

## THE TIME 1945–1973

### ▶ PEOPLE TO KNOW

Dwight Eisenhower  
Gerald Foley  
Wing Luke  
Carl Maxey  
Floyd Paxton  
Edwin Pratt

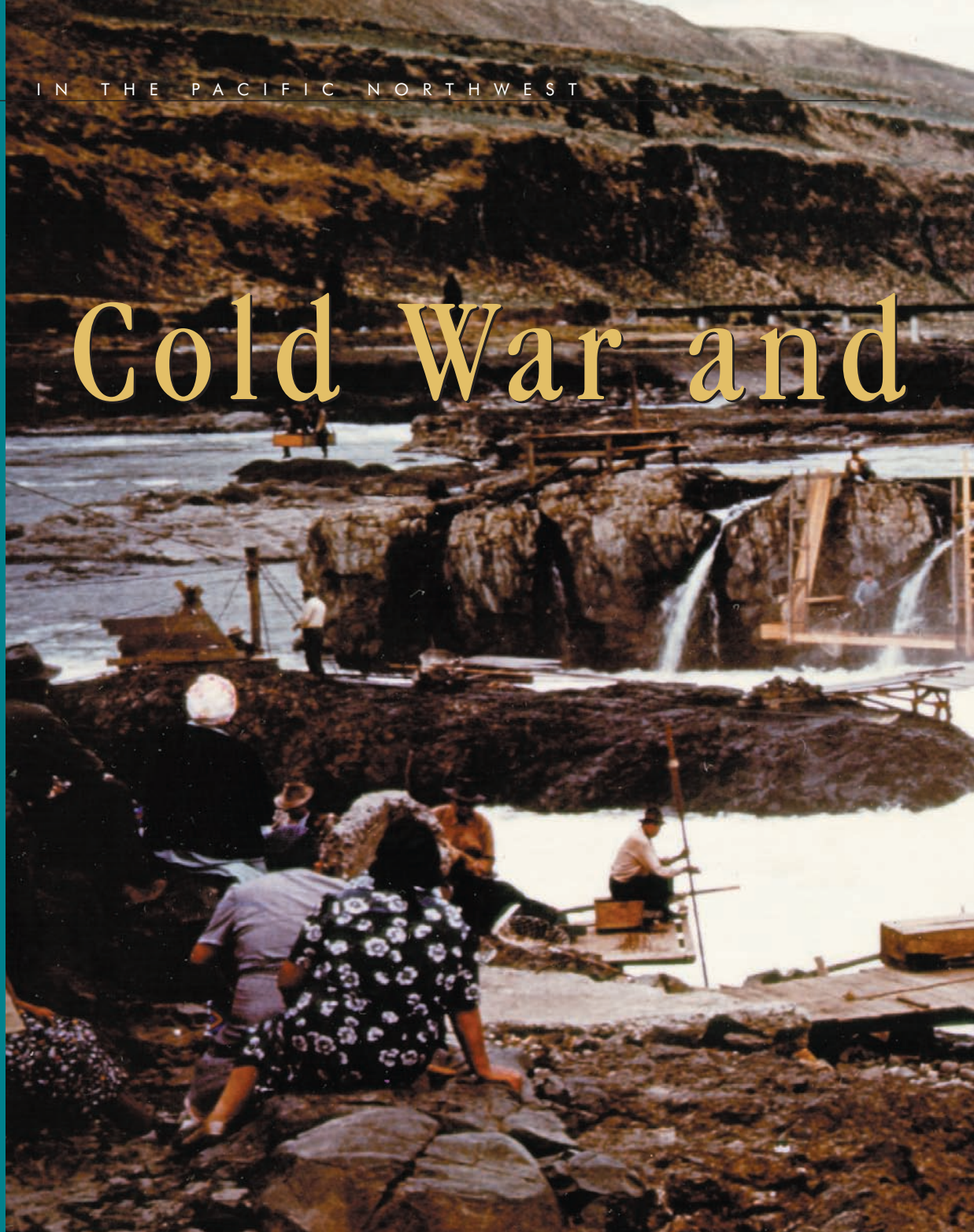
### ▶ PLACES TO LOCATE

Russia  
Mason County  
Spokane  
Seattle  
Redmond  
Lynwood  
Yakima  
Richland  
Pasco  
Kennewick  
Ellensburg  
Moses Lake  
Othello  
Clarkston  
Pullman  
Kettle Falls  
Ephrata

