

IDAHO

HISTORY

Idaho has been home to Native nations, fur trappers, wagon travelers, gold miners and farmers. Each of them shaped the state you see on the map today.

The First Peoples

People have lived in Idaho for at least 14,000 years. In the north lived the Nez Perce, the Coeur d'Alene, the Kootenai and the Kalispel. In the south lived the Shoshone, the Bannock and the Northern Paiute. They caught salmon, dug camas roots and hunted deer and elk. After horses arrived in the 1700s, many rode east across the mountains to hunt bison.

Explorers and Trappers

In 1805, Lewis and Clark crossed the mountains into Idaho. Sacagawea, a Lemhi Shoshone woman born here, traveled with them. The Nez Perce fed the hungry explorers and helped them make canoes. Fur traders built Fort Hall and Fort Boise in 1834. In 1836, Henry and Eliza Spalding started a church and school at Lapwai.



Wagons and Gold

In the 1840s, thousands of families crossed southern Idaho on the Oregon Trail. In 1860, Mormon settlers founded Franklin, Idaho's first lasting town. That same year, **prospectors** found gold on Nez Perce land near Pierce. Miners rushed in, and towns sprang up. Congress made Idaho a **territory** in 1863.

Wars and Treaties

Settlers and miners moved onto Native land, and both sides raided and killed. In 1863, soldiers attacked a

Shoshone winter camp on the Bear River and killed more than 200 people. That year a **treaty** cut the Nez Perce **reservation** to about one tenth of its size. Some bands did not sign. In 1877, the Army ordered them onto the reservation. Nez Perce warriors killed settlers along the Salmon River, then beat the soldiers at White Bird Canyon. The bands traveled more than 1,000 miles toward Canada before they surrendered in Montana. In 1878, the Bannock fought the Army and lost. Five tribes have reservations in Idaho today.



Rails, Silver and Statehood

Railroads crossed Idaho in the 1880s. They carried out ore, lumber, cattle and crops. In 1885, Noah Kellogg found silver and lead in the north, and the Silver Valley boomed. Idaho became the 43rd state on July 3, 1890. Six years later, Idaho women won the right to vote.



Water for the Desert

Southern Idaho was dry sagebrush country. Farmers and engineers built dams and canals to bring river water to the fields. Milner Dam opened in 1905, and farms spread around the new town of Twin Falls. Arrowrock Dam, finished in 1915, was the tallest dam in the world at that time. In 1936, Sun Valley opened with the world's first ski chairlifts.

IDAHO THROUGH TIME

1805	1834	1860	1863	1877	1890	1905	1936	1951
Lewis and Clark cross Idaho	Fort Hall is built	Gold is found near Pierce	Idaho Territory is created	The Nez Perce War	Idaho becomes the 43rd state	Milner Dam opens	Sun Valley opens	First atomic electricity

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Sacagawea	Lemhi Shoshone. Traveled with Lewis and Clark.
Chief Joseph	Nez Perce leader during the war of 1877.
Emma Edwards Green	Designed Idaho's state seal in 1891.
Philo Farnsworth	Went to school in Rigby. Invented electronic TV.
J.R. Simplot	Grew up near Declo. Sold frozen french fries.

WORDS TO KNOW

prospector	a person who searches for gold or silver
territory	land run by the United States that is not yet a state
treaty	a written agreement between nations
reservation	land kept by a tribe under a treaty