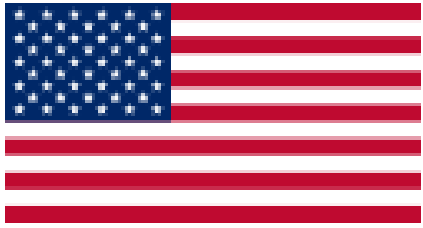


THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: a profile



The 50 stars on the flag represent the **50 U.S. states**, and the 13 stripes represent the original **thirteen colonies** that rebelled against the British crown and became the first states. The nicknames for the flag include **the Stars and Stripes**, **Old Glory** and **the Star-Spangled Banner**.



The Great Seal



The **Mayflower** transported the **Pilgrims** to the New World in 1620, as depicted in William Halsall's *The Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor*, 1882.

The **White House** is the home and work place of the U.S. president.



The United States **Capitol** houses the U.S. **Congress** (the American parliament).



Wall Street is the business centre of the U.S.A., where the **New York Stock Exchange** is situated.



Motto

In God We Trust

Anthem

The Star-Spangled Banner

Capital

Washington, D.C.

Largest city

New York City

Official languages

None

National language

English

Status

Federal, presidential, constitutional republic

Government

President

Vice-President

Cabinet of Ministers

Secretary of State

Independence from Great Britain

July 4, 1776

Territory

9,529,063 km²

(4th country in the world)

Population

303,229,000

(3rd country in the world)

Density

31km²

Currency

United States dollar (\$) (USD)

Time zone

(UTC 5 –10)

The American cultural icons are the **apple pie**, **baseball**, and the **American flag**.



The Pro Bowl is the **American football** annual all-star game.



The astronaut **Neil Armstrong** landed the **Moon** in 1969.



Mount Rushmore (*Gutzon Borglum*, the sculptor) is a massive structure of the four prominent American presidents: *George Washington*, *Thomas Jefferson*, *Theodore Roosevelt*, *Abraham Lincoln*.



The famous **Hollywood sign** near Los Angeles, California.

The **major film studios** of Hollywood produce the most successful movies in the world. The products of Hollywood today dominate the global film industry.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: A FACTFILE

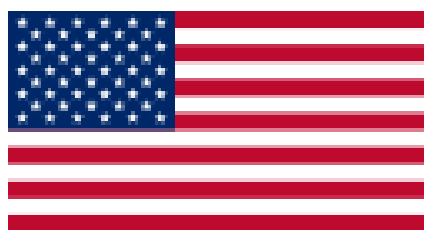


1. The Official Names of the Country

- The United States of America = the USA or the U.S.A.
- The United States = the US or the U.S. (less official)

2. The U.S. National Symbols

- *The American National Flag* is the major national symbol. Its official name is *Stars and Stripes* (“Звезды и полосы” or “Звездно-полосатый”). The stars are for



the 50 states of the United States; the stripes are for the 13 English colonies, which got independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776. Sometimes the national flag is also called *Old Glory* (старая, былая слава). It is said that the first flag was made by Betsy Ross at the request of George Washington, the first American president. The flag was officially adopted in 1777. July 14 is *Flag Day*. The Americans worship and admire their national flag.

- The second national symbol is *the U.S. anthem*, which is called *The Star-Spangled Banner* (“Усеянное звездами знамя”). The melody of the anthem is an old English

song. The lyrics were created by the American poet Francis Scott Key in 1814. It has been the U.S. national anthem since March 3, 1931.

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

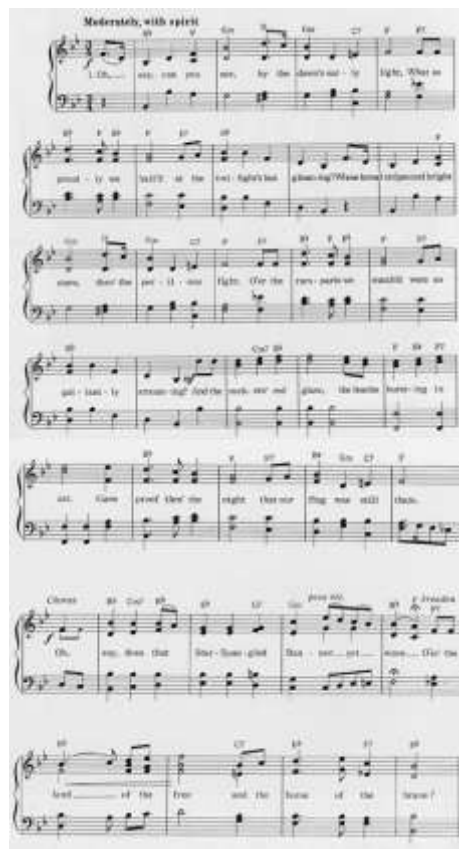
<http://National-Anthem.net>

On the shore, dimly seen through 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, now conceals, now discloses?
 Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
 In full glory reflected now shines on the stream:
 'Tis the star-spangled banner! O 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 wash'd 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 lov'd homes and the war's desolation!
 Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heaven-rescu'd land
 Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
 Then conquer we must, for 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!

<http://National-Anthem.net>



- The U.S. national bird is *the Bald Eagle* (белоголовый орел). The eagle seems bald because of the white feathers on the bird's head. It is also called the American eagle (американский орел) or the bird of freedom. *The U.S. Great Seal* and *the U.S. Coat of Arms* have this national emblem.



- *America the Beautiful*, a popular patriotic song, is the U.S. national song. It was created in 1893 and is often sung during important national events and ceremonies.

Katherine Lee Bates,

Masters, C. N. D.

Samuel A. Ward.

1. O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, For am-ber waves of grain,
 2. O beau-ti-ful for pil-grim feet, Whose stern, in-gas-sioned stream
 3. O beau-ti-ful for ho-ross proved In lib-er-at-lug strife,
 4. O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream That sees be-yond the years

For pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties A-bove the fruit-ed plain!
 A thor-ough-lace for free-dom's boat A-cross the wil-der-ness!
 Who more than sell their coun-try level, And mer-cy more than life!
 Thine al-a-las-ter cit-ies gleam, Undimmed by hu-man tears!

A-mer-i-cal A-mer-i-cal God shed His grace on thee,
 A-mer-i-cal A-mer-i-cal God mend thine ev-'ry flaw,
 A-mer-i-cal A-mer-i-cal May God thy gold re-ine,
 A-mer-i-cal A-mer-i-cal God shed His grace on thee.

And crown thy good with broth-er-hood From sea to shin-ing seal
 Con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, Thy lib-er-ty in law!
 Till all suc-cess be na-ble-ness, And ev-'ry gain di-vine!
 And crown thy good with broth-er-hood From sea to shin-ing seal A-MEN.

