



TRANSPORTATION



Activity Pack

SPRING BREAK 2025 EDITION

10 fantastic facts about transportation in Oregon!

Oregon's history is rich in transportation. From the original people walking on paths they created to covered wagons on the Oregon Trail to electric vehicles on our highways, transportation has played an important part in the quality of our lives. Here are a few fun facts about transportation in Oregon.

1

The longest freeway in Oregon is Interstate 84. It runs for almost 377 miles! I-5 is the second longest at 308 miles long.

2

The shortest freeway in Oregon is I-405 in Portland. It's only four miles long. I-105 in Eugene is a little more than nine miles long, and I-82 in Umatilla County is 11 miles long.

3

ODOT used to be in charge of beaches, airports and ferries. Way more than just the roads!

4

Oregon was the first state to have a gas tax. The gas tax started in February 1919, and it was one cent per gallon.

5

Oregon's first driver's license law started in 1920. Drivers needed to have one day's driving experience and then pay a fee of 25 cents. The license was good for life.

6

The first graphic license plate in Oregon was issued in 1988. They held a contest to design the new plate — the Oregon Tree plate, featuring a Douglas Fir.

7

Oregon has the largest collection of covered bridges in the West and one of the largest in the nation. Oregon currently has 50 covered bridges.

8

As of January 2025, ODOT has funded 1,162 charging ports for electric vehicles.

9

We oversee the state's portion of Amtrak passenger rail service and the Point Bus. We also regulate railroad safety and freight trucks and their drivers.

10

We own and maintain 2,781 bridges. Sixty percent of them were built before 1973.

Preserving our pavement

We often simply call the work we do road construction, but that term encompasses many different types of jobs. One of the more common types of work our crews do is paving, or pavement preservation. But what does that mean? There are many ways that we work to improve our roads. Here are some of the different types of pavement preservation work that we do. See if you can match the type of work (1-5) with the description (A-E)

1. Reconstruction
2. Grind Inlay
3. Overlay
4. Chip Seal
5. Pothole Patching

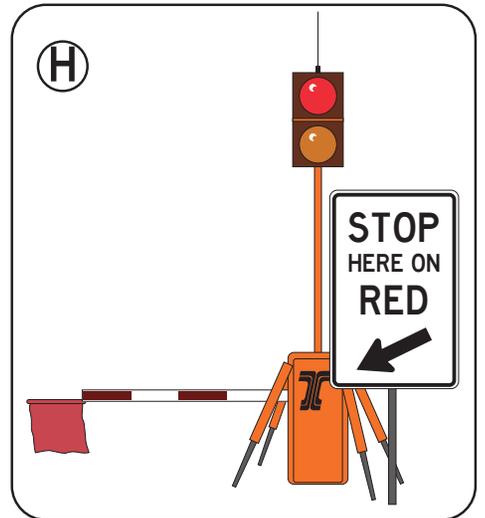
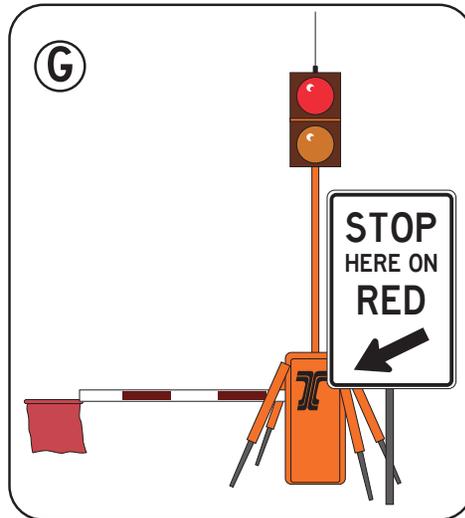
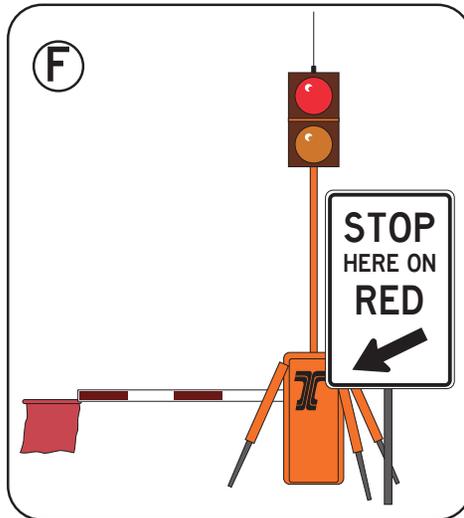
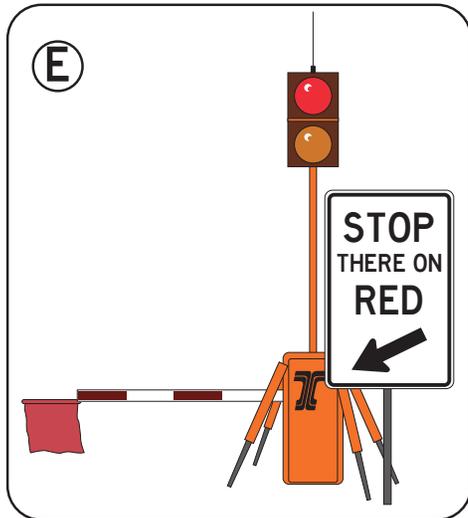
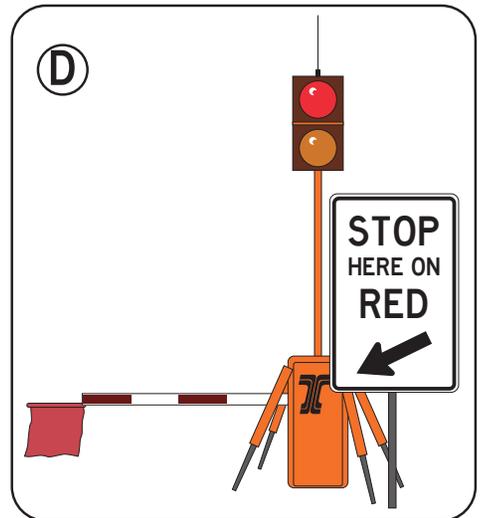
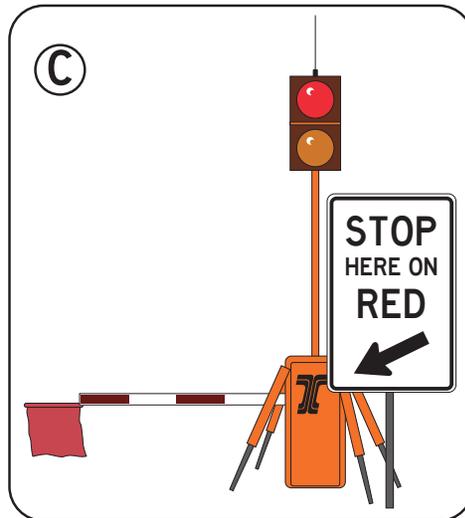
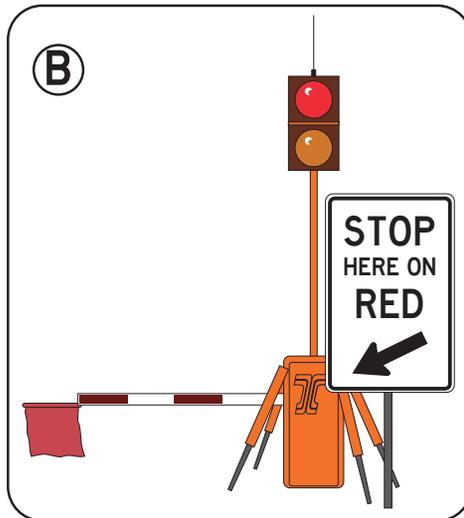
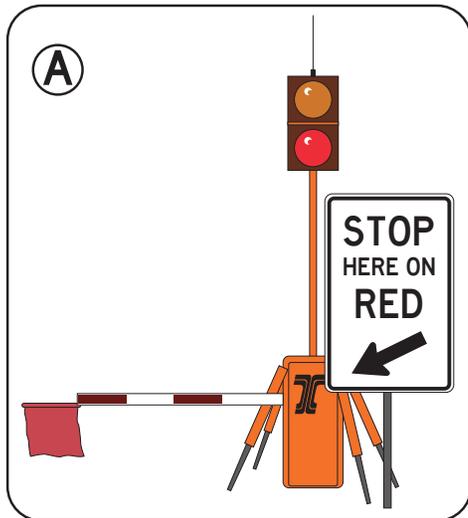


