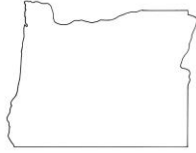


Oregon



Origin of Name: The first written record of the name "Oregon" comes to us from a 1765 proposal for a journey written by Major Robert Rogers, an English army officer. It reads, "The rout... is from the Great Lakes towards the Head of the Mississippi, and from thence to the River called by the Indians Ouragon. ..." The first printed use of the current spelling appeared in Captain Jonathan Carver's 1778 book, "Travels Through the Interior Parts of North America 1766, 1767 and 1768."

State Seal



The Oregon seal was adopted as the last official act of the legislature in 1857. Its significance is as follows: 1859 is the year of Oregon's admission into the Union; the 33 stars represent Oregon was the 33rd state to enter the Union; an eagle denotes peace through strength; mountains, an elk, a wagon, the Pacific Ocean, a sheaf of wheat, a pick-axe, and a plow are all symbols of Oregon and the pioneers; the British

Man of War ship is leaving Oregon's shore while an American Steamer comes toward Oregon's shore representing that Oregon has never been fully dominated or governed by a foreign power.

State Flag



The design for the Oregon flag was officially adopted in 1925 and is the only state flag in the US that has a design on both sides. One sign depicts a shield from the state seal supported by 33 stars. "State of Oregon" appears in large letters across the top of the flag with "1859" at the bottom. The other side of the flag shows a beaver. The flag is blue and gold, the Oregon State colors.



State Motto

"She Flies With Her Own Wings"

"She Flies With Her Own Wings" was adopted by the 1987 Legislature as the state motto. The phrase originated with Judge Jessie Quinn Thornton and was pictured on the territorial seal in Latin: *Alis Volat Propiis*. The new motto replaces "The Union," which was adopted in 1957.

State Animal



The American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) was named Oregon state animal by the 1969 Legislature. Prized for its fur, the beaver was over-trapped by early settlers and eliminated from much of its original range. Through proper management and partial protection, the beaver has been reestablished in watercourses throughout the state and remains an important economic asset. The beaver has been referred to as "nature's engineer," and its dam-building activities are important to natural water flow and erosion control. Oregon is known as the "Beaver State."

State Bird



The Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) was chosen state bird in 1927 by Oregon's school children in a poll sponsored by the Oregon Audubon Society. Native throughout western North America, the bird has brown plumage with buff and black markings. Its underside is bright yellow with a black crescent on the breast; its outer tail feathers are mainly white. The Western Meadowlark is known for its distinctive and beautiful song.

State Fish



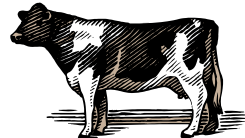
The Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), also known as spring, king and tye salmon, is the largest of the Pacific salmon and the most highly prized for the fresh fish trade. Declared state fish by the 1961 Oregon Legislature, the Chinook Salmon is found from southern California to the Canadian Arctic. Record catches of 53 inches and 126 pounds have been reported.

State Flower



The Legislature designated the Oregon Grape (*Berberis aquifolium*) as the Oregon state flower by resolution in 1899. A low growing plant, the Oregon Grape is native to much of the Pacific Coast and is found sparsely east of the Cascades. The plant bears dainty yellow flowers in early summer and a dark blue berry that ripens late in the fall. The fruit can be used in cooking.

State Beverage



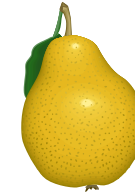
The official state beverage, milk, was adopted in the 1997 by the legislature. It was chosen because the manufacture of dairy products is an important part of Oregon's economy.

State Insect



In 1979 the Legislature designated the Oregon Swallowtail (*Papilio oregonius*) as Oregon's official insect. A true native of the Northwest, the Oregon Swallowtail is at home in the lower sagebrush canyons of the Columbia River and its tributaries. This strikingly beautiful butterfly, predominantly yellow, is a wary, strong flier not easily captured.

State Fruit



Pears (*Pyrus Communis*) grow along the banks for the Columbia River, in the valleys beneath Mt. Hood, and in the Rogue River Valley in southern Oregon. Oregon's mild climate allows growers to produce both summer and winter pears. The most common varieties are the Comice, Anjou, Bosc, and Bartlett. The 73rd Legislative Assembly made the pear Oregon's state fruit in 2005.