3. The U.S. Status and Government

The U.S. is a *federal republic* because it is a union of 50 states and a federal district (*the District of Columbia*, named after Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of the New World). It is also a *presidential republic* as the head of the state and the government is the president, elected for four years. The U.S.A. is a *constitutional republic*, too. The U.S. Constitution was written at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and was ratified by its 55 delegates, who met in Philadelphia (then the capital of the country) in 1788. The Constitution has seven articles and 27 amendments. The first ten amendments are known as *the Bill of Rights* (“Билль о правах”). The most prominent authors of the U.S. Constitution were *George Washington* and *Thomas Jefferson*. The Constitution begins with the words *We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union...*

The U.S. Constitution defines the federal system of government, in which some powers are delegated to the national government, the other powers to the states. The U.S. national government consists of three branches of power.

- ***The Legislative Power*** (законодательная власть) is *the Congress* (the U.S. parliament, the U.S. MPs are congressmen/women), which has two houses: *the Senate* (the upper house) of 100 members (senators), elected by popular (plurality) vote for a six-year term and reelected every two years; and *the House of Representatives* (the lower house) of about 450 members, elected by the same vote every two years.



The U.S. Congress meets at *the Capitol*, which is in Capitol Hill in Washington. *William Thornton* is one of its many architects.

- ***The Executive Power*** (исполнительная власть) includes *the President* (a U.S.-born citizen of at least 35 years old and a resident of the country for at least 14 years), not elected by direct vote, but by indirect electoral system in which the votes are apportioned by the states; *the Vice-President*; and *the Cabinet of Ministers*, the most important position in which is the Secretary of State (госсекретарь ≈ министр иностранных дел).



The White House in Washington, D.C. is the residence and the work place of the U.S. president.

- ***The Judicial Power*** (судебная власть): the U.S. Supreme Court (Верховный Суд), the Federal District Courts, Courts of Appeal (апелляционные суды).

The U.S. government has three levels: federal, state and local.

4. The U.S. Administrative Division

The United States started as a country of 13 former British colonies, which fought in *the American Revolution War* or *the War of Independence* and became free from Great Britain in July 1776. The state of Delaware was the first to get the status of a state. The last states were Alaska and Hawaii. They entered the union in 1959.

At present, the U.S.A. is a federal union of fifty states and the District of Columbia (федеральный, столичный округ). Each state has its own symbols, such as a motto, a flag, a song, a bird, an animal and a plant.

The List of the U.S. States and their Nicknames

1. *Alabama (Алабама)* – the Yellowhammer State (штат овсянки, a bird) or the Heart of Dixie (сердце Дикси; Dixie is the name of the southern states)
2. *Alaska (Аляска)* – the Last Frontier (последняя граница)
3. *Arizona (Аризона)* – the Great Canyon State (штат Большого Каньона)
4. *Arkansas (Арканзас)* – the Land of Opportunity (страна возможностей)
5. *California (Калифорния)* – the Golden State (золотой штат)
6. *Colorado (Колорадо)* – the Centennial State (штат столетия)
7. *Connecticut (Коннектикут)* – the Nutmeg State (штат мускатного ореха) or the Constitution State (штат конституции)
8. *Delaware (Делавэр)* – the First State (первый штат) or Diamond State (штат-бриллиант)
9. *Florida (Флорида)* – the Sunshine State (солнечный штат)
10. *Georgia (Джорджия)* – the Peach State (персиковый штат) or the Empire State of the South (имперский штат юга)
11. *Hawaii (Гавайи)* – the Aloha State (гостеприимный штат): Aloha = love in Hawaiian
12. *Idaho (Айдахо)* – the Gem State (штат драгоценного камня)
13. *Illinois (Иллинойс)* – the Prairie State (штат прерий)
14. *Indiana (Индиана)* – the Hoosier State (штат-мужлан)
15. *Iowa (Айова)* – the Hawkeye State (штат соколиного глаза)

16. *Kansas* (Канзас) – the Sunflower State (подсолнуховый штат)
17. *Kentucky* (Кентукки) – the Bluegrass State (штат голубой травы)
18. *Louisiana* (Луизиана) – the Pelican State (пеликаний штат)
19. *Maine* (Мэн) – the Pine Tree State (сосновый штат)
20. *Maryland* (Мэриленд) – the Old Line State (штат старой линии)
21. *Massachusetts* (Массачусетс) – the Bay State (штат у залива)
22. *Michigan* (Мичиган) – the Wolverine State (штат росомах)
23. *Minnesota* (Миннесота) – the North Star State (штат Северной звезды)
24. *Mississippi* (Миссисипи) – the Magnolia State (магнолиевый штат)
25. *Missouri* (Миссури) – the Show-me State (штат “докажи мне”, “на слово не верящий”, штат скептиков)
26. *Montana* (Монтана) – the Treasure State (штат сокровищ)
27. *Nebraska* (Небраска) – the Cornhusker State (кукурузный штат)
28. *Nevada* (Невада) – the Sagebrush State (полынный штат) or the Silver State (серебряный штат)
29. *New Hampshire* (Нью-Гемпшир) – the Granite State (гранитный штат)
30. *New Jersey* (Нью-Джерси) – the Garden State (садовый штат)
31. *New Mexico* (Нью-Мексико) – the Land of Enchantment (страна очарования)
32. *New York* (Нью-Йорк) – the Empire State (имперский штат)
33. *North Carolina* (Северная Каролина) – the Tarheel State (штат чернопятчинов)
34. *North Dakota* (Северная Дакота) – the Sioux State (штат индейцев сиу)
35. *Ohio* (Огайо) – the Buckeye State (штат конского каштана)
36. *Oklahoma* (Оклахома) – the Sooner State (штат землезахватчиков)
37. *Oregon* (Орегон) – the Beaver State (бобровый штат)
38. *Pennsylvania* (Пенсильвания) – the Keystone State (штат замкового камня)
39. *Rhode Island* (Род-Айленд) – Little Rhody (маленький Род)
40. *South Carolina* (Южная Каролина) – the Palmetto State (штат пальметты, i.e. низкорослой пальмы)
41. *South Dakota* (Южная Дакота) – the Coyote State (штат койотов)

42. *Tennessee* (Теннесси) – the Volunteer State (штат добровольцев)
43. *Texas* (Техас) – the Lone Star State (штат одинокой звезды)
44. *Utah* (Юта) – the Beehive State (штат пчелиного улья)
45. *Vermont* (Вермонт) – the Green Mountain State (штат Зеленых гор)
46. *Virginia* (Виргиния, Вирджиния) – the Old Dominion (старый доминион)
47. *Washington* (Вашингтон) – the Evergreen State (вечнозеленый штат)
48. *West Virginia* (Западная Виргиния, Вирджиния) – the Mountain State (горный штат)
49. *Wisconsin* (Висконсин) – the Badger State (барсучий штат)
50. *Wyoming* (Вайоминг) – the Equality State (штат равноправия)

Washington is the name of the city, which is the national capital of the country, and the name of the state, the capital of which is Seattle. Both the city and the state are named after *George Washington*, the first president of the U.S.A. The official name of the country's capital is *Washington, D.C.* because it is in the District of Columbia. But the first capital of the country was *Philadelphia*.

