

OREGON

HISTORY

Oregon has been home to Native nations, fur traders, wagon families, loggers and dam builders. Each of them shaped the state you see on the map today.

The First Peoples

People have lived in Oregon for more than 14,000 years. The Chinook lived along the Columbia River. The Kalapuya lived in the Willamette Valley, the Klamath in the south and the Northern Paiute in the desert. The Cayuse, Umatilla and Nez Perce lived in the northeast. Many nations met at Celilo Falls on the Columbia to catch salmon and trade.

Ships and Explorers

In 1792, the American captain Robert Gray sailed into a great river. He named it the Columbia after his ship. In 1805, Lewis and Clark reached the Pacific Ocean. They spent a rainy winter at Fort Clatsop and traded with the Clatsop people. Fur traders came next. John McLoughlin ran a British fur company's fort on the Columbia and sold supplies to American newcomers.



Wagons and a New State

In the 1840s, wagon families came over the Oregon Trail for farmland. In 1843, settlers met at Champoege and voted to start their own government. In 1846, a **treaty** with Britain gave the United States the land south of today's border with Canada. Congress made Oregon a **territory** in 1848. Oregon became the 33rd state on February 14, 1859. Its constitution did not allow slavery. It also barred Black people from moving there, a rule voters removed in 1926.

Wars and Treaties

Gold was found in southern Oregon in the 1850s, and miners rushed onto Native land. In the Rogue River Wars of 1855 and 1856, volunteers attacked Native camps, and warriors attacked miners and settlers. The Army won and moved the tribes to **reservations** near the coast. In 1855, the Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla signed a treaty that kept a reservation near Pendleton. In 1877, the Army ordered Chief Joseph's Nez Perce band to leave the Wallowa Valley. The band left, fought the Army across Idaho and Montana, and surrendered that fall. Nine tribes have governments in Oregon today.



Rails, Wheat and Timber

Portland grew where ocean ships could meet the valley farms. In 1883, a railroad linked Portland to the East and carried out wheat, wool and lumber. Loggers cut giant firs, and sawmill towns grew. At Astoria, **canneries** packed Columbia River salmon. In 1912, Oregon women won the right to vote.

Dams, Ships and Beaches

Bonneville Dam was finished on the Columbia in 1937. During World War II, Portland shipyards built hundreds of cargo ships. In 1967, a law kept Oregon's ocean beaches open to everyone. In 1971, Oregon passed the first state law that pays people back for returning bottles and cans.

OREGON THROUGH TIME

1792	1805	1843	1848	1859	1883	1912	1937	1971
Robert Gray names the Columbia	Lewis and Clark reach the Pacific	Settlers vote at Champoege	Oregon Territory is created	Oregon becomes the 33rd state	A railroad reaches Portland	Oregon women win the vote	Bonneville Dam is finished	The bottle bill passes

PEOPLE TO KNOW

John McLoughlin	Fur company leader. Settled in Oregon City.
Chief Joseph	Nez Perce leader from the Wallowa Valley.
Abigail Scott Duniway	Newspaper editor. Worked for women's votes.
Linus Pauling	Portland-born scientist. Won two Nobel Prizes.
Beverly Cleary	Grew up in Portland. Wrote the Ramona books.

WORDS TO KNOW

treaty	a written agreement between nations
territory	land run by the United States that is not yet a state
reservation	land kept by a tribe under a treaty
cannery	a factory that packs food into cans