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«Полоцкий государственный университет»

СТРАНОВЕДЕНИЕ ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИИ И США

УЧЕБНО-МЕТОДИЧЕСКИЙ КОМПЛЕКС
для студентов 2 курса специальностей
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Часть 2 содержит основные сведения о Соединенных Штатах Америки: составе населения и политической системе страны, ее экономике, народном образовании, истории, стиле жизни, увлечениях, быте и отдыхе средних американцев. Наглядное представление о жизни в Соединенных Штатах дают помещенные в комплексе иллюстрации, статистические данные и справочные материалы.

Предназначен для студентов языковых специальностей вузов.

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ВВЕДЕНИЕ

Вторая часть учебно-методического комплекса позволяет создать целостное представление об одной из наиболее развитых англоговорящих стран мира – Соединенных Штатах Америки, ее народе, географическом положении, рельефе, важнейших исторических событиях, системе образования, политическом устройстве и культуре; систематизировать разрозненные сведения о США, почерпнутые из множества учебников, газет, журналов, телепередач и других источников, при этом целью данного комплекса не является исчерпывающее отражение всех аспектов жизни Соединенных Штатов Америки.

Комплекс предназначен для аудиторной и самостоятельной работы студентов языковых специальностей вузов и ставит перед собой следующие задачи: развитие умения читать и понимать сложные оригинальные тексты; обогащение словаря; совершенствование устной и письменной речи.

В основу комплекса положен принцип рационального сочетания интенсивной работы над текстом с развитием навыков устной речи.

Особенность УМК заключается в том, что большая часть самостоятельной работы студентов как творческого, так и тренировочного характера, выполняется с помощью упражнений, стимулирующих творческую мысль обучающихся и создающих естественные условия для использования языка как средства общения.

Комплекс состоит из семи разделов:

1. Географическое положение, рельеф, климат, минеральные ресурсы и растительность США.
2. Население США.
3. Краткий обзор истории США.
4. Национальное образование.
5. Политическая система США.
6. Краткий обзор национальной экономики.
7. Американский стиль жизни.

Каждый раздел включает вступительную лекцию, знакомящую с тематикой раздела; дополнительные тексты в рубриках 'It is interesting to know', предлагающие лингвострановедческую информацию; а также вопросы, позволяющие проконтролировать понимание прочитанного и развивающие у обучаемых критическое отношение к прочитанному, умение извлекать информацию и выражать собственное суждение с опорой на языковой материал лекции. Послетекстовые творческие и тренировочные задания для внеаудиторной работы студентов направлены на стимулирование творческой мысли обучающихся, на развитие у них навыков грамотного выражения мыслей в письменном виде, умения

самостоятельно находить нужный материал. В конце каждой тематически обозначенной части даны вопросы для обсуждения на семинарском занятии, позволяющие обобщить и закрепить изучаемый материал, и викторина, предлагающая новую лингвострановедческую информацию и одновременно проверяющая изученное, а в заключение предлагается финальный проверочный тест для контроля усвоения пройденного.

Комплекс снабжен приложением, включающим в себя гимн США, список штатов США и их столиц, сведения о президентах, денежной системе и выдающихся событиях в истории страны и цветной вклейкой.

В настоящем УМК обобщен опыт отечественных и зарубежных специалистов, работающих в данной области.

Работа с комплексом должна стимулировать у студентов сознательное отношение к изучению английского языка, способствовать развитию умений и навыков извлечения смысловой информации, анализа, отбора и творческого использования изучаемого материала в устной и письменной речи для изложения собственных суждений и оценок.

Виды занятий, формы контроля	
Курс	2
Семестр	3, 4
Лекции (ч)	36
Экзамен (семестр)	4
Зачет (семестр)	3
Семинарские занятия (ч)	36
Курсовые работы	по выбору

СОДЕРЖАНИЕ ДИСЦИПЛИНЫ

Наименование тем лекций и семинарских занятий	Количество часов	
	лекции	семинары
1. Физико-географическая характеристика США	2	2
2. Особенности формирования американской нации	2	2
3. Исторические особенности образования и развития США	4	4
4. Национальное образование	2	2
5. Государственный и политический строй США	4	4
6. Экономика США. Общая характеристика и структура хозяйства	2	2
7. Культура США. Традиции и обычаи. Ценностные характеристики американского общества	2	2
ИТОГО:	18	18

Темы, выносимые на самостоятельное изучение

1. Выдающиеся художники, скульпторы и композиторы США.
2. Судебная власть в США.

Программой предусмотрено проведение зачета и экзамена, на которых необходимо изложить теоретический материал по дисциплине.

CHAPTER I
**GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND PHYSICAL FEATURES
OF THE UNITED STATES**

LECTURE 1
GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION

The United States of America occupies a third of the continent of North America. Its territory is about 9.6 mln sq. km. The population is more than 293 mln people.



The United States stretches across North America between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. It also includes Alaska, in the northwest corner of the continent; and Hawaii, in the Pacific

In its area the USA is fourth in the world after Russia, Canada and the People's Republic of China. In population it is the third largest country in the world after China and India.

In the north the USA borders on Canada, in the south-west – on Mexico. In the south the country is washed by the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, in the west – by the Pacific Ocean and in the east – by the Atlantic Ocean. The Atlantic Ocean is of great importance for the country's sea communications with Europe, Africa and South America. The largest port-towns of the country are situated on its coast. The sea routes from the USA to Asia and Australia pass over the Pacific Ocean. The sea route via the Panama Canal which connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific runs over the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

The United States is a federal republic consisting of 50 states and the District of Columbia. At the time of the adoption of the US Constitution (1787) the country included the 13 original states: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Rhode Island.

Alaska purchased from Russia in 1867 became the 49th state in 1959. It is situated in the north-west of North America and has an area of 1,593,440 sq. km. Alaska borders on Canada and is washed by the Arctic and the Pacific Oceans.

The Hawaii Islands, including 24 islands in the Pacific Ocean, occupy an area of 16,729 sq. km. In 1959 Hawaii was admitted to the USA as the 50th state (see page 10-11).

Nowadays the states of the United States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii, are often divided into seven major regions. Each region is made up of states that have similarities in geography, climate, economy, traditions, and history.

The regions are: 1) New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont); 2) The Middle Atlantic States (New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania); 3) The Southern States (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia); 4) The Midwestern States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin); 5) The Rocky Mountain States (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming); 6) The Southwestern States (Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas); 7) The Pacific Coast States (California, Oregon, Washington).



The map shows the location of the seven regions of the continental United States

New England is a small region in the northeast corner of the country. It is one of the nation's industrial centers as much of the region's land is too hilly or rocky to grow crops. But New England produces large amounts of dairy and poultry products and is famous for its maple syrup. Many New Englanders are descendants of English Puritans who settled the region during the 1600s.

The Middle Atlantic States Region stretches inland from the Atlantic Ocean southwest of New England. It is a major center of international trade. Coal mining and related industries are important economic activities in the western part of the region. The Middle Atlantic States Region ranks as the nation's most densely populated area.

The Southern States Region is an area of rolling hills, mountains, and plains bordered by broad beaches along the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The region's economy used to be heavily based on agriculture which has retained importance in the South. But an industrial boom that began in the mid-1900s has greatly increased manufacturing.

The Midwestern States Region is a vast area of generally flat land that covers much of the center of the United States. The Midwest is famous for its large stretches of fertile soil. Farms in the region produce enormous quantities of corn, wheat and other crops. The Midwest also has a number of large industrial cities (Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, Cleveland).

The Rocky Mountain States Region lies west of the Midwest. The region has the rugged Rocky Mountains, areas of deserts, plains and plateaus. Mining is an important economic activity, but the chief sources of income are such services as health care, hotels, data processing. Farmers grow a variety of crops and graze cattle and other livestock on dry grassy ranges.

The Southwestern State Region spreads out over a vast area in the south of the country. Here farmers graze cattle and grow cotton. The region has large deposits of petroleum and natural gas, as well as various other minerals. Its largest cities are Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, etc.

The Pacific Coast States Region, which borders the Pacific Ocean, is known for its dense forests, rugged mountains and ocean shore. The region produces a large part of the nation's fruits, nuts, vegetables, and wine grapes. The region has also abundant timber, minerals, and fish. Much manufacturing takes place in its large cities (Los Angeles, San Diego, Seattle, etc.). The region has more people of Asian ancestry than any other part of the United States, and a large number of American Indians.

Each state is subdivided into districts which are called traditionally counties. The districts are subdivided into municipalities and townships. The former deal with urban and the latter with rural districts.

The red, white and blue national flag of the USA, 'Stars and Stripes', represents the 13 original states and the number of the states today.





Washington – the capital of the United States – is situated on the Atlantic Coast. It is a special federal district, the District of Columbia, occupying the area of 178 sq. km. It was founded in 1791 and became the capital on December 1, 1800. It was called after the first president of the USA George Washington (1789-1797). Washington is like no other city of the USA. Its only industry is government. The White House, where the US President lives and works, the Capitol, where the US Congress meets, and the Supreme Court are all in Washington, D.C.

The United States has possession of various island territories in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The territories and dependencies of the USA comprise Puerto Rico, the Panama Canal Zone, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Pacific Trust Territory.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The territory of the USA stretches from east to west for a distance of 4,500 km and from north to south – for 2,500 km.

Each region of the United States has characteristics of its own. There are large and modern cities, but a great proportion of the country consists of open land dotted with farm-houses and small towns.

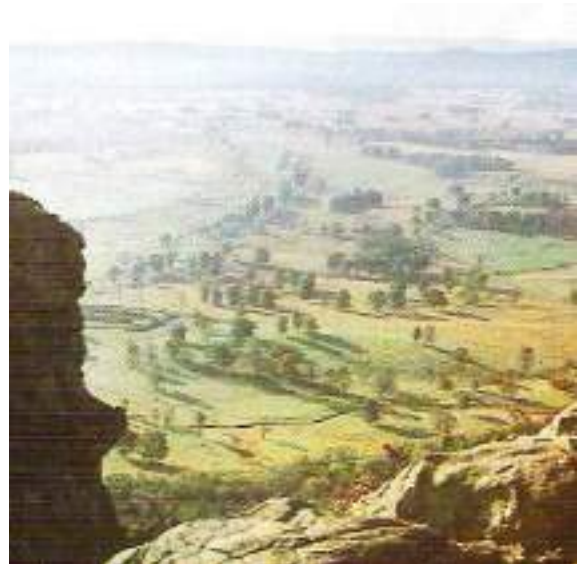
The country, excluding Alaska and Hawaii, can be divided into seven major land regions. The regions are: 1) The Appalachian Highlands; 2) The Coastal Lowlands; 3) The Interior Plains; 4) The Ozark-Ouachita Highlands; 5) The Rocky Mountains; 6) The Western Plateaus, Basins and Ranges; 7) The Pacific Ranges and Lowlands (see page 14-15).

The Appalachian Highlands extend from the northern tip of Maine southward to Alabama. This rugged region has many mountain ranges. The Appalachian Mountains run along the Atlantic coast of the country, they are ancient, strongly destroyed mountains of no great height (2,000 m).

The Coastal Lowlands extend from southeastern Maine, across the eastern and southern United States, to eastern Texas. Forests of hickory, oak, pine and other trees are common throughout the lowlands. The region has three subdivisions: 1) a slightly elevated rolling plain stretching from southern New York to Alabama and called Piedmont; 2) the Atlantic Coastal Plain; 3) the Gulf Coastal Plain.

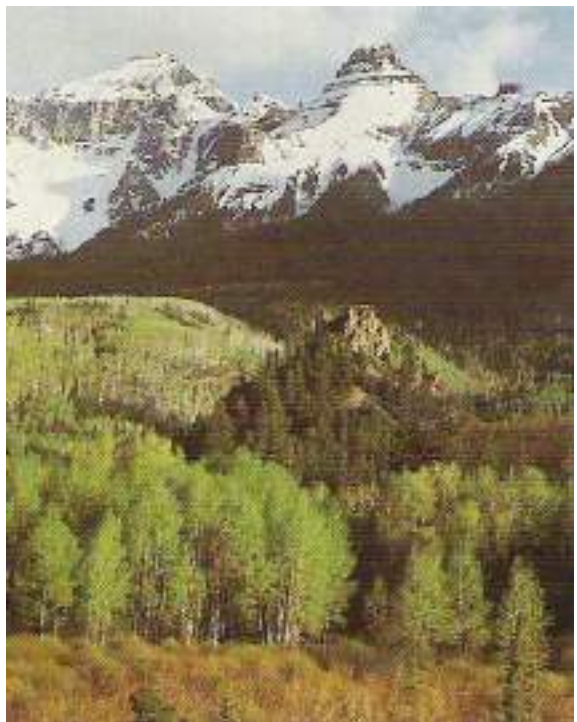
The Interior Plains occupy a vast area that stretches from the Appalachian Highlands in the east to the Rocky Mountains in the west. The western part of the region has vast grasslands and large areas of fertile soil, it is the chief agricultural section of the country. Deposits of iron ore and coal provide raw materials for many manufacturing industries in the eastern part of the Interior Plains. Important deposits of petroleum and metal ores lie in the western part.

The Ozark-Ouachita Highlands rise up between the Interior Plains and Coastal Lowlands. The Highlands include forested hills, artificial lakes, many underground caves and gushing springs. Much of the region has poor soil for farming, but fertile land lies along the river valleys. Deposits of coal, iron ore, and other minerals are valuable natural resources of the highlands.



Rugged hills border a valley in north-western Arkansas, which is part of the Ozark-Ouachita Highlands. This region also includes parts of Missouri and Oklahoma

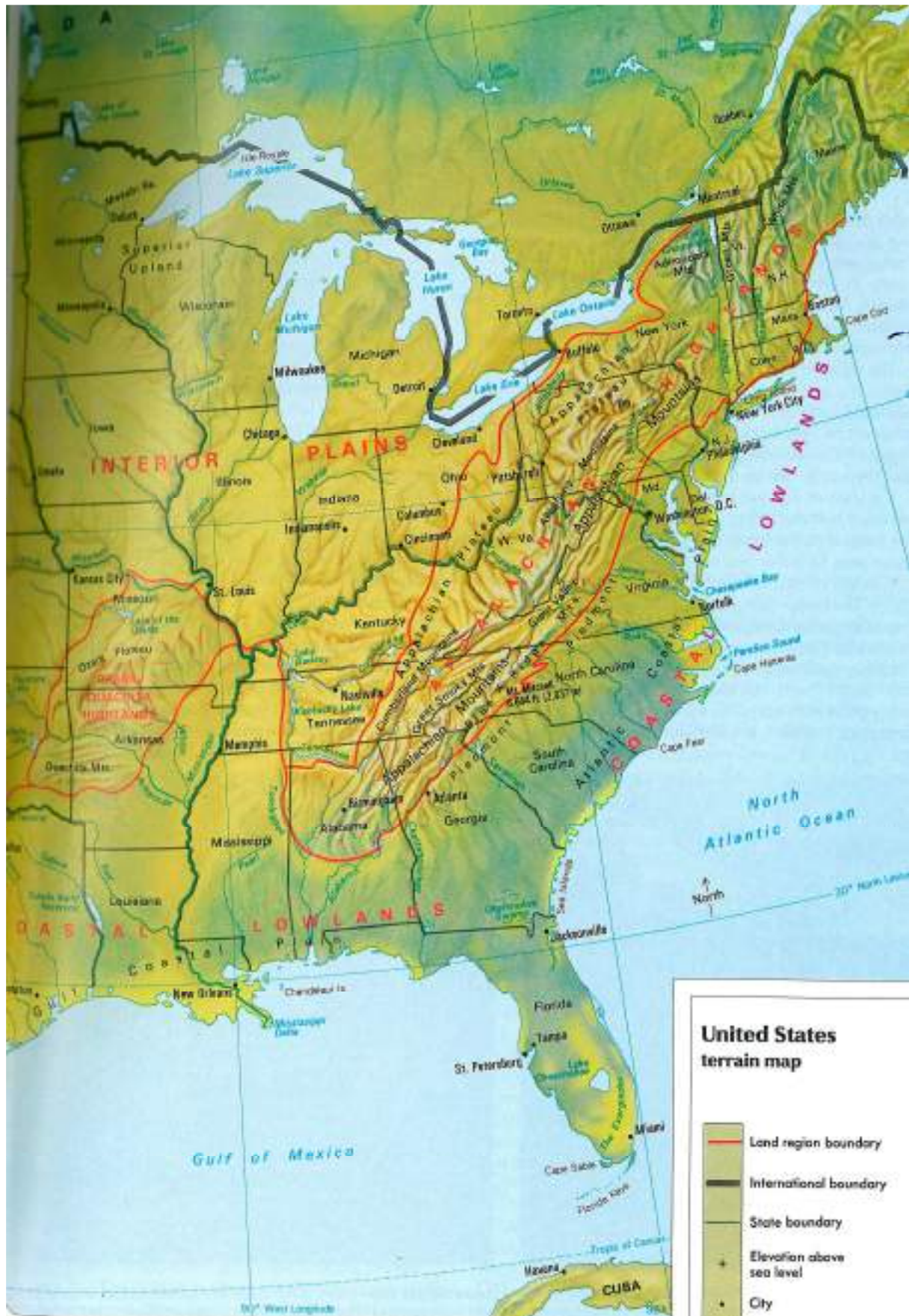
The Rocky Mountains form the largest mountain system in North America. They extend from Northern Alaska, through Canada and the western United States to northern New Mexico. As compared with the Appalachian, they are high (some peaks are over 4,000 m) and young, their peaks are capped with snow. Lumbering and mining are important industries in the Rockies. The mountains are a storehouse of such metals as copper, gold, lead, silver and zinc. The region also has large deposits of oil and natural gas. On the mountain meadows graze beef and dairy cattle and valleys are used for growing crops.



The Rocky Mountains, west of the Interior Plains, soar to heights of more than 14,000 feet (4,270 m) above sea level. The majestic scene above is in Colorado

The Western Plateaus, Basins, and Ranges lie west of the Rockies. This region extends from Washington south to the Mexican border. It is the driest part of the United States. Parts of it are wastelands with little plant life. The Columbia Plateau occupies the northernmost part of the region. The Colorado Plateau lies in the southern part of the region. The plateau's river gorge, including the Grand Canyon, rank among the world's great natural wonders. The Basin and Range part of the region is a vast area of mountains and desert lowlands between the Columbia and Colorado plateaus.







Desert areas cover much of the Western Plateaus, Basins, and Ranges land region, west of the Rockies. The land shown above is in the Nevada portion of the Great basin, a part of the land

The Pacific Ranges and Lowlands stretch across western Washington and Oregon and most of California. The region's eastern boundary is formed by the Cascade Mountains in the north and by the Sierra Nevada in the south. The Sierra Nevada



The Pacific Coast forms the western border of the Pacific Ranges and Lowlands region, which extends from Canada to Mexico. Rugged rock formations line parts of the coast, including the California area

It includes the Death Valley in California. Part of the Death Valley lies 86 m below sea level and is the lowest place in the United States. The central part of the region is the Great Basin, a semi-desert area whose largest lake, the Great Salt Lake, is so salty that bathers cannot sink in it. Near the lake is the Great Salt Lake Desert, which includes a large, hard, flat bed of salt.



Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

Cascade Range together with the Rocky Mountains forms the Cordillera Mountain System. Broad, fertile valleys lie west of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada mountains. West of these lands, the Coast Ranges line the Pacific Ocean. Giant redwood trees grow on the mountains in northern California. Set among the Coast Ranges are a number of rich agricultural valleys that produce much of the nation's lettuce, dried fruit, and wine grapes.

RIVERS AND LAKES

The United States has many thousands of streams. Some of them are mighty rivers, which cross the state and even international boundaries. Others are tiny streams. The rivers of the USA belong to the Atlantic and the Pacific basins. All the waters east of the Rockies finally reach the Atlantic; all the waters to the west of the Rockies finally arrive at the Pacific. For this reason the Rocky Mountains are known as the Continental Divide. The chief drainage system of the country is the Mississippi River System.

The Mississippi is one of the world's great continental rivers. The waters of the Mississippi are gathered from two-thirds of the United States. Together with the Missouri River (its chief western branch, 4,090 km), the Mississippi flows some 6,400 km from its northern source in the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi is a swift, deep and wide river. It is navigable almost throughout its entire length. From the west the Missouri River pours into the Mississippi colouring it deep brown with small pieces of soil. Farther down the stream, the waters of the Ohio River join the Mississippi. The Ohio is the Mississippi's principal eastern tributary. Other important tributaries of the Mississippi, which rank among the most important rivers of the world, are besides the Missouri and Ohio, the Arkansas River and the Red River.

The two greatest rivers of the Pacific side are the Colorado in the south and the Columbia, which rises in Canada and flows to the north. In the dry western part of the country both rivers, very different in character, are vital sources of life. The Columbia – wild in prehistoric times-, cutting and shaping the land, now flows with quiet dignity. However, the Colorado is still a river of enormous fury – wild, restless and angry. It is cutting deeply into the desert rocks, forming the Grand Canyon, which strikes one's imagination as a fabulous phenomenon of nature. Its perpendicular walls go up to a height of over 1,500 m above river level.

The Rio Grande (3,200 km) is the most important river of the Southwest. It forms a natural boundary between Mexico and the United States.

The Yukon River rises in the Canadian Rockies, but in its lower course it flows westward across Alaska to its mouth in the Bering Sea.

The United States has thousands of lakes of all kinds and sizes.

The Great Lakes make up the largest group of lakes in the country, as well as the greatest collection of fresh-water lakes in the world. The total area of the Great Lakes (over 245,000 sq. km) is equal to that of Great Britain and forms a vast 'inland fresh-water sea'. Only Lake Michigan lies entirely inside the United States. The other four lakes, Superior, Huron, Erie, and Ontario form a border

between north-eastern United States and Canada. The lakes are interconnected by short rivers and channels. Between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, on the Niagara River, which links the two lakes are powerful Niagara Falls, precipitating from a height of almost 60 m.



Lakes Superior, Huron, Ontario, Michigan, and Erie are known as the Great Lakes. All five are connected and form the most important inland waterway in North America. From the early 1800s, they have been heavily used to transport raw materials and finished goods. Today many ships pass through the Great Lakes to the St. Lawrence and then travel that river to the Atlantic Ocean



The Niagara River flows northward from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. Halfway there, at Niagara Falls, the river suddenly plunges almost 200 feet

Another group of lakes is to the west of the Rocky Mountains. Some of these lakes are high in the mountains, in the crater pits of inactive volcanoes. Others spread out as shallow sheets of salty water across the western desert plains. The most famous of these salty lakes are the Great Salt Lake, in Utah and

the Salton Sea, which lies some 80 m below sea level in southern California. The Great Salt Lake contains six thousand millions tons of salt. Other lakes hold millions of tons of soda. Most of the desert lakes are small. The size of each lake generally varies with the amount of local rainfall. Some of the lakes dry up completely for months at a time.

The following region of numerous lakes lies along the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic shore. There are hundreds of small lakes and lagoons there. These coastal lakes were formed when the ocean floor gradually rose out of the sea to become the coastal plain.

CLIMATE

The United States has many kinds of climate. The weather ranges from the warm, wet conditions of the Appalachians to the desert conditions of some of the western states. It varies from almost winterless climates in southern Arizona and southern Florida to long, very cold winters in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. The United States has practically all the climatic zones (see page 21-22).

The main land mass of the United States is in the temperate zone. The climatic conditions of the country are modified by the great mountains and the winds. The prevailing western winds bring rains from the ocean. The Cascade Mountains and the Sierra Nevada Mountains, running from north to south, are so close to the west coast that they catch the largest amount of the rain from the Pacific Ocean before it can go further inland. As a result, there is too little rain for almost the whole western half of the United States, which lies in the 'rain shadow' of the mountains.

One of the climate classifications, which is based solely on moisture characteristics divides the United States into five climatic provinces: super-humid, humid, sub-humid, semiarid and arid.

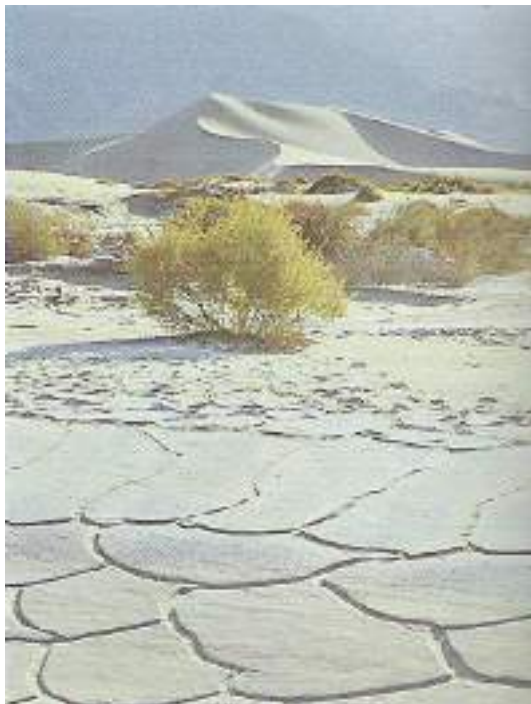
Superhumid province lies along the north Pacific coast inland to the crest of the Cascade Mountains. Precipitation varies from more than 760 mm to more than 3,800 mm annually. In the mountains much of the precipitation falls as snow which may be 3 to 9 m deep by the end of March. Winter is wet. Summer is predominantly dry. Temperatures are relatively high during the winter rainy season, averaging about 4.4°C at sea level. The highest temperatures rarely reach 32.2°C and the warmest month is much colder than it is inland. This is the cloudiest region in the United States.

Humid province lies east of a line from Lake Superior to the Texas coast. Rainfall varies from 760 mm to slightly more than 1,270 mm annually. Much of

the winter precipitation is snow. Along the Gulf coast snow is rare. The average annual temperature is less than 4.4°C in northern Minnesota but it increases to 21°C along the Gulf coast and 23.9 °C in southern Florida. The coldest observed temperatures are about – 45.6°C in Minnesota, – 28.9 °C in Tennessee and – 17.8°C in north-west Florida. In January the averages for Minnesota, the Gulf coast and Florida are –15 °C, +12.8°C and + 21.1 °C respectively. In summer (July) there is much less difference from the northern part average (18.3°C) to southern part (26.7°C).

Subhumid province is a belt 480 to 800 km wide to the west of the humid province. The western boundary is a north-south line from mid-North Dakota through Texas. This province receives less precipitation. From east to west the annual totals decrease from about 760 to 460 mm along the Canadian border and from 850 to about 700 mm in southern Texas. The precipitation is largely concentrated in the late spring and early summer months. Temperatures are cold in winter and hot in summer and are quite similar to those of the western edge of the humid province. In North Dakota temperatures of – 45°C have been observed. Summer temperatures are nearly the same from north to south. The highest temperatures recorded have been between 40°C and 45°C.

Semiarid province lies west from the subhumid province to the western



The Death Valley, California, the country's driest place, receives less than two inches (5 cm) of precipitation yearly. It recorded the highest U. S. temperature ever, 134° F (57 °C)

slopes of the Rocky Mountains including the area between the Cascade-Sierra Nevada ranges and the Rocky Mountains. Most of the area receives little rain and snow. In northern Montana the annual average precipitation is about 305 mm; this increases to about 600 mm in the south of Texas. The lowest winter temperatures have varied between – 54.4°C in Yellowstone Park, and – 12.2°C in Texas. The highest summer temperatures have ranged between 40.6°C and 46.1°C. The Great Valley of California receives almost no rain from May to September.

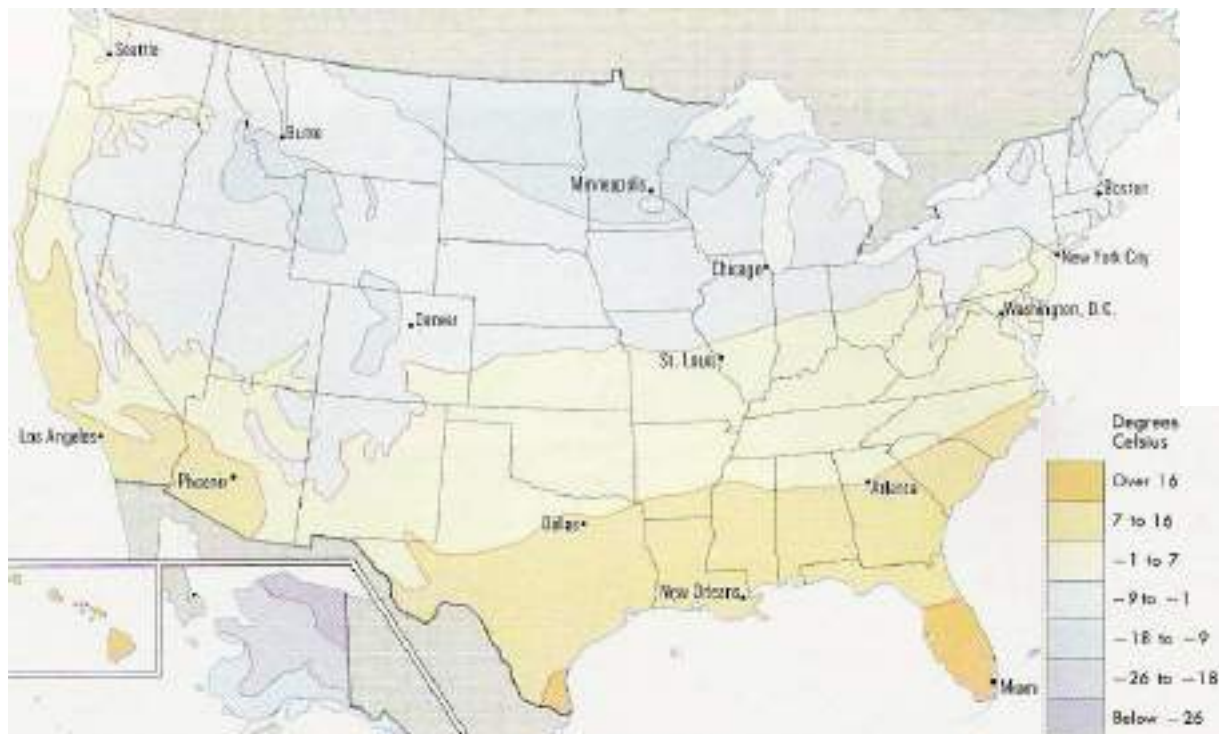
Arid province is restricted to parts of Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, south-west Texas and southeast California. Precipitation is generally less than 300 mm a year, most of which falls as showers



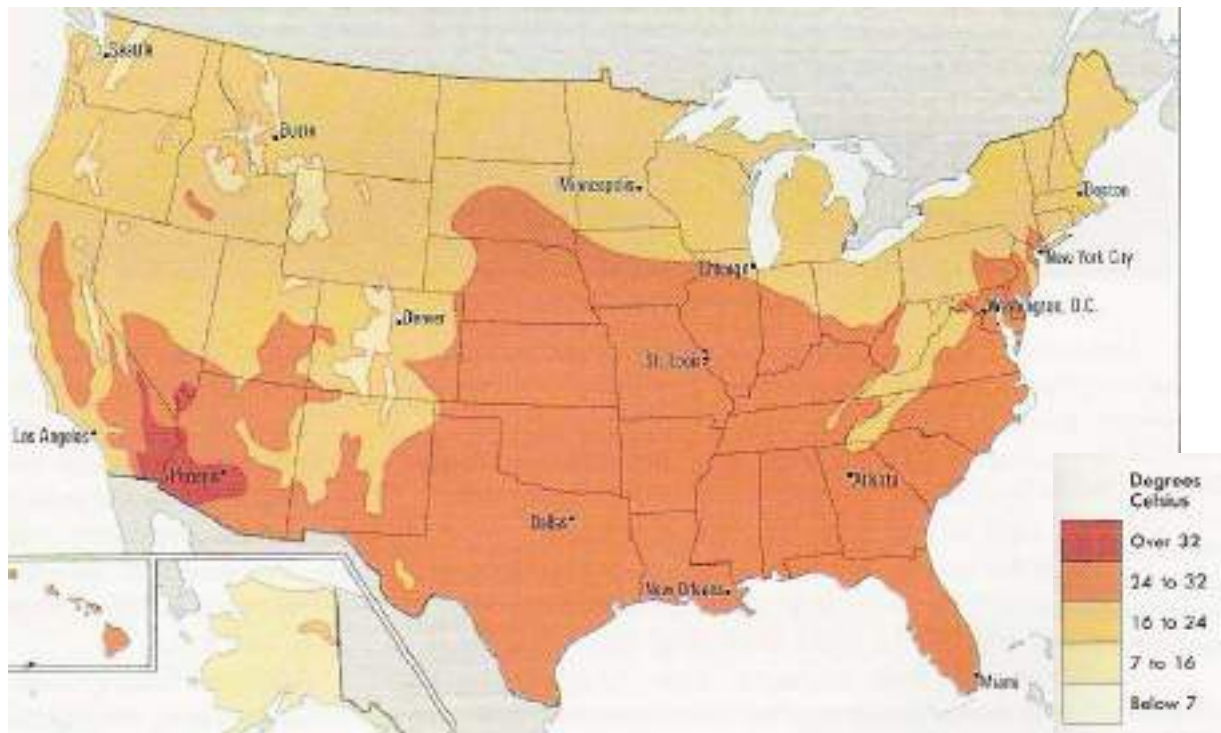
Prospect Creek, Alaska, recorded the lowest U. S. temperature ever, -80°F (-62°C). The nearby town of Barrow has the country's lowest average annual temperature, 9°F (-13°C)

during the summer. Summer temperatures are extremely high. The average July temperature is about 40°C . The highest summer temperature, 57°C was recorded in the Death Valley, California.

Alaska is a land of icebergs and polar bears. Ice masses lie buried in the earth, which is permanently frozen to a depth of 90 or more metres. The sun cannot melt the icy soil more than two thirds of a metre down. The Japan Current of the Pacific warms Alaska and the Arctic cools it. The temperature may drop as low as -43°C in some places, and may drop to -30°C in others. In any given year more than 11 m of snow may fall in the north, and more than 2 m of rainfall may precipitate upon the city of Juneau in the south.



Average January temperatures. The southern and far western parts of the United States have milder winters than the rest of the country. This map shows how average January temperatures generally decrease from south to north



Average July temperatures. Average July temperatures in most of the country are between 75 and 90 °F (24 and 32 °C) 60 or 75 °F (16 and 24 °C). Temperatures are lower in most of Alaska and some mountains, and higher in the South-west desert



Average yearly precipitation. This map shows that the amount of yearly precipitation in the United States generally increases from west to east. But some areas along the west coast and in Alaska and Hawaii receive the most precipitation



Waimea Canyon, Hawaii, was formed by water from Mount Waialeale. The mountain, the wettest place in the U. S., receives about 460 inches (1,170 cm) of precipitation a year

Hawaii is located in tropical zone, but its climate is comfortable because of the ocean currents that pass its shores and the winds that blow across the land from the northeast. The temperature usually remains close to the annual average of 24 °C.

VEGETATION

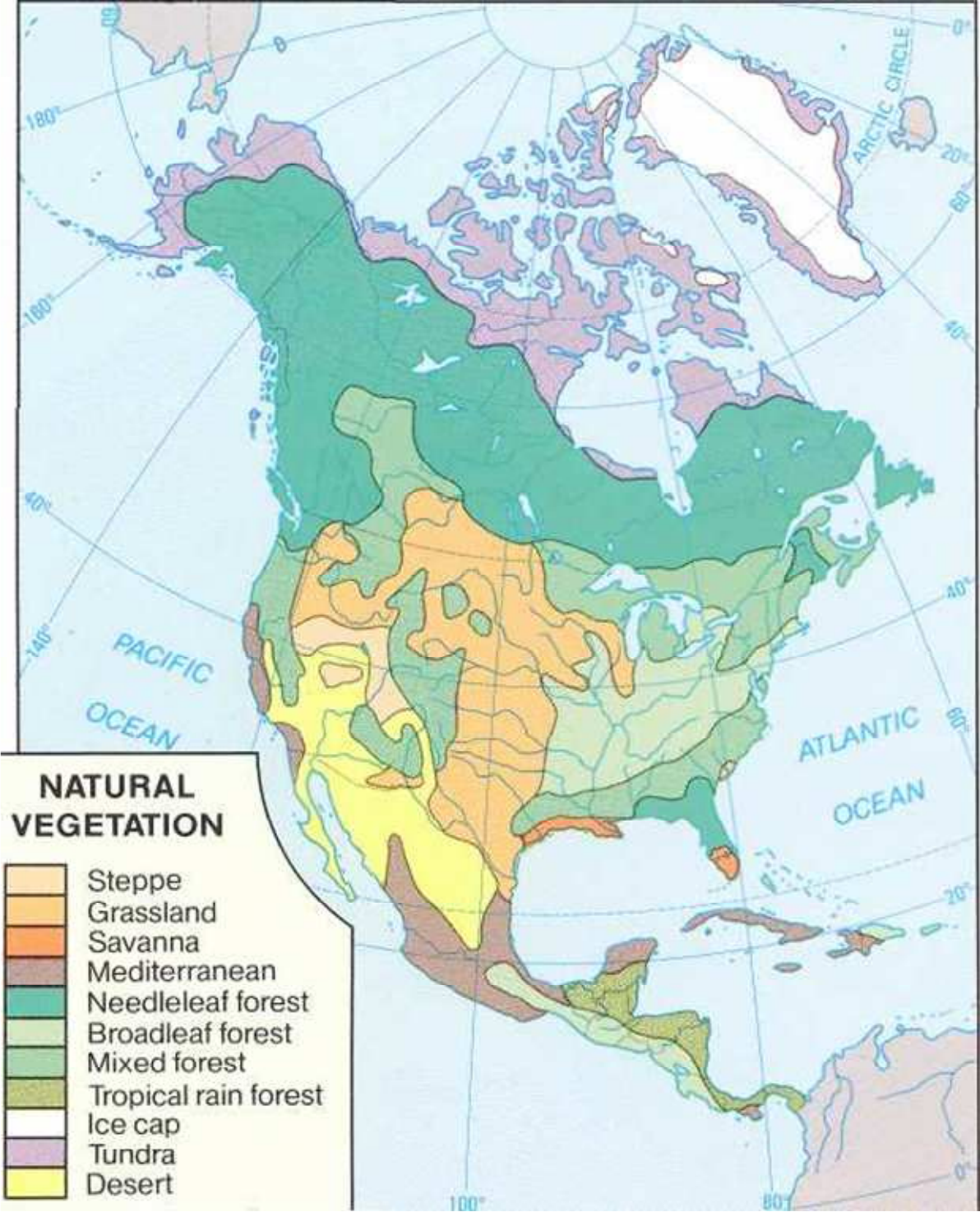
Grassland and scrub dominate the western half of the country, forest the eastern. It should, however, be noted that the richest stands of softwood timber are to be found on the well-watered Pacific Highlands. Washington, Oregon, and northern California are the leading sources of saw-mill timber in the United States. The coastal margins of Alaska, too, are mild enough to carry large coniferous trees, but much of the interior and the north, especially those parts away from the river valleys, is covered only with sparsely distributed, stunted trees or tundra. In the eastern United States the dominant trees are hardwoods, but valuable pine forests are found in the Upper Lakes region and in parts of the Gulf-Atlantic plain.

When the first Europeans entered the United States about half the present area was forest-covered. As in Canada, however, much timber has been destroyed in the east, both by cutting and by fire, and in some places it has simply been replaced by ‘cut-over’ land, i.e. by land under less valuable secondary trees. More care is now being taken of what remains of the former vast forest resources, the emphasis being placed, not as formerly upon ‘mining of trees’, but upon ‘farming’ them.

Over a quarter of the country is still under forest, which ranges from the mangroves and swamp-forests of Florida to the huge Douglas firs and redwoods of the Pacific States, and from hickory, walnut, and oak of the east-central states to the pines of Minnesota and the Rocky Mountains.

The United States is rich in the variety of its native forest trees, some of which, as the species of sequoia, are known. More than 1,000 varieties have been described.

The United States leads the world in the production of temperate hardwoods, largely used for furniture-making, and its output of softwoods, provides timber for constructional purposes and also wood-pulp for the manufacture of paper and rayon. The United States imports large quantities of softwoods, despite the presence of near-virgin forests in Alaska.



Natural vegetation

MINERAL RESOURCES

Among other countries the United States is noted for abundance and a great variety of mineral resources. Its territory possesses over 100 kinds of various minerals. In resources of coal and natural gas, tungsten and molibdenum, lead and phosphorus the United States holds the first place; in resources of copper, zinc and sulphur – the second; in resources of gold, silver, uranium, mercury and asbestos – the third. The USA is rich in oil, iron ore, various metallic ores. At the same time the country lacks a sufficient supply of some of the minerals required for modern industries. These must be imported into the United States. They include tin, nickel, manganese, chrome, cobalt, industrial diamonds, mica, strontium.

The total reserves of coal of the USA are equal to 1.5 trillion tons. The principal deposits of high-grade coals are concentrated in the eastern part of the United States, the main producing areas being in the Appalachian Plateau region.

The total reserves of oil are estimated to 5 billion tons. The chief oil-bearing area is in the southern part of the Interior Plains and the Gulf Coast Plain. Other principal oil deposits are to be found in the Pacific south-west (California) and the Rocky Mountains (Wyoming). Extensive oil-bearing areas have been discovered in the northern part of the Great Plains. Less important oil-fields are in the western foothills of the Appalachians. With the oil-basins are very closely connected the deposits of natural gas (8 trillion cubic metres, i.e. nearly one-third of the world resources).

