

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

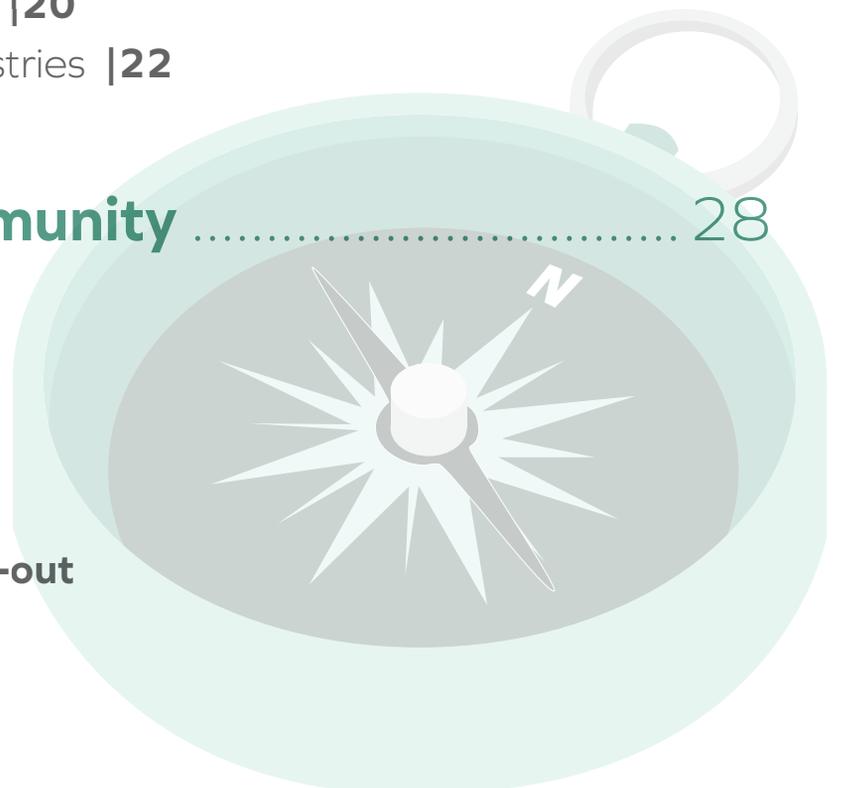
STUDENT BOOK

▶ **3rd Grade** | Unit 9

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 309

PACIFIC STATES

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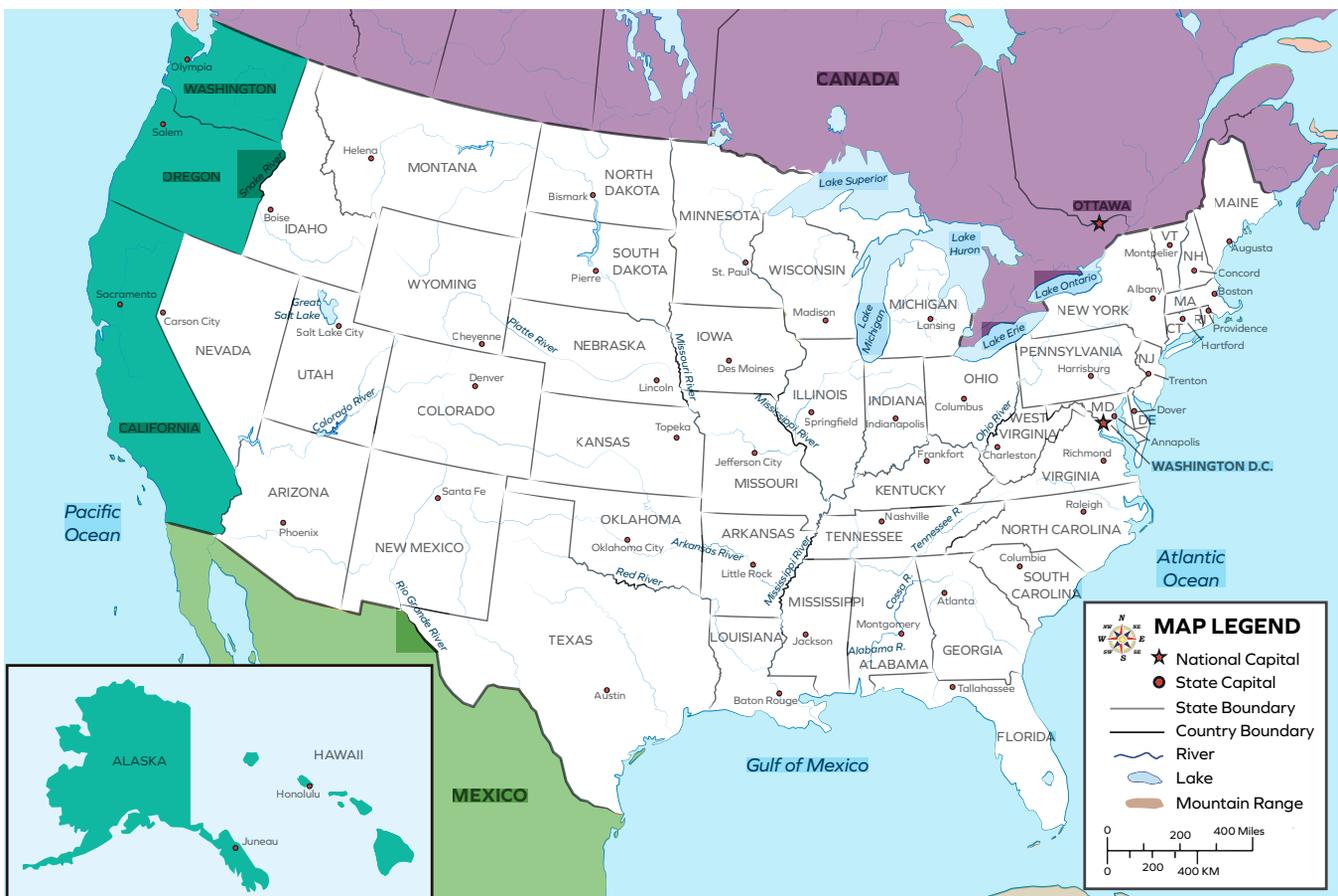
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PACIFIC STATES

Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, and Hawaii

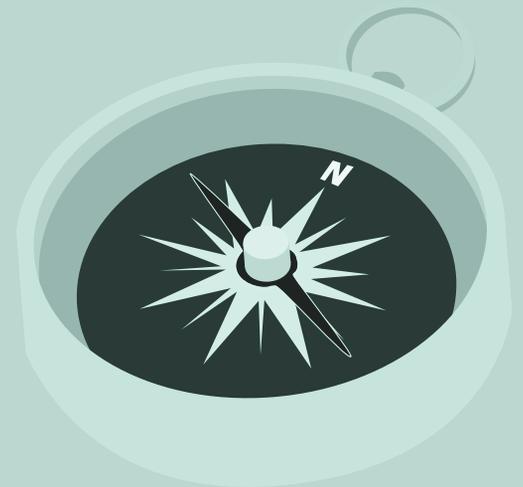
The final region of the United States you will study is the Pacific states. These five states are all located along the Pacific Ocean. Washington, Oregon, and California are the western border of the lower 48 states. Alaska lies to the north and Hawaii to the southwest. These states have abundant and varied natural resources. As you study this LIFEPAK®, you will learn more about the geography, history, and people of these states.



Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Locate the Pacific states.
2. Know the geography of the Pacific states.
3. List natural resources found in the Pacific states.
4. State the types of businesses and employers found in the Pacific region.
5. Know some of the settlers of the Pacific states.
6. Recognize the importance of the computer industry in the Pacific states.
7. Identify the pastimes of the people living in the Pacific states.



