OREGON

THE BEAVER STATE *Became a state February 14, 1859 (33rd)*

Oregon runs from a rocky ocean coast over snowy volcanoes to a wide, dry desert. Thousands of families once crossed the country in wagons to reach its green valleys.



Why the Beaver State?

In the early 1800s, beaver fur hats were in fashion in Europe. Trappers came to Oregon's streams for the pelts, or furs. In 1811 a fur company built Fort Astoria where the Columbia River meets the sea. So many beavers were trapped that they almost disappeared. Today they are back, and a gold beaver decorates the back of the state flag.



Two Thousand Miles by Wagon

Starting in the 1840s, families left Missouri in covered wagons and headed for the farmland of the Willamette Valley. The Oregon Trail was about 2,000 miles long, and the trip took about five months. Most people walked the whole way beside their wagons. A law passed in 1850 gave settlers free land if they farmed it. The trail ended at Oregon City.



A Lake Inside a Volcano

About 7,700 years ago, a volcano called Mount Mazama erupted with such force that its top fell in. The mountain lost about a mile of height, leaving a giant bowl. Rain and snow filled it. No rivers flow in or out. Crater Lake is more than 1,900 feet deep. The Klamath people tell of ancestors who saw the mountain fall.



A Canyon Full of Waterfalls

The Columbia River cuts through the Cascade Mountains in a canyon more than 80 miles long and up to 4,000 feet deep. At the end of the last ice age, giant floods roared down the river and scraped the canyon walls steep. Streams now spill over those cliffs as waterfalls. The best known, Multnomah Falls, drops 620 feet.



Doc Hay's Store

Gold drew thousands of Chinese miners to eastern Oregon, and many settled in John Day. In 1887 two immigrants from China, Ing Hay and Lung On, bought a store called Kam Wah Chung. Lung On ran the business. Ing Hay, known as Doc Hay, treated sick people with herbs. The store is now a museum.



Cheese from the Rainy Coast

The Tillamook Valley was fine country for dairy cows, but mountains cut it off from the cities. In the 1850s farmers built their own ship, the Morning Star, to carry butter to Portland. The county's first cheese factory opened in 1894. In 1909 ten small creameries joined together to sell their cheese as one.

BY THE NUMBERS

Population	About 4.3 million (27th most)
Size	About 98,400 square miles (9th largest)
Highest point	Mount Hood, 11,249 feet
Counties	36
Neighbors	Washington, Idaho, Nevada, California

DID YOU KNOW?

- No one is sure where the name Oregon came from. An early spelling, Ouragon, was written down in 1765.
- Yaquina Head Light is the tallest lighthouse in Oregon. It has 114 steps to the top.
- Oregon makes more softwood lumber than any other state. Much of it comes from Douglas fir trees.
- The state flag has a different picture on each side. No other state flag does.

FIND IT ON THE MAP

1. Which city is the capital?
2. Which city is closest to Crater Lake?
3. What gives the Oregon Sunstone its red glow?

Answers: 1. Salem 2. Medford 3. Copper