New York is also the name of the largest city and the name of the state. The New York City is in the New York State, but the capital of the state is Albany, not New York.

Alaska is the largest U.S. state. First it belonged to Russia. But in 1853-1856 Russia was engaged in the Crimean War and did not have enough military forces to defend its settlements on the American continent. It led to conflicts with Great Britain and the U.S.A., so the Russian government decided to sell Alaska as, in those times, it was a vast territory covered with snow and ice, *the land of icebergs and polar bears*. Of its two rivals, Russia chose the U.S.A. because it promised to help Russia in the international arena. Alaska was sold to the U.S.A. for *7.2 million dollars*.

Mississippi and *Colorado* are states; *the Mississippi* and *the Colorado* are rivers. *Michigan* is a state and *the Michigan* is one of the Great Lakes. The smallest U.S. state is *Rhode Island*.

5. The Location and Geography of the U.S.A.

The United States proper (excluding Hawaii and Alaska) stretches across *North America*: from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west; from Canada in the north to Mexico, the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of California in the south. Thus, most of the U.S. states are bounded by *the Pacific Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico*.

Two of the fifty states are not on the mainland: *Alaska* is separated from it by Canada and borders the Arctic Ocean in the north; the twenty islands of *Hawaii* lie in the Pacific Ocean.

The U.S.A. is a large country: *in size*, it is *the fourth country* in the world after Russia, Canada and China; *by population*, it is *the third* after China and India.

Geographically, the U.S. is divided into five regions: *New England* (the northeast part of the country), *the Midland* (the middle Atlantic and the upper southern states), *the Midwest* or the Corn Belt (Средний Запад or кукурузный, маисовый пояс), *the South* and *the West*.

The Mountain Chains: the Rocky Mountains or the Rockies (Скалистые горы), the Appalachian Highlands or the Appalachians (Аппалачские горы или Аппалачи); the Northern Cordilleras (Кордильеры Северной Америки). All the three chains are both in the U.S.A. and Canada. The highest mountain is *Mount McKinley* (6,193m. in the Cordilleras in Alaska); it is also the highest peak in North America.

The Main Rivers: the Mississippi (the longest; its nicknames are *the Old Man, the Big Muddy*), the Colorado, the Columbia, the Rio Grande.



The Hudson River and Hudson Bay are named after *Henry Hudson*, the English sailor and explorer, who discovered them. The brave navigator died tragically in the bay which he discovered.

The Potomac River: Washington, the capital of the U.S., is on this river.



The Niagara River rushes from Lake Erie over the famous *Niagara Falls*, which are the greatest water falls in the world (located both in the U.S.A. and Canada).

The Great Lakes: Lake Superior (the largest), Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and Lake Michigan (the only one of the five, which is entirely on the U.S. territory; the other four are both in the U.S.A. and Canada). Another great lake is *the Great Salt Lake*, which is so salty that the human body cannot sink in it.

6. The Climate and the Environment of the U.S.A.

North America has many climates. Being the central state in North America, the U.S. also has *several climatic zones*. Most U.S. climates are continental with long and cold winters in the north and short, mild winters in the south. The factors that influence the U.S. climate are *the oceans, the mountains, the dry regions* and *the deserts*.

The U.S. territory is covered by numerous forests, woods, the grasslands of the *Great Plains*, tall-grass prairies, short-grass steppes and deserts.

The country's flora (the plant life) and *fauna* (the animal life) are very diverse, but not so rich now as they had been before the white Europeans with their effective weapons settled on the American continent. The uncontrolled hunting, the fur and feather trades, the constructions of railways and towns (many of which turned into supercities) – all these are the reasons that caused the extinction of many U.S. animals and birds by the beginning of the 20th century.

The Americans got alarmed, and *the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* was founded to protect the environment. Today the U.S. has 58 national parks and hundreds of federal parks and forests. The greatest of them is *the Yellowstone National Park* with its great Geysers, which is in the Rocky Mountains.

The energy policy of the United States is much criticized in the world: after China, the U.S. is the world's second largest emitter of carbon dioxide (углекислый газ).

Many countries call on the U.S.A. to take a more active role in fighting *the global warning*.

7. The U.S. Ethnic Composition and Population

The U.S. population is divided into several ethnic groups.



Indians and Eskimos (the Native Americans, the first inhabitants of America).



White Americans (whites, the descendants of the European settlers from England, Scotland, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, France, Norway, Finland, etc.).



Afro-Americans (blacks, descendants of the former Negro slaves).



Mexican Americans (persons with Spanish names, most of whom are of Mexican origin).

There are also U.S. citizens of other races and nations, such as Chinese, Arabs, etc.

This ethnic diversity is mainly due to *the large-scale immigration* that took place from the discovery of America in the 15th century till 1920. At present, the term *the Native American* does not mean an Indian or an Eskimo only; it refers to any U.S. citizen, who is born in the country and lives long in it.

When the Indians first saw the Europeans, they did not understand their language and called the newcomers *Yankees*, i.e. *unknown people*. At present, a Yankee is the nickname of an American.

In the national context, the abbreviation *U.S.* has two meanings:

(a) *the United States*, i.e. the name of the country;

(b) *Uncle Sam* (Дядюшка Сэм) = the nickname of the U.S. government and the American people or nation.

The multinational diversity of the U.S. population is also represented in some nicknames that the country has, for example, *a melting pot* = плавильный котел; *a salad bowl* = салатница.

8. The Languages in the U.S.A.

As the United States is a multinational and democratic country, it has *no official language* at the federal level. **English** is *the national language*, but, in fact, the predominant one because it is the language of the U.S. government and because more than 80% of the U.S. population speak only English. **Spanish**, spoken by over 10% of the population, is the second most common language and the most widely taught foreign language.

In some states, people speak in two languages: in Hawaii, English and Hawaiian; in Louisiana, English and French. The other *minority languages* are Italian, German, Polish, Yiddish, Russian, Indian tongues, Chinese, etc.

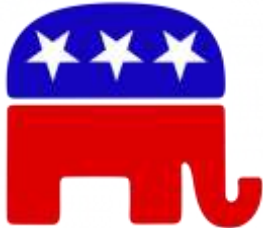
The English of the United States is **American English**, and it differs from **British English** in phonetics, grammar, vocabulary and in business terminology. It also has *regional dialects*: the Northern dialect, the Midland dialect, the Southern dialect. But the British influences are still strong, especially in large cities, at universities and government.

9. The U.S. Political Parties

The U.S. leading political parties are the two ruling parties.



The Democratic Party (centre-left or liberal): It was founded in 1783. Its ideologist was *Thomas Jefferson*. The party's symbol is *the donkey*.