- A. As a temporary fix, we fill indentations or holes with an asphalt mix. We smash it down and smooth it out to make an even road surface.
- B. We remove all of the old material and build a new road from the ground up. There are many layers that we build up before we pave the road surface.
- C. We use special equipment to grind off the top two or three inches of pavement and replace it with new material.
- D. Instead of removing the old road surface, we pave over the top of it with two or three inches of new paving material.
- E. We mix hot oil and gravel to lay over an old road surface. We usually do this on roads that don't have a lot of traffic because there is often loose material.

The rise of the AFAD!

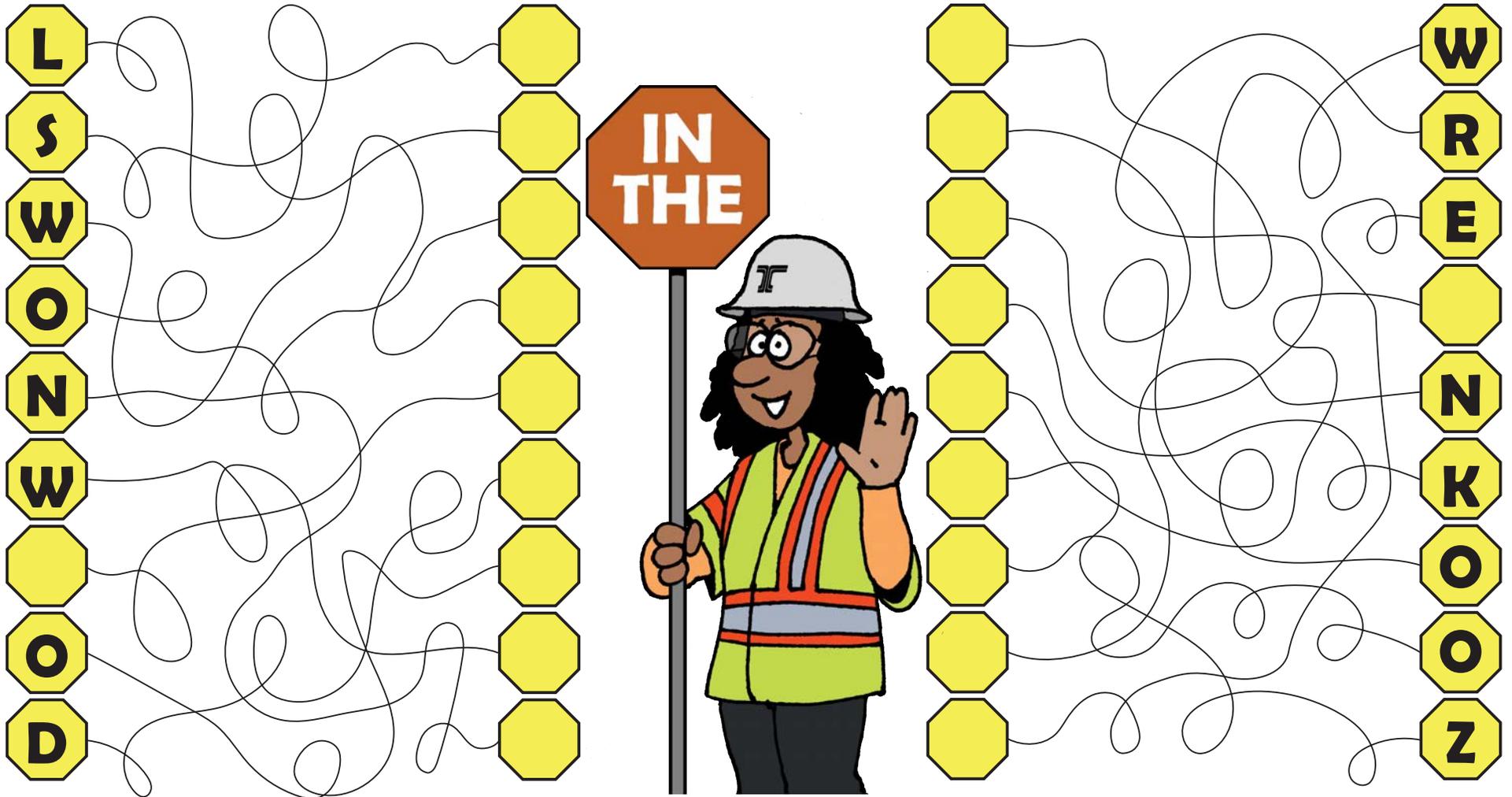
In some work zones, traffic is controlled by an Automated Flagger Assistance Device. We call it an AFAD for short. It's like a remote controlled flagger. When it says stop, drivers need to stop. AFADs help keep our workers safe and they keep drivers safe as well.

