**Alaska Текст 1**

Alaska, wild and immense, is one of the planet's treasures — a vast landscape of cloud-swept peaks, deep blue lakes, and mammoth glaciers. Between its mountain ranges stretch endless forests and tundra plains. The size of this state is legendary: twice as big as Texas, its area is almost one-fifth that of the other 49 state combined. Yet Alaska is home to fewer than 600,000 people, more than half of whom are concentrated in two urban centers, Anchorage and Fairbanks.

For travelers who approach Alaska from the part of the U.S., the state begins with the protected waterways and forested mountains of the southeastern panhandle. Carved from the western edge of Canada, this rugged strip contains more than 1,000 islands of every size. This part of the state is rain country. Saturated winds from the Pacific bring constant clouds and rains.

Far the West, across the Gulf of Alaska, the barren Aleutian Islands stretch more than a thousand miles across the northern Pacific remnants of the land budge that once connected North America to Asia. Scattered among the islands are villages of the Aleut people.

Inland from Anchorage is a great mountain wall, the Alaska Range Alaska’s immense interior stretches off to the north, extending to the ice-bound Brooks Range. This is a land of clear skies and vast horizons. Mightiest of the rivers is the Yukon, which flows nearly 2,000 miles from northern Canada to the Bering Sea. Jack London described the Yukon in “The Call of the Wild," when it was peopled with hunters trappers, and prospectors.

Few people outside Alaska had heard of the North Slope until 1968, when oil was discovered there. Today a huge industrial complex stands on the shore of Prudhoe Bay. Life here is hard. The sun sets in mid-November and does not reappear until late January, and the sea becomes a continent of ice. In wintertime the thermometer may drop to 44 below zero and bitter cold drives people indoors for weeks on end.

Eighty percent of Alaska's terrain is permanently frozen.

The Yupik and Inupiaq Eskimos, who live on the coasts of the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean, have almost 100 words for sea ice.

Alaska joined the Union in 1959 as the 49th state.

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 **Hawaii текст 2**

Its motto: The Life of the Land Is Perpetuated in Righteousness.

Its nicknames: Aloha State1, Paradise of the Pacific, Pineapple State.

America's Tropical Paradise in the Pacific

More than 2,000 miles from the nearest continent, and not even part of North America, Hawaii is the newest state both historically and geologically. Islands are being added to the 1,500-mile chain of 132 islands in a thrilling process of creation that can actually be observed

New, isolated, and on the same latitude as central Mexico Hawaii is a tropical paradise, seductive and exotic. Plants and animals native to the islands are found nowhere else on earth, while some introduced species have taken on strange forms.

The inhabitants are relative newcomers, too. About A D 300 a group of Polynesians arrived at this remote strings of islands, and according to tradition named them after their homeland Hawaiki, but called them affectionately Ke Ao Nani ("The Beautiful World"),

Millions of years ago the Hawaiian Islands erupted from a hot spot on the Pacific Ocean floor. Layers of lava rose over time, formed undersea mountains, and 7D million years ago emerged from the sea as fiery volcanoes. They spread out in a line, northwest to southeast, more than 1,500 miles from end to end. The eight major islands constitute the state of Hawaii.

Hawaii, the Big Island, lends its name to the entire state. Because of its geographical diversity, some parts of the island are drenched by constant rainfall while others are almost as dry as desert. The Big Island is largely agricultural.

Oahu is nicknamed the Gathering Place for its large population which is more than 800,000 today. Honolulu, on the southeastern coast, is the state's largest city, capital, and business center. While much of the island is a modern metropolis with urban skyscrapers, and interstate highways, Oahu retains its tropical allure. Diamond Head, the extinct volcano is Hawaii's most familiar landmark. Off Waikiki Beach are the waters where ancient Hawaiians developed the sport of surfing to an art, and 20th-century Hawaiians continue the search for the perfect wave.

Kauai, the Garden Island, is known for its lush vegetation, the result of a potent mixture of sunshine and rainfall. It was here that Captain Cook first anchored and came ashore in Hawaii.

Niihau, the Forbidden Island, is owned by a family who operate it as a cattle and sheep ranch. All outsiders are barred and the Hawaiian language and culture are preserved.

Maui, the Valley Island, was formed from two volcanoes, connected by an isthmus, the "valley" in its nickname.

