

Washington State History is a one-semester course that traces the state's history, geography, government, and economics from the pre-Columbian era through the present. Students examine struggles to control territory in the Pacific Northwest, the conflicts and treaties that pushed Washington's indigenous tribes onto reservations, and the statehood movement. In the 20th century, Washington became a center for agriculture, technology, and aerospace industries. Students learn how Washington's unique location and natural resources have long influenced its economic development, along with the state's demographic diversity, and evolving interaction between people and the environment.

The course emphasizes the development of historical analysis skills, such as using chronology and periodization, and the interwoven strands of history, geography, government, and economics. Skills and strands are applied in written assignments that guide learners step-by-step through problem-solving activities.

Length: One Semester

Unit 1: Introduction to Washington State History

- Understanding Chronology, Causation, and Argumentation
- Historical Source Analysis
- Thinking Geographically
- People, Culture, and Migration
- Wrap-Up: Introduction to Washington State History

Unit 2: Washington's Beginnings

- Indigenous Peoples and Westward Expansion
- Settling the West
- The Treaty-Making Period
- Conflict and Wars
- Wrap-Up: Washington's Beginnings

Unit 3: Railroads, Reform, Immigration, and Labor

- Washington Becomes a State
- A State of Growth
- A State of Reform
- World War I
- The Post War Period
- Wrap-Up: Railroads, Reform, Immigration, and Labor

Unit 4: Turmoil and Triumph

- The Great Depression and the New Deal
- World War II
- Postwar Prosperity and the Cold War
- Civil Rights Movements
- The Cost of Growth

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- Wrap-Up: Turmoil and Triumph

Unit 5: Contemporary Washington

- Government Principles and Structures
- Principles of Citizenship
- Demographics and Culture
- Examining Basic Economic Concepts
- Washington and the Global Economy
- Wrap-Up: Contemporary Washington

Unit 6: Semester Review and Exam