We have eight pictures of automated flaggers below. Only two of them are exactly the same. Can you tell which ones are alike?



Scrambled signs

Using the paths, transfer the letters to the blank boxes to unscramble the words. Uncover the secret safety message all drivers should know!



Did you say go orange?

The Oregon State University beaver plate is our newest specialty plate! Proceeds from the sale of the plate go toward supporting university activities, including OSU's athletic programs.



History's mysteries

We went looking through our old photo albums the other day and found a bunch of interesting pictures. We're glad the photos were labeled, or we'd never know what they were. Given two choices, can you guess what's going on in each photo?

1927



Does this photo show:
A. The first electric traffic light in Portland, or
B. A birdhouse to help protect wildlife in the city?

1952



Are these women:
A. Cutting stripes to be placed as lane markings on the highway, or
B. Making Oregon driver's licenses?

1928



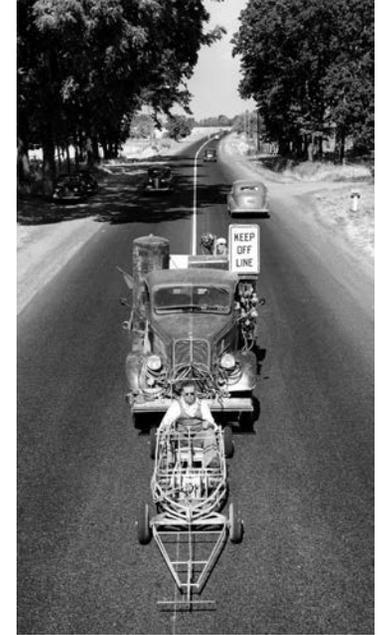
Does this truck:
A. Use a magnet to pick up car parts that have fallen onto the road, or
B. Mark lane dividers on dirt and gravel roads?

1930



Are these people visiting:
A. An early version of a rest area with wells for drinking water, or
B. A popular mineral spring next to the highway?

1940



Is this a photo of:
A. A test track for one of the first electric vehicles, or
B. Painting stripes on the roadway?

Eyeball Benders: Transportation time

Here's a close up look at a variety of the things we work with at the Oregon DOT. Are you able to guess what each of these items is?