State Fossil



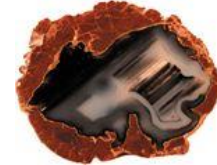
The Metasequoia (Dawn Redwood) was designated as the state fossil by House Joint Resoluion 3 in 2005. Though found abundantly in Oregon's fossil record and believed to be extinct, living examples of this unique tree were discovered in a remote area of China over 50 years ago. Today, a Dawn Redwood adorns Willson Park on the Capitol grounds. The Metasequoia is a unique needle-bearing tree that has distinctive green foliage.

State Gemstone



The 1987 Legislature designated the Oregon sunstone as the official state gemstone. Uncommon in its composition, clarity, and colors, it is a large, brightly colored transparent gem in the feldspar family. The Oregon sunstone attracts collectors and miners to Oregon.

State Rock



The Thunder-egg (geode) was named state rock by the 1965 Legislature after rockhounds throughout Oregon voted it first choice. Thunder-eggs range in diameter from less than one inch to over four feet. Nondescript on the outside, they reveal exquisite designs in a wide range of colors when cut and polished. They are found chiefly in Crook, Jefferson, Malheur, Wasco and Wheeler counties.

State Crustacean



The 2009 Legislature designated the Dungeness crab as the official state crustacean. The action followed petitioning by the 4th grade class of Sunset Primary School in West Linn.

State Nut



The hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) was named state nut by the 1989 Legislature. Oregon grows 99 percent of the entire U.S. commercial crop. The Oregon hazelnut, unlike wild varieties, grows on single-trunked trees up to 30 or 40 feet tall. Because they add a unique texture and flavor to recipes and products,

hazelnuts are preferred by chefs, bakers, confectioners, and food manufacturers.

State Dance



In 1977 the Legislature declared the Square Dance to be the official state dance. The dance is a combination of various steps and figures danced with four couples grouped in a square. The pioneer origins of the dance and the characteristic dress are deemed to reflect Oregon's heritage; the lively spirit of the dance exemplifies the friendly, free nature and enthusiasm that are a part of the Oregon Character.

Mother of Oregon



Honored by the 1987 Legislature as Mother of Oregon, Tabitha Moffatt Brown "represents the distinctive pioneer heritage and the charitable and compassionate nature of Oregon's people." At 66 years of age, she financed her own wagon for the trip from Missouri to Oregon. The boarding school for orphans that she established later became known as Tualatin Academy and eventually was chartered as Pacific University.

Father of Oregon



The 1957 Legislature bestowed upon Dr. John McLoughlin the honorary title of "Father of Oregon" in recognition of his great contributions to the early development of the Oregon Country. Dr. McLoughlin originally came to the Northwest region in 1824 as a representative of the Hudson's Bay Company.

State Song

Words by J.A. Buchanan

Music by Henry B. Murtagh

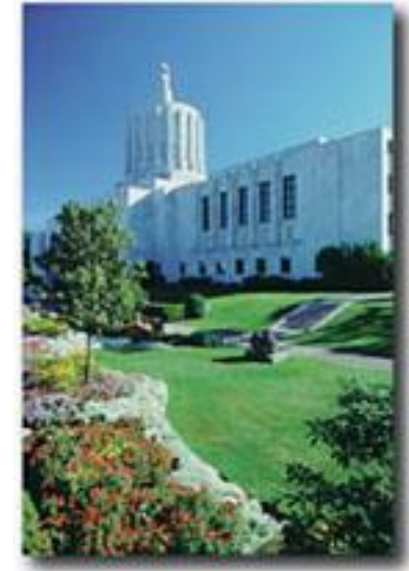
Marcia "Oregon, My Oregon" *mf*

Land of the
Land of the

Empire Builders, Land of the Gold-en West; Con- quered and held by free men,
rose and sunshine, Land of the sum-mer's breeze; Lad- en with health and vigor,

Fair- est and the best. On-ward and up-ward ev- er, Forward and on, and
FRESH from the Western seas. Blest by the blood of mar- tyrs, Land of the set-ting

on; Hail to thee, Land of He- roes, My O- re- gon.
sun; Hail to thee, Land of Prom- ise, My O- re- gon.



Symbols of Oregon

Visitor Services
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