The total reserves of iron ore are 11 billion tons. The chief beds of iron ore are concentrated in the region of Lake Superior. There are some deposits of iron ore in the south of the Appalachians, Birmingham, but the ores of this area are of a poorer quality, having a lower iron content.

Huge reserves of non-ferrous metals are to be found predominantly on the territory to the west of the Mississippi River (zinc, copper, lead and others). Principal deposits of precious metals (gold, silver) and rare elements are in the Cordilleras. The main resources of uranium are in New Mexico. In the total resources of uranium the USA is after the South African Republic and Canada. The Cordilleras and Florida contain huge reserves of phosphorus. The Gulf coastal plain possesses the largest resources of sulphur in the capitalist world.

The USA is self-sufficient in coal, copper, lead, phosphate, molybdenum and some other raw materials.

IT IS INTERESTING TO KNOW

Facts in brief

Capital: Washington, D. C.

Form of government: Republic.

Physical features: Longest river – Missouri, 2,540 miles (4,090 km). Largest lake within the USA – Michigan, 22,300 sq. miles (57,757 sq. km). Largest island – Hawaii, 4,038 sq. miles (10,458 sq. km).

Flag: Adopted on June 14, 1777.

Motto: In God We Trust, adopted on July 30, 1956.

National Anthem: ‘The Star-spangled Banner’, adopted on March 3, 1931.

Bird: Bald eagle adopted on June 20, 1782

Flower: Rose, adopted on October 7, 1986.

Money: Basic unit – dollar.

The US National Flag

The US flag was raised in its first unified form on January 2, 1776 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It consisted of 13 alternate red and white straps (stripes), equal to the number of states. For that flag, on June 14, 1777, ‘Flag Day’, Congress substituted a similarly striped flag with 13 white stripes on a blue field in the left-hand corner.



In 1794, with the admission of Vermont and Kentucky, Congress added two more stripes and two more stars. The new country began to grow. More states joined in. But there was no place on the flag for more stripes. So in 1818 the original 13 stripes were restored, to remain unchanged thereafter; for each new state admitted to the Union, however, a new star was to be added.

Today the USA flag has 13 horizontal (7 red and 6 white) stripes and 50 white stars on the blue background representing the 50 states. The red stripes proclaim courage, the white stripes proclaim liberty, the field of blue stands for loyalty.

The US flag is known as ‘Old Glory’, the ‘Stars and Stripes’ or the ‘Star-spangled Banner’. The latter name comes from the title of the national anthem of the USA, beginning with ‘Oh, say can you see by the dawn’s early light ... the star-spangled banner...’. The words were created by Francis Scott Key who watched the bombardment of Fort McHenry in September, 1814, during the war between the USA and Great Britain in 1812 – 1815. The melody was taken from an English song composed by John Stafford Smith (1760 – 1836).

The US flag is the symbol of the revolutionary struggle of the American people, of the American Revolution.

The coat of arms of the US represents an eagle with wings outspread, holding a bundle of rods – the symbol of administering - in the left claw and an olive twig – the emblem of love – in the right claw. The motto on the coat of arms is ‘E Pluribus Unum’.



Symbols of the United States include the American flag and the Great Seal. The eagle holds an olive branch and arrows, symbolizing a desire for peace but the ability to wage war. The reverse side bears the Eye of Providence, representing God, and a pyramid dated 1776

BALD EAGLE

Benjamin Franklin objected to the choice of the bald eagle as the American national bird. He wrote, the eagle is ‘a bird of bad moral character; he does not get his living honestly.... Too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labour of the fishing hawk and ... takes fish from him’. Franklin suggested choosing the wild turkey instead, but he was outvoted. His colleagues saw the bald eagle as a symbol of freedom and power – one that could use its impressive 7,5-foot wingspan to soar effortlessly across the sky and use its keen eyes and razor-sharp talons to hunt.

No matter what their hunting habits may be, bald eagles have admirable domestic qualities. A male and a female stay together for life, and males share in the care of the young.

MOUNT RUSHMORE

The Black Hills of South Dakota are famous for the beauty of their nature. Here the Sioux Indians once lived; here was the scene of the famous Black Hills gold rush, and here, in modern times, stands the Mount Rushmore Memorial.

The construction of this memorial began in 1925. Gutzon Borglum, a famous American sculptor, was commissioned to carve on the face of Mount Rushmore the heads of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt . This tremendous work, which took fourteen years to complete, was almost finished in 1941, when Borglum died. It was completed later that year by his son, Lincoln Borglum.

These gigantic heads are eighteen meters high, proportionate to a man one hundred and forty-five meters high. They are carved out of the granite of the mountain and are visible for over eighty kilometers.

This memorial is now an important point of interest which is visited by thousands every year.



The Mount Rushmore Memorial

MOUNT RAINIER

Mount Rainier, a huge dead volcano in the United States, lifts its snow-covered peak 4,392 meters into the air. Its base covers almost two hundred and fifty-nine square kilometers. This majestic mountain is in the Cascade Range of the north-west and gives its name to Mount Rainier National Park in the State of Washington.

A cap of ice and snow covers the top of Mount Rainier the whole year. In winter and spring the whole mountain is beautiful with its blanket of snow. It can be seen for many kilometers.

This dead volcano probably erupted about two million years ago. On the slopes of Mount Rainier are twenty-six glaciers, including the Emmons, the largest in the United States.

WILD FLOWERS IN DEATH VALLEY

The Death Valley is a desert in southeastern California. The desert is 222 kilometres long and 8 to 24 kilometres wide. It became a National Monument in 1994. The valley was named by people seeking gold in 1849, many of whom died while trying to cross the desert. The lowest point in the valley is 86 metres below sea level, which is also the lowest elevation in the Western Hemisphere.

The Death Valley is the hottest region in North America, the highest air temperature ever recorded, 57 degrees Celsius, occurred there in 1913. The ground temperature has been recorded at 79.4 degrees Celsius. The average rainfall is only 38 mm. per year. The rocky and sandy landscape supports grass, cacti, and many wild flowers. Coyotes, bighorn sheep, lizards, snakes, and rabbits are among the wild animals of the region.

The winter and spring of 1998 received an exceptional amount of rain, allowing for a large variety of flowers to bloom. One report stated that a certain species of flower hadn't bloomed in over 80 years! The phenomenon is explained by an increase in temperature of a few degrees, which caused the Pacific Ocean to evaporate more moisture than usual. The result was a larger than normal amount of rain.

A whole world of little tiny flowers, pink, yellow, purple and white carpeted the ground creating subtle colours as far as the eye could see. The ridges of sand dunes were split by shadows and light, they looked surreal, like beautiful graceful snakes heading for the hills. In the foreground lay an array of sagebrush, its small green-grey leaves adding another colour to the muted desert tones. The background was a range of dry hills, barren yet textured by the ravines formed by water run-off over many centuries.

WHAT CAN RIVERS DO?

The Grand Canyon in Arizona is a natural wonder of the world. At some points it appears like a magic city of rock, with temples, towers, and castles of dazzling colours.

One of the most amazing things about it is that the Grand Canyon was made by a river. The waters of the Colorado River cut out this great gorge in the course of thousands of years. Even now, year by year, the rushing Colorado continues to cut deeper into the bottom of the gorge.

In certain places, the gorge of the Grand Canyon is more than a mile deep, and it is from 4 to 18 miles wide. As the river cut deep into the plateau to form the Canyon, it laid bare on the rock walls of the Canyon the story of hundreds of millions of years of the earth's history.

Down at the bottom of the gorge, beside the river, ancient crystalline rock is exposed. This is the buried remnant of an ancient mountain range which was folded back on itself and worn down by weather and water. The rise and fall of this mountain range millions of years ago is revealed only by the erosion of the Grand Canyon.

On the base of this buried mountain range rest beds of quartzite, sandstone and limestone. They were formed over the years as ocean waters from the east and from the west flooded the section, and as whole mountain ranges rose and disappeared. Proof of the fact that great seas once rushed over these rocks is to be found in the fossils that turn up here. There are fossil remains of seaweed, seashells and fish.

A RIVER THAT FLOWS BACKWARD

Have you ever heard of a river that flows backward? You will find it – as you will many other strange things – in America.

Years ago the Chicago River flowed north and emptied itself into Lake Michigan. But when Chicago began to expand and more drinking water was needed for its inhabitants, engineers got to work and deliberately altered the whole structure of the river, so that fresh water would then flow from the lake into the river!

The result is that nowadays, instead of flowing north, the Chicago river flows south towards the Gulf of Mexico.

THE BIGGEST LIVING THINGS

The blue whale is the largest animal that has ever lived – bigger than an elephant, bigger than the biggest dinosaur. But even the blue whale is not the largest living thing on earth. Trees are. And the largest of all trees are the redwoods and giant sequoias that grow in California.

The tallest trees in the world are the Californian redwoods. Most of them are more than 300 feet (90 m) high – about as tall as a 30-storey building. The tallest known redwood is almost 370 feet (113 m) high. These giants have such huge trunks that in one or two an archway has been cut through the trunk so that a car can be driven through the living tree.

The giant sequoias are not as tall as the redwoods, but their trunks are much thicker. One big sequoia is called the General Sherman, after a famous soldier. The tree is 272 feet (83 m) high. The widest part of its trunk is more than 100 feet (30 m) around and more than 36 feet (11 m) across. A big crowd of people could hide behind this tree.

THE OLDEST LIVING TREE

If trees had birthday parties, there is one tree in the United States that would need more than 4,000 candles on its birthday cake.

Trees live much longer than people or animals do. A big oak tree, with a trunk so thick that you can't get your arms around it, may be hundreds of years old. The big redwood trees in California are thousands of years old.

The oldest known tree in the United States lives in a mountain forest in California. It is a gnarled, twisted bristlecone pine tree that is more than 4,600 years old. It is one of the oldest living things in the world.

Giant sequoias are among the world's largest and oldest living things. They are found only on the west side of the Sierra Nevada, between 5,000 and 7,800 feet (1500 and 2400 m) above sea level. The largest of them is about 275 feet tall and 33 feet thick (84 and 10 m). Many are 2,000 to 3,000 years old



PROGRESS QUESTIONS

1. Describe the geographical position of the USA, its composition.
2. When were Alaska and Hawaii admitted to the United States?
3. What are the geographical and economic advantages of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans for the United States?
4. How is the USA divided administratively?
5. What are the 13 original states of the USA?
6. What seven major regions are the states of the USA divided into nowadays?
7. Describe the US national flag.
8. What do you know about the US capital?
9. What island territories does the USA possess in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean?
10. Why is the United States a country of great physical differences?
11. What are the most important mountain ranges in the USA?
12. Describe the Rocky Mountains.
13. What minerals are to be found in the Rocky Mountains?
14. What is the structure of the Cordillera Mountain System?
15. Describe the Appalachian Mountains.
16. What are the chief plains and plateaus in the USA?
17. What is the chief drainage system of the United States?
18. What is the longest river of the USA?
19. What are the main rivers in the United States? What basins do they belong to?
20. What is the largest group of lakes in the USA? What is the total area of these lakes?
21. Why are the Great lakes called an 'inland fresh-water sea'?
22. What are the largest salty lakes in the USA?
23. What factors determine the climate of the country?
24. Describe the prevailing winds blowing in the USA.
25. Describe the role of the Cascade Mountains and the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the distribution of rain.
26. What climatic provinces is the United States divided into? Characterize briefly each of them.
27. What part of the country does the forest dominate in?
28. What are the dominant trees in the eastern United States?
29. What are hardwoods and softwoods used for in the USA?
30. What mineral resources is the USA rich and poor in?
31. Where are the principal deposits of coal concentrated?
32. Where are the main oil-fields situated?
33. Name the chief deposits of iron ore.
34. Where are the main deposits of non-ferrous metals concentrated?
35. What minerals is the United States self-sufficient in? What minerals does it have to import?

SEMINAR 1

Geographical Position and Physical Features of the USA

1. Describe the geographical position of the USA.
2. Speak on the major land regions of the USA.
3. Speak on the climate and vegetation of the USA.

4. Give an account of the main rivers and lakes of the USA.
5. Give an account of the chief mineral resources of the USA.

QUIZ

1. The USA is self-sufficient in ____, ____, ____, phosphate, molybdenum and some other raw materials.
2. The majestic ____ Mountains stretch all the way from Mexico to the Arctic.
3. The ____ River flows northward from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. Halfway there, at ____ Falls, the river suddenly plunges almost 200 feet (60 m).
4. In certain places, the gorge of the ____ Canyon is more than a mile deep, and it is from 4 to 18 miles wide.
5. Almost the whole ____ half of the United States lies in the '____ ____' of the mountains, which means that very little rain falls.
6. Today the USA flag has ____ horizontal stripes symbolising the ____ ____ states and ____ white stars on the ____ background representing the ____ states. The red stripes proclaim ____, the ____ stripes proclaim liberty, the field of blue stands for ____.
7. The 'Star-spangled Banner' is the title of the national ____ of the USA, beginning with 'Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light ... the Star-spangled banner...'
8. Benjamin Franklin objected to the choice of the ____ ____ as the American national bird. He wrote, the eagle is 'a bird of bad moral character; he does not get his living honestly... Too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labour of the fishing hawk and ... takes fish from him'. Franklin suggested choosing the wild turkey instead, but he was outvoted. His colleagues saw the ____ ____ as a symbol of freedom and power.
9. The main land mass of the United States is in the ____ zone.
10. The Midwest, the Middle Atlantic States, and New England experience ____ summers and ____, ____ winters.
11. The ____ Mountains extend from Maine to Alabama in the eastern United States. This is a region of old mountains with worn, rounded peaks, the highest of which is less than 2,200 m.
12. The ____ ____ occupy a huge expanse of land that stretches from the Appalachian Highlands in the east to the Rocky Mountains in the west.
13. Some territories and dependencies of the United States (in the ____ Sea and the ____ Ocean), such as ____ and ____ Islands, have a large degree of self-government. ____ ____, one of the areas, is a commonwealth associated with the United States that has been given wide powers of self-rule by the U.S. Congress. American ____, ____, ____ ____ and the ____ Islands each send to Congress a representative who votes only in committees.

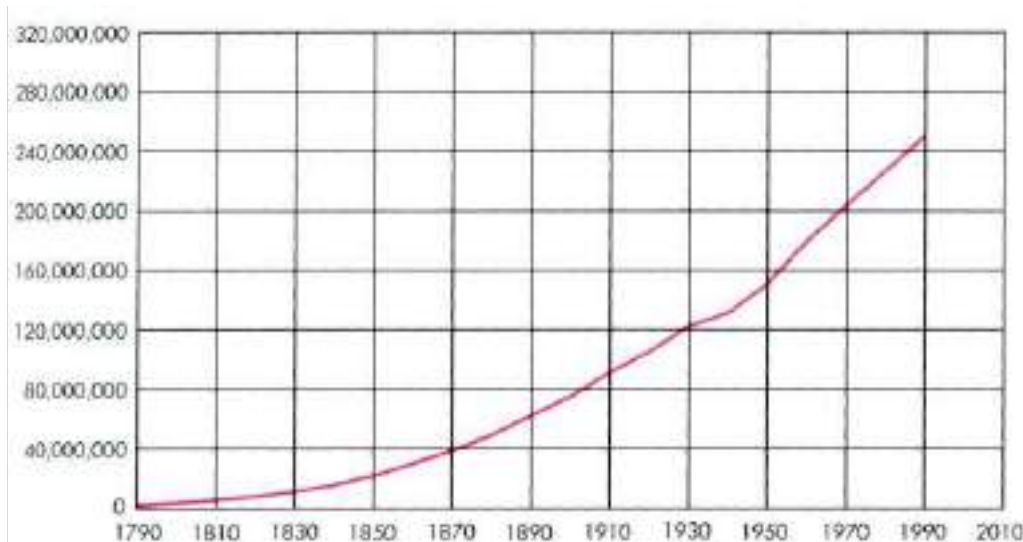
CHAPTER II POPULATION OF THE USA

LECTURE 2

‘What then is the American, this new man?’

Michel Guillaume de Grèvecouer

FORMATION OF THE NATION



The population of the United States has risen steadily since the country's first census was taken in 1790. The above graph illustrates the country's population growth since the first census. The table below lists the population figure for each census year

Census year	Population	Census year	Population
1790	3,929,214	1900	75,994,575
1800	5,308,483	1910	91,972,266
1810	7,239,881	1920	105,710,620
1820	9,638,453	1930	122,775,046
1830	12,866,020	1940	131,669,275
1840	17,069,453	1950	150,697,361
1850	23,191,876	1960	179,323,175
1860	31,443,321	1970	203,235,298
1870	39,818,449	1980	226,545,805
1880	50,155,783	1990	249,632,692
1890	62,974,714		

According to statistics in 2004 there were 293,027,571 inhabitants in the USA. In number of population the country holds the third place in the world

after the People's Republic of China and India. The first 90 % of settlers were of Anglo-Saxon stock, most of the rest being of Negro origin. Vast numbers of immigrants poured into it in the first decade of the 20th century. Within its population the United States has today about 31 million citizens who are foreign-born of various nationalities: German, Italian, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Croatian, Jewish, Russian, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Swedish, English, Scotch, Irish, Mexican, Canadian, Cuban, etc. Poor economic and political conditions at home forced them to emigrate to the United States in search of a better life.



The United States – ‘a nation of immigrants’

The first people to live in what is now the United States were Indians, Eskimos, and Hawaiians. The Indians and Eskimos are descended from people who migrated to North America from Asia more than 20,000 years ago. At that time groups of wandering hunters following herds of elk and caribou crossed a northern land bridge where the Bering Straits are today. These people settled throughout North and South America. The ancestors of the Hawaiians were Polynesians who sailed to what is now Hawaii from other Pacific islands about 2,000 years ago.

Today about two million Americans consider themselves Indians and so identified themselves on the 2000 census. Indians, Eskimos



One of 50,000 people from tribes across the United States who met at Crow Fair, an annual powwow that takes place on reservation lands near Custer Battlefield National Monument in Montana

and Aleuts are considered to be the only 'native' Americans and make up about 2 % of the population.

During the 1500s, groups of Spanish settlers established outposts in what is now Florida, in the southeastern United States. In 1604 a small French colony was founded on the New World's north-eastern seacoast. In 1607 Great Britain founded its first permanent North American settlement: Jamestown, in the colony of Virginia. Soon America attracted many immigrants from other nations of northern and western Europe including Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Scotland; and the Scandinavian lands of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

European colonists were brought to the New World by the desires that still bring people today. The first European settlers were seeking land, wealth and freedom – a better life. Some colonists came to America to find religious freedom.

Between 1840 and 1860, the United States received its largest wave of immigrants to date. In Europe famine, poor crops, rising population and political unrest caused an estimated 5 million people to leave their homelands each year. In one year alone – 1847 – 118,120 Irish people emigrated to the United States. During the Civil War (1861 – 1865), the federal government encouraged immigration from Europe especially from the German States, by offering grants of land to those immigrants who would serve as troops in the armies of the North. Today, fully one-third of Americans have German ancestors.

Until about 1880 most immigrants came from northern and western Europe. Then, large waves of people began arriving from southern and eastern European nations, including Austria-Hungary, Greece, Italy, Poland, and Russia. By 1896, more than half of all immigrants were from eastern or southern Europe.

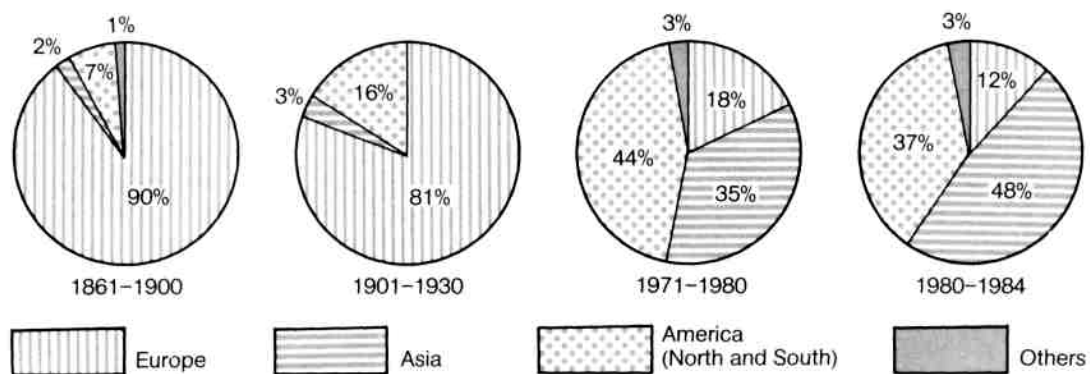
One group of people who came to the USA during this period were Jews. The first Jewish people actually settled in North America as early as 1654. Between 1880 and 1925 about 2 million Jews immigrated here. Today, there are about 6 million Jewish Americans living in the United States.

Most Hispanic Americans are people who immigrated – or whose ancestors immigrated – to the United States from Latin America. These are people of Mexican, Cuban, or Puerto Rican descent. A small percentage of them trace their ancestry directly back to Spain. Some have mainly Spanish ancestry. Others have mixed Spanish and Latin-American, Indian or black ancestry. Today Hispanics make up 9 % of the US population.

Most black Americans are descendants of Africans who were brought to the United States as slaves during the 1600s, 1700s, and 1800s and forced to work on plantations. Today blacks form the largest minority group. They account for about 13 % of the population.

The immigration was extremely intensive at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries during the rapid growth of industry, agriculture, the construction of railways. During and after World War I the immigration into the USA decreased considerably. Tough measures against immigration were taken. These measures had both economic and political nature. After World War II the immigration increased again, but its influence on the growth of population was not important.

The year 1965 marked a most important change in American immigration law. Under the new law, there is no consideration of people's country of origin. Soon after the 1965 law was passed, immigration pattern began to change. As recently as the 1950s, two-thirds of all legal immigrants came from Europe and Canada. By the 1980s, only one immigrant in 7 came from these traditional sources. In the 1950s, immigrants from Asia accounted for only 6 % of total immigration – or 150,000 in the entire decade. During the 1980s 2.6 million Asian immigrants arrived, making up 44 % of legal immigrants. Today 42 % of the population is of Asian descent.



Legal Immigrants Admitted to the United States by Region of Birth

The United States used to be called a melting pot. This term refers to the idea that the country is a place where people from many lands have come together and formed a unified culture, i.e. their ethnic origins, their native languages and habits 'have melted away'. Americans have many things in common. For example, the vast majority of them speak English, and people throughout the country dress similarly and eat many of the same kinds of foods. Public education, mass communication, and other influences have helped shape a common identity. But in other ways, US society is an example of cultural pluralism. Some ethnic groups have managed to retain their language – about 8 million 'Chicanos' who speak Spanish, half a million Frenchmen in New Orleans and a million and a half Swedes in Minnesota. Many Americans take

special pride in their origins. They preserve traditions of their ancestors. In many cities, people of different national or ethnic origins live in separate neighbourhoods (Franco-Canadians in the north of New England, Germans in Pennsylvania, the French in Louisiana, the Slavs in the northeast and the Lake District), and shops and restaurants reflect their cultural heritages. Ethnic festivals, parades, and other events emphasize the nation’s cultural pluralism. In attempt to acknowledge significant cultural differences of the various ethnic groups in the USA Americans now use a new symbol, the ‘salad bowl’.

Population by Selected Ancestry Groups (1980 Census)		Other:	
European:		Lebanese	295,000
English	49,598,000	Armenian	213,000
German	49,224,000	Iranian	123,000
Irish	40,166,000	Syrian	107,000
French	12,892,000	Arab/Arabian	93,000
Italian	12,184,000	Afro-American	20,965,000
Scottish	10,049,000	African	204,000
Polish	8,228,000	Chinese	894,000
Dutch	6,304,000	Filipino	795,000
Swedish	4,345,000	Japanese	791,000
Norwegian	3,454,000	Korean	377,000
Russian	2,781,000	Asian Indian	312,000
Czech	1,892,000	Vietnamese	215,000
Hungarian	1,777,000	Jamaican	253,000
Welsh	1,665,000	Haitian	90,000
Danish	1,518,000	Mexican	7,693,000
Portuguese	1,024,000	Spanish/Hispanic	2,687,000
		Puerto Rican	1,444,000
		Cuban	598,000
		Dominican	171,000
		Colombian	156,000
		Spaniard	95,000
		Ecuadoran	88,000
		Salvadoran	85,000
		Hawaiian	202,000
		American Indian	6,716,000
		French Canadian	780,000
		Canadian	456,000

This chart, taken from the Statistical Abstract of the United States, shows only some of the many ancestry groups which were indicated by Americans

The United States in one of the few countries that has no ‘official’ national language or languages. English is the common language by use, but it is not the national language by law. The great majority of the US people are English-speaking Americans (over 80 %), though their language under new conditions of life and immigrant environment acquired a number of new phonetical and lexical peculiarities. Spanish is the second most common language in the United States. The region that is now the South-western United States was colonized by Spain in the 1500s. As a result, many people from that region speak Spanish.

POPULATION DENSITY. MIGRATION

The average population density in the United States is 79.6 persons per square mile (30.7 per sq. km), i.e. considerably less than in most of the countries in Europe. More than half of all the population is concentrated in the industrial Northeast, and the density of population here is very high – 374 people per sq. km. The density of the population of the South is over 30 people per sq. km. On the Pacific coast the density is high again – 64 people per sq. km (California). Meanwhile, California is the most populous state (27 million people), New York is second (18 million). In the industrial and agrarian states of the Lake District the density of population is lower and decreases sharply in the purely agricultural states – North and South Dakota and Nebraska – 4-7 people per sq. km. In the mountainous Cordillera States the density ranges from 2 people to 12 people per sq. km. The lowest density of population is in Alaska – 0.3 people per sq. km. But the tendency of movement of the population from one region to another never stopped (see pasted inset).

Interregional migrations of the population are closely connected with considerable territorial differences in the level and rate of economic development and reflect changes in the structure and distribution of economy. As a result of the reduction of employment in agriculture (due to improved agricultural methods and equipment) and the increase of those employed in industry, trade, finance, government, service (due to an industrial boom which has created large numbers of new jobs in the nation's urban areas), the urban population of the country is continuously growing, now it is 75 %. The proportion of rural population is only 25 %.

The principal reason today for population movement is the growth of new industries, especially in the West and South. Census experts look for the migration to continue for at least the next several years. If this should occur, it would be the first time in recorded history that more people lived in the South and West than in the Northeast and Midwest.

URBAN LIFE. RURAL LIFE

The United States is divided into urban areas and rural areas. An urban area is a community with 2,500 or more people. Although the urban areas cover about 2.5 % of the land, they are the home of about three-fourths of the people.



Urban and rural life in the United States contrast sharply. Motor vehicles move slowly along a street lined by big buildings in downtown San Antonio, *left*. At a county fair, *right*, farm people show their sheep in a livestock competition

New York City, with about 7 million people, is the largest US city by far. Los Angeles has about 3.5 million people. Chicago has a population of about 2.7 million. Five others US cities – Houston, Philadelphia, San Diego, Detroit, and Dallas – each have more than 1 million people.



Chicago's long lakefront offers many recreational possibilities. Chicago also is world-famous as a showcase for modern skyscraper design



New York is the largest city in the United States and one of the oldest. Restricted by its location, it can only grow upward, not outward



Los Angeles is in the Sun Belt, which extends through the West, Southwest, and Southeast. Partly because of their climate, Sun Belt cities are growing rapidly



Atlanta's central business district is ringed by expressways. Like most cities, it is increasingly dependant on trucks and automobiles

Network of suburbs surround many US cities. The central cities and their suburbs form units called metropolitan areas. There are about 277 metropolitan areas in the United States. The largest of them, in order of size, are New York (the population is 17.9 million), Los Angeles (13 million), Chicago (8.1 million), San Francisco (5.8 million), Philadelphia (5.8 million), Detroit (4.6 million), etc.



Central cities of most U.S. urban areas have neighborhoods where most people belong to the same racial or ethnic group. In New York City's Harlem area, above *left*, most people are blacks. A Chicago neighborhood, *right*, has many Spanish-speaking people and some signs in Spanish

For many years, the vast majority of the country's urban population lived in the central cities. But during the mid-1900s people started leaving central cities for suburbs – the process known as 'suburbanization'. It is caused by high prices of land in town, bad sanitation, transport and other reasons. Suburbs are defined as residential areas within commuting distance to larger cities. Most people who live in suburbs own their own homes and commute to work in the city or they work in nearby offices and factories that have relocated to the suburbs.



Sprawling suburbs surround many American cities. Rows of comfortable houses line the streets of most of them. Highways connect the suburbs with their central cities, where large number of suburban dwellers work

More than 97 % of all the land of the United States is classified as rural. But much of the rural land is uninhabited or only lightly inhabited. About a fourth of all Americans live in rural areas. But only 9 % of the country's rural people work on farms. Many other rural people own or work in business related to agriculture, such as grain and feed stores and warehouses. Mining and related activities and light industries also employ many rural people. Still other rural Americans work as teachers, police officers, salesclerks, or in other occupations.

People engaged in agriculture live, as a rule, on isolated farms situated at some distance from each other. The number of farms is rapidly decreasing. In 1986 there were 2,214 thousand farms in the USA. In the middle of the 1980's 3, 5 million people, including farmers, members of their families and employed workers were engaged in agricultural production.

RELIGION. AGE AND SEX STRUCTURE

About 60 % of all the American people are members of an organized religious group. Among them, about 56 % are Protestants, 28 % Roman Catholics, 2 % Jews, 4 % others, including Americans belonging to Islam, Buddhism, 10 % none. Roman Catholics make up the largest single religious denomination in the United States. The country's largest Protestant groups are, in order of size, Baptists, Methodists, Pentecostals, Lutherans, and Presbyterians.

The ratio of females and males is 51.4 to 48.6. The United States has one of the highest life expectancies of any country – 77.49: 74.63 for a man and 80.36 for a woman (2004). The estimated age distribution of the US population in 2004 was roughly as follows: 0-14 years – 20.8 % (male 31,122,974; female 29,713,748); 15-64 years – 66.9 % (male 97,756,380; female 98,183,309); 65 years and over – 12.4 % (male 15,078,204; female 21,172,956).

IT IS INTERESTING TO KNOW

US FOREIGN BORN POPULATION BY REGIONAL ORIGIN, 1995-2000

<i>Region</i>	<i>2000 (in thousands)</i>	<i>1995 (in thousands)</i>
Europe	4,355	3,937
Under 18	250	232
Asia	7,246	6,121
Under 18	657	767
Latin America	14,477	11,777
Under 18	1,684	1,481
Other	2,301	2,658
Under 18	245	275
All regions	28,379	24,493
Under 18	2,837	2,726

THE CENSUS: LOOKING BACK

The US census is conducted every 10 years as mandated by the Constitution. The first census, which counted 3.9 million people, was conducted in 1790, shortly after George Washington became president. It counted the number of free white males age 16 and over, and under 16 (to measure how many men might be available for military service), the number of free white females, all other free persons (including any American Indians who paid taxes), and slaves. It took 18 months to collect the data. The 1790 census resulted in an increase of 41 seats (65 to 106) in the House of Representatives.

As the nation expanded, so did the scope of the census data. The first inquiry on manufactures was made in 1810. Questions on agriculture, mining, and fisheries were added in 1840. In 1850, the census included inquiries on social issues - taxation, churches, and crime.

The 1880 census contained so many questions that it took the full 10 years between censuses to publish all the results. Because of this delay, Congress limited the 1900 census to questions on population, manufactures, agriculture and mortality.

In 1902 Congress authorized the president to set up a permanent Census Office in the Interior Department. Then the Bureau of the Census was placed in the Commerce Department in 1913.

WHERE DID THE AMERICAN INDIANS COME FROM?

About 20,000 years ago, bands of hunters on foot wandered into a strange new land, following herds of elk and caribou. The land these early hunters came from was probably Siberia. They crossed the narrow strip of water where the continents of Asia and North America are closest together.

They came from the same homeland and were originally alike. They went over a period of thousands of years in small family groups and thus the groups differed in many ways: in language, in appearance, in customs, in ways of making a living, and in the way they adapted themselves to life in the new land.

They all had straight, black hair and high cheekbones. They were all dark-skinned, but their shadings varied. The skins of some had a reddish tinge and so these people were often called 'red men'.

They used the same sort of weapons and tools, and methods to provide themselves with food, clothing and shelter. But they used different materials to satisfy their needs.

The biggest differences that developed among these people were a result of where they settled to live. The main living centres were the Northwest Coast, the California region, the Southwest, the Eastern Woodlands, and the Plains. The tribes which developed in each of these centres were quite different from each other - though they were all what came to be known as 'Indians'.

SOME INDIAN NAMES ON THE MAP OF THE USA

The Indian languages survive in thousands of geographical names all over the USA. In the State of Connecticut alone there are over six hundred, and even more in Pennsylvania. The name Athens is repeated 34 times, Rome and Palmyra each 29 times, not to mention Washington, which is entered for 331 different places.

These are the names of some states of the USA which are of Indian origin.

Alabama – State of the US and a river in that state, named after an Indian tribe. There are several explanations of the meaning of the word: 'burnt clearing', 'here we rest', 'thicket clearers'.

Alaska – State of the US. An Indian word meaning 'great country', 'continent', or 'great land'.

Chicago – City and river in Illinois. The origin of the word is from the Indian 'chi-kaug-ong' meaning 'wild onion river'. Some authorities derive it from 'chicag' or 'sikag' meaning 'skunk'. In the language of the Miami Indians 'sekaw-kwaw' also means 'skunk' or 'a wild cat'.

Idaho – State of the US and county of the same state. An Indian word meaning 'gem of the mountains'.

Massachusetts – One of the thirteen original colonies. An Indian word meaning 'at or near the great hills'. According to some other authorities, 'the hills in the shape of an arrowhead', 'the blue hills', 'great hill mouth'.

Mississippi – State of the US and the river in the US. An Indian word meaning 'great water' or 'gathering in of all the waters' and 'an almost endless river spread out'.

Oklahoma – State, county and city in the same state. An Indian word meaning 'home for all Indians'.

HISTORIC INDIAN MAN SEQUOIA

George Guess was born about 1770 in Tennessee. Like most Indians of his day, he grew up without learning to read and write. Years later, other Indians told him about the 'talking leaves' of the whites. The Lame One, that was his nickname, because he was lame after a hunting accident, went to the near-by missionary school to find the secret of the 'talking leaves'. At the schoolhouse, though he could not speak a word of English, he made the teacher understand why he had come.

Returning to his cabin, he set to work. He cut out pieces of bark, carved a symbol for each sound in the language of his people. It took him years to capture all the sounds. The other Indians thought he was making evil magic and threatened to kill him. They began to call him 'Sequoia', which means one who lives alone. They burned his cabin and all that was in it. He relocated with Cherokees in Arkansas.

Eight years later Sequoia offered his alphabet of 86 symbols representing all the sounds of the Cherokee language. Each symbol meant one sound and only one. Soon, thousands of Cherokees were taught to read. A tribal newspaper began to use this alphabet in 1824.

Sequoia died in 1843. Today a mountain in Tennessee and a county in Oklahoma are named after him. Georgia put up a monument in his memory. A statue of him stands in the National Capitol. On the doors of the Annex of the Library of Congress are tributes to the alphabet-makers. Among them is Sequoia. He is the only man in history to invent and make an alphabet all by himself.

One honour captures the imagination. The insulting name given to the Lame One was chosen for a Californian coniferous tree growing to a great height.

WHEN DID THE FIRST NEGROES COME TO AMERICA?

Do you know that the first Negroes to come to America came as explorers?

They came with the Spanish, the French and the Portuguese, who went there on voyages of discovery. There were Negroes with Balboa when he discovered the Pacific Ocean and with Cortez when he explored Mexico. It was a Negro who introduced the raising of wheat to the New World.

Later on, of course, Negroes went to America in quite a different way - they were brought there as slaves. In 1619, a Dutch vessel brought 20 Negroes to Jamestown, Virginia, who were sold by their captain for provisions he needed.

At the time, many white people went to America to work as 'indentured' servants (they sold their service for a set length of time). But when white servants stopped coming from Europe, many Negro slaves were brought into the colonies. By 1715 there were over 58,000 Negro slaves there. By 1775 this number had grown to over 500,000.

In 1807 at the request of President Thomas Jefferson, Congress voted that no more slaves should be brought into the country. But many were brought in against the law. Just before the Civil War the Negro population in the United States was about 4,400,000.

HARLEM

Harlem is associated in our mind with Black America. It is its spiritual and cultural capital - full of black pride, black frustration, black successes and black failures and losses. The community's reputation has been widely reported and not always exaggerated. This is one of the areas in the city to be seen best via an organized tour. Then you will be able to get the whole spectrum of the experience: from dirty slums to shining achievements.

Nieuw Haarlem was established by the Dutch in 1658 to take advantage of the fertile farm area. And so it remained for nearly two hundred years, even attracting wealthy

merchants who built summer homes far from the downtown heart of the city. In the 1830s, with the coming of the Harlem Railroad, the area grew rapidly as a fashionable suburb. By the late 19th century, the streets were lined with aristocratic apartment houses and brownstone villas. There were Germans, Irish, Jews, Italians and Spanish.

But the boom never came to blacks living mainly in the west of the city, and had to move due to the construction of Pennsylvania Station. The only place where apartments stood empty, and landlords cared only about the colour of your money, was Harlem. Blacks moved into apartments built for the white middle-class. They were charged low rents because they were black and they had no place else to go. The ghetto that Harlem became, then, is unique, because unlike similar communities across the country, blacks did not inherit a slum. The lack of education and opportunity turned the broad boulevards of Harlem into a reflection of its citizens' inner turmoil.

It was in the 1920s that scores of black writers, artists and entertainers appeared. But future generations of blacks had to wait until the 1960s for civil rights issues to hit the front pages, and even until today for the renaissance of the area to begin. There are still ugly sights and blind anger in Harlem. The high-income section of Harlem is where Duke Ellington and B. Robinson lived. But even there you might see abandoned buildings and empty lots, as well as troubled youths and the hopeless elderly.

PROGRESS QUESTIONS

1. *What is the population of the USA?*
2. *Who were the first people inhabiting what is now the United States?*
3. *When did the colonization of North America begin?*
4. *Who were the first Europeans to establish permanent settlements along the Atlantic coast?*
5. *What made Europeans emigrate to the United States?*
6. *What countries were the main sources of immigrants before and after the year 1880?*
7. *What were the main waves of immigration into the USA?*
8. *What is the national structure of the US population?*
9. *What states do immigrants live by solid communities in?*
10. *In what way has the 1965 immigration law changed the immigration pattern?*
11. *How is the population distributed across the country? What is its density?*
12. *What is the most populous state in the USA?*
13. *What is the least populous state in the USA?*
14. *What are the regions with highest and lowest density of population?*
15. *What are the chief urban agglomerations?*
16. *What process is known as 'suburbanization'?*
17. *What caused the growth of the suburban population?*
18. *What is the proportion of urban and rural population?*
19. *What are the reasons for interregional migrations of the population?*
20. *What is the percentage of people engaged in agriculture?*
21. *What is the age structure of the US population?*
22. *What is the expectation of life for an average American?*

Progress Assignment

In your copybook draw a sketch map of the United States and:

- a) *show the density of population in different parts of the country;*
- b) *include the largest American cities;*
- c) *show the immigrant communities of the Germans, the Slavs, the French, the Swedes.*

SEMINAR 2

Population of the United States of America

1. Speak on the colonization of North America in the 1500s and describe the role of immigration and its influence on the formation of the population of the USA.

2. Speak on the density of population of the USA; reasons for interregional migrations; main urban agglomerations. Dwell upon the process of suburbanization.

