

# Summary: What's Special About the Pacific States

## Cities of the Pacific States

The Pacific States are Alaska, California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii. Four states are on the coast of the Pacific Ocean. The fifth, Hawaii, is a group of islands in the middle of the Pacific. The ocean affects the climate of all these states.

Seattle is Washington State's biggest city. It is a center for business and industry. Many people there work in technology industries. Other big cities in the Pacific States are port cities, such as Portland, Oregon, Los Angeles, California, and Honolulu, Hawaii. Ships from these ports carry goods all over the world. San Francisco, California, is an international banking center. Los Angeles is home to the movie and television industry.

## Agricultural Activities

The different climates of the Pacific States let farmers grow many crops. It is cool and wet in the northwest coastal regions. Farmers grow peas, pears, broccoli, apples, and strawberries.

East of the Cascade Mountains, farmers grow wheat and sugar beets. In southern California, where the growing season is very long, farmers can grow citrus fruits, almonds, kiwi, and figs. In tropical Hawaii, they grow 650,000 tons of pineapple a year.

Harvesting, or picking the crops, is seasonal work. Each crop is picked at a certain time of year. Farmers need migrant workers to do this work. Many migrant workers live in bad conditions and are paid very little.

The cities on the coast support farming in rural areas. Cities have factories where farm crops are turned into food products. Workers in factories can fruits and vegetables, make juices, and bake goods.

Tourists in the Pacific States enjoy skiing, surfing, and visiting national parks. They can see Arctic wilderness in Alaska, active volcanoes in Hawaii, and glaciers and a rainforest in Washington State.

### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**seasonal** *adjective*, happening at certain times of the year

**migrant worker** *noun*, a worker who moves from place to place to find seasonal work

### After You Read

**REVIEW** What is the importance of the seaports on the Pacific coast?

Underline the sentence that tells what happens at port cities.

**REVIEW** What industries support farming in the Pacific States? Draw a box around two sentences that tell how farm crops are turned into food products.