1. PACIFIC GEOGRAPHY

You will begin this LIFEPAC by studying the geography of the Pacific states. You will learn the names of some of the Pacific states' land features. You will also learn the names of the Pacific states' major cities. The location of these states impacts the types of food people grow, the places they live, and the activities they do.

Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Locate the Pacific states.
2. Know the geography of the Pacific states.

Vocabulary

Study these new words. Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAC.

aurora borealis (ə-rôr' ə, ə-rôr' ə bôr'ē-ăl'is, bôr'-). Also known as the northern lights; a colorful display of lights in the northern sky.

dormant (dôr'mənt). Inactive.

lava (lä'və, läv'ə). Hot, volcanic rock that reaches the earth's surface.

magma (mäg'mə). The material under the earth's surface which forms rock.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /FH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

Ask your teacher to say these vocabulary words with you.

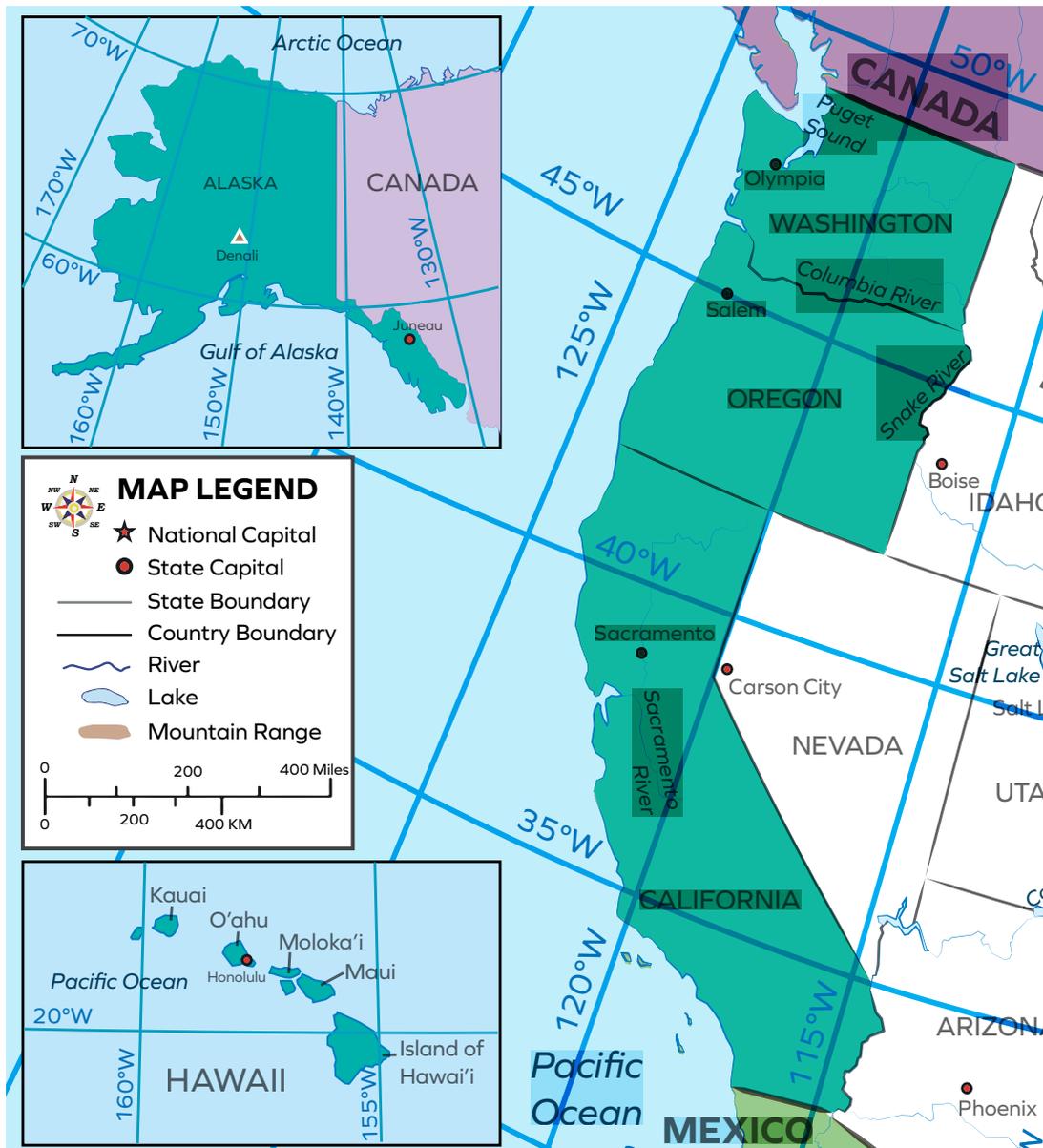


Teacher check:

Initials _____ Date _____

States in the Pacific Region

Before you study the Pacific states, look at the map below. The map will introduce you to the Pacific area.



**Answer the questions based on the map of the Pacific Region.**

- 1.1** List the capitals of the Pacific states:
- a. Washington _____
 - b. Oregon _____
 - c. California _____
 - d. Alaska _____
 - e. Hawaii _____
- 1.2** What line of longitude forms the border between Nevada and northeast California? _____
- 1.3** In what state is the Sacramento River located? _____
- 1.4** Puget Sound is located in what state? _____
- 1.5** What river forms the border between Oregon and Washington?

- 1.6** What state is made up of a series of islands? _____
- 1.7** What country borders Alaska? _____
- 1.8** What ocean is north of Alaska? _____
- 1.9** In what ocean is the state of Hawaii located? _____
- 1.10** What country is south of California? _____
- 1.11** In what state is Denali located?

Geographical Features

The Pacific states cover a wide area of geography. They stretch from the Arctic Ocean in Alaska to the middle of the Pacific Ocean in Hawaii. One thing all of the states share in common is their coastline along the Pacific Ocean. They are also all located in what is known as the Pacific Rim of Fire. This geographical area is formed by a ring of hundreds of volcanoes, both in the ocean and on land.