3. Analyse the sex and age structure of the US population. Religion. Speak on the rural and urban life (see page 47).

QUIZ

1. *The first Europeans to establish permanent settlements along the Pacific coast were _____. They were concentrated in South-eastern Alaska, but the costs of maintaining these scattered, distant posts consumed most of the profits. So in 1867 _____ was sold to the United States for a price of 7.2 million dollars.*

2. *Over 13 % of the whole population of the United States are _____. Half of them live in the South, in the states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Virginia.*

3. *The states of _____, _____, Pennsylvania, Texas, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, New Jersey, Florida, Massachusetts have the largest population. _____ has the least population.*

4. *During much of its history, the United States had an official policy of admitting more _____ immigrants than _____, African, and Latin American ones. Changes were made in immigration policy in _____ which resulted in large numbers of non- _____ immigrants entering the country.*

5. *Census figures reported for 2000 showed that whites constituted about _____ % of the US population, 13 % _____, 4 % _____ and _____ % Native Americans.*

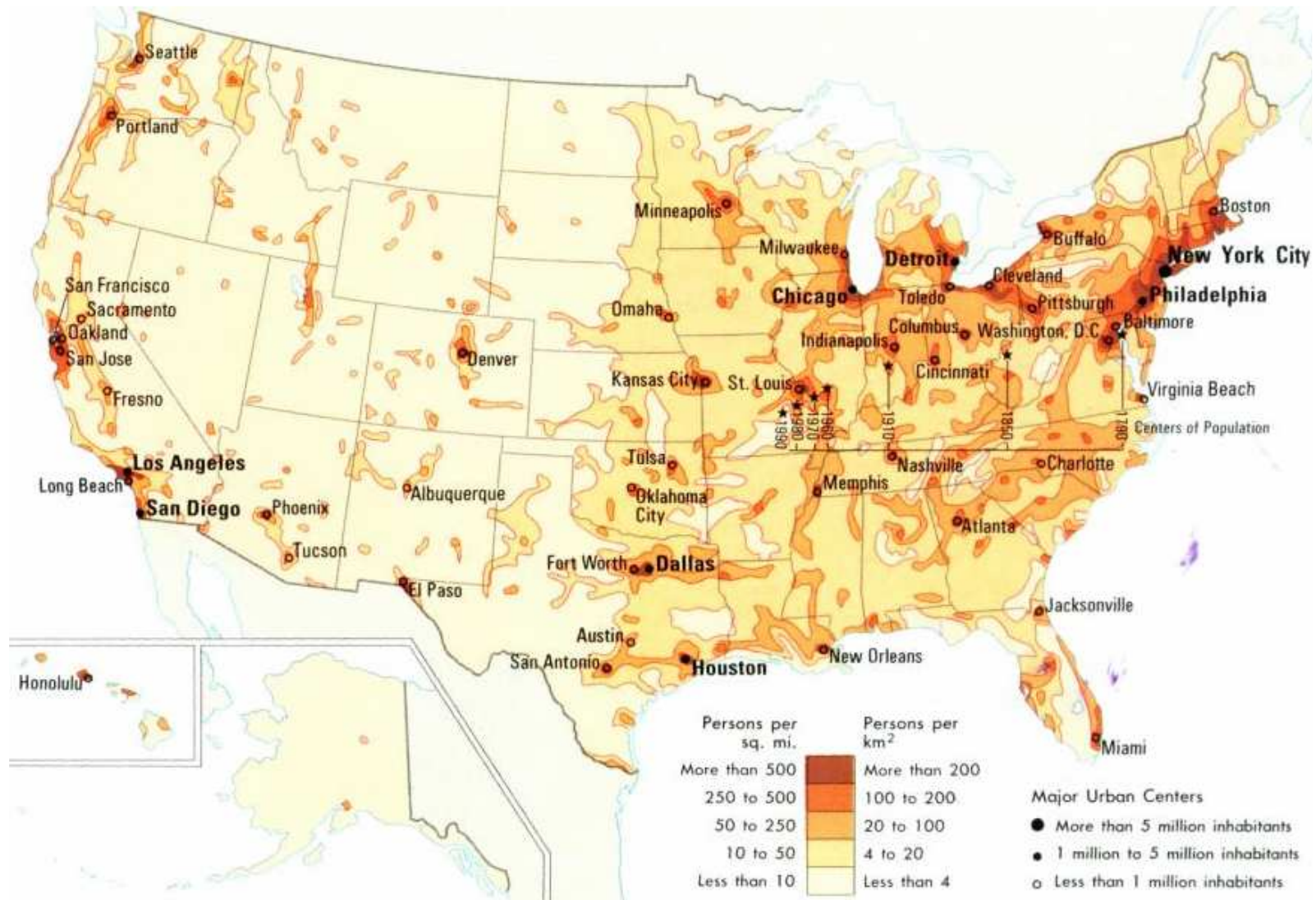
6. *Since 1945, the part of the US population that is over 65 years old has increased from 8 % to _____ %. Improvements in medical care have been the main reason for the increase.*

7. *Since Americans are free to form and follow any religious belief or religion they wish, there are a great many beliefs, denominations, and churches in the United States. The _____ church is by far the single largest, with about 52 million members.*

8. *Some nationalities and ethnic groups which have gone into the making of America have largely lost or intentionally given up many of those specific markers which would make them much different from their neighbours, This process of assimilation, or 'Americanization', – becoming part of the _____ – has characterized the immigrant experience in American history. Other Americans have, while becoming American in other ways, maintained much of their ethnic identities. In this sense, US society has been likened to a '_____'.*

9. *_____ % of all Americans today were born in the United States (as compared, for example, with only 85 % in 1910).*

10. *The second largest 'minority' in the United States are _____ (a term including all Spanish-speaking Americans, such as Mexican-Americans or 'Chicanos', Cubans, Puerto Ricans, etc.).*



This map shows the population density throughout the United States. This map also shows how the country's center of population moved westward between 1790 and 1990

CHAPTER III
**SHORT HISTORICAL SURVEY
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

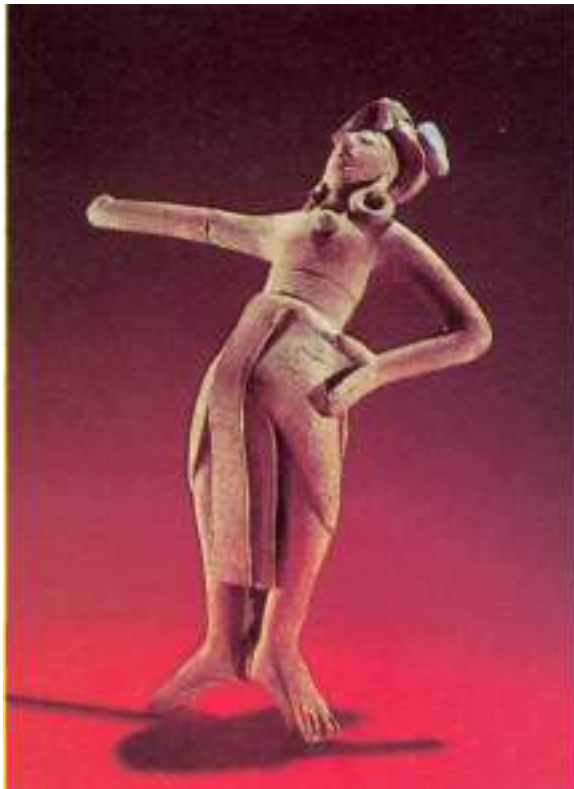
(From the days of early colonization to the Civil War / 1861 – 1865/)

LECTURE 3

**COLONIZATION OF NORTH
AMERICA IN THE 16TH-18TH CENTURIES**

America became known only some five centuries ago. It is the newest of great nations. The story of the United States is the story of the impact of an old culture upon new environment. The first settlers were not primitive but civilized men, and they transplanted on new territory a culture centuries old. At the same time the settlers were influenced by the new environment, new traditions of people who lived on this continent.

The United States was originally peopled by Indians. The Red Indians had probably arrived 10,000 to 30,000 years before Columbus's discovery in a series



Maya sculpture was distinctive and expressive and often showed the natural grace of the Maya people

of migrations from Asia to North America by way of the Bering Strait. In their human structure, culture they resembled the people of Asia. As many as 280 distinct aboriginal societies existed in North America prior to Columbus. They spoke about 450 distinct languages. The Indian peoples developed great civilizations, most notably those of the Incas and the Aztecs, and they contributed a great deal to world culture and the welfare of the human race: they domesticated corn, potatoes, peanuts, peppers, tomatoes, pumpkins, pineapples, cocoa, and other vegetables and fruits; they cultivated tobacco, and made discoveries of at least 59 drugs that are used today in medical science.

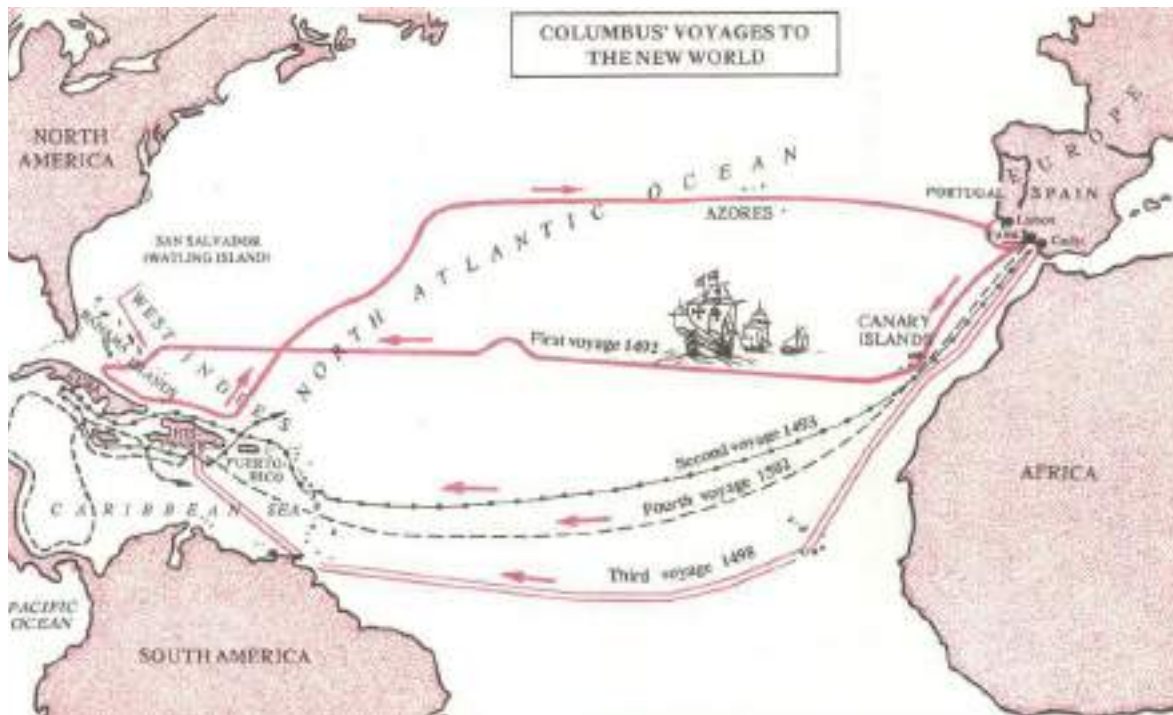
At the time of Columbus's arrival there were probably roughly 15 million Indians living in what are now the United States and Canada. Some Indian tribes of North America helped the early European settlers survive in the wilderness of the New World. Indian foods and herbs, articles of manufacture, methods of raising some crops, war techniques, words, a rich folklore and racial infusions are among the most obvious general contributions of the Indians to their white conquerors. But as the settlers pushed steadily westward, they became a threat to the Indian way of life, and Indians and whites became enemies. The year of 1622 marked the beginning of the century-long conflict between the Native Americans and the white settlers.



Early colonists worked to maintain good relations with the Indians. William Penn, *armes extended*, made his first treaty with the Indians in 1682. His fair dealings helped the colony of Pennsylvania grow and prosper. *Penn's Treaty with the Indians (1771)*, an oil painting on canvas by Benjamin West

The slogan 'The only good Indian is a dead Indian' was used for more than 200 years. The motive for the genocide against the native peoples was to dispossess them of their land and resources and to get rid of people who could not be exploited. The means were varied and included not only outright mass extermination, but also slavery, bounty-hunting (scalping for profit), massacre of women and children, the assassination of leaders, death by European-introduced diseases, the forced relocation of peoples. By 1900 the Indians had been reduced to about 250,000.

To the Europeans the American continent was known in the even 11th century. The Vikings from Scandinavia visited North America in the year 1000. The eastern part of North America was discovered by the Viking Leif Ericson and called Vinland (An Old Saga tells that his men found there a lot of grape vines and grapes). But their settlement was not permanent and soon the Vikings left and the name became forgotten.



Columbus's voyages to the New World

To European colonization the country was opened by the first voyage of Columbus, an Italian navigator employed by the Spanish king and queen, and the later explorations of John Cabot and Jacques Cartier. Columbus died in 1506 believing that he had sailed to an unknown land in the Far East. Other Europeans called this unexplored area the New World. The name America is given in honour of another Italian navigator – Amerigo Vespucci. Vespucci claimed that he made voyages to the New World for Spain and Portugal beginning in 1497.

The discovery of the existence of America caused a wave of excitement in Europe. To many Europeans, the New World offered opportunities for wealth, power, and adventure. Christian clergymen were eager to spread their religion to the Indians. Before long, Europeans from several countries sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to explore America and set up trading posts and colonies.

During the 1500s, the Spanish, moved into what is now the Southeastern and Western United States. They took control of Florida and of the land west of

the Mississippi River. In 1565, the Spanish founded St. Augustine in Florida, the oldest permanent settlement established by Europeans in what is now the United States.

The English and French began exploring eastern North America about 1500. After 1600, they began establishing permanent settlements there. The first permanent English colony Jamestown was established in 1607 in Virginia, it was called in honour of King James I. The Dutch (from Holland) organized a colony in 1609 (New Amsterdam) on Manhattan Island.



The first permanent settlement established by English colonists in America was Jamestown founded in 1607 in what became the colony of Virginia. The first leader of the colony was Captain John Smith. The first representative legislature in America, the House of Burgesses, met in Jamestown in 1619. *Detail of an oil painting on canvas (1857) by Sydney King*

An important landmark in the colonization of North America was the arrival of the Pilgrim Fathers in 1620 on the famous ship – the Mayflower. The Pilgrim Fathers were Separatists in England, or members of the radical wing of the Puritan movement, who were persecuted in their country because of the opposition to the Church of England, Britain’s official church, and who were looking for a new land where they could worship in their own way. On September 6, 1620 102 men sailed away from Plymouth. After two months of voyage they landed in America, at a place now called Province Town (in the modern state of Massachusetts). This territory is traditionally called ‘New England’. It was here that the Pilgrims established their colony – Plymouth Colony – the second permanent British settlement in North America. Before anyone went ashore the Pilgrims signed the so-called Mayflower Compact – the first modern example of a system of government. According to this Compact they declared that they would establish a colony on the principles of equality. They also elected the first governor Deacon Carver by name.



The sturdy houses built by the Pilgrims protected the settlers from the harsh New England winters. During the summers, vegetables were raised in the small gardens near the houses

Settlers spreading out from Massachusetts founded the three other colonies in New England. Connecticut was first settled in 1633 and became a colony in 1636. Rhode Island was established in 1636 and became a colony in 1647. New Hampshire, first settled in 1623, became a colony in 1680.

In 1634 the first Maryland settlement was established by the English Roman Catholics who were persecuted in England and who tried to find a place where Catholics could enjoy freedom.

In 1638, the Swedes established a trading post and settlement called New Sweden in present-day Delaware and southern New Jersey. The Dutch claimed New Sweden in 1655. But in 1664 the British took over New Sweden.

In 1681 Pennsylvania, which used to be Swedish land since 1643, became the proprietors of England.

In 1663, king Charles II gave the land between Virginia and Florida called Carolina to eight English properties. In 1712 the region was divided into two colonies



The thirteen colonies in 1776

North Carolina and South Carolina. The southern one-third of Carolina remained largely unsettled until 1733, when the state of Georgia was founded there.

Besides the British there were other colonists from other countries of Europe: from France, Holland, Germany. The French seized large tracks of land on the territory of Canada and central region of the continent, calling the area Louisiana in honour of Louis XIV of France. The Dutch territory of New Amsterdam was seized by the English in 1664 and renamed New York in honour of the Duke of York, brother of the English king to whom it was presented.

Great Britain and France had struggled for control of eastern North America throughout the colonial period. As their settlements moved inland, both nations claimed the vast territory between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. The struggle led to the outbreak of the French and Indian War in 1754.

The British won the war, and, under the Treaty of Paris of 1763, France relinquished all of Canada, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi upper valley to the British. Britain also received Florida from Spain in 1763. As a result, Britain's rule in North America became much stronger.



European possessions in 1763

BRITAIN'S STRUGGLE AGAINST THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN COLONIES

In the colonies Negro slave labour was widely used, especially in the South on the cotton and tobacco plantations. In America the emerging bourgeoisie obtained great wealth by exploiting slave labour and robbing the native population, the Indians, and seizing their lands. In the northern colonies which were rich in material and natural resources, industry and trade developed rapidly. Here the land was cultivated mainly by farmers.



Cotton plantations sprang up throughout the South in the 1800s. Cotton became so important to the Southern economy that people called the crop 'King Cotton.' Many whites used black slaves to work in their fields. They claimed that labour was vital to the South's economy. *Detail of A cotton Plantation on the Mississippi (1884), a Currier and Ives lithograph based on a painting by W.A. Walker*

After the French and Indian War Britain had to find ways to strengthen its control over its enlarged American territory. Also, the war had nearly doubled its national debt. George III, who had become king of Great Britain in 1760, instructed the British Parliament to establish policies to solve these problems. Parliament soon began passing laws that restricted the freedom of the American colonists, taxed them, or both.

In 1764, Parliament passed the Sugar Act. In 1765 the Stamp Act taxing such things as newspapers, legal documents and other printed matter in the colonies was introduced. In response to this tax the colonists organized a widespread boycott of British goods and later representatives of nine colonies met in the Stamp Act Congress to consider joint action against Britain.

Although Great Britain repealed the Stamp Act, other tax laws were imposed, and in addition, Britain tightened its control over the colonies by setting up special courts to deal with smuggles and by stationing troops in America, which led to rioting in Boston (Boston Massacre). In 1770, Britain repealed all the taxes, except for the tax on tea. Three years later, Parliament reduced the tax on tea sold by the East India Company, a British firm. The British actions offended the colonists in two ways. They reaffirmed Britain's

right to tax the colonists and gave the East India Company an unfair advantage in the tea trade.

Aroused by the loss of the tea trade colonial traders began to fight for independence. In ports up and down the Atlantic coast agents of the East India Company were forced to resign and new shipments of tea were either returned to England or warehoused. On the night of December 16, 1773 a group of angry colonists dressed as Indians boarded the three British ships lying an anchor in the Boston harbour and dumped their tea cargo into the water. This event is known as 'the Boston tea party.

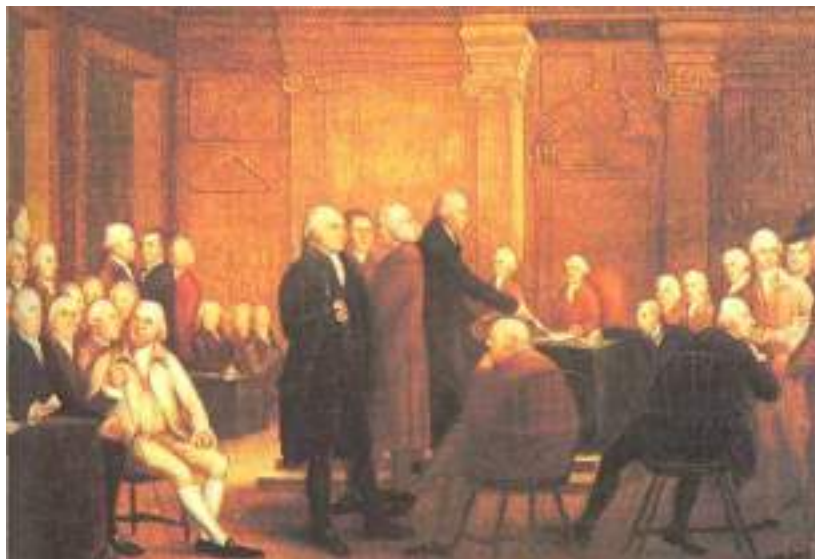


This engraving of the Boston Tea Party was made by Nathaniel Currier in 1846. It is believed that the Tea Party, which resulted in 340 chests of East India tea being dumped into Boston harbour, was organised by the patriot leader, Samuel Adams

To punish the colonies, especially Boston, the British Parliament passed a series of restrictive laws in 1774, that the colonists called the 'Intolerable Acts'. One of these laws closed the port of Boston until the tea was paid for – the action that threatened the very life of the city, for to prevent Boston from having access to the sea meant economic disaster. Another law required the colonists to house and feed British soldiers. In response to these 'Intolerable Acts' a congress representing all colonies – the Continental Congress – was organised in Philadelphia on September 5, 1774 to decide on a course of action. The Continental Congress called for a boycott of all trade with Great Britain. The assembly of representatives of the colonies appealed to the king of England to abolish the restrictions on trade and industry and requested that the colonies shouldn't be taxed without their consent. The king rejected the appeal. Open war began in 1775 and ended in 1783.

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE FORMATION OF THE USA

George Washington (1732-1799), a rich planter from Virginia, was appointed commander-in-chief of the army of the rebel colonies. In the spring of 1776, colonial troops drove the British from Boston. On July 4, 1776 the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence which declared the independence of the 13 American colonies from Britain. It also proclaimed 'that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness'. But these rights did not apply to the Negroes for the Declaration did not abolish slavery.



The vote for independence from Great Britain took place on July 2, 1776. On July 4, the Second Continental Congress officially adopted the Declaration of Independence, and the United States of America was born. *Congress Voting Independence* (begun late 1700s), an oil painting on canvas by Robert Edge Pine and Edward Savage

The War of Independence was a difficult war. At the beginning victory was not on the side of the colonists, they experienced very serious hardships and defeats but eventually the course of the war changed in favour of the Americans.

The year 1777 proved to be the turning point in the war. The first major defeat of the British took place at Saratoga, New York, where American forces under general Horatio Gates surrounded the British troops. On October 17, 1777, Burgoyne, the British general surrendered his army.

After Britain's defeat at Saratoga, France saw an opportunity to seriously weaken its ancient enemy and restore the balance of power upset by the Seven Years' War (the French and Indian War). On February 6, 1778, America and France signed a Treaty of Amity and Commerce in which France recognized

America and offered trade concessions. They also signed a Treaty of Alliance, which stipulated that if France entered the war, neither country would lay down its arms until America won its independence, that neither country would conclude peace with Britain without the consent of the other. In June, 1778 British ships fired on French vessels, and the two countries went to war. In 1779 Spain, hoping to reacquire territories taken by Britain in the Seven Years' War entered the conflict on the side of France, but not as an ally of the Americans. In 1780 Britain declared war on the Dutch, who had continued to trade with the Americans. The combination of these European powers was a far greater threat to Britain than the American colonies standing alone.

The war dragged on until Lord Cornwallis, the British commander, was trapped at Yorktown, Virginia, by Washington, whose American troops were aided by French forces. After a brief battle, on October 19, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered. The war officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783. The Treaty recognized American independence and American's right to all land from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean between Canada and Florida.



The United States after the revolution extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi river. British territory lay to the north, and Spanish territory to the west and south

With independence the 13 colonies became states, and the Continental Congress became the government of the United States. In 1787 the American Constitution was drawn up in Philadelphia, which with its 26 amendments is in force at the present time. In 1788 George Washington was elected the first president of the United States. John Adams was elected the first Vice-President. In 1800 the American Government moved from Philadelphia to Washington, which is in the special district of Columbia (it doesn't belong to any of the states).

EXPANSION OF THE USA IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY AND THE GROWING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH

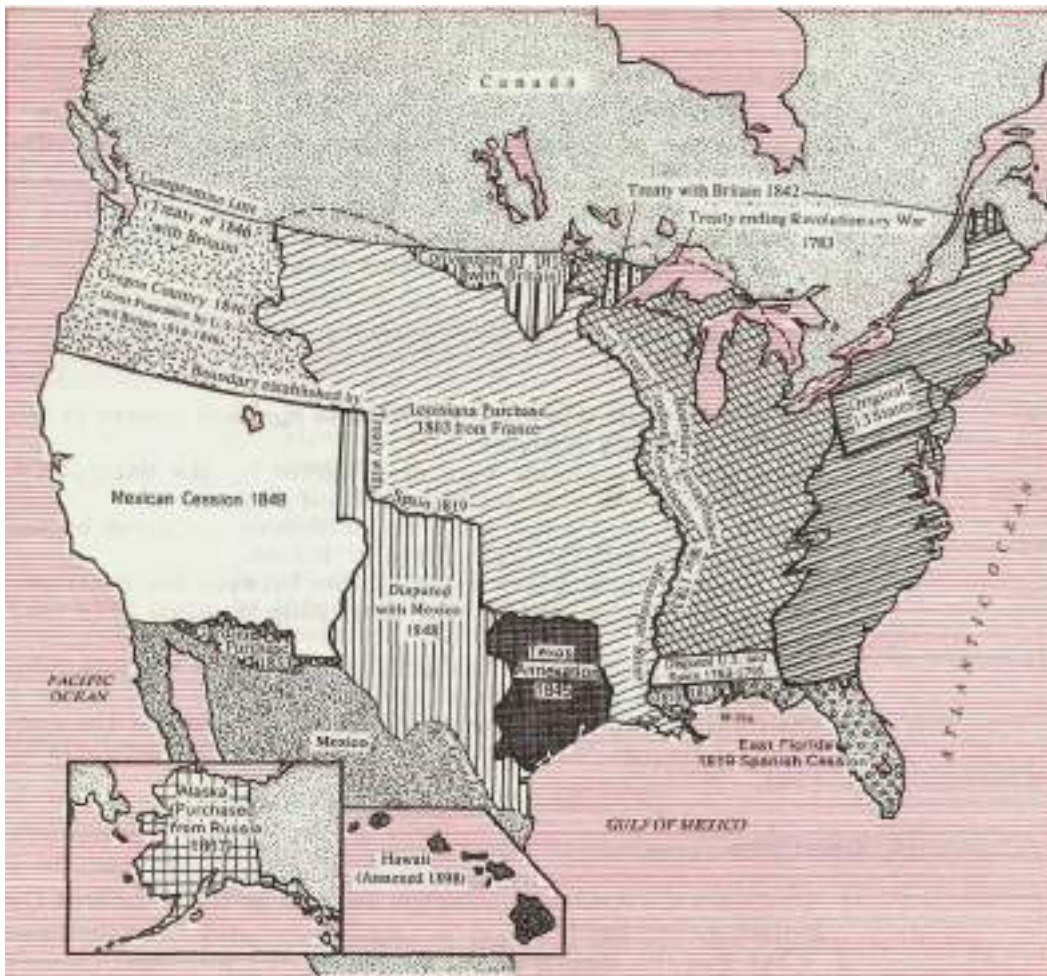
In the 19th century the USA continued to expand its territory. In 1803 the western boundary of the United States was extended to the Rocky Mountains by the purchase of Louisiana from Napoleon in 1803 and in 1840 the Oregon region in the north-west. In 1818 the USA troops under the pretext of pursuing Indians who were defending their rights invaded Florida and occupied it (only afterwards the Americans formally bought it from Spain). Texas which was an independent republic was invaded by the US troops and included into the United States in 1845. The border with Canada was determined in 1842 and 1846. In 1848 after invading Mexico the United States took possession of New Mexico and California. A great gold rush resulted from the discovery of gold in California in 1848, which in its turn furthered the intensive colonization of the West.

Two streams of colonists flowed west – the rich planters of the South with their slaves and poor people who hoped to acquire a plot of land to set up a farm. The latter had no money to buy land so they seized it on their own. These people came to be known as 'squatters'. They united in groups and defended with arms the land they had seized. They clashed with planters in the South who did not allow farmers to acquire plots. European migrants attracted by the possibility to settle on 'free' land continued to arrive in great numbers: from 1787 to 1914 about 35 million Europeans migrated to North America.

In 1867 Americans bought Alaska from Russia. Most Americans were either indifferent to or indignant at this action by Secretary of State, William Seward, and Alaska was widely referred to as 'Seward's Folly' and 'Seward's Icebox'. But 30 years later, when gold was discovered on Alaska's Klondike River, thousands of Americans headed north and many of them settled in Alaska permanently. When Alaska became the 49th state in 1959, it replaced Texas as the largest state in the Union.



Americans moved westward by the thousands during the early 1800s. Hardy pioneers piled all their belongings into covered wagons and set out to find new homes in the west. The push westward continued until the nation stretched from coast to coast.
Prairie Scene: Mirage (1837), a water colour by Alfred Jacob Miller



Territorial expansion of the United States

By the middle of the 19th century only the vast area of Kansas and Nebraska in the very center of the country, remained inhabited by Red Indians.



John Brown (1855)

In 1854 Congress permitted the settlement of American citizens on this territory and soon it was occupied by thousands of settlers. The planters wanted to make Kansas a slave-owning state but the farmers and other settlers were against it. After fierce war the farmers of Kansas were forced to yield to the slave-owners who were supported by troops of the central government. The conflict in Kansas spread to other territories leading to greater antagonism between the industrial North developing rapidly on the principles of free labour and the agrarian South based on slave labour. In 1859 the armed struggle continued in Virginia. Here, John Brown, an antislavery fanatic, who had captured and killed five proslavery settlers in Kansas three years before, led a group of followers in an attack on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry (in what is now the state of West Virginia). Brown's goal was to use the weapons seized to lead a slave uprising. After two days of fighting, Brown and his surviving men were captured. Later John Brown was hanged for treason. He became a symbol of the depth of the North-South split.

In 1854, during the period of the struggle in Kansas the Republican Party was formed. This new party was composed of northerners and westerners who from the southern viewpoint, stood for only one thing – opposition to the extension of slavery. Abraham Lincoln of Illinois became the Republican candidate for President in 1860.



Abraham Lincoln
(1860)

Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865) was the son of a poor farmer, a settler of Kentucky. His father couldn't even read. The Lincolns were very friendly to the Negroes, that is why they were disliked by the rich neighbours. They were forced to leave Kentucky and move to the West. In his youth Lincoln changed many professions: he was a clerk in a store; a raftsmen on the Mississippi River. He learned in his own and passed his law examinations. In 1848 he was elected member of Congress. His speeches against slavery were the most popular in the United States. Here is the citation from his speech made in 1856: 'You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time'.

The Democratic Party began to function at the end of the 18th century. At that time it was a broad coalition of farmers, the poor people of towns and

planters of the South. All these different people were against the rich bourgeoisie of the North. It became structurally organized during the election campaign of 1828 and received its present name in the early 30's of the 19th century.

CIVIL WAR (1861-1865) BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH AND ITS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1860 the Republican Party won the presidential elections and Abraham Lincoln became president of the USA. Lincoln had earned a reputation as an opponent of slavery, and his election was unacceptable to the South. Southerners feared the new President would end or restrict slavery. Alarmed by this prospect on December 20, 1860 South Carolina seceded from the union. Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas soon followed. The seceding States formed a separate nation, the Confederate States of America. In the spring of 1861, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Arkansas joined the Confederacy. They had their own president Colonel Davis from the State of Mississippi, government and army. The Civil War began.



The Civil War (1861 – 1865) split the nation into two parts – the Confederacy and the Union. The Confederacy was made up of 11 states that withdrew from the Union in 1860 and 1861

The American Civil War began on April 12, 1861 when Confederate forces in Charleston, South Carolina, fired on a federal fort, Fort Sumter, in Charleston harbour. The main cause of the war was the economic and political contradictions between the industrial states of the North and the slave-owning states of the South. It was an armed struggle for power, for the victory of one of the existing social systems. Slavery stood in the way of the developing US capitalism, and it had to be abolished.

In 1862, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation which from January 1, 1863, set free 'all persons held as slaves within any state'. It helped to make the slaves available for the Union (Federal) Army. So by the end of the war 186,000 coloured troops had joined the Union Army.

Each side entered the war with high hopes for an early victory. In material resources the North enjoyed a decided advantage. 23 states with a population of 22 million were arrayed against 11 states inhabited by 9 million. The industrial superiority of the North exceeded even its preponderance in population, providing it with abundant facilities for manufacturing arms and ammunition, clothing and other supplies. Similarly, the network of railways in the North enhanced federal military prospects.

The South had certain advantages as well. The most important was geography; the South was fighting a defensive war on its own territory. The South also had a stronger military tradition and more experienced military leaders.



General Ulysses S. Grant commanded the Union armies at the end of the Civil War

The first large battle of the war, at Bull Run, Virginia, near Washington stripped away any illusions that victory would be quick and easy. For the first years the South would often win the battle, but not the war. July 1863 proved to be the turning point for the Union forces. In July, 1863 one of the bloodiest battles of the American Civil War was fought at Gettysburg. The battle lasted for three days and ended with the Union victory.

Southerners, however, stubbornly resisted the northern forces until on April 3, 1865 Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy was captured by the Union commander General Ulysses S. Grant. Six days later on April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee – the commander of the Confederate Army – surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox in Virginia. The last Confederate troops surrendered on May 26.



The Civil War. Eastern campaigns and battles

A week after Appomattox, President Lincoln was attending a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington, when he was assassinated by a southern sympathizer, actor John Wilkes Booth. Andrew Johnson became the president of the USA.

The main result of the victory of the North in the Civil War was the restoration of the American Union under the political supremacy of the big bourgeoisie of the North. Though slavery was abolished the Negroes were downtrodden and deprived of elementary rights, therefore their struggle against race discrimination continued. The victory of the North contributed to the further development of the working class movement: in the course of the war many trade unions were formed, in some states the workers won an 8-hour working day. In 1866 the National Workers' union was formed. The Homestead Act opened western lands to settlement. The Civil War was a bourgeois-democratic revolution. With the help of the farmers and workers the big bourgeoisie of the North crushed the planters and slaveholders of the South and established its own political domination. Capitalism began to make rapid progress in the USA. The American Civil War was a world-historic event which enhanced the development of the USA and contributed to the making of modern America.

IT IS INTERESTING TO KNOW

THE MAN WHO DISCOVERED THE NEW WORLD



Columbus takes new possession of the new country. *Library of Congress*

Every event in the eventful life of Christopher Columbus is of supreme interest. He was born in Genoa and at the age of 14 he went to sea – a red-haired, sunburnt boy with bright blue eyes. He saw foreign countries, he learnt the art of navigation, of charting the seas and drawing maps. In 1474, he left Genoa for Portugal, famous throughout the world for its recent discoveries. He wanted to learn all he could about these discoveries and made voyages to Guinea, Madeira and Porto Santa.

Columbus became a recognized seaman of distinction, but he was obsessed by a plan of reaching India sailing westward instead of the way by Africa. He proposed his idea to the King of Portugal and then to the King and Queen of Spain giving his reasons for thinking there was an unknown land to the west. But his scheme was laughed at and he had to wait for eleven long years till the Queen of Spain got interested in the expedition. She even declared she would sell her jewels to provide the necessary means. Columbus was created Admiral of the Ocean in all the lands he might discover. The explorer was now forty-six; his red hair had become grey with waiting for the possibility of realizing his great scheme.

On August 3, 1492, the little fleet of three ships sailed north from Spain. No one ever expected to see them again. Day after day they sailed in search of an unknown land till at last on the evening of October 11th a light was seen glimmering in the distance; when the sun rose the shores of land could be seen. It was an island which later on Columbus named San Salvador.

Columbus thought he had discovered a new way to the Indies, he never knew he had discovered a new continent. When he came to Spain he was met like a royal person. Yet his

triumph did not last long. His next two voyages were full of hardships and ruined his health. Columbus died friendless and penniless on the 21st of May, 1506 and his end was unnoticed as though it had been the death of some unknown sailor. Very soon his contemporaries no longer knew even the dates of his discoveries. Another man gave the name to the new world that Columbus had found - Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine pilot who made several voyages to the West, reaching the mainland of the yet unknown continent.

HONOUR FOR THE DISCOVERERS OF AMERICA

While Norse sagas suggest that Viking sailors explored the Atlantic coast of North America down as far as the Bahamas, some people consider such claims to be unproven. Yet in 1963, the ruins of some Norse houses dating from the end of the 10th century were discovered at L'Anse-aux-Meadows in northern Newfoundland. The remains of a thousand-year old Viking village support at least some of the claims the Norse sagas make.

According to the Viking sagas, Leif Ericson, the son of Eiric the Red, found the land of North America, and many people feel that he was the discoverer of America. In the United States, October 9 is officially Leif Ericson Day. On this day, Norwegian-Americans have special dinners and ceremonies. These are to honour Leif Ericson and the hardy Vikings who found America nearly five hundred years before Columbus.

As for Columbus, who is generally recognized as the discoverer of America, he is also honoured on a special day. Columbus Day is celebrated on the second Monday of October in commemoration of his voyage that made America known to the people of Europe.

THE HISTORY OF NEW YORK

In 1524, Giovanni da Verrazano, an Italian, sailing in the service of the King of France, tried to find a western route to India. He sailed his ship along the eastern coast of North America and on the way found a very pleasant place within two hills, between which flowed to the sea a very great river which was very deep in the mouth. He was afraid to go into the river on his ship, so he used a small boat to sail into the bay. Verrazano was the first white man who visited the bay of New York.

However, the real discovery of New York was made only in 1609. Henry Hudson, an English adventurer, employed by the Dutch East India Company, also tried to find a western route to India. In his small vessel, the Half Moon, he was able to sail up the river which now bears his name. He brought trinkets and fire-arms to the Indians, and the Indians would bring him valuable furs. Hudson sent home reports of his discovery, of the bay and of the valuable furs. Several rich Dutch merchants sent ships to the Hudson River, and a new Dutch West India Company was established. In 1624 the Dutch ship New Netherland brought thirty Dutch families to the mouth of the Hudson River. The new colony was called New Netherland. This first colony was not on Manhattan Island, where the present city of New York stands, but higher up on the Hudson River.

In 1626 a new governor of the colony came, and during the summer of that year he bought Manhattan Island from Indians. The island where a huge city was to stand was bought for trinkets valued at 24 dollars. A fort was built on the island, and the new town was named New Amsterdam.

The next governor's attitude towards the Indians was such that a war against the Indians began in 1643. It ended only several years later.

The last and ablest Dutch governor was Peter Stuyvesant. He was an old man with a wooden leg. He established the first police and fire laws and built a wall which enabled him to protect the city against the Indians. The wall ran along the present Wall Street and gave it its name.

But one should remember that the English also had their colonies in North America. The English governor did not like this Dutch colony which lay between New England and the southern English colonies, and controlled the profitable fur trade.

That is why, in 1664, King Charles II gave to his brother, Duke of York, all the land between the Connecticut River and the Delaware Bay.

The Duke's ships appeared in the bay. The defenses of New Amsterdam were poor and the Dutch had to surrender the fort on Manhattan Island. Towards the end of that year, 1664, New Amsterdam became New York.

THE ERECTION OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

The centennial celebration of the Declaration of Independence (in 1879) in the US gave Edouard de Laboulaye, a French writer on American history and life, an opportunity to propose the erection of a memorial to commemorate the alliance of the two countries.



The Statue of Liberty, New York

Auguste Bartholdi, a young French sculptor, was selected to plan and execute the memorial. After his first visit to New York he decided to erect a colossal statue of liberty upon one of the islands in the harbour.

Acting on this suggestion, the French began in 1875 to raise funds for the construction of such a statue. The task proved to be greater than had been expected and the statue was not completed in Paris until July 4, 1884. Meanwhile, an American committee was raising funds for the construction of the pedestal. The money was secured in 1886. After the statue had been dismantled in Paris, it was shipped to New York aboard a French ship to be reassembled in New York Harbour.

Incoming and outgoing ships pass near it - the figure of a woman who has just reached her freedom. Grasping a burning torch in her right hand and in her left holding a book of law inscribed July 4, 1776 she is represented as breaking the shackles lying at her feet.

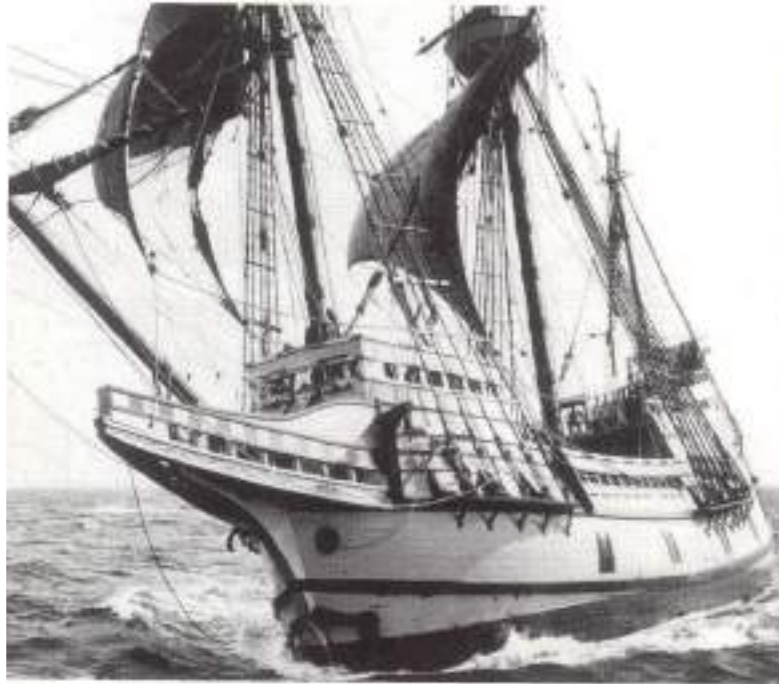
The statue is forty-six metres high – not counting the pedestal it stands on. The pedestal itself is also about forty-six metres. The hollow in the crown on the head of the Statue of Liberty is so large that people can stand in it.

THE BIRTH OF A NEW NATION

More than 370 years ago people were leaving England for America. Many were thinking of that world in the west where land was plentiful and easy to be had. A new spirit was on English soil – a desire for peace and for a great liberty of mind and conscience, a hatred of oppression, a faith in honest industry. But apart from the beautiful stories of life in America, one of the main reasons for leaving England was religious persecution at home.

Some religious people – the Puritans – wanted to reform the Church of England and King James I saw them as a danger, so the Puritans were persecuted by his men. One group of

35 men – separatists from the Church of England decided to emigrate first to Holland, and later in July 1620 they sailed in the *Mayflower* among the first 102 colonists who wanted to cross over the Atlantic and set up a colony in America, to find there civil and religious freedom.



The Mayflower II, a replika of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America in 1620.

Source: Plymouth Plantation

After a long voyage they landed in America, at a place now called Province Town. On Christmas Day, 1620, they started building a village, then they elected a governor. The village was called New Plymouth, the first permanent settlement in New England.

