

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

# PACIFIC WEST

We made it all the way to the Pacific Ocean and have only seven more states to learn: **Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona.** Here are tips to learning them:

- More than half of the west coast of U.S. is California, the second-largest state in the mainland U.S.
- George Washington was the first president. If you look at the map of the U.S., the state of Washington is at the top left. Does that make sense?
- Idaho may have the strangest shape of any state, and almost looks like a capital "L"



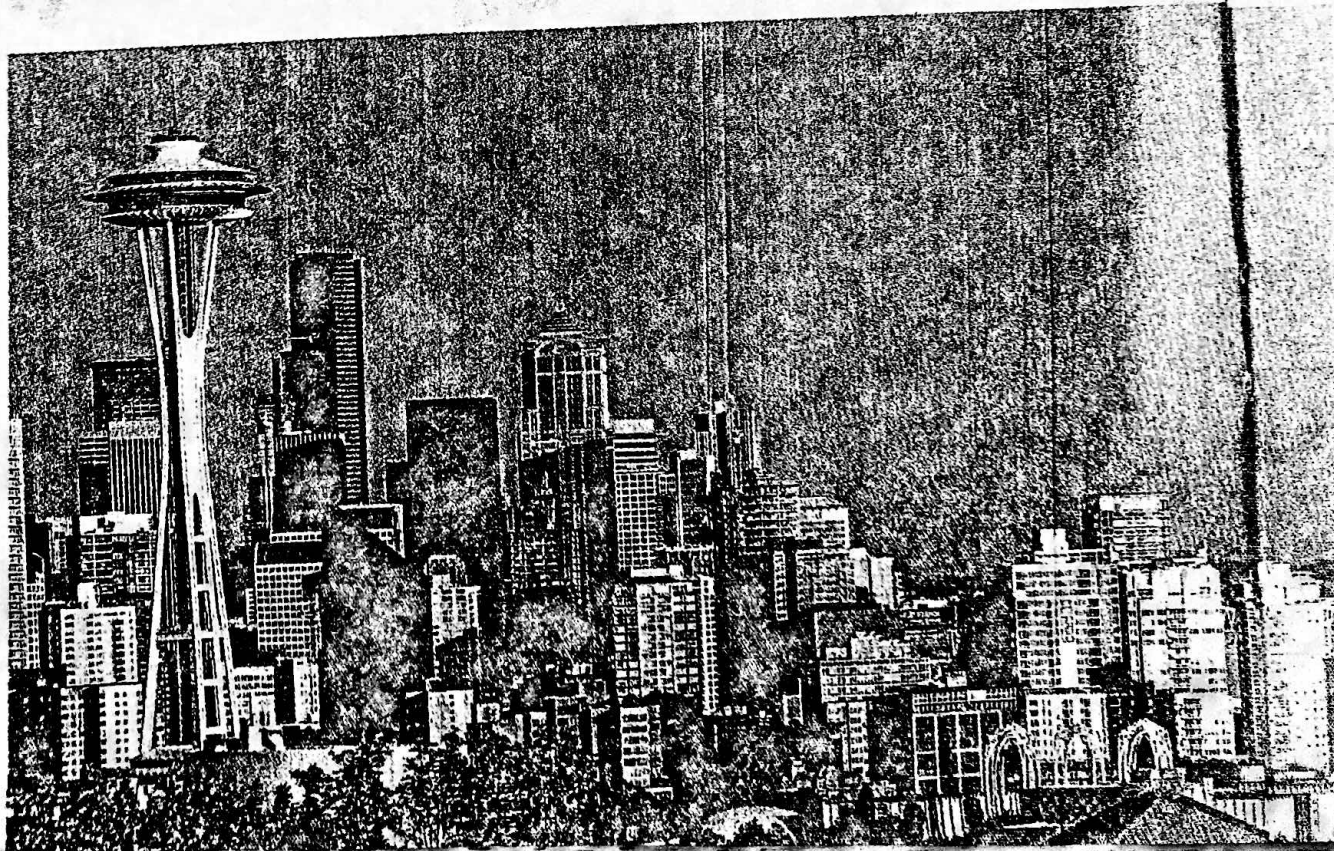
**Washington's Cape Flattery, the furthest northwest point in the mainland U.S.** (THFK photo)

