

# Lesson 12

## A Tour of the West

*What are the features that have drawn people to the West?*



## Introduction

Get ready to visit the West! On this tour, you will stop at several different states, starting in Montana and finishing in Hawaii. Five of the states you will visit touch the Pacific Ocean. Two of them do not share a border with any other state.

You will visit nine stops on this tour. In addition to the Pacific Ocean, some of the stops feature incredible geographical features. Keep an eye out for geysers, gorges, and volcanoes.

Some tour stops also feature key industries in the region. The West has areas with sunny weather, which is perfect for farming and filming. Other areas in the West have lush forests for the lumber industry.

You will also visit places that are important to the region's history. You will encounter historic trails, mining towns, and even see a dog race!

Whenever you visit someplace new, think about two questions: What first attracted people to this place? And why are people still coming here? Keep these questions in mind as you arrive at your first stop in Montana.

Two tourists enjoy the natural beauty of the Columbia River Gorge. It is the largest national scenic area in the United States.

## Vocabulary

expedition

geyser

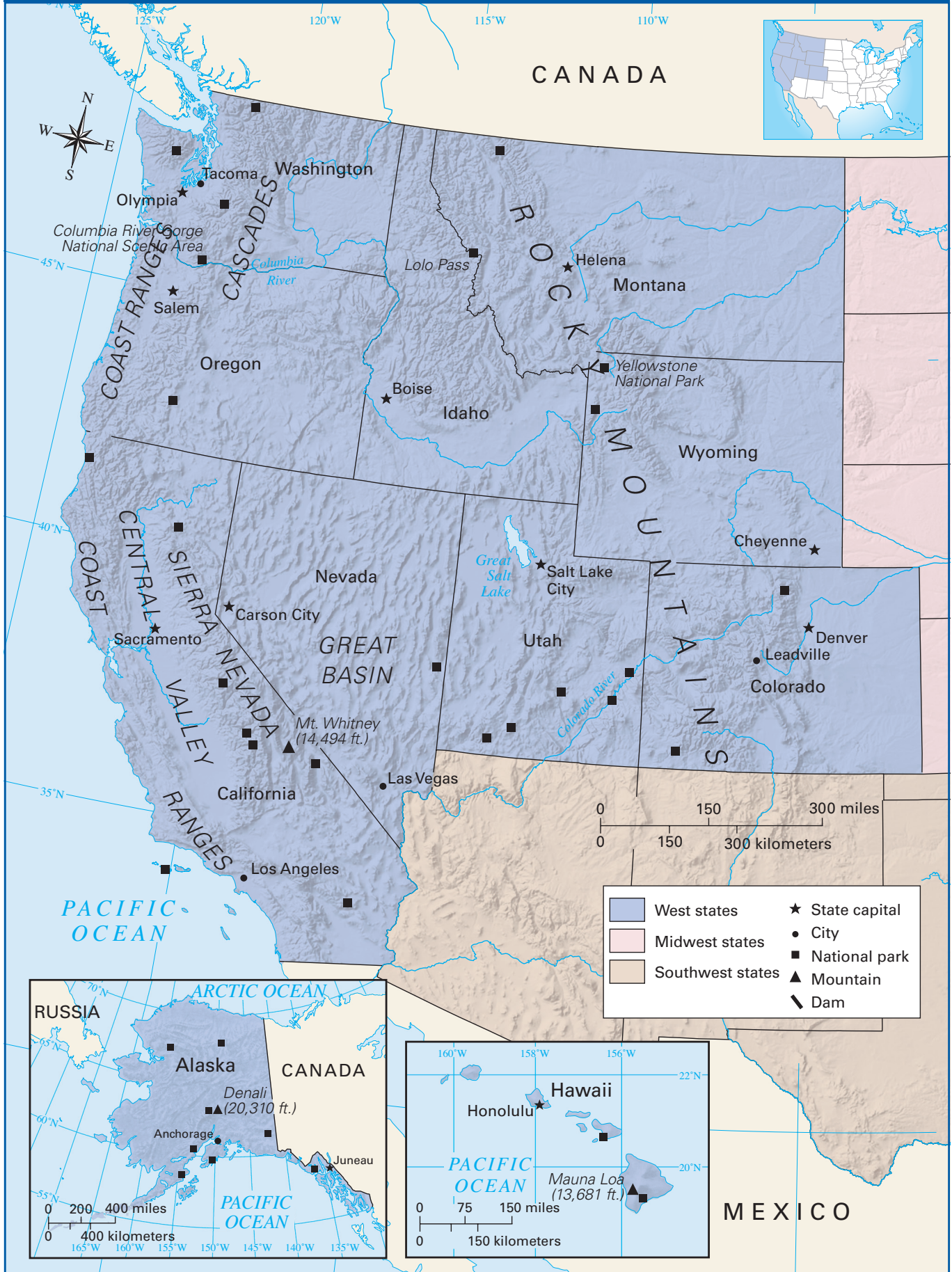
gorge

pass

technology



# The West Region

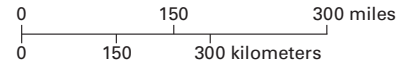
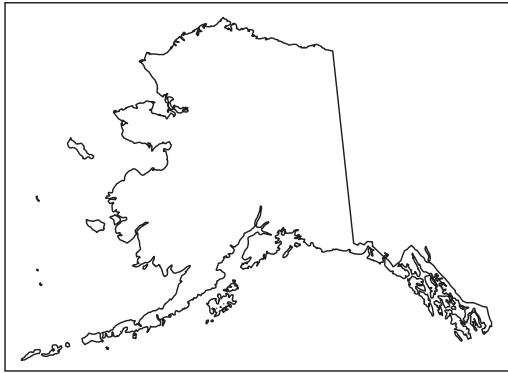


# The West: A Region of Roadways



## Preview Activity

Label this map of the West with the answers to the Geography Challenge questions. Include the number of the Geography Challenge in front of each answer.



## Vocabulary Activity

Activity  
Online

Fill in the blanks with terms from the Word Bank to complete the story.