1



2



3



4



5



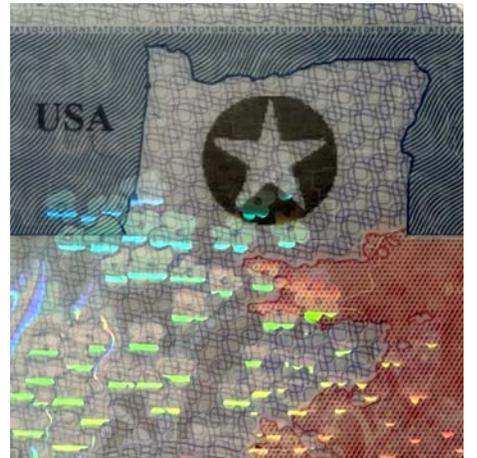
6



7

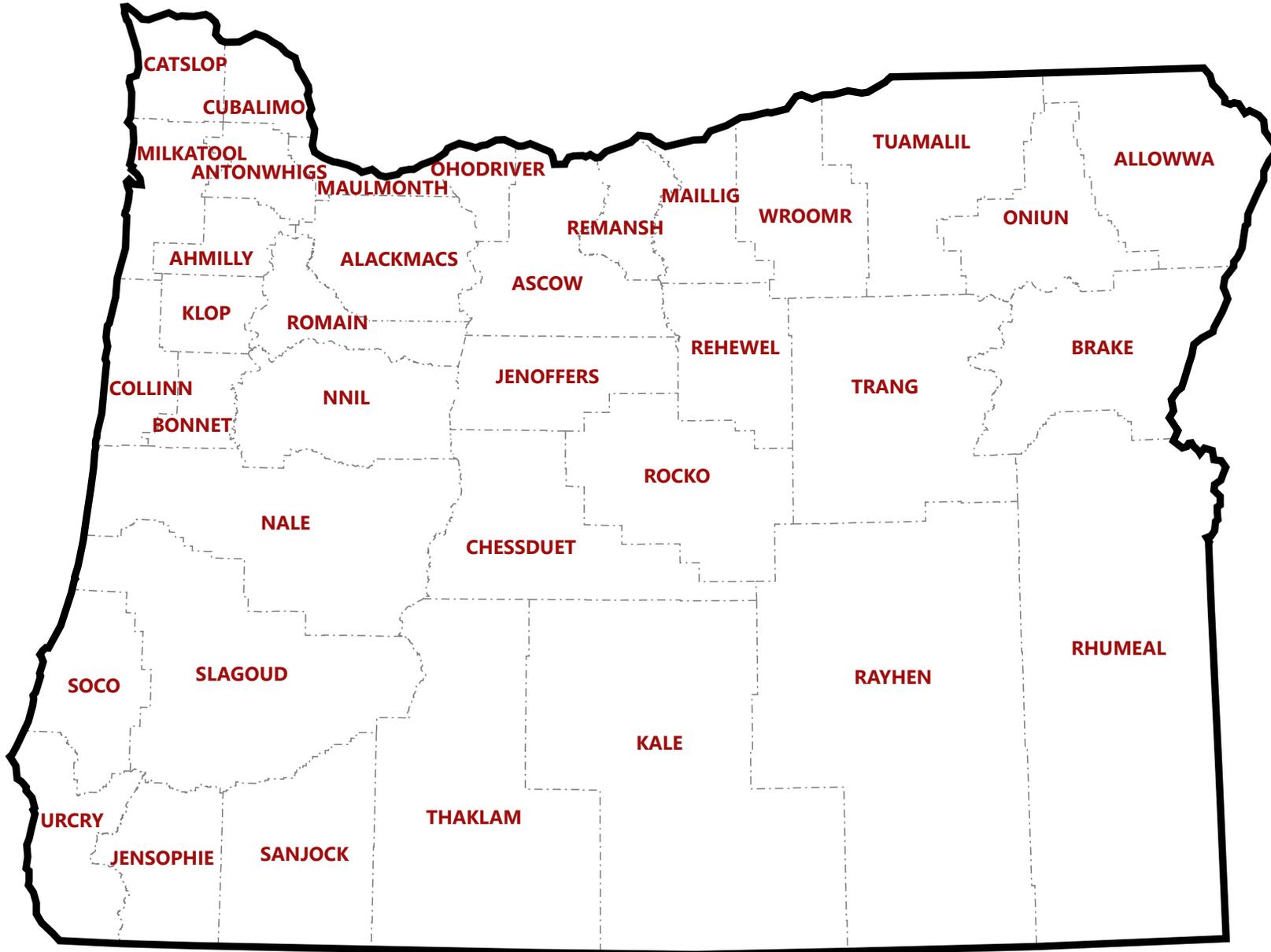


8



Star of the county

Oregon is made up of 36 fantastic counties. The largest in area is Harney County, Multnomah is the smallest — but it also has the most people. Wheeler has the fewest people. Take a look at the map and see if you can unscramble the names of each county!



Oregon Counties

- Baker
- Benton
- Clackamas
- Clatsop
- Columbia
- Coos
- Crook
- Curry
- Deschutes
- Douglas
- Gilliam
- Grant
- Harney
- Hood River
- Jackson
- Jefferson
- Josephine
- Klamath
- Lake
- Lane
- Lincoln
- Linn
- Malheur
- Marion
- Morrow
- Multnomah
- Polk
- Sherman
- Tillamook
- Umatilla
- Union
- Wallowa
- Wasco
- Washington
- Wheeler
- Yamhill

Safety word search

We've got some safety words that you should know hidden in this puzzle! Words can be forward, backward, up, down or diagonal.

Find these words:

CAUTION, HELMET, YIELD, CROSS, LIGHT, GUARD, SIGNAL.

H	E	D	U	T	G	L	N
L	E	X	L	U	I	O	S
I	L	L	A	E	I	S	S
G	I	R	M	T	I	R	O
H	D	W	U	E	P	Y	R
T	Y	A	C	K	T	L	C
U	C	S	I	G	N	A	L



What state are we in?

Interstate shields are all the same across the United States. State route markers are where individual states get to show a bit of personality! Below are 15 route markers from different states (A-O). See if you can match them with their home state (1-15)!