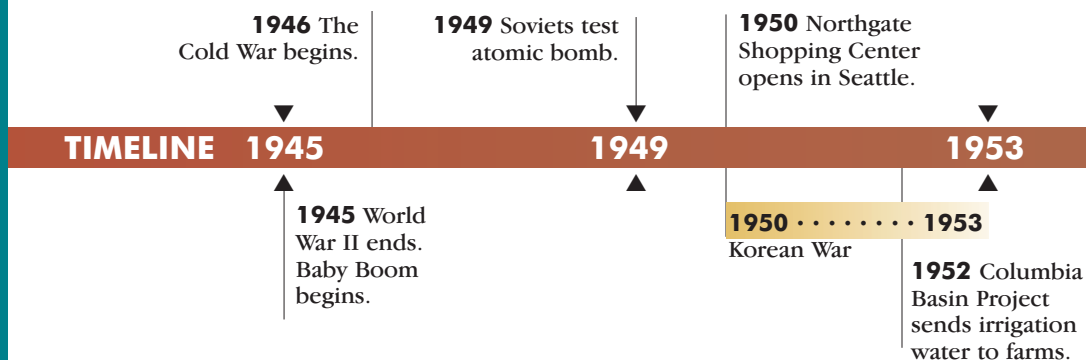
### ▶ WORDS TO UNDERSTAND

agribusiness  
civilian  
domestic servant  
down payment  
evacuate  
feminism  
placid  
radioactive  
ration  
segregation  
semiarid  
suburb  
surpass  
veteran

# Cold War and



The Dalles (Celilo Falls) was a popular fishing place in the 1950s, as it had been for centuries. In 1957 the site was buried by water from the Dalles Dam.







# Civil Rights

## Chapter 10

**1956** Interstate freeways are started across America.

**1963** Wing Luke is the first Asian American elected to public office in Washington.

John F. Kennedy is killed in Texas.

**1964** Civil Rights Act outlaws discrimination in public places.

**1968** Martin Luther King Jr. is killed in Tennessee.

**1972** Washington passes Equal Rights Amendment to the state constitution.

**1957**

**1957** Russians launch *Sputnik*, the first satellite.

**1961**

**1962** Seattle World's Fair

**1965**

**1966** Civil Rights Act outlaws discrimination in housing.

**1969**

**1969** America's *Apollo 11* astronauts land on the moon.

**1973**

**1960s–1973** Vietnam War

## Post-War Washington

When World War II ended, people everywhere breathed a sigh of relief. The news on the radio would no longer contain stories of evil and death, and the days of **rationing** were over. The country celebrated, then eagerly returned to normal life.

Washington residents were grateful that the war was over, but they were worried about what lay ahead. Plants that manufactured chemicals, aluminum, steel, tanks, airplanes, and many other products slowed down. In 1944, shipyards had employed 150,000 people. Boeing Airplane Company had employed nearly 50,000 people the same year. Would thousands of workers lose their jobs now that the war was over?

## Soldiers Come Home

Most soldiers had joined the war right out of high school, and they needed job training. The federal government passed the G.I. Bill to assist former soldiers as they settled into **civilian** life. Part of the bill provided money for college tuition. Many veterans took the opportunity and were the first in their family to attend college.

### The Sawdust Empire

The G.I. Bill also helped war veterans buy houses. This sparked a building boom across the nation. Families were able to get mortgage loans with no **down payment**. There had been little building during the war because the entire nation's resources had gone to the war effort. Once the war was over, however, the demand for housing created a rush for timber.

The timber industry in the Pacific Northwest boomed for two decades after the war ended. There continued to be thousands of jobs in logging and sawmills. Loggers used large equipment such as bulldozers and logging trucks to haul enough trees to fill the demand.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**A popular saying at the time was, "When Boeing sneezes, Seattle catches cold." What did that mean? How important are good jobs to a community?**

*Farms changed, too. Many farm families moved to town. Other farmers bought more land so farms got bigger in size.*

Life in the 1950s meant life in the suburbs. The suburbs grew so large that many became cities.

## Families in the Suburbs

Suddenly, women who had worked in factories during the war were no longer needed. Some of the jobs were gone, and in other cases the jobs were given to returning soldiers. Most people thought of the women's jobs as temporary wartime jobs anyway. Women returned to their families. So many babies were born that there was a "baby boom." Today, the "baby boomers" are grown and have children and grandchildren of their own.