### Vocabulary Word Bank

expedition

geyser

gorge

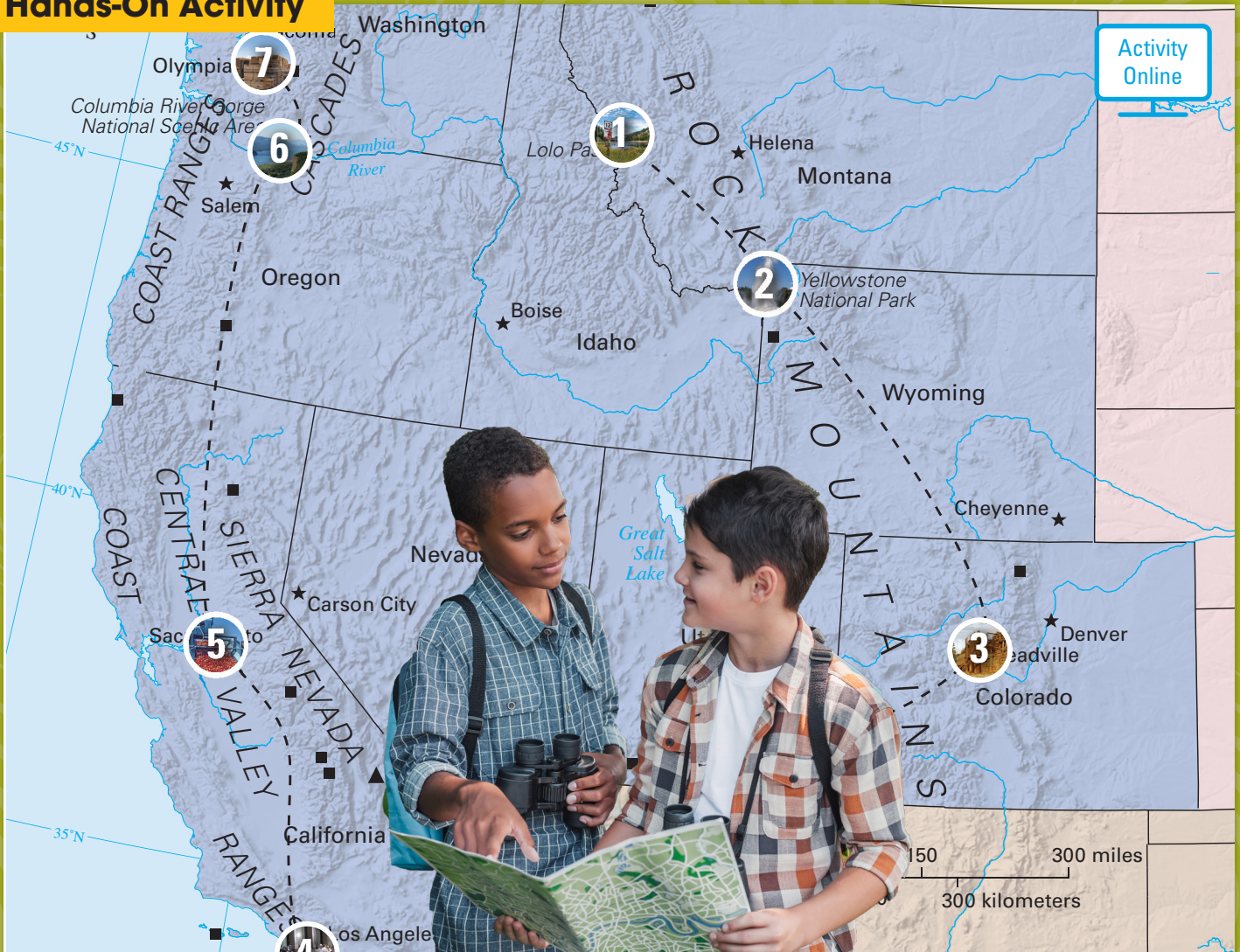
pass

technology



The hikers had a clear goal: to see a \_\_\_\_\_ throwing jets of water and steam into the air at the top of the mountains. So, they planned an \_\_\_\_\_, or a journey with a purpose, to hike through the deep and narrow \_\_\_\_\_ following a \_\_\_\_\_ across the mountains. When they arrived at the mountain's top, they took out their binoculars and maps, the \_\_\_\_\_ they brought with them to meet their needs, to try to find the geyser. There it was! What a magnificent sight it was, billowing steam high into the air. At last, they had found it.

## Hands-On Activity



Complete a scavenger hunt while touring the West, and learn why people are drawn to each location.

### Directions: Tour the West

- 1. With a partner, get ready to explore nine locations in the West.** Start wherever you'd like!
- 2. At your first stop, read through the scavenger hunt clues to answer the questions in your Activity Notes.** Use what you find to label the map.
- 3. Skim the section of text that corresponds with that stop.** Highlight anything that will help you answer the focus question.
- 4. In your Activity Notes, answer the focus question: What features draw people to this area?**
- 5. Repeat Steps 2–4 to complete all nine stops.**



## 1. Lolo Pass, Montana: A Stop on the Lewis and Clark Trail

The first stop is Lolo Pass in the Rocky Mountains. A **pass** is a route across mountains. In 1805, a group of 33 very hungry travelers crossed this pass.

The travelers were part of an **expedition**, or a journey with a purpose, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. They had help from a Shoshone woman named Sacagawea, who served as a guide. The expedition had two goals. Their first goal was to find an all-water route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. The travelers failed to achieve this goal because such a route does not exist.