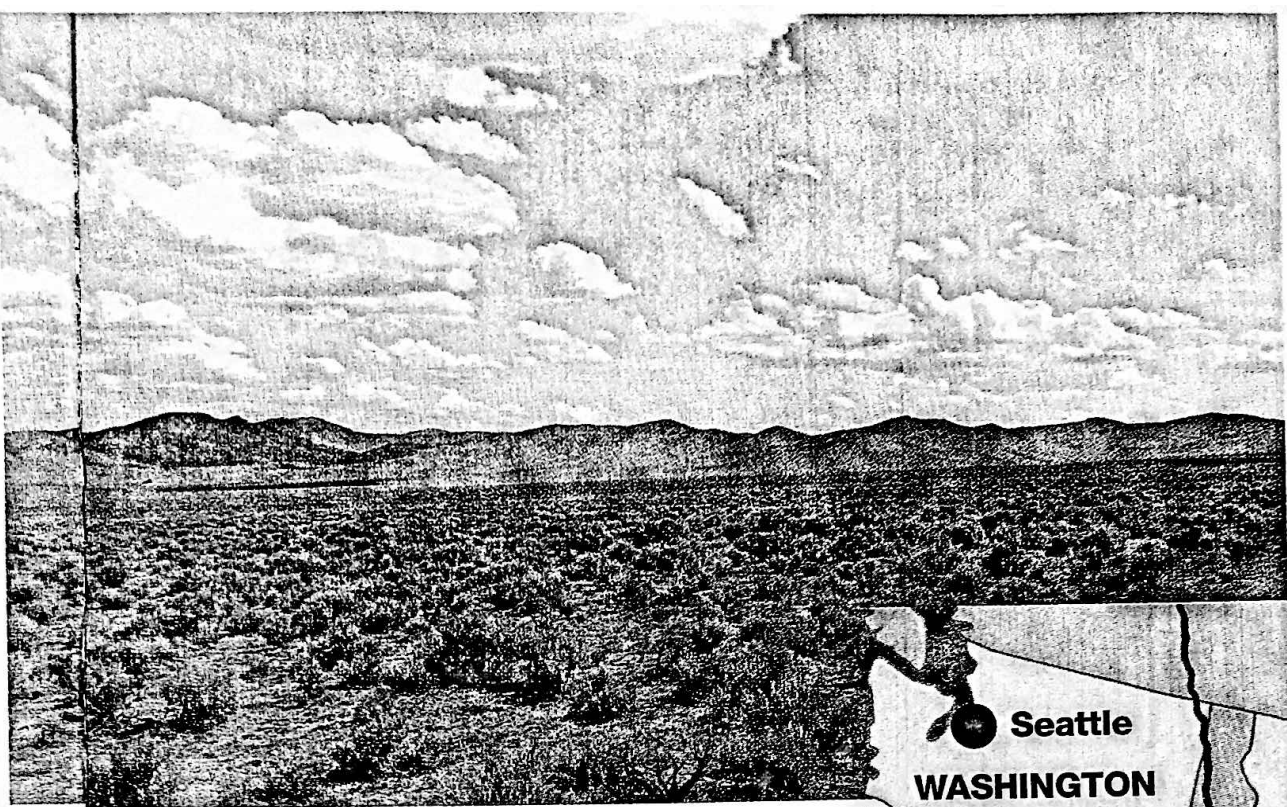
In the Pacific West you will find beautiful places and famous places. At the top of the list is Arizona's **Grand Canyon**—the best known natural wonder in North America (see photo on page 2). Scientists tell us that the Grand Canyon was carved by the **Colorado River**, which runs through the middle of it.

For those of you who like deserts, the state of Nevada almost entirely consists of America's largest desert—the **Great Basin Desert**.

The climate in the West is, for the most part, drier than it is in the eastern United States. However, it rains a lot in the Pacific Northwest, near the city of **Seattle**, Washington.

