**Wyoming текст 1**

In the towering mountain ranges and sweeping grazing lands of Wyoming live fewer people than in any other state. One can wander for weeks through the rugged Tetons without seeing a sign of another person - and when ranch houses are found in the wide open space, they often are more than 100 miles apart.

If the place names of this sparsely populated state - Bighorn, Yellowstone, Medicine Bow, and Wind River among them - sound as if they belong in a western novel, it may be because the pioneers wanted to make the isolated region seem as romantic as possible. Settlers were desperately needed to populate the territory so that it could apply for statehood. To encourage women to migrate, the territorial legislature in 1869 guaranteed them equal rights to vote and hold office - a radical reform no other democratic government was even willing to consider at the time.

But Wyoming was also the site of natural wonders. Chief among those wonders is the Yellowstone River region, a surreal quadrant of steam-vented land in the northwest corner of the state. Yellowstone's mysterious geysers, hot springs, petrified forests, and waterfalls stirred the imagination of all who heard of them. Before long, tale-spinning trappers were describing a sulfurous land where a man could catch a fish in a stream, then toss it over his shoulder to cook it in a boiling pool.

Preserved for posterity in 1872 as the world's first national park, Yellowstone has lost none of its supernatural aura. The region has more geysers, hot springs, mud pots, and volcanic steam vents than are found in all the rest of the world.

Bordering Yellowstone on the south is Wyoming's second national park, Grand Teton.

The majority of state's population lives on the High Plains. This arid grazing country extends from the Colorado border up to the pine-clad Bighorn Mountains. By the time Wyoming entered the Union it had come to be called the Cattleman's Commonwealth, dominated by ranchers who grazed their huge herds on public lands.

Today ranching continues to be one of Wyoming's leading industries.

West of the plains the forested slopes of the Rocky Mountains begin. Five national forests lie entirely inside Wyoming. Pines cover a large part of the woodlands, but spruces, Douglas firs, and aspens also are common. This green and wildly beautiful part of the state holds on to its aura of seclusion. In the splendid isolation of Wyoming one can sense the real West, the fabled West that remains an everlasting part of the American dream.

In 1890 Wyoming joined the Union as the 44th state.

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**Montana текст 2**

Although most of Montana belongs to the Great Plains, it is mountains that give the state its extraordinary beauty.

More than 50 majestic ranges make up Montana's share of the Rocky Mountains. The mountains gave Montana its Wild West image. A gold strike in 1862 at Grasshopper Creek drew the miners, who eventually found silver, coal, and copper - and called Butte, the town they founded on one of the world's largest copper deposits, "the richest hill on earth."

Mountains give Montana its name and its grandeur, but the larger portion of the state is given over to sweeping plains - the majestic Big Sky Country. As in other parts of the West, a procession of immigrants put the land to different uses. Some succeeded and stayed, others failed and departed.

First, the Indians came for buffalo. Then, in 1870's white ranchers arrived to make use of the open range and its native grasses, which provide ideal food for cattle. Soon after came professional buffalo hunters in search of animal hides to ship back east. By 1885 the seemingly inexhaustible buffalo herds had all but disappeared, and Montana's native Indian tribes, deprived of the animals that gave them sustenance, were relegated to six reservations by the end of the century.

Today many visitors come to Montana to enjoy a venerable western institution - the dude ranch. Such ranches got their start when railroads began bringing tourists, mainly from the East, to Yellowstone Park in the 1880's and nearby ranchers welcomed the strangers into their homes, charging a fee as a way to help keep things together in tough times. Later a whole new tourist trade developed, and now more people than ever visit Montana's dude ranches. Some city dwellers choose working ranches where they can become part of the crew for a few days; others want only a little horseback riding or fishing.

In 1889 Montana entered the Union as the 41st state.

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**Oregon текст 3**

Its motto: She Flies With Her Own Wings.

Its nicknames: Beaver State, Hardcase State, Pacific

Wonderland, Sunset State, Valentine State, Webfoot State.