More immigrants followed to join the original Pilgrim Fathers and more supplies were brought. At first the relations between the colonists and the Indian people were good. The Indians were friendly and they helped the white settlers. Then the latter began treating the Indians badly, seizing their land and killing them. Once the colonists called a conference with the Indians, murdered their leaders and thus established themselves as masters.

Historians say that New Plymouth was often visited by North American Indians who could only say 'Yengeeze' instead of 'English'. Englishmen were called 'Yankees' and since that time 'Yankee' has been a nickname for an American. During the Civil War in the 1860s the word 'Yankees' was used to denote the Northerners.

On July 4, 1776 a group of immigrants representing the thirteen British colonies on the Atlantic coast of North America, which had been established during the previous century and a half, signed a document saying that these colonies were free and independent. The colonies decided that they could no longer regard themselves as subjects to the British Crown. The colonists had many genuine grievances and finally when King George III and his Government in London ordered them to pay heavy taxes on tea and paper they revolted and declared themselves independent. Thus, the United States of America was founded.

The famous Declaration of Independence from British rule was signed in a building (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On that building one can see the famous Liberty Bell which told the happy people outside that a new nation had been born.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN - ONE OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS

'Where liberty dwells, there is my country'.

B. Franklin



Benjamin Franklin, printer, author, scientist and statesman, has been called the first American. *Library of Congress*

Benjamin Franklin (1706 – 1790), American printer, author, scientist, statesman and diplomat, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, into a poor family. He learned to read at a very early age, probably taught by his father, who destined him for the Church and sent him at eight years to a grammar school. But the expense proved too great, and at the age of ten Benjamin began to work in his father's little soap shop. Disliking this, he was apprenticed at twelve years to his half-brother, James, a printer. Benjamin read whatever book he could lay his hands upon, and by 1722 he was writing little essays of his own on various topics.

Constant reading made Franklin one of the most educated men of his time. His activities were varied. In the 1740s he experimented on electricity and invented the lightning-rod for the protection of buildings. In the 1750s Franklin was sent to Britain to defend the interests of the American Colonies before the British Parliament. During the War of Independence he helped to frame the Declaration of Independence (1776). That same year he was sent to France, where he enlisted French help for the American Colonies and later negotiated peace with Britain (1783). After the War of Independence Franklin was chosen as a member of the Convention to frame the Constitution of the United States (1787).

Franklin's literary activities began in 1733 with the issuing of *Poor Richard's Almanac* which continued to appear for about 25 years. The almanac was a combination of a calendar, a miniature encyclopedia, and a moral counsellor. It noted the holidays, the dates of the fairs and the court sessions, and it contained jokes, poems, recipes and sayings.

In 1771 Franklin began writing *The Autobiography* but it was not completed and was published after his death. This outstanding literary work combines practicality, common sense, and optimistic faith in the abilities of every person who can rely on his own industry and strength.

B. Franklin was an enlightener and most of his works are written in the form of moral and philosophical parables. He also wrote a lot of political and satirical pamphlets defending

the rights of all men, including the Negroes and the Indians. These topics were especially important in the history of American literature. His pamphlet *On the Slave Trade* (1790) became his political testament. The anti-slavery character of the pamphlet inspired the abolitionists fight until the Civil War.

Franklin put his ideas into practice opening the first public library and founding several clubs and societies, among them the Junto Club, the first society of self-education and enlightenment and the society for the abolition of slavery.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S SAYINGS

Do you know that almost all Franklin's writings following the traditions of Enlightenment include practical words of advice to the people? Though not always original they are written in simple and humorous manner. Many of them, in one form or another, are still quoted today. Here are some of his famous sayings:

- # He that can have patience can have what he will.
- # Even peace may be purchased at too high a price.
- # A word to the wise is enough.
- # He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals.
- # There never was a good war, or a bad peace.
- # All things are easy to industry.
- # Being uneducated is not as dishonorable as being unwilling to learn.
- # He that cannot obey, cannot command.
- # A lie stands on one leg, truth on two.
- # The worst wheel of the cart makes the most noise.
- # A spoonful of honey will catch more flies than a gallon of vinegar.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

'Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.'

A. Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, was born on a farm in Kentucky, on February 12, 1809. Abraham's father made his living by farming and by working, from time to time, as a carpenter. His mother died when he was only nine years old.

Lincoln had no more than a year's formal education, but in that time he managed to learn reading, writing and arithmetic.

As a young man, Abraham had many jobs, some of which involved him in journeys down the Mississippi where he could see auctions of Negro slaves. Just at that time he became opposed to the idea of slavery. On his return from one of these trips Lincoln became a storekeeper's clerk in the village of New Salem.

Having time on his hands, the young man began to study. His friends encouraged him to take up politics and he offered himself as a candidate for the State Legislature (Government of the State). He was defeated in 1832 but two years later his election campaign was successful and he was elected to the Illinois State Legislature.

Between 1847 and 1849, Lincoln was a Congressman. Then in 1849, he was offered the governorship of Oregon which he accepted. It was in 1854 that he delivered the speech that made him famous. It was on the subject of slavery. He expressed his views clearly and firmly: slavery should be abolished.

Lincoln was now beginning to rise in the political world. In 1859 he was adopted as the Republican candidate for the presidency, and in 1860 he became the sixteenth President of the United States.

In November 1864, Lincoln was re-elected President and the following January Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery.

The American Civil War (1861-1865) ended in May 1865, but the peace which followed was not a lasting triumph for President Lincoln. He did not see victory, though he was certain it was coming.

On April 14, 1865, he went to the theatre in Washington. John Booth, an actor who was an agent of the slave-owners and their allies in the Northern states, managed to enter the box in which the President was sitting and shot Lincoln in the head.

The unconscious Lincoln was carried to a house nearby, but the doctors could do little. He lived for several hours after the shooting, and he died next morning.

WHAT IS IN A NICKNAME?

Abraham Lincoln had many nicknames. As a young man, Lincoln and a friend of his borrowed money to buy a store. After only a few months, the store went out of business. Then Lincoln's friend died. Lincoln worked long and hard to pay back all the money himself. He finally did. This helped earn him the nickname 'Honest Abe'.

Another of Lincoln's nicknames was 'Railsplitter'. This nickname recalled the days when, as a young man, Lincoln had split logs to make fence rails.

Abraham Lincoln was against slavery. During the Civil War, one reason of which was slavery, President Lincoln issued a law freeing all black people living under Confederate control. Because of this action, Lincoln gained the nickname 'The Great Emancipator', meaning 'one who sets people free from slavery'.

HERO OF THE SOUTH

Robert E. Lee was one of the greatest generals of all time. He is also one of the best-loved men in the South. During the war of 1861-1865 Lee commanded an army for the South. His men loved, trusted, and respected him. Even though his army was outnumbered, Lee won many battles.



General Robert E. Lee was the brilliant commander of the Confederate armies

Shortly before the end of the war, Lee was made General-in-Chief of all the Southern armies. But it was too late. There was no way the South could win. On April 9, 1865, Lee was forced to give up. Seated on his famous horse, Traveller, Lee said a sad farewell to his soldiers.

After the war, Lee did his best to bring the people of the North and South together again. He wanted Southerners to accept being beaten and rebuild their lives. 'Make your sons Americans,' he said.

Lee spent his remaining years as president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. After he died, the college was renamed Washington and Lee University in his honor. Lee is buried in the college chapel. Sometimes called 'The Shrine of the South', the chapel is visited by thousands of people each year.

On Stone Mountain, near the city of Atlanta, Georgia, there is a huge carving of three men on horses. One is Lee, riding his horse Traveller. The others are Jackson, Lee's finest general, and Jefferson Davis, president of the Southern states.

Lee's birthday, January 19, is a holiday in most Southern states.

PROGRESS QUESTIONS

1. *Why is the history of the USA interesting?*
2. *Who were the people living in North America before European settlement? Where did they come from? When?*
3. *How did they contribute to world culture?*
4. *Why did the war between the Indians and the white settlers begin?*
5. *How many Native Americans live in the USA today?*
6. *Did the Europeans know about the New World long before Columbus made his first voyage in 1492?*
7. *Name the first European settlements in North America.*
8. *Who are the Pilgrim Fathers?*
9. *Why is the year of 1620 so important in the US history?*
10. *What is the Mayflower Compact?*
11. *Briefly describe the establishment of the first 13 American colonies.*
12. *Briefly describe the struggle for American territory between Britain, France and Holland.*
13. *How did Britain try to control its enlarged American territory?*
14. *How did the American colonies respond to the Stamp Act?*
15. *What happened on December 16, 1773?*
16. *What laws did the British Parliament pass to punish the colonies?*
17. *When did the First Continental Congress (the Congress of representatives of the colonies) meet and what did it do?*
18. *When did the War of Independence begin and when did it end?*
19. *Who was appointed commander of the American army?*
20. *When was the Declaration of Independence adopted? What did it proclaim?*
21. *When was the first major defeat of the British Army in the War of Independence?*
22. *How did it influence the course of the war?*
23. *What did the war end with?*
24. *When did Washington become the capital of the USA?*
25. *What territories did the USA buy in 1803?*
26. *Who did Florida first belong to?*
27. *When did Texas become the US largest state?*
28. *What territories did the USA take possession of in 1848?*
29. *How did the discovery of gold in California influence the further expansion of the USA?*
30. *Why did the colonization of the new territories lead to bitter clashes in the country?*
31. *When were the Republican and Democratic parties formed? Whose interests did they represent?*
32. *Who was John Brown?*
33. *Why did the 11 states secede from the Union in 1860-1861?*
34. *When did the Civil War begin? What were its objectives?*
35. *What important document was issued in 1862? How did it contribute to the victory of the North?*
36. *Name the first, the bloodiest and the last battles of the Civil War.*
37. *What were the names of the famous generals of the northern and southern armies in the Civil War?*
38. *What happened on April 14, 1865?*
39. *How did the victory of the North contribute to the development of the USA?*

Project

Write an essay (500-600 words) about the sixteenth President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln.

SEMINAR 3

Short historical survey of the United States of America (from the days of early colonization to the Civil War /1861-1865/)

1. Give a survey of the colonization of North America in the 16th-18th centuries.
2. Speak on Britain's struggle against the development of the American colonies.
3. Speak on the War of Independence and the formation of the USA.
4. Dwell on the expansion of the USA in the first half of the 19th century and the growing confrontation between the North and the South.
5. Speak on the Civil War and its historical significance.

QUIZ

1. *Apart from the matter of ____, the Civil War arose out of both the economic and political rivalry between the agrarian ____ and the industrial ____.*
2. *The armies of General ____ and especially ____ won distinction as the best and scored decisive victories at the fronts.*
3. *During the War of Independence the main battle between the two sides took place in 1781 at ____ when Washington with the aid of French forces defeated the British army headed by General ____.*
4. *It was ____ ____, the son of Eiric the Red, who in 999 reach the south shore of the land known now under the name of New England.*
5. *It was the Liberty Bell, a symbol of the American Revolution (____-____), that in Independence Hall, then called the Pennsylvania State House, rang out the news that the ____ of ____ had been adopted. That was on July 4, 1776.*
6. *One of the important events preceding the signing of the Declaration of Independence was the ____ ____. On December 16, ____ about 50 Boston working men disguised as Indians threw the contents of 342 chests of tea, belonging to the ____ Company into the water of Boston harbour. It was a protest against British ____ on tea and against the monopoly granted the ____ Company.*
7. *The colonial period of the nation's history covered 169 years, from ____ to 1776. During this time, 13 colonies formed a narrow strip along the ____ coast of North America. Most of them began as ____ colonies. The Netherlands and ____ also established colonies in the area, in what are now ____, New Jersey, and Delaware.*
8. *Another major expansion of the United States took place in ____, when President Thomas Jefferson authorized the purchase of most of the land between the ____ River and the ____ Mountains from ____. This acquisition, called the ____ Purchase, led to further exploration of the West.*
9. *At the start of the Civil War, Lincoln's goal was to preserve the Union. But as battlefield casualties mounted, he decided that another goal – the emancipation of the slaves – was necessary to justify the cost of the war. On January 1, ____ Lincoln issued the ____ which declared ____ for slaves in all areas of the ____ that were still in rebellion against the Union.*
10. *Abraham Lincoln died less than a week after General Robert E. Lee's surrender. Vice President ____ became President.*

CHAPTER IV. **AMERICAN SCHOOLING**

LECTURE 4

CONTROL OF EDUCATION

The United States does not have a national system of education. Education is considered to be a matter for the people of each state. Although there is a federal Department of Education, under the United States Constitution it has no power to make laws in the field of education. Its function is merely to gather information, to advise, and to help finance certain educational programmes. Education Americans say, is 'a national concern, a state responsibility, and a local function'. Since the Constitution does not state that education is a responsibility of the federal government, all educational matters are left to the individual states. Each state has a Board of Education (usually 3 to 9 members elected by the public or appointed by the governor), not subject to federal control. State laws determine the age of compulsory education, the length of the school year, the way in which teachers shall be certified and many of the courses which must be taught. As a result, each of the 50 state legislatures is free to determine its own system for its own public school.

There is, then, a very large amount of local control. In 1986, an average of 50 % of the funds for elementary and secondary education came from state sources, 43 % from local funds, and only about 6 % from the federal government. Here there are great differences among the states. In New Hampshire more than 80 % of the costs were paid from local funds, while in California, on the other hand, the state paid more than 85 % of the costs.

With so much local control there is some degree of uniformity of education provided in different parts of the USA, because state and national accrediting agencies insist that certain standards should be maintained and certain things be taught.

There are a great many city-or county-owned schools, colleges and universities, and many are supported by the states. In general, colleges and universities, whether state or private, are quite free to determine their own individual standards, admissions, and graduation requirements. Both schools and universities have self-governing groups, associations or boards (made up of individual citizens elected from each community) which 'accredit', that is, certify schools and universities as meeting certain minimum standards. Yet membership in such groups is voluntary and they have no official, governmental status.

The major result of this unusual situation is that there is an enormous amount of variety and flexibility in elementary, secondary, and higher (university) education throughout the nation. For example, although all states

today require that children should attend school until a certain age, it varies from 16 to 17 (in Maine, New Mexico, North Dakota and Pennsylvania) and 18 (in Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma and Utah).

Because local and state taxes support the public schools, there are also significant differences in the quality of education. Communities and states that are able or willing to pay more for schools, buildings, materials, and teachers almost always have better educational systems than those that cannot or do not. Attempts by the federal government to provide special funds to poorer areas and schools districts have helped to some degree, but the basic differences remain. Also some Americans are worried that more federal help could lead to less independence and local control of their schools.

On the other hand, local control of the schools has also meant that there is a great deal of flexibility. There is much opportunity to experiment and to fit programmes to local wishes and needs. Typically, local high schools will offer courses of study which they feel best reflect their students' needs. Students at the same school will commonly be taking courses in different areas. Some might be following pre-university programmes, with an emphasis on those academic subjects which are required for college work. Others might well be taking coursework which prepares them for vocational or technical positions. Still others might enroll in a general programme combining elements of the academic and vocational. The range of courses available in high schools throughout the USA is enormous, including everything from computers in elementary schools to car design and construction in the vocational programmes.

What makes American education at the secondary level so different from most other countries is that all such programmes, whether academic, technical, or practical, are generally taught, under one roof. The American school is therefore best seen as if it were a combination of all the various types of schools which are usually separated and kept in separate buildings in other countries. As often as possible, too, handicapped children attend the same schools that everyone else does. Although most high school students in America are following different 'tracks', or courses of study, Americans feel that they should be together as long as possible. They feel that students pursuing different educational goals should learn together and thereby learn to get along together. A common error in comparing American secondary education with that of other countries, therefore, is to compare all American high school students with only the small proportion of students – usually the elite – who attend higher secondary schools in, for instance, European countries. An American high school includes all of the students within the age group, not just those with the highest academic achievements or interests.

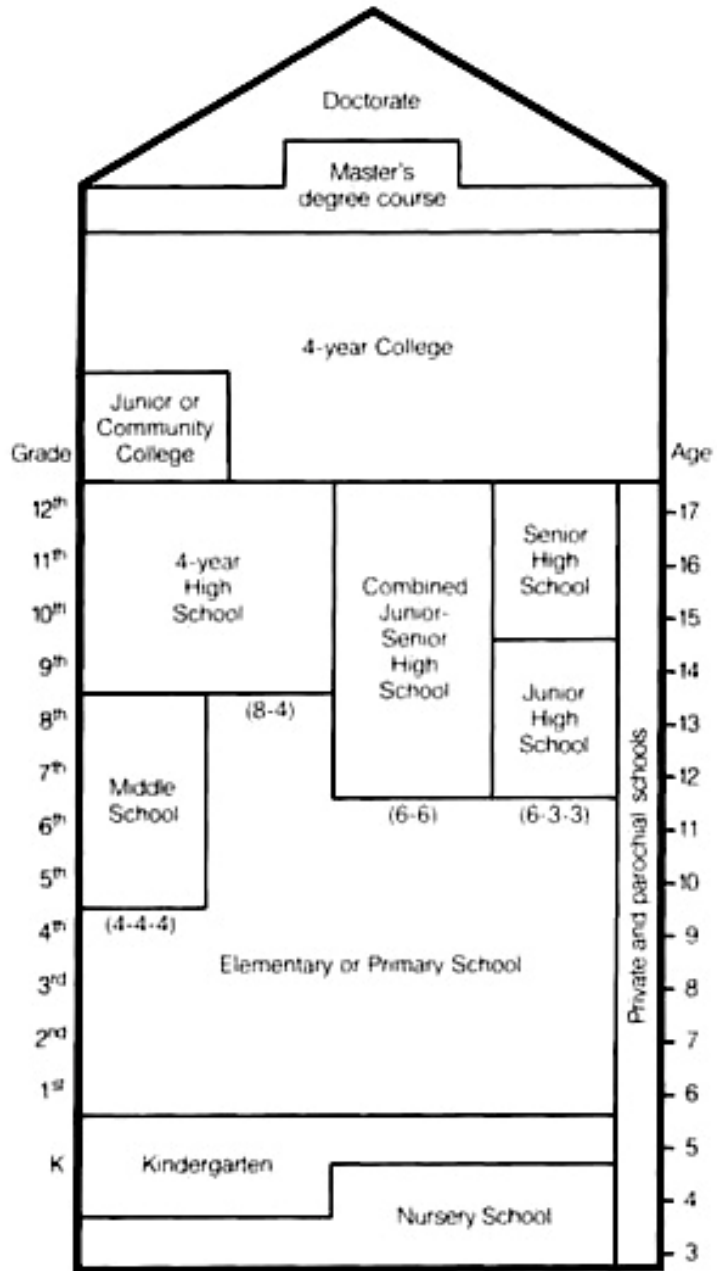
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Each fall almost 50 million young Americans walk through the doorways of about 100,000 elementary and secondary schools for the start of a new school year. The young people fill classrooms after leaving the kindergartens (K) and continue to study up to the 12th grade (the term 'grade' is used instead of the words 'class' or 'form'). They attend classes for an average of five hours a day, five days a week until the beginning of the following summer. The United States has the shortest school year in the world, an average of 180 days.

About 85 % of American students attend public schools (schools supported by American taxpayers). The other 15 % attend private schools for which their families choose to pay special attendance fees. Four out of five private schools in the United States are run by churches, synagogues or other religious groups. In such schools, religious teachings are a part of the curriculum, which

also includes the traditional academic courses of reading, mathematics, history, geography and science. (Religious instruction is not given in public schools.)

American schoolchildren pass through two main stages of school education on their way to get a high school diploma. They attend elementary school and then the secondary school. Elementary (grammar) and secondary (high) schools are organized on one of two bases: eight years of elementary and four years of secondary school, or six years of elementary three years of junior high school and three years of senior high school.



The United States Educational Structure

Although there is no national curriculum in the United States, certain subjects are taught in all K to 12 systems across the country.

The programme of studies in almost every elementary school includes arithmetic (sometimes elementary algebra or plain geometry in upper grades); language arts (a subject that includes reading, grammar, composition, literature); penmanship; science; social studies (a subject that includes history, geography, citizenship and economics); music; art; and physical education. And in some cases, a second language (other than English) is offered in upper elementary grades.

Most secondary schools offer the same ‘core’ of required subjects: English, mathematics, science, social studies and physical education. But school boards differ greatly from one district to another in the amount of class time they want high school students to spend on these basic subjects. In high school the subjects studied in elementary school are dealt with in greater detail and in more advanced form. High school students study 4-5 major subjects a year.

STUDENT A	STUDENT B
9th Grade	9th Grade
General Science Algebra Civics Developmental Reading Elective: Band Physical Education	General Science Algebra World Geography Composition Elective: Spanish I Physical Education
10th Grade	10th Grade
Biology Plane Geometry Social Studies Composition Elective: Band Physical Education	Biology Plane Geometry World History Survey of Literature Elective: Spanish II Physical Education
11th Grade	11th Grade
Elective: Health Education Elective: Industrial Arts I Survey of Literature Elective: Band Study Hall Physical Education	Elective: Chemistry Elective: Advanced Algebra American History American Literature Elective: Computer Programming Physical Education
12th Grade	12th Grade
Elective: Industrial Arts II American Government Elective: Public Speaking Elective: Band Study Hall Physical Education	Elective: Advanced Chemistry Elective: Solid Geometry and Trigonometry Elective: Problems of Democracy Elective: English Literature Elective: Spanish Literature Physical Education

Two representative high school schedules

In the United States the usual requirements for high school graduation are about 18 ‘units’ of course work. A high school ‘unit’ is equal to about 120 hours of classes in one subject (three hours a week). Students who plan to attend college need over 20 units.

Students are guided by school counselors in choosing electives (subjects not necessary for everybody), which can range from specialized academic to vocational subjects. For example, high schools offer more than one year of math, science and the other core subjects. After they complete the required units in these core areas students can take additional units as electives.

Elective courses vary from school to school. Some high schools specialize in particular types of subjects – business education, or industrial trades or foreign languages, for example. A student planning to be a physician would want to attend a school offering many electives in science. Another student who plans to start to work after leaving school would pay more attention to get practical knowledge and develop practical skills.

Pupils who do not do well often have to repeat courses, or have to have special tutoring, usually done in and by the schools. Many schools also support summer classes, where students can make up for failed courses or even take extra courses.

An important part of high school life is what is called extracurricular activities. The student is free to join a chorus, band or school orchestra; enter the debating team, or participate in sports of all kinds as well as a variety of social activities.



High school graduates



Students at The Julia Richman High School in New York City rehearse a play about black leader Malcolm X.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Americans place high value on higher education. Out of more than three million students who graduate from high school each year, about one million go on for 'higher education'. About 12 million students currently attend schools of higher education.

It is not easy to enter a college at a leading university in the United States. Such a college might receive applications from 2 % of high school graduates, and then accept only one out of every ten who apply. Successful applicants at such colleges are usually chosen on the basis of:

- a) their high school records;
- b) recommendations from their high school teachers;
- c) the impression they make during interviews at the university;
- d) their scores on the Scholastic Aptitude tests (SATs).

There is no national system of higher education in the United States. Instead, there are about 3,000 separate institutions including:

- 1) the university, which may contain
 - a) several colleges for undergraduate students seeking a bachelor's (four-year) degree and
 - b) one or more graduate schools for those continuing in specialized studies beyond the bachelor's degree to obtain a master's or a doctoral degree;
- 2) the four-year undergraduate institution – the college – most of which are not part of a university;
- 3) the technical training institution, at which high school graduates may take courses ranging from six months to four years in duration and learn a wide variety of technical skills, from hair styling through business accounting to computer programming;
- 4) and the two-year or community college, from which students may enter many professions or may transfer to four-year colleges or universities.

They may be small or large; rural or urban; religious or secular; highly selective or open to all; private or public.

Students have to pay to go to both private and State universities. Of the nation's nearly 1,900 four-year institutions of higher learning, 1,200 are privately controlled. Private universities are generally smaller but very expensive. Tuition fees for attending the university, books for classes, and dormitory costs are high. Every young person who enters a higher educational institution can get financial assistance. If a student borrows money from special funds, he should repay it with interest after he finishes his education. Needy students are awarded grants which they do not have to repay. Scholarships are

given when a student is doing exceptionally well at school. Some students take part-time jobs in the evenings and at weekends, others look for summer employment to pay for their studies.

Cost of Studying at the University of Vermont, Fall 1989

	Vermont Residents	Out of State
Tuition.....	\$1825	\$5825
Comprehensive Fees.[including:.....	\$162	\$162
Library Bond Fee, \$22; Athletic Bond Fee, \$24 Health Service Fee \$76; Student Center Fee \$11; Student Activities Fee \$29]		
Dormitory Room (Triple).....	\$995	\$995
[Double, \$1243; Single, \$1430; Large Single, \$1554]		
Meals (Minimal plan).....	\$686	\$686
[Average plan, \$774, Full, \$812.]		
Total, for each semester	\$3668	\$7668
Minimum cost per year.....	\$7336	\$15,336
[not including travel, books, or health insurance]		

There is no clear distinction in terms of quality of education offered between the institutions which are publicly or privately funded. However this is not to say that all institutions enjoy equal prestige nor that there are no material differences among them. The factors determining whether an institution is one of the best, or one of lower prestige, are: quality of teaching faculty and research facilities; amount of funding available for libraries, special programmes, etc., and how selective the institution can be in choosing its students (the competence and number of applicants for admission). The universities with the highest reputation are: California University, Catholic University of America, Cornell University, Harvard University, John Hopkins University, Columbia University, Yale University. The best-known of all is Harvard University, Massachusetts, which was founded in 1636.

The academic year is usually nine months, or two semesters of 4 and a half month each. Studies usually begin in September and end in July. There are summer classes for those who want to improve the grades or take up additional courses. The methods of instruction in the universities are lectures, discussions and work in laboratory. During the first two years at most colleges and universities students usually follow general courses in the arts or sciences and then choose a major – the subject or area of studies in which they concentrate. During one semester (term) a student will study four or five different subjects. The students' progress is controlled through oral or written tests, term or course papers and a final examination in each course. Each part of a student's work in a course is given a mark which helps to determine his final grade. A student's

record consists of his grade in each course. College grades are usually on a five-point scale: A – the highest mark, equal to 5 points; B = 4; C = 3; D = 2; E or F means failure. The points make it possible to calculate the GPA (grade point average). Normally, a minimum GPA of 3, 5 points is necessary to continue their studies at the college or university and to graduate.

There are no final examinations and students receive a degree if they have collected enough credits in a particular subject. One hundred and twenty credits are necessary in order to receive a degree at the end of four years of college. Credits are earned by attending lectures (or lab classes) and by successfully completing assignments and examinations. One credit is usually equal to one hour of class per week in a single course, a three-credit course in biology could involve two hours of lectures plus one hour in a science lab, every week. A course may last 10 to 16 weeks – the length of a ‘semester’.

American universities and colleges are usually built as a separate complex, called ‘campus’, with teaching blocks, libraries, dormitories, and many other facilities grouped together on one site, often on the outskirts of the city. Some universities are comprised of many campuses.

Students who study at a university or four-year college are known as undergraduates. Those who have received a degree after 4 years of studies are known as graduates. They may continue with their studies and research work for another two years as graduates in order to get a higher degree. The undergraduate students who study for four years are called as follows:

- a) the first-year student is called a freshman;
- b) the second-year student is called a sophomore;
- c) the third-year student is known as a junior;
- d) the fourth-year student – a senior.

STANDARDS

Standardized examinations play a decisive role at almost every level of education, especially in the admission to colleges and universities. There are two widely used and nationally-administered standardized tests for high school students who wish to attend a college or university. One is SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test), which attempts to measure aptitudes in verbal and mathematical fields necessary for college work. The other is the ACT (American College Testing programme), which attempts to measure skills in English, mathematics, and the social and natural sciences. Both tests are given at specific dates and locations throughout the United States by non-profit, non-governmental organizations. The tests are used by universities as standards for comparison but are not in any way ‘official’.

Each year, the SAT is taken by some two million high school students. One million of these students are in their last year of high school. Another million are in their next-to-last year. The ACT, more commonly taken in the western part of the United States, is taken each year by another million high school students.

Similar testing programmes exist at higher levels as well. Someone who has already finished four-years of university and wishes to go to a law or medical school is also required to take standardized tests. These tests have been agreed upon by the various law and medical schools and are administered nation wide at scheduled times. Like the SAT or ACT, these tests are not official or governmentally controlled.

Other examinations are however official and usually quite difficult. For example, even after someone has studied for many years and earned a medical degree from a university, this still doesn't mean that he or she can begin to practise in the USA. The individual states require still further examinations.

IT IS INTERESTING TO KNOW

Colleges and Universities of the United States



A 1726 engraving of the 'Colleges in Cambridge' which later became Harvard University

A short time after the first colonists came to the territory which we now call Massachusetts, the General Court of Massachusetts made the first contribution for Harvard College. It was in 1636. This school later became the famous Harvard University. It is the oldest university in the United States. It was named in honour of John Harvard, who died in 1638. This man left his library and half of his property to the university. People knew that the future of the new country depended on education. And after the establishment of Harvard they began to establish other schools. In 1776 the Americans declared their independence. By this time nine other institutions were opened. Their present names and the dates of their opening are:

College of William and Mary (1693)

Yale University (1701)

Princeton University (1746)

Washington and Lee University (1749)
Columbia University (1754)
University of Pennsylvania (1755)
Brown University (1764)
Rutgers College (1766)
Dartmouth College (1770).

Some of the money for the educational institutions came from the government, but most of it came from people who felt that by giving their money they were investing in the new country. People believed that the new country needed colleges. They voted for their state governments to organize colleges which would be supported by taxes. These are called state universities and they are playing leading roles in the world of education in America. By 1894 all states had such universities. The University of Michigan which first opened as a school in Detroit in 1817 became a state university in 1837, when Michigan became a state.

In the early 1800s most people thought that only men should attend college. But other people felt certain that women too must be educated. Some of them thought that the best would be to have co-educated colleges. Others thought that there must be separate colleges for men and women. Oberlin College, which was founded in 1833, was the first co-educational school. Mount Holyoke was founded in 1837. It was the first school for women. Other schools for women are: *Vassar* (1821), *Wells* (1868), *Wellesley* (1871). In 1870 Michigan, Illinois, Missouri; California began to admit women to state universities. Now all public universities admit women. Even many private men's colleges are beginning to admit women. So the ideas about American education are changing.

PROGRESS QUESTIONS

1. *How is control of Education in the United States organized?*
2. *What does the phrase 'Education is a national concern, a state responsibility and a local function' mean?*
3. *What functions does the Federal Department of Education have?*
4. *What role in the educational system of the USA do the states play?*
5. *How is education financed?*
6. *Who do educational institutions belong to? Who controls public schools?*
7. *Is there any uniformity in the organization and curricula of American schools?*
8. *What are the advantages and disadvantages of local control over education?*
9. *What is the compulsory school age in the majority of the states?*
10. *How many grades are there in American elementary and secondary schools?*
11. *What subjects does the curriculum of elementary school include?*
12. *What does the high school prepare young people for?*
13. *What are the required basic subjects at a secondary school?*
14. *What certificate do high school students get after graduating from high school?*
15. *What are 'electives'? How do elective courses differ from school to school?*
16. *What are the usual requirements for high school graduation?*
17. *Is the quality of education higher in private schools as compared with public schools? If so why?*
18. *What differs American public schools from British ones?*
19. *What activities are sponsored by the school outside its academic programme?*
20. *What are American colleges and universities supported by?*
21. *What are the conditions which every applicant must know to enter a college of higher education?*

22. *What higher education institutions are there in the USA?*
23. *How are students helped to pay for their education?*
24. *How many subjects do they study a term?*
25. *What is the difference between 'majors' and 'electives'?*
26. *How is students' progress controlled?*
27. *How are they assessed?*
28. *Why do most students study at public institutions of higher education?*
29. *Why does a student have to earn a certain number of 'credits'?*
30. *What is GPA?*
31. *What is a 'campus'?*
32. *What does the prestige of a university or college depend on?*
33. *How long does a student have to study to receive the BA or BS?*
34. *What standardized tests within the American system of education do you know?*

Why do they play such an important role?

Project

1. *Suppose you are a supporter of better comprehensive education. Write a short speech stating your arguments (300 – 350 words).*
2. *You are in favour of a more selective educational system. Write down arguments supporting your view (300 – 350 words).*

SEMINAR 4

AMERICAN SCHOOLING

1. **Speak on the way control of education in the USA is organized?**
2. **Dwell on elementary and secondary education in the USA.**
3. **Dwell on higher education in the USA.**
4. **Speak on standardized tests within the American system of education.**

QUIZ

1. *Formal education in the United States is divided into various stages or levels that follow one another somewhat like the rungs of a ladder. ___ education is the first rung of the educational ladder. It is followed by ___ education, ___ education, and ___ education. Ordinarily, students complete one stage before they continue to the next.*

2. *School attendance is ___ (required) in every state. Thirty-two states require attendance through age ___, nine states and the District of Columbia through age ___, eight states through age ___, and one state through age ___.*

3. *___ education, is generally designed for children ___ years of age and younger. Its chief aim is to develop the habits, attitudes and skills that provide readiness for school*

4. *Pre-elementary schools are of two main types: (1) ___ and (2) ___. Most ___ schools are designed for children 3 or 4 years old. The children learn to get along in a group supervised by a teacher. They are encouraged to express feelings and ideas through building, dancing, drawing, playing, singing, and speaking. ___ are intended mainly for ___ and 6-year-olds. They offer more advanced activities than do most ___ schools.*

5. *At 6 years of age children begin the first year of ___ school, which is called ___ 1 or first ___ (the second year is '___'2, etc.). At ___ school the emphasis is placed on the*

basic skills (___, ___, ___ and ___) though the general principle throughout the American school system is that children should be helped and encouraged to develop their own particular interests.

6. A traditional elementary school is divided into ___ or ___ grades. Children of about the same ___ are usually in the same grade. They meet in the same classroom with the same ___ during most or all of the day.

7. Secondary education in the United States is the responsibility of ___ and ___ high schools. Most ___ high schools include grades ___ through ___. Most junior high school graduates attend a ___-year ___ high school, which consists of grades ___ through ___.

8. Most high schools offer both ___ and ___ courses of study. These schools are called comprehensive high schools. Students who plan to continue their education after graduating from high school will probably take a ___, or college ___ course of study. If they intend to get a job immediately after graduation, they may choose a ___ course of study.

9. Education is not mentioned in the Constitution, and though there is ___ department of education, the matter is left to individual ___.

10. The local school ___ decides which courses are compulsory.

11. In order to receive the high school ___ necessary in most states to get into college, students must accumulate a minimum number of ___, which are awarded for the successful completion of each one- or half-year course. Students hoping to be admitted to the more famous universities require far more than the minimum number of ___ and must also have good ___ (the mark given on the basis of course work and a written examination). ___ activity (such as playing for one of the school's sports teams) is also very important in the American school system and is taken into consideration by colleges and employers.

12. There are about 3,000 ___ and ___, both ___ and ___ in the USA. They are all independent, offering their own ___ of studies, setting their own ___ standards and deciding which students meet those standards. The greater the prestige of the university, the higher the ___ and ___ required.

13. The terms 'college' and 'university' are often used interchangeably as 'college' is used to refer to all undergraduate education and the four-year undergraduate programme, leading to a ___'s degree, can be followed at either college or university. Universities tend to be larger than colleges and also have ___ schools where students can receive ___-___ education.

14. During the first two years students usually follow general courses in the arts or sciences and then choose a ___ (the subject or area of studies in which they concentrate - the other subjects are called minors). ___ (with grades) are awarded for the successful completion of each course. These credits are often transferable, so students who have not done well in high school can choose a junior college (or ___ college), which offers a ___-year transfer programme preparing students for degree-granting institutions. ___ colleges also offer ___-year courses of a ___ nature, leading to technical and semi-professional occupations, such as journalist.

CHAPTER V. POLITICAL SYSTEM

LECTURE 5

CONSTITUTION OF THE USA

The USA is a federation of the states which was established by the Constitution in 1787.

The Constitution of the USA is a relatively brief document, listing the set of rules, laws and regulations which provide the practical norms regulating the work of the Government. The document embodied the political theories of the Founding Fathers (39 representatives of the states who signed the final document), who represented the interests of a privileged class, as the great majority of those who formulated the Constitution, were men of property. Formulating the constitutional provisions the Founding Fathers pursued three major political objectives: to stop further development of the revolution, to found a strong state on the federative lines, and to reliably guard and guarantee the right of private ownership, as well as the freedom of enterprise. Their chief assumption was that private property was the backbone of liberty. Thus any attempt on private property is an attempt on liberty itself, and if so then a democracy that advocates redistribution of private property negates liberty. The rich plantation owner and slave-holder from Virginia, James Madison, who put forward this principle is known to be the 'Father of the Constitution' precisely for this reason'.



The statue of James Madison

The United States of America first operated under an agreement called the Articles of Confederation (1781). Unfortunately, this loose agreement among the states failed as a governing document for the United States because the states did not cooperate as expected. When it came time to pay wages to the national army or the war debt to France, some states refused to contribute. To cure this weakness, the congress asked each state to send a delegate to a convention. The so-called Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia in May, 1787 with George Washington presiding.

The delegates struck a balance between those who wanted a strong central government and those who did not. The resulting master plan, or Constitution, set up a system in which some powers were given to the national, or federal,

government, while others were reserved for the states. The Constitution divided the national government into three parts, or branches: the legislative (Congress), the executive (headed by the president), and the judicial (federal courts). Called 'separation of powers' this division gives each branch certain duties and substantial independence from the others. It also gives each branch some authority over the others through a system of 'checks and balances'. Here are a few examples of how checks and balances work in practice:

– If Congress passes a proposed law, or 'bill', that the president considers unwise, he can veto it. That means that the bill is dead unless two-thirds of the members of both the House and the Senate vote to enact it despite the president's veto.

– If Congress passes and the president signs, a law that is challenged in the federal courts as contrary to the Constitution, the courts can nullify that law.

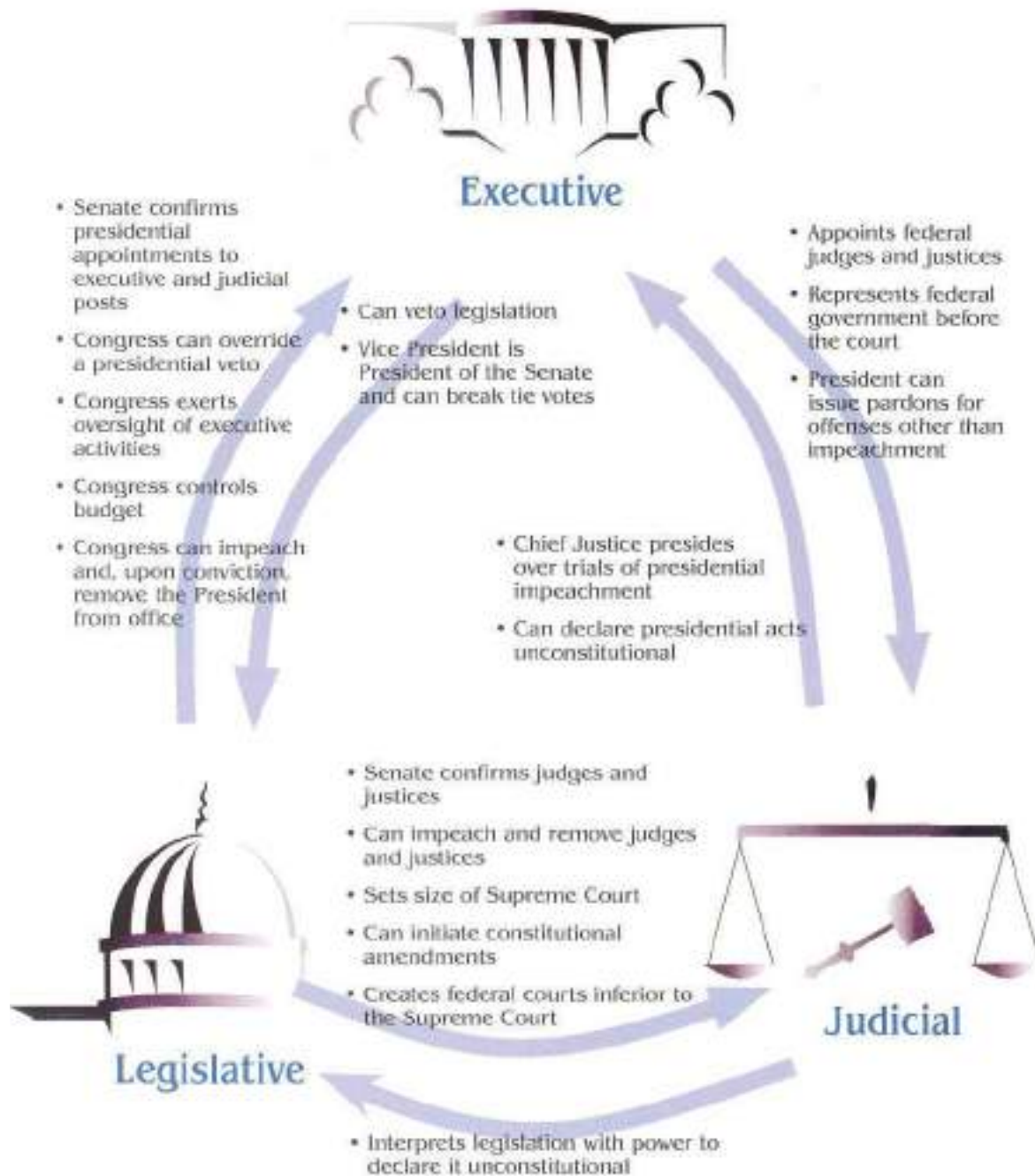
– The president has the power to make treaties with other nations and to make appointments to federal positions, including judgeships. The Senate, however, must approve all treaties and confirm the appointments before they can go into effect.