Families with young children wanted to have homes of their own. That meant





a move to the **suburbs**. Suburbs are places where many homes are built together outside a city center. Schools, parks, and shopping centers were often built in the suburbs, too. People bought homes instead of renting an apartment in town.

Living in the suburbs meant new ways of shopping. The Northgate Shopping Center opened north of Seattle. It was the first shopping center in the world and was described as a small town because it had over 100 shops, a hospital, and a movie theater all in one place.

Within a few years, suburbs ran together and entire cities such as Redmond, Bellevue, and Lynnwood had been created. By the 1950s, two-thirds of Washington's families lived in the suburbs. The other third still lived on farms or in small rural towns.

## A Cold War and a Space Race

**C**ommunist Russia had been an ally of the United States during the war. Afterwards, however, each country feared an attack from the other. Both countries built huge military and defense systems. The Cold War had begun.

Cold War fears included worrying that members of the Communist Party might take over the U.S. government. People suspected of being Communists were fired from jobs as teachers or government workers. They were rarely given a chance to defend themselves.

In 1957, a little over a decade after the end of World War II, Americans were shocked to learn the Soviet Union had launched the world's first satellite. Called *Sputnik*, it made Americans aware that they were no longer leading the way in space. By this time, the United States and the Soviet Union had become bitter rivals.

In America's schools, more science and math courses were required. American students were to be the nation's "secret weapon." Within a few years, the U.S. space program had caught up and **surpassed** the



Soviets. We had satellites gathering photos and information in space. The U.S. even sent astronauts to walk on the moon.

Once again, war—even a cold war where there was no actual fighting—provided jobs. Aircraft factories and shipyards continued to build planes and ships in case of a Soviet attack. Thousands of workers were able to find good jobs working at Boeing's aircraft plants.

### Atomic Weapons

Hanford had been part of the development of the atomic bomb during World War II. During the Cold War, nuclear fuel for atomic weapons were produced at the Hanford site.

Richland was proud to be the location for federal research and called itself the "Atomic City." The high school sports team was called the "Bombers," and a mushroom cloud was the school's emblem.

The Soviets exploded their first atomic bomb in 1949. Immediately the U.S. was terrified that the Soviets might send airplanes to bomb the West Coast. People in Washington State talked about being a good target because of the large Boeing plant and the Hanford nuclear site. Towns held civil defense drills and practiced how to **evacuate** buildings and streets in case of a bomb attack.

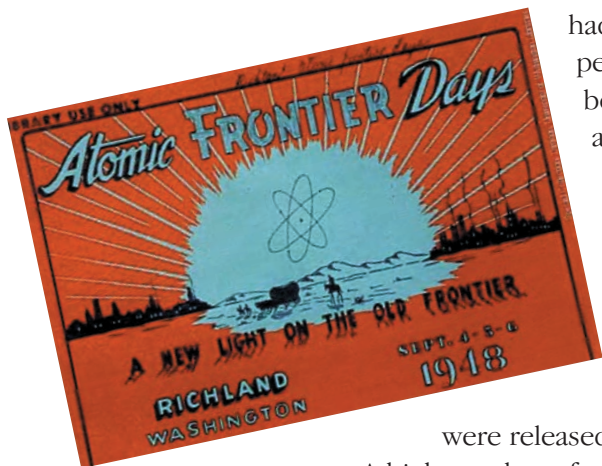
Boeing built long-range B-47 bombers and Minuteman missiles that could hit a target 6,000 miles away.

*The color red was a symbol of the Communist Party, so anyone suspected of being a Communist was called a Red. People who sympathized with Communists were called "Pink."*

The entire city of Spokane practiced an evacuation drill. It was the first city in the nation to do so. Other cities had plans, too, but most people realized it would be impossible to escape if a bomb hit a city.

As part of the process of producing nuclear material for bombs, and in various experiments, large amounts of **radioactive** material

were released into the air and water. A high number of people who lived downwind of Hanford, called “downwinders,” later got cancer. They blamed the nuclear tests.



