

Welcome To Oregon

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

I live in Oregon. It is a Northwestern state, near Canada. Oregon is famous for the Pacific Ocean, forests, the Cascade Range, hazelnuts, lumber, and Crater Lake! It is the 9th largest state and the 27th most populous. You might know some of the major cities, like Portland, Eugene, Salem, and Gresham. The state capital is Salem. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Oregon, let me tell you a little more about my state.

Oregon had several Pacific Northwest Indian tribes living there when the Spanish first visited the area that would become Oregon. The French and then the British held the land. In the 1840s, the Oregon Country was actually led by their own government, until it was annexed by the United States. The famous Oregon Trail for settlers led to the expansion of settlements in the area and eventual statehood.

Oregon is located just beneath Washington, making it one of the northernmost states on the Pacific Ocean. It has a long coastline on the ocean, and inland you find many forests leading up into The Cascade Range. These are the three major environments in the state: coast, forest, and mountains. There are also rich farmlands.

Oregon produces almost all of our nation's hazelnuts. Cattle, dairy, and cranberries are a few other agricultural products Oregon produces. Due to its location on the coast, of course fishing is a huge deal. With the forests, timber and lumber is a big industry. Oregon led the nation in softwood lumber production. With all this wood getting cut down, is it a surprise to know that Oregon is The Beaver State?

Oregon isn't so well known for sports as many other states, but they do have a professional soccer and a professional basketball team based in Portland. With all the natural beauty, Portland is a great place to get outside. You can fish, hike, climb mountains, and do all sorts of things outside.



Oregon is interesting because it has no sales tax! Only 5 states have no sales tax. They also have very low state income taxes. Oregon is 41st in our nation for tax burdens, making it a good place to live if you don't want to pay much for taxes. They also have a tax revenue limit, so if too much money is collected in taxes, they have to give some back. What a place, right?

Now that you know a little more about Oregon, are you thinking about visiting? There are many things to see and do. Hope to see you soon!

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Oregon's nickname?
 - A. The Beaver State
 - B. The Northwest Territory
 - C. The Forest State
 - D. The Lumber State
2. True or False: Oregon is among the top 10 largest states in our country.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. What is Oregon's tax burden ranking in our country?
 - A. 40th
 - B. 41st
 - C. 39th
 - D. 50th
4. Which of these things is Oregon NOT famous for?
 - A. hazelnuts
 - B. the Atlantic Ocean
 - C. The Cascade Range
 - D. lumber
5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Oregon? Why or Why Not?

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