"Remember, gentlemen, we aren't here just to draft a constitution. We're here to draft the best darned constitution in the world."

The Constitution written in Philadelphia in 1787 could not go into effect until it was ratified by a majority of citizens in at least 9 of the then 13 U.S. states. During this ratification process, misgivings arose. Many citizens felt uneasy because the document failed to explicitly guarantee the rights of individuals. The desired language was added in 10 amendments to the Constitution, collectively known as the Bill of Rights.

Checks and Balances



The Bill of Rights guarantees Americans freedom of speech, of religion, and of the press. They have the right to assemble in public places, to protest government actions, and to demand change. There is a right to own firearms. Because of the Bill of Rights, neither police officers nor soldiers can stop and search a person without a good reason. Nor can they search a person's home without permission from a court to do so. The Bill of Rights guarantees a speedy trial to anyone accused of a crime. The trial must be by jury if requested, and the

accused person must be allowed representation by a lawyer and to call witnesses to speak for him or her. Cruel and unusual punishment is forbidden. With the addition of the Bill of Rights, the Constitution was ratified by all 13 states and went into effect in 1789.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution and their purpose

Protections afforded fundamental rights and freedoms

Amendment 1: Freedom of religion, speech, press, and assembly; the right to petition the government.

Protections against arbitrary military action

Amendment 2: Right to bear arms and maintain state militia (National Guard).

Amendment 3: Troops may not be quartered in homes in peacetime.

Protections against arbitrary police and court action

Amendment 4: No unreasonable searches or seizures.

Amendment 5: Grand jury indictment required to prosecute a person for a serious crime. No "double jeopardy" – being tried twice for the same offence. Forcing a person to testify against himself or herself prohibited. No loss of life, liberty or property without due process.

Amendment 6: Right to speedy, public, impartial trial with defense counsel, and right to cross-examine witnesses.

Amendment 7: Jury trials in civil suits where value exceeds 20 dollars.

Amendment 8: No excessive bail or fines, no cruel and unusual punishments.

Protections of states' rights and unnamed rights of the people

Amendment 9: Unlisted rights are not necessarily denied.

Amendment 10: Powers not delegated to the United States or denied to states are reserved to the states or to the people.

Since then, 17 other amendments have been added to the Constitution. Perhaps the most important of these are the Thirteenth and Fourteenth, which outlaw slavery and guarantee all citizens equal protection of the laws, and the Nineteenth, which gives women the right to vote.

The Constitution can be amended in either of two ways. Congress can propose an amendment, provided that two-thirds of the members of both the House and the Senate vote in favour of it. Or the legislatures of two-thirds of the states can call a convention to propose amendments. (This second method has never been used.) In either case a proposed amendment does not go into effect until ratified by three-fourths of the states.

The Constitution consists of the Preamble, seven articles each of which includes a number of sections and 26 amendments.

The Preamble to the Constitution: 'in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote

the general welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America’.

The first article is devoted to the Legislative power, structure and functioning of Congress. The second article is devoted to the executive power, election and major functions of the President. The third article is devoted to the judicial power, structure of court system, the Supreme Court. The fourth article describes relations between the states and the Federal Government. The fifth article envisages the method of proposing and adopting amendments to the Constitution. The sixth article deals with general provisions and proclaims the Constitution, federal laws and international treaties of the USA the ‘supreme law’ of the country. The article also holds that ‘no religious test shall be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the US’. The seventh article describes the procedure of the ratification of the Constitution.

Each state has its own Constitution, government and its own capital city. The state constitutions have a similar structure, and, as a rule, include the following sections: preamble, the Bill of Rights, suffrage and elections, division of powers, legislative power, executive power, judicial power, taxes and finance, local organs of power, education, etc. However, some of the state constitutions contain articles dealing with labour relations, health service, agriculture, administrative division, etc.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The supreme legislative power in the USA is implemented by the U.S. Congress which consists of two chambers or houses playing roughly equal roles in lawmaking – the Senate (the upper house) and the House of Representatives (the lower house). Its residence is on Capitol Hill, in the center of Washington, D.C. Each state has its own government, following the Washington pattern – State Assemblies or Legislatures with two chambers.

The main task of Congress is to make laws. The US Constitution also gives Congress the power to impose taxes, to make rules for trade with



The House of Representatives meets in the left wing of the Capitol, and the Senate occupies the right wing. Before a site was selected for a new national capital and the government buildings were constructed there, Congress met in the former County Courthouse in Philadelphia

foreign countries and between states, to coin money, to organize the Armed Forces, to declare war, etc. Another power possessed by Congress is the right to propose amendments to the Constitution whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall consider it necessary.

Under the Constitution, the US Senate has some special powers, not given to the House of Representatives. The Senate approves or disapproves major Presidential appointments of such high officials as ambassadors, Cabinet members, and federal judges. The Senate must also ratify, by a two-thirds vote, treaties between the USA and foreign countries.

The House of Representatives has a special power of its own. Only a member of the House can introduce a bill to raise money, but it must also be passed by the Senate before it can become a law.

Under the U.S. Constitution, the House of Representatives may bring charges against the President in impeachment proceedings for high crimes and misdemeanours, who is then tried by the Senate. A two-thirds vote in the Senate is necessary for conviction. It is a method provided for getting rid of officials who cannot be dismissed: presidents, vice-presidents and all civil office holders of the United States.

The membership in the Senate reached 100 in 1959 when Hawaii became the 50th state and remains unchanged today. Each state has two senators, regardless of population. To be eligible for the Senate, a person must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the USA for nine years and a resident of the state from which he is elected. Senators are elected to serve for a term of six years. Although Congressional elections take place every two years, only one-third of the Senate is re-elected (two Senators from the same state never finish their terms at the same time).

The individual seats in the Senate are numbered. Democrats sit in the western part of the chamber – on the Vice-President's right. Republicans sit on his left. The Vice-President presides over the Senate and conducts debates. He is not a member of the chamber over which he presides and he sometimes is not a member of the party in power. From among its own membership the Senate chooses a presiding officer known as the President pro-tempore (the President pro tem), who acts when the Vice-President is absent or when he succeeds to the Presidency. He is usually the senior Senator of the majority party.

Members of the House of Representatives are elected every two years for two-year terms. They represent the population of 'congressional districts' into which each state is divided. The number of districts is determined by a census, which is conducted every 10 years. The number of Representatives from each state is based upon its population. The most populous states are allowed more

representatives than the smaller ones, some of which have only one. In all, there are 435 representatives in the House.

A Representative must be at least 25 years of age, a U.S. citizen for seven years and live in the state from which he is elected. Congressmen of the House of Representatives do not have individual seats, by tradition Democrats sit on the Speaker's right, Republicans – on his left. The Speaker presides over the House, he conducts debates. The Speaker, like the Vice-President in the Senate, may vote, but usually he does not do it, except in case of a tie-vote. When the House meets, the Speaker calls the members to order and the Sergeant-at-Arms places the mace (the symbol of authority) on the pedestal near the Speaker's platform. Then the Chaplain reads prayers. When any member wants to speak he is to stand up and to address himself to the Speaker.



Members of the House of Representatives take the oath of office in the House chambers in the Capitol in January, 1989

Votes are taken in American Congress in four different ways. Usually the Speaker or the Vice-President says, 'As many as are in favour say 'Aye!' and then 'As many as are opposed say 'No!' In most cases it is enough. But if there is doubt those in favour are asked to stand up and they are counted. The Speaker or the Vice-President does the counting in his chamber and announces the result. If there is still doubt, two tellers are appointed. They take their place at the head of the central aisle. All Congressmen in favour of the proposition walk between them and are counted, then those opposed do the same. The fourth way is the roll-call, where the names of all Congressmen are called out and they answer 'Aye' or 'No'.

A new Congress lasts for two years, commencing on January, 3 each odd-numbered year and is divided into two sessions. All the 435 Representatives and the 100 Senators seldom appear on the floor in the House chamber or in the Senate chamber, unless they are called in to vote for or against a bill. Usually

only a few Congressmen can be seen in the appropriate chambers chatting, reading their mail, paying little attention to anyone making a speech.

The legislative work of Congress is done largely by its members in committee meetings. Here bills are studied, experts are consulted, and recommendations are made to the whole House or Senate. There are, at present, 19 standing committees in the House and 16 in the Senate as well as several select committees. In addition, there are four standing joint committees of the two Houses, with oversight responsibilities but no legislative jurisdiction. The House may also create select committees or task forces to study specific issues and report on them to the House. Each committee's jurisdiction is divided into certain subject matters under the rules of each House and all measures affecting a particular area of the law are referred to the committee with jurisdiction over that particular subject matter. Among the standing committees is a Committee of Finance, of Foreign Relations, of Agriculture, of Aeronautical Space Science, of Armed Services, etc.

Almost all the Congressmen are members of the two big bourgeois parties. Among Representatives more than 40 % are lawyers (Senators – 62 %). More than 30 % are businessmen and bankers, with a small number of journalists, scientists, landowners, a few trade union representatives. There are no workers. At least one-third of the Senators in the present Senate are millionaires. Under the pressure of the progressive circles the number of representatives of racial minorities has grown. In neither chamber there is a representative of American youth, because of the age census for Congressmen.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

The chief function of Congress is the making of laws. Thousands of bills are introduced each Congress but only hundreds become law. All bills not enacted by the end of the two-year period are killed.

To become an Act of Congress a bill must be passed by both Houses and signed by the President. The President, however, has a right to veto the bill, and a two-third majority in both Houses is needed to override the President's veto at the second hearing.

The enacting clause was prescribed by law in 1871 and is identical in all bills, whether they originate in the House of Representatives or in the Senate. A bill may originate in either house of Congress unless it deals with taxes or spending. The Constitution provides that all revenue bills must be introduced in the House of Representatives. By tradition, spending bills begin there also. This practice came from England.

There are two types of bills – public and private. A public bill is one that affects the public generally. A bill that affects a specified individual or a private

entity rather than the population at large is called a private bill. A typical private bill is used for relief in matters such as immigration and naturalization and claims against the United States.

A bill originating in the House of Representatives is designated by the letters 'H.R.' followed by a number that it retains throughout all its parliamentary stages. A Senate bill is designated by the letter 'S.' followed by its number.

A representative introduces a bill by sending it to the clerk of the House or placing it in a box called the hopper. The clerk reads the title of the bill into the Congressional Record (the official transcript of the proceedings of the U.S. Congress) in a procedure called the first reading. The Government Printing Office prints the bill and distributes copies.

The bill is then referred as required by the rules of the House to the appropriate committee or committees by the clerk. The action by committee, perhaps, is the most important phase of the legislative process as it provides the most intensive consideration to a proposed measure. The committee studies the bill and if it is found of sufficient importance the committee may set a date for public hearing to hear testimony from experts or other interested people. The committee then debates the bill and possibly offers amendments. Then a vote is taken, and if favourable, the bill goes on a calendar (a list of bills awaiting action), of not, the committee may table or kill the bill.

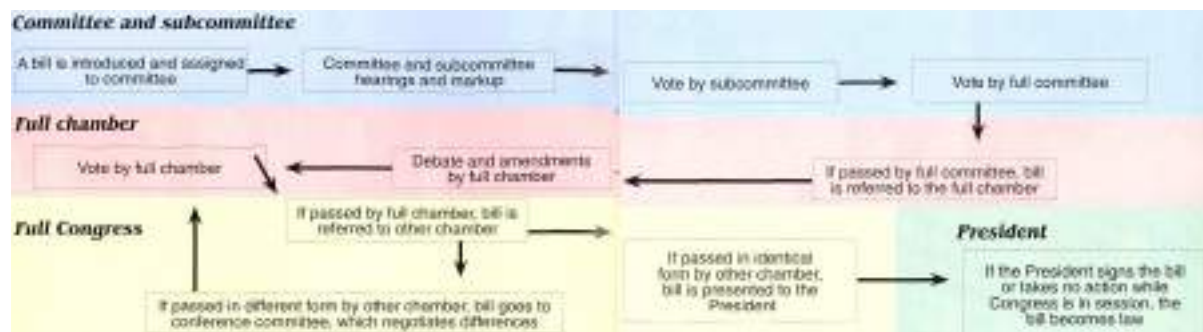
The next stage – Consideration by the Committee of the Whole House (at least 100 members) – begins with a second reading of the bill, the only complete reading in most cases. The second reading is a section-by-section reading during which time germane amendments may be offered to a section when it is read. After any amendments have been added the bill is given a third reading, by title only, and put to a voice or roll-call vote. If the bill passes by a simple majority (at least one more than half the votes), it goes to the Senate, where it passes the same stages and may be defeated or passed, with or without amendments. If defeated, the bill dies.

Both houses must approve a bill in exactly the same form before it is sent to the President. If they adopt different versions of a bill, a conference committee, made up of members from both houses, is formed to work out the differences. The revised bill is sent back to both houses for their final approval. After being certified by the clerk of the house of Congress that originated the bill and signed by the Speaker and the Vice President, Congress sends the proposed new legislation to the White House for consideration by the President, who has 10 days – not including Sundays – to sign or veto it.

If approving, the President signs the bill, dates it, and often writes 'approved' on it. If disapproved, a bill must be returned to Congress with an

explanation of the President's objections for reconsideration. The President's objections are then read and debated and a roll-call vote is taken. If two-thirds in both houses approve the vetoed bill, the veto is overridden, and it becomes law despite the veto.

If the President neither signs nor vetoes the bill within 10 days – not including Sundays – it automatically becomes a law even without the president's signature. However, if Congress has adjourned within those ten days, the bill is automatically killed; this indirect rejection is termed a pocket veto.



The legislative process

POLITICAL PARTIES

Today, there are two major political parties in the United States, the Democratic and the Republican. The Democratic Party evolved from the party of Thomas Jefferson, formed before 1800. The Republican Party was established in the 1850s by Abraham Lincoln and others who opposed the expansion of slavery into new states then being admitted to the Union.

The Democratic Party is considered to be the more liberal party, and the Republican, the more conservative. Democrats generally believe that government has an obligation to provide social and economic programmes for those who need them. Republicans are not necessarily opposed to such programmes but believe they are too costly to taxpayers. Republicans put more emphasis on encouraging private enterprise in the belief that a strong private sector makes citizens less dependent on government.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The executive power in the USA belongs to the President and his Administration. The presidency of the United States is the highest governmental office. The President of the USA is the head of the State and the Government, he is also the Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces. 'Administration' is a popular term to identify the executive branch of the federal government, responsible for administering and executing the laws.



The White House is the official residence of the President of the United States and also the place where the president works

Constitutional qualifications for the Presidency are relatively simple: the President must be at least 35, a resident of the country for at least 14 years and a national born citizen.

The 22nd Amendment limited the Presidency to no more than two terms. If a president dies or is unable to carry out his duties, he is succeeded by the Vice President. Next in the line of succession come the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tem of the Senate.

The President has many roles and duties. As chief executive, the President enforces federal laws, directs the preparation of the federal budget, and appoints many high-ranking officials (diplomats, Cabinet members, federal judges) with the consent and advice of the Senate. As commander in chief of the armed forces, the President directs foreign and national security affairs (he has a right to declare a national emergency, to order the use of nuclear weapons). As chief diplomat, the President negotiates treaties with other countries, receives diplomats accredited to the United States and communicates directly with the heads of foreign governments. As legislative leader, the President recommends laws to Congress and works to win their passage. The President may veto bills approved by Congress and grant pardons for offences against the USA.

The Vice-President of the USA is humorously called 'his Superfluous Excellency', a title suggested in 1789 because of his lack of power. The Vice-President presides over the Senate, but his other duties are indefinite. The White House may use the Vice-President as a contact man among the senators, or he

may sit at Cabinet meetings and become a sort of understudy to the President. The Vice-President tends to be the forgotten man of American politics despite the fact that at any moment he may inherit the Presidency.



President Bush chairs a cabinet meeting, November, 2004

The US President is assisted in Administration by the Cabinet made up of the heads of the major executive departments directly and fully responsible to the President who appoints them for an indefinite time. Cabinet officials usually serve during his term. When the President's service ends, it is customary for the Cabinet to resign, so the new President can appoint new chiefs of executive departments. Among the most important departments are the Department of State responsible for American foreign policy, the Department of Defence or the Pentagon, the Department of Justice, the Department of Commerce, etc. The State Department ranks ahead of other Departments in prestige and seniority. The political power of the Secretary of State is second only to that of the President. The Secretary of State has the duty of trying to maintain peace and to negotiate economic and political treaties. The Cabinet has existed continuously since Washington's administration, though it is not provided for in the Constitution.

In addition to the executive departments, there are over fifty independent agencies in the federal Government, each one having certain duties and responsibilities, as indicated often by their names: the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Farm Credit Administration, the Federal Trade Commission,

the Labour Relations Board, the Civil Service Commission, the Federal Communications Commission and others. The head of each independent agency is directly responsible to the President.

The key-policy making bodies, such as the National Security Council (NSC) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) are incorporated in the Executive Office of the President which supervises and coordinates the executive departments. The National Security Council – an inner cabinet created in 1947 with the President, the Vice-President, the Secretaries of State and Defence as its members, is the main center of planning the US foreign and military policy. The NSC is often called ‘the super cabinet’. Under some Administrations there was a growing tendency to replace the Cabinet by the NSC. The Office of Management and Budget helps plan the federal budget. The OMB also advises the President on proposed laws and regulations, shaping its recommendations to promote the President’s goals. Another key unit, the White House Office, includes the President’s personal aides, policy advisers, speechwriters, and lawyers.

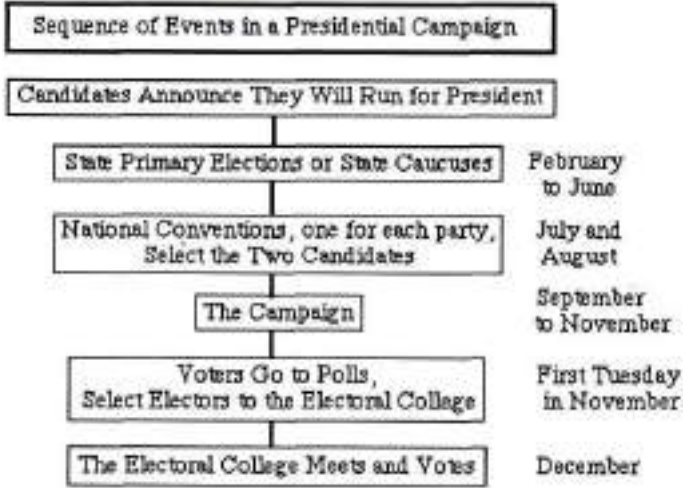
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

According to the Constitution of the USA, all citizens of both sexes over 18 years of age have a right to vote, but in reality it is not so. There are different demands put to the voters – in some states the voter must be a resident of the state where he votes; he must pay taxes before voting, etc. Thus in reality the number of voters is much smaller and often even those who can vote do not participate in the election as they do not want to deal with politics. Americans do not have to join a political party to vote or to be a candidate for public office, but running for office without the money and campaign workers a party can provide is difficult.

The President and Vice-President are elected for a term of four years and can be re-elected for another term, but no longer than that, since the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution (1951) limited the President’s term in office.

The national presidential election really consist of two separate campaigns: one is for the nomination of candidates at national party conventions. The other is to win the actual election. The nominating race is a competition between members of the same party. They run in a succession of state primaries and caucuses (which take place between March and June). They try to gain a majority of delegate votes for their national party conventions (in July or August). The party convention then votes to select the party’s official

candidate for the Presidency. Then follow several months of presidential campaigns by the candidates, they tour the country meeting people and delivering speeches. They do everything to ensure support of the voters at the elections. The candidates promise to improve living conditions, to stop the growth of unemployment, to support disarmament, etc.



On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the election year (years divisible by four, e.g. 1988, 1992, 1996, etc.), the voters across the nation go to the polls to elect electors, individuals who elect President and Vice-President, as the presidential election is technically an election of presidential electors, not of a President directly. (Each state is assigned a number of electors equal to the total of its Senators and Representatives in the US Congress.) The electors of all 50 states and the District of Columbia (which is entitled to three electors) – a total of 538 persons – compose the ‘Electoral College’, though it never meets as a body. Instead on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December the electors gather in the state capitals and cast their votes for the



Arab-Americans vote in the 2004 U. S. presidential election in a school in Dearborn, Michigan

candidate with the largest number of popular votes in their respective states. Almost all elections in the United States follow the ‘winner-take-all’ principle, thus the candidate who wins the largest number of votes in a state is supposed to get all of that state’s ‘electoral votes’. To be elected President, a candidate for the Presidency must receive 270 votes.

Candidates	Party	Votes	%	Electoral vote
George W. Bush	Republican Party	62,040,610	50.73%	286
John Kerry	Democratic Party	59,028,444	48.27%	251
John Edwards				1
Ralph Nader	Independent, Reform Party	465,650	0.38%	-
Michael Badnarik	Libertarian Party	397,265	0.32%	-
Michael Peroutka	Constitution Party	143,630	0.12%	-
David Cobb	Green Party	119,859	0.10%	-
Other		99,887	0.08%	-
Total		122,295,345	100.0%	538

Presidential elections 2004

In January the President-elect (one who has been elected President, but has not yet taken office) becomes the US President. The formal act of installing the President of the United States in office is called 'inauguration'. Inauguration Day January, 20 is usually the occasion for the extensive ceremonies, the central point of which is the taking of an oath by the Chief Executive and the delivery of his inauguration address.

IT IS INTERESTING TO KNOW

'UNCLE SAM'

The nickname for the American government is Uncle Sam. That name belonged to a man who lived in the United States at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century. In 1815 he marched in a parade in the style of dress that has been copied for the 'Uncle Sam', which people can see in newspaper drawings in all countries of the world. His name was Samuel Wilson, and he was born in Arlington, Massachusetts, in 1776. Later he settled in Troy, New York.

During the war of 1812-1814 Wilson was an inspector of provisions for the American Army he supplied beef stamping his barrels with the letters 'U. S.' This beef became known to the army as Uncle Sam's and the soldiers thought that the abbreviation meant his name. Later on this familiar name became associated with the US Government.

U.S. CONGRESS

The Make-up of the congress

	The House of Representatives	The Senate
Total membership	435	100
Number members from each state	According to the population of the state	Two from each state
Term of office	2 years	2 years
Salary	\$57500 a year	\$57500 a year
Presiding Officer	Speaker	Vice President of the USA

THE CABINET

(All departments are headed by a secretary, except the Justice Department, which is headed by the attorney general.)

The Department of Agriculture

Created in 1862.

The Department of Commerce

Created in 1903. The Department of Commerce and Labour split into two separate departments in 1913.

The Department of Defense

Amalgamated in 1947. The Department of Defense was established by combining the Department of War (established in 1789), the Department of the Navy (established in 1798) and the Department of the Air Force (established in 1947). Although the secretary of defense is a member of the Cabinet, the secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force are not.

The Department of Education

Created in 1979. Formerly part of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The Department of Energy

Created in 1977.

The Department of Health and Human Services

Created in 1979, when the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (created in 1953) was split into separate entities.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development

Created in 1965.

The Department of Interior

Created in 1849.

The Department of Justice

Created in 1870. Between 1789 and 1870, the attorney general was a member of the Cabinet, but not the head of a department.

The Department of Labor

Created in 1913.

The Department of State

Created in 1789.

The Department of Transportation

Created in 1966.

The Department of the Treasury

Created in 1789.

The Department of Veterans Affairs

Created in 1988. Formerly the Veterans Administration, now elevated to Cabinet level.

INAUGURATION DAY

Inauguration always takes place at noon on January 20. It is an official act of installing the President of the United States in office. It is also the occasion for extensive ceremonies.

Inauguration is connected with some traditions. Thus, the incumbent President is expected to give a dinner on the eve in honour of the President-Elect and in the morning of

the same day to conduct him through the White House. By 12 o'clock on January 20, the participants of the ceremony and guests take their places on a rostrum especially erected in front of the Capitol. The central point of the ceremony is the taking of an oath by the President and the delivery of his inaugural speech. The wording of the President's oath is laid down in the Constitution and runs as follows: 'I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States'. The President's Inauguration speech is regarded as a declaration of principles proclaimed by the new Administration.

The ceremony ends in a military parade. The scope of the ceremony depends greatly on the tastes and wishes of the new President. It is known that John Kennedy invited large groups of intellectuals and prominent actors and singers. At the time of Nixon's Inauguration balls, concerts and receptions continued for several days. If this was a great extravagance, it was also a tradition.

PRESIDENTIAL FACTS

There have been 43 presidents in the United States. At the moment nobody knows who will be the next US President. But history says it will be the taller of the two main candidates. In the past 10 elections, the taller candidate has won eight times.

- * **Thomas Jefferson** was an architect as well as a great leader. He designed his own house.
- * At **Andrew Jackson's** funeral in 1845, his pet parrot had to be taken away because it was swearing.
- * **John Tyler** had the most children: 15.
- * **James Buchanan** was the only US President who never married.
- * **Andrew Johnson** was a tailor before he became President. He was the only President who made his own clothes as well as his cabinet.
- * **William Howard Taft** was the heaviest of all presidents. He weighed more than 136 kg.
- * **Franklin D. Roosevelt**, the 32nd President, served the longest in the history of the United States: 12 years, 1 month, 8 days.
- * President **John F. Kennedy** was the fastest speaker-327 words per minute.
- * **Lyndon B. Johnson** was sworn into office on an aeroplane.
- * **Richard Nixon** was the only President to resign.
- * **Gerald Ford** was once a male model.
- * **Ronald Reagan** was the oldest President ever elected: he was 73. He also received the greatest number of electoral votes.
- * **Bill Clinton** is the only President ever to be elected twice without ever receiving 50 % of the popular vote. He had 43 % in 1992 and 49 % in 1996.
- * The most common first name for a president is **James** or some variation of it.
- * Besides **George Herbert Walker Bush** and **George Walker Bush**, **James Adams** and **John Quincy Adams** were the only father and son who both served as President.
- * All US Presidents have worn spectacles; some of them just didn't like to be seen with them in public.
- * First US President, **George Washington**, had to borrow money to go to his own inauguration.

- * First president to have a **telephone** in the White House: **Rutherford B. Hayes**, in 1879.
- * First President to live in the White House: **John Adams**. His wife never liked her new house and often complained about the cold.
- * First president to use **electricity** in the White House: **Benjamin Harrison**, in 1891, but he and his wife were afraid to touch the switches for fear of getting a shock.
- * First president to ride in an **airplane**: **Theodore Roosevelt**, in 1910, a year after leaving office, when he took a 4-minute ride in a Wright brothers' plane.
- * First president to have **air transport**: **Franklin D. Roosevelt**, a C-44 plane put into service in 1944, named 'the Sacred Cow'.
- * First president to address the nation **on the radio**: **Warren G. Harding**, in 1922.
- * First president to appear **on TV**: **Franklin D. Roosevelt**, at opening ceremonies for the 1939 World Fair.
- * First president to speak **from the White House on TV**: **Harry S. Truman**, in 1947.
- * First president born a **US citizen**: **Martin Van Buren**.
- * First president **of all 50 states**: **Dwight D. Eisenhower**.
- * Only president elected unanimously: **George Washington**, by **63** electoral votes.
- * State where the greatest number of presidents was born: **Virginia** (8).
- * Presidents who died on **July 4**: **John Adams** and **Thomas Jefferson** (both 1826) and **James Monroe** (1831).
- * Presidents who died in office: **8** presidents died in office. Of these, **4** were assassinated: **Abraham Lincoln**, **James Garfield**, **William Mckinley**, and **John F. Kennedy**.

PRESIDENTIAL SALARY AND BENEFITS

Salary

The First U.S. Congress voted to pay George Washington a salary of \$25,000 a year (about \$531,000 in 2005 terms) – a significant sum in 1789. Washington, already a wealthy man, refused to accept his salary. Similarly, John F. Kennedy donated his salary to charities.

Presidential pay history		
Date established	Salary	Salary in 2005 dollars
September 24, 1789	\$25,000	\$531,000
March 3, 1873	\$50,000	\$811,000
March 4, 1909	\$75,000	\$1,607,000
January 19, 1949	\$100,000	\$820,000
January 20, 1969	\$200,000	\$1,067,000
January 20, 2001	\$400,000	\$441,000

Traditionally, the President is the highest-paid government employee. Consequently, the President's salary serves as a traditional cap for all other federal officials, such as the Chief Justice. A raise for 2001 was approved by Congress and President Bill Clinton in 1999 because other officials who receive annual cost-of-living increases had salaries approaching the President's. Consequently, to raise the salaries of the other federal employees, the

President's salary had to be raised as well. The President's monetary compensation is minuscule in comparison to the CEOs of most Fortune 500 companies; in some parts of the United States some medical specialists (such as cardiothoracic surgeons) will earn comparable salaries.

In recent times former Presidents, while they remain healthy, earn far more money after the end of their presidential term; *Forbes* magazine estimated that Bill Clinton, despite health problems that prevented him working for some part of the year, earned \$6 million in 2005. Overall the vast majority of US presidents were very affluent upon entering office and thus were not dependent on the salary. In 2005 current President George W. Bush earned roughly \$800,000, more than twice his salary, mostly from capital gains income. Vice President Richard B. Cheney, earned an approximate one-million dollars the same year.

The President also has free use of the White House as his living and working quarters, and the use of its entire staff and facilities, including medical care, kitchen, housekeeping and security staff.

Travel

Whilst travelling, the President is able to conduct all the functions of the office aboard two custom-built Boeing 747 aircraft popularly known as Air Force One. However, this is not the actual name of the plane since any U.S. Air Force aircraft carrying the President will use the call sign 'Air Force One'. In addition to Air Force One, the President also utilizes a United States Marine Corps helicopter, most often to carry him from the White House to Air Force One. When the President boards this helicopter or any other Marine Corps aircraft, the aircraft uses the call sign 'Marine One'. (Previously, an Army aircraft dubbed 'Army One' was also used.) 'Navy One' and 'Coast Guard One' are the call signs used if the President is aboard an aircraft belonging to those two services. 'Executive One' would be used if the President flew aboard a civilian aircraft.

The President also utilises a motorcade, in which the President himself rides in an armored Presidential limousine, currently a heavily modified Cadillac DTS.

Secret Service

The President and his family are always protected by a Secret Service detail. Until 1997, all former Presidents and their families were protected by the Secret Service until the President's death. The last President to have lifetime Secret Service protection is Bill Clinton; George W. Bush and all subsequent Presidents will be protected by the Secret Service for a maximum of 10 years after leaving office.

Timeline of Presidential births

- William Henry Harrison, born February 9, 1773 in British colonial territory, was the last person to become President who was not a natural-born U.S. citizen.
- Martin Van Buren, born December 5, 1782, was the first President born after the Declaration of Independence and was thus arguably the first natural-born U.S. citizen (rather than a British subject) to become President. He is also the first President not of Anglo-Celtic origin. (Dutch-American)
- John Tyler, born March 29, 1790, was the first President born after the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. All Presidents born before him were eligible to be President because they were citizens at the time the Constitution was adopted. (Zachary Taylor was born on November 24, 1784, before the Constitution was adopted).

- Franklin Pierce, born November 23, 1804, was the first President born in the 19th century. (Millard Fillmore was born January 7, 1800, the last year of the 18th century.)
- Warren G. Harding, born November 2, 1865, was the first President born after the American Civil War. Robert E. Lee surrendered April 9, 1865.
- John F. Kennedy, born May 29, 1917, was the first President born in the 20th century (took office 1961).
- Kennedy's successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, was born on August 27, 1908, nine years earlier than Kennedy; this makes him the first American president to be born in the 20th century. Three other Presidents who followed Johnson in office were also born before Kennedy (in order of birth, Ronald Reagan, Richard Nixon, and Gerald Ford).
- Jimmy Carter, born October 1, 1924, was the first person born after World War I to become President. He was also the first President to be born in a hospital.
- Bill Clinton, born August 19, 1946, was the first person born after World War II to serve as President.

Life after the presidency

Presidents continue to enjoy benefits after leaving office such as free mailing privileges, free office space, the right to hold a diplomatic passport and budgets for office help and staff assistance. However, it was not until after Harry S. Truman (1958) that Presidents received a pension after they left office. Additionally, since the presidency of Herbert Hoover, Presidents receive funding from the National Archives and Records Administration upon leaving office to establish their own presidential library. These are not traditional libraries but rather repositories for preserving and making available the papers, records, and other historical materials for each President since Herbert Hoover.

Former presidents continue to be important national figures, and in some cases go on to successful post-presidential careers. Notable examples have included William Howard Taft's tenure as Chief Justice of the United States, Herbert Hoover's work on government reorganisation after World War II, Jimmy Carter's current career as a global human rights campaigner and best-selling writer, and most recently George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton's combined effort to appeal for donations from Americans after the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Andrew Johnson was elected to the same Senate that tried his impeachment after his term was over. Furthermore, John Quincy Adams enjoyed a prosperous career in the House of Representatives after his term in the White House.

As of 2006, there are three living former presidents: Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. The most recently deceased President is Gerald Ford, who died December 26, 2006. Jimmy Carter is currently the oldest living US president.

TRIVIA

Former Presidents

There have never been more than five former Presidents alive at any given time in American history. There have been three periods during which five former Presidents were alive:

- From March 4, 1861 to January 18, 1862, Martin Van Buren, John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, and James Buchanan were living (from the inauguration of Lincoln to the death of Tyler).

- From January 20, 1993 to April 22, 1994, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and George H.W. Bush were living (from the inauguration of Clinton to the death of Nixon).
- From January 20, 2001 to June 5, 2004, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton were living (from the inauguration of George W. Bush to the death of Reagan).

There have been six periods in American history during which no former Presidents were alive:

- April 30, 1789 – March 4, 1797: until the first President left office, there could be no former Presidents, alive or otherwise.
- December 14, 1799 – March 4, 1801: from the death of Washington to the end of John Adams's term (no former President died until John Adams and Jefferson on July 4, 1826).
- July 31, 1875 – March 4, 1877: from the death of Andrew Johnson to the end of Grant's term (no former President died until Grant in 1885, although incumbent President James Garfield was assassinated in 1881).
- June 24, 1908 – March 4, 1909: from the death of Cleveland until the end of Theodore Roosevelt's term (no former President died until Theodore Roosevelt in 1919).
- January 5, 1933 – March 4, 1933: from the death of Coolidge until the end of Hoover's term (no former President would die until Hoover in 1964 although incumbent President Franklin Roosevelt died in office in 1945 and incumbent President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963).
- January 22, 1973 – August 9, 1974: from the death of Lyndon Johnson until the resignation of Nixon (no former President died until Nixon in 1994).

Herbert Hoover holds the record for having lived the longest time as a former president at 31 years, 7 months and 16 days – a total of 11,553 days. James K. Polk had the shortest post-presidency. He died on June 15, 1849, three months after his term ended on March 4, 1849. He lived as a former president for only 103 days.

Five former Presidents went on to hold other major offices:

- William Howard Taft was the Chief Justice of the United States
- Andrew Johnson returned to the United States Senate
- John Quincy Adams served in the United States House of Representatives
- John Tyler served in the provisional Confederate States Congress during the Civil War. He was elected to the regular Confederate Congress but died before it met.
- Grover Cleveland was defeated in 1888 by Benjamin Harrison for reelection but won the presidency again in 1892

Births

Between the birth of George Washington in 1732 and the birth of Bill Clinton in 1946, future Presidents have been born in every decade except two: the 1810s and the 1930s. Between the death of George Washington in 1799 and the present, Presidents or former Presidents have died in every decade except four: the 1800s, 1810s, 1950s, and 1980s.

Deaths

- Assassinations
 - Abraham Lincoln in 1865 by John Wilkes Booth
 - James Garfield in 1881 by Charles J. Guiteau (Guiteau shot him but Garfield arguably died because of subsequent inept medical care)
 - William McKinley in 1901 by Leon Czolgosz
 - John F. Kennedy in 1963 by Lee Harvey Oswald
- Assassination attempts have been made on seven other U.S Presidents while in office, and on one President-elect:
 - Andrew Jackson in 1835 by Richard Lawrence
 - President-elect Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933 by Giuseppe Zangara
 - Harry S. Truman in 1950 by Griselio Torresola and Oscar Collazo
 - Richard Nixon, in 1974 by Samuel Byck
 - Gerald Ford in 1975 by Lynette Fromme and Sara Jane Moore
 - Ronald Reagan in 1981 by John Hinckley, Jr.
 - Bill Clinton in 1994 by Francisco Duran
 - George W. Bush in 2005 by Vladimir Arutinian
- Four others died in office of natural causes:
 - William Henry Harrison, died of pneumonia in 1841
 - Zachary Taylor, died of ‘acute indigestion’ in 1850. Taylor’s body was exhumed in 1991 to test if he had died of arsenic poisoning. It was determined he did not.
 - Warren G. Harding, died of heart attack in 1923
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt, died of cerebral hemorrhage in 1945
- Every U.S. President from William Henry Harrison to John F. Kennedy who was elected or re-elected in a year evenly divisible by 20 died in office, many by assassination. Ronald Reagan (elected in 1980) survived an attempt on his life and George W. Bush (elected in 2000) had a Soviet grenade thrown at him while in Georgia, which failed to explode. This string is commonly labelled Tecumseh’s Curse:
 - 1840: William Henry Harrison
 - 1860: Abraham Lincoln
 - 1880: James Garfield
 - 1900: William McKinley
 - Theodore Roosevelt, who was McKinley’s Vice President and succeeded him in 1901, was shot by John Shrank in an assassination attempt in 1912
 - 1920: Warren G. Harding
 - 1940: Franklin D. Roosevelt
 - 1960: John F. Kennedy
- One has died in a foreign country:
 - John Tyler in 1862. Virginia was arguably in the Confederate States of America, not the United States of America, at the time of Tyler’s death.

Resignations and impeachments

- One President resigned from office:
 - Richard Nixon in 1974
- Two Presidents have been impeached, though neither was subsequently convicted:
 - Andrew Johnson impeached and tried in 1868
 - Bill Clinton impeached in 1998, tried in 1999

Elections

- Four Presidents have been elected without a plurality of popular votes:
 - John Quincy Adams – trailed Andrew Jackson by 44,804 votes in the 1824 election. However, in six of the then twenty-four states in 1824, the electors were chosen by the state legislature, with no popular vote
 - Rutherford B. Hayes – trailed Samuel J. Tilden by 264,292 votes in the 1876 election
 - Benjamin Harrison – trailed Grover Cleveland by 95,713 votes in the 1888 election
 - George W. Bush – trailed Al Gore by 543,895 votes in the 2000 election
 - A possible addition to this list is John F. Kennedy, who may have trailed Richard Nixon in the 1960 election. The precise gap in votes is difficult to determine because voters in Alabama were not given Kennedy as an option on their ballot - they could only vote 'Democratic' without choosing a candidate. So, when the Democrats won Alabama, half of the state's electoral votes were pledged to Kennedy, and the other half were not pledged at all, and those votes all went to Harry F. Byrd. So it is impossible to know how many of those voters meant to vote for Kennedy, or for Byrd. The margin between Kennedy and Nixon was smaller than the number of Democratic votes in Alabama. The official figure from the U.S. government includes the Alabama votes in Kennedy's total, giving Kennedy the popular plurality.
- Eleven Presidents have been elected without a majority of popular votes (but with a plurality of popular votes):
 - James K. Polk – 49.3 % of the popular vote in the 1844 election
 - Zachary Taylor – 47.3 % of the popular vote in the 1848 election
 - James Buchanan – 45.3 % of the popular vote in the 1856 election
 - Abraham Lincoln – 39.9 % of the popular vote in the 1860 election
 - James Garfield – 48.3 % of the popular vote in the 1880 election
 - Grover Cleveland – 48.8 % of the popular vote in the 1884 election
 - Grover Cleveland – 46.0 % of the popular vote in the 1892 election
 - Woodrow Wilson – 41.8 % of the popular vote in the 1912 election
 - Woodrow Wilson – 49.3 % of the popular vote in the 1916 election
 - Harry S. Truman – 49.7 % of the popular vote in the 1948 election
 - John F. Kennedy – 49.7 % of the popular vote in the 1960 election
 - Richard Nixon – 43.2 % of the popular vote in the 1968 election
 - Bill Clinton – 42.9 % of the popular vote in the 1992 election
 - Bill Clinton – 49.2 % of the popular vote in the 1996 election.
- Two Presidents have been elected without a majority of electoral votes and were chosen by the House of Representatives:
 - Thomas Jefferson - finished with same number of electoral votes as Aaron Burr in the 1800 election
 - John Quincy Adams – trailed Andrew Jackson by 15 electoral votes in the 1824 election
- Two Presidents won the electoral vote but lost their resident state:
 - James Polk – lost Tennessee to Henry Clay but won the election in the 1844 election.

