

Oregon Facts and Symbols

Oregon was granted its statehood in 1859. Salem was established as the capital in 1854 and is located in Marion County. Historians say that Oregon was most likely named after the Columbia River, which forms a coastline along the northern border. At one time the Columbia was called the Oregon or Ouragan, which is French for hurricane.

Oregon is the 10th largest state in size and has 36 counties. Total land area is 96,002 square miles. Oregon is 395 miles wide from east to west at the widest point and 295 miles in length from north to south at its longest distance. The state can be divided into three major geographical areas: coastal region, Willamette Valley and High Desert.

The highest point is Mt. Hood at 11,239 feet and the lowest is the Pacific Ocean at sea level. Oregon has approximately 1,773 lakes. Crater Lake is the deepest lake in Oregon and the U.S. at 1,996 feet.

The state seal includes a sheaf of wheat and a plow to represent Oregon's agricultural resources.

State Animal: American Beaver

State Beverage: Milk - Settlers first brought dairy cows into the Tillamook Valley in 1851.

State Bird: Western Meadowlark

State Dance: Square Dance

State Fish: Chinook Salmon - It is the largest of the Pacific salmon and the most highly prized for the fresh fish trade.

State Flower: Oregon Grape

State Fruit: Pear - The pear ranks as the top-selling tree fruit crop in the state and grows particularly well in the Rogue River Valley and along the Columbia River near Mt. Hood.

State Gemstone: Oregon Sunstone

State Insect: Oregon Swallowtail Butterfly

State Mushroom: Pacific Golden Chanterelle

State Nut: Hazelnut - Oregon grows 100% percent of the U. S. commercial crop.

State Rock: Thunderegg - Found mostly in Crook, Jefferson, Malheur, Wasco and Wheeler counties.

State Seashell: Oregon Hairy Triton

State Tree: Douglas-fir - The Douglas-fir is known for its great strength, stiffness and moderate weight. These qualities make it an invaluable timber product said to be stronger than concrete.

National Forests: Deschutes, Fremont, Klamath, Malheur, Mt. Hood, Ochoco, Rogue River, Siskiyou, Siuslaw, Umatilla, Umpqua, Wallowa-Whitman, Willamette, Winema

