

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Basic facts about the United States of America

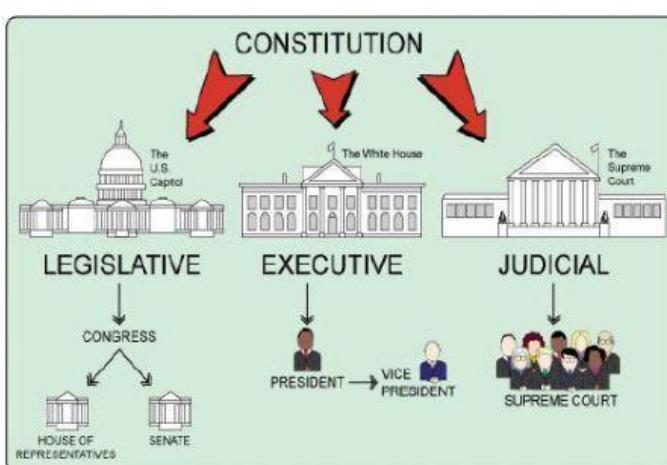
1) Complete the following text with ONE word in each space.

The USA is made up of _____ (number) states and a **federal district** (District of Columbia). Two states, A _____ and H _____, are not directly **attached to** the continental US. It is the third most populated country in the _____, with more than 300 million **inhabitants**. The main spoken _____ in the United States is English, but in many areas Spanish is spoken.

The American system of government

2) Look at the picture. Complete the text with the following words.

consists - federal - Senate - Congress - Judicial Power - government - Legislative Power - House - governor - Executive Power



The US is a _____ state also called a union of self-governing states united by a central _____. The head of each state is the _____.

The **federal government** _____ of 3 branches. The law-making or _____ is concentrated in _____ which is divided into the _____ and the _____ of Representatives. The president is the head of the _____ represented by the federal government. The Supreme Court holds _____.

American history

3) Match the sentences in A to B and C. Write 1, 2, 3, or 4 in each gap.

A

- 1 The US gained its independence from Britain...
- 2 The American Civil War was fought...
- 3 The US suffered from a terrorist attack...
- 4 The US entered into the Second World War...

B

- _____ from 1861–1865
- _____ on December 7, 1941
- _____ on 4 July, 1776
- _____ on September 11, 2001



C

_____ and it is now celebrated as **Independence Day** also called the Fourth of July.

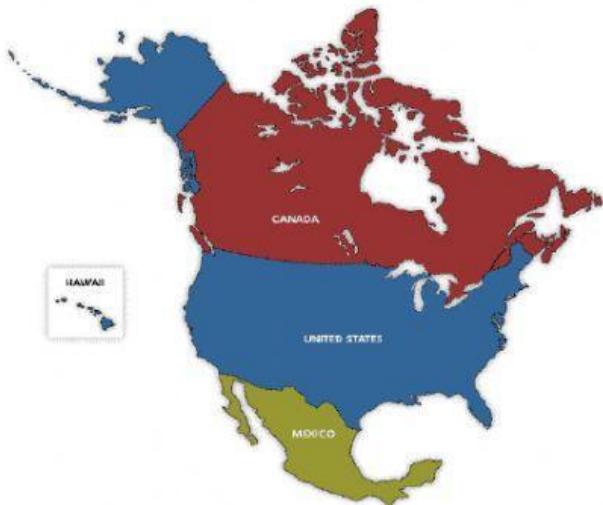
_____ during which the World Trade Towers in New York City were completely destroyed and the Pentagon in Washington, DC was severely damaged.

_____ 11 Southern **slave-keeping states** declared their separation from the US and formed the **Confederacy**. They fought against the Northern States also known as **the Union** - the states where slavery had been abolished.

_____ after the surprise Japanese attack on the US Naval base in **Pearl Harbour**, Hawaii.

Geographical features

4) Complete the text with the given words. Look at the map for the first two.



The US is located on the continent of North America. The bordering states are _____ in the north and _____ in the south. The US is a country of various _____ and geographical features. The _____ Mountains cross from the west to the centre of the country. The highest mountain in the US is _____ McKinley (6,194 m) in _____. The _____ Lakes – Huron, _____, Michigan, Erie and Superior – are found on the US border with Canada. The Grand Canyon is a large canyon _____ in Arizona.

landscapes Alaska Great Rocky
system Mount Ontario

5) Match the pictures of the states to their description. Write the letters.

- ___ is nicknamed “the Sunshine State” and is known for the **spacecraft launchings** from Cape Canaveral.
- ___ is the **most populous** state with the famous cities of **San Francisco** and **Los Angeles**; it is also known for its dessert valley called the **Death Valley**.
- ___ is the **largest** state and has the **longest coastline** in the US and it **doesn't border with the rest of the states**.
- ___ state located in the **southern region** with the largest city **New Orleans** of which eighty percent (80%) was flooded by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.
- ___ the **only U.S. state located in Oceania** and made up entirely of islands with the capital **Honolulu**.

A



B



C



D



E



Natural dangers

6) Name the pictures – use the words from the text.

The Pacific Basin (west coast) faces danger mainly from earthquakes, volcanoes, forest fires and mudslides, while those living on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts must beware of hurricanes. The Midwest suffers mainly from tornadoes, as does the southeast.



Famous cities in the USA

7) Match the pictures and descriptions to the cities.

1. Washington, DC
2. Detroit
3. New York City
4. Los Angeles
5. New Orleans
6. Atlanta
7. Dallas



- the largest city by population; an important centre of business, finance and art.
- the capital city.
- renowned for films and famous actors.
- the Kennedy Assassination on November 22, 1963 took place here.
- known as the birthplace of jazz and as the centre of French-American culture.
- in Georgia, is the birthplace of Coca Cola and CNN.
- city famous for auto industry in Michigan.

American sports and pastimes.

8) Complete the following text with ONE word in each space.

B _____ is called America's favourite pastime. It is a bat-and-ball sport. A person hits a ball thrown at them and tries to run around a playing field called a diamond. A _____ f _____ requires players to run with an egg-shaped ball over the line of the opposition. Players wear protective padding and helmets. Another popular sport is b _____. The aim of the game is to throw a ball through a hoop basket.