The USA. History of the country

Read and translate the text. For each of the empty spaces (1-11) choose the right answers (A-D)



Before the first Europeans came to north America native Americans, sometimes called Indians, **1)** _____ there. Modern America was created by the early European settlers and by the many immigrants who followed them.

The first colony in North America **2)** _____ in 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia, by the British. In 1620 the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts, on the ship mayflower. By the late 18th century there were 13 colonies. Over time the colonists were unhappy about having laws and taxes imposed by Britain and began to want more control over their affairs. The War of Revolution broke **3)** _____ in 1775, and the following year the colonists wrote the Declaration of independence, which explained their reasons for wanting to be separate from Britain. At times it seemed likely that the colonies would lose the war, but in late 1781 the British surrendered.

Creating a single government for the 13 colonies was not easy, as each was afraid of giving the others too **4)** _____ power. A Constitutional Convention was held, and in 1787 the Founding Fathers, among them Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, wrote the Constitution, which set out how the new United States would be governed.

In the early days of the US many people believed that the US was meant to extend its influence over the whole continent. Sometimes the US bought land, as it happened with the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, when France sold its territory in North America. But the US fought a war against Mexico to win land in the South-west, and took land by force from native Americans.

Pioneers moved west to find new land to farm and lived a hard life on the frontier. Away from centres of government, **5)** _____ little law enforcement. This led to the famous image of the Wild West and stories of sheriffs involved in gun battles with violent criminals.

During the gold rush, many people moved to California and later to the Klondike in Canada. Some went as prospectors, but many others found that they could make **6)** _____ but safer profits by selling supplies.

As new lands were settled and became states, the issue of slavery became important. In the southern states slaves worked on the cotton plantations. In the North slavery was illegal. Feelings about slavery grew stronger on both sides until, in 1861, the southern states withdrew from the US and formed the Confederated States of America. The South fought a long Civil War against the north, but in 1865 the north won. The South again became part of the US and slavery was made illegal everywhere.



Industrial development had helped the north to win the Civil War, and after the war industry continued **7)** _____. Many factory workers were immigrants who came to the US looking for a better life. Working conditions were often hard and dangerous. In the early 1900s labour unions tried to change the law so that employers paid a decent wage and factories were safer. The wealthy now had the opportunity to buy cars. There was a wide choice of makes by David Buick, Henry Ford and Walter Chrysler. The early 1900s was also a time of building. In Chicago and New York skyscrapers **8)** _____. The Chrysler corporation built its new headquarters, the now famous Chrysler Building, and soon after, in 1929, just before the beginning of the Great Depression, work began on the Empire State Building, for many years **9)** _____ building in the world.

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The next decades were difficult ones for the US. Americans had long believed they should not become involved in foreign wars, **10)** _____ they had entered World War I. As the Depression was ending, the US became involved in World War II. After the war, soldiers returned home to a very different America. Factories were producing many more goods to buy. Women who had worked during the war wanted to keep their jobs. African Americans and Native Americans, who had fought alongside white soldiers, began to demand equal rights. Soon, America was opposing the USSR in the Cold War. America was also becoming **11)** _____ in Vietnam. In 1963, the assassination of President Kennedy shocked the world.

In the 1960s there were many social changes. Laws were introduced to end segregation and allow African Americans to use restaurants, schools, etc previously reserved for the white. Clothing also changed: women's skirts became very short, and both men and women began to wear jeans, once considered appropriate only for heavy work. In the 1980s there was a reaction to these liberal ideas, but the changes of the 1960s and 1970s have had a lasting effect, and now almost everyone accepts the principles of equal rights and opportunity, and considerable personal freedom.

	A	B	C	D
1.	have been living	had been living	have lived	had lived
2.	was founded	founded	have founded	had founded
3.	into	out	up	through
4.	a few	a lot of	many	much
5.	was	there is	there were	there was
6.	little	small	smaller	the smallest
7.	growing	growed	to grow	grew
8.	were constructed	constructed	have constructed	had constructed
9.	the tallest	taller	tall	more tallest
10.	despite the fact	though	even if	however
11.	involving	involved	involve	been involved

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