The Republican Party (centre-right or conservative): It was founded in 1854 to fight for the abolition of slavery. Its ideologist was *Abraham Lincoln*. The party's symbol is *the elephant*.

In the U.S.A., *the election campaign* begins with an election, that is called *primaries*, at which the members of a political party vote for the person whom they would like to see as their party's candidate for a political office, for example, a president, a vice-president, a governor.

10. The Religions in the U.S.A.

Because of the population diversity, the U.S. government has never supported any one church. About two-thirds of the population are *Protestants* (Baptists, Lutherans, Methodists). *Roman Catholics, Orthodox Christians, Jewish religious groups* are quite numerous. In recent years, many Americans (natives and immigrants) have been drawn to *Islam and Buddhism*.

11. The Main Events in the U.S. History

1000: *Leif Ericson*, a Norwegian mariner and viking, sails to the east coast of North America.



1492, August 3: *Christopher Columbus*, a Spanish navigator, sails to find the eastern coast of Asia, i.e. the East Indies. His fleet consists of three ships: the *Santa Maria*, commanded by Columbus, the *Nina*, the *Pinta*.



1492, October 12: Columbus lands in the Bahamas, not knowing that he is very near the new continent. He calls the natives Indians.



1504: *Amerigo Vespucci*, a native of Florence, after his travels to and exploration of the new lands, publishes his work in which he describes the New World. A German professor suggests that the new part of the world should be named America after Amerigo Vespucci.

1607: Some English people do not like their King James I and sail for America. They establish their first settlement and call it *Jamestown*, after King James. The life in the little colony is very hard, and many people die. The Indians give the Englishmen some corn to eat (corn flakes are still very popular in the U.S.A.). From Indians, the English colonists learn how to grow tobacco, and soon ships with tobacco sail for England and return with things that the colony needs.

1619: Twenty Negroes are brought to Jamestown and sold to the tobacco planters. This is the beginning of slavery in America.

1620: *The Pilgrim Fathers* land in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and the active colonization in New England begins.



1636, October 28: America's first college, *Harvard*, is founded at *Cambridge, Massachusetts*. The name of the city is after the English town of Cambridge, where the English University of Cambridge is located.

1775, April 19 – 1776, July 4: *The War of Independence* from Britain is waged. *The Declaration of Independence*, written by Tomas Jefferson and his colleagues, is adopted and declared.

1789: *George Washington* is elected the first president of the U.S.A.

1860: *Abraham Lincoln* is elected the 16th president.

1861 – 1865: *The Civil War* between the North and the South for the abolition of the slavery breaks out and is waged.

1865, April 9: *Robert E. Lee*, the commander-in-chief of the Southerners, surrenders his armies, ending the Civil War.

1865, April 14: Abraham Lincoln is shot by the actor John Booth at Ford's Theatre in Washington. One of the witnesses says, "Now he belongs to the ages... ."

A radical republican calls this tragedy *God's will*.

1867: Alaska is purchased from Russia for 7.2 million dollars.

1908, October 1: *Henry Ford* introduces his efficient low-cost car. The era of mass production begins.



1915: D.W. Griffin's *The Birth of a Nation*, the first full-length feature film, is released.



1928: The Warner Brothers release the first sound film *The Jazz Singer*.

1929, October 29: America's worst depression begins. It is called *the Great Depression*.

1944, June 6: The second front in World War II is opened. The allied forces of Great Britain and the U.S.A. land on the coast of Normandy in France. Historically, this day is known as *D-Day*, which means a very important day (День Д).

1945, February 4 – 11: The Crimean Conference is held in Yalta. The three state leaders (*Joseph Stalin*, the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Army; *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*, the President of the U.S.A.; and *Winston Churchill*, the Prime Minister of the UK) meet to discuss their military plans in order to stop the war and to destroy the Nazis. They also agree upon the main guidelines of the future world policy making.



1945: *The UNO (the United Nations Organization)* is founded. 190 states are its members at present. The headquarters are in New York. The official working languages are English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and French. The major mission of this international organization is to support and strengthen peace and security all over the world, to develop and encourage the mutually beneficial cooperation of the countries and states on our planet.



1949: *The NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization = Организация Североатлантического договора)* is founded. The headquarters are in Brussels, Belgium. It is a group of countries, including the U.S.A. and Britain, which claim that they only give military help to one another. But, in fact, the bloc tries to dominate the world, thus threatening peace and stability on our planet. *The cold war* between the USSR and the U.S.A. begins.



1972, May 22: The U.S. and Soviet leaders sign the first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT = ОСВ = Договор об ограничении стратегических наступательных вооружений) in Moscow.



1975, July 17 – 19: The U.S. Apollo and the USSR Soyuz spaceships link together in space.

1976, July 4: The United States celebrates its *Bicentennial*.

1987: The treaty eliminating all medium and shorter-range nuclear missiles is signed. *The cold war* in the Soviet-American relationships gives way to their international cooperation.

1992: The 500th (five hundredth-year) Anniversary of the Discovery of America is celebrated. The U.S.A. now is one of the major most powerful and leading states in the world.

12. The U.S. Presidents

The United States of America is a presidential republic: the head of the state and the government is the U.S. President.

In elections for the U.S. president and vice-president, voters (избиратели) in each state choose among electors (выборщики), who actually participate in the election and support a particular candidate. This group of electors is called *the Electoral College* (коллегия выборщиков). Americans vote at the age of 18 and older.

The first president was *George Washington*, who is called *the father of the nation* by the Americans. Nine U.S. presidents were elected for two terms; Franklin Roosevelt was elected for four terms. The shortest-serving president was William Harrison as he died a month after being elected.

Four U.S. presidents were assassinated: Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley, John Kennedy. Eight U.S. presidents were born in the state of Virginia, which is called *the President State* due to this.

The U.S. Constitution provides protection against the abuse of the executive power. If a public official, including a president, is charged with a serious crime against the state or with misconduct in office, he/she may be *impeached* (привлечен к суду и отрешен от должности). Two U.S. presidents had to retire because they were threatened with *impeachment*: *Andrew Johnson*, for the infringement of the U.S. Constitution and exceeding his authority, and *Richard Nixon*, for the Watergate corruption scandal during his second election campaign.



Watergate is the name of the complex of buildings, including the notorious hotel, which is connected with this scandal. Now it is the symbol of corruption in the American political life.

The list of the presidents with the important information about some of them:



1. George Washington (1789 – 1797): in the War of Independence commanded the American army against the British.



2. John Adams (1797 – 1801): the first in the White House, since 1800 the official residence of the American presidents at 1600, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C.



3. Thomas Jefferson (1801 – 1809): the most prominent author of the Declaration of Independence and later of the American Constitution.

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 (March 4, 1841 – April 4, 1841)
10. John Tyler (1841 – 1845)
11. James Knox 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): commanded the Northern army in the Civil War between the North and the South for the abolition of slavery; the first president from the Republican Party; was shot by an assassin's bullet.