Their second goal was to explore the lands west of the Mississippi. Lewis and Clark achieved this goal very well. Their maps and journals gave Americans a first good look at the region we now call the West.

When Lewis and Clark reached Lolo Pass, they were almost out of food. All they had left was a soup mix. The men survived by eating candles, bear oil, and two of their horses.

Today, people come to this part of Montana to hike and fish. Some come to follow the Lewis and Clark Trail to the Pacific. Luckily for these travelers, they don't have to eat candles or that awful soup to survive.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail follows the path of the explorers and their historic trip.



## 2. Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park

Lewis and Clark saw a lot of sights on their expedition, but they missed the **geysers** of Yellowstone National Park. A geyser is a spring that shoots hot water and steam into the air.

Geysers are “nature’s teakettles.” Water is heated deep inside the Earth. When the water gets hot enough, it hisses and boils, just like a teakettle on a stove. What happens when this boiling water reaches Earth’s surface? It shoots into the air.

There are about 10,000 hot springs, mud volcanoes, steam vents, and geysers in Yellowstone. A geyser named Old Faithful erupts in a cloud of steam about every 90 minutes.

Fur trappers were some of the first Americans to see Yellowstone. They told stories of steaming springs and erupting geysers. Later on, a photographer took pictures of the geysers. People were impressed with the photographs. Many people wanted to protect the geysers and the beautiful land from development. In 1872, the U.S. government created Yellowstone National Park to do just that. It was the first national park in the world.

