

August 21, 1959 Hawaii Becomes a State

Hawaii is an island state made up of about 132 islands near the middle of the North Pacific Ocean. Almost all of the inhabitants of Hawaii live on seven of the eight main islands at the southeastern end of the chain of islands. It is the only state not on the mainland of the North American continent and is also the southernmost state in the nation. Hawaii is famous for its beauty and climate. It has beautiful flowers of many brilliant colors, palm trees, deep-blue water, and amazing waterfalls. Many tourists visit the islands every year. The people of Hawaii are known for their friendliness toward tourists. Visitors to Hawaii are often greeted with leis. Their luaus are famous outdoor feasts with entertainment. There are many ways to tour the islands. You can rent a car to drive yourself around. You can also take special tours where you are picked up at your hotel each morning and taken on a tour of the island. If you want to visit other islands, you are taken to the airport where you can get on a special plane to take you to another island where your tour will be continued there. There are amazing places to eat where you can sample local foods and even try some of the fresh fruits that are grown there on the islands—even to the point of picking a fresh banana, peeling it, and eating it on the spot! Many famous people are from Hawaii, including Queen Liliuokalani, Daniel Akaka, Sanford Ballard Dole, Hiram Leong Fong, Daniel K. Inouye, and Duke Paoa Kahanamoku.

Look at the map of Hawaii below. Label the capital of Hawaii. Locate the cities of Hilo, Kahului, Wailuku, Kaunakakai, Kalaupapa, Kapaa, Pahala, Kona, Barbers Point, Kawaihae, and Nawiliwili, and label them on the map. Now label the following on the proper islands: on Hawaii, label Kohala, Mauna Kea, and Mauna Loa; on Maui, label Haleakala; on Oahu, label the Koolau Range and the Waianae Range; and on Kauai, label Kawaikini Peak and Mount Waialeale. Also, locate the Wailuku River, Kalialinui-Waiale Gulch, Ahupu Gulch, Maunalei-Waialala Gulch, Wailau-Pulena Stream, Kaukonahua Stream, Waimea River-Poomau Stream, Keanaulii-Puniopo, and label them. Lastly, label the bodies of water that border Hawaii. When you have finished, move on to the timeline of Hawaii history on the next page and the research prompts that follow.



Timeline of Hawaii History

1778

1786

1800

1811

1820

1835

1836

1874

1887

1894

1898

1900

1913

1927

1934

1941

1949

1959

1992

2006

1. Hawaii begins shipping large amounts of sandalwood to China
2. The first airplane flight from the mainland of the United States to Hawaii is made
3. Hawaii's first sugar cane plantation begins operations
4. Hawaii becomes a U.S. territory
5. The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific is dedicated in Honolulu
6. The first-known trading ships stop in Hawaii
7. Hawaii becomes a U.S. possession
8. The first free public library on the islands opens in Honolulu
9. Hawaii's first English language newspaper begins publication
10. Hawaii becomes the 50th state in the Union
11. Hawaii is united under a Hawaiian king
12. The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument is established
13. King Kalakaua gives the United States the exclusive right to use Pearl Harbor as a naval base
14. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions sends Protestant missionaries and teachers to Hawaii
15. President Franklin D. Roosevelt becomes the first U.S. president to visit Hawaii
16. Hawaii becomes a republic
17. Hurricane Iniki strikes Hawaii, causing much damage
18. Captain James Cook reaches the islands of Hawaii
19. Hawaii is the first part of the U.S. to be attacked in World War II
20. King Kalakaua begins his reign and revives interest in many of the old Hawaiian customs

Research Prompt #1

In the late 1800s, Portuguese immigrants began coming to Hawaii. Along with many other enrichments to the culture of the islands, the Portuguese brought a new food, called pão doce (sweet bread). This was baked in outdoor ovens at that time. You can still buy this sweet bread at bakeries, but much of the special taste has been lost due to the mechanization of the times. What do you think about the “faster” way of doing things as compared to taking more time and doing everything hands-on? Cooking from scratch is just one example. Is the time saved worth the quality lost? Is it possible today to do things the “old way”? Do you think it would be interesting to try?

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Research Prompt #2

Before the United States became involved in World War II after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, requests had been made to use the crater at the dormant Haleakala volcano as a military installation. This caused problems, though, as Haleakala was part of a national park. Other sites were suggested and eventually settled upon. In your opinion, should national defense rank higher than other considerations such as preservation? Could an installation at Haleakala have made a difference in the war?

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Research Prompt #3

The island of Kahoolawe is the smallest of the eight main islands in the Hawaiian chain. The United States Navy used it for many years for target practice. After World War II, political battles raged as to whether the Navy would give the island back to the state of Hawaii or continue to use it for target practice. The Navy said there were too many potentially undetonated bombs to make it practical to return the island. Those fighting to get the island back said the Navy had a responsibility to clear out the bombs and return the island for use by the state of Hawaii. It was not until 2003 that the Navy gave Hawaii control of the island again. What is your opinion of this? Should Hawaii have been given control of the island more quickly after World War II so she could use it to sustain her state's people?

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Timeline of Hawaii History

Answer Key

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	1820	
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