

Pacific Northwest History – Key Terms Review Sheet

Coastal Indigenous Culture

Definition: Indigenous peoples living along the Pacific Coast (Chinook, Makah, Tlingit) who developed complex fishing, woodworking, and trade-based societies.

Date: Pre-contact era to present.

Historical Context: Their salmon-based economy and art (totem poles, plank houses) shaped Northwest culture long before European arrival.

Plateau Indigenous Culture

Definition: Inland tribes (Nez Perce, Yakama, Spokane) who practiced seasonal migrations and later adopted horse culture.

Date: Pre-contact era to present.

Historical Context: Key in regional trade networks; their adaptation to U.S. expansion shows resilience and change.

James Cook

Definition: British explorer who mapped the Northwest Coast seeking the Northwest Passage.

Date: 1778.

Historical Context: His voyage drew European attention to the Pacific Northwest, sparking British and American exploration.

Robert Gray

Definition: American captain who explored the Northwest and discovered the Columbia River.

Date: 1792.

Historical Context: Strengthened U.S. claims to Oregon Territory against Britain.

Marcus Whitman

Definition: Missionary who, with his wife Narcissa, founded a mission among the Cayuse near Walla Walla.

Date: 1836.

Historical Context: His death in the Cayuse War (1847) intensified U.S. expansion and missionary activity.

Henry Spalding

Definition: Missionary among the Nez Perce who promoted Christianity and agriculture.

Date: 1836.

Historical Context: Introduced literacy and crops, but increased cultural conflict with Indigenous communities.

Donation Land Claim Act (1850)

Definition: U.S. law granting free land to white settlers in the Oregon Territory.

Date: 1850.

Historical Context: Encouraged white settlement and displaced Indigenous peoples from ancestral lands.

Hudson's Bay Company

Definition: British fur trading company dominant in the Pacific Northwest economy.

Date: 1820s–1850s.

Historical Context: Controlled trade through Fort Vancouver and influenced regional politics before U.S. control.

Peter Skene Ogden

Definition: HBC explorer who led expeditions across the inland Northwest.

Date: 1820s–1840s.

Historical Context: Helped expand British fur trade influence and mapped large parts of the region.

Spokane Garry

Definition: Spokane leader educated by missionaries in Canada.

Date: 1820s–1880s.

Historical Context: Advocated peaceful coexistence and represented cultural adaptation amid colonization.

Lawyer (Hallalhotsoot)

Definition: Nez Perce leader and treaty negotiator with the U.S. government.

Date: Mid–1800s.

Historical Context: Promoted diplomacy to protect tribal rights while cooperating with U.S. authorities.

Spokane Free Speech Fight

Definition: IWW protest against city restrictions on labor speech in Spokane.

Date: 1909–1910.

Historical Context: Highlighted workers' rights and free speech struggles in the Northwest.

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn

Definition: IWW organizer and socialist who led the Spokane Free Speech Fight.

Date: 1909–1910.

Historical Context: Became a national symbol of labor activism and women's leadership.

John McLoughlin

Definition: Hudson's Bay Company leader at Fort Vancouver, known as the "Father of Oregon."

Date: 1824–1846.

Historical Context: Helped American settlers and guided peaceful transition from British to U.S. control.

Bill Haywood

Definition: Founding leader of the IWW, advocating direct action for workers.

Date: Early 1900s.

Historical Context: His radical leadership influenced Northwest labor movements and strikes.

Coeur d'Alene (CDA) Mining Wars

Definition: Violent labor conflicts between miners and mine owners in Idaho.

Date: 1892 and 1899.

Historical Context: Exposed harsh conditions and helped inspire the IWW's creation.

Q■u■lšn (Chief Leschi)

Definition: Nisqually leader who resisted U.S. treaty terms in Puget Sound.

Date: 1850s (executed 1858).

Historical Context: Became a symbol of Native resistance; later cleared of wrongdoing.

George Whitworth

Definition: Presbyterian minister and founder of Whitworth College.

Date: Mid–late 1800s.

Historical Context: Reflected missionary influence on early education in the Northwest.

James J. Hill

Definition: "Empire Builder" who expanded the Great Northern Railway into the Northwest.

Date: 1890s–early 1900s.

Historical Context: Connected the PNW to national markets and fueled economic growth.

Everett Massacre

Definition: Violent clash between IWW members and law enforcement in Everett, WA.

Date: 1916.

Historical Context: Symbolized labor tension and anti-union violence during WWI era.

Seattle General Strike

Definition: Citywide labor strike supporting shipyard workers.

Date: 1919.

Historical Context: First general strike in U.S. history; reflected postwar unrest and fear of radicalism.

Centralia Massacre

Definition: Deadly confrontation between IWW members and American Legion in Centralia, WA.

Date: 1919.

Historical Context: Marked the height of anti-labor violence and decline of IWW influence.

Abigail Scott Duniway

Definition: Suffragist and writer who led Oregon's women's voting movement.

Date: 1870s–1912.

Historical Context: Helped secure women's suffrage in Oregon; key figure in Northwest reform history.