- Woodrow Wilson – lost New Jersey to Charles Evan Hughes but won the election in the 1916 election.
- Five Presidents won the electoral vote but lost their birth state:
 - William Henry Harrison lost Virginia to Martin Van Buren but won his resident state of Ohio and the 1840 election.
 - James Polk lost North Carolina to Henry Clay but won the 1844 election.
 - Abraham Lincoln lost Kentucky to John Bell but won his resident state of Illinois and the 1860 election. Lincoln also lost Kentucky to George Brinton McClellan, but won Illinois and the 1864 election.
 - George H.W. Bush lost Massachusetts to Michael Dukakis but won his resident state of Texas and the 1988 election.
 - George W. Bush lost Connecticut to Al Gore but won his resident state of Texas and the 2000 election. Bush also lost Connecticut to John Kerry but won his resident state of Texas and the 2004 election.
- Only James Polk has won the presidency while losing both his resident state and birth state.
- Eight Presidents took office without being elected to the presidency, having been elected as Vice Presidents and then promoted from that position:
 - Four of them did not run to succeed themselves and were never elected President.
 - John Tyler – assumed the presidency on the death of William Henry Harrison; did not run in the 1844 election
 - Millard Fillmore – succeeded Zachary Taylor; did not run in the 1852 election. Fillmore did run for President in the 1856 election as a Know Nothing Party candidate and received 873,053 votes (21.6 %), finishing third
 - Andrew Johnson – succeeded Abraham Lincoln; did not run in the 1868 election
 - Chester A. Arthur – succeeded James Garfield; did not run in the 1884 election.
 - The other four later ran for President and were elected to succeed themselves as President:
 - Theodore Roosevelt – succeeded William McKinley; elected to succeed himself as President in the 1904 election
 - Calvin Coolidge – succeeded Warren G. Harding; elected to succeed himself as President in the 1924 election
 - Harry S. Truman – succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt; elected to succeed himself as president in the 1948 election but did not run again in the 1952 election, despite being eligible for a third term.
 - Lyndon B. Johnson – succeeded John F. Kennedy; elected to succeed himself as president in the 1964 election but did not run again in the 1968 election.
- One President, Gerald Ford, was never elected; he was appointed Vice President by Richard Nixon (with approval from Congress) upon the resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew. He succeeded to the presidency after Nixon's resignation and was defeated in the 1976 election by Jimmy Carter.

Terms of office

- There were four cases in which only one person served in a presidential term but that person did not serve for a full 1461 days.

- Although the first presidential term was deemed to have started on March 4, 1789 - the day that the United States Constitution became operational – the First Congress did not meet to count the electoral vote until April 6, and thus George Washington did not accede to the office until then, giving him 1427 days and some number of hours.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt's first term began March 4, 1933, but the twentieth amendment changed the start of the next term to noon on January 20, 1937, giving Roosevelt a first term of 1418.5 days.
- Because of the properties of the Gregorian calendar, 1800 and 1900 were not leap years, so John Adams' term and William McKinley's first term were shortened to 1460 days.
- An urban legend claims that David Rice Atchison was the 11½ president of the United States for one day on March 4, 1849, in between the terms of James K. Polk (whose term expired at noon on March 4) and Zachary Taylor (who chose not to be sworn in until March 5). However, the logic of this is contradictory. If one does not consider Taylor to have officially become President until the administration of his Oath of Office, then the same logic precludes any person from having automatically succeeded before likewise having taken the same oath. In fact, Taylor, as President-elect, automatically acceded to the Office of President upon the expiration of Polk's term, even if he did not yet enter into the execution of that office until the oath was administered. This fact was confirmed by Congress when it certified his election, as it defined the beginning of the administration as the instant Polk left office. Even if supposing, for the sake of argument, the rather odd interpretation that only Presidents-elect are required to take the oath before officially occupying the office, while officials in the Presidential Line of Succession occupy the Presidency ipso facto, then there would be a long list of dozens of additional 'Presidents' who only held the office for a matter of hours or minutes.
- Grover Cleveland had two non-consecutive terms as President and is counted both as the 22nd and the 24th President. Consequently, all subsequent Presidents who are referred to as 'the nth President of the United States' are actually the (n – 1)th person to hold the office. So George W. Bush, the 43rd President, is actually the 42nd person to be President.

Other facts

- All Presidents have been white males and, with one exception, either Protestant or Unitarian. Most presidents have been of substantially British descent, but there have been a few who came from a different background:
 - Predominantly Dutch: Martin Van Buren
 - Although Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt had Dutch names, neither was predominantly Dutch; each had only one Dutch grandfather. Theodore Roosevelt's other three grandparents were all British; Franklin Roosevelt's other three grandparents were of Puritan stock.
 - Predominantly German: Herbert Hoover and Dwight Eisenhower
 - Predominantly of Irish descent: William McKinley, John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton
 - Kennedy was also America's only Roman Catholic president.
 - More than one third of all US presidents have ancestral roots in Ulster.
- Besides Gerald Ford, no president has been an only child.

- Only one President, James Buchanan, remained a bachelor. Bachelor Grover Cleveland married Frances Folsom while in office, while both John Tyler and Woodrow Wilson became widowers and remarried while in office.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt is the only President to have had a readily apparent physical disability.
- Four Presidents were father-son duos: John Adams and John Quincy Adams; George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush
- Historical rankings of United States Presidents by academic historians usually regard three Presidents – in chronological order, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt - to be the three most successful presidents by a wide margin.
- The Secret Service and some agencies in the government use acronyms as jargon. Since the Truman Administration the President of the United States has been called POTUS, pronounced /poʊtəs/. The wife of the President, traditionally referred to as the First Lady is called FLOTUS, pronounced /floʊtəs/. The Vice President of the United States is often abbreviated to VPOTUS, pronounced /vipoʊtəs/.
- Military service: 29 out of the 42 U.S. presidents have served in the military.
- Three out of the first five presidents died on July 4th (Independence Day): John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe. The first two died within hours of each other, 50 years to the day after adopting the Declaration of Independence together.
- Six Presidents graduated from Harvard University: both Adamses, Hayes, both Roosevelts, Kennedy, and five from Yale University: Taft, Ford, George H.W. Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush. (George W. Bush went on to get a Masters Degree from Harvard). Two Presidents graduated from Princeton University: James Madison and Woodrow Wilson. John F. Kennedy also attended Princeton as a member of the Class of 1939 but withdrew after several months due to illness.
- No President was born during the decade of the 1810s, the only decade since before George Washington's birth in the 1730's in which no President was born (up to the early 20th century). However, if someone born in the 1930's is not elected President in the future, that will become the next decade in which no President was born (John McCain, born in 1936, is perhaps the only person born in the 1930s considered to have a serious chance of being elected President at this point).

PROGRESS QUESTIONS

1. *What is a 'constitution'?*
2. *When and where was the U.S. Constitution adopted?*
3. *Who represented the Constitution Convention?*
4. *What were the reasons for writing a new Constitution?*
5. *What is the fundamental feature of the U.S. Constitution?*
6. *What is the 'separation of powers'.*
7. *What three main branches is the federal government of the USA divided into?*
8. *What was the so-called system of 'checks and balances' established for? How does it work?*
9. *What way has the original text of the Constitution been changed in? How can the U.S. Constitution be amended?*
10. *What is the Bill of Rights? When was it adopted?*

11. Look through the Bill of Rights and say why the Fifth Amendment retains its importance nowadays?
12. What does the U.S. Constitution consist of?
13. What does the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution say?
14. What principle forms the basis of the U.S. Constitution?
15. Who is the 'father of the U.S. Constitution'? Why?
16. Who is the supreme legislative power of the federal government granted to by the Constitution of the USA?
17. What does the U.S. Congress consist of?
18. Where is the residence of the U.S. Congress?
19. What is the main function of Congress? What other functions does it possess?
20. What powers does the Senate have that the House of Representatives does not?
21. What chamber initiates impeachment proceedings against the U.S. President for high crimes? What is the procedure of removing the President from office?
22. Who can introduce financial bills?
23. What is the social structure of the U.S. Congress?
24. What is the membership in the Senate and the House of Representatives based on?
25. How many Senators and Representatives does every state have a right to?
26. How often are Congressional elections held? Who are elected at Congressional elections?
27. What are the qualifications for candidates to the Senate and the House of Representatives.
28. What is a 'congressional district'?
29. Who presides over the Senate and the House of Representatives?
30. How long does a Congress last?
31. Do all 535 members of a Congress appear on the floor every day?
32. What is a 'standing committee'?
33. What is a 'bill'? What two types of bills are there?
34. How does a bill become a law?
35. Does the procedure of passing a bill in the Senate differ from that in the House of Representatives?
36. What is a 'pocket veto'?
37. What are the two main parties in the USA? What political party is the current president of the USA a member of?
38. Who does the executive power belong to in the USA?
39. Who can be elected President? What powers are exercised by the President? What are the President's influences on different branches of power?
40. What is the role of the Vice-President?
41. What is the composition of Federal Government?
42. What is the 'Cabinet'? Who appoints Cabinet members? How many members are there in the President's Cabinet today?
43. What are the NSC, OMB and the 'White House Office' responsible for?
44. How often are presidential elections held?
45. How are Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the United States nominated?
46. What is the 'electoral college'?
47. The most populous state of California is entitled to 47 electors. How many 'electoral votes' did the Republican candidate get if 47 % of the people of the state voted for him while the other 51 % - for the Democratic candidate? Why?

SEMINAR 5

The Political System

1. Speak on the U.S. Constitution (formation, the Bill of Rights, structure, the system of 'checks and balances').
2. Give a survey of the legislative power of the USA.
3. Describe the legislative procedure.
4. Speak on the main political parties of the USA.
5. Give a survey of the executive power of the USA.
6. Speak on the presidential election in the USA.

QUIZ

1. The ___ is a document prepared by a convention of delegates from 12 of the then 13 States that met at ___ in ___. The original charter, which replaced the ___ of ___ and which became operative in ___, established the United States as a ___ union of States.

2. The framers of the Constitution agreed to six basic principles. One of them says that there should be three branches of ___ --- one to ___ laws, another to ___ them, and a third to ___ them.

3. The ___ branch includes the President and Vice President and all subordinate officials of the ___ ___ and ___ ___.

4. The first ___ amendments to the Constitution, ratified on December 15, 1791, are commonly referred to as the ___ of ___.

5. The 'lame duck' amendment is the popular name for the 20th amendment to the Constitution, ratified on February 6, 1933. It is designed to limit the time that elected officials can serve after the general election in November. This amendment provided, among other things, that the terms of the President and Vice President end at noon on ___ ___, the terms of ___ and ___ end at noon on January 3, and the terms of their successors then begin.

6. The ___ of ___ and ___ and ___ are two fundamental principles of the U.S. constitutional system.

7. The Congress of the United States is the ___ (lawmaking) and oversight (Government policy review) body of the National Government and consists of two houses ---- the ___ and the ___ of ___.

8. The membership of the House of Representatives is fixed in law at ___ Members representing the 50 States. In addition to the ___ Representatives, there is one Delegate for each of the following: the District of ___, the Virgin ___, Guam, American ___ (each elected for a two-year term); as well as a Resident Commissioner from Puerto ___ (elected for a four-year term). The Delegates and the Resident Commissioner can sponsor legislation and vote in committees, but not in the House Chamber.

9. Representatives are appointed among the States according to ___. Population figures used for apportionment are determined on the basis of each 10-year census. (Following the 1990 census, the average district size was about 570,000 people).

10. The Constitution states that 'Each House shall be the Judge of the Qualifications of its own Members ... [and may] punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour...' The most severe punishment that can be imposed by either the House or Senate is the expulsion of the

offending Member. The action requires, constitutionally, an affirmative vote of ___-___ of the Members of the Chamber voting, a quorum being present.

11. The ___ presides over the House of Representatives, appoints chairmen to preside over the Committee of the Whole, appoints all special or select committees, appoints conference committees, has the power of recognition of Members to speak, and makes many important rulings and decisions in the House. The ___ may vote, but usually does not, except in case of a ___.

12. In the absence of the Vice President, the ___ elects a ___ ___ ___ ('for the time being') to preside. In recent decades it has become traditional for this post to go to the ___ from the ___ party.

13. Representatives had individual seats until the 63rd Congress (1913), but now Members may sit where they choose. Democrats occupy the ___ side of the Chamber, on the ___'s ___; Republicans sit across the main aisle, on the ___'s ___. Two tables each on the Democratic and Republican sides are reserved for committee leaders during debate on a bill reported for their committee and for party leaders.

14. The constitutional provision that 'all Bills for raising ___ shall originate in the House of Representatives' (Article I, Section 7) is an adaptation of an earlier – practice. It was based on the principle that the national purse strings should be controlled by a body directly responsible to the people. So when the Constitution was formulated, the authority for initiation of ___ legislation was vested in the House of Representatives where the Members are subject to direct election every ___ years. However, the Constitution also guarantees the Senate's power to 'propose or concur with ___ as on other Bills'.

15. The President has three choices: First, to ___ a bill within ___ days (___ excepted), whereupon it becomes a law; second, to ___ a bill for ___ days (___ excepted), while Congress is in ___, whereupon it becomes a law without his signature; third, to ___ a bill, then a ___ bill is returned to ___ with the President's objections for ___.

16. The President and Vice President of the USA are chosen every ___ years, in ___-numbered years divisible by 4, by a ___ vote of Presidential ___ who are elected by ___ vote in each State.

17. The President's ___ has been commonly regarded as an institution whose existence has relied more upon custom than law. Traditionally, the membership of the ___ has consisted of the ___ of the executive departments. From the earliest days, Presidents have accorded to others the privilege of attending and participating in ___ meetings. In recent years, the President's Chief of Staff, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, among others, have been accorded Cabinet rank.

CHAPTER VI
SHORT SURVEY OF THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY

LECTURE 6

GOVERNMENT ROLE IN THE U.S. ECONOMY

The economies of all nations mix elements from two main economic models. These models are (1) capitalism and (2) central planning.

Central planning calls for government control of all major economic activities and government ownership of nearly all productive resources. It calls for giving government planners control of the production, pricing, and distribution of goods and services.

The United States economy is based largely on a free enterprise or free market system. In such a system, individuals and companies are free to make their own economic decisions. Individuals and companies own the raw materials, equipment, factories, and other items necessary for production, and they decide how best to use them in order to earn a profit. Even though the U.S. economy is based on free enterprise, the federal, state and local governments have four major roles in economy. These governments (1) establish and enforce laws that affect economic activity, (2) set up public utilities, (3) provide goods and services for the public, and (4) work for economic stability.

1. *Laws.* In the United States, the people depend on the government to pass laws that assure economic fair play. These laws aim at preventing individuals and business companies from taking unfair advantage of each other.

Many of the most important laws governing the U.S. economy concern business competition (laws designed to keep one company or a few firms from controlling entire business. Such control, called a monopoly, does away with competition and enables controlling companies to charge high prices and reduce the quality of good). Other laws ban harmful or misleading advertising still others set standards for working conditions, set minimum wages and prohibit business from refusing to hire people or lend money to them because of their race, sex or age. The U.S. government also issue regulations designed to protect the environment. States issue charters that allow companies to operate.

2. *Public utilities.* Public utilities are companies that provide services essential to the public. These services include electric power, water, gas, sewerage, and local telephone service. The government grants legal monopolies to public utility companies so they may operate without competition. But federal and state agencies regulate the prices and standards of service of most public utilities. Governments may own and operate some public utilities themselves.

3. *Public services.* Governments on all levels provide many services that could not be furnished as well by private companies. These services include police and fire protection, public health programmes, national defense, postal services, and roads and streets. Governments at federal, state, and local levels also offer welfare programmes. These government programmes, which are often called public assistance, offer medical services, public housing, and other economic aid to needy people.

Some people in the United States receive financial aid from social insurance or social security programmes. These programmes are financed by special taxes on workers and employers. They replace income lost because of retirement, unemployment, disability, or death of a provider. They also help most elderly and disabled people pay for medical care.

All the goods, services, and income assistance provided by government make up the public sector of the economy. In the United States government revenues and spending equal about one-third of the nation's gross domestic product.

4. *Economic stability.* The U.S. economy has grown rapidly at times, but there have been periods when the economy did not grow and there have been periods when the economy zoomed to great heights of prosperity. Periods of above average business activity are called booms. Brief and small declines in business activity are known as recessions. Severe business slumps are called depressions.

Until the 1930s the government made few attempts to control booms and depressions. Most people thought these periods should be allowed to run their course without government interference. But since the Great Depression of the 1930s, the government has worked to promote economic stability.

During a depression, the government may increase its spending on goods and services and on income assistance for unemployed people and others. It may build new public buildings or improve major highways. This additional spending aims at creating jobs for the unemployed. Government spending also attempts to increase the general demand for goods and services. Increased demand encourages business activity. The government may also try to increase demand by cutting taxes so that the people have more money to spend.

During a boom, the government may try to curb inflation by cutting its own spending and thus reducing total demand. Or the government may try to reduce private spending by raising taxes. Then people would have less money to spend on goods and services.

In recent years, however, the government has worked for economic stability mainly through the Federal Reserve System (FRS), the central banking organization of the United States. All national banks and some state banks belong to the system. The FRS manages the nation's supply of money and credit. If inflation threatens the economy, the FRS may adopt policies that decrease the amount of money that banks have available to loan. To fight depression, the FRS may pursue policies that give banks more money to loan and thus encourage borrowing and spending.

OVERVIEW OF THE U.S. ECONOMY

The American economy had to be built from the ground up. In the beginning, of course, there were simply no farms or houses or factories. Whatever was needed had to be made by the settlers themselves or it had to be imported at great expense. The results achieved in the first hundred years following independence are amazing. By 1890, for example, the USA was producing more iron and steel than Great Britain and Germany combined. By 1900, according to several criteria, the USA has become the greatest industrial nation, and its citizens enjoyed the highest standard of living in the world. In 1913, the United States accounted for more than a third of the world's industrial production. By the post-World War II era, the United States was producing 50 % of the gross world product.

Today, the American economy no longer dominates the world as it clearly did then. But with only 5 % of the world's population and about 6 % of its land area, the USA still produces around 25 % of the world's industrial products, agricultural goods, and service. Its gross national product (GNP) has tripled since the end of World War II. In 2003, the U.S. GNP amounted to \$10.98 trillion, with a per capita GDP of \$37,800 (see page 129).

The 20th century saw the rise and decline of several industries in the United States. The auto industry, long the mainstay of the American economy, struggled to meet challenge of foreign competition. The garment industry declined in the face of competition from countries where labour was cheaper. But other manufacturing industries appeared and flourished. America remains the world leader in biochemical and genetic engineering, aerospace research and development, communications, computer and information services, and similar high-technology fields. American firms which sell passenger aircraft or computers retain the largest share of the world market. One of the best-selling cars in the world is a Ford.

Many countries now have their own Silicon valleys, but the first and biggest computer research and production area is still Silicon Valley, near San Francisco, where some 4,000 high-tech firms are located.



The changing face of industry. Smokestacks are replaced by high-tech plants in attractive environments. The buildings *on the right* are in Silicon Valley, near Palo Alto, California

The onrush of technology largely explains the gradual development of a ‘two-tier labour market’ in which those at the bottom lack the education and the professional/technical skills of those at the top and, more and more, fail to get comparable pay raises, health insurance coverage, and other benefits.

The American blue-collar worker is among the highest paid in the world, and his benefits and pensions also make one of the most expensive. The average production worker in the USA earned \$9.50 an hour in 1985. In addition many firms in the USA have profit-sharing plans for their employees. Through these agreements, employees receive a certain percentage of the profits the company makes. Profit shares may be paid in cash or company stock at the end of the fiscal year or may be put into a trust fund and distributed to participants at retirement (‘deferred plan’). In 1984, some 20 million Americans participated in plans to receive a share of company profits. In addition, around 82 % of American workers were covered by a retirement pension plan from their firms.

Recently a new trend has emerged which attempts to put employees and employers on much the same level. In some firms all employees own a part of the company and do all kinds of jobs. But all share in the profits or losses as well.

Many American prefer to be there own bosses. Some 10 million Americans owned their own businesses in 1984, and about 42 million owned parts of businesses and industries through stock.

In 2006 the number of millionaires in the USA reached 8,300,000. The unemployment rate in 2003 was down to 6.2 %.

REASONS ACCOUNTING FOR THE RAPID GROWTH OF THE U.S. ECONOMY

There are a lot of reasons explaining why the USA has been able to go from a small, struggling economy to the leading industrial and agricultural nation in such a short time. One reason, obviously, is its size and natural resources. The United States is a land rich in mineral resources and fertile farm soil, together with a moderate climate. Secondly, the amount of available labour helps determine the health of economy. Generally, the United States has been fortunate in having enough people to provide the labour necessary for a constantly expanding economy. In the early years of the 20th century large numbers of Asian immigrants came to the USA, while large numbers of Latin American immigrants came in the later years. Immigrants prospered, earning far more than they would have in their native lands, and the economy of the nation prospered as well. Another factor is the quality of available labour – how hard people are willing to work and how skilled they are. The strong emphasis placed on education including technical and vocational education has greatly contributed to America's economic success. America's vitality, its so-called spirit of enterprise and initiative, has certainly played an important role. The American system of government has encouraged citizens to vigorously pursue their own economic interest. The rapid progress of American industry and agriculture may also be traced to a characteristic which has often been called typically American. This is the constant willingness to experiment, combined with the desire to find new solutions to old problems. Social and geographical mobility have also played a part.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Foreign trade provides markets for surplus agricultural goods and many raw materials and manufactured goods produced in the United States. The nation imports goods that it lacks entirely or that producers do not supply in sufficient quantities. It also imports goods produced by foreign companies that compete with U.S. firms. During much of the country's history, the value of U.S. exports has exceeded, or been about the same as, the value of its imports but since the mid-1960s, the value of imports has usually been much higher than the value of exports.

Important U.S. exports include (1) machinery and transportation equipment, such as aircraft, computers, electric power equipment, industrial machinery, and motor vehicles and parts; (2) manufactured articles, especially scientific measuring equipment; (3) chemical elements and compounds, including plastic materials; (4) basic manufactures, such as metals and paper; and (5) agricultural products, especially corn and wheat.

The leading U.S. imports are: (1) machinery and transport equipment, such as automobiles and parts, engines, office machines, and telecommunications equipment; (2) manufactured articles, such as clothing, shoes, and toys; (3) mineral fuels and lubricants, especially petroleum; (4) basic manufactures, such as iron, steel and other metals, and paper and newsprint; and (5) chemical products, such as chemical compounds and medicines. The country's chief trading partners are Canada, Mexico, Japan, Germany, China, and Great Britain.

MANUFACTURING

The value of American manufactured goods is greater than that of any other country. Factories in the United States turn out a tremendous variety of producer goods, such as sheet metal and printing presses; and consumer goods, such as cars, clothing, and TV sets. The leading categories of U.S. products are, in order of value, chemicals, transportation equipment, food products, non-electrical machinery, electrical machinery and equipment, printed materials, scientific and medical instruments, fabricated metal products, paper products, rubber and plastic products, and primary metals.



Manufacturing is one of the most important economic activities in the United States.
The steps in the manufacture of an airplane include building a full-sized model

Since the mid 1900s, the country's fastest-growing manufacturing areas have been on the West Coast, in the Southwest and in the South. Today, California ranks first among the states in the value of its manufactured goods, followed by Texas, Ohio, Michigan, New York, Illinois, and Pennsylvania. Manufactures in California produce aircraft, aerospace equipment, computers and electronic components, food products, and many other goods.

Midwestern factories turn out much of the nation's iron and steel, automobiles, and other heavy industrial products. The Northeast has many clothing factories, food processors, printing plants, and manufactures of electronic equipment. Petroleum refineries and petrochemical industries account for much of the manufacturing activity in Texas and other states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. Atlanta, Dallas-Fort Worth, Seattle, and Wichita are important centers for the manufacture of aircraft and related equipment.

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

Service industries account for 80 % of the U.S. GDP (2002) and employ around 76 % of the country's workers (2001). This industry group includes a wide variety of businesses that provide services rather than producing goods.

Community, social, and personal services rank first among U.S. service industries in terms of the GDP. This industry includes such establishments as doctors' offices and private hospitals, hotels, law firms, computer programming and data processing companies, restaurants, repair shops, private research laboratories, and engineering companies.



Data processing is one of many services industries

Finance, insurance, and real estate rank next among U.S. service industries. Banks finance much of the economic activity in the United States by making loans to both individuals (for the purchase of houses, automobiles, or other items) and businesses (for capital expansion – the construction of new factories and the purchase of new equipment). As a business expands, it hires more workers who, in turn, produce more goods and services. In this way, the nation's level of employment and its economic output both increase.

Other important types of financial institutions include commodity and security exchanges. Commodities are basic goods, such as grains and precious metals. Securities are certificates of investments, such as stocks and bonds. The prices of commodities and securities are determined by the buying and selling that takes place at exchanges. The New York Stock Exchange is the nation's largest security exchange. The Chicago Board of Trade is the world's largest commodity exchange.

The United States has the world's largest private insurance industry. The country has about 2,000 life and health insurance companies and about 3,500 property and liability companies. Real estate is important to the economy because of the large sums of money involved in the buying and selling of property.

Wholesale and retail trade. Wholesale and retail trade play major roles in the American economy. Wholesale trade, which includes foreign trade, takes place when a buyer purchases goods directly from a producer. The goods may then be sold to other businesses for resale to consumers. Retail trade involves selling products to the final consumer. Grocery stores, department stores, and automobile dealerships are examples of retail trade establishments.

Government services. Government services play a major role in the economy. Federal, state and local governments employed 17 % of U.S. workers in 1991. Many government employees are directly involved in making public policies. Others – including police officers, postal workers, teachers, and trash collectors – provide public services.

Federal, state, and local governments buy a fifth of all the goods and services produced in the nation. These purchases range from paper clips to office buildings. In addition, federal grants finance much of the nation's research activity. State governments spend most of their income on education, health care and hospitals, highways, and public welfare. Local governments spend over a third of their income on education, and less for police and fire protection, hospitals, streets, sanitation and sewerage, and parks.

In addition, to its role as an employer and purchaser of goods and services, government influences the economy by providing income to certain

groups of people. For example, the federal government makes social security payments to retired and disabled people: Federal, state and local governments provide welfare assistance to the needy.

Transportation, communication and utilities. Transportation, communication and utilities are also important to the economy.

Energy sources. Various sources are used to generate the energy in the United States. Petroleum provides about 40 %. It is the source of most of the energy used to power motor vehicles, and it heats millions of houses and factories. Natural gas generates about 25 % of the energy used. Many industries use gas for heat and power and millions of households burn it for heat, cooking, and drying laundry. Coal is the source of about 25 % of all the energy. Its major uses are in the production of electricity and steel. The electricity lights buildings and powers factory and farm machinery. Hydroelectric and nuclear power plants each generate about 5 % of America's energy.

AGRICULTURE

The United States is the world's leading agricultural nation. America is by far the biggest supplier of grains, growing about 20 % of all the world's wheat, corn (maize), oats and sorghum. American farmers and ranchers are responsible for 14 % of the world's dairy products, 17 % of all its meats, 27 % of its vegetable fats and oils, and over 60 % of its soybeans. At the same time America's share of the world's land that can be used for farming is less than 8 %, and less than 2 % of America's total population is involved in agriculture.

A problem facing American farmers is, in fact, that they produce much more food and agricultural products than ever before. The 1985 corn crop, for example, was the largest in history, and there are enormous excesses of wheat, rice, soybeans, and milk as well. This has lowered the price of agricultural products and caused a number of farmers great trouble. Some farmers who bought more land or equipment when prices were higher have been forced to quit farming and sell their land. Some 50,000 of the nation's 2.3 million farmers had to give up farming in 1985.



Agriculture includes the raising of both crops and livestock. A mechanized system for fattening cattle for market is one example of the efficient methods used by American farmers

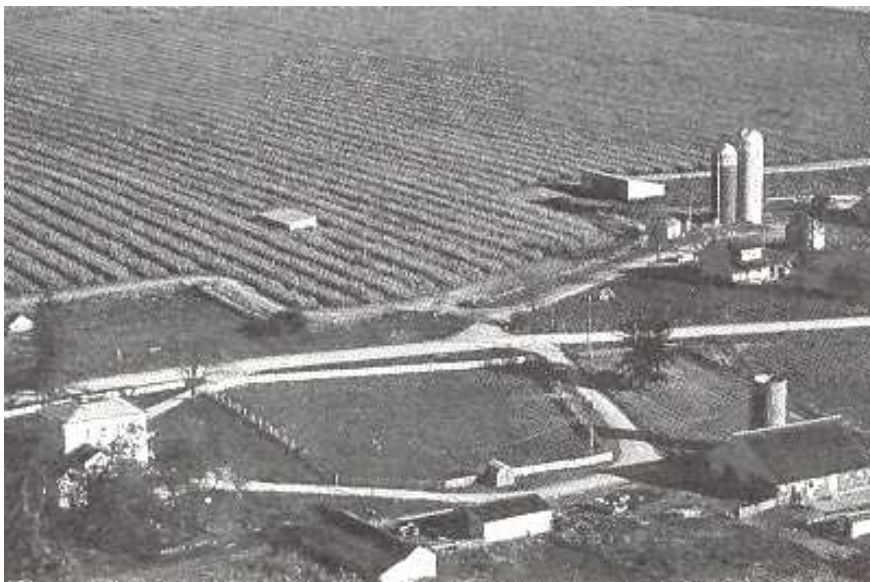


'Every twenty minutes, another small farmer disappears. You're next'

The U.S. government in some circumstances pays farmers to plant fewer crops. Price supports apply only to such basic commodities as grains, dairy products, and cotton; many other crops are not federally subsidized. Farm subsidy programmes have been criticized on the grounds that they benefit large farms most and accelerate the trend toward larger – and fewer – farms. Since 1925, the number of farms in the USA has decreased from about 6,500,000 to about 2,100,000. At the

same time, the average farm size increased from about 143 acres (58 hectares) to about 468 acres (189 hectares).

Although individuals or families own 85 % of all farms in the United States, they own only 65 % of the farmland. The remainder is owned by corporations, large and small, and farming and its related industries have become big business – 'agribusiness'.



A typical farm in the Midwest

Agriculture accounts for 2 % of the U.S. GDP and employs less than 2 % of the nation's workers (2002). American consumers pay less for their food than those in many other industrial countries, and one-third of the cropland in the

United States produces crops destined for export. In 1995 agricultural exports exceeded imports by nearly two to one. About a third of the world's food exports come from U.S. farms.

Beef cattle rank as the most valuable product of American farms. Millions of beef cattle are raised on huge ranches in the western United States. The South and Midwest also produce large numbers of beef cattle. Other leading farm products, in order of value, include milk, corn, soybeans, chickens, eggs, hogs, wheat and cotton. United States farms also produce large amounts of hay, tobacco, turkeys, oranges, potatoes, tomatoes, apples, peanuts, sorghum.

Much of the dairy production is concentrated in a belt that extends from Minnesota through New York: Midwestern states account for much of the nation's corn, soybeans, and hog production. The nation's chief wheat-growing region stretches across the Great Plains. Most of the chickens are raised in the South. California and states in the South and Southwest raise almost all the country's cotton. Farmers in various areas also produce poultry, eggs, fruits, vegetables, nuts and many other crops.

The United States has played a major role in the modernization of agriculture. United States scientists have contributed to the development of improved plant varieties and livestock breeds, as well as agricultural chemicals for fertilizer and pest control. The use of modern farm machinery has helped make U.S. farms the most efficient in the world (see page 130).

IT IS INTERESTING TO KNOW



If friendly reminders to 'keep America clean' don't work, fines may. This California highway sign warns drivers that littering may cost them dearly



Soft-drink can with ring that cannot be thrown away. Several states have introduced deposits on cans, which has greatly reduced littering

The Environment

The conservation movement – the protection of natural resources and wildlife – was first formulated and implemented as a political programme in the United States. That this happened relatively early, during Theodore Roosevelt’s administration (1901 – 1909), meant that later generations of Americans could still enjoy their country's natural wonders.

It was very difficult for many Americans to believe that their continent-sized nation with its enormous forests, thousands of lakes, rivers, and streams, and vast wilderness areas could have the problems which many smaller and more crowded nations faced. True, Los Angeles obviously had a problem with air pollution, but there was still nothing anywhere like the ‘killer smog’ which caused some 3,500-4,000 deaths in London in December 1952. Similarly, the U.S. had such enormous resources, that it was hard to imagine they could ever be exhausted.

Starting in the early 1960s, however, Americans finally realized that this was not true, that the U.S. was in danger of destroying many of her national treasures. What was happening to Lake Erie, the shallowest of the Great Lakes, is a good example. City and industrial wastes, chemicals, and fertilizers were endangering the once enormous stocks of fish. Suddenly, it seemed, the lake was almost ‘dead’, and the millions who used its sandy beaches and fished its waters were shocked that this could have happened.

At much the same time, other problems began to receive great publicity. For example, the best-selling book by Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, brought home the dangers of DDT and other insecticides. Environmental activists like Ralph Nader and his corps of volunteers and lawyers stressed the problems caused by industrial pollution and the automobile. Long-established environmental groups such as the Sierra Club warned that acid rain (first described by a European scientist in the mid-19th century) threatened many American forests. The media started to campaign against the ugliness of billboards, tin cans, and trash in ‘America the Beautiful’.

This surge of attention led to a substantial number of laws in the 1960s and 70s, and to the establishment of several federal agencies. Because the environmental movement in the United States has never been associated with one political party or group, it has been able to gain widespread trust and support.

Federal laws such as the Clean Air Act (1970), the Water Pollution Control Act (1972), and the Endangered Species Act (1973) – to name only a few – led to many specific improvements in the environment. For example, DDT was banned in 1972, catalytic converters and unleaded gas were introduced nationwide in 1975, and chlorofluorocarbon, the gas used in many spray cans, was forbidden in 1978. The Federal Drug and Food Administration’s (FDA) standards for food and medicines are among the strictest in the world. The positive image that most Americans have of the FDA was strengthened when it banned the drug thalidomide in 1961, and thus saved many American children from the tragedy of severe birth defects.

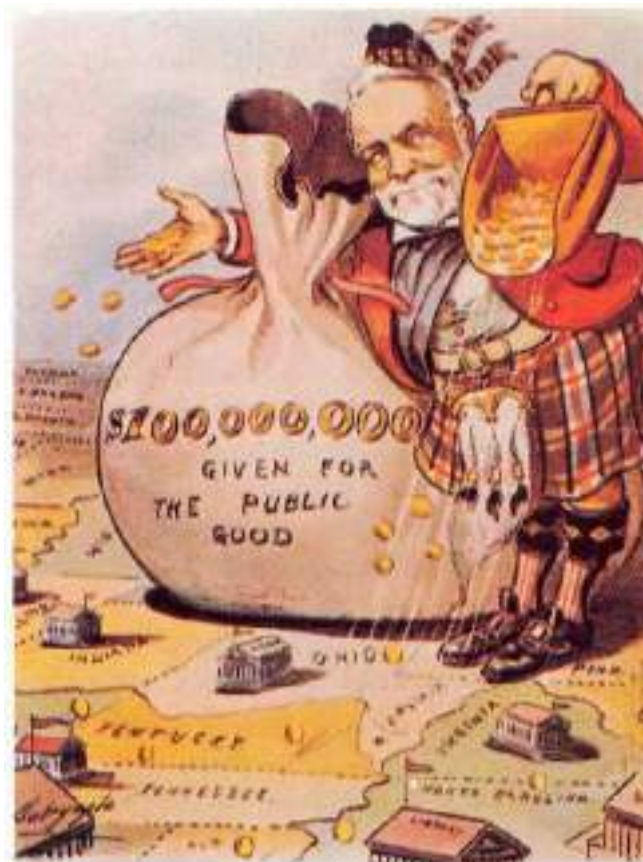
All of the states, of course, have implemented their own laws, some, for instance, having banned throw-away bottles and cans, forbidden the use of phosphates in soaps, and passed strong laws against the industrial dumping of wastes. By 1986, forty states and more than 80 cities and communities had passed some type of law to restrict smoking in public or at work. Likewise, all federal government departments and agencies must restrict smoking in

most office areas. Beginning in 1965, a law passed by Congress required warnings on cigarette packages, a measure that was adopted in other countries only years later.

Public attention to the problems of pollution has now become part of American life. Even the familiar Coca Cola can have been affected. Today, by law, these cans must be made so that the rings on top can't be thrown away.

Millionaires and Charity

One of the reasons for the widespread support of business has been the tendency of the 'very rich' in America to give away much of their money before they died. American tycoons such as the Carnegies and Rockefellers, the Fords and Guggenheims, gave much of their wealth to charity, to hospitals, universities, libraries, museums, art galleries, and educational foundations. Carnegie, for example, felt that the man who dies rich dies thus disgraced'. During his lifetime, he gave away \$370 million of his estimated \$400 million 'for the benefit of the community.' This included enough money, for instance, to build 2,800 free public libraries. He was helped along- as corporations and the rich are still today-by America's tax laws. Simply stated, it is better to give money away to charities and other nonprofit organizations than to give it to the government in the form of taxes. Today, there are some 200,000 foundations, large and small, throughout the U.S. which fund research projects, support the arts, and contribute to various charitable and public causes.



A cartoon of Andrew Carnegie (who was born in Scotland) distributing money for the common good

PROGRESS QUESTIONS

1. *What is the U.S. economy based on?*
2. *What measures does the U.S. government take to prevent companies from gaining too much control over business?*
3. *What is a 'public utility'?*
4. *What services can't be provided by private companies?*
5. *What programmes and benefits exist in the US that help people who are unemployed or sick?*
6. *What is the public sector share in the U.S. GDP?*
7. *How does the government try to fight a) depressions; b) booms?*
8. *Give a brief account of the changes that have taken place in the country since 1776.*
9. *What new industries have appeared and flourished since World War II?*
10. *What is the 'Silicon Valley'? Where is it situated?*
11. *How do American employers encourage their employees?*
12. *What factors have contributed to America's becoming the leading economic nation in the world?*
13. *What are U.S. major: a) exports; b) imports? Name the major trading partners of the USA.*
14. *What industries does manufacturing comprise?*
15. *Where are the country's fastest-growing manufacturing areas situated?*
16. *What consumer goods are produced in: a) the Midwest; b) the Northeast; c) along the Gulf Mexico; d) California?*
17. *Why do service industries employ the largest of the country's workers? What services do they provide?*
18. *What is the nation's largest security exchange? What is the world's largest commodity exchange?*
19. *What source is used to generate most of energy needed in the US?*
20. *What is the role of agriculture in the life of the country?*
21. *What problem is the U.S. agriculture faced with?*
22. *What are the chief agricultural products? How well is the country supplied with them?*

SEMINAR 6

Short Survey of the United States Economy

1. Speak on the roles played by the U.S. government in its economy.
2. Give a survey of the U.S. economy (since the formation of the nation up to now).
3. Analyse the reasons accounting for the rapid growth of the U.S. economy.
4. Describe the U.S. manufacturing.

5. Dwell upon the U.S. overseas trade, energy sources.
6. Speak on the country's service industries.
7. Describe the U.S. agriculture.

Project

Write an essay (250-300 words) 'The pros and cons of comprehensive federal programmes to the poor'.