 Molokai, the Friendly Island, adopted its nickname, not just because its people are friendly, but to bury its past. It was here, during the 1860's, that the government started shipping leprosy patients into exile. The recent history is dominated by the saintly figure of Father Damien, a Belgian priest who volunteered in 1873 to serve the colony, knowing well that he might catch the disease himself. That is exactly what happened, and Father Damien died in 1889.

Hawaii entered the Union in 1959 as the 50th state.

 Its motto: Hope.

Its nicknames: America's First Resort, Land of Roger

Williams1, Little Rhody, Ocean State, Plantation State,

Smallest State.

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**Idaho текст 3**

A topographical map of the state looks something like a crazy quilt patched together with odd pieces of mountain and prairie, desert and lakeland, forest and plain. First part of Oregon Country, then Washington Territory, present-day Idaho — home to only about a million people - is what was left over when Montana was eventually shorn away.

Hugging the western edge of the panhandle and curving part-way down the Snake River is Idaho's grassland — Camas Prairie and the fertile Palouse Hills. Wheat, barley, beans and peas are cultivated in this part of Idaho. Potatoes, Idaho's most famous commodity, belong to the Snake River Valley, a distant 300 miles to the south. The city of Lewiston market center for the prairie and once the capital of Idaho territory, ships grain from the surrounding farmland down the Snake and Columbia rivers to the coast.

Rising at the eastern edge of the prairie are the Clearwater Mountains, ore-rich slopes that drew gold-seekers in the 1870's. Their valleys embrace the greatest concentration of lakes in the west.

The south of the state is arid and Hat, with the Snake River swinging in a graceful arc across sagebrush-covered plains. But irrigation of the Snake River Valley has turned more than 2 million acres into flourishing farmland. Seventy percent of all Idahoans live within 50 miles of the river; most are concentrated in the cities of Boise. Pocatello, and Idaho Falls, but many live on farms, growing sugar beets, beans, and potatoes.

Idaho comes honestly by its nickname of Gem State, since at least 70 kinds of precious and semiprecious stones are found there

Idaho became the 43rd state in 1890.

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**Utah текст 4**

Francisco Coronado was Spain's most ambitious conquistador but even he had to admit defeat when it came to exploring Utah. In 1540 he reported to Mexico that the land north of the Grand Canyon was impenetrable desert unsuited to human habitation. For the next three centuries Utah largely remained a mysterious black hole on the North American continent. Not until 1843 did explorer John C Frémont survey the country which he described as a severe and forbidding land filled with "rivers and lakes which have no communication with the sea” and “savage tribes which no traveler has seen or described.” Thus forewarned, most American pioneers avoided the mountainous badlands. Those who entered, seeking a shortcut to California, soon wished they had not.

Brigham Young, president of the Mormon Church studied Fremont's reports and noted an intriguing fact. Nestled between the Great Salt Lake Desert on the west, the towering Wasatch Range on the east and the barren Colorado Plateau to the southeast was a large valley uninhabited by Indians. Moreover, the valley appeared to be a veritable oasis In 1847 Young urged the Mormons to follow him to the Salt Lake Valley. By the end of the first year more than 4,000 had answered the call, making the soon-to-be-proclaimed State of Deseret (from a word in the "Book of Mormon" that means honeybee) the first functioning theocracy since the early days of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Brigham Young's imperial vision ended in 1850 when Congress transformed Deseret into the territory of Utah. But the dismantling of the Mormon government did not diminish the church's position of primacy. The Mormons still dominate the state's economy and politics.

Salt Lake City, the capital the Mormons built, is among the most orderly of America's metropolises. The city takes its name from the Great Salt Lake, a shallow saline sea whose size has fluctuated dramatically over the centuries. Today, the lake is something of a recreation area, with so much buoyancy in its salty water that swimmers cannot help but stay afloat. It has a higher saline content than either the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans.

South of the Salt Lake Valley lies the rugged Colorado Plateau. Over time, rivers and the elements have carved the soft sandstone of the plateau into remarkably intricate forms, creating some of the most extraordinary landscapes on earth. Southern Utah is the site of five national parks — besides Alaska and California, the most in any state. The Colorado Plateau traditionally has been a place where men go to escape. Outlaws hid out in the Capitol Reef area so often that it came to be known as one of the West's many robbers' roosts.

Utah is a rockhound's dream, an endless source of agate, obsidian and other stones. The world's largest topaz beds lie just west of the Little Sahara Recreation Area. Uranium deposits are near Moab.

 In 1896 Utah entered the Union as the 45th state.

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