As for the temperature out west, it is often based more on a person's **altitude** (how high they are) rather than their latitude (how far north they are.) The hottest temperature ever recorded in the United States was in Death Valley, in California (which is below sea level). Meanwhile, almost every western state has snow on top of its mountains! ❄️

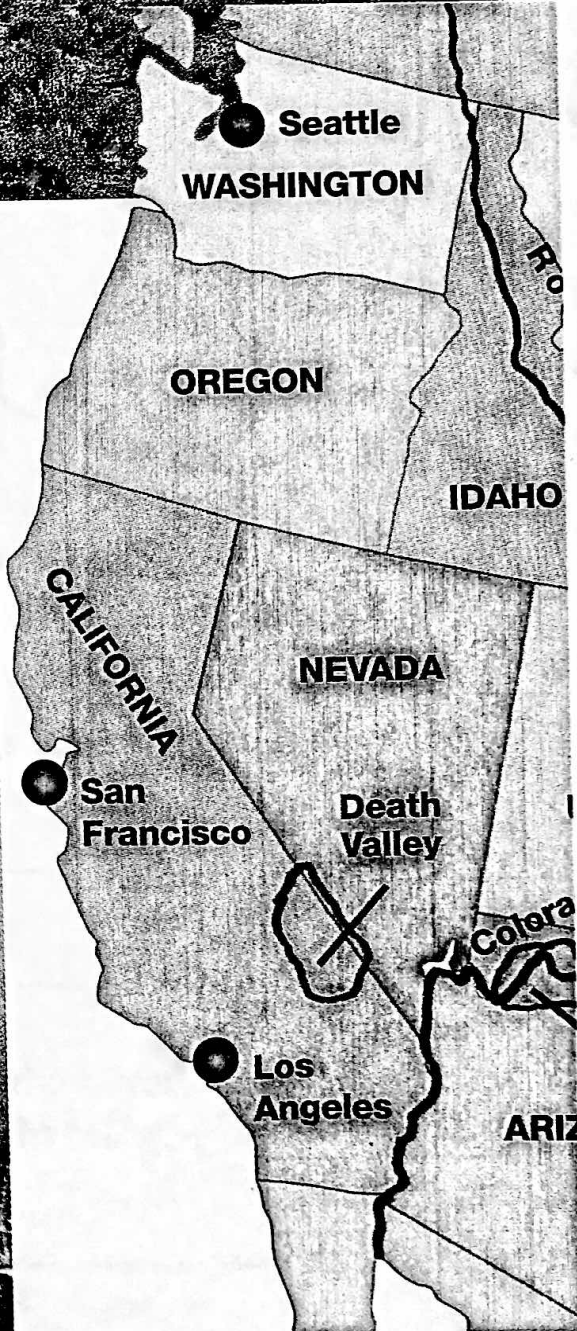
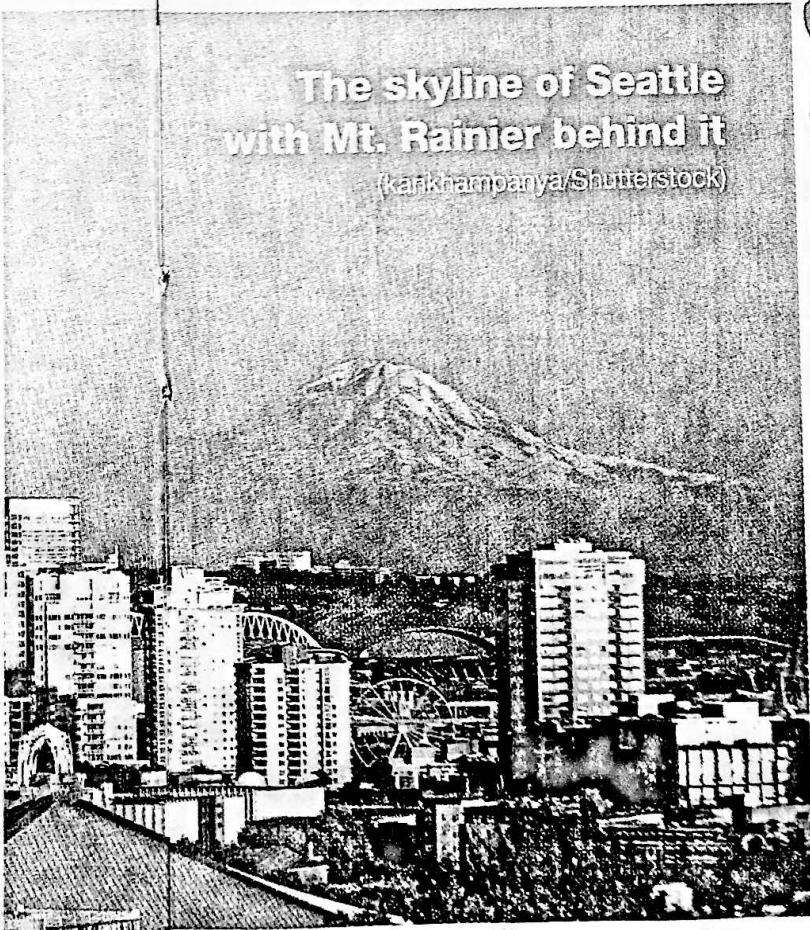