QUIZ

1. *The US has the largest and most technologically powerful economy in the world, with a ___ ___ ___ of \$37,800. In this ___ oriented economy, private individuals and business firms make most of the decisions, and the federal and state governments buy needed goods and services predominantly in the ___ marketplace.*

2. *Many of the currently rising industries tend to be highly automated and thus need fewer workers than traditional industries. As ___-___ industries have grown and older industries have declined, the proportion of American workers employed in ___ has dropped. ___ industries now dominate the economy, leading some observers to call America a 'postindustrial' society. ___ a service rather than ___ a product, these industries include entertainment and recreation, ___ and ___ , ___ and education, office administration, and ___ and ___ .*

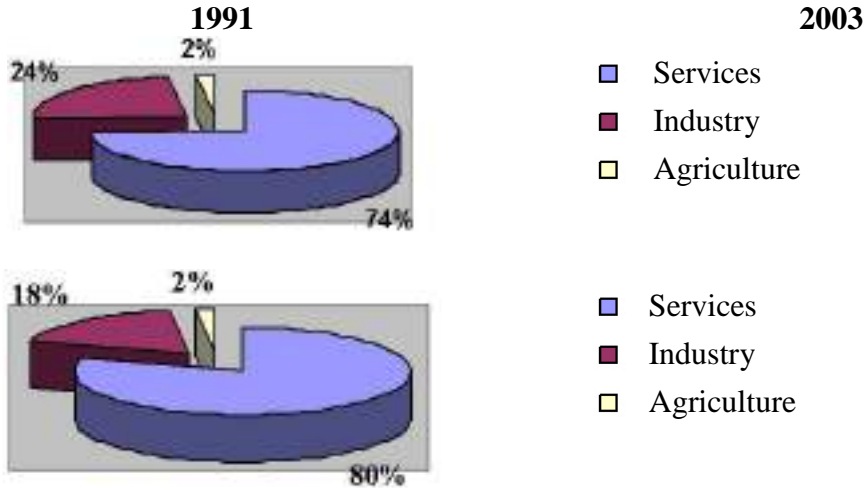
3. *Very early in America's history, people saw that they could make money by lending it to those who wanted to start or expand a business. To this day, small American entrepreneurs usually borrow the money they need from friends, relatives, or banks. Larger businesses, however, are more likely to acquire cash by selling stocks or bonds to unrelated parties. These transactions usually take place through a stock ___ , or stock ___ . Europeans established the first stock ___ in Antwerp, Belgium, in 1531. Brought to the United States in 1792, the institution of the stock ___ flourished, especially at the ___ ___ ___ , located in the Wall Street area of New York City, the nation's financial hub.*

4. *Beginning with the creation of the Department of Agriculture in 1862, the ___ government took a direct role in agricultural affairs. Today a maze of legislation embodies U.S. farm policies. On the theory that ___ is a chief cause of ___ farm prices, in some circumstances the government ___ farmers to plant ___ crops.*

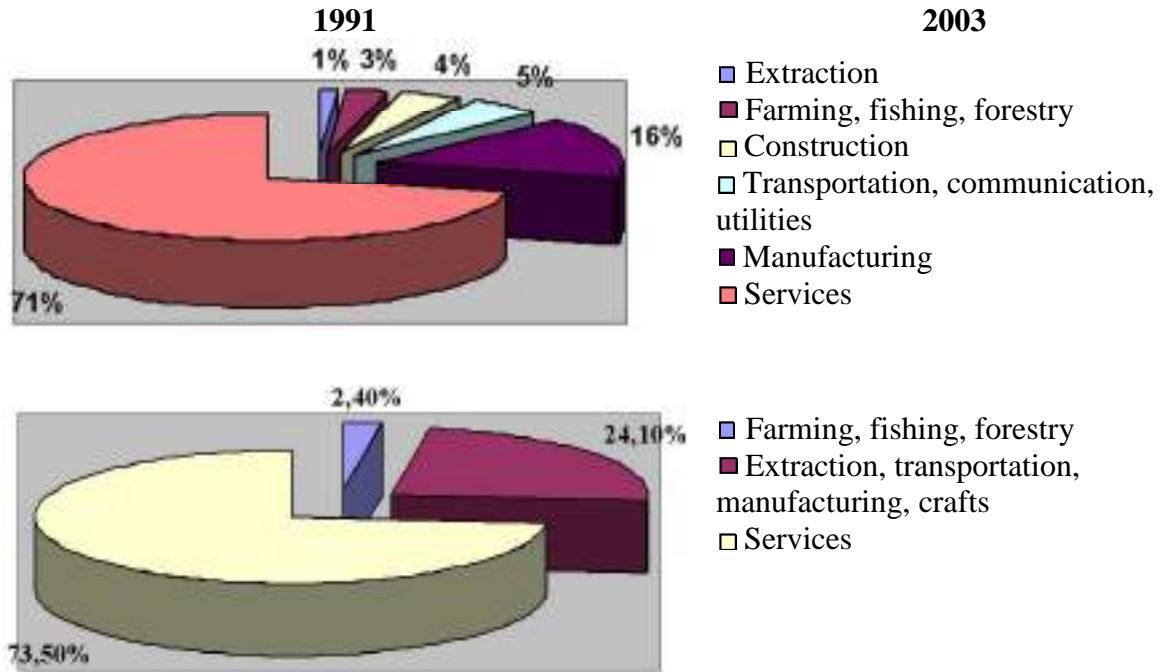
5. *The fastest growing industries in the Pacific region are in ___ and ___ products. A large number of companies making ___ parts are found in an area around the city of San Francisco. This area is known as the ___ ___ . It is named for the Silicon Chip, which is a basic part in modern electronics products.*

6. *___ regulations help protect workers from unsafe working ___ and unreasonably low ___ . The ___ has also enacted regulations designed to reduce ___ pollution.*

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT OF THE UNITED STATES



EMPLOYEES PER TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT





United States land use. This map shows major land uses in the United States, and also offshore fishing areas. Labels on the map identify chief products of various areas. The label size generally indicates product importance. Other labels on the map locate major manufacturing centers in the country

CHAPTER VII. LIFESTYLES

LECTURE 7

AMERICAN 'NATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS'

Generalizations about American lifestyles are frequently resented by Americans, as they value their individualism quite highly. They place great emphasis on their individual differences, on having a great number of choices, and on doing things their own way. Part of being an American is not being, and not wanting to be, typical.

The three most stable features of American life which are usually mentioned by foreign visitors recall the frontier experience, the settlement of a vast, raw land by succeeding waves of people moving westward. These are: 1) a friendliness to strangers, 2) a strong sense of community and neighbourliness, and 3) a general informality.

For a long period of time and in many parts of the country, a traveller was a welcome break in an otherwise dreary existence. Monotony and loneliness were common problems of the families who generally lived distant from one another. Strangers and travelers were welcome sources of diversion, and brought news of the outside world. The brutal realities of the frontier also shaped this tradition of hospitality. Someone travelling alone, if hungry, injured, or ill, often had nowhere to turn except to the nearest cabin or settlement.



A Nebraska homestead in the late 19th century. The house is made of sod bricks as the treeless plains supplied no lumber. The arrival of a stranger was a welcome break in the monotony of daily life

Yet, the old tradition of hospitality to strangers is still very strong in the US, especially in the smaller cities and towns away from the busy tourist trails. A visitor is taken to parties at the houses of his/her friends and his/her friends' friends; s/he is invited to theatres, dinners, sports meetings, motor trips; from the first minute s/he is on 'first name' terms with the people s/he meets. Being

friendly is a virtue that many Americans value highly and expect from both neighbours and strangers. Americans are also taught to be polite when, as guests or travelers, they are asked that standard question: 'How do you like it here?' As children many were taught that in such situations, 'if you can't find something nice to say, then don't say anything at all'. Other cultures have other norms of politeness ('we try to be honest'). Yet when these other norms are applied in America, Americans naturally interpret them through their own ('how rude!'). They are taken as a sign of bad manners.

Neighbourliness – getting along with your neighbours and helping one another in many small ways – has also been traced to the long period of settlement. Newly settled parts of the country and recently founded towns tried to attract farmers, tradesman, and professionals of all types. Newcomers were made welcome, and neighbours would help wherever they could with the difficult job of building a home, breaking the soil, or starting a business. Today, most American neighbourhoods still function through a casual yet complex network in which tools, help, and advice are offered, asked for, and exchanged. If a new family moves in, after a few days ('let them get settled in a bit'), neighbours stop by to say 'hi!' Whether or not they will eventually be friends, it's the friendly thing to do. Casual coming and going, borrowing and lending, offering and receiving of help among neighbours is typical of most Americans.

As it is understood, this is more the case in small and medium-sized cities and the suburbs than it is among the inner city, apartment-living population. In fact, many Americans left smaller cities to get away from the atmosphere of a close community where everyone seems to know what everybody else is doing. In big cities, there was more anonymity and privacy, more isolation and alienation. Today many people seem to be looking once more for a way of life symbolized by the small town.

There are two sides to this tradition of neighbourliness. In a land where people move frequently and freely, socially as well as geographically, they have become adept at making new acquaintances and forming new friendships. However, most American homes are separated from one another by fences, hedges, or, in some parts of the country such as New England or the Southwest, by walls. Even where there are no physical barriers the mental barriers are well-understood and respected. There is a delicate balance between two views. One is to be friendly to your neighbour. The other is to keep your nose out of his or her business.

American informality recalls not only the frontier experience, but also the heritage of immigration. Thrown together in a new world, most immigrants watched the familiar societal distinctions of the old world become blurred. The Revolution had abolished titles of nobility, and state laws did away with the traditional passing on of wealth and land from father to eldest son. As a result, there was never a hereditary aristocracy in the USA. The consequence is that Americans have always felt less constrained and more informal in their social and professional lives.

The habit of informality, the ease with which Americans speak to people they have only casually met, still surprises foreign visitors. Among Americans of roughly the same age group and social status, for example, first names are easily and quickly exchanged. Many Americans find even the terms ‘Mr’, ‘Mrs’, or ‘Miss’ stiff and formal. Quite often it is possible to hear people well beyond middle age say – even to quite young people – ‘Just call me Sally (or Henry or Don)’. Being on first-name terms is taken as a sign of acceptance and friendliness. Americans, however, do use occupational titles. These are considered to be different. Denoting a recognition that has been earned, not merely inherited. Occupations that most frequently carry titles include: diplomats, members of the Senate (or certain other top government posts), judges of the courts, military officers above a certain rank, medical doctors, ranking professors, priests, rabbis and some Protestant clergy. For example: Ambassador Jones, Senator Smith, Governor Rockefeller, Judge Harley, General Clark, Father White, Rabbi Cohen, Reverend Gray.

However, there are generally established and understood rules which parallel this informality. There are topics – income, religion, politics, for example – that many Americans feel are best avoided in casual conversation. Those who insist upon formal address or titles – in general, those who take themselves too seriously – are sometimes thought to be ‘phoney’ or pretentious (such people are often targets for humour).

HOUSE AND HOME

The lives of most Americans revolve around their homes and houses. The percentage of Americans owning the houses (and apartments) they live in is the highest among western nations. Most Americans still live in ‘single-family dwellings’, that is, houses which usually have a front and backyard. Contrary to a common belief, only about 5 % of all Americans live in mobile homes.

In the American family the husband and wife usually share important decision making. When children are old enough, they participate as well. In many American families children are expected to help around the house. They are assigned ‘chores’ which might include, for instance, washing and waxing floors, vacuuming the rugs, cleaning windows, keeping the car clean, mowing the lawn, shovelling snow, looking after the pets, and so on. Some families give a small amount of money, an allowance, in exchange for these and similar chores. Other families expect such work to be shared by everyone in the family.



A ‘typical’ residential area
in a small New England town



Many American teenagers deliver newspapers in the morning before school starts

Many American parents encourage their children to be independent at an early age. Some middle-class families expect their children to find part-time jobs, especially as they enter their teens. This might be working at the local supermarket or service station, mowing lawns, delivering newspapers, or babysitting. Most of these teenagers are not working because their families can't afford to buy things for them. Rather, the idea seems to be that the work experience helps young people appreciate the value of work and learn how to stand on their own two feet.

Most Americans expect their children to leave home at an earlier age than do parents in many other western countries. Beyond a certain age, they are often expected to contribute to, or pay for things that go beyond food, clothing, and shelter.

The common meal of the day is usually eaten in the evening. This varies in time according to family traditions and depending upon each family member's schedule. It's usually the only time of the day when everyone is home.

The big food shopping is usually done once a week at the local supermarket. As American economy is a service-oriented one many businesses, with employees working in shifts, stay open late to provide services and possibilities for shopping. The food is often paid by check. It's convenient and, moreover, as all checks are returned by the bank, Americans have a record of everything spent. Most stores pack the groceries for their customers, and many still take them out to their cars.



The traditional brown paper bags are still preferred to modern plastic ones by most American shoppers

Most Americans today work no more than eight hours a day, five days a week at their jobs. In 1986, 31 % of all employed Americans put in a work week of less than 40 hours. About 44 % of all companies offered 'flex-time', that is variable working schedules, or 'job-sharing'. About 62 % of all American women between the ages of 18 and 62 are working. Most Americans drive to work, and most children walk to school or take public transportation. Yellow school buses serve mostly rural areas and schools with children from widely scattered areas.

Many adults and teenagers are involved in volunteer work. Some of this

work is done through so-called service organisations and clubs, all of whom raise money for charitable purposes and some on a personal basis. Teenagers, for example, often volunteer to work in hospitals – so-called ‘candy-stripes’, from their stripped uniforms.

In addition, there are so many other activities and clubs, groups, volunteer organizations, courses, and hobbies, that most Americans are involved in several at the same time. They are usually on the go most of the week, and have full weekends as well. Americans also take shorter and fewer holidays and vacations than most people in other industrialised societies.

Americans have always been concerned with making the chores of everyday life less tiresome and distasteful. Inventors, businessmen, designers, neighbourhood initiatives and interest groups, public officials and private citizens – all seem to be trying to make things better, more efficient, more readily available, more convenient. From mail-order shopping to drive-in banking, from durable-press materials for clothes to computerized services and take-out food, Americans have shown their preference for a comfortable and convenient lifestyle.

America has two strong advantages when it comes to food. The first is that as the leading agricultural nation, she has always been well supplied with fresh meats, fruits, and vegetables in great variety at relatively low prices. This is one reason why steak or beef roast is probably the most ‘typical’ American food; it has always been more available.

In a country with widely different climates and many fruit and vegetable growing regions, such items as fresh grapefruit, oranges, lemons, melons, cherries, peaches, or broccoli, iceberg lettuce, avocados, and cranberries do not have to be imported. This is one reason why fruit dishes and salads are so common. Family vegetable gardens have been very popular, both as a hobby and as a way to save money, from the days when most Americans were farmers. They also help to keep fresh food on the table.

The second advantage America has enjoyed is that immigrants have brought with them, and continue to bring, the traditional foods of their countries and cultures. The variety of foods and styles is simply amazing. Armenian, Basque, Catalonian, Creole, Danish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Jewish, Latvian, Mexican, Vietnamese traditions are now at home in the United States.

There seem to be four trends in America at present which are connected with food and dining. First, there has been a notable increase in the number of



In many families the refrigerator door is the communication center. Messages are kept in place by small magnets



A Japanese restaurant in Chicago

reasonably priced restaurants which offer specialty foods. These include those that specialize in many varieties and types of pancakes, those that offer only fresh, baked breakfast foods, and the many that are buffets and salads bars.

Secondly, growing number of Americans are more regularly going out to eat in restaurants. One reason is that they are not too expensive. Another reason, probably more important, is that many American women today do not feel that their lives are best spend in the kitchen. At the same time, there is an increase in fine cooking as a hobby for both men and women.

A third trend is that as a result of nationwide health campaigns, Americans in general are eating a much lighter diet. Cereals and grain foods, fruits and vegetables, fish and salads are emphasized instead of heavy and sweet foods.

Finally, there is that international trend to 'fast food' chains which sell pizza, hamburgers, Mexican foods, chicken, salads and sandwiches, seafoods, and various ice creams. While many Americans and many other people resent this trend and while restaurants also dislike it, many young, middle-aged, and old people, both rich and poor, continue to buy and eat fast food.

Americans, like other nations, are very proud of their country but their pride seems more apparent. The 'Star-Spangled Banner' and the flags of the states are found in many places and displayed on many occasions, including demonstrations against the government.

HOLIDAYS

Each of the 50 states establishes its own legal holidays. The federal government, through the President and Congress, can legally set holidays only for federal employees and for the District of Columbia. Most states, however, accept the federal legal holidays. Holidays for all federal offices, most state and local government offices, and many (but not all!) businesses are:

New Year's Day (January 1);

Martin Luther King's Birthday (third Monday in January);

Washington's Birthday/Presidents' Day (third Monday in February);

Memorial Day (last Monday in May);

Independence Day (July 4);

Labour Day (first Monday in September);

Columbus Day (second Monday in October);

Veterans' Day (November 11);

Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November);
Christmas Day (December 25).

Thanksgiving Day. In the year 1620, a ship named the Mayflower brought 102 English men, women and children to the rocky coast of what is now Massachusetts. Late in the year they landed and founded the colony called Plymouth. Their first winter in America was cold, and hard and about half of them died. In the spring, with advice and help from the Indians, the settlers planted corn and other crops and prepared as well as they could for the next winter.

In October 1621, to celebrate the good harvest they got, the colonists held a feast. They called this their day of thanksgiving, held to thank their God for his blessings.

Now, to celebrate the holiday families gather together, usually at home but sometimes in a restaurant, for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. This almost always includes some of the foods served at the first Thanksgiving-roast turkey and cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie.

Many people attend religious services on Thanksgiving Day, watching football games is also a popular Thanksgiving Day activity. On this day Americans show increased concern for the poor. Charitable organizations and churches provide food or serve dinners for the needy.

Martin Luther King's Day



Martin Luther King made his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech before a crowd of more than 200,000 people who had assembled in Washington, D.C. His birthday was first observed as a national holiday in 1986 to honour this outstanding figure of the Civil Rights Movement

The Reverend Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. was a black clergyman, who is ranked among the greatest of black Americans because of his crusade during the 1950s and 1960s to win full civil rights for his people. Preaching non-violence Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke out and campaigned tirelessly to rid the U.S. of traditions and laws that force on black Americans the status of second-class citizens. The world was shocked when Dr King was assassinated in 1968. Ever since, special memorial services have marked his birthday on January 15. By vote of Congress, the third Monday of every January, beginning in 1986, is now a federal holiday in Dr King's honour.



Soldiers' graves are decorated on Memorial Day. The picture shows the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The names of all 157,939 Americans killed or reported missing in action in that war are inscribed on this black marble wall

parades and others hold memorial services or special programmes in churches, schools or other public meeting places.

The 'Memorial Day Weekend' is also considered the beginning of the summer season. In many places, the weekend marks the opening of public beaches and public swimming pools.



Many Americans like to spend the Fourth of July on the beach

Presidents' Day

In the 1970s Congress declared that in order to honour all past presidents of the United States, a holiday, to be called Presidents' Day, would be observed on the third Monday in February (until the mid-1970s, the birthday of George Washington, first president of the USA, February 22 was observed as a federal holiday).

Memorial Day

This holiday is a day on which Americans honour the dead. Originally a day on which flags and flowers were placed on graves of soldiers who died in the American Civil War. It has become a day on which the dead of all wars and all other dead are remembered the same day. In many communities special ceremonies are held in cemeteries or at monuments for the war dead by veterans of military services. Some hold

Independence Day

This day is regarded as the birthday of the U.S. as a free and independent nation. Most Americans simply call it the 'Fourth of July', on which date it always falls. The holiday recalls the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Generally, picnics with patriotic speeches and parades are held all over the U.S. on the Fourth of July. It is also a day on which fireworks displays fill the skies in the evening. The flying of flags, which also takes place on Memorial Day and some other holiday, is common.

Labour Day

This holiday in many cities is marked by parades of working people representing the labour unions. For most Americans, it also marks the end of the summer season.

Columbus Day

This day commemorates Italian navigator Christopher Columbus's landing in the New World on October 12, 1492. Most nations of the Americans observe this holiday on October 12, but in the U.S., annual observances take place on the second Monday in October. The major celebration of the day takes place in New York City, which holds a huge parade each year.

Veterans' Day

This holiday was originally called Armistice Day and was established to honour those Americans who had served in the First World War. It falls on November 11, the day on which that war ended in 1918. It honours veterans of all the wars in which the USA has been involved. Organizations of war veterans hold parades or other special ceremonies, and the president or other high official places a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington, D.C. There are soldiers buried there from each war the USA has fought since World War I.

In addition to the widely recognized holidays listed above, two Sundays are also observed in special ways. One is the second Sunday in May, which is always Mother's Day, a day on which children honour their mothers, give them gifts, or perhaps take them to a restaurant for dinner.

The other is the third Sunday in June, which is Father's Day, and children honour their fathers in some special way.

IT IS INTERESTING TO KNOW

THE CHANGING AMERICAN FAMILY

The American family unit is in the process of change. There used to be mainly two types of families: the extended and the nuclear. The extended family most often included mother, father, children, and some other relatives, such as grandparents, living in the same house or nearby. Then as job patterns changed and the economy progressed from agricultural to industrial, people were forced to move to different parts of the country for job opportunities. These moves split up the extended family. The nuclear family became more prevalent; this consisted of only the parents and the children.

Now, besides these two types of traditional groupings, the word 'family' is being extended to include a variety of other living arrangements. Today's family can be made up of diverse combinations. With the divorce rate nearly one in two, there is an increase in single-parent homes: a father or mother living with one or more children. Blended families occur when previously married men and women marry again and combine the children from former marriages into a new family. On the other hand, some couples decide not to have any children at all, so there is an increase in two-person childless families. There are also more people who live alone: single, widowed, divorced. Now, one in five Americans lives alone.



THE AMERICAN FAMILY, BY THE NUMBERS

The American family has experienced considerable evolution over the past few decades. Statistics bear out the degree of change.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

■ The average number of persons per U.S. household, among whites and African Americans, has declined over the past three decades from 3.1 in 1970 to 2.6 in 1998 (the latest U.S. Census Bureau figures available). The average number in Hispanic-American households increased from three in 1975 to 3.5 in 1998. Among Asian Americans, the figure has remained steady at 3.2 since 1990 (earlier data are not available).

Households in the United States, 1998 (US Census Bureau)





■ Fifty-three percent of the households in the United States were headed by married couples in 1998. This compares with 78.2 percent in 1950 and 61 percent in 1980.

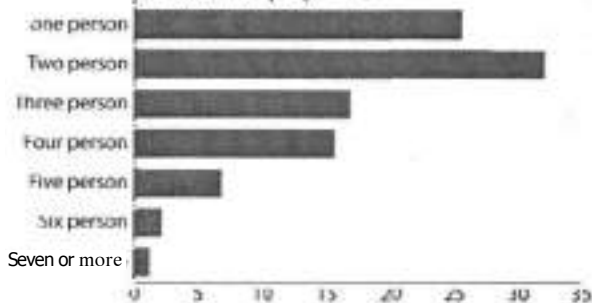
■ Fifty-seven percent of U.S. households in 1998 consisted of one or two people. Another 17 percent included a third person, and 15.6 percent were four-person households.

■ From 1975 to 1999, according to the Population Reference Bureau, the percentage of adults in the U.S. population who have never been married has increased from 22 to 28 percent.

■ In 1999, there were 70.2 million children under 18 in the United States, an increase from less than 50 million in 1950. It is projected that the number will rise by another seven million by 2020. Yet children under 18 made up 26 percent of the population in 1999, down from 36 percent in 1960.

Size of U.S.A. households, 1998 (U.S.A. Census Bureau)

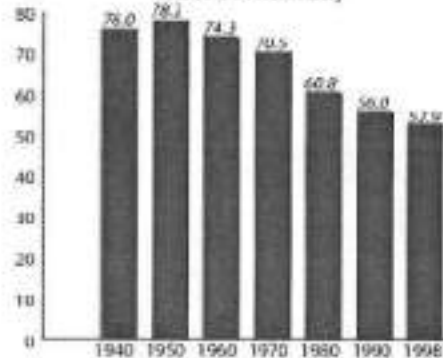
One person	25.5	Two people	32.0
Three people	16.8	Four people	15.6
Five people	6.8	Six people	2.1
Seven or more people	1.2		



■ There has been an increase in the number of adults ages 65 and older in the total population from eight percent in 1950 to 13 percent in 1999. That figure is expected to increase to 17 percent by 2020.

■ The percentage of white non-Hispanic children under 18 in the United States has decreased from 74 percent in 1980 to 65 percent in 1999. The number of Hispanics in the child population has risen from

Married-couple households, 1940-98 (as percentage of all households-USA Census Bureau)

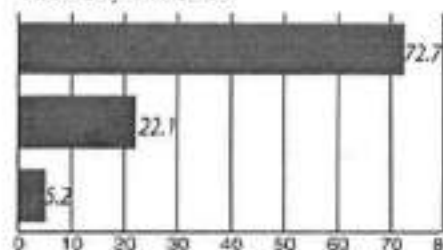


nine percent in 1980 to 16 percent in 1999. That figure is projected to reach 20 percent by 2020. The percentage of blacks in the child population has remained stable, at around 18 percent, during the past two decades.

■ Of families with children under the age of 18, 73 percent were headed by married couples in 1998. This contrasts with 92.6 percent of similarly-structured families in 1950, and 80.5 percent in 1980. In 1998, 22 percent of families with children below 18 were mother-only households, with single-father households comprising the remaining five percent.

Families with children under 18, 1998 (U.S. Census Bureau)

Married-couple families	72.7
Mother-only families	22.1
Father-only families	5.2

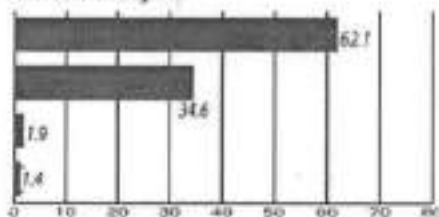


■ Among children living with two parents, according to 1996 Census Bureau figures, 91 percent lived with both biological or adoptive parents. Nine percent lived with a biological or adoptive parent and



Married couples in the labor force with children under age 6, 1998 (US Census Bureau)

Husband and Wife working 62.1
Husband only working 34.6
Wife only working 1.9
Neither working 1.4

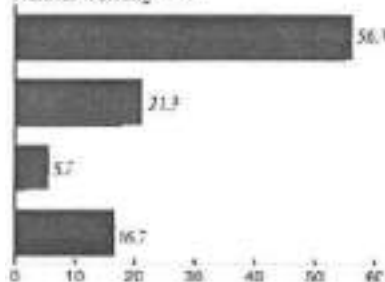


a step-parent. About 80 percent of children living with a step-parent lived with their mother and a stepfather.

■ In 1998, of children in single-parent homes, nearly 16 percent lived with their fathers. This represents an increase from 8.5 percent in 1980.

Married couples in the U.S. Labor Force, 1998 (U.S. Census Bureau)

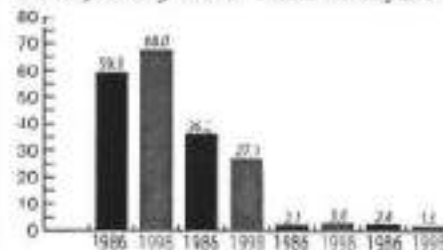
Husband and Wife working 56.3
Husband only working 21.3
Wife only working 5.7
Neither working 16.7



■ With respect to children under 18 in the United States, 68 percent were being raised by two parents in 1998. Another 23.3 percent were being raised solely by their biological mothers, and 4.4 percent solely by their biological fathers. Slightly more than four percent were being raised by other relatives or non-relatives.

Married Couples in the labor force with children under 18, 1986/98 (U.S. Census Bureau)

Husband and Wife working 59.3 / 68.0
Husband only working 36.2 / 27.1
Wife only working 2.1 / 3.0 *Neither working 2.4 / 1.9*



■ In 1970, 3.2 percent of U.S. children lived in a household maintained by a grandparent. By 1997, the figure rose to 5.5 percent -- an increase of 76 percent over slightly more than a quarter-century. Within the 1990s alone -- from 1990 to 1997 -- the number of grandparent-maintained households rose 19 percent.

FAMILIES, WORK AND CHILD CARE

■ In 1998, of married couples in the U.S. labor force, 56.3 percent represented dual-earning couples. In 21.3 percent of the cases, only the husband was working, and in 5.7 percent, only the wife was employed. The remaining percentage represented non-working couples.

■ Of married working couples with children under age 18, the percentage of dual-earning couples rose from 59.3 in 1986 to 68 in 1998. The percentage of families in which only the husband was employed declined from 36.2 in 1986 to 27.1 a dozen years later.

■ The percentage of working mothers with infants has risen dramatically. Of the 3.7 million women in 1998 who had children younger than one year old, 59 percent were working outside the home. The 1996 figure was 31 percent.

■ According to a Bureau of Labor Statistics tabulation, the number of "at-home" fathers ages 25 to 54 who chose not to look for work, because of home responsibilities, rose from 4.6 percent in 1991 to 8.4 percent in 1996.

FATHER'S DAY

The Celebration of Dad's special day can most likely be credited to Mrs John B. Dodd who first suggested the idea of the holiday in 1909.

Her father, civil war veteran William Smart, was widowed when his wife died in childbirth with their sixth child. Despite the obvious hardships, Mr Smart proceeded to raise his children by himself.

It was not until Sonora Dodd became an adult that she realized the strength and selflessness her father had shown in raising his children as a single parent. The original date chosen for the holiday was June 5, Mr Smart's birthday, however the celebration was postponed until June 19, the third Sunday in June, because there was not enough time to prepare.

At about the same time in various towns and cities across America other people were beginning to celebrate a Father's Day. In early times, wearing flowers was a traditional way of celebrating this day. Mrs. Dodd favoured the red rose to honour a father still living, while a white flower honoured a deceased dad.

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day, but it never became official until 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson signed the presidential proclamation that set aside the third Sunday of June as Father's Day.

PROGRESS QUESTIONS

- 1. What characterizes the 'frontier experience', what key terms do you associate with it?*
- 2. What aspects of the 'American lifestyle' can be traced back to the frontier experience?*
- 3. Where do most Americans (both in urban and rural areas) live?*
- 4. What differs American parents from Belarusian ones?*
- 5. How long is a work week of an average American? How many hours a week do they have to work?*
- 6. How do American adults and teenagers contribute to charity?*
- 7. What things do Americans value in their everyday life?*
- 8. Make a list of characteristics that you personally consider typical of Americans. Discuss your view in class.*
- 9. Speak about any American holiday (When is the holiday celebrated? What does it commemorate? When did it come into existence? Is it an official holiday? Is it celebrated in all the states of the country? How do people celebrate it? What traditions is it connected with?).*

SEMINAR 7

Lifestyles

1. Speak on the three American 'national characteristics'.
2. Speak on the life of an average American.
3. Speak on the major American holidays.

QUIZ

1. The ___ experience began when the first colonists settled on the east coast of North America in 1600s. It ended about 1890 when the last western lands were settled. Everyday life on the ___ helped to mould the three most notable American 'national characteristics': ___ to strangers; a strong sense of ___ and ___; a general ___.

2. Wealthy and middle-class people in USA cities and towns live in apartments, condominiums, or in ___-___ houses.

3. The traditional American family of the past used to include grandparents or other relatives who were living with the parents and children and was called the ___ family. Today for the most part the typical American family consists of mother, father and children and is known as the ___ family.

4. The three holidays which were first observed in the USA but have now spread elsewhere are ___ Day (usually observed on May 1 elsewhere), ___ (in Canada), and ___'s Day (wherever there are florists, greeting-card companies, candy manufactures, and mothers).

5. Like Christmas, ___ is a day for families to come together. Traditional foods are prepared for the feast – ___ or ham, ___ sauce and corn dishes, breads and rolls, and ___ pie. At the same time, it is a solemn occasion, a day to remember the many who are less well off, in America and throughout the world.

FINAL TEST

I. Fill in the blanks with the correct word:

1. The War of Independence fought by American colonies helped by ___ and ___ against Britain ended in ___ with the signing of the Treaty of ___.
2. In ___ Alaska was purchased from ___.
3. In 2004 the USA population was more than ___ mln people.
4. The sea routes to Asia and Australia pass over the ___.
5. The United States of America was originally peopled by ___.
6. New England is a small region in the ___ corner of the country. It's one of the country's industrial centers.
7. Many of their most stable features Americans owe to the ___ experience.
8. A bill may originate in either house of Congress except for bills dealing with ___ or ___.
9. Other important ___ of the Mississippi are, besides the Missouri, the Ohio River, the ___ River, the Red River.
10. In the USA there are two types of schools: ___ and ___.
11. The climate classification based on moisture characteristics divides the country into five climatic provinces: superhumid, humid, ___, ___ and arid.
12. By the middle of the 19th century only ___ and ___ were inhabited by Indians.
13. Those who study at a university or four-year college are known as ___, and those who have received a degree after four years of studies are known as ___.
14. ___ is another important crop for southern farmers.
15. In Arizona, where the land is deeply split by the ___ River is one of the wonders of the world-___.
16. Elementary and secondary schools in the USA have a number of required ___ subjects.
17. The American Continent was named after an ___ navigator ___.
18. The department heads are usually called ___. They are directly responsible to the ___ and can be best seen as ___ assistants and advisers. When they meet together, they are termed 'the ___'s ___'.
19. The Rio Grande forms a natural boundary between ___ and the ___.
20. The red colour in the national flag symbolizes ___, the white ___, and the blue ___ and ___.
21. The presidential election is technically an election of ___ not a President directly.

22. In spite of the fact that there are fewer farmers each year, production continues to _____. The United States is not only _____-_____ in food supply but also _____ millions tons of agricultural goods.

23. Over a _____ of the country is still under forest, which ranges from the mangroves and swamp-forests of _____ to the huge Douglas firs and redwoods of the _____ states and from hickory, walnut and oak of the _____-central states to the pines of _____ and the _____ mountains.

24. After four years of study at a four-year college the graduates receive the degree of _____ of _____ or _____ of _____.

25. _____ Day is the fourth Monday of every May, when the Americans honour the dead of all wars in which the USA took part.

26. Adopted in 1787 the Constitution was finally ratified and came into force in _____.

27. The Indians and Eskimos are descended from people who migrated to North America from _____ more than _____ years ago.

28. In 1860 the _____ party won the presidential election and _____ became president of the USA.

29. Even though the USA economy is based on _____ _____, the government has placed _____ on economic practices through the years.

30. The United States has to import some minerals required for modern industries. They include mica, strontium, cobalt, industrial diamonds, _____, _____, _____, _____.

31. On January 1, 1863 Lincoln issued the _____ _____, which granted freedom to all slaves.

32. Congress is the supreme _____-_____ body of the country. It has two chambers the _____ of _____ and the _____.

33. Christopher Columbus, the _____ navigator, employed by _____ king and queen discovered America in _____.

34. During the late 1600s and throughout the 1700s _____ and _____ struggled for colonial domination in North America. The last conflict called the _____ _____ in Europe and the French and Indian war in America led to France's _____ of its holdings east of the Mississippi River.

35. High school students are helped by school counselor in choosing the subjects which are called _____ because they are not necessary for everybody.

36. Today, there are about 6 million _____ Americans living in the United States.

37. The 39 delegates who drafted the Constitution included most of the outstanding leaders, or _____ _____, of the New nation.

38. The Interior Plains occupy a vast area that stretches from the Appalachian Highlands in the east to the Rocky Mountains in the west. The western part of the region is the chief ___ section of the country.

39. The system of checks and balances gives each branch the means to ___ the other two.

40. The ___ is a test in mathematics and English skills.

41. The ___ of ___ was proclaimed by the American Congress on July 4, 1776.

42. Among the vegetables and fruits domesticated by the Indians are ___, ___, peanuts, peppers, ___, pumpkins, ___, ___.

43. The 13 red and white ___ of the American flag symbolize the first 13 ___ of the USA.

44. The first permanent English colony ___ was founded in 1607 in Virginia.

45. Among the ___ types of higher education institutions there is the two-year, or ___ college, which is financed by the local authorities and which is intended for local need.

46. Slavery was abolished in most ___ states, while in the ___ it continued to exist.

47. The second permanent British settlement, called Plymouth Colony, was founded by the ___ who came to North America in ___ on board a ship, the ___.

48. California is the most ___ state (27 million people), ___ is second (18 million).

49. The ___ from Scandinavia visited the Continent of North America in the ___ century.

II. Complete the sentence with the best answer (a, b, c):

1. The USA occupies a favourable geographical position, because the Atlantic Ocean is of great importance for the country's sea communications with ...

- a) Asia.
- b) Australia.
- c) Europe.

2. Some people who came to America had left their homeland because they wanted ...

- a) to change a place.
- b) to solve their family problems.
- c) to have religious freedom.

3. Pre-university programmes, with an emphasis on academic subjects required for college work, vocational or technical ones, preparing children for future work, and general programmes combining elements of the previous two are taught ...

- a) in different schools.
- b) in private schools.
- c) at the same school.

4. The main result of the victory of the North in the Civil war was...

- a) the abolition of slavery.
- b) the restoration of the American Union.
- c) the further development of the working class movement.

5. Close to the Pacific coast lying between mountain ranges stretches...

- a) the Plateau of Prairies.
- b) the California Valley.
- c) the Piedmont Plain.

6. The only 'native' Americans making up about 2 % of the USA population are ...

- a) people of Negro origin.
- b) Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts.
- c) people of Anglo-Saxon origin.

7. The British government introduced heavy taxes in the American colonies, because ...

- a) it needed money to support its big fleet.
- b) it was afraid of American competition and decided to crush American industry.
- c) it was preparing for war in Europe.

8. The elementary school may include eight grades in some places, and ...

- a) the teachers pay attention to some basic subjects.
- b) the fees are very high.
- c) six grades in others.

9. The first permanent settlement in North America was built by ...

- a) the Spaniards.
- b) the Russians.
- c) the French.

10. In 1863 the commander of the Confederate army General Lee met the Union army at Gettysburg and ...
- a) after three days of fighting the Confederates won a great victory.
 - b) the greatest battle on American territory took place.
 - c) a peace agreement was signed.
11. The main export items of the U.S. are...
- a) corn, wheat, cotton, tobacco and fruits.
 - b) dairy products and minerals.
 - c) timber, wheat, fruits.
12. If a Vice-President dies or is unable to carry out his duties, he is succeeded by ...
- a) the Speaker.
 - b) the Secretary of State.
 - c) the President pro tem.
13. A Dutch colony called New Amsterdam was established in ...
- a) 1565 in Florida.
 - b) 1633 in Massachusetts.
 - c) 1609 on Manhattan Island.
14. The beginnings of Thanksgiving Day in the USA ...
- a) are connected with English traditions.
 - b) go down to the years of early colonization.
 - c) were introduced by immigrants in the 18th century.
15. Candidates for the Presidency are chosen by political parties several months before the presidential election, which is held every four years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in ...
- a) October.
 - b) November.
 - c) December.
16. In resources of gold, silver, uranium, mercury and asbestos the United States holds ...
- a) the first place.
 - b) the second place.
 - c) the third place.
17. Students in U.S. universities and colleges are moved up to the next year ...
- a) on the basis of their final exams.

- b) on the basis of their GPA.
 - c) automatically.
18. The USA is a fully-developed industrial country with ...
- a) a solid agricultural basis.
 - b) a weak agricultural basis.
 - c) a limited agricultural basis.
19. The United States has a two-party system where the leading parties are ...
- a) the Democrats and the Republicans.
 - b) the Democrats and the Labours.
 - c) the Republicans and the Labours.
20. On April 9, 1865 General Lee ...
- a) won a great victory against the North.
 - b) surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox and the Civil War was over.
 - c) started a new campaign against the Union Army.
21. To become an Act of Congress a bill must be ...
- a) passed by the Senate and signed by the President.
 - b) passed by both Houses and signed by the President.
 - c) passed by both Houses, signed by the President and approved by the Supreme Court.
22. Every child in the USA must attend school, but ...
- a) many start working even before 16.
 - b) every state has its own laws regulating education.
 - c) fees are different.
23. The prevailing western winds bring rains from the Pacific Ocean but the largest amount of the rain is caught before it can go further inland by ...
- a) the Sierra Nevada and the Cascade Mountains.
 - b) the Rocky Mountains.
 - c) the Appalachian Mountains.
24. Many people contributed to writing the Constitution, though one of the three is regarded as the father of the Constitution:
- a) James Madison.
 - b) Alexander Hamilton.
 - c) George Washington.

25. The struggle between pro-slavery and anti-slavery settlers spread to Virginia, where in 1859 ...

- a) John Brown raised a revolt of the black slaves.
- b) the white settlers began to support the Negroes.
- c) a compromise was reached.

26. The Rocky Mountain States region lies in the west of the country. The region has ...

- a) the rugged Rocky Mountains, the Great Lakes, plains and valleys.
- b) the rugged Rocky Mountains, the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the South and the areas of deserts.
- c) the rugged Rocky Mountains, areas of deserts, plains and plateaus.

27. The chief oil-bearing areas of the United States are to be found in the ...

- a) eastern part.
- b) western part.
- c) southern part.

28. The waters of the Mississippi River are gathered from ...

- a) two-thirds of the country.
- b) all the territory of the country.
- c) one quarter of the country.

29. In 1787 the American Constitution was drawn up in Philadelphia which ...

- a) is in force in the USA today.
- b) with its 26 amendments is in force at the present time.
- c) has been seriously changed since then.

30. In 1803 the territory of the United States stretched to the Rocky Mountains ...

- a) as a result of the occupation of Louisiana in the war against France.
- b) after the American army seized the territory lying west of the Mississippi River from the Red Indians.
- c) as a result of the purchase of Louisiana from Napoleon for 15 mln dollars.

31. The Pilgrim Fathers left England for America because they ...

- a) wanted to find gold in California.
- b) were persecuted in England.
- c) wanted to find a new way to the Far East.

32. The 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, 1951, limited the Presidency to no more than ...
- a) one term.
 - b) two terms.
 - c) three terms.
33. The legislative work of Congress is done mostly in ...
- a) standing committees.
 - b) the Senate.
 - c) the House of Representatives.
34. A vital role in the formation of the population of the USA was played by ...
- a) emigration.
 - b) migration.
 - c) immigration.
35. In 1787 the country included the 13 original states: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Rhode Island and ...
- a) Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina.
 - b) Georgia, North Dakota, South Dakota.
 - c) Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina.
36. The Indians arrived in America, coming from ...
- a) Africa by way of the Atlantic Ocean.
 - b) Asia by way of the Bering Strait.
 - c) Asia by way of the Pacific Ocean.
37. Despite the number of population every state is constitutionally guaranteed in the House of Representatives at least ...
- a) one member.
 - b) two members.
 - c) three members.
38. The American frontier consisted of the unsettled regions of the USA ...
- a) which were usually found in the western part of the country.
 - b) which were occupied by the people from Canada.
 - c) which were conquered by the whites in the 18th century.
39. By a special Act of Congress in 1931 ...
- a) the song The Star-Spangled Banner became the national anthem.
 - b) the song America, the Beautiful became the national anthem.

c) the song God Bless America became the national anthem.

40. The Constitution of the USA provides, that the Senate, the smaller house, should be composed of two members from each ...

a) district.

b) state.

c) constituency.

41. The average density of population in the United States is ...

a) 30.7 persons per square kilometer.

b) 37.1 persons per square kilometer.

c) 70.3 persons per square kilometer.

42. Today the U.S. economy is dominated by ...

a) manufacturing.

b) service industries.

c) agriculture.

