



The West Coast of the United States consists of three states: California, Oregon and Washington. To the west, is the Pacific Ocean and to the east are the Cascade Range, Sierra Nevada and Mojave Desert. From north to south, the most famous cities are Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. About 50 million people live along the west coast, enjoying an oceanic climate in the northern parts and a more Mediterranean climate in the south.

Some of the West Coast's claims to fame include the Golden Gate Bridge, Disneyland, and Yosemite National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Culturally, the West Coast is younger than the East Coast. Many Asian Americans call the West Coast home and in California there is a strong Hispanic influence.

## ► Vocabulary

**gnarly (unpleasant, difficult, outstanding)**

That was one gnarly test.

**The Industry (show business)**

I have a cousin that works in The Industry.

**June gloom (cool, cloudy weather in June)**

Hopefully this June gloom clears up soon.

**like (used as a filler)**

It was, like, the worst traffic I've ever seen.

**skookum (From the northwest – big and strong)**

That football player is skookum.

**dude (a male)**

That dude was an awesome surfer.

**hella (From Northern California – a lot, very, really)**

This burger is hella good.

**Valleyspeak (a type of language used in Southern California)**

I couldn't understand her Valleyspeak.

## ► Example Sentences

Use the words to make a sentence:

1. traffic / the San Diego freeway / really / gnarly / today

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2. The / sushi / lunch / hella / tasty / so / ate / too much

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3. I / met / dude / party / last night / who / works / The Industry

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