

*2-3 Thematic Curriculum - Year 2
Our City, Our State*

Theme/Essential Questions

Content knowledge

General US

- Who first lived in the US?*
- Where did people live?*
- How and why did the US change?*

The US is a country of immigration; settlement was from east to west; the original inhabitants of the US were Native Americans, who organized in certain ethnic and cultural groups; land was taken from Native Americans by force; as trade developed, people developed sophisticated transportation and economic systems.

Oregon History

- How did Native Americans live in Oregon?*
- When did non-Native Americans come to Oregon?*
- What is the Oregon Trail?*

Native American life centered around fishing and hunting in Oregon; river systems provided food and were important culturally and spiritually; many of the names of places in Oregon are taken from Native American languages; Lewis and Clark's expedition paved the way for fur trappers and traders who explored the west; in the early 1800s, demand for beaver felt hats stimulated a large trapping and trading industry; this industry stimulated frontier development and the expansion to the Pacific Northwest; the regions waterways and hospitable climate opened the way for way later for more scientific exploration.

The Oregon Trail began as a 2000-mile string of rivers and natural landmarks that could be followed from Missouri to Oregon; later, there were well-worn paths to follow; some people came because they liked the freedom of life on the frontier;

others came for good, free farmland, gold, and for the wood found in forests of huge, ancient trees. Also, Oregon was relatively free of disease. Traders and settlers brought new diseases to the Indians, which killed whole tribes; the Willamette Valley was cleared of Indians by plagues; There were good relations between whites and the Nez Perce tribe; eventually, the Nez Perce were moved to reservations; Native Americans' numbers declined and their tribes were consolidated; Native Americans work to preserve and educate others about their cultural heritage and history.

Oregon Geology

What kinds of mountains are in Oregon?

Why do volcanoes occur?

Why do earthquakes occur?

Most volcanoes surround the Pacific Ocean; the causes of volcanoes are explainable by the Theory of Plate Tectonics; volcanoes in the northwest are associated with plate tectonics and continental drift, specifically with offshore subduction zone; "lahars" are volcanic mud and debris flows; earthquakes are a risk in the northwest, but we prepare for them; scientists work to assess the hazards of volcanoes and earthquakes and to make predictions; the types of rocks and lava flows at or near a volcano tells us about its past and eruptive history.

Portland

When was Portland settled?

Who first lived in Portland?

How has Portland changed?

How is Portland divided?

Many cities, including Portland, are located on rivers, which make transportation possible; Portland was settled by whites who cleared the land for timber, which supported the economy; other important industries were fishing and farming; Portland became the Willamette River's principal port because it was the furthest point upriver that the ocean-going ships could navigate; as the

What are Portland's systems?

country grew more industrialized, rivers became increasingly important for transportation. Ship building followed. More recently, as timber has become scarce, the economy diversified. Portland is divided into quadrants and neighborhoods; each area needs certain services and amenities; Portland is zoned so that buildings with similar uses are in groups; Portland has an urban growth boundary, another kind of zoning; some areas of town are more dense with residents, others less so; people can travel in Portland by car, rail and boat; Portland's original airport was on Swan Island, but moved to NE Portland.