1. Alaska
2. Arkansas
3. Colorado

4. Hawaii
5. Kansas
6. Louisiana

7. Missouri
8. Nebraska
9. New Hampshire

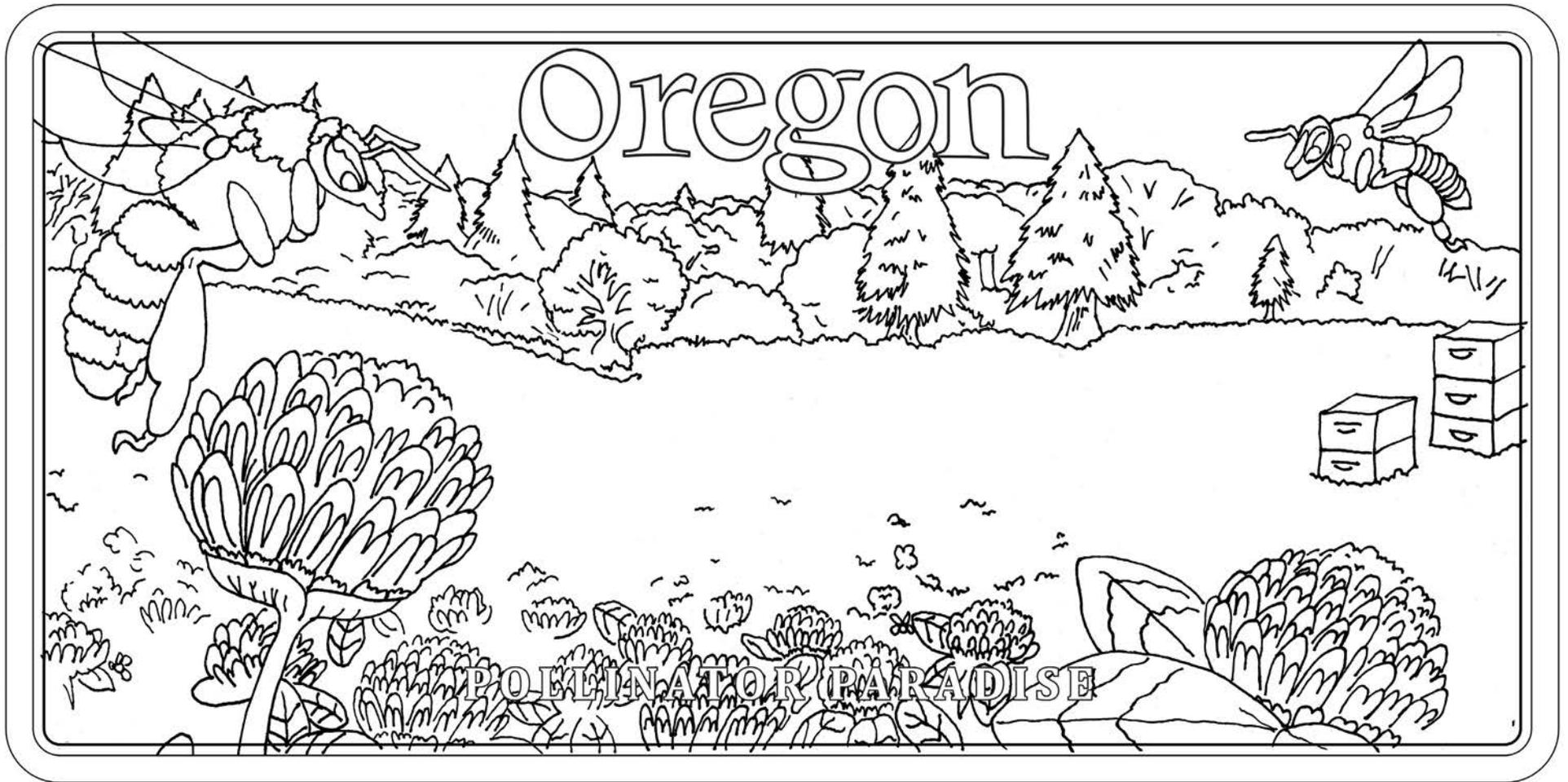
10. New Mexico
11. Nevada
12. Oregon

13. Pennsylvania
14. Utah
15. Washington



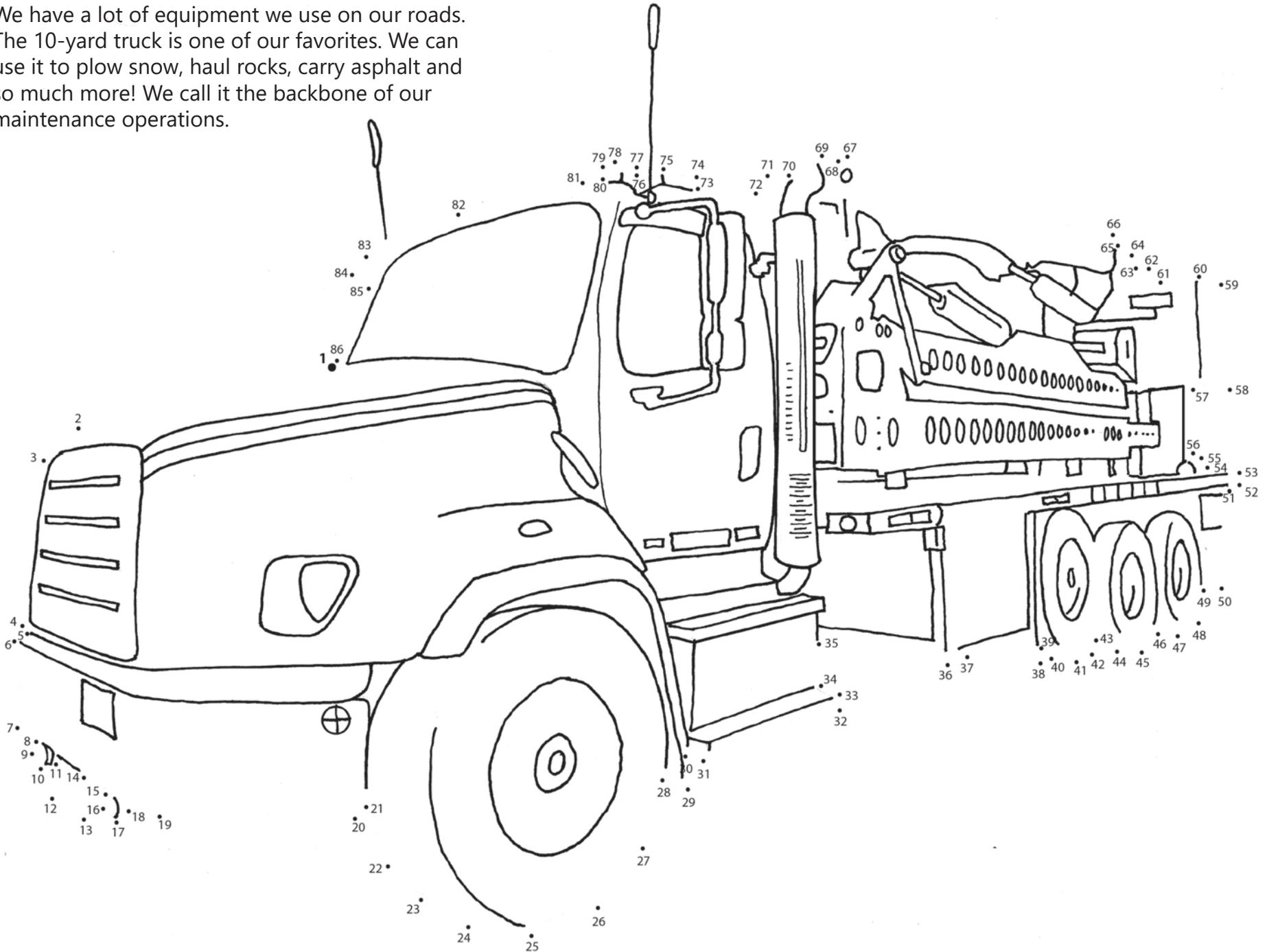
Making a buzz!

