Let’s Explore
History Using Maps!

Inside, you will find interactive activities that will help you explore Oregon’s history using maps!

Keep an eye out for me, Sandy, for fun facts and helpful hints along the way!

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Maps are useful for navigating the world, but did you know that they can also teach us about history? Historical maps can reveal how the physical and cultural landscape has changed over time, and modern maps of historical events can help illustrate what happened hundreds of years ago.

Together, let’s explore Oregon’s history using maps!

Hi! I’m Sandy the Chinook Salmon, the official Oregon state fish. Keep an eye out for me as you go through the book; I’ll be your helpful guide through the activities.
The state of Oregon is located on the west coast, sandwiched between Washington (to the north) and California and Nevada (to the south). To the west, Oregon’s coastal range extends along the Pacific Ocean, which is the largest ocean on Earth. To the east Oregon shares a border with Idaho. Take a moment to get to know Oregon by exploring the map on Page 2. What features do you see? Can you find the state capital—Salem—on the map?

Below are some quick facts about Oregon. Use the information on this page—and the General Reference Map of Oregon on Page 2—to answer the questions below!

- Oregon was the 33rd state to be added to the United States of America. Oregon achieved statehood in 1859.
- Oregon’s biggest city is Portland, which had a population of approximately 610,000 people in 2015. That’s enough people to fill the arena where Portland’s basketball team “The Trailblazers” play over 30 times!
  – The second largest city in Oregon is Eugene, which has a population of 160,000.
- Oregon’s state motto is “She flies with her own wings”.
- Oregon is 96,981 square miles (or 251,161 square kilometers) in size.
- Crater Lake in southern Oregon is the deepest lake in the United States and the only national park in the state.

1. Can you find where you live on the map of Oregon? Circle it!
2. Find Oregon’s State Capital on the map and circle it. How is it symbolized on the map? ______________________________
3. Find Crater Lake on the map and circle it. What color is it on the map? ______________________________________
4. What town is farthest south in Oregon? ________________________________________________________________
5. What four states border Oregon? ___________________________________________________________________
6. In what part of Oregon is your hometown? Use the cardinal directions (N, E, S, W, NE, etc.). _______________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________________
7. Do you know your hometown’s origins, or some fun facts about where you live? Write them here. __________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________________
The Earth is over 4.5 billion years old, and the landscape we see today has been shaped by millions of years of earthquakes, floods, and fires. At the end of the last ice age (20,000 years ago), a glacier formed an ice dam in the North Fork of the Clark River in Montana. When the dam broke, it caused a 500-foot-high wall of water to sweep west over Washington, where the waters scraped off layers of soil, leaving behind a landscape known today as “Scablands”. The flood continued west and south to Oregon and through the Columbia River gorge. In Portland, the water flooded the Willamette Valley (briefly reversing the flow of the river) and finally headed northwest to the mouth of the Columbia where the flood waters, and the debris they carried, emptied into the Pacific Ocean. This event helped to shape Oregon’s landscape, and had a lasting impact on the environment. We can still see the effects of the flood in the landscape today.

The Lake Missoula Floods

1. The bright blue shows areas of land that were flooded 20,000 years ago. Are these areas covered with water today? _____
2. Are the areas of ice the same today as they were 20,000 years ago? Why do you think this is? ____________________________
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Long before it became a state, the area we now call Oregon was home to Native American people. These tribes included the Chinook, Molalla, Tillamook, and Umpqua. Do those names sound familiar? Oregon, like many other states, used the names of the Native American tribes when naming cities, towns, counties, and natural features such as rivers. Historically, Native Americans lived primarily along the coast, in the Willamette Valley, and along the Lower Columbia River. However, when settlers began migrating west in the mid-1800s (in search of gold, land, and timber), wars and European diseases such as smallpox killed thousands of Native Americans, devastating many of the tribes. As a result, some of the historic tribes were wiped out of existence.

**Native Americans: 1780 Population**

You can find salmon like me in some of the places Native Americans used to live. Columbia basin salmon are a large part of the culture and religion of many Native American tribes. Salmon are also an important food resource for native peoples, and fishing is still the preferred livelihood for many tribal members.
The map below shows where different Native American tribes lived in Oregon before European settlers arrived. The map also shows the different languages each of these groups spoke. When settlers came West, the Native American tribes who survived were placed on reservations. Today Oregon has three main reservations: Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Grand Ronde.