### LINKING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

**For many years after the war, chemical and nuclear wastes were poured onto the ground. Radioactive materials got into the air and into the Columbia River, too.**

**Today, the government is very concerned about contamination at the Hanford site. The federal Department of Energy is cleaning up the toxic wastes. Clean-up work provides many jobs as the soil and radioactive waste are removed and stored safely. Radioactive waste from other areas, even foreign countries, is now stored at Hanford.**

### Seattle World's Fair

**T**he Space Needle, now an emblem for downtown Seattle, was built for the World's Fair in 1962. The Space Needle was a symbol of the nation's space program, which was pushing hard to get a man on the moon before the Soviets did.

The World's Fair was a chance to show what the future might bring in science and technology. A huge science exhibit stressed more science education for American students. The monorail was an example of future transportation. It still operates in downtown Seattle.



Seattle's Space Needle is a familiar sight. It represented science, space exploration, and the future at the World's Fair in 1962. *Photo by Chuck Pefley*



## Transportation

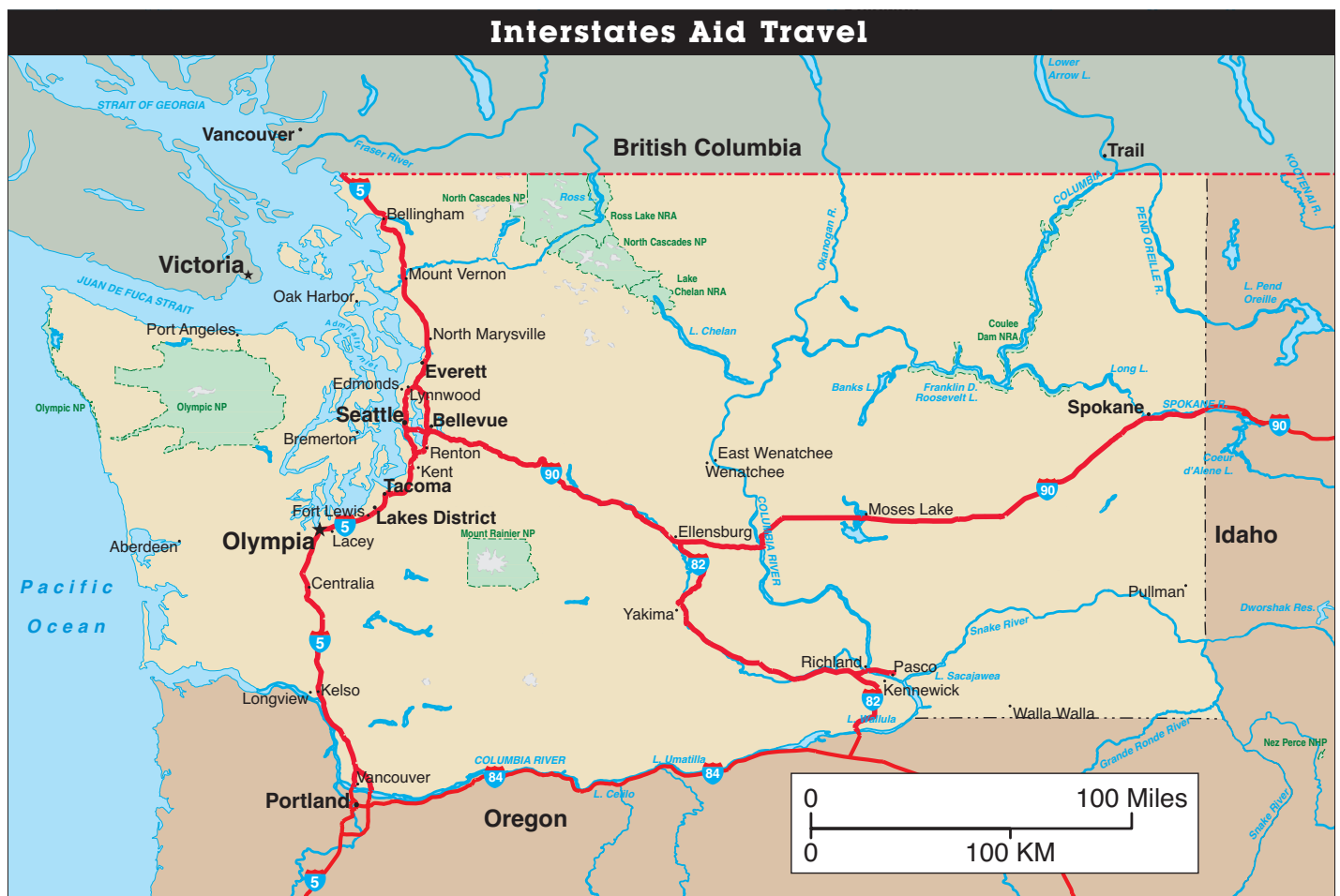
Post-war prosperity meant many people had good jobs and could afford automobiles. Families who had moved to the suburbs preferred driving their own cars to work instead of riding city buses. The roads, however, were narrow, and driving was slow. Traveling across town took a long time because drivers had to stop at every corner traffic light.