Green Valleys, Thick Forests, and a Heritage of Preservation

For more than 150 years Oregon has sparkled in the American imagination like the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. It is a land where countless Americans have believed their dreams would come true. During the 19th century, mere rumors of the territory's incredible fertility were enough to induce "Oregon fever." Thousands of land-poor pioneers traveled 2,000 miles across the wilds of American West. Those who survived learned happily that most of the rumors were true. The Willamette Valley was an agricultural heaven. The winters were mild, the rain was gentle, and the soil was among the richest in North America. They also learned that Oregon was one of the West's most diverse territories. Although the Willamette Valley was an agrarian dream, to get there, one had to cross the Snake River gorge, the Blue Mountains, and the trackless high desert east of the looming Cascade Range.

The Cascade Range runs the entire length of the state from the Columbia River to the California border. Pacific storms, unable to rise above the range, drop most of their moisture on the coastal lowlands to the west. Plant life grows profusely here. But east of the Cascades, where the mountains block the reach of moist Pacific air, the landscape changes to sagebrush deserts, wind-scored canyons, and rugged hills.

The image most Americans have of Oregon, however, can be summed up in one word: trees. Nearly half of Oregon's land area is covered by dense forests that make the state America's leading producer of timber. Along the coast, the towering Sitka spruce reigns supreme. Cedar, noble fir, and California laurel cover the western Cascades, But Oregon's most valuable and widely planted tree is the Douglas fir, which grows throughout the western part of the state. It is a true giant of the forest, rising from a thick base to more than 200 feet, or about the height of a 10-story building.

Oregon's forests are even more impressive when one considers the effort that has been required to preserve them. Public sentiment for ecological preservation is strong in Oregon. It was the first state to impose heavy fines for littering, ban the use of no returnable beverage bottles, and prohibit the storage of nuclear waste. Protective legislation enacted in 1913 and 1967 has maintained the beauty of the 296-mile Oregon coast much as it was when Spanish explorers first navigated its treacherous waters in the 16th century.

In 1859 Oregon entered the Union as the 33rd state.

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**Washington текст 4**

Like neighboring Oregon, Washington is divided by a mighty mountain range into two quite different worlds: lush alpine landscapes to the west; semiarid plains and hills to the east.

The Cascade Range forms this great divide, running from north to south in a broad band of tall peaks, glacial lakes, and thickly wooded valleys. As the great range moves southward it becomes less rugged. Crowning the southern Cascades is the glacier-clad volcano that Washingtonians simply call the Mountain. Two more volcanoes punctuate the southern Cascades.

The world west of the Cascades is moist and green, a place of huge trees and legendary lumberjacks. It was here that pioneers first settled.

Once part of Oregon Territory, this timberland bore its first real wave of white settlement when "Oregon fever" swept the country in the 1840's. Most pioneers made their way to the bountiful Willamette Valley, but some ventured north of the Columbia River into the fertile, wooded lowlands. Here they milled hemlocks and Douglas firs from forests that a railroad agent described as "surpassing the woods of all the rest of the globe in the size, quantity and quality of the timber."

In 1852 the northerners petitioned Congress to form a separate territory north and west of the Columbia. Congress granted the petition in 1853, extended the eastern boundary of the new territory to the Rocky Mountains, and named it after the nation's first president.

The vast estuary known as Puget Sound is still the center of Washington life today. Its eastern shore - some 75 miles of it - is an unbroken chain of cities and towns linked to Seattle, the Northwest major port.

The parched land east of the Cascades was less than idyllic. Pioneers on the Columbia Plateau had no bounty of timber and salmon, nor even rain. The first eastern settlers clustered where the relatively moist soil along the Columbia River was suitable for small farms. But those who followed were relegated to the drier reaches of the plain.

Eventually the arid Columbia Plateau bloomed, transformed by irrigation into a self-proclaimed Inland Empire, with Spokane as its designated Queen City. Where once no trees grew, apple orchards and wheat fields now stretch to the endless horizon. It is a sight as beautiful in its own way as the more familiar Washington that lies west of the great mountain divide.

Washington joined the Union in 1889 as the 42nd state.

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