“Wy-kan-ush” is the Sahaptin word for the salmon that are used in sacred ceremonies. The Nez Perce word for Snake River Chinook Salmon is “nacoox”.

Ceilo Falls—marked with a red star on the map—was a culturally important fishing and gathering site for many tribes in Oregon on the Columbia River. However, with the opening of the Dalles Dam in 1957 the falls were drowned under the dam’s reservoir.

Native Americans Tribes and Language Groups

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tribes</th>
<th>Language</th>
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<td>1 Clatskanie</td>
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<td>2 Chinook</td>
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<td>5 Nez Perce</td>
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<td>14 Takelma</td>
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<td>15 Klamath/Modoc</td>
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<td>16 Shasta</td>
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The color represents language groups. The names represent the dialects spoken in that group.

This area inhabited by speakers of: Yukichetunne, Tutun, Mikonotunne, Cheme-tunne, Chetleshin, Kwaishitunnetunne
Just as the United States is divided into 50 different states, each state is divided into many different counties, which are geographic and political subdivisions of space. Below is a map of Oregon’s counties and county seats. Many of the counties in Oregon were named after the Native American tribes that once lived there. Using the “Native American Tribe and Language Groups” map on Page 6, circle all of the Native American names you see on the map below.

Oregon Counties and County Seats

What county do you live in? What county is the city of Portland located in? What county is home to Salem, the state’s capital?

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Native Americans in Oregon: Tribal Names and Oregon Counties
Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were explorers from Virginia who went on an expedition to the western part of North America. The journey was commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson in 1803 in order to explore the land, find out what resources existed, and stake a claim to the west before the British did. Accompanied by 32 men, the Shoshone Native American Sacagawea, her baby, and a dog, Lewis and Clark followed a route from St. Louis, Missouri, all the way to the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Oregon. This expedition helped to open up the west to European settlers, who would later come west via the Oregon Trail.

**Lewis and Clark Trail**

Sacagawea (pictured above standing with Lewis and Clark) played an important role as an interpreter and diplomat for the various Native American tribes that Lewis and Clark encountered throughout the journey. Early in the expedition, Sacagawea gave birth to a baby boy, who accompanied the expedition across the Territory.
Lewis and Clark did not spend the whole journey together. Although their party traveled westward (towards the Pacific Ocean) as one unit, they split up on their return (eastbound) journey in order to explore more land. The explorers separated on July 3rd, 1806 at Traveler’s Rest, in present-day Montana. Lewis traveled north (depicted in dark red) while Clark—along with Sacagawea and her son, Jean-Baptiste—took a southern route (depicted in bright red). During this time, Clark was able to map the Yellowstone River. Clark also left the only on-site evidence of the entire expedition: after discovering a large rock formation (which he named “Pompy’s Pillar”, after his nickname for Sacagawea’s son), he signed and dated the stone. You can still see Clark’s mark today. The explorers met up again along the Missouri River in August of 1806, in present-day North Dakota. From there they traveled together back to St. Louis, and presented their findings to President Thomas Jefferson.

Can you name some of the natural features found in Oregon, such as Haystack Rock? How do you think the features got their names?

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Lewis and Clark Trail: Separate Journeys
Lewis and Clark were asked by President Jefferson to take good field notes of everything they saw: plants, animals, tools, etc. President Jefferson told them: “Your observations are to be taken with great pains and accuracy to be entered distinctly, & intelligibly for others as well as yourself.”

President Jefferson understood that Lewis and Clark’s field notes would be used by researchers and students for hundreds of years. When you conduct fieldwork (studying in the outdoors), it is important to keep detailed and accurate notes including drawings – even if you think the drawings are not perfect. See if you can match the Lewis and Clark drawings on the left with the modern-day pictures of the things they discovered along the way to the Pacific Coast. How closely do their drawing match the real object?