17. Andrew Johnson (1865 – 1869)
18. Ulysses Simpson Grant (1869 – 1877)
19. Rutherford Birchard Hayes (1877 – 1881)
20. James Abram Garfield (March 4, 1881 – September 19, 1881)
21. Chester Alan Arthur (1881 – 1885)
22. Stephen Grover Cleveland (1885 – 1889)
23. Benjamin Harrison (1889 – 1893)
24. Stephen Grover Cleveland (1893 – 1897)
25. William McKinley (1897 – 1901)
26. Theodore Roosevelt (1901 – 1909)
27. William Howard Taft (1909 – 1913)
28. Thomas Woodrow Wilson (1913 – 1921)
29. Warren Gamaliel Harding (1921 – 1923)
30. Calvin Coolidge (1923 – 1929)
31. Herbert Clark Hoover (1929 – 1933)



32. Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933 – 1945): the longest serving president, was elected four times; his reforms saved the economy of the country, and the U.S.A. became the most highly developed leading state in the world.



33. Harry S. Truman (1945 – 1953): sanctioned the nuclear bombing of the two Japanese cities in August 1945; the U.S.A. became the leading military power of the Western World and acquired the notorious nickname of *the world's gendarme*.



34. Dwight David Eisenhower (1953-1961): the American general who commanded the U.S. forces during World War II.



35. John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1961 – 1963): the youngest president in the U.S.A.; in his presidency, the Cuban missile crisis nearly caused the third world war; was assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

36. Lyndon Baines Johnson (1963 – 1969)

37. Richard Milhous Nixon (1969 – 1974)

38. Gerald Rudolf Ford (1974 – 1977)

39. James Earl Carter (1977 – 1981)

40. Ronald Wilson Reagan (1981 – 1988)

41. George Herbert Walker Bush, Sr. (1989 – 1993)

42. William (Bill) Jefferson Clinton (1993 – 2000)

43. George Walker Bush, Jr. (2000 – 2008)



44. Barack Hussein Obama (elected in 2008): the first Afro-American president in the history of the U.S.A.

13. The Currency and Economy of the U.S.A.



The U.S. currency is *the U.S. dollar* (USD = \$). It is subdivided into *100 cents*. The U.S. dollar is the first most traded currency in the world.

The word *dollar* originated from the German word *taler* (талер). All the U.S. bills (банкноты) carry the portraits of famous American statesmen. In informal American English, *a dollar* is *a buck* (American slang).

The U.S.A. is the most powerful state in the world and has a capitalist mixed economy. The high level of the country's economic development is due to the following factors: the country's rich national resources, advanced infrastructure and high productivity. The U.S. leads the world in industrial and agricultural production. Another very important factor is that none of the world wars of the 20th century devastated the United States. On the contrary, the U.S. monopolies have only profited from the wars.

The U.S. national GDP (gross domestic product = ВВП, внутренний валовой продукт) is the largest in the world and is about 20% of the gross world product.

By the end of the 20th century, the U.S. population had achieved very high living standards. This fact led to such phrases about the country as *the American way of life*, *the land of opportunity*, *the God's country*.

The United States is the largest importer of goods and the second largest exporter in the world. Its leading partners are Canada, China, Mexico, Japan and Germany. But being a prosperous country, the U.S. national dept is the world's largest.

14. The Largest Cities

The United States of America is a country of huge cities or supercities.



Washington, D.C.: the national capital attracts millions of tourists; the government buildings (the Capital, the White House), the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the National Museums of Natural History and American History; Ford's Theatre, the National Theatre; the National Symphony Orchestra in the Kennedy Centre.



The Library of the Congress, the largest library in the U.S.A. is in Washington. It was founded in 1800. A significant part of its fund is the collection of Gennady Yudin, the Russian manufacturer and bibliographer from Krasnoyarsk, who sold his collection to the U.S.A. in 1907 after several unsuccessful attempts to sell his library in Russia.



The Pentagon, the military-industrial centre of the U.S.A. is near Washington. A pentagon is a polygon of five angles and five sides. Now the Pentagon is both the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense and the symbol of the U.S. militarism.



New York: the U.S. largest city, called *the capital of the world*. Originally, New York was called *New Amsterdam* as it was a Dutch possession. But when the English captured it, the city was renamed *New York*. The city has five boroughs: Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, Richmond (or Staten Island) and Manhattan. The latter is an island, long and narrow, in the centre of New York (bought from the Indians for 24 dollars in 1626).



Wall Street in New York is the leading national centre of business and finance.



The Statue of Liberty is a colossal sculpture on *Liberty Island* in *New York Harbour*. This statue is a gift to the United States from the people of France. The robed woman represents *Libertas*, the Roman goddess of freedom. She holds a torch to enlighten the world and a tablet, upon which the date of the American Declaration of Independence is inscribed. The Statue of Liberty was presented by France in

1886, the 100th-year anniversary of the U.S. independence and the Franco-American union during the American Revolution War.

New York is also a tourist and cultural centre.



The Empire State Building



Carnegie Hall, a concert hall



The Metropolitan Opera



New York University and Columbia University make the city a centre of education.



Broadway is a street in New York (originally meaning *a broad way*), where different theatres are situated. At present, it is the symbol of the New York show business.



In this picture, you see *the World Trade Centre*, which consisted of seven buildings. On September 11, 2001, its twin 110-storeyed towers were attacked by terrorists and blown up. The other buildings were also partially destroyed and could not be rebuilt. The whole complex was pulled down and become *ground zero*. The reconstruction of the centre is planned to be completed as soon as possible.



Los Angeles (L.A.): the nation's second largest city; *Hollywood*, a district of Los Angeles, is the centre of the U.S. motion-picture and television industries.



Chicago: the nation's third largest city, the most important Great Lakes port.



Philadelphia: the U.S. first capital, *the city of brotherly love* (in Latin “philadelphia” means “brother’s love”).

San Francisco: the U.S. greatest industrial and cultural centre; a big port and a shipbuilding centre.

Detroit: *the automobile capital of the world, the motor city*; “General Motors”, “American Motors”, “Ford”, “Chrysler” – all these automobile corporations have their headquarters in Detroit.

Houston: the site of the U.S. space centre *the National Aeronautics and Space Administration* or *NASA* (Национальное управление по аэронавтике и исследованию космического пространства).

The other U.S. great cities are *Dallas* (the financial centre of the South), *Miami* (the famous resort in Florida), *Atlanta* (an education centre: Emory University, Georgia

State University, Atlanta University), *Baltimore* (a major port of domestic and international trade), *Seattle* (a seaport).