The U.S. government began building a national network of superhighways called freeways. They made it easier to travel across the country quickly. President Dwight Eisenhower had seen such highways in Germany during the war. He knew they would make it easier to evacuate cities if a Cold War attack ever came.

The Interstate Highway System linked Washington State to the rest of the nation.



Interstate freeways linked cities and suburbs to other states. *Photo by Doug Wilson*



The new freeways let travelers zoom right past towns and cities without getting off the freeway. Interstate 84 along the Columbia River was useful to people driving across

Washington's southern border. Interstate 90 connected the eastern part of the state to the Puget Sound region. Interstate 5 ran from Canada to Mexico. Today, all of the interstates near Seattle, Tacoma, and Everett are very congested.

## ACTIVITY

### Miles and Miles of Freeways

**W**ork in teams to figure out how many miles of Interstate highways were built in Washington. Divide the class into three teams, one for each Interstate: I-5, I-90, and I-82.

Each team must look at a Washington State road map and estimate which freeway has the most miles and which has the least within the state's borders. Then the teams should use the map scale to measure the miles of their interstate. When finished, compare and see how close the teams came to their guesses.

## Damming the Rivers

**I**n the depression years before World War II, dams were built to create jobs and provide electricity. After the war, dam building increased, and over a dozen dams were built on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Dams provided well-paid construction jobs in eastern Washington for over twenty years.

Eventually, the dams controlled the Columbia River. The water became *placid*

## Trucking Companies

**K**enworth Truck Company was formed in Seattle in the 1920s. In 1933 the first diesel engines were built into trucks, making transportation more economical because diesel fuel was one-third the price of gasoline. Kenworth trucks were sent to the Pacific war zone during World War II. They were used as tow trucks to retrieve damaged tanks, sometimes under Japanese fire. Later, Kenworth trucks helped build the Alaskan oil pipeline.

The trucking industry grew quickly once the

Interstate Highway System was in place, making it quicker and easier to transport goods by road than by

rail. Today, Kenworth trucks are built in factories around the world, but the main factory is still in Seattle.



Trucks and planes were Washington's contribution to faster transportation. This is a Boeing 247 and a Kenworth gasoline truck in 1937.



enough for towboats to move barges between the Pacific Ocean and the Snake River. Clarkston became a “seaport” where barges were loaded with logs, wood pulp, and wheat to be exported to foreign countries.

### The Columbia Basin Project

The dams of the Columbia Basin Project created seventy-five reservoirs, produced electricity, and provided irrigation water for farming. Cheap electricity brought new industries to Washington. There were jobs for many workers. Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick grew quickly.

The waters held by the Grand Coulee Dam were used to irrigate **semiarid** land in central Washington, turning a desert wasteland into a lush farming area. Sugar beets, potatoes, apples, cherries,

grapes, and other crops could be easily grown in the sandy soil with irrigation water. Towns like Moses Lake and Othello grew quickly as people moved in to begin farming.

The dams did not come without sacrifice, however. Lake Roosevelt flooded eleven towns. The people who had lived in the towns had to find another place to live. Native Americans lost access to Kettle Falls, an ancient fishing spot. Migrating salmon could no longer return to the northern parts of the Columbia River because there



Wheat is an important crop in dryland Washington.

*Photo by Chuck Pefley*



were too many dams blocking the river.

## Larger Farms

The Columbia Basin Project was planned to create 20,000 new farms. When it was completed, there were only 6,000 farms. Instead of creating farms for many farm families, the irrigation system created large profits for larger corporate farms. The new approach to farming is called **agribusiness**.

The project eventually irrigated 550,000 acres of land. Alfalfa, grapes, asparagus, corn, onions, and potatoes were grown. The crops were picked, cleaned, and sorted.

Then they were either shipped fresh to markets, canned, or frozen. Processing plants created jobs, but many were seasonal and employed workers only during the harvest.

