willow Goldfinch

Folk Song: "Roll On Columbia, Roll On" by Woody Guthrie

Fish: Steelhead Trout

Gem: Petrified Wood

Fruit: Apple

Grass: Bluebunch Wheatgrass

Dance: Square Dance

Insect: Common Green Darner Dragonfly

Arboretum: Washington Park Arboretum

Fossil: Columbian Mammoth of North America

Tartan: Background: green, (rich forests); perpendicular bands: blue (lakes, rivers and ocean); white (snow-capped mountains); red (apple and cherry crops); yellow (wheat and grain crops); black (eruption of Mt. St. Helens).

Marine Mammal: Orca

Endemic Mammal: Olympic Marmot

Vegetable: Walla Walla Sweet Onion

Amphibian: Pacific Chorus Frog

Ship: "Lady Washington"