The Pacific Rim of Fire follows the coastline of the Pacific Ocean. It travels along the coasts of New Zealand, China, Japan, North America, and South America. The Hawaiian Islands are generally considered a part of this area as well. About 90 percent of the world's earthquakes are located in this area. Also, most of the world's active volcanoes are located here.

Volcanoes occur where there is an opening in the earth's surface. When a volcano erupts, **magma** from beneath the earth reaches the surface. Once magma has reached the surface, it's called **lava**. Lava is extremely hot and flows down the sides of a mountain. When exposed to cooler air, lava hardens. In 1980, Mt. St. Helens in Washington erupted. Ash from the mountain filled the air and the flowing lava destroyed forests and homes in its path. Mt. St. Helens became 1,300 feet shorter after it erupted. Hawaii is home to many volcanoes. Most are **dormant**, meaning they haven't erupted for thousands of years. Mauna Loa is the world's most active volcano. It erupts about every four years. Kilauea is another active volcano in Hawaii. It is the easiest to reach and has been erupting continuously for over 20 years. Alaska is another area with many volcanoes. Alaska alone has more than 50 volcanoes which have erupted since 1760. Denali in Alaska is the highest mountain in North America. It was not formed by a volcano but by strong pressures that caused the land to rise, most likely during the Flood.

The Pacific states are also the location of most of the earthquakes in the United States. An earthquake occurs when material far below the earth's surface shifts. There are certain places across the world known as fault lines. There is an 810 mile fault line stretching the length of California. This is known as the San Andreas Fault. When an earthquake



| Mt. St. Helens erupting in 1980.

happens, the earth's energy is released. The ground begins to shake and crack. The Richter scale is used to measure the strength of an earthquake. An earthquake below the number three is often not felt. Earthquakes above a seven can cause great damage. During an earthquake this strong, buildings may collapse and roads become damaged. Many communities along the Pacific Rim of Fire try to make sure the buildings in their area can withstand an earthquake.



| San Andreas Fault



Fill in the blank.