## Agriculture Research

Chemical fertilizers were developed after World War II and resulted in larger harvests. Nitrogen fertilizer, the most common type used on wheat farms, was made by combining natural gas with air. The inexpensive fertilizer was spread by the ton on huge farms.

Agricultural research at Washington State University in Pullman resulted in plants that grew faster, repelled diseases, and matured at the same time, making

## Farm-in-a-Day

**I**rrigation fever" swept the Columbia Basin when reservoir water reached the first farms. Electricity powered the pumps that pushed the water out into canals, ditches, and sprinkler systems.

Towns held festivals to celebrate. The people of Moses Lake held a "Farm-in-a-Day" program. Hundreds of people volunteered. In

twenty-four hours, they built an entire farm—outbuildings, corrals, a house with furniture, and even newly-planted crops!

The Farm-in-a-Day was given away free to the "most worthy **veteran**" of war. Donald Dunn, a veteran of World War II, had farmed in Kansas and been flooded out. He was chosen to receive the eighty-acre farm.



*"The community got together and built this guy a house and a barn and we leveled the land and set the sprinkler systems on it. We did that all in a 24-hour period."*

*—Ed Ebel, Moses Lake*



Family farms remained in some places like these in Kittitas Valley near Ellensburg. In other places, small farms were bought out by larger farming businesses. *Photo by Chuck Pefley*

*Imagine an onion being called "sweet." Walla Walla onions are famous for their mild flavor.*

## ACTIVITY

### Graph the Farm

The Farm-in-a-Day was 80 acres. That was considered enough land to make a living for a married couple in 1952. That was raised to 960 acres in 1982. By the 1990s, there were several farms that each had over 2,000 acres.

Larger farms were more profitable because they brought in enough money to pay for the expensive machinery that did the work of many people. Corporations or landowners with large farms bought out their neighbors and became even larger.

Make a graph with the number of acres in a farm on one side, and the years in even increments on the other. Graph the facts in this activity to see how the size of farms grew.

### Kwik-Lok

Floyd Paxton, of Yakima, realized there was a need for a simple way to close plastic fruit and bread bags. The fruit-growing industry in the Yakima area was growing quickly, and much of the fruit was shipped to stores in plastic bags. At the grocery store, customers picked out their own fruit and put it into plastic bags.

Floyd, who had never completed high school, whittled a sample clip out of plastic. When he showed it to the executives at Pacific Fruit Company, they ordered a million. Other orders followed, and eventually bread bags were sealed with his Kwik-Loks, too. Floyd became wealthy, and now bread stays fresher longer.





harvesting by machine possible.

## Korea—Another War

In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. Communist North Korea used Soviet tanks and planes. The United States and fifteen other nations sent troops to help South Korea defend itself. At first, Americans did not pay much attention to the war. Everyone felt the war would quickly end after four months of sporadic fighting. “Home by Christmas!” was the cry.

Eventually the three-year war ended with a stalemate. Of the 33,000 American men killed, 528 were from Washington.



## GERALD FOLEY

Gerald Foley had grown up in the Puget Sound area and played baseball whenever he could. He was drafted into the Korean War, and found himself stationed along the Yalu River one cold November. Soldiers were terrified as 120,000 Chinese soldiers swooped down on just 19,000 U.S. and Korean troops. It was the first battle between Chinese and American troops.

“We were just overrun,” Foley said. A desperate hand-to-hand battle followed. Foley survived by using a shovel to fight off four enemy soldiers. He swung it like a baseball bat and saved himself.

Thousands of soldiers from both countries still guard their common border.



U.S. Marines blow up bunkers and tunnels in 1966.

## The Longest War—Vietnam

In 1954, the U.S. became involved in a war in a far-off country in Southeast Asia. Few Americans even knew where to find Vietnam on a map then, but for the next twenty years, American troops were involved in events there. In the early 1960s, the war started in earnest. Thousands of soldiers trained at military bases in Washington. Washington’s young men were drafted and joined other Americans in Vietnam.

The Vietnam War incited protests across the nation. Many people believed it was wrong to send troops to a nation where we had no reason to be involved. Others thought it was important to help fight

Communism everywhere in the world. They knew millions of innocent civilians were being killed in Vietnam.

Protest marches and demonstrations against the war were held all over the United States. In Seattle, 500 people walked from the courthouse to where Westlake Plaza is now. One march in downtown Seattle filled the street with nearly 25,000 people.

