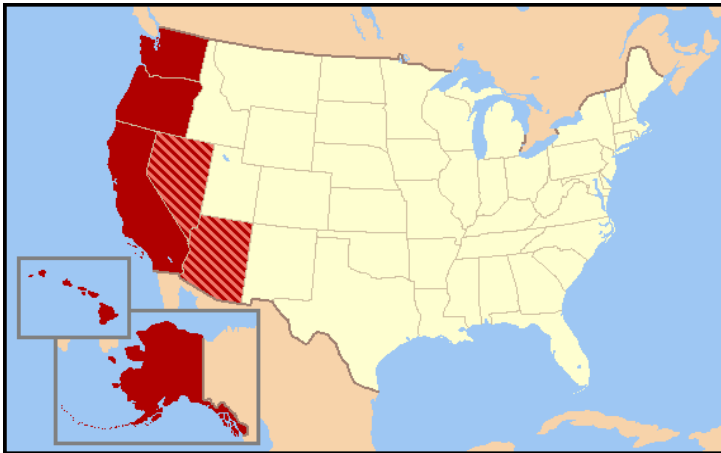




# U.S Embassy London Kids Newsletter

Issue 4

Welcome to our newsletter series on **America's regions**. The last issue looked at New England. This issue is all about the **Pacific states**.



## Who?

The Pacific states are California, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Hawaii.

## Where?

Each of these states has a coastline on the Pacific Ocean. Look at the states in dark red on the map above. They are a **long** way from the UK. Hawaii is over 7000 miles from London! California is 8 time zones from the UK. This means that when British kids are heading home from school Californian kids are eating breakfast on the same day!

## Stat-Attack!

- ❖ Over 48 million people live in the Pacific states.
- ❖ The UK could fit into Alaska six times, with room to spare.
- ❖ Hawaii was the last state to become part of the United States in March 1959.
- ❖ Los Angeles in California is the second biggest city in America.
- ❖ The highest and lowest places in mainland USA are both in California and they are only 76 miles apart. Mount Whitney is 14,505 feet high. Nearby Death Valley is 282 feet below sea level.

## Hooray for Hollywood!

Hollywood in California is the movie making capital of the world. It is home to the Oscar ceremony which takes place in each year.

Oscar winners collect the famous golden statuette. Actress Tatum O'Neal was just 10 years-old when she won her Oscar. Walt Disney has won more Oscars than anyone else.



Did you know that President Ronald Reagan appeared in 53 Hollywood films?

## Surfing U.S.A.!

Living next to the Pacific Ocean is fun. Lots of kids in the Pacific states go surfing. But, if you think surfing is a modern sport, think again. Local kids were surfing in Hawaii for centuries before it became 'cool' in the rest of the world. Radical!



## Volcano Alley

Most of America's volcanoes can be found in the Pacific states. Hawaii and Alaska have the greatest chance of eruptions. America's biggest volcano eruption occurred on Mount St. Helens in Washington State, in 1980.

A volcano is a mountain that opens down to a pool of molten rock below the surface of the earth. When volcanoes erupt material from the under the earth's crust is blasted into the atmosphere.

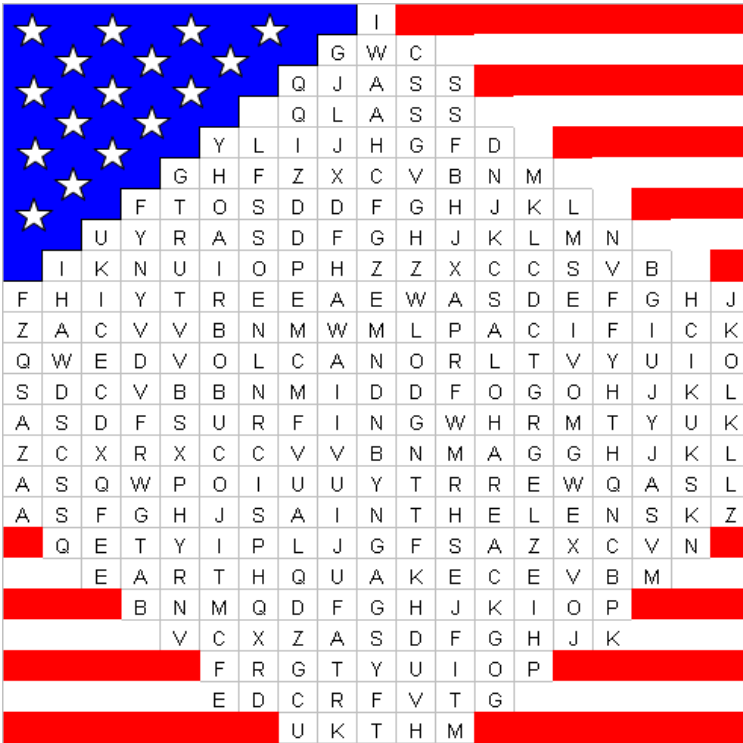


## Word Search

All these words are hidden in the word search –  
California, Hawaii, Volcano, Earthquake, Surfing, Pacific, Movies,  
Saint Helens

**Can you find the secret word?**

CLUE: This is how Hawaiians say hello!



## Earthquake Zone

All of the Pacific states experience earthquakes. This is because they sit on top of two very active tectonic plates, the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate. Geographers call the fault line where these plates meet the **PACIFIC RING OF FIRE**, because it is so active.



Alaska has the largest earthquakes in America. It experienced America's most powerful recorded earthquake in 1964. The earthquake measured 9.2 on Richter scale.



Southern California has about 10,000 earthquakes each year, though many a quite small. It is not unusual for the waves in Californian swimming pools to keep moving for hours after a quake.

## The flag of Alaska was designed by a Kid!

In 1927 Alaska held a competition to design its flag. A 13 year-old boy called Benny Benson won. His design was based on the stars. The flag has the North Star in the top right-hand corner and seven other stars. The other stars form the pattern of the "Big Dipper". Benny wrote: *"The blue field is for the Alaska sky and the forget-me-not, an Alaskan flower. The North Star is for the future state of Alaska, the most northerly in the union. The Dipper is for the Great Bear symbolizing strength"*.

Hawaii



"Aloha State"

Oregon



"Beaver State"

California



"Golden State"

Alaska



"North to the future"

Washington



"Evergreen State"

**If there was a competition to design the flag of the United States what would YOU make the flag look like?  
Remember that Benny Benson used symbols of Alaska in his winning design.**

<http://london.usembassy.gov/kids/index.html>