Our new buzz-worthy license plate supports pollinators, including the 600 species of bees found around the state. Each pollinator plate helps provide funding for Oregon State University's Pollinator Health Lab and Honey Bee Lab programs. They first hit Oregon highways in 2023.



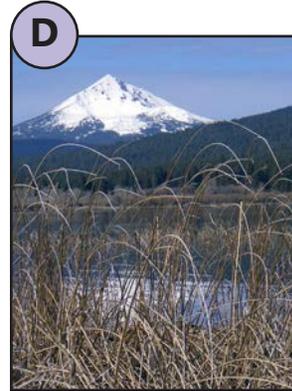
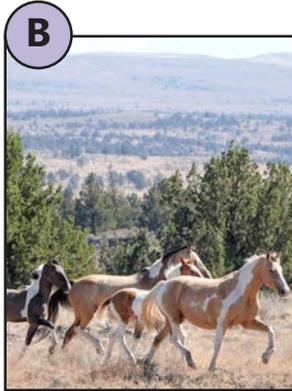
ODOT-to-dot

We have a lot of equipment we use on our roads. The 10-yard truck is one of our favorites. We can use it to plow snow, haul rocks, carry asphalt and so much more! We call it the backbone of our maintenance operations.

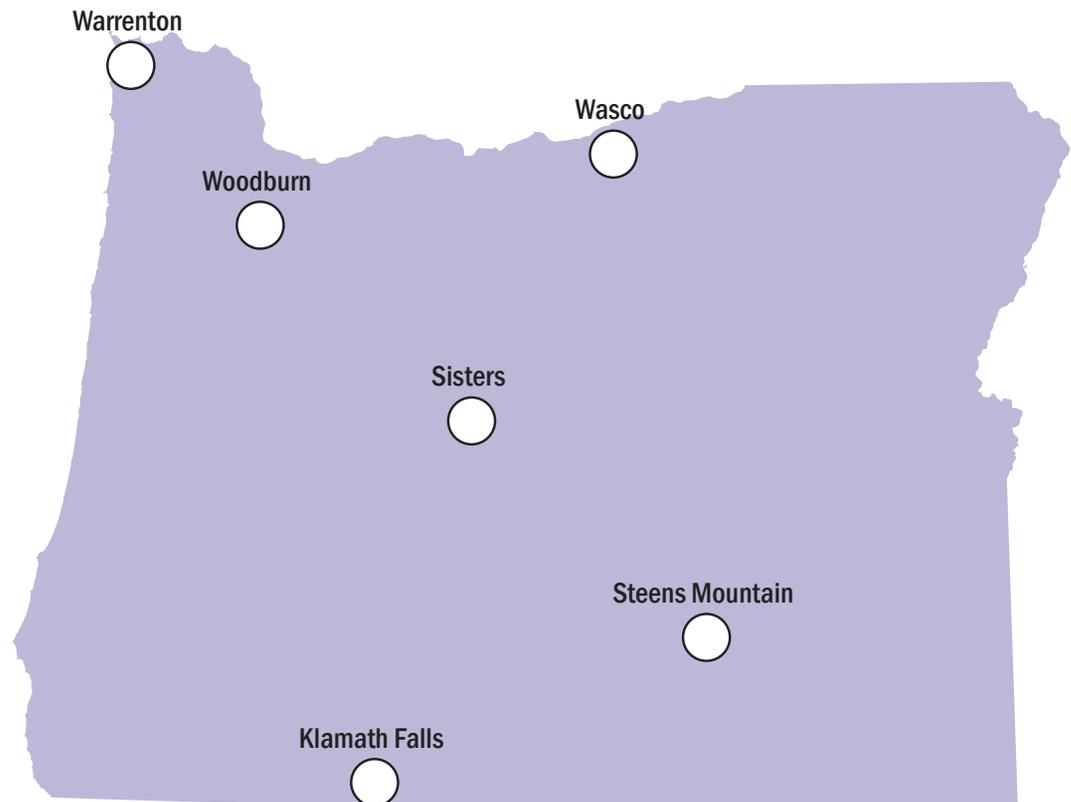


Finding hidden treasures

Below there are six photos of places in Oregon (A-F). Below that, there are descriptions of those places (1-6). Match the description with the photo, then find the location on the map. The photos were taken by our workers here at the Oregon DOT.