III. Are the statements true or false? Correct the false sentences to make them true:

1. Constitutional qualifications for the Presidency are: the President must be at least 30 years old, a resident of the country for at least 12 years and a national born citizen.

2. Forests cover more than 30 % of the United States.

3. During one term or semester a student will study four or five different subjects.

4. The share of service industries in the U.S. GDP is less than that of manufacturing.

5. The presidential term of four years begins in November, immediately after the election.

6. The first major defeat of the British army under General John Burgoyne in the War of Independence took place at Saratoga.

7. Every child in the USA is guaranteed up to 13 years of education.

8. The United States is a constitutional monarchy consisting of 50 states and the District of Columbia.

9. New Mexico was bought from France in 1845.

10. The most famous salty lakes of the USA are the Great Salt Lake, in Utah, and the Salton Sea, in Southern California.

11. Hawaii is located in an arid zone, but its climate is comfortable because of the ocean currents and the north-east winds.

12. The Democratic Party which was formed in 1854 supported slavery.
13. In total resources of uranium the United States is after the South African Republic and Canada.
14. April 12, 1861 marked the end of the Civil War, when local South Carolina troops opened fire on the U.S. military base of Fort Sumter.
15. A high school 'unit' is equal to about 120 hours of classes in one subject.
16. Independence Day is observed in July, and is marked by parades and flying of flags all over the country.
17. The 'Boston Tea Party' was a friendly reception given by the English merchants to the citizens of Boston.
18. Until about 1880 most immigrants came from northern and western Europe.
19. Representatives of many nationalities and ethnic groups took part in the formation of the American nation and it is an extremely unique and complicated product.
20. The central part of the Great North-American Plateau – the Great Basin – is a semi-desert area.
21. After the war with Mexico for California and the South-West in 1848, the USA won California, Utah, Nevada, and parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming and Colorado.
22. English is the 'official' national language of the United States.
23. The American colonies were not angered by the Stamp Act (1765) because the tax stamps were not expensive.
24. The technical training institution is intended for high school graduates to learn different technical skills and trades necessary for industry and to receive the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, or of science after the graduation.
25. The United States has possession of various territories in the North Sea and the Pacific Ocean.
26. The principal reason today for population movement is the growth of new industries, especially in the West and South.
27. Almost all elections in the United States follow the 'winner-take-all' principle, thus the candidate who wins 50 % plus one vote in a state is supposed to get all of that state's electoral voters.
28. More than half of the population is concentrated in the agricultural Northeast and the density of population here is very high.
29. The Appalachian Mountains divide the country into two parts – the East and the West.

30. High school students in the USA are those young people who attend universities.

31. Under the U.S. Constitution, the Department of Education has power to make laws in the field of education.

32. The Indians began to fight against the white settlers because the whites took the land of the Indians.

33. Leif Ericson, a Viking raider, discovered North America 50 years before Columbus.

34. Between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, on the Niagara River, which links the two lakes, are powerful Niagara Falls, precipitating from a height of almost 50 meters.

35. The House of Representatives and the Senate may not reject each other's bills. The Senate also confirms the President's judicial appointments.

36. In December 1860 South Carolina left the American Union and it was joined by 15 southern and northern states.

37. The second Sunday in May is known as Mother's Day and the third Sunday in June is called Children's Day.

38. The West of the USA is under the powerful Cordillera Mountain System, and the Rockies are part of this system.

39. The Great Lakes make up the largest group of lakes in the country, as well as the greatest collection of fresh-water lakes in the world.

40. In the United States the usual requirements for high school graduation are finals in all subjects taught at school.

41. The USA is situated in central North America, with Canada to the north, Mexico to the South, the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east.

42. The federal government is responsible not only for matters concerning the country as a whole but also for matters of each state.

43. Many of the currently grown industries are among 'high-tech' industries which tend to be highly automated and thus to need fewer workers. As a result the proportion of American workers employed in service industries has declined.

APPENDIX

States of the United States of America

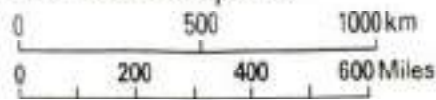
Number	State	Official and Postal Abbreviations	Year of Statehood	Area (sq.ml)	Nickname	Capital	Representatives in Congress (1987)
1	Delaware ['deləweə]	Del., DE	1787	2,060	The First State	Dover	1
2	Pennsylvania [, pensəl'veɪniə]	Pa., PA	1787	45,335	The Keystone State	Harrisburg	23
3	New Jersey [, nju:'dʒə:zi]	NJ	1787	7,835	The Garden State	Trenton	14
4	Georgia ['dʒə:dʒə]	Ga., GA	1788	58,875	The Empire State of the South	Atlanta	10
5	Connecticut [kə'netɪkət]	Conn., CT	1788	5,010	The Constitution State	Hartford	6
6	Massachusetts [, mæsə'tʃu:sɪts]	Mass., MA	1788	8,260	The Bay State	Boston	11
7	Maryland ['meərɪlənd]	Md., MD	1788	10,580	The Old Line State	Annapolis	8
8	South Carolina [sauθ , kærə'lainə]	SC	1788	31,055	The Palmetto State	Columbia	6
9	New Hampshire [nju:'hæmpʃə]	NH	1788	9,305	The Granite State	Concord	2
10	Virginia [və'dʒɪniə]	Va., VA	1788	40,815	The Old Dominion	Richmond	10
11	New York [, nju:'jɔ:k]	NY	1788	49,575	The Empire State	Albany	34
12	North Carolina [nɔ:θ , kærə'lainə]	NC	1789	52,585	The Tar Heel State	Raleigh	11
13	Rhode Island ['rəʊd , aɪlənd]	RI	1790	1,215	Little Rhody	Providence	2
14	Vermont [və'mɒnt]	Vt., VT	1791	9,610	The Green Mountain State	Montpelier	1

15	Kentucky [ken'tʌki]	Ky., KY	1792	40,410	The Bluegrass State	Frankfort	7
16	Tennessee [, tenə'si:]	Tenn., TN	1796	42,245	The Volunteer State	Nashville	9
17	Ohio [əv'haiəv]	OH	1803	41,220	The Buckeye State	Columbus	21
18	Louisiana [lu , i:zi'ænə]	La., LA	1812	48,520	The Pelican State	Baton Rouge	8
19	Indiana [, ndr' ænə]	Ind., IN	1816	36,290	The Hoosier State	Indianapolis	10
20	Mississippi [, mɪsɪ'sɪpɪ]	Miss., MS	1817	47,715	The Magnolia State	Jackson	5
21	Illinois [, ɪlə'nɔɪ]	Ill., IL	1818	56,400	The Prairie State	Springfield	22
22	Alabama [, ælə'bæmə]	Ala., AL	1819	51,610	The Heart of Dixie	Montgomery	7
23	Maine ['meɪn]	Me., ME	1820	33,215	The Pine Tree State	Augusta	2
24	Missouri [mɪ'zʊəri]	Mo., MO	1821	69,690	The Show Me State	Jefferson City	9
25	Arkansas ['ɑ:kænsɔ:]	Ark., AR	1836	53,105	The Land of Opportunity	Little Rock	4
26	Michigan ['mɪʃɪgən]	Mich., MI	1837	58,215	The Wolverine State	Lansing	18
27	Florida ['flɒrɪdə]	Fla., FL	1845	58,560	The Sunshine State	Tallahassee	19
28	Texas ['teksəs]	Tex., TX	1845	267,340	The Lone Star State	Austin	27
29	Iowa ['aiəvə]	Ia., IA	1846	56,290	The Hawkeye State	Des Moines	6
30	Wisconsin [wɪ'skɒnsɪn]	Wis., WI	1848	56,155	The Badger State	Madison	9
31	California ['kælə'fɔ:nɪə]	Calif., CA	1850	158,695	The Golden State	Sacramento	45
32	Minnesota [, mɪnɪ'səʊtə]	Minn., MN	1858	84,070	The North Star	Saint Paul	8

					State		
33	Oregon ['ɒrɪgən]	Oreg., OR	1859	96,980	The Beaver State	Salem	5
34	Kansas ['kænzəs]	Kan., KS	1861	82,265	The Sunflower State	Topeka	5
35	West Virginia [westvə'dʒɪniə]	W.Va., WV	1863	24,180	The Mountain State	Charleston	4
36	Nevada [nɪ'vɑ:də]	Nev., NV	1864	110,540	The Silver State	Carson City	2
37	Nebraska [nə'bræskə]	Nebr., NE	1867	77,230	The Cornhusker State	Lincoln	3
38	Colorado [, kɒlə'rɑ:dəv], [, kɑ:lə'rædəv]	Col., CO	1876	104,250	The Centennial State	Denver	6
39	North Dakota [nɔ:θdə'kəʊtə]	N.Dak., ND	1889	70,665	The Sioux State	Bismarck	1
40	South Dakota [sauθdə'kəʊtə]	S.Dak., SD	1889	77,045	The Coyote State	Pierre	1
41	Montana [mɒn'tænə]	Mont., MT	1889	147,140	The Treasure State	Helena	2
42	Washington ['wɒʃɪŋtən]	Wash., WA	1889	68,190	The Evergreen State	Olympia	8
43	Idaho ['aɪdəhəʊ]	ID	1890	83,560	The Gem State	Boise	2
44	Wyoming [waɪ'əʊmɪŋ]	Wyo., WY	1890	97,915	The Equality State	Cheyenne	1
45	Utah ['ju:tɑ:]	UT	1896	84,915	The Beehive State	Salt Lake City	3
46	Oklahoma [, əʊklə'həʊmə]	Okla., OK	1907	69,920	The Sooner State	Oklahoma City	6
47	New Mexico [nju:'meksɪkəʊ]	N.Mex., NM	1912	121,665	The Land of Enchantment	Santa Fe	3
48	Arizona [, ærɪ'zəʊnə]	Ariz., AZ	1912	113,910	The Grand Canyon State	Phoenix	5
49	Alaska [ə'læskə]	Alas., AK	1959	586,410	The Last Frontier	Juneau	1
50	Hawaii [hə'waɪ]	HI	1959	6,450	The Aloha State	Honolulu	2



**States, Postal Abbreviations,
and State Capitals**



Abbreviations used in the map:

CT Connecticut	MD Maryland	RI Rhode Island	(D. C.) District of Columbia
DE Delaware	NH New Hampshire	VT Vermont	(federal area on the Potomac where the federal capital is; governed by Congress)
MA Massachusetts	NJ New Jersey	WV West Virginia	

States not shown on the map:
Alaska AK, capital: Juneau
Hawaii HI, capital: Honolulu

The Presidents of the United States of America

George Washington

Dates of Presidency

04\30\1789-03\03\1797

Birth: Friday, February 22, 1732**Died:** Saturday, December 14, 1799**Terms Served:** 2**Party:** Federalist**Vice President:** John Adams**First Lady:** Martha Dandridge Custis, Wife**Education:** No College**Profession:** Military (General), Surveyor, Planter

__He was the first president in the history of the world and the only president to be elected unanimously and inaugurated in two cities: New York and Philadelphia.

Thomas Jefferson

Dates of Presidency

03\04\1801-03\03\1809

Birth: Saturday, April 13, 1743**Died:** Tuesday, July 04, 1826**Terms Served:** 2**Party:** Democratic-Republican**Vice President:** Aaron Burr, George Clinton**First Lady:** Martha 'Patsy' Randolph, Daughter**Wife:** Martha Wayles Skelton**Education:** College of William and Mary**Profession:** Lawyer

__ He authorized the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the land the U.S. obtained through the Louisiana Purchase.

James Monroe

Dates of Presidency

03\04\1817-03\03\1825

Birth: Friday, April 28, 1758**Died:** Monday, July 04, 1831**Terms Served:** 2**Party:** Democratic-Republican**Vice President:** Daniel D. Tompkins**First Lady:** Elizabeth Kortright, Wife**Education:** College of William and Mary**Profession:** Military (Lieutenant Colonel), Lawyer

__ In 1819 he approved the Adams-Onis Treaty which purchased Florida from Spain.

John Adams

Dates of Presidency

03\04\1797-03\03\1801

Birth: Tuesday, October 25, 1735**Died:** Tuesday, July 04, 1826**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Federalist**Vice President:** Thomas Jefferson**First Lady:** Abigail Smith, Wife**Education:** Harvard University**Profession:** Teacher, Lawyer, Surveyor

__He was the first to live in the White House. His term was almost over by the time he moved in, and only six rooms had been finished.

James Madison

Dates of Presidency

03\04\1809-03\03\1817

Birth: Monday, March 15, 1751**Died:** Tuesday, June 28, 1836**Terms Served:** 2**Party:** Democratic-Republican**Vice President:** George Clinton, Elbridge Gerry**First Lady:** Dolly Payne Todd, Wife**Education:** Princeton University**Profession:** Military (Colonel), Farmer, Planter

James Madison was nearly five feet five inches tall and weighed one hundred pounds.

John Quincy Adams

Dates of Presidency

03\04\1825-03\03\1829

Birth: Saturday, July 11, 1767**Died:** Wednesday, February 23, 1848**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Democratic-Republican**Vice President:** John Calhoun**First Lady:** Louisa Catherine Johnson, Wife**Education:** Harvard University**Profession:** Lawyer

__ Son of the second president John Adams. He remains the only president to hold office in the House of Representatives after his presidential term expired; he served 17 years in the House.

Andrew Jackson**Dates of Presidency**

03\04\1829-03\03\1837

Birth: Sunday, March 15, 1767**Died:** Sunday, June 08, 1845**Terms Served:** 2**Party:** Democratic**Vice President:** John C. Calhoun, Martin Van Buren**First Lady:** Emily Donelson, Niece of wife**Wife:** Rachel Donelson**Education:** No College**Profession:** Military (Major General)

__ First president to ride on a railroad train.

Martin Van Buren**Dates of Presidency**

03\04\1837-03\03\1841

Birth: Thursday, December 05, 1782**Died:** Thursday, July 24, 1862**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Democratic**Vice President:** Richard M. Johnson**First Lady:** Angelica Singleton Van Buren, Daughter-in-law**Wife:** Hannah Hoes**Education:** No College**Profession:** Lawyer

__ He was the first president born as a U.S. citizen.

William Henry Harrison**Dates of Presidency**

03\04\1841-04\04\1841

Birth: Tuesday, February 09, 1773**Died:** Sunday, April 04, 1841**Terms Served:** 1(Died in office)**Party:** Whig**Vice President:** John Tyler**First Lady:** Jane Irwin Harrison, Daughter-in-law**Wife:** Anna Tuthill Symmes**Education:** Hampden-Sydney College**Profession:** Military (Major General)

__ He gave the longest inauguration speech of any president (8,445 words).

John Tyler**Dates of Presidency**

04\06\1841-03\03\1845

Birth: Monday, March 29, 1790**Died:** Saturday, January 18, 1862**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Whig**Vice President:** None**First Lady:** Priscilla Cooper Tyler, Daughter-in-law**Wife:** Letitia Christian**Education:** College of William and Mary**Profession:** Military (Captain), Lawyer

__ He was nicknamed 'His Accidency,' due to the way in which he assumed the office.

James Knox Polk**Dates of Presidency**

03\04\1845-03\03\1849

Birth: Monday, November 02, 1795**Died:** Friday, June 15, 1849**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Democratic**Vice President:** George Mifflin Dallas**First Lady:** Sarah Childress, Wife**Education:** University of North Carolina**Profession:** Military (Colonel), Lawyer

__ He was president during the California gold rush and acquired the most property for the United States since the Louisiana Purchase.

Zachary Taylor**Dates of Presidency**

03\05\1849-07\09\1850

Birth: Wednesday, November 24, 1784**Died:** Tuesday, July 09, 1850**Terms Served:** 1(Died in office)**Party:** Whig**Vice President:** Millard Fillmore**First Lady:** Betty Taylor Bliss, Daughter**Wife:** Margaret 'Peggy' Smith**Education:** No College**Profession:** Military (Major General)

__ He was the first president not previously elected to any other public office.

Millard Fillmore**Dates of Presidency**

07\10\1850-03\03\1853

Birth: Tuesday, January 07, 1800**Died:** Sunday, March 08, 1874**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Whig**Vice President:** None**First Lady:** Abigail Powers, Wife**Education:** No College**Profession:** Military (Major), Lawyer

__ He authorized Matthew C. Perry's trip to Japan, which helped open trade with Japan.

James Buchanan**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1857-03/03/1861

Birth: Saturday, April 23, 1791**Died:** Monday, June 01, 1868**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Democratic**Vice President:** John C. Breckinridge**First Lady:** Harriet Lane, Niece**Education:** Dickinson College**Profession:** Military, Lawyer

__ He was the only president never to be married.

Andrew Johnson**Dates of Presidency**

04/15/1865-03/03/1869

Birth: Thursday, December 29, 1808**Died:** Saturday, July 31, 1875**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Democratic**Vice President:** None**First Lady:** Martha Johnson Patterson, Daughter**Wife:** Eliza McCardle**Education:** No College**Profession:** Tailor, Military (Brigadier General)

__ He was the first president to be impeached and was acquitted in the Senate by just one vote.

Franklin Pierce**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1853-03/03/1857

Birth: Friday, November 23, 1804**Died:** Friday, October 08, 1869**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Democratic**Vice President:** William R. King**First Lady:** Jane Means Appleton, Wife**Education:** Bowdoin College**Profession:** Military (Brigadier General), Lawyer

__ He was responsible for the Gadsden Purchase which brought New Mexico and part of Arizona into the United States.

Abraham Lincoln**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1861-04/15/1865

Birth: Sunday, February 12, 1809**Died:** Saturday, April 15, 1865**Terms Served:** 2 (Assassinated)**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** Hannibal Hamlin, A. Johnson**First Lady:** Mary Todd, Wife**Education:** No College**Profession:** Clerk, Military (Captain), Lawyer

__ On January 23, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation. He was the first president to be assassinated. He was shot five days after the end of the Civil War.

Ulysses Simpson Grant**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1869-03/03/1877

Birth: Saturday, April 27, 1822**Died:** Thursday, July 23, 1885**Terms Served:** 2**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** Schyler Colfax, Henry Wilson**First Lady:** Julia Dent, Wife**Education:** United States Military Academy**Profession:** Military (Full General), Farmer, Business

__ Even though he had throat cancer, he finished his memoirs and had them published with the help of Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens).

Rutherford Birchard Hayes**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1877-03/03/1881

Birth: Friday, October 04, 1822**Died:** Tuesday, January 17, 1893**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** William Wheeler**First Lady:** Lucy Ware Webb, Wife**Education:** Kenyon College, Harvard Law School**Profession:** Military (Major General), Lawyer

__ He was nicknamed 'His Fraudulency,' because of the alleged 'stolen' election of 1876.

Chester Alan Arthur**Dates of Presidency**

09/20/1881-03/03/1885

Birth: Monday, October 05, 1829**Died:** Thursday, November 18, 1886**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** None**First Lady:** Mary Arthur McElory, Sister**Wife:** Ellen Lewis Herndon**Education:** Union College**Profession:** Military (Quartermaster General), Teacher, Principal, Lawyer

__ He was known for his honesty and efficiency.

Benjamin Harrison**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1889-03/03/1893

Birth: Tuesday, August 20, 1833**Died:** Wednesday, March 13, 1901**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** Levi P. Morton**First Lady:** Caroline Scott, Wife**Education:** Miami University, Oxford (OH)**Profession:** Military (Brigadier General), Lawyer

__ He is the grandson of William Henry Harrison. Six states entered the United States during his administration: ND, SD, MT, ID, WY and WA.

James Abram Garfield**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1881-09/19/1881

Birth: Saturday, November 19, 1831**Died:** Monday, September 19, 1881**Terms Served:** 1 (Assassinated)**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** Chester A. Arthur**First Lady:** Lucretia Rudolph, Wife**Education:** Eclectic Institute, Williams College**Profession:** Military (Major General), Instructor, President of the Eclectic Institute, Lawyer

__ He entertained friends by writing Latin with one hand and Greek with the other.

Stephen Grover Cleveland**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1885-03/03/1889 and 03/04/1893-03/03/1897

Birth: Saturday, March 18, 1837**Died:** Wednesday, June 24, 1908**Terms Served:** 2 (non-consecutive)**Party:** Democratic**Vice President:** Thomas Hendricks**First Lady:** Frances Folsom, Wife**Education:** No College**Profession:** Clerk, Teacher, Lawyer

__ On October 28, 1886, during Cleveland's first term, the Statue of Liberty was unveiled in New York Harbour.

William McKinley**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1897-09/14/1901

Birth: Sunday, January 29, 1843**Died:** Saturday, September 14, 1901**Terms Served:** 2 (Assassinated)**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** Garret Hobart, Theodore Roosevelt**First Lady:** Ida Saxton, Wife**Education:** Allegheny College, Albany Law School**Profession:** Military (Brevet Major), Lawyer

__ During his term, the United States was involved in the Spanish–American War after which the United States received the Philippines, Guam and Puerto Rico from Spain.

Theodore Roosevelt**Dates of Presidency**

09/14/1901-03/03/1909

Birth: Wednesday, October 27, 1858**Died:** Monday, January 06, 1919**Terms Served:** 2**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** Charles Fairbanks**First Lady:** Edith Carow, Wife**Education:** Harvard University**Profession:** Military (Colonel), Writer

__He was the first president to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1903 a stuffed toy bear was given to him, which led to the naming of 'teddy' bears.

Thomas Woodrow Wilson**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1913-03/03/1921

Birth: Sunday, December 28, 1856**Died:** Sunday, February 03, 1924**Terms Served:** 2**Party:** Democratic**Vice President:** Thomas Marshall**First Lady:** Ellen Louise Axson, Wife**Education:** Princeton, Johns Hopkins University**Profession:** Professor, Football Coach, President of Princeton University

__He was the second president to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He was the only president to earn a doctorate.

John Calvin Coolidge**Dates of Presidency**

08/03/1923-03/03/1929

Birth: Thursday, July 04, 1872**Died:** Thursday, January 05, 1933**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** Charles Gates Dawes**First Lady:** Grace Goodhue, Wife**Education:** Amherst College**Profession:** Lawyer

__ 'You lose'. – Calvin Coolidge, responding to a woman who claimed that she could make him say more than two words.

William Howard Taft**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1909-03/03/1913

Birth: Tuesday, September 15, 1857**Died:** Saturday, March 08, 1930**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** James Sherman**First Lady:** Helen Herron, Wife**Education:** Yale University, University of Cincinnati**Profession:** Lawyer, Reporter, Professor, Dean of University of Cincinnati Law School

__He was the first president to go to the Supreme Court after his presidency.

Warren Gamaliel Harding**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1921-08/02/1923

Birth: Thursday, November 02, 1865**Died:** Thursday, August 02, 1923**Terms Served:** 1(Died in office)**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** Calvin Coolidge**First Lady:** Florence Mabel Kling, Wife**Education:** Ohio Central College**Profession:** Teacher, Reporter, Publisher, Insurance Salesman

__He was the first president to ride to his inauguration in an automobile.

Herbert Clark Hoover**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1929-03/04/1933

Birth: Monday, August 10, 1874**Died:** Tuesday, October 20, 1964**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** Charles Curtis**First Lady:** Lou Henry, Wife**Education:** Stanford University**Profession:** Mining Engineer

__ He refused to accept a salary for the presidency. The Star Spangled Banner was adopted as the national anthem while he was president.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt**Dates of Presidency**

03/04/1933-04/12/1945

Birth: Monday, January 30, 1882**Died:** Thursday, April 12, 1945**Terms Served:** 4 (Died in office)**Party:** Democratic**Vice President:** John Nance Garner,
Henry Agard Wallace, Harry Truman**First Lady:** Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, Wife**Education:** Harvard University**Profession:** Lawyer

__ He was the only president to be elected 4 times. He died two weeks before Germany finally surrendered in World War II.

Dwight David Eisenhower**Dates of Presidency**

01/20/1953-01/20/1961

Birth: Tuesday, October 14, 1890**Died:** Friday, March 28, 1969**Terms Served:** 2**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** Richard M. Nixon**First Lady:** Marie Geneva Doud, Wife**Education:** United States Military Academy, Command & General Staff School**Profession:** Military (5 star General),
President of Columbia University

__ Allied commander of the D-Day invasion during WWII. Responsible for creating NASA.

Lyndon Baines Johnson**Dates of Presidency**

11/22/1963-01/20/1969

Birth: Thursday, August 27, 1908**Died:** Monday, January 22, 1973**Terms Served:** 1**Party:** Democratic**Vice President:** Hubert H. Humphrey**First Lady:** Claudia Alta 'Lady Bird'
Taylor, Wife**Education:** Southwest Texas State
University**Profession:** Military (Lieutenant Cmdr.),
Teacher

__ During his term, Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated. He nominated Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court.

Harry S. Truman**Dates of Presidency**

02/12/1945-01/20/1953

Birth: Thursday, May 08, 1884**Died:** Tuesday, December 26, 1972**Terms Served:** 2**Party:** Democratic**Vice President:** Alben William Barkley**First Lady:** Elizabeth Wallace, Wife**Education:** Some College**Profession:** Military (Colonel),
Bank Clerk, Farmer, Business, Politician

__ He made the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which led to the end of World War II.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy**Dates of Presidency**

01/20/1961-11/22/1963

Birth: Tuesday, May 29, 1917**Died:** Friday, November 22, 1963**Terms Served:** 1(Assassinated)**Party:** Democratic**Vice President:** Lyndon B. Johnson**First Lady:** Jacqueline L. Bouvier, Wife**Education:** Harvard University**Profession:** Military (Lieutenant),
Journalist, Writer

__ He was a decorated naval officer in WWII. He received the Pulitzer Prize for his book, 'Profiles in Courage'

Richard Milhous Nixon**Dates of Presidency**

01/20/1969-08/09/1974

Birth: Thursday, January 09, 1913**Died:** Friday, April 22, 1994**Terms Served:** 2**Party:** Republican**Vice President:** Spiro T. Agnew, Gerald R. Ford**First Lady:** Thelma Catherine 'Pat' Ryan, Wife**Education:** Whittier College, Duke
University**Profession:** Military (Lt. Cmdr.), Lawyer,
Business

__ Nixon is the only president to have resigned. He was the first president to have visited all fifty states. During his administration the United States withdrew its military forces from Vietnam.

Gerald Rudolph Ford**Dates of Presidency**

08/09/1974-01/20/1977

Birth: Monday, July 14, 1913

Died: Tuesday, December 26, 2006

Terms Served: 1

Party: Republican

Vice President: Nelson Rockefeller

First Lady: Elizabeth Anne Bloomer, Wife

Education: University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Yale University

Profession: Military (Lt. Cmdr.), Lawyer

— He was the only president not to be elected to either the presidency or the vice presidency.

Ronald Wilson Reagan**Dates of Presidency**

01/20/1981-01/20/1989

Birth: Monday, February 06, 1911

Died: Saturday, June 05, 2004

Terms Served: 2

Party: Republican

Vice President: George Bush

First Lady: Nancy Davis, Wife

Education: Eureka College

Profession: Military (Captain-Army), Radio Announcer, Actor

— He was the oldest man elected president. He appointed the first woman to the supreme court, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

William Jefferson Clinton**Dates of Presidency**

01/20/1993-01/20/2001

Birth: Monday, August 19, 1946

Terms Served: 2

Party: Democratic

Vice President: Albert Gore

First Lady: Hillary Rodham, Wife

Education: Georgetown University, Oxford, Yale

Profession: Professor, Lawyer

— He is known for appointing minorities and women to high-level positions. He was the second president to be impeached, and was acquitted by vote counts of: Article 1-Yea 45; Nay 55 Article 2-Yea 50; Nay 50.

James Earl Carter, Jr.**Dates of Presidency**

01/20/1977-01/20/1981

Birth: Wednesday, October 01, 1924

Terms Served: 1

Party: Democratic

Vice President: Walter F. Mondale

First Lady: Eleanor Rosalynn Smith, Wife

Education: United States Naval Academy

Profession: Military (Lt.), Farmer, Business

— He was sworn into the presidency under his nickname 'Jimmy'. He was the first president since 1932 to lose re-election.

George Herbert Walker Bush**Dates of Presidency**

01/20/1989-01/20/1993

Birth: Thursday, June 12, 1924

Terms Served: 1

Party: Republican

Vice President: Dan Quayle

First Lady: Barbara Pierce, Wife

Education: Yale University

Profession: Military (Lt. Junior), Business

— At the age 18, he was the youngest pilot to see action in WWII and was awarded the Flying Cross Award for heroism. He presided over the American invasion of Panama and Operation Desert Storm in Kuwait.

George Walker Bush**Dates of Presidency**

01/20/2001-

Birth: July 06, 1946

Party: Republican

Vice President: Dick Cheney

First Lady: Laura Welch, Wife

Education: Yale, Harvard Business School

Profession: Business, Politician

— Son of the forty-first president. He assembled the group of partners that purchased the Texas Rangers baseball franchise in 1989 which later built the Ballpark at Arlington. He became the first Texas Governor elected to consecutive four-year terms.



1.
George Washington
1789-1797



2.
John Adams
1797-1801



3.
Thomas Jefferson
1801-1809



4.
James Madison
1809-1817



5.
James Monroe
1817-1825



6.
John Quincy Adams
1825-1829



7.
Andrew Jackson
1829-1837



8.
Martin Van Buren
1837-1841



9.
William Henry Harrison
1841



10.
John Tyler
1841-1845



11.
James K. Polk
1845-1849



12.
Zachary Taylor
1849-1850



13.
Millard Fillmore
1850-1853



14.
Franklin Pierce
1853-1857



15.
James Buchanan
1857-1861



16.
Abraham Lincoln
1861-1865



17.
Andrew Johnson
1865-1869



18.
Ulysses S. Grant
1869-1877



19.
Rutherford B. Hayes
1877-1881



20.
James A. Garfield
1881



21.
Chester A. Arthur
1881-1885



22.
Grover Cleveland
1885-1889



23.
Benjamin Harrison
1889-1893



24.
Grover Cleveland
1893-1897



25.
William McKinley
1897-1901



26.
Theodore Roosevelt
1901-1909



27.
William Howard Taft
1909-1913



28.
Woodrow Wilson
1913-1921



29.
Warren G. Harding
1921-1923



30.
Calvin Coolidge
1923-1929



31.
Herbert Hoover
1929-1933



32.
Franklin Delano Roosevelt
1933-1945



33.
Harry S. Truman
1945-1953



34.
Dwight D. Eisenhower
1953-1961



35.
John F. Kennedy
1961-1963



36.
Lyndon B. Johnson
1963-1969



37.
Richard Nixon
1969-1974



38.
Gerald R. Ford
1974-1977



39.
Jimmy Carter
1977-1981



40.
Ronald Reagan
1981-1989



41.
George H. W. Bush
1989–1993



42.
Bill Clinton
1993–2001



43.
George W. Bush
2001–present

THE US MONETARY SYSTEM

- 1-cent coin is called a penny
- 5-cent coins are called nickels
- 10-cent coins are called dimes
- 25-cent coins are called quarters
- 50-cent coins are called half-dollars
- A dollar bill is 100 cents

WHAT PRESIDENTS ARE ON THE DOLLAR BILLS?

1 dollar: George Washington, the 1st President (1789-1797)

2 dollars: Thomas Jefferson, the 3rd President (1801-1809)

5 dollars: Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President (1861-1865)

10 dollars: Alexander Hamilton, the 1st Secretary of Treasury (1789-1795) who founded the first Bank of the United States which printed uniform currency

20 dollars: Andrew Jackson, the 7th President (1829-1837)

50 dollars: Ulysses Simpson Grant, the 18th President (1869-1877)

100 dollars: Benjamin Franklin, American statesman, diplomat, scientist, and inventor who helped to write the *Declaration of Independence* (1776)

The bills above are used not only in the USA but outside the country as well. The bills below are used only on the territory of the USA.

500 dollars: William McKinley, the 25th President (1897-1901)

1000 dollars: Stephen Grover Cleveland, the 22nd and 24th President (1885-1889, 1893-1897)

5000 dollars: James Madison, the 4th President (1809-1817)

10,000 dollars: Salmon P. Chase, American statesman who originated the national banking system (1861-1864)

100,000 dollars: Thomas Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President (1913-1921)

OUTSTANDING EVENTS IN THE AMERICAN HISTORY

1000 Leif Ericson sails to the east coast of North America.

1492, October 12 Christopher Columbus lands in the Bahamas.

1607 Colonists establish first permanent English settlement at Jamestown, Virginia.

1619, July 30. House of Burgesses, America's first elected legislature, meets at Jamestown.

1636, October 28. America's first college, Harvard, is founded at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1647 Massachusetts School of Law lays foundation for free public education.

1776, July 4. The 13 colonies sign Declaration of Independence.

1783, September 3. Britain and US sign Treaty of Paris recognizing American independence. New nation extends from Canada south to Florida, and west from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River.

1787, May 25. Constitutional Convention meets in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to revise Articles of Confederation, the compact among states governing the newly independent nation. New Constitution is adopted by delegates on September 17.

1789, February 4. George Washington is elected first president.

1791 First 10 Amendments, the Bill of Rights, are added to the U.S. Constitution.

1793 Eli Whitney invents cotton gin to separate seeds from cotton.

1794 Congress passes first postal service law.

1796 John Adams is elected second president.

1800 Thomas Jefferson is elected third president.

1801, December 1. Federal capital moves to Washington, D. C., from temporary quarters in Philadelphia.

1812 War of 1812 against Britain begins. United States wins series of naval victories but fails in attempts to invade Canada. British burn Capitol and White House in August 1814.

1819 United States buys Florida from Spain.

1828 Andrew Jackson is elected seventh president. First U.S. passenger railroad is begun. Noah Webster publishes *American Dictionary of the English Language*.

1836 Texas wins independence from Mexico; it is admitted as a state to the Union in 1845.

1839 Charles Goodyear discovers process for vulcanization of rubber.

1844 Samuel F. B. Morse sends first telegraph message from Washington, D. C., to Baltimore, Maryland.

1854 Republican Party is formed in Wisconsin.

1855 Walt Whitman publishes *Leaves of Grass*.

1860 Abraham Lincoln is elected 16th president.

1863, January 1. President Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation granting freedom to slaves in southern states.

July 1-3. Union forces win major battle at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

November 19. President Lincoln delivers historic Gettysburg Address.

1865, April 9. Civil War ends with surrender of Confederate general, Robert E. Lee, to Union commander, Ulysses S. Grant, at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

April 14. President Lincoln is shot while attending theater in Washington. Lincoln dies the next morning.

1867 Territory of Alaska is purchased from Russia.

1872 Congress creates first national park - Yellowstone in Wyoming.

1878 First telephone exchange opens.

1879 Thomas A. Edison invents incandescent electric lamp.

1885 Mark Twain publishes *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

1901, September 14. Eight days after being shot, President William McKinley dies; Vice President Theodore Roosevelt becomes president.

1902 Electric Theater, America's first movie house, opens in Los Angeles, California.

1903, November 6. United States and Panama sign treaty to build the Panama Canal.

1906 President Theodore Roosevelt is first American to receive Nobel Peace Prize.

1907 Albert Michelson is first American to receive Nobel Prize for Physics.

1908, October 1. Henry Ford introduces efficient, low-cost car, beginning the era of mass production, and 'puts America on wheels'.

1914 August 15. Panama Canal, built by the United States across Central America, opens, permitting ships to travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific without rounding the tip of South America.

1915 D. W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation*, first full-length feature film, is released.

1920 Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees women's right to vote.

1925 F. Scott Fitzgerald publishes *The Great Gatsby*.

1927, January 1. National Broadcasting Company (NBC) makes first coast-to-coast radio network broadcast.

1928 Warner Brothers' *The Jazz Singer*, first feature sound film, revolutionizes film industry.

1929 William Faulkner publishes *The Sound and the Fury*. Ernest Hemingway publishes *A Farewell to Arms*.

1930 Sinclair Lewis is first American to receive Nobel Prize for Literature.

1932 Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected 32nd president.

1935 Congress passes Social Security Act, providing old-age and unemployment insurance and aid to needy elderly persons, the blind and dependent children.

1936 Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected to second term as president and, in 1940, to an unprecedented third term.

1942, December 2. Physicists at University of Chicago achieve first nuclear chain reaction.

1944, November 7. President Roosevelt is elected to the fourth term.

1945, June 26. United Nations Charter is signed by United States and 49 other nations in San Francisco, California.

August 6. Atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima and, three days later on Nagasaki in Japan.

1949, April 4. United States, Canada and Western European nations form North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to provide mutual military aid if any member is attacked.

1951, December 20. First electric power is obtained from nuclear energy.

1952 Dwight D. Eisenhower's election as 34th president restores Republican Party to office for first time in 20 years.

1954 Anti-polio vaccine is developed by Dr. Jonas E. Salk. Vaccination of 30 million children in 1955 produces dramatic decreases in polio outbreaks.

1955 Martin Luther King Jr. emerges as civil rights leader.

1958, January 31. United States orbits its first satellite, Explorer I.

1959 Alaska becomes 49th state. Hawaii becomes 50th state.

1960, November. John F. Kennedy is elected 35th president.

1961, May 5. Astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. makes first manned U.S. space flight.

1962, February 20. Astronaut John H. Glenn Jr. is first American to orbit Earth.

1963, July 25. United States, Great Britain and Soviet Union sign Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

1966 Unmanned Surveyor spacecraft successfully soft-lands on the Moon.

1967 Three astronauts die in fire during ground test of Apollo spacecraft.

1968, April 4. Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights leader and winner of Nobel Peace Prize, is fatally shot in Memphis, Tennessee.

November. Richard Nixon is elected 37th president.

1969, July 20. Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin land on the Moon's Sea of Tranquility. Two-hour walk collecting rocks and soil samples is televised 400,000 kilometers to Earth.

November 15. Massive anti-war march in Washington, D.C., is high-water mark for anti-Vietnam War protests.

1970 Bureau of Census figures show US population at 203, 235, 298.

1971 Twenty-sixth Amendment to the Constitution lowers minimum age to 18 for voting in all elections.

1972, February. President Nixon travels to Beijing for meetings with leaders of People's Republic of China; in May, to Moscow to meet leaders of the Soviet Union. He is the first U.S. president to visit both countries while in office.

May 22. U.S. and Soviet leaders sign first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I) in Moscow.

November 7. President Nixon is elected to the second term.

1973, January 27. Four-party agreement on ending war and restoring peace in Vietnam is formally signed in Paris. The war ended in 1975.

1974, August 9. President Nixon resigns from office, the first president to do so, and is succeeded by Vice President Gerald R. Ford.

1975, July 17-19. U.S. Apollo and USSR Soyuz spacecraft link together in space.

August 1. President Ford signs the Treaty at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (known as Helsinki Accords). Representatives of 35 nations pledge to respect each other's sovereignty and to cooperate in the field of human rights.

1976, July 4. United States celebrates its Bicentennial.

July 20 and September 3. Unmanned Viking I and II spacecraft successfully land on Mars.

October 3-21. Seven Americans win Nobel Prizes, including Saul Bellow for literature and Milton Friedman for economics.

November 2. Jimmy Carter is elected 39th president.

1978 President Carter is first U.S. president to make an official visit to sub-Saharan Africa.

1979, January 1. Full diplomatic relations are established between United States and People's Republic of China.

June 18. President Carter and General Secretary Brezhnev sign Salt II Treaty in Vienna, Austria.

1980, November 4. Ronald Reagan is elected 40th president. Republicans win control of the Senate for the first time since 1952.

1981, April 12. United States launches the world's first reusable spacecraft, space shuttle *Columbia*, which successfully orbits the Earth for two days.

1983, March 23. President Reagan announces the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research programme to explore advanced technologies that would defend against nuclear ballistic missiles.

1984, February. Bruce McCandless and Robert Stewart, astronauts on the space shuttle *Challenger*, are the first humans to fly free of a spacecraft.

July-August. 23rd Summer Olympic Games are held in Los Angeles, California (as they were 52 years before, in 1932).

November 6. President Reagan is elected for the second term.

1985, November 19. President Reagan meets Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva.

1986, January 28. After 24 successful shuttle flights, the space shuttle *Challenger* explodes 73 seconds after takeoff, killing six astronauts and a schoolteacher who was to be the first ordinary citizen flown into space.

July 4. The United States celebrates the restoration of the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France in 1886.

1987, September. The nation celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Constitution of the United States.

1988, September 29. Flight of the space shuttle *Discovery* revives U.S. manned space programme.

1991 U.S. forces helped defeat Iraq in the Persian Gulf War.

1992 Bill Clinton is elected 42nd president.

1995 May. Clinton pays an official visit to Belarus, its capital Minsk.

2001 George W. Bush is elected 43rd president.

September 11. A series of coordinated terrorist attacks by Islamic extremists on the U. S. World Trade Center resulting in the collapse of both buildings soon afterward; on the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia, near Washington D.C.. The fourth aircraft crashed into a field near the town of Shanksville in rural Somerset County, Pennsylvania, after the passengers and members of the flight crew attempted to retake control of their plane from the hijackers. 2,974 people died; another 24 are missing and presumed dead.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE USA

Oh, say, can you see, the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' 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?

On the shore dimly seen, thro' the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In fully glory reflected, now shines on the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner: oh, long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more!
Their blood has vanished out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Oh, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand.
Between their loved home and the war's desolation:
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Power that has made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just.
And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust'.
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave

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для студентов 2 курса специальностей
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