**Lewis and Clark’s Drawings**

1. Fish (salmon)
2. Bear (grizzly)
3. Leaf (maple)
4. Bird (grouse)
5. River (oxbow)

**Names**

**Actual Objects**
In order to share their findings with the President, Lewis and Clark kept detailed maps and drawings of what they saw along their expedition. **Go on a walk around your home or school. Create a detailed map of your path and a map key for points of interest you see along the way.** Lewis and Clark drew pictures of the animals and plants they encountered along their route, so if you see an interesting plant or feature along the way, you should mark its location on the map, and then draw what it looks like on the right-hand side of the map.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Draw your map here:</th>
<th>Map Key:</th>
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**Map Key:**

**Animal, Plant, or Interesting Feature:**

Since I live in a river, my map would have lots of pebbles and stones. I might also draw some other fish, some tasty food, and predators (like bears!) on my map key, and I would include specific river plants in my detailed drawing of interesting features.
Between 1841 and 1869 thousands of people migrated to the Western part of the United States by way of the Oregon Trail. The Oregon Trail was a 2,200 mile long path that pioneers traveled from Missouri to Oregon. Many settlers had covered wagons they used to transport all of their belongings and everything they needed for the journey. Settlers had to weigh the promise of gold, land, and abundant resources against a multitude of risks. The harsh climate conditions, diseases, and constant exertion made it a difficult journey, and some pioneers did not make it all the way to Oregon. Many places along the trail were named for physical (landscape) features or human structures. Place the location names on the map in the appropriate columns.
The Oregon Trail: Navigation, Landscape, and Migration

Why wasn’t the Oregon Trail a straight line (the shortest distance) from St. Louis to Oregon? Travelers on the Oregon Trail faced many obstacles on the landscape, such as rivers and mountains. Using the maps below, identify obstacles which may have caused the Oregon Trail to divert from a straight line. Also, identify physical features which might have helped the migrants move more quickly across the landscape.

### Oregon Topography

Topo” (topographic) maps show the height of the landscape, allowing you to see where mountains and valleys are located!

### Oregon Rivers

Fording the River:
- **Pros:** Access to the fresh water, a way to cool off from the heat, a place to bathe and drink, fish for food
- **Cons:** Hard for the covered wagons to go through, rapids might be dangerous and water might be very deep

Traversing the Forest:
- **Pros:** Shade from the sun, animals to hunt, abundant firewood
- **Cons:** Hard to maneuver wagons, poisonous plants and dangerous animals may be present

Passing Over the Mountains:
- **Pros:** Cooler temperatures, most direct route
- **Cons:** High and strenuous climb, possibility of avalanche or rock slide, not much food on the mountain
The Oregon Trail: Historic Trails and Ghost Towns

While the Oregon Trail is the most famous, it is not the only historic trail in Oregon. The Applegate Trail was started by the Applegate family to find a safer route to the Oregon Territory after they lost two children along the Oregon Trail. Another historic route, Meek Cutoff (founded by Stephen Meek), may sound friendly, but the trail was notoriously difficult and many settlers lost their lives along the journey. Some of Oregon’s early towns were also abandoned by their original inhabitants. You can still visit “ghost towns” such as Jawbone Flats, an old mining camp in the Opal Creek Wilderness Area. Can you find Jawbone Flats on the map below?

Use the map on this page and the map of Oregon on Page 2 to answer the questions below:

1. What modern-day city lies at the fork of the Oregon Trail and the Meek Cutoff Trail? _______
   ____________________________

2. The historic Applegate Trail passes by several large cities in Oregon. Which ones? _______
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________

3. Many ghost towns are clustered in the northeast portion of the state. Why might this be? _______
   ____________________________
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   ____________________________
By the mid-1840s the Oregon Trail had brought many settlers West, and Western populations were growing rapidly. In 1848 the area now known as Oregon, Washington, and Idaho (and parts of Wyoming and Montana) was officially admitted to the United States as an “incorporated territory” known as the Oregon Territory. Oregon’s boundaries were defined and Oregon was officially admitted to the United States as a state in 1859.

**United States in 1846: States and Territories**

- Oregon Territory
- Missouri Territory
- Iowa Territory
- Republic of Mexico
- Texas
- Indian Territory
- New Mexico Territory

**United States in 1859: Oregon Statehood**

- Oregon Territory
- Nebraska Territory
- Kansas Territory
- Utah Territory
- Washington Territory
- Unorganized Terr.