Only 300 people visited Yellowstone the year it became a park. But today, Yellowstone is very popular. More than 3 million people come to Wyoming to visit the park each year. Visitors enjoy the beauty of Yellowstone’s mountains and meadows.

Yellowstone National Park was created to protect geysers like Old Faithful and land from development. This was the birth of the U.S. national park system.





Leadville, Colorado, was once a booming mining town. This wooden entrance leads to a mine under a hillside.

### 3. Leadville, Colorado: The West's Richest Silver Mining Town

Welcome to historic Leadville, Colorado. Look ahead and you'll see the entrance to an old mine.

Leadville sits high in the Rocky Mountains. At nearly 10,200 feet, it is one of our country's highest cities. In the past, it was also the West's wildest and richest silver mining town.

Miners first came to this area looking for gold. They found some. Soon, however, gold became harder to find. In the 1870s, people began to take a closer look at that pesky sand that filled the area. Guess what they found? The sand was rich in both lead and silver!

The discovery of silver brought good times to Leadville. The city grew rapidly as miners flocked to the area. Then, in 1893, the silver boom ended. For a time, it looked as though Leadville would become an empty ghost town.

But Leadville was lucky because other valuable minerals were found in this area. One is molybdenum, a metal used to make high-strength steel. The town survived.

Today, Leadville is a tourist center. Some people come to learn about the history of this rich mining area. Others come to ski in winter or fish and hike in summer.

## 4. Sunny Southern California's Movie Industry

Watch your step! Look down at your feet and you will see stars set into the sidewalk. You are walking down Hollywood Boulevard. On this street, special movie, television, and music stars are honored with a star and their names placed in the sidewalk. You're in Los Angeles, California, and Hollywood Boulevard is one of the most famous streets in the world.

Moviemaking is a giant industry in Southern California. America's first movies were made in the Northeast. But moviemakers needed sunny days to film outdoors, and the Northeast is often cloudy and rainy. A few moviemakers found the sunshine they needed in Southern California. Others soon followed.

Today, thousands of people in Southern California work in the movie industry as writers, actors, set designers, and directors. Many more people work in jobs that help the movie industry. Some of these workers make costumes and equipment. Other workers provide important services such as transportation, food, and construction.

Each year, millions of tourists visit Southern California and enjoy its warm, sunny weather. Many of these tourists tour the movie studios, hoping to bump into a movie star!



Movie-making is a major industry in Southern California. Directors, actors, and camera operators are just some of the workers needed to make a movie.

## 5. California's Central Valley: America's Salad Bowl

Do you snack on raisins? Spread strawberry jam on your toast? Look around you. Those foods probably came from California's Central Valley.

The Central Valley is shaped like a long bathtub. The sides are formed by mountain ranges, and the bottom is covered with deep, rich soil. Summers here are long and warm.

Does this sound like a good place to farm? It is, but there is a problem. Almost no rain falls during the growing season.

California has tried to solve this problem by building dams on rivers that flow down from the mountains. In winter, water collects behind the dams. In the summer, farmers use this water to irrigate crops.

Irrigation turned the Central Valley into what people call "America's salad bowl." Farmers here grow more than 250 crops, many of them fruits and vegetables. You probably eat some of them every day.

The Central Valley is also important for the development of farming **technology**. Technology is the use of tools and ideas to meet people's needs. Scientists here have invented many machines to help farmers pick their crops. One is a tomato-picking machine. This technology must be gentle so it doesn't crush the tomatoes.

Two major industries of the California Central Valley are farming and the development of farming technology. Here, farmers use a machine to sort many tomatoes at one time.





The Columbia River created a beautiful gorge with steep valley walls. The river is a source of transportation and electrical power for the people of Oregon and Washington.

## 6. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

You have reached the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. A **gorge** is a deep, narrow valley with steep walls. The Columbia River cut this beautiful gorge out of rock.

The Columbia River begins in the Rocky Mountains in Canada. It flows 1,200 miles south and west into the Pacific Ocean. For part of its journey, the river forms the boundary between the states of Washington and Oregon.