Finally, after over ten years of fighting, the war ended. More than 58,000 Americans had been killed and between 2-3 million Vietnamese had died.

## After the War

Several large Washington industries had relied on government war contracts. Many residents depended on those manufacturing jobs to make a living. They built weapons, ships, and planes. After the war finally ended in 1973, war materials were no longer needed. Unemployment soared in the Puget Sound region.

## Asian Immigrants

A wave of immigrants fled the war zone to make their home in Washington State. About 30,000 came from Vietnam, 15,000 from Cambodia, and about 10,000 from Laos. Their lives were changed completely. They had to learn a new language and new ways.



A Hmong refugee works in a garden in her new country. Photo by Jan Thompson

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*Joe Martin protested the Vietnam War while he was a college student. "There was never any rational explanation for the war," he told a newspaper reporter. Martin now works as a social worker in Seattle, helping the homeless and poor.*

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*Hanh Nguyen was a child in South Vietnam. She remembers her family trying fifteen times to escape by boat after the war ended. Her father was imprisoned each time. The government allowed them to leave in 1991. Today, she is a student at the University of Washington. "We do lose our identity—our language, our culture, ourselves—so we're trying to maintain that," she says.*



Many of their children have now graduated from college and have begun new lives here.

## Civil Rights

During the 1960s, racial problems erupted across the nation. African Americans challenged **segregation** by race in public places. Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., from Atlanta, Georgia, led peaceful protest marches, sit-ins, and boycotts. King and his wife Coretta visited Seattle to help efforts in Washington State.

In Washington, like in most other states, minorities were not allowed to sit with whites in movie theaters, were not welcome in most restaurants or hotels, and could not use public swimming pools.

Blacks could buy houses only in certain sections of cities, including in Seattle and Spokane. At the Bremerton Navy Base as well as the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, blacks and whites worked together but lived in separate areas.

A Spokane Valley real estate code of ethics said:

*A realtor should never introduce into a neighborhood any race . . . whose presence will [lower] property values in that neighborhood.*

Rules for an Ephrata subdivision said:

*No persons other than those of the Caucasian race shall ever occupy any building in this subdivision, except **domestic servants** . . . employed and living in the building occupied by said owner.*

## Civil Rights Murders

The civil rights turmoil erupted in a wave of assassinations of political leaders. President John Kennedy was shot in Dallas, Texas. Later his brother, Senator Robert Kennedy, a civil rights advocate and candidate for president, was assassinated.

Malcolm X, an important African American leader who used violence to gain attention to inequality, was murdered. Reverend King was murdered in Memphis, Tennessee. Edwin Pratt, the director of the Seattle Urban League (a civil rights group) was shot when he opened his front door.

## A Multi-Cultural Washington

Over the next decades minority citizens in Washington became more involved in government. Many were elected to public office. Others were appointed to government leadership positions. Today, Washington is a very multi-cultural state. Ethnic groups and their heritage make the state a dynamic place to live.

### African Americans

During World War II many African Americans moved to the Puget Sound area to work in defense manufacturing plants. Many others were stationed at army or

*The U.S. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibited any kind of discrimination in public places.*

*In 1965, the act eliminated the literacy test for voters.*

*In 1969, a new Civil Rights Act prohibited discrimination in the sale or rental of property.*



Lucille Bankhead talked about growing up in Tacoma. "We'd have friends sleep over at our house, or we'd go to theirs. It didn't matter if you were black or white. We all got along. But we could not go to the movies and sit with our friends because we were colored. That's the way we lived."

### Spokane's African American Attorney

**C**arl Maxey was the first black attorney in Spokane. He worked hard to end segregation in the city. Restaurants, hotels, and parks were segregated. The swimming pools were off-limits to blacks. Carl Maxey began filing lawsuits for black customers who were denied service in restaurants and stores. He challenged discrimination in court in the 1950s and 1960s.

navy bases. When the war ended, many stayed on, becoming the largest racial minority in the state for many years.

### Asian Americans

Before World War II, many Japanese American families farmed in rural areas outside Seattle, Tacoma, and other cities. They grew fruits and vegetables and sold them to city dwellers.

After the war, the Japanese left the relocation camps and returned to their homes. Many found difficult conditions. They had been gone three years and much had changed. Often their property had been vandalized and strangers were living in their homes.

