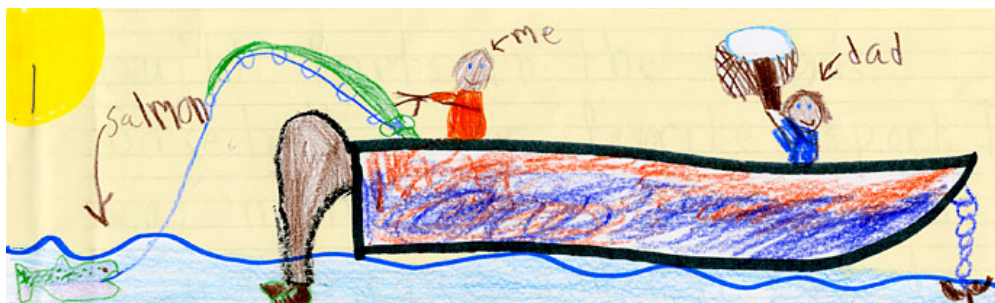


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## Oregon Student Essays 2015 Web Exhibit



Astoria third grade student, Jaxon Dietrichs, drew this picture of salmon fishing with his dad as part of an essay about why he likes living in Oregon.

### About the Exhibit

Back in 1905, students from around Oregon submitted essays and other school work on a range of subjects for display at the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland. The goal was to show visitors the high quality of education in the state (view Oregon's Early Rural Schools exhibit).

Following that theme, Secretary of State Kate Brown asked current Oregon students to write about their state. Here are the questions:

#### Elementary School

Why do you like living in Oregon?

#### Middle School

Where is your favorite place to visit in Oregon and why?

This exhibit includes the winning essays and essays from three other finalists in each category. Most are illustrated by images from the Oregon State Archives.

Note: Some images have been tinted for exhibit purposes.

## Elementary school student essays (Why I like Oregon)

[Cierra Shapley](#), contest winner

[Nieka Marais](#), contest runner-up

[Jaxon Dietrichs](#), contest runner-up

[Alia Shafran](#), contest runner-up

## Middle school student essays (My favorite Oregon place)

[Inessa Garrey](#), contest winner

[Lily Volger](#), contest runner-up

[Kaleigh A. Henderson](#), contest runner-up

[Kili Kato](#), contest runner-up



Many of the essays focus on the scenic beauty of Oregon. Shown here are wildflowers in the Columbia River Gorge. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

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## Oregon Student Essays 2015 Web Exhibit

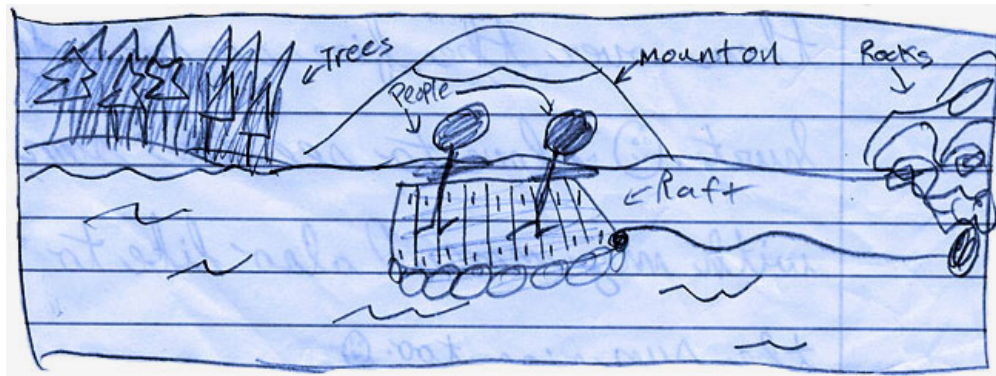
### Elementary School: "Why I Like Oregon"

By Cierra Shapley, Essay Contest Winner

Mrs. Salisbury's fourth grade class  
Candy Lane Elementary School, Milwaukie

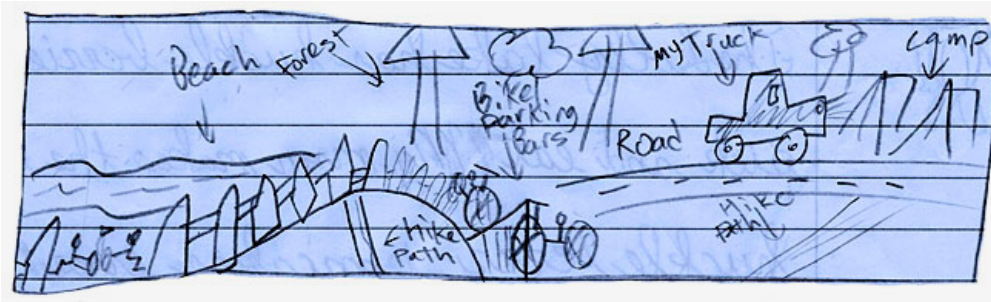
Note: the following drawings are by Cierra Shapley.

