

The United states of america



The United States of America (the USA or US) is in North America. It's between Canada in the north and Mexico in the south and it borders two important oceans, the Atlantic Ocean on the east coast and the Pacific Ocean on the west coast. It's a very big country: the distance from New York, on the East Coast, and San Francisco, on the West coast, is over 5,000 Km. There are four different time zones between New York and San Francisco: when it's 9 a.m. in New York, it's only 6 p.m. in San Francisco.

There are 50 states in the USA. The states include Alaska and Hawaii. Alaska is a very big state in the north west of Canada. Hawaii is a group of eight islands in the Pacific Ocean.

The USA has a population of about 300 million. The official language is English because the USA was a British Colony. The USA gained independence from Great Britain on 4th July 1776. Since then 4th July has been the most important holiday in the USA and Americans celebrate it with parades, picnics, speeches, fireworks and bonfires.

Americans come from every part of the world. About 12% are African-American, and 15% of the population speak Spanish as the first language. There are parts of the USA where the road signs are in English and in Spanish.

The capital of the USA is Washington DC and it's on the East Coast. The letters DC mean "District of Columbia". It isn't a state but a federal district which doesn't belong to any of the other 50 states. The name of the capital city comes from the first American President, George Washington. There is a picture of Washington on the American dollar note. Today Washington is a very important political centre. The American President lives and works in Washington in the White House. The President's Office in the White House is called the Oval Office. US citizens

vote for a new President every four years. Today the American President is Donald J. Trump. He was elected in 2016 and he's the 45th President of the USA. He was born in New York City in 1946.

New York and Boston are important cities on the East Coast, while San Francisco and Los Angeles are major cities on the west coast. Other famous cities are Las Vegas, New Orleans and Miami.

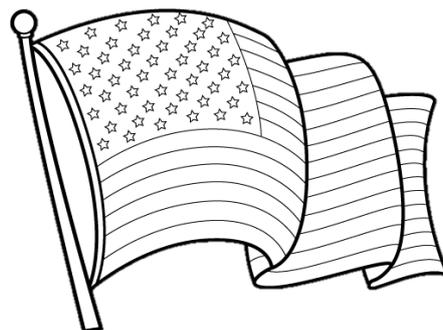
The American flag is called Stars and Stripes. It's got 50 stars and 13 stripes. The stars are white and are set on a blue background; they represent the fifty States of the USA. The stripes are red and white and they represent the thirteen original colonies which became independent from Britain in 1776.

The Symbol of the United States is the bald eagle.

The national Anthem is "The Star-Spangled banner". People sing it at the opening of every official ceremony or sport event, with their right hand on their heart.

The Star Spangled banner (American National Anthem)

Oh, say! can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming;
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous
fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there:
Oh, say! does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



Answer the following questions:

1. Where is the USA?
2. Which two oceans does the USA border?
3. How many different time zones are there in the USA?
4. How many states are there in the USA?
5. Where is Alaska?
6. Where is Hawaii?
7. When do Americans celebrate Independence Day? How do they celebrate it?
8. What's the capital city of the USA?
9. Who was the first American president?
10. Where does the American president live?
11. Who's the American president today?
12. What's the name of the American flag?
13. What do the stripes on the flag represent?
14. When do American people usually sing their national anthem?