It is interesting to know that there are many European place names in the U.S.A. The European settlers built towns in America and named them after the towns of their countries or their famous people. The Englishmen named their first settlement Jamestown, in honour of their king James I. New York is named after the English town York and the Duke of York, the commander of the English fleet. Harvard, the U.S. oldest university, is in Cambridge, named after the English Cambridge. There are also London, Paris, Rome, Madrid, Berlin, Athens in the U.S.A. Some American towns have Russian names: Odessa, Sebastopol, Siberia. There is St. Petersburg in Florida; the city of Moscow is in Idaho.

A number of U.S. towns have the same names. As a result, there are 22 Londons and New Londons, 18 Bristols, several Odessas, Moscows, five Philadelphias. That is why Americans always write the name of the state on the envelope to be sure that the letter will go to the right address, for example, *New York, N.Y.*

15. The U.S. Education System

There is no government agency to regulate the U.S. public education. Each state has its own laws, regulating the education in this state. There is no national school curriculum in the United States either. The U.S. education has three stages and different levels.

Pre-schooling (at the age of 3 – 5 years): a nursery school and a kindergarten.

School education (at the age of 6 – 18; 12 grades or school years): an elementary school, a high school (junior, senior levels); a high school diploma or a certificate of education.

Higher Education (at the age of 18); institutions of higher learning (вузы):

- further professional education in professional schools and local community colleges for three years;

- academic education at public and private universities: undergraduate studies for four years to get a bachelor's degree; graduate studies for one or two more years to get a master's degree; postgraduate studies for any number of years of research to get a doctor's degree.

Student Classification:

- freshmen – first-year students
- sophomores – second-year students
- juniors – third-year students
- seniors – fourth-year students
- undergraduate students (undergraduates)
- graduate students (graduates)
- university fellows (postgraduate students) = стипендиаты, занимающиеся научной деятельностью

University Degrees:

- a Bachelor's Degree – a Bachelor of Arts (Science) = BA, BS
- a Master's Degree – a Master of Arts (Science) = MA, MS
- a Doctor's Degree – a Doctor of Philosophy = Ph.D.

An honours degree ≈ диплом с отличием, e.g. BA (Hons) = an Honours Bachelor's Degree in arts

The U.S. Colleges and Universities

Total: 1,900 public or privately controlled institutions. High tuition fees, high admission standards, need to work – all these make it difficult for an average American to enter a good college or a university.

There are three famous universities in the U.S.A., which are the oldest and the most prestigious ones.



Harvard in Cambridge, near Boston, is named after its founder John Harvard; it is established in 1636.



Yale is established in the state Connecticut in 1701



Princeton is established in the state New Jersey in 1746.

16. The Science and Culture in the U.S.A.

The United States has been a world's leader in scientific research and technological innovations since the 19th century. A great many important discoveries and inventions are made in the U.S.A.

The cultural heritage of the country is also rich and significant. The American achievements in literature, fine arts, theatre, music, dance are among the most remarkable in the world. Though in the 18th – 19th centuries the European culture and traditions influenced the Americans greatly, in the 20th century the U.S. cultural life acquired its distinctive American national character. And this cultural phenomenon was not due to any impersonal forces, but thanks to the country's talented men and women.

The novels "Moby-Dick" by Herman Melville, "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain and "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald captured the fundamental aspects of the national character and are considered *the Great American Novels*.

The cultural historian *Thomas Bender* called this U.S. cultural development *the triumph of the culture of the eye and ear*. Such artistic movements as *abstract expressionism* and *the pop art* have been largely developed in the United States.

The United States has its own cultural innovations of which it is very proud. The creator of *the classical detective story* is the American writer *Edgar Allan Poe*. The

popular literary genres *the Western* and *hardboiled crime fiction* developed in the U.S.A. *The newspaper comic strip* and *the comic book* (now known as *comics*) are both the U.S. innovations. Musical comedies and later films (*musicals*) originated in the U.S.A., too. *Superman*, the comic book superhero, has become an American icon. Being born in the U.S.A., all these innovations of the American pop and mass culture are widely spread all over the world.

Science

Ralph Waldo Emerson (a philosopher): philosophy of transcendentalism, the main principle of which is the mystical unity of nature.

Benjamin Franklin (a scientist): the inventor of the lightning-rod.

Robert Fulton (an engineer): the inventor of the first steamer.

Samuel Morse (an artist): the inventor of the telegraph.

Julius Robert Oppenheimer (a physicist): the creator of the American nuclear bomb.



Albert Einstein

(a German by nationality, a U.S. citizen since 1940, a thinker and physicist): general theory of relativity; a Nobel laureate.

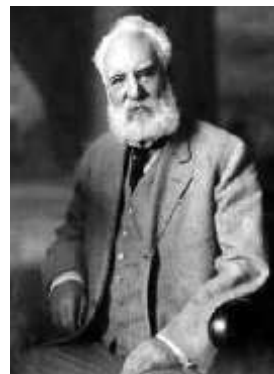


Samuel Colt

(a manufacturer): the inventor of the colt (a revolver).



Thomas Edison: the inventor of the electric lamp and the gramophone.



Alexander Bell (together with Thomas Edison) invented the telephone.



Henry Ford:
the first automobile
maker and
manufacturer.



V.K. Zworykin
(an engineer and an
inventor of the
Russian origin):
the creator of the
first TV tube.



Bill Gates (a multimillionaire): the chairman and the chief software architect of the Microsoft Corporation; the worldwide leader in software, services and Internet technologies for personal and business computing.

Music

Leonard Bernstein: a conductor and a composer.

Benjamin Goodman: a musician and a jazz conductor (swing style).

Henry Cowell, John Cage, Charles Eves: the U.S. major composers and experimentalists in the classical composition.

George Balanchine (born Georgi Balanchivadze; came from the USSR): the choreographer who created the modern style of the classical American ballet.



George Gershwin (born Jacob Gershovitz, the son of Russian-Jewish parents; came from Russia): a pianist, a musician, a composer (jazz and Afro-American music); “Rhapsody in Blue” (Рапсодия в блюзовых тонах), “Concerto in F” (концерт для фортепиано с оркестром), “Porgy and Bess” (Порги и Бесс), a real American opera; about 300 songs and music for films.



Louis Armstrong:
a jazz musician.



Frank Sinatra:
a singer and
an actor.



Isadora Duncan: a dancer
and a choreographer in
modern dance; lived in
Russia, the poet Yesenin's
wife.



Elvis Presley:
a singer and an actor;
the leader in
rock-n-roll.

Cinema



Hollywood (a district of Los Angeles, California): since 1911 the centre of the American motion-picture (movie) studios and television industries, such as *20th Century Fox*, *Paramount Studios*, *Columbia Pictures*, *United Artists*, *Disney*, *Warner Brothers*.



Beverly Hills: a district at Hollywood, where many movie stars live.



