



CHAPTER 1

Home Sweet Oregon

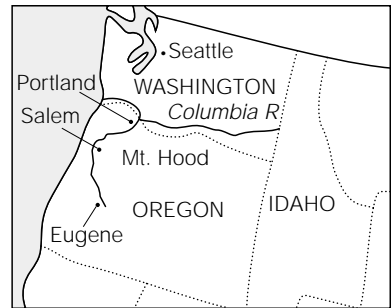
FIRST STEP

次の（ ）にあてはまる語句を選びなさい。

- (1) The movie's premiere () a big audience.
a. got b. attracted c. took
- (2) The time and () of the meeting have not been decided yet.
a. venue b. numbers c. period
- (3) () the rain, the baseball game was cancelled.
a. for b. because of c. as

READING PASSAGE

筆者の出身地オレゴン州は、かつて「オレゴンから愛」というテレビ番組で有名な地名であったが、最近ではあまり知られていない。筆者は真のオレゴンの姿を紹介し、オレゴンのすばらしい自然を日本人に知ってもらいたいと願っている。



When I moved to Japan, in the mid-1980s, people often asked me where I was from, and I would answer, "Oregon."

"Ah, Oregon!" they would beam. They seemed to know it almost as well as I did, from watching the hit TV series, "From Oregon with Love" (*Oregon Kara Ai*). 5

Times have changed. Nowadays, when I say I'm from Oregon, I usually get a blank stare. And I have to explain about Oregon from square one.

Oregon sits on the west coast of the U.S.A., with the state of Washington above it and California below. A mountain range, the Cascades, runs from north to south, dividing Oregon into two parts; the smaller, western portion is splendidly green, while the vast, eastern part is very cold in winter, quite hot in summer, and dry all year. 10

Not surprisingly, Oregon's major cities are in the west, and I grew up in the largest of them all, Portland. It's a relaxed place, not too big and not too small (some of my childhood friends who feel it is too small have moved north to Seattle, Washington). Known as "The City of Roses," its biggest cultural event every year is the week-long Rose Festival, which attracts tens of thousands of visitors. 15

Down the broad, green Willamette Valley, about two hours' drive south of Portland, is Eugene, the second-largest city and the home of the University of Oregon. But neither of these cities is the state's capital; that honor goes to a smaller city in between them, called Salem. This is puzzling to many foreign visitors—in fact, when I was young, it was puzzling to me, too, until somebody explained that in most American states, the capital is relatively close to the center of the state so that it will be accessible to as many people as possible (the state of California, to give another example, has its capital in Sacramento, not in Los Angeles). 20
25

Portland and Eugene are pleasant places, and there are plenty of other cultural attractions, such as a Shakespeare Festival. For many people, however, Oregon's real appeal is not to be found in a 30

theater or on a city street. Instead, they're lured by The Great Outdoors: skiing in the Cascades, beach-combing on the coast, salmon-fishing or white-water rafting on one of the many rivers, hiking through the nearly-endless forests, and much more.

Skiing is not one of my hobbies, but my brother loves to ski, so I know a thing or two about it. Of course, in the winter there's a wide variety of places to ski, but when summer comes, you don't have to pack your skis away in a closet; 3426-meter-high Mount Hood offers year-round skiing. It's also a popular place for climbers, though because of its glaciers it's much trickier to climb than, say, Mount Fuji. 5
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In the opposite direction is the lovely Oregon coast, where hunting for agates is one of my favorite activities. Agates are partly-clear stones, shaped and polished in the ocean over thousands of years and finally washed up by the waves. On any given day (but especially after a storm) you can see people strolling slowly along the beaches, looking down at their feet in the hope of finding a huge agate—and occasionally glancing nervously over their shoulders to see whether they're about to get drenched by an incoming wave. Seals, whales, and excellent seafood are among the coast's many other attractions. 15
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One of my favorite destinations is the Columbia Gorge, where the Columbia River cuts through the mountains. Driving eastward from Portland, you pass innumerable beautiful waterfalls before emerging from the gorge at Hood River, from where there are spectacular views of Mount Hood (and several other mountains across the river in Washington). Besides being a major apple-growing area, Hood River is world-famous among windsurfers, who come from as far away as Germany and Japan to take advantage of the strong winds there. 25

Clearly, Oregon has something for everybody and there are dozens of good reasons to go there on your next vacation, but there's still one more reason for visiting. For me, it's a bigger attraction than all the rest, but it's not mentioned in any guide book or tour advertisement: my parents. 30

Notes

beam 「ほほえむ」 **blank stare** 「無表情な目」 **from square one** 「始めから」 **the Cascades** 「カスケード山脈」 **lure** 「引きつける」 **white-water** 「川の浅瀬の」 **raft** 「いかだ下りをする」 **agate** 「めのう」 **stroll** 「ぶらつく」 **incoming** 「満ちてくる」 **seal** 「アザラシ」 **innumerable** 「数えきれない」 **gorge** 「峡谷」