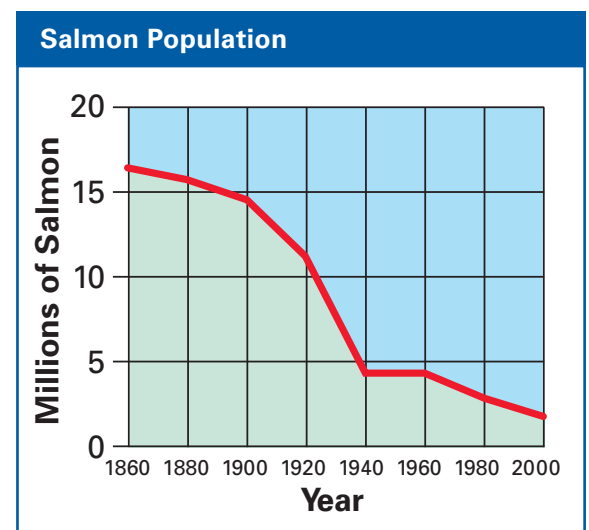
The Columbia looks lazy here, but don't let that fool you. This is one hardworking river. Dams on the river make a lot of electricity that is used by businesses and homes. And farmers use water from the river to irrigate crops. Columbia River waters irrigate more than 5 million acres of land.

Farmers and businesspeople use the river for transportation. Many goods travel on the Columbia to shipping centers. It is one of the most traveled rivers in the country.

Putting the river to work has been good for people. Both Oregon and Washington are growing rapidly. But the use of the river has been bad for fish—especially salmon.

Since 1850, the number of salmon in the Columbia River has dropped sharply. Do you know why? You'll find out during our stop at the gorge.

The salmon population has been declining in the Columbia River since the mid-1800s.





## 7. Forests of Tacoma, Washington

Welcome to Tacoma, Washington. Tacoma was founded 150 years ago as a logging town. Back then, vast forests attracted loggers and lumbermen to this region. A wood products industry quickly grew that produced lumber, cardboard, and paper. Most of these products that were used in our country came from the West.

To get lumber, you have to cut down trees. By 1880, people feared the timber companies would destroy all the forests. The U.S. government stepped in. An 1891 law set aside public land to preserve the forests in the West. These lands are called national forests.

What's the difference between a national park and a national forest? National parks preserve the land. The Forest Service manages our national forests. This can include a limited amount of activities such as logging, grazing, and mining.

Together, timber companies and the government managed forests with protection in mind. As old trees were cut, new trees were planted.

The wood products industry is still important to Washington and Tacoma. And people still come to Washington because of its forests. Now, they also come to enjoy the protected evergreen trees. They hike, camp, ski, and learn about nature.

The forests of Washington brought lumberjacks to the state. Demand for lumber and paper developed a wood products industry.

## 8. Anchorage, Alaska: Starting Point of the Iditarod Trail

You are in Anchorage, Alaska. Alaska is by far the largest of the 50 states, yet it has one of the smallest populations of any state. Can you guess why?

One reason is its chilly climate. Alaska is farther from the equator than any other state. This makes parts of Alaska very cold.

People have been attracted to Alaska because of its resources. In 1898, gold was discovered near the town of Nome. Within two years, Nome grew to more than 20,000 people. Another rush of people came in the 1960s, when oil was discovered in northern Alaska.

Today, many people come to Alaska to enjoy its open spaces and outdoor activities. A favorite sport here is dogsled racing. Alaskans used to depend on dogsleds to get around in winter. Now, they use airplanes, snowmobiles, and cars.

The most famous dogsled race is the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, held each year in March. The Iditarod Trail begins right here in Anchorage and ends more than 1,000 miles away in Nome. Many teams of dogs and their human mushers, or drivers, cover that distance in an amazing 9 to 12 days. No wonder Alaskans call this event the “Last Great Race on Earth.”

The Iditarod Trail in Alaska runs between Anchorage and Nome. Mushers and their dogsled teams race this trail every year.



## 9. Honolulu, Hawaii: A Tourist Paradise

Step out of the airplane into the warm sunshine. You have just flown from our country's coldest state to one of its warmest, Hawaii. Hawaii lies closer to the equator than any other U.S. state. Its climate is sunny and warm all year round.

Look at beautiful Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii. Honolulu is the state capital. Tourists from all over the world enjoy this sunny beach. Tourism is Hawaii's most important industry, but it wasn't always such a big deal.

For hundreds of years, native Hawaiian people had established communities on the Hawaiian islands. They built boats to catch fish, raised animals, and grew plants, such as taro and breadfruit. They also developed a dance form called hula. Many tourists today enjoy watching modern versions of the hula dance.



