



WASHINGTON STATE SYMBOLS

Lynnwood Elementary 4th Grade students

WA, USA

Places and Perspectives Spring 2017

Washington State Seal



The first State Seal was designed in 1889 by a jeweler named Charles Talcott. He made the first state seal using a silver dollar, an ink bottle and a postage stamp.

Washington State Flag



- ▣ The state flag is green with the state seal in the middle. The state is named after our first president George Washington.

State Bird: Yellow Goldfinch



Male American goldfinch (willow goldfinch) photo by Dan Dzurisin on [Flickr](#) -

The goldfinch is a little bird with a yellow body and black wings. The color are not as bright in the the winter. It is interesting to note that the Legislature decided to leave the final choice to school children. In 1951, children voted for the goldfinch and the Legislature made it unanimous.

STATE FLOWER: COAST RHODODENDRON



Coast rhododendron flowers- photo by Jeanne Roe on [Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/jeanne_roe/) - noncommercial use permitted with attribution / share alike

The coast rhododendron was officially designated as the Washington state flower in 1959. But it was actually selected as the state flower in 1892 by the women of Washington for the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. The coast rhododendron is found mostly near the Pacific coast, but it can also be found in the Cascade Mountains in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. There are many kinds of rhododendron in Washington state.

State Tree: Western Hemlock



Western hemlock trees in Olympic National Park, Washington - photo by Tom Green on [Flickr](#)

State Tree *Western Hemlock*

In 1946, an Oregon newspaper teased Washington for not having a state tree. The *Portland Oregonian* picked out the western hemlock, but Washington newspapers decided to choose their own and selected the popular western red cedar. State Representative George Adams of Mason County pleaded with the Legislature to adopt the western hemlock. The hemlock, he said, would become "the backbone of this state's forest industry." Adams' bill passed the Legislature and was signed into law in 1947.

State Song: "Washington, my home"



The state song, "Washington, My Home," was written by Helen Davis, arranged by Stuart Churchill, and became the official state song in 1959.

It is often performed at ball games in our state or by marching bands in schools.

Download the sheet music here: [Washington My Home](#)

"Washington, My Home"

Written by Helen Davis, arranged by Stuart Churchill

- **Lyrics:**
- This is my country; God gave it to me;
I will protect it, ever keep it free.
Small towns and cities rest here in the sun,
Filled with our laughter, "Thy will be done."

- **REFRAIN:**
- Washington my home;
Where ever I may roam;
This is my land, my native land,
Washington, my home.
Our verdant forest green,
Caressed by silvery stream;
From mountain peak to fields of wheat.
Washington, my home.

- There's peace you feel and understand
In this, our own beloved land.
We greet the day with head held high,
And forward ever is our cry.
We'll happy ever be
As people always free.
For you and me a destiny;
Washington my home.



Washington state arboretum - photo by Marcel Ray
on [Flickr](#)



Source:
Washington State Legislature

State Fruit: *Apple*



Photo of Washington apples by Scott Bauer, courtesy USDA Agricultural Research Service Image

Washington is the nation's top apple-producing state, so it is appropriate that the apple was named a state symbol in 1989, the centennial year.

The apple trees of Washington represent one of the largest industries in the state. The Washington apple is certainly one of the most recognized symbols of the state worldwide.



Many varieties of apple are grown in Washington state including Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Fuji, Gala, Granny Smith, Braeburn, Jonagold, Pink Lady, and Cameo.

Apple Facts

- ❑ Washington has led the country in apple production since 1910.
- ❑ Over 60% of Washington apples come from the Yakima Valley.
- ❑ Washington supplies half of America's fresh apple needs.
- ❑ Washington apples are sold in more than forty countries.
- ❑ 75% of the Washington apples that are produced are sold fresh. The other 25% are sent to processors to be canned, frozen, made into juice, juice sweeteners, and dehydrated products.

State Marine Mammal

Orca



Orca Family drawing
simply-san-juan.com



classbrain.com

As a result of two years of research and persuasion by second graders from the Crescent Harbor Elementary School in Oak Harbor, the Legislature designated the orca, *Orcinus orca*, as the official marine mammal of the state of Washington in 2005.

Many people visit Washington state to watch orcas; the orca is a significant symbol for the Native American culture; there are pods of orcas that migrate annually through Puget Sound; and the orca is easily recognizable because of its distinct markings. The designation is intended to promote orca awareness and to encourage protection of the natural marine habitat.

"The Evergreen State"



On November 11, 1889, Washington became the 42nd state to enter the Union. It is the only state in the Union that is named for a president.

Washington was nicknamed "The Evergreen State" by C.T. Conover, pioneer Seattle realtor and historian, for its abundant evergreen forests.

What we have learned about Western Washington

- ▣ We live in a beautiful region with a variety of plants and animals
- ▣ Native Americans have been living here for a very long time even before the white men came and the orca was an important symbol
- ▣ Many students were involved in drawing this poster. We feel it is a good representation of what is found in our region and our state symbols.