

The Mini Page

Next Week:
Summer safety

Issue 26, 2026

Founded by Betty Debnam



Wonderful Washington

photo by Walter Siegmund

Along the Pacific Coast of the United States, on the border with British Columbia in Canada, lies Washington state. Our 42nd state joined the Union in 1889. It was named after President George Washington.



Washington history

The Evergreen State has been home to many Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Early people, including the Makah, fished for salmon and hunted whales. People farther from the coast grew crops and hunted for food.

The first Europeans to explore the area were Spaniards. Unfortunately, they brought smallpox with them, and many in the Native American communities died. Later, a British and U.S. agreement allowed American settlers to move into the area. Britain finally gave up its claim to the area in 1846.

Early Washingtonians worked in farming, lumber, fishing, canning and mining. Washington is the leading grower of apples in the U.S., having produced about 8 billion pounds in 2025.

Today, major companies, including Microsoft, Costco, Starbucks and T-Mobile, have their headquarters in Washington.

Washington highlights

The Grand Coulee dam on the Columbia River is the largest concrete structure in the United States and the largest producer of

hydropower in the country.

Washington is home to three large national parks: Olympic, Mount Rainier and North Cascades. The Oregon and Lewis and Clark trails also wind through the state.

The San Juan Islands, which lie off the coast of Washington near the Canadian border, are popular tourist spots, with whale-watching, kayaking and hiking activities.



A lighthouse on San Juan Island

photo by Jim Nik

The state capital is Olympia. About 56,000 people live there. The largest city is Seattle, with about 780,000 people.

Fun in Washington

Do you know anyone who plays pickleball? The sport was invented on Bainbridge Island in Washington in 1965.



Pickleballers at play

photo by Picklepage

Seattle has professional teams in football (Seahawks), baseball (Mariners), soccer (Sounders and Reign) and ice hockey (Kraken).

Washington residents like to explore rainforests, deserts, volcanoes, glaciers, lakes and mountains in the state. Downhill and cross-country skiing are popular in the winter.

Washingtonians to know

• **Dale Chihuly** is a glass artist who was born in Tacoma, Washington, in 1941. His blown-glass sculptures are admired around the world, and his works are exhibited in the Chihuly Garden and Glass museum near the Space Needle in Seattle. Chihuly studied glass-blowing in college and in Murano, Italy.

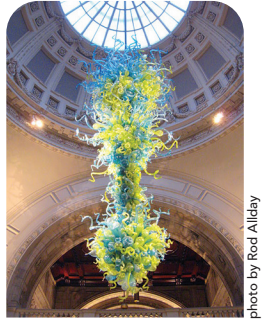


photo by Rod Allsday

This Chihuly chandelier hangs in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

• **Beverly Cleary** (1916-2021) was an author of beloved children's books, including "Henry Huggins," "Ramona the Pest" and "The Mouse and the Motorcycle." Cleary earned a degree in library science from the University of Washington and worked as a children's librarian in Yakima before she started writing her own books.



Beverly Cleary

• **Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Cooper Kupp** was born in 1993 in Yakima. He was named the Super Bowl LVI most valuable player in 2021.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/4tKChpp

At the library:

- "Good Morning, Washington" by SMJ Publishing

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Washington are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



APPLES, CANADA, CHIHULY, CLEARY, COAST, EVERGREEN, FORESTS, KUPP, MAKAH, OLYMPIA, PACIFIC, PICKLEBALL, PRESIDENT, RAINIER, SALMON, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, WHALES.

I T L P Q H P F W E Q P A N E
V N O I K U P P A V Z W D Y B
K E S C W E Y O S E J Y A L L
D D T K H L R A H R P S N U R
A I S L A T A I I G A A A H E
P S E E K T E P N R C L C I I
P E R B A A L M G E I M O H N
L R O A M E C Y T E F O A C I
E P F L V S B L O N I N S G A
S S E L A H W O N R C S T F R

Cook's Corner

Washington Apple Bread

You'll need:

- 2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 apple, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 3 eggs, beaten



What to do:

1. In a large bowl, combine first 6 ingredients. Mix well.
2. In another large bowl, combine remaining ingredients. Mix well.
3. Pour flour mixture into apple mixture. Mix well.
4. Pour into a greased and floured loaf pan. Smooth to make it level.
5. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 1 hour. Serves 4.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. trophy or ribbon (5) _____
2. funny guy (8) _____
3. a little wet (4) _____
4. common (8) _____
5. talk quietly (7) _____
6. Atlantic or Pacific (5) _____
7. tool to look at the stars (9) _____

TEL	MP	OC	OPE
ORD	WHI	PR	DIAN
IZE	RY	EAN	INA
SPER	COME	DA	ESC



Answers: prize, comedian, damp, ordinary, whispers, ocean, telescope.

Mini Jokes



Whitney: Why did the whale blush?

Walt: Because it saw the ocean's bottom!

Wendy: Who designs whale houses?

William: Orca-tects!

Eco Note



At least 151 non-native fish species have been recorded in freshwater and coastal ecosystems across Mediterranean countries, with 106 now firmly established and reproducing in the wild. Researchers report the greatest concentrations in countries such as Italy, Spain and France, where trade, aquaculture and recreational fishing have repeatedly brought in non-native species. The invasion began in 1869 with the opening of the Suez Canal and has been intensified by climate change.



Puffer fish

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your local newspaper for articles about events taking place in Washington.

KidSpot

By Dan Thompson

6-27

Match up

Match a word on the left with a word on the right to make a new word. For example, foot plus ball would be football.

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| Air | top |
| Pony | nail |
| Desk | plane |
| Birth | tail |
| Finger | road |
| Rail | day |



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ANS: 1. AIRPLANE, 2. PONYTAIL, 3. DESKTOP, 4. BIRTHDAY, 5. FINGERNAIL, 6. RAILROAD.