The Oscar (or the *Academy Award*) is the name of both the award and the statuette awarded annually for notable achievements in motion pictures in 20 nominations, including the best actor (actress), director, film, etc., of the year. It is named after *Oscar Pierce*, the American wheat and fruit grower, who founded the prize in 1929. The prize is also called the *Academy Award* because it is awarded by *the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences* (= the AMPAS = Американская академия кинематографических искусств и наук), founded in Hollywood in 1927.

Famous Hollywood Filmmakers

John Ford: “The Long Voyage Home” (Долгий путь домой) in 1940, “The Horse Soldiers” (Кавалеристы) in 1960.

Howard Hawks: “His Girl Friday” (Его девушка Пятница) in 1940, “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes” (Джентльмены предпочитают блондинок) in 1953, “El Dorado” (Эльдорадо) in 1967.

William Wyler: “How to Steal a Million” (Как украсть миллион) in 1966.

Lawrence Schiller & Marvin J. Chomsky: “Peter the Great” (Петр Великий) in 1986.

Martin Scorsese: “The Last Temptation of Christ” (Последнее искушение Христа) in 1988, “Gangs of New York” (Банды Нью-Йорка) in 2002, “The Aviator” (Авиатор) in 2004.

Guy Ritchie: “Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels” (Карты, деньги, два ствола) in 1998, “Revolver” (Револьвер) in 2005.



Francis Ford Coppola: “The Godfather” (Крестный отец) in 1972, “Bram Stoker's Dracula” (Дракула Брема Стокера) in 1992, “The Rainmaker” (Благодетель) in 1997.



George Lucas: “Star Wars” (Звездные войны) in 1977, “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom” (Индиана Джонс и храм судьбы) in 1984, “Star Wars: The Clone Wars” (Звездные войны: Войны клонов) in 2008.



Steven Spielberg: “Jaws” (Челюсти) in 1975, “Jurassic Park” (Парк юрского периода) in 1993, “Saving Private Ryan” (Спасти рядового Райана) in 1998, “War of the Worlds” (Война миров) in 2004.



James Cameron: “The Terminator” (Терминатор) in 1984, “Aliens” (Чужие) in 1986, “Titanic” (Титаник) in 1997.



Quentin Jerome Tarantino: “Pulp Fiction” (Криминальное чтиво) in 1994, “Kill Bill” (Убить Билла) in 2003.

Actors and Actresses



Charlie Chaplin (Charles Spencer Chaplin, born in London): “The Kid” (Мальш) in 1921, “The Gold Rush” (Золотая лихорадка) in 1925, “The Great Dictator” (Великий диктатор) in 1940.

Marlon Brando: “Last Tango in Paris” (Последнее танго в Париже) in 1972, “The Godfather” (Крестный отец) in 1972, “The Island of Dr. Moreau” (Остров доктора Моро) in 1996.

Clinton Eastwood Jr.: “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” (Хороший, плохой, злой) in 1966, “Million Dollar Baby” (Малышка на миллион) in 2004.

Harrison Ford: “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom” (Индиана Джонс и храм судьбы) in 1984, “К-19” (Подводная лодка “К-19”) in 2002.



Marilyn Monroe (the true name is Norma Jeane Mortensen): “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes” (Джентльмены предпочитают блондинок) in 1953, “Some Like It Hot” (В джазе только девушки) in 1959.



Elizabeth Rosemond Taylor: “Cleopatra” (Клеопатра) in 1963, “The Taming of the Shrew” (Укрощение строптивой) in 1967, “North and South” (Север и Юг) in 1985.



Audrey Hepburn: “Roman Holiday” (Римские каникулы) in 1953, Natasha Rostova in “War and Peace” (Война и мир) in 1956, “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” (Завтрак у Тиффани) in 1961, Eliza Doolittle in “My Fair Lady” (Моя прекрасная леди) in 1964.



Al Pacino (the true name is Alfredo James Pacino): “The Godfather” (Крёстный отец) in 1972, “Scarface” (Лицо со шрамом) in 1983, “Carlito’s Way” (Путь Карлито) in 1993, “The Devil’s Advocate” (Адвокат дьявола) in 1997.



Jack Nicholson: “One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest” (Пролетая над гнездом кукушки) in 1975, “Batman” (Бэтмэн) in 1989, “Something's Gotta Give” (Любовь по правилам и без) in 2003.



Sharon Vonne Stone: “Basic Instinct” (Основной инстинкт) in 1992, “Catwoman” (Женщина-кошка) in 2004.



Arnold Alois Schwarzenegger: “The Terminator” (Терминатор) in 1984, “ Predator ” (Хищник) in 1987, “ True Lies ” (Правдивая ложь) in 1994.

Literature

Walt Whitman (a poet): “Leaves of Grass” (Листья травы), “Song of Myself” (Песнь о себе).

Robert Frost (a poet): “Fire and Ice” (Огонь и лед).

Harriet Beecher-Stowe (a woman writer): “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” (Хижина дяди Тома).

Lillian Hellman (a woman playwright): “The Little Foxes” (Лисички).

Theodore Dreiser (a writer): “An American Tragedy” (Американская трагедия); the trilogy “The Financier” (Финансист), “The Titan” (Титан), “The Stoic” (Стоик).

Edgar Allan Poe (a poet, a writer of short fiction; transformed the short story from an anecdote to art; the creator of the classical detective story, a master of the

psychological thriller): “The Gold Bug” (Золотой жук), “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” (Убийство на улице Морг), the poem “The Raven” (Ворон).

Langston Hughes (a Negro writer and poet): the collection of short stories “The Ways of White Folks” (Нравы белых), the poem “Dreams” (Мечты).

Ray Douglas Bradbury (a writer): “The Martian Chronicles” (Марсианские хроники), “Fahrenheit 451” (451° по Фаренгейту).

William Saroyan (a short-story writer and novelist of Armenian parentage): “The Time of Your Life” (Путь вашей жизни); *a Pulitzer Prize in 1940*.

Arthur Hailey (a writer): “Airport” (Аэропорт), “Hotel” (Отель), “Wheels” (Колеса), “The Final Diagnosis” (Окончательный диагноз).

John Steinbeck (a writer): “The Grapes of Wrath” (Гроздь гнева), “The Winter of Our Discontent” (Зима тревоги нашей), “The Pearl” (Жемчужина); *the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962*.

Isaac Asimov (a science-fiction writer): “I, robot” (Я, робот), “Foundation” (Основание), “The Bicentennial Man” (Двухсотлетний человек)



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (a poet): “The Song of Hiawatha” (Песнь о Гайавате), “The Arrow and the Song” (Стрела и песня).



James Fenimore Cooper (a writer): “The Last of the Mohicans” (Последний из могикан).



Mark Twain (the pen-name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens; a writer, *the icon* of the American culture and humour the world over): his best-known gems are “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” and “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” (Tom in the story is really Mark Twain, and

Huckleberry Finn is his close boyhood friend, Tom Blankenship).