Some Asian Americans later entered politics. Wing Luke was elected to Seattle's City Council in 1963. The son of an immigrant laundryman, Luke was the first Chinese American elected to any office in the state. Luke died in a plane crash a few years later.

Over thirty years later, in 1996, Gary Locke, another man of Chinese heritage, was elected governor. Locke was the first Chinese American governor in the mainland United States. You will read more about him in another chapter.

Large numbers of immigrants from

Asian Americans grew most of Seattle's fresh fruits and vegetables before World War II. Here a woman shows off fresh strawberries at Seattle's Pike Place Market.



The Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle honors the first Asian American elected to public office in the Pacific Northwest. The museum displays Asian culture and art.



Evening classes in public schools gave classes in English to Hispanic immigrants.



## Native Americans

Many groups of Native Americans lived on and off of reservations. In this photo, Mary Sophy Nenema and her older sister Christina posed in their traditional beaded buckskin dresses at the Pend Oreille County Fair. One of the headdresses has a version of the presidential seal, and the other has the American flag. Like all American Indians, the Kalispels lived in two worlds; Indian life was a balancing act of preserving native traditions and modern culture.

## Hispanic Americans

Today the Hispanic population is the largest minority group in the state. What brought so many Hispanic immigrants? During World War II, thousands of Mexican Americans came to Washington to harvest crops. Many stayed and settled in the central part of the state.

By the 1970s, migrants were coming each year to harvest crops. Many of them settled here permanently. In Othello and other farming towns, Mexican Americans soon made up more than half of the population.

By the 1990s, Hispanic Americans were no longer working just on the farms. Many trained to become lawyers, physicians, and teachers. Others owned their own businesses.

Hispanic citizens worked for civil rights, too. Before the 1970s, Washington citizens had to prove they could read English before they were allowed to vote. A civil rights group, the Mexican American Federation, challenged voting restrictions in court and won. They also got assistance for voter registration. The effort resulted in more Hispanic voters.

## Women's Rights

In the 1970s, another group worked for equal rights. They were not a minority group; women made up over half the population.

In most jobs, women were paid less than men. There was a great separation of men's and women's jobs—men were doctors, and women were nurses. Men were business owners and women were secretaries. School principals were nearly always men. School sports teams were open only to boys. Women had a hard time getting loans or credit cards in their own names.

The national movement for women's rights was called *feminism*, or women's liberation. The women's goals were to gain equal legal status and equal opportunities.

Across the nation, people worked to add an Equal Rights Amendment (the ERA) to the U.S. Constitution. It would guarantee that neither men nor women would be denied any right on the basis of gender.

## Health Care

Washington was a pioneer in health care. The first HMO (health maintenance organization) in the nation was formed at the end of World War II in Seattle. Union members and farmers joined together to hire their own doctors. Four hundred families formed Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound, and bought a clinic and hospital. Known today as Group Health, the idea has been widely copied across the nation. Members pay a monthly fee for health services from doctors who work in a company clinic.

The state has a medical school at the University of Washington in Seattle, where physicians are trained and researchers work on new treatments. The state's school for dentists is also at the University of Washington. Washington's animals are taken care of, too—the state has a school for veterinarians at Washington State University in Pullman.

## CHAPTER 10 REVIEW

1. What was a large concern of workers after the end of World War II?
2. What education benefit did veterans get from the G.I. Bill?
3. How did the G.I. Bill help create a “sawdust empire” in Washington?
4. What is a suburb?
5. How did the Cold War help Washington workers?
6. What is the largest problem at the Hanford site today?
7. What was the main attraction at the Seattle World's Fair in 1962?
8. How did the U.S. Congress help transportation between states?
9. How were Kenworth diesel trucks used?
10. What were two advantages and two disadvantages of building dams?
11. How did chemical fertilizers help farmers?
12. Why did the people of Moses Lake build a “Farm-in-a-Day” and give it away free?
13. What was the longest war ever fought by Americans?
14. What countries did many immigrants leave after the Vietnam War?
15. Describe two problems the Civil Rights Act of 1964 tried to solve.
16. List the three main ethnic groups who lived in Washington after World War II.
17. What is the largest ethnic group in Washington today?
18. What was the ERA? Which group did the ERA try to help?

## GEOGRAPHY TIE-IN

1. Make a list of all the natural resources used by businesses in this chapter. Research how the resources are used in today's economy.
2. Choose one of the businesses in this chapter and research the company to see what it is producing today and where in the world the products are used.