1. How many new states were added between 1846 and 1859? ___________________________________________________________________________
2. How many new territories, or renamed territories, were added between 1846 and 1859? ___________________________________________________________________________
3. What year will mark Oregon’s 200th anniversary as part of the United States? ___________________________________________________________________________
4. What year will mark Oregon’s 350th anniversary as part of the United States? ___________________________________________________________________________
5. What modern-day state occupies the 1859 “Indian Territory”? __________________________________________
Oregon’s History: Choosing a Capital

Did you know Salem has not always been Oregon’s state capital? When Oregon initially became an incorporated territory, Oregon City (located just south of the Portland Metropolitan Area) was declared the capital by Governor Joseph Lane. In 1850, the legislature of the Oregon Territory passed an act declaring Salem the capital, and in 1855 the capital was moved again—this time to the city of Corvallis (initially named “Marysville” by the town’s founder). Salem was not officially declared the state capital until 1864, five years after Oregon achieved statehood.

Salem is currently the third largest city in Oregon, and as of 2015 the capital had nearly 155,000 residents. The city covers about 48 square miles. By comparison, Portland covers 145 square miles.

Use the map on this page to answer the questions below.

1. What are the three most populated cities in Oregon? (Hint: see Page 3) ____________________________________________________________

2. What three cities were all early contenders for the role of Oregon’s capital? __________________________________________________________

3. If you wanted to travel by car from the Portland Metropolitan Area to Salem, what highway would you take? What other cities could you get to along this road? __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

4. What county is Salem located in? (Hunt: see Page 7) __________________________

The map below shows unusual place names in Oregon, and Page 18 explores the origins and history of place names across the State. Use these maps—along with the General Reference Map of Oregon on Page 2—to answer the questions on this page.

Unusual Place Names

1. On the “Unusual Place Names” map, what places would you most (and least!) want to visit? Why? ______________________
   ______________________
   ______________________
   ______________________

2. What large Metropolitan area is the city of Boring located near? ______________________

3. What do you think the natural feature “Phantom Ship” is located near? ______________________

4. What mountain range is named after the Cree word that means “spotted horse”? ______________

5. How did Beaverton get its name? ______________________
   ______________________
   ______________________
   ______________________

6. What mountains were originally named Faith, Hope, and Charity? ______________________

7. What town is named for John Jacob Astor? ______________

8. What does “Deschutes” mean in French? ______________

Too Much Bear Lake sounds like a dangerous place for a fish like me to visit. Yikes!
Oregon’s History: The Origins of Place Names

Place Name Origins

Places Named After Natural Features

- **Cape Foulweather** is the place (and weather) of Captain Cook’s first landfall in Oregon
- **Cascade Range** was named after the rapids in the Columbia River
- **The Dalles** means “flagstones” in French, and refers to a narrow river bordered by flat ledges
- **Sandy River** is short “Quicksand River”, named by Lewis and Clark
- **Strawberry Mountains** are named for the wild strawberries found in the area
- **Deschutes River** means “falls” in French and refers to Celilo Falls on the Columbia River
- **Warm Springs** is named for the local natural

Places Named for Explorers and Immigrant Settlers

- **Hillsboro** is named after Oregon’s first elected governor, David Hill
- **Three Sisters** mountains were originally called Faith, Hope, and Charity by missionaries
- **Hell’s Canyon** in the Snake River gorge was named to promote tourism
- **Columbia River** was named by Captain Robert Gray after his ship, the “Columbia Rediviva”, with first entered the river in 1792

- **Beaverton** is named for the abundance of beavers that originally inhabited the wetlands of this agricultural region
- **Burns** is named for the Scottish poet Robert Burns
- **Hood River** and **Mt. Hood** are named for Samuel Hoo, a member of Captain Vancouver’s expedition
- **Corvallis** is Latin for “heart of the valley”

- **Steens Mountain** is named for the army major who fought the Paiutes in the region in 1860
- **Summer Lake** was named by Captain Fremont to contrast with nearby Winter Ridge
- **Enterprise** was named by the town’s first, and optimistic, residents
- **Rogue River** was first called Woodville, but was changed to better advertise the town

Places with Native American Names

- **Tillamook** is the name of a Salish tribe
- **Multnomah** is the Chinook name for the Willamette River
- **Wallowa Mountains** refers to a Nez Perce word for a type of fish trap
- **Siskiyou Mountains** is a Cree word for “spotted horse” which a fur trader lost in a snowstorm in the mountains
- **Siletz River** refers to a local Native American word for black bear
- **Umpqua River** is a Native American word for the area around that river
- **Coos Bay** was named after the Cook-koo-oose tribe