I like Oregon because of all the nice camps they have. The Lolly Lake has huckleberries to pick and eat! My mom makes the best huckleberry pancakes ever! I like to go hiking on the mountains with my mom and dad. There is a smaller lake nearby that has a raft on it. Here's a picture of it. [see below]



A "baby bear"

I also go to Cape Lookout. I can ride my bike there. I even get to ride to the beach. I can show you a picture of Cape Lookout! [see below]



It's a cool camp. I collect seashells on the beach and sticks in the woods. I collect sticks to make torches but don't worry, I keep them over the fire so nobody gets hurt. I love to see the sun set with my mom. I also like to see the sunrise too.

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## **Oregon Student Essays 2015 Web Exhibit**

### **Elementary School: "Why I Like Oregon"**

**By Nieka Marais, Essay Contest Runner-up**

Daphne Wood's Fourth Grade Class  
Ainsworth Elementary School, Portland



Nieka writes that Oregonians are undaunted by weather changes. Above, a storm darkens the desert on the Doherty Rim along Highway 140. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

I like to live in Oregon because of the weather. In the spring the weather is like a rollercoaster because one day it will be nice and warm, then the clouds would roll in and it will be raining cats and dogs. Oregonians don't really even care.

In the eastern part of Oregon the climate is very dry. Due to the Cascade Mountains the clouds can't cross over with rain. This is called the rain shadow.

I like to live in Oregon also because of the history. I like how Lewis and Clark came to explore the land now known as Oregon. I like how people chose to give up their life in the east to come to the wilderness known as Oregon. I like how there is a story behind Oregon that you have to hear and keep with you forever.



The Lewis and Clark Expedition overlooks the Columbia River in this mural by Robert Thomas in The Dalles. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

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## Oregon Student Essays 2015 Web Exhibit

### Elementary School: "Why I Like Oregon"

By Jaxon Dietrichs, Essay Contest Runner-up

M. Hansen's Third Grade Class

Hilda Lahti Elementary School, Astoria

Typed text of essay (see original next page):

Oregon is the best place in the world! We have the Ducks and the Beavers. I have a creek in my backyard and I can catch salmon, eels, trout and crawdads. It is fun to fish, hunt and play sports. My friends and I like to build forts in the woods. Baseball is my favorite sport. I was number one pitcher in the minor league and I might be this year. Oregon is great and awesome.

From: Jaxon

3rd grade, Hilda Lahti Elementary



Oregon is the best place in the world! We have the Ducks and the Beavers. I have a creek in my back yard and I can catch salmon, eels, trout and crawdads. It is fun to fish, hunt and play sports. My friends and I like to build forts in the woods.

Baseball is my favorite sport. I was number one pitcher in the minor league and I might be this year. Oregon is great and awesome.

From, Jaxon

3rd grade Hildalanti

Elementary



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## Oregon Student Essays 2015 Web Exhibit

### Elementary School: "Why I Like Oregon"

By Alia Shafran, Essay Contest Runner-up

Daphne Wood's Fourth Grade Class  
Ainsworth Elementary School, Portland



The Painted Hills Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is one of the many geographic wonders of Oregon.  
(Oregon State Archives Photo)

The Painted Hills Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is one of the many geographic wonders of Oregon. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

As I step outside onto my deck in the early morning breeze, I notice the snow-covered peak of Mt. Hood off in the distance. "Wow! There are so many forests!" I think to myself. I remember that Oregon has many geographical wonders like the Painted Hills, Crater Lake, and the Columbia River Gorge. I like how different parts of Oregon have different climates and recreation.

I also like that in different seasons the recreation is and the appearances and different. Autumn is my favorite season in Oregon. The leaves on trees where I live turn brown, yellow and red. The air smells fresh. In winter it usually rains, but sometimes it snows. Last winter it snowed a lot. There must have been eight inches! After winter it rains some more. In May the flowers blossom everywhere and it becomes sunny. Then comes summer and everyone flocks to the coast. There are tons of Oregonians and tourists sitting on towels or chairs enjoying the sun.

Oregon has many types of geography that change each season. That is one of the reasons I love living in Oregon.



Sunrise imparts a pastel glow on the surface of Crater Lake. The lake sits in the caldera of a former volcano and measures nearly 2,000 feet deep. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

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## **Oregon Student Essays 2015 Web Exhibit**

### **Middle School: "My Favorite Oregon Place"**

**By Inessa Garrey, Essay Contest Winner**

Mrs. Ackermann's Sixth Grade Class  
Judson Middle School, Salem



Yaquina Bay offers visitors activities such as clam digging and exploring unspoiled beaches. Shown above is the beach at Yaquina Bay State Park. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

Do you know that you can rake in your dinner? Well, in Oregon you can! Once I get out of the car, I run towards the ocean. A powerful smell of salt and seaweed hits my nose and I know that we have arrived. A small muddy beach on the south side of Yaquina Bay holds a big secret — clams!