The state of Hawaii is a series of separate islands easily seen from an airplane.

Thousands of tourists enjoy swimming, surfing, and sailing at Waikiki Beach each year. Tourism is Hawaii's number one industry.







In the late 1700s, Europeans and Americans arrived on the islands. They created many plantations to raise sugarcane. Hawaii's sugar planters needed lots of workers for their plantations. Those workers came from China, Japan, the Philippines, Portugal, and other countries.

Hawaii is always changing. Its islands are made from volcanoes. Volcanic activity can change the land or even form new islands. Tourists can see volcanoes at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. This national park is found on Hawaii's biggest island and is home to two active volcanoes, Kilauea and Mauna Loa.

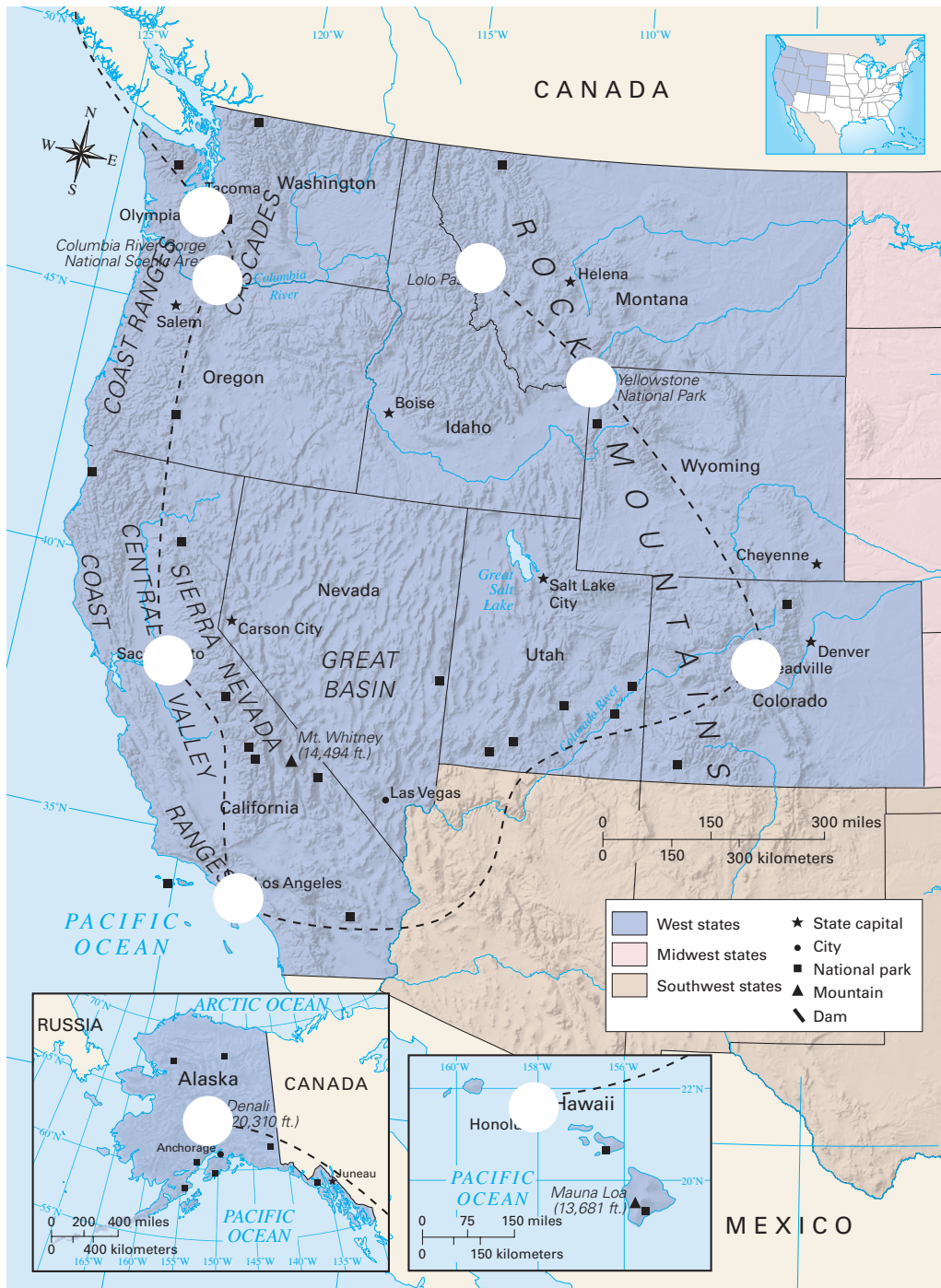
A hundred years ago, growing sugarcane was the main industry of the Hawaiian Islands. Sugarcane is still grown today.

