

Short Read 1

Remember to annotate as you read.

# Seattle: Up and Down—and Up Again

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Notes

1 American cities have gone through many economic changes over the course of history. Some have experienced rapid growth due to new industries and technologies. Others have seen the decline of once-thriving businesses. Most cities, like Seattle, Washington, face economic ups and downs over time.

2 Today, Seattle is famous for its high-tech companies, such as Microsoft and Amazon. But when Seattle was established in the 1850s, its economy was supported by a lumber mill. Lumberjacks cut logs, and the lumber from those logs was shipped to help build a booming San Francisco. This profitable business helped Seattle grow.

3 When the railroads arrived in the 1880s, Seattle’s population grew quickly. In the first half of 1889, Seattle gained 1,000 new residents every month. Seattle even rebuilt after a serious fire damaged much of its business district.

During the 1850s, lumber was shipped from Seattle’s port to San Francisco to help build the city.



## Seattle Time Line

- 1851 Seattle is founded.
- 1889 Seattle has a great fire but rebuilds.
- 1897 Klondike Gold Rush makes Seattle rich.
- 1940s Seattle-based Boeing Aircraft supplies warplanes for WWII.
- 1971 Boeing lays off 40,000 workers.
- 1979 Microsoft moves to Seattle area.
- 1987 Starbucks opens about 17 stores.
- 2014 Seattle is booming again.

Notes

4 In the years that followed, Seattle became a “boom or bust” town. In the 1890s, a nationwide depression crippled Seattle’s economy. Then, in 1897, the Klondike Gold Rush began. Seattle became the main supplier for the thousands of miners who came to Alaska. Seattle was a “boom” town once again.

5 Like most cities, Seattle went “bust” during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The city recovered when Boeing, a Seattle aircraft company, supplied war planes for the U.S. government during World War II. By the 1970s, however, another economic downturn forced Boeing to lay off more than 40,000 workers.

6 More recently, Boeing has been part of Seattle’s growth, along with Microsoft and other high-tech companies that came to Seattle in the 1970s. They were joined by the coffee chain Starbucks in the 1980s. Since that time, many other new businesses have moved to the city. Today, Seattle is up and booming again.