O'Henry (the pen-name of William Sydney Porter: William was put into prison for a theft at the bank where he worked; the pen-name O'Henry is supposed to have been acquired either from Porter's warder Orrin Henry or from the French pharmacist Etienne Ossian Henry, whose reference work Porter used in the prison); a short-story writer, a master of surprising and unexpected endings; 10 collections of over 600 hundred stories; one novel "Cabbages and Kings" (Короли и капуста).



Jack London (the most popular novelist and short-story writer of his day, the most attractive and romantic figure of his time): "The People of the Abyss" (Люди бездны), "White Fang" (Белый клык), "Martin Eden" (Мартин Иден); in the latter, the author used many facts from his own life.



Ernest Hemingway (a writer and a novelist): "A Farewell to Arms" (Прощай, оружие), "The Fifth Column" (Пятая колонна), "For Whom the Bell Tolls" (По ком звонит колокол), "The Old Man and the Sea" (Старик и море), *the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954*.



Dr. Martin Luther King (a clergyman, an Afro-American activist and later the leader for equal civil rights): the famous "I have a dream" speech, the book "Why We Can't Wait"; *the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964*; was assassinated by a racist; January 20 (King's birthday) is the national holiday *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*.

Fine Arts



Benjamin West (the first U.S. artist to paint people dressed in their own clothes, not robes): “Penn’s Treaty with the Indians” (Договор Уильяма Пенна с индейцами).



John Trumbull: historical paintings, “The Declaration of Independence”.



Mary Cassatt: painted plain people in beautiful poses, in the impressionist manner.



The Hudson River School (Школа реки Гудзон): a group of landscape painters.



The Ash Can School (Школа мусорного ящика) or *The Eight Independent Painters* (or just *The Eight*): painted the common man in the street and were called *the revolutionary black band*.

Modern U.S. artists: *Marsden Hartley, Jackson Pollock, Roy Lichtenstein*.

Famous U.S. architects: *Frank Lloyd Wright, Philip Johnson, Frank Gehry*.

17. The U.S. Mass Media

The Main National Newspapers: *The Washington Post, The New York Times, U.S.A. Today, The Wall Street Journal*.

The Popular National Magazines: *The Economist, Time, Forbes, Playboy*.

The Leading TV Channels: *CNN International, Fox TV, ABC, Disney Channel*.

There are a number of radio stations in the country.

Every state has its own mass media, both printed and electronic. The first Afro-American woman, who became a TV news reviewer, was *Oprah Winfrey*.

18. Sports, Outdoor Activities and Recreation in the U.S.A.

The U.S.A. is a country of both good sportsmen and enthusiastic sports fans. *Baseball* originated in the U.S. and is its national sport. *Football* is the most popular sport nowadays. Americans play both European football and their American football. Young Americans are fond of *soccer*, a game similar to football. *Tennis* is quite popular too.

The most watched sports are *football, baseball, golf* and *auto racing*, especially *the NASCAR* (the National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing). Americans also like to watch *boxing* and *horse racing*.

A number of popular sports originated in the U.S.A. *Volleyball*, *skateboarding* and *snowboarding* are American inventions. *Cheerleading*, i.e. specially organized cheering at sports competitions, is invented in the U.S.A. as well.

Many international competitions, including both Summer and Winter Olympic Games, have taken place in the United States. The American football, basketball and ice hockey are the country's three leading professional team sports. Very often, in many international sports competitions, especially in the Olympic Games, the United States wins most of the medals and comes either first or second in the team score.

Disneyland is a huge park of rest and entertainment in California, opened in 1955 and founded by the American producer of animated motion-picture cartoons *Walter Disney*, who created such world-known characters as *Donald Duck* (утенок Дональд) and *Mickey Mouse* (мышонок Микки).

Walt Disney World (Мир Уолта Диснея) is another huge park of rest and recreation in Orlando, Florida, founded by Walter Disney as he wanted to correct the drawbacks made in creating the *Disneyland*. This park was opened in 1971. Both parks are attended by millions of people, adults and children, and there they can meet the Disney characters from his famous animated cartoons, visit several fairy states and *the Town of the Future*.

19. The U.S. Holidays, Customs, Traditions

Some of the American holidays are the same as in the other countries of the world. But there are holidays, which are celebrated only by the Americans.

Federal Holidays

Banks, government offices, public schools and higher educational institutions are closed, and most Americans do not work.



Usually Americans see the old year out and the new year in with their families and friends, watching (in person or over TV) how *the Huge Apple* (the emblem of New York) strikes midnight on Times Square in New York.

- New Year's Eve: December 31
- New Year's Day: January 1
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: the third Monday in January, to honour the Civil Rights Leader.
- Presidents' Day: the third Monday in February, to honour all the U.S. presidents. This holiday is after February 12, *Abraham Lincoln's Birthday*, the greatest of all the American heroes, and after February 15, *George Washington's Birthday*, the first U.S. president, *the father of the nation*.
- Easter: one Sunday in spring; Christians remember Christ's death and his return to life.
- Memorial Day: the last Monday in May, to honour the dead in the Civil War between the North and the South.
- Independence Day: July 4, the birthday of the U.S. nation; the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain.
- Labor Day: the first Monday in September, to celebrate achievements of workers and to meet the coming summer vacations.
- Columbus Day: the second Monday in October, to honour Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of the American continent in 1492.
- Veteran's Day: November 11, to honour all the U.S. veterans of all the wars.
- Thanksgiving Day: November 24, a day of giving thanks for divine goodness. It is said that the Indians gave the hungry English travellers a turkey to eat when they first came to the New World. The Englishmen were very grateful to the Indians. Since then, this day has become the holiday of public gratitude. *The turkey* is the traditional dish at the Thanksgiving dinner.
- Christmas: December 25, the birthday of Jesus Christ. At present, it is a folk holiday with Santa Claus (Father Frost), the Christmas tree, greeting cards and gifts.

Other Public Holidays

- Halloween: October 31 (the holy evening or All Saints' Day), a holiday for children who cut faces in pumpkins and put lights inside. These lights are called

jack-o'-lanterns (Jack, the lantern = Джек-фонарщик). Children make up their faces to look like monsters and say, "Trick or treat! Money or eat!" Grown-ups give them money or sweets.

- Election Day: the first Tuesday in November every four years, to elect a U.S. president and vice-president.
- Inauguration Day: January 20 every four years, a special ceremony, at which the newly elected U.S. president publicly promises to serve the U.S. nation honestly and beneficially.
- Groundhog Day (День Сурка): February 2, the weather on this day indicates either six more weeks of winter, if sunny, or early spring, if cloudy.
- Valentine's Day: February 14, the saint who helps those in love.
- April Fool's Day: April 1, a day of humour and funny jokes.
- Mother's Day: the second Sunday in May, to honour mothers.
- Flag Day: June 14, the official U.S. flag was adopted on that day in 1777.
- Father's Day: the third Sunday in June, to honour fathers.