**Hillsboro** is named after Oregon’s first elected governor, David Hill. **Three Sisters** mountains were originally called Faith, Hope, and Charity by missionaries. **Hell’s Canyon** in the Snake River gorge was named to promote tourism. **Columbia River** was named by Captain Robert Gray after his ship, the “Columbia Rediviva”, with first entered the river in 1792. **Beaverton** is named for the abundance of beavers that originally inhabited the wetlands of this agricultural region. **Burns** is named for the Scottish poet Robert Burns. **Hood River** and **Mt. Hood** are named for Samuel Hoo, a member of Captain Vancouver’s expedition. **Corvallis** is Latin for “heart of the valley”. **Steens Mountain** is named for the army major who fought the Paiutes in the region in 1860. **Summer Lake** was named by Captain Fremont to contrast with nearby Winter Ridge. **Enterprise** was named by the town’s first, and optimistic, residents. **Rogue River** was first called Woodville, but was changed to better advertise the town. **Harney Lake** is named after a Brigadier General William Harney. **Owyhee River** is named for Hawaiian fur trappers killed nearby. **Malheur River** means “misfortune” in French and refers to thefts of furs that hunters experienced in the area. **Astoria** is named for John Jacob Astor whose fur company had a trading post there.
Oregon’s forests are one of its most important resources. Different plant species thrive in different environments; some plants prefer high rainfall, while others grow best in dry and arid environments. Oregon’s forest zones are defined by the main types of tree species found in each zone, and many of the tree species are harvested and sold as lumber. Use the maps below to explore trends in Oregon’s forest cover and answer the questions on this page.

Oregon’s Forest Zones

Average Annual Precipitation

1. Where are most of the Sitka Spruce trees located? Why do you think that is?__________________________________________

2. Subalpine fir trees are concentrated along a particular natural feature. What is it? Why do you think this is? ________________

3. Compare the average annual precipitation map to the forest zone map. What tree species can withstand relatively dry conditions? Which species are located in areas that get significant amounts of rain? ____________________________________________
Oregon’s Resources: Forests and Timber

Oregon settlers quickly began logging in order to provide the raw materials for building roads, houses, and other infrastructure. The maps below show how much logging was done in each of Oregon’s counties from 1925-2004. Today, foresters try to balance our need for timber with the ecosystem’s need for forest habitat for animals and fish like Sandy.

Timber Harvest Over Time

Timber harvest is measured in “board-feet”. A board-foot is equivalent to 1 foot long x 1 foot wide x 1 inch thick.

How have trends in forest harvest in Oregon changed over time? Why do you think that is?

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In addition to forest and timber resources, one of Oregon’s most valuable natural resources is its farmland and the crops that are produced on that land (and shipped around the world). Wheat is Oregon’s largest crop by weight, while greenhouses and nurseries are Oregon’s largest crop by total dollar value. Oregon also produces significant amounts of onions, potatoes, and cattle (milk cows and beef cows).

**Oregon’s Major Crops**

1. Where is wheat production in Oregon concentrated? Why? ______________________________________________________

2. Where is greenhouse and nursery plant production concentrated? ______________________________________________________

3. Where is potato production concentrated? Why? ______________________________________________________

4. Where is beef cattle production concentrated? Why? ______________________________________________________
In addition to meat and potatoes, Oregon also produces a significant amount of fruit. When you buy produce at the grocery store there’s a good chance some of it was grown locally. In 2014 Oregon produced over 68,000 tons of apples (that’s over 136,000,000 pounds), and over 45,000,000 pounds of blackberries.

Oregon’s Major Fruit Crops

1. What areas produce most of Oregon’s apples? Why might this be? 

2. Do you notice any trends for where all four crops are grown? Why? 

3. Two areas in Oregon produce a significant number of pears. What locations are these two centers of production located near?
The Willamette Valley is an important political (counties), ecological (vegetation), and land use (agriculture) region in Oregon. The valley is home to the majority of Oregon’s major cities and human population, and it follows the path of the Willamette River through Northwestern Oregon. At the end of the last ice age, catastrophic flooding (the “Missoula Floods” described on Page 4) brought rich sediments to the Willamette Valley. Coupled with prolific rainfall, this has made the Willamette Valley one of the most fertile agricultural regions in the United States, which was one of the many reasons settlers risked their lives to travel West.