Smack! My boot hits the light-gray sand. With a slurp, sea-green water fills back into my footprint. All of a sudden, my boot hits a small rock. I swiftly bend down and stick my hand in the thick, fleshy seaweed. My fingers clutch a small shell. I pull out a cockle clam! Two perfectly heart-shaped bisque shells, held together by a delectable little creature. I can almost smell the clam chowder!

Once we rake in the limit of twenty clams per person, we take off our boots and go to Hatfield Marine Science Center. There you can pet squashy sea cucumbers, hold a spiky purple sea urchin, goggle at a giant pacific octopus, and learn about Oregon's abundant wildlife.

Going to Yaquina Bay is always an adventure. This is why it is my favorite place to visit in Oregon.



The sun sets at Yaquina Bay State Park in Newport. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

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## Oregon Student Essays 2015 Web Exhibit

### Middle School: "My Favorite Oregon Place"

**By Lily Volger, Essay Contest Runner-up**

Mr. Heriza's Sixth Grade Class

Echo School, Echo



The Echo Museum is located in this building in downtown Echo. The downtown is home to several historic buildings.  
(Oregon State Archives Photo)

My favorite place to visit in Oregon is my hometown Echo, Oregon. It may be a little rough around the edges, but it is truly a beautiful town. It gets its name from the first Mayor's daughter Echo Kuntz. The Oregon Trail went through this little town in 1842. Echo is located eight miles south of Hermiston, Oregon and 20 miles west of Pendleton, Oregon.

If you visit Echo, don't forget to visit these beautiful landmarks. Echo has a tree arboretum right by my amazing little school's football field. We also have a gorgeous winery, run by one of my best friend's grandparents, Louis and Lloyd Piercey. H & P is a great spot to get some good ol' comfort food. If you love to golf, you're in luck because Echo has a nice golf course up on Echo Hills. Finally, Echo has a cool Echo History Museum.

And that's why you should visit Echo, Oregon.



The town of Echo is situated amid beautiful, rolling hills. Shown above is the Umatilla River southeast of Echo. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

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## Oregon Student Essays 2015 Web Exhibit

### Middle School: "My Favorite Oregon Place"

#### Kaleigh A. Henderson, Essay Contest Runner-up

Mrs. Bowen's Seventh Grade Class  
Athey Creek Middle School, West Linn



Left: The Thunder-egg (geode) is Oregon's state rock. (Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries)

Right: The Metasequoia, or dawn redwood, is the official state fossil. (John Day Fossil Beds National Monument)

My pick hits the well-worn hill with a dull thump. I dig deeper and deeper until – clunk! My chisel hits something solid. Carefully, I gouge into the surrounding rock to excavate my discovery. Have I just retrieved a long-lost pirate's chest? No, but I have just mined my own personal thunder egg!

The thunder egg is Oregon's state rock, and you can harvest them at many scenic locations in central Oregon. Down long roads, you reach sandy hills, where, just below the surface, hide thousands of undiscovered, perfect thunder eggs. All you need is a pick, chisel, hammer, and bucket to carry your trove back home. Find a spot and start digging, and within just a few minutes, you are an official thunder egg miner! But the excitement isn't over yet! You can then have your eggs professionally cut and polished to reveal the dazzling jewel-like crystals inside.

Oregon is also rich in plant fossils and even gold nuggets! So, even though much of central Oregon's treasure is confined to the hillsides, much more flourishes in its people, its places, and the adventures you will find in this wondrous state. Now, come find your own treasures!



The rock palisades at the Clarno Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument hold a variety of plant fossils. Visitors are encouraged to view fossils along an interpretive trail, however fossil hunting is prohibited in the monument. (Oregon State Archives Photo)



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## Oregon Student Essays 2015 Web Exhibit

### Middle School: "My Favorite Oregon Place"

#### Kili Kato, Essay Contest Runner-up

Ms Stadel's Sixth Grade Class

Scotts Mills Elementary School, Scotts Mills



Low tide reveals the bed of Siletz Bay on the southern edge of Lincoln City. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

The tangy smell of the salty water wafts into my nose. Above me the seagulls swoop down, down, down towards the water, almost making contact, but at the last moment, they swoop up to the sky. I am at the ocean, where I feel as a wild horse feeling the rush of the wind for the first time. This is my favorite place in Oregon, Lincoln City.

When you go up the warm, grainy beach you see a city, full of antique shops with beautiful wind chimes that jingle out in the salty sea air. With candy shops, that once you step inside, amazing smells of flavorful taffy, and the smell of chocolates float up to your nose.

Sitting in the comforting sand next to the big, aqua ocean I feel as if the sea beckons me to come play with the waves and splash wildly with the seagulls. When I answer the promising call and I feel the cool water and the wet sand slip away at my feet, I feel peaceful. When the wonderful day is coming to an end I take one more longing glance at the beautiful, sun setting ocean horizon, I know I love it.



The sun sets on a Lincoln County beach south of Lincoln City. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

**End of Exhibit**