Washington is a state in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States located to the south of British Columbia, Canada, and to the north of Oregon state.

The History of Washington includes thousands of years of Native American history before Europeans and Americans arrived and began to establish territorial claims. The region was part of Oregon Territory from 1848 to 1853, after which it was separated from Oregon and established as Washington Territory. It was admitted to the Union as the forty-second state in 1889.

The largest cities in Washington

1 Seattle 617,334

2 Spokane 203,276

3 Tacoma 199,637

4 Vancouver 165,809

5 Bellevue 126,626

Olympia is the capital of Washington

The United States Census Bureau estimated the state's population to be 6,664,195 in 2009.

Almost 60 percent of Washington's residents live in the *Seattle* metropolitan area, the center of transportation, business, and industry.

Washington was named after George Washington, the first President of the United States, and is the only U.S. state named after a president. Washington is commonly called Washington state or occasionally the State of Washington to distinguish it from the U.S. capital (and because its proper name is the State of Washington). However, Washingtonians (residents of Washington) and many residents of neighboring states normally refer to the state simply as "Washington", while usually referring to the nation's capital as "Washington, D.C." or simply "D.C."

The state's nickname "Evergreen" was proposed in 1890 by Charles T. Conover of Seattle. The name proved popular as the forests were full of evergreen trees and the abundance изобилие of rain keeps the shrubbery кустарник and grasses green throughout the year.

There are three National Parks and two National Monuments in Washington:

* Mount Rainier National Park
* North Cascades National Park
* Olympic National Park
* Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument
* Hanford Reach National Monument

Nine national forests are located (at least partly) in Washington

**State symbols**

Bird - Willow Goldfinch Американский щегол

Mammal - Olympic Marmot сурок or Orca Косатка

Flower - Pacific Rhododendron

Fruit - Apple

Washington, My Home is the state song of Washington

While most states have an official motto and nickname, the Washington Legislature never officially adopted either. "Al-ki", meaning "bye and bye" in Chinook Jargon Чинукский жаргон, is the state's unofficial motto

**Economy**

Washington is well-known for several prominent companies, the most notable of which are Microsoft, Boeing, and Starbucks. Monopolies have a long history in the state as Bill Boeing’s namesake company grew from a small airplane company in 1916 to a national aircraft and airline conglomerate of Boeing and United Airlines.

**Some facts**

On May 18, 1980, following a period of heavy tremors толчки and eruptions, the northeast face of Mount St. Helens exploded outward, destroying a large part of the top of the volcano. This eruption flattened разглаживать the forests for many miles, killed 57 people, flooded the Columbia River and its tributaries приток with ash and mud and blanketed large parts of Washington in ash, making day look like night.

Kurt Cobain, the lead singer and guitarist of the band Nirvana, was born in 1967, at Grays Harbor Hospital in Aberdeen, Washington