

## Welcome To Washington

I live in Washington. It is a Pacific Northwestern state, bordering Canada. Washington is famous for apples, the Cascades, Mount Saint Helens, Mount Rainer, forests, the Grand Coulee Dam, and rain! It is the 18<sup>th</sup> largest state and the 13<sup>th</sup> most populous, making it toward the top in both categories! You might know some of the major cities, like Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, and Olympia. The state capital is Olympia. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Washington, let me tell you a little more about my state.

Washington is something of a divided land. In the west, you have the coastal lands that are drenched in rain and fog. There is a maritime climate, with sea breezes and heavy precipitation. In the east, the mountain highlands are much drier, and can have severe temperature swings from summer to winter. In the summer it can be very hot and dry, and then winter can be deadly cold. The mountains have always added a beauty to the land, especially Mount Rainier, which is the tallest mountain in the Lower 48 states. These lands are filled with wildlife, like deer, wild horses, wolves, freshwater fish, and a plethora of other wild game.

Washington was late to be found by European explorers. It took a couple hundred years from the time the eastern states were first explored by Europeans to the time the Spanish and then the British sailed around to the west coast and set their sights on Washington. It was part of the Oregon Territory and only became a state in 1889, becoming our 42<sup>nd</sup> state. It helped to create part of the long border we have with Canada.

Industries like salmon fishing, mining, and lumber were and are still important in Washington. That's how it got its nickname as The Evergreen State. Agriculture and industries have continued to grow in importance, as well as the creation of several of America's largest hydroelectric facilities. During World War II, many of our nation's airplanes and warships were built in Washington. Boeing continues to make airplanes there today. Seattle and Tacoma continue to be large centers of industry, business, and culture for the state.



Now that you know a little more about Washington, are you thinking about visiting? Come by, have an apple! 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 Washington's nickname?
  - A. The Corner State
  - B. The Canadian Border State
  - C. The Evergreen State
  - D. The Salmon State.
  
2. True or False: Washington was one of the first states.
  - A. True
  - B. False
  
3. What is Washington's size ranking among our states?
  - A. 17<sup>th</sup>
  - B. 18<sup>th</sup>
  - C. 19<sup>th</sup>
  - D. 20<sup>th</sup>
  
4. Which famous dam is in Washington?
  - A. The Panama Canal
  - B. The Hoover Dam
  - C. The Grand Coulee Dam
  - D. The Suez Canal
  
5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Washington? Why or Why Not?

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