## Hands-On Activity Notes

Activity  
Online

At each stop of your tour of the West:

1. Click on one of the stops on the map online. Explore the scavenger hunt clues.
2. Match one of the clues to a question in the first column. Answer it.
3. Map the answer by labeling the stop with the corresponding letter.
4. Skim the corresponding text section to help you answer the focus question: What features draw people to this area?
5. Record your answer to the focus question in the second column.



## Scavenger Hunt Questions

A. What city was named after the Native American name for the water from Mt. Rainer? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Where did the Nez Perce people pass through on their way to the Great Plains? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Where can you find a team of 16 dogs all wearing booties?  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Where can you find feral pigs and the largest volcano on Earth?  
\_\_\_\_\_

E. What river is known as “Great River” to the Native American people in the area? \_\_\_\_\_

F. Where do millions of migrant workers help harvest produce?  
\_\_\_\_\_

G. Where can you visit the Tabor Opera House?  
\_\_\_\_\_

H. Where did Lincoln Perry rise to fame?  
\_\_\_\_\_

I. Where can you find waterfalls, snow, geysers, and a large volcano?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## What Draws People to This Area


## Summary

On this tour, you visited nine places in the West. You began high in the Rocky Mountains and ended up on Waikiki Beach. Along the way, you saw eight states.

Remember the questions when you began this tour: What first attracted people to the West? And why are people still coming here?

People first came to the West in search of adventure, opportunity, and sunshine. The West had beautiful places to explore. It had valuable natural resources, such as gold, silver, oil, and lumber. And, it had a climate that attracted farmers and moviemakers.

People still come to the West for adventure, opportunity, and sunshine. The adventures have changed. People now hike and ski in the region where Lewis and Clark once almost starved. The opportunities have changed, too. Today, there are many jobs in the tourism and entertainment industries.

### Show What You Know



Choose your favorite stop on the tour of the West. Research the area to learn about other attractions there. Write about three new things you learned about the area and why people might want to visit.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Nominate Your State

We are all proud of our states. Each state has unique places to visit and special events. What is special about your state? What reasons can you give to help your state win a contest for the Best State in the Nation?

Start by learning about the most popular tourist attractions in the state. These are the places where visitors like to go. There are many websites and books with this information. For example, if you live in Kentucky, there is a website at [www.KentuckyTourism.com](http://www.KentuckyTourism.com). No matter what you are interested in, there's a place for you! There are Mammoth Cave National Park, the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Park, and the Muhammad Ali Center. Most tourist places have a website that tells you things to do and see, and places to eat and stay.

Read about your state's tourist spots. Take notes about the features that excite you. If you want opinions about a place, you can look on travel-advice websites. These give opinions from people who have visited the places. Remember that one person may complain about a tourist attraction and another may call the same place "super fun."

Find photos of your favorite tourist spots. Paste them into a digital presentation document, or print and paste them on a blank poster.

Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky. A model of his family's log cabin is inside this building at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Park.



## Kentucky State Symbols



**Flag**



**Bird: Cardinal**



**Horse: Thoroughbred**



**Flower: Goldenrod**

### Celebrations and Symbols

Now, find sources that talk about special celebrations in your state. In Kentucky, you might learn about a Daniel Boone Festival by searching for its website on the internet. The website has separate pages that describe the festival's date, events, history, and location.

What special celebrations are in your state? Add photos and information about these celebrations to your presentation.

Finally, find the symbols of your state. Symbols are state birds, flowers, and other state favorites. An encyclopedia is a good source for this information. Look up the state, and you will likely find pictures of the state symbols. Your state's website may also have this information. Once you find them, print or draw pictures of your state symbols.

Now, make a presentation for your classmates about why your state deserves to be named Best State in the Nation. Include information and pictures of fun and interesting tourist spots and celebrations. Be sure to also highlight your state's symbols.

Here are some of the state symbols of Kentucky.