**A part of the Great Basin desert** (National Park Service)

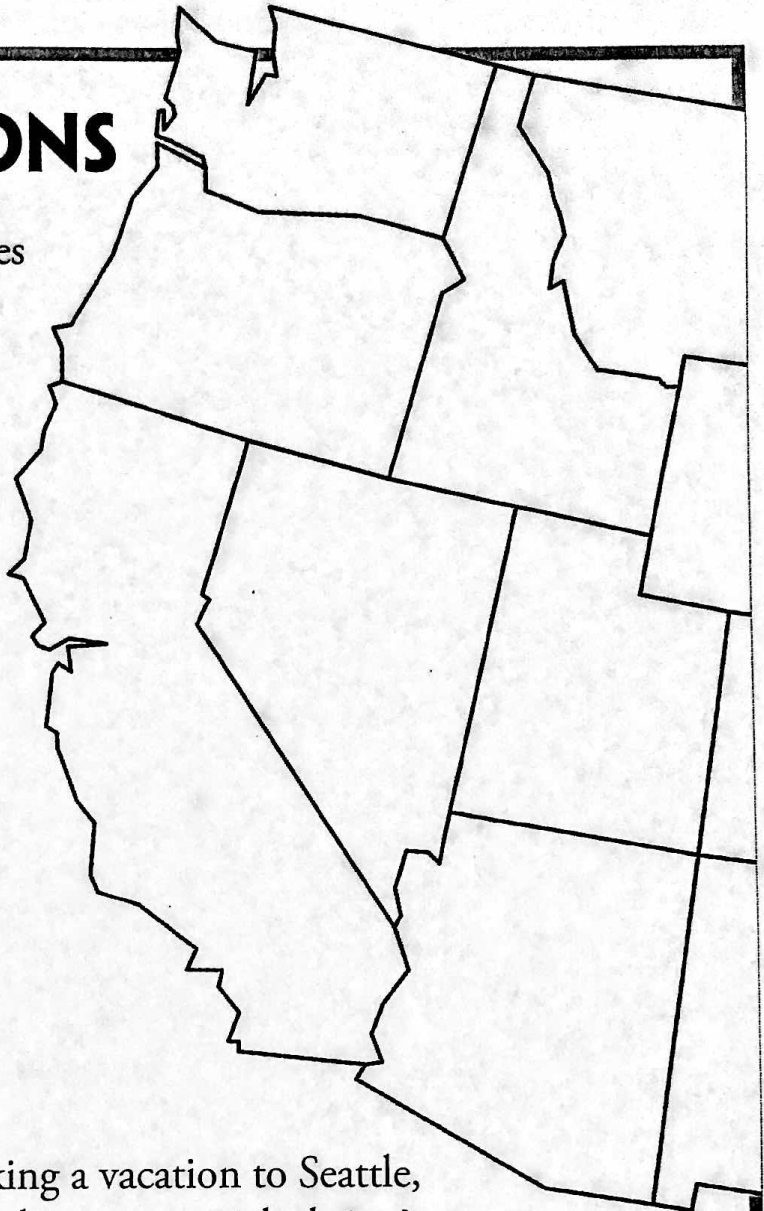
**Pacific Ocean**

**The skyline of Seattle with Mt. Rainier behind it**  
(karkhampanya/Shutterstock)



# QUESTIONS

1) Write the names of each state on this map.



2) If you were taking a vacation to Seattle, what are some things you might bring?

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3) If you took a trip to the Great Basin Desert, what are some things you might bring?

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