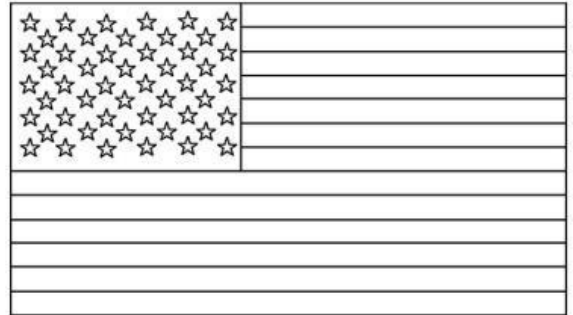


The United States of America

Basic facts about the United States of America

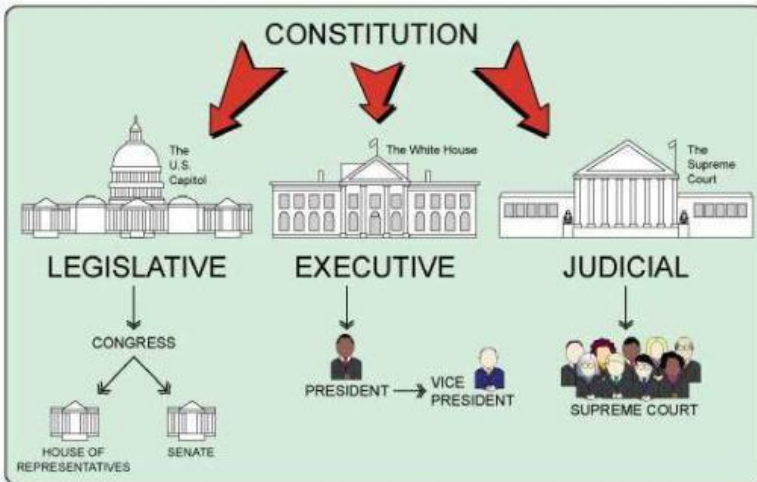
The USA is made up of ____ states and a **federal district** (District of Columbia). Two states, A ____ and H ____, are not directly **attached to** the continental US. It is the third most populated country in the ____, with more than 300 million **inhabitants**. The main spoken ____ in the United States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



The American system of government

The US is a f ____ state also called a u ____ of self-governing states united by a **central government**. The head of each state is the **governor**.

The **federal government** c ____ of 3 **branches**. The law-making or **legislative power** is concentrated in C ____ which is divided into the S ____ and the H ____ of **Representatives**. There are 435 members in the House of Representatives and 100 senators, _



from each state. The president is the head of the e ____ power represented by the federal government. The S ____ Court holds **judicial power**.

American history

- 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

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

☐ 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

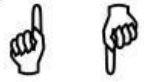


Geographical features

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

- 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 desert 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**



assign the **individual states** in the pictures to the definitions



famous cities in the USA

- Washington, DC
- Detroit
- New York City
- Los Angeles
- New Orleans
- Atlanta
- Dallas



- ☐ the largest city by population; an important centre of business, finance and art
- ☐ the capital city
- ☐ renowned for films and the 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

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 basket.

pastime Brit /'pa:s,taim/ Am /'pæs,taim/

- something that you do regularly for fun in your free time
- *Skateboarding is the favourite pastime of many teenagers.*

Natural dangers – 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.