- 1.12** About 90 percent of the world's _____ occur within the Pacific Rim of Fire.
- 1.13** Mt. St. Helens and Mauna Loa are the names of _____.
- 1.14** The _____ scale measures the strength of an earthquake.
- 1.15** The San Andreas Fault is located in the state of _____.

Weather

The Pacific Ocean influences the weather in the region. Oregon and Washington have cold, wet winters because of moisture coming from the Pacific Ocean. In the summer, the weather is drier and mild. Northern California has weather similar to that of Oregon and Washington. The weather in southern California is warmer year round. The hottest temperature ever recorded in the United States was 134°F on July 10, 1913, in Death Valley, California.



| Death Valley, California

As you can imagine, the weather in Hawaii is very different from the weather in the other states in the region. The state of Hawaii is farther south than any other state. Hawaii is warm year round. Ocean breezes keep the island temperatures comfortable. Temperatures average between 80° and 85°F throughout the year.



| A Hawaiian beach

You might be surprised to learn that the weather in southeastern Alaska is similar to that of Washington.

The Pacific Ocean makes the weather mild. However, most of Alaska is cool during the summer and cold year round. The coldest temperature in the United States was recorded on January 23, 1971, in Prospect Creek Camp, Alaska, at -80°F.

The **aurora borealis** is a unique weather feature that can be seen in Alaska and other northern states. Another name for aurora borealis is the northern lights. The northern lights are seen by people living closer to the North Pole. There are also the southern lights close to the South Pole. The northern lights occur



| Aurora borealis (northern lights)

because of reactions between the sun's energy and the earth's atmosphere. The northern lights appear as glowing curtains above the earth. They are constantly moving rivers of light. Generally the lights appear as green or yellow. Rarely do the northern lights appear red. The northern lights are best seen in Alaska and northern Canada. They can also be seen in the northern United States. The aurora borealis are not harmful. However, they can disrupt satellite communication as well as radio and television broadcasts.

**Answer true or false.**

- 1.16 _____ The aurora borealis are also called the northern lights.
- 1.17 _____ The hottest temperature recorded in the United States was in Hawaii.
- 1.18 _____ The weather in southeastern Alaska is similar to that of Washington state.
- 1.19 _____ The temperatures in Hawaii are extremely hot in the day and very cold at night.

**Teacher check:**

Initials _____ Date _____



For this Self Test, study what you have read and done. The Self Test will check what you remember.

SELF TEST 1

Each answer = 1 point

Choose the correct answer.

- 1.01** The capital of Washington is _____ .
 a. Olympia b. Sacramento c. Juneau
- 1.02** About 90 percent of all _____ occur in the Pacific Rim of Fire.
 a. volcanoes b. floods c. earthquakes
- 1.03** Which of the following is NOT the name of a volcano?
 _____ .
 a. Mt. St. Helens b. Mauna Loa c. Denali
- 1.04** The San Andreas Fault is found in _____ .
 a. Oregon b. California c. Hawaii
- 1.05** Alaska touches both the Arctic and _____ Oceans.
 a. Atlantic b. Pacific c. Indian

Answer true or false.

- 1.06** _____ The state of Hawaii is located in the Pacific Ocean.
- 1.07** _____ The aurora borealis can be seen best in Alaska as well as in the northern United States.
- 1.08** _____ The Richter scale is used to measure volcanoes.
- 1.09** _____ The weather in eastern Alaska and Hawaii is similar.
- 1.010** _____ More than 50 volcanoes erupt in Alaska each year.

Fill in the blank.

- 1.011** The state directly north of California is _____ .
- 1.012** The coldest temperature recorded in the United States was at Prospect Creek, _____ .
- 1.013** The hottest temperature in the United States was recorded at Death Valley, _____ .
- 1.014** When a volcano erupts, hot _____ flows down the side of the volcano.
- 1.015** _____ in Washington became 1,300 feet shorter after it erupted.

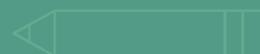
**Teacher check:**

Score _____

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Date _____





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