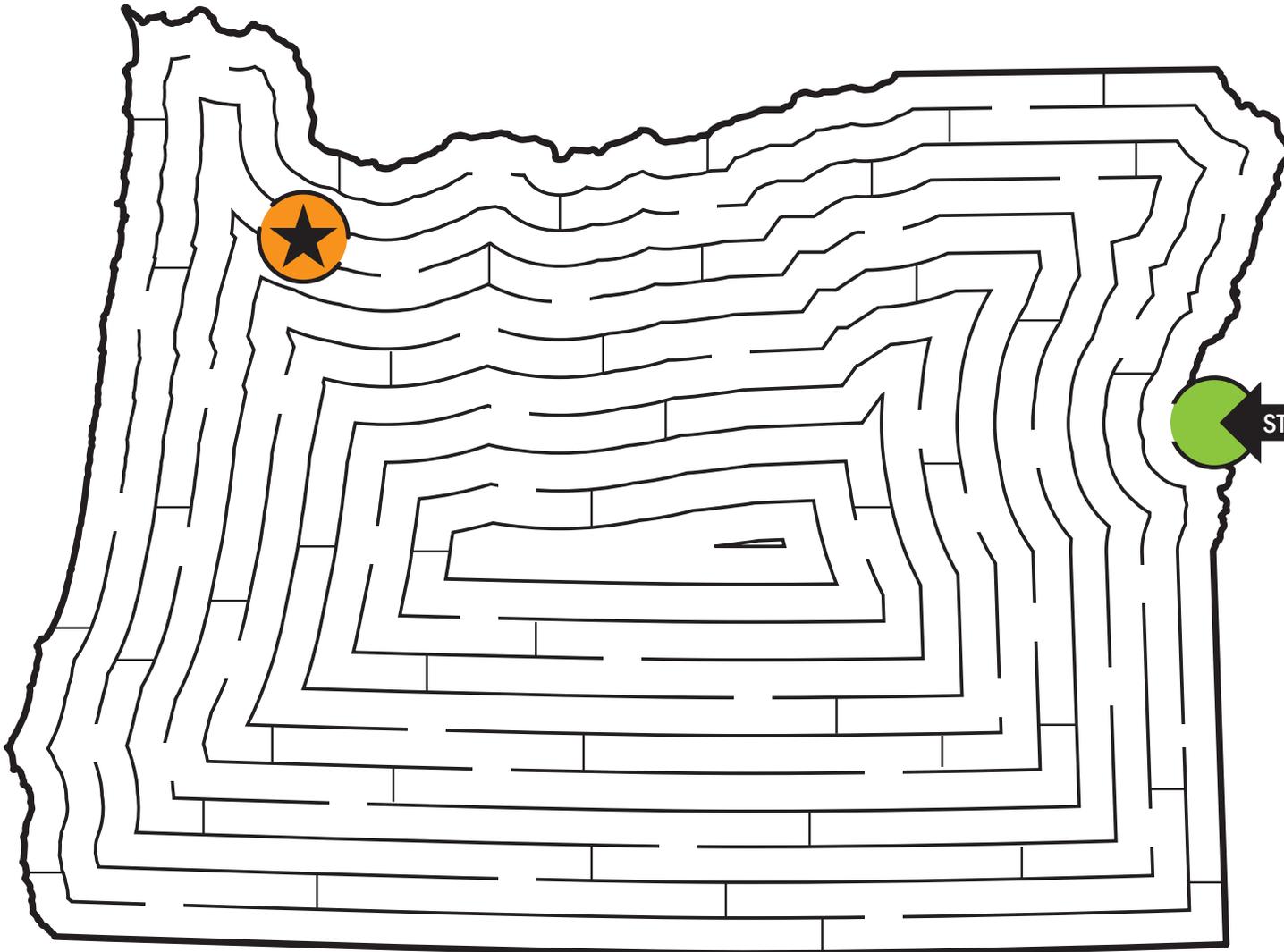


1. In southeastern Oregon there are open areas where antelope, deer, sheep, mountain lions and wild horses roam free.
2. The Oregon coast is home to several shipwrecks. The most well-known is the Peter Iredale, which ran aground as it headed toward the Columbia River.
3. Oregon is home to many celebrations and festivals. One of the most colorful is the tulip festival in the Willamette Valley.
4. This family-friendly central Oregon town is famous for its rodeo and annual quilt show.
5. Located close to the Columbia River, this is a land of wheat fields, windmills and natural beauty.
6. Oregon is well known for its recreation, and this city in southern Oregon is a gateway to many outdoor opportunities. It is home to many wildlife refuges and is known as the sunniest place in Oregon, with an average of 300 days of sunshine per year.