The Willamette Valley and Its Crops

The valley stretches from Portland to Eugene and is over 150 miles long. That sounds like a long way for a fish like me to travel without a car!
Oregon’s waterways are also a valuable resource, and they aren’t used only for fishing and transportation. Hydropower is also an important source of energy in Oregon, which is the second leading generator of hydroelectric power in the United States (Washington ranks first). “Hydropower” refers to energy derived from water, similar to how “solar power” refers to energy derived from the sun. Oregon has over 1,300 large dams that store water for a wide variety of purposes, and Oregon also has over 10,000 small dams that provide irrigation for crops, and habitat for waterfowl. Dams are useful because they help reduce the risk of floods, provide a reliable power and water supply, and have recreational uses, such as fishing and tourism. However, they also displace people, destroy valuable habitat, and block the passage of fish, such as salmon. Use the map on this page to answer the questions below.

**Dams of the Pacific Northwest**

1. There are four hydroelectric dams along the Columbia River. What are their names?  
   ___________________________  
   ___________________________  
   ___________________________  
   ___________________________

2. What are some positive and negative aspects of dams?  
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3. What state has the most hydroelectric dams?  
   ___________________________

4. What state has the most irrigation dams?  
   ___________________________

5. What state has the most flood control dams?  
   ___________________________
When Lewis and Clark came west during their expedition they documented abundant fish and wildlife throughout the area. Many of Oregon's 19th Century settlers made a profit by selling the fur of native animals, such as beaver and wolves. Both European settlers and Native Americans also took advantage of the abundant fish stock in Oregon to feed themselves and provide material for trading, and fish are still an important part of Oregon's economy.

The maps to the right show the modern distribution of fish, hatcheries, and coastal fish catch by port.

Fun fact: the Cole M. Rivers Fish Hatchery on the Rogue River produces the greatest number of fish annually. You can come to Oregon’s hatcheries to see fish like me up close; Oregon has over 1.4 million visitors to its hatcheries each year.

Modern Fish and Hatchery Distribution in Oregon

Total catch: Top five fish and shellfish

Oregon Fish Hatcheries
- Salmon
- Trout
- Salmon and Trout

Coastal Catch By Port
- Tuna
- Shrimp
- Salmon/Steelhead
- Rockfish
- Crab

Circles are proportional to pounds of fish caught at each port annually.
Oregon’s Resources: Water

One of the reasons President Thomas Jefferson commissioned the Lewis and Clark expedition was to find a convenient water route across the country from the east coast to the west coast, which Jefferson wanted to use for trade, transport, and communication. While no continuous waterway to the Pacific Ocean exists, Lewis and Clark did find abundant rivers and waterways along their route. These waterways played an important role in early transportation, trade, and settlement, and they continue to play an important role in Oregon’s economy today, both as a means of transport and as a source of energy production from Oregon’s many dams.

Rivers and Lakes of Oregon

Use the map to the left and the maps on Page 25 to answer the following questions:

1. Find the Willamette River and the Rogue River on the map and circle them.
2. What rivers in Eastern Oregon have salmon and trout fisheries on them? _______________

_______________________________________
_______________________________________

3. What river serves as part of the border between Washington and Oregon? ______

_______________________________________

4. What river serves as part of the border between Idaho and Oregon? ______

_______________________________________

My home (the Columbia River) is over 1,243 miles long. It is the largest river by volume in the Pacific Northwest, and its largest tributary is the Snake River.
Many settlers came to Oregon to mine mineral deposits, which are areas where specific minerals can be found in large enough quantities to mine them. In the mid-1800s, silver, gold, copper, and mercury (also known as “quicksilver”) were being actively mined throughout the state. While many of these minerals are no longer mined in Oregon, gemstones, talc, pumice, and diatomite, zeolite, and perlite are all still actively mined. The maps below show where different minerals were mined in Oregon. The maps also describe what each mineral is used for. How many of Oregon’s minerals do you use everyday? Did any of the mineral’s uses surprise you? Why or why not?

