

WASHINGTON

HISTORY

Washington has been home to Native nations, fur traders, wagon families, loggers and airplane builders. Each of them helped make the state you see on the map.



The First Peoples

People have lived in Washington for more than 10,000 years. Coast Salish nations, such as the Duwamish, Nisqually and Puyallup, lived around Puget Sound. They built cedar plank houses and canoes. East of the mountains, the Yakama, Spokane and Palouse peoples fished for salmon and dug roots. Many nations gathered at the falls on the Spokane River to fish and trade.

Ships and Fur Traders

In 1792, the British captain George Vancouver mapped Puget Sound. That same year, the American Robert Gray sailed into the Columbia River. In 1805, Lewis and Clark came down the Columbia to the Pacific. In 1825, a British company built Fort Vancouver on the Columbia. Native hunters traded beaver furs there for cloth, tools and guns.



Missions and Wagons

In 1836, Marcus and Narcissa Whitman built a **mission** near Walla Walla. They came to teach the Cayuse their religion. Wagon families on the Oregon Trail stopped there for food and rest. Many Cayuse died of measles that newcomers brought. In 1847, Cayuse men attacked the mission and killed the Whitmans and 11 others. Oregon volunteers then fought the Cayuse for several years.

A New Territory

In 1846, a **treaty** with Britain set the border with Canada. In 1851, the Denny family and other settlers landed at Alki Point. They started the town that became Seattle. They named it for Chief Seattle, a Duwamish and Suquamish leader. Congress made Washington a **territory** in 1853.

Wars and Treaties

Governor Isaac Stevens signed treaties with many tribes in 1854 and 1855. The tribes gave up most of their land. They kept **reservations** and the right to fish. In 1856, warriors attacked Seattle, and a Navy ship fired on them. East of the mountains, the Army fought the Yakama and their allies. In 1858, the Army defeated the Spokane, Coeur d'Alene and Palouse near Spokane. The tribes were moved to reservations. Today, 29 tribes in Washington have their own governments.



Railroads, Planes and a Fair

In 1883, the Northern Pacific Railroad linked Washington to the East. Washington became the 42nd state in 1889. That year, a fire burned downtown Seattle, and people rebuilt it in brick. Washington women won the vote in 1910. In 1916, William Boeing started an airplane company in Seattle. In 1962, Seattle held a world's fair and built the Space Needle. In 1980, Mount St. Helens erupted.

WASHINGTON THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Chief Seattle	Duwamish and Suquamish leader.
Mother Joseph	Nun who built schools and hospitals.
William Boeing	Started an airplane company in Seattle.
Bertha Knight Landes	Seattle's first woman mayor, 1926.
Bing Crosby	Singer and actor. Grew up in Spokane.

WORDS TO KNOW

mission	a place for teaching a religion
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