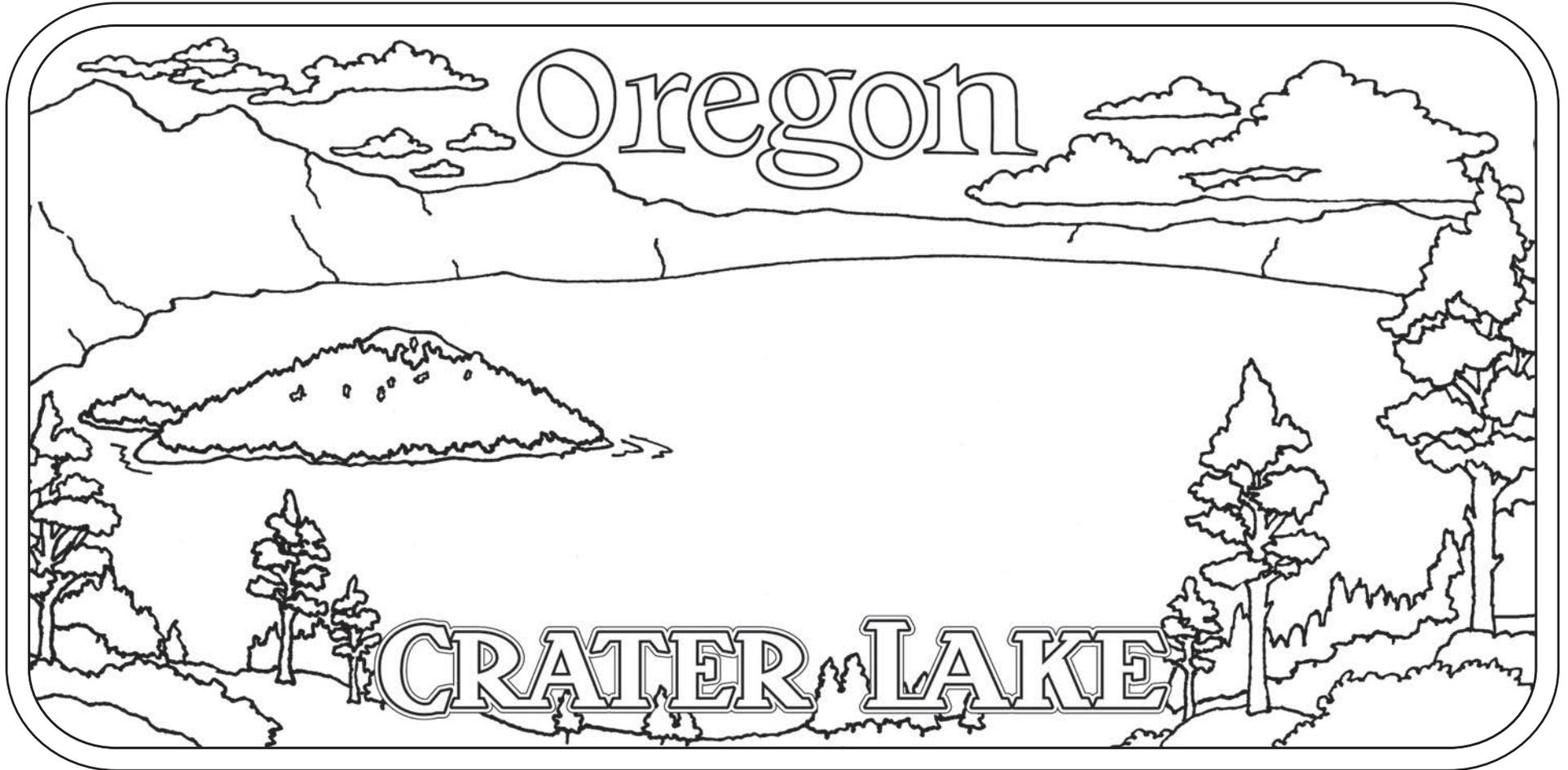
An amazing adventure!

There are so many things to see and do in Oregon, and our transportation system helps you get around. Whether you walk, ride or roll, be safe as you explore Oregon. Speaking of exploring Oregon, help our Oregon Trail pioneers make their way through the maze to get from Ontario to the Capitol.



A beautiful spot of blue

The Crater Lake license plate was first issued in 2002. It got a makeover in 2022 that included clouds in the sky and a different typeface for the words "Crater Lake." Proceeds from the sale of the plate go directly to support the Crater Lake Science and Learning Center and other park projects.





Where the answers are!

Preserving our pavement

1. B, 2. C, 3. D, 4. E, 5. A

Rise of the AFAD

The matching pictures are C and H.

Scrambled signs

SLOW DOWN IN THE WORK ZONE

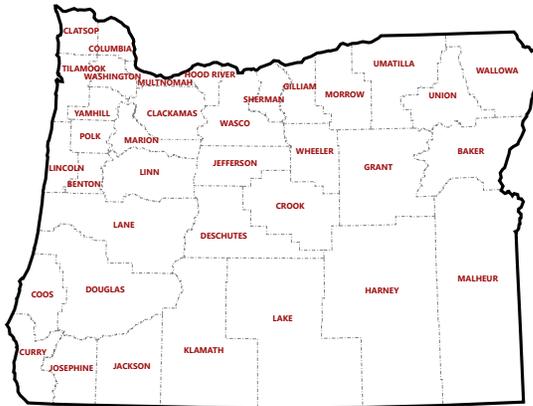
History's mysteries

1927. A, 1952. B, 1928. A, 1930. A, 1940. B

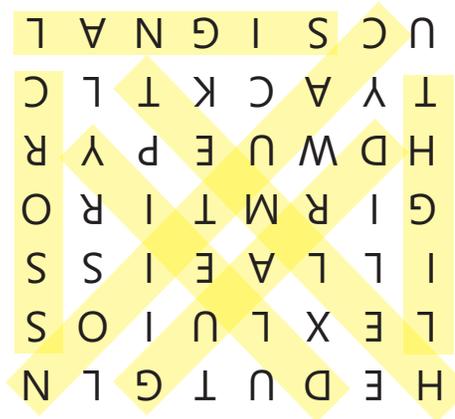
Eyeball Benders: Transportation time

1. Traffic cone
2. Safety vest
3. A tire
4. License plate date sticker
5. Pedestrian crossing sign
6. Front wheel of a motorcycle
7. Road Work Ahead sign
8. A driver's license
(with REAL ID endorsement)

Star of the county



Safety word search



What state are we in?

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. M | 6. C | 11. D |
| 2. A | 7. J | 12. E |
| 3. I | 8. L | 13. N |
| 4. B | 9. O | 14. G |
| 5. K | 10. F | 15. H |

Finding hidden treasures

- A. 4, Sisters
- B. 1, Steens Mountain
- C. 3, Woodburn
- D. 6, Klamath Falls
- E. 5, Wasco
- F. 2, Warrenton

An amazing adventure