Oregon’s Mineral Deposits

**DIATOMITE-ZEOLITE-PERLITE**

**Nickel**
Nickel is a silvery white metal used in stainless steel, cast iron, magnets, and coins.

**Chromium**
Chromium is a steel-gray, shiny, hard metal used in stainless steel and in dyes and paints.

**Mercury**
Mercury is a toxic silvery metal (also known as quicksilver) and is liquid at room temperature. It is used in thermometers, barometers, and neon lights.

**Uranium**
Uranium is a dense element that is silvery in color and radioactive. It is used for nuclear energy and military weapons.

_Diatomite_ is a soft chalk-like rock that is crushed and used in insecticides, cat litter, and dynamite.

_Zeolite_ is formed when volcanic rocks and ash react with water. It is crushed and dried to use in concrete.

_Perlite_ is a light volcanic glass that has a high water content and expands when heated. It is used in construction, plaster, insulation, and horticulture.
Oregon’s Resources: Gold

California is famous for its “gold rush” in the 1840s and 1850s, but did you know Oregon had a gold rush, too? The discovery of gold in California brought miners to Southwestern Oregon, where they discovered gold along the Applegate, Rogue, and Illinois rivers in 1850 and 1851. This brought a flood of European immigrants to Oregon, and inspired many people living on the east coast to make the journey west. In 1861 gold was also discovered in Baker County, which quickly became one of the Northwest’s largest gold producers. Gold can be mined from hard rock, and from river gravels and beach sands. It is used in jewelry, electrical conductors, and dentistry.

Oregon’s Historical Trails and Ghost Towns and Inactive Gold Mines

The map to the far left shows Oregon’s historic trails, and the map to right shows Oregon’s inactive gold mines. How do the historic trails in Oregon compare to the location of mines?

Fun fact: during the gold rush, the term pay dirt referred to areas of ground that had enough metals (in this case, gold) to make mining profitable. Today, we use the term to refer to making a profit or discovering something of value. For example, when I find a spot with lots and lots of yummy worms, I’ve hit “pay dirt”!
How Are Cities Formed?

Many people used to be nomadic, meaning they traveled from place to place and did not settle anywhere permanently. Early cities were usually formed based on their proximity to natural resources, such as forests (lumber and hunting), rivers (transport and fishing), and crop land (mostly flat and expansive, with good soil). Oregon has an abundance of these resources, which have allowed people to thrive and human populations to grow.

Why do cities grow? Cities grow when they have an influx of people from other places. Historically, people moved to Oregon because they heard the climate was mild, there was abundant timber for logging, and there was plenty of farmland for agriculture. Today, people are often drawn to cities because of work, family, and the amenities (both natural and recreational) they provide.

How are cities organized? You can think of many cities as a giant bulls-eye: the heart of the city is the Central Business District (CBD). This is where most commercial and business dealings happen. The next ring is the industrial area. The remaining rings are related to where people live. This is called the concentric ring model of city structure.

Does your hometown fit the “concentric ring” city model shown to the right? Why or why not? Do you think most cities fit this pattern?

Concentric Ring Model of City Structure

- Central Business District (CBD)
- Factories / Industry
- City housing
- Inner suburb housing
- Outer suburb housing
Portland has what’s called an **Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)**. This means there is a limit on how much the city can expand. Over the years the UGB has grown along with the city, but *city planners* (people whose job is to maximize the efficiency and “livability” of a city and its infrastructure) are looking to increase population density **within** the city, instead of continuing to build outwards.

Without the UGB, much of the farmland and animal habitat around the city would have been converted to suburbs and “urban sprawl”. Sprawl reduces the land left for critters like me to live.

**Expansion of Portland’s UGB Over Time**

The map shows the urban growth boundary’s expansion over time. Where has it grown the most? What are the benefits of an urban growth boundary? What might be some drawbacks?

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Portland is not the only city that has expanded over time. The maps to the left show the growth of Ashland and Medford (Southern Oregon), Pendleton (Eastern Oregon), and Bend (Central Oregon). Use the maps to answer the questions below.

1. Are these cities similar or dissimilar in the ways they have grown? What factors might influence the growth patterns of each of these places?

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2. In what period of time did each city grow the most? Why do you think this is?

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Produced by the Center for Geography Education in Oregon (C-GEO)

Principal Contributors: Teresa Bulman, Morgan Josef, and Gwyneth Manser
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