



# UNITED STATES of AMERICA KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



## Overview

- The United States of America (often called the US or USA) is a large country in North America.
- The USA takes up most of the central section of North America. It has large borders with Canada in the north (the longest border between two countries in the world) and Mexico in the south.
- It also has a long coastlines on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and the Caribbean Sea.
- Canada covers an area of 9.834 million km<sup>2</sup> - the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest country in North America, and 4<sup>th</sup> largest in the world.
- About 327 million people live in the USA - the most populous nation in North America.



## Human Geography

The United States was settled for many hundreds of years by indigenous peoples. In its more-modern history it has been ruled over by the British, but is now an independent nation. It is often considered as the world's leading 'super-power.'

<b>Population</b>		-The population of the United States is around 327 million people. The biggest populations live along the east and west coasts, although there are some big inland cities. Across the country, there are 31 people per km <sup>2</sup> - the USA is the 31 <sup>st</sup> most densely populated country in N. America.
<b>Settlements</b>		-The capital city of the USA is Washington DC. It has a population of around 700,000 people, which is only the 14 <sup>th</sup> largest in the country. The cities of New York City (8.4 million), Los Angeles (4 million) Chicago (2.7 million) and Houston (2.3 million) are larger and more populous.
<b>Economic Activity</b>		-The US dollar is the currency of the USA. The USA has the largest economy in the world. There are large disparities in wealth in the USA, with some of the richest people in the world, but also millions of people living in poverty.
<b>Resources/ Trade</b>		-The US has a huge automotive industry, and sells cars all across the world. Other exported goods include food and beverages, crude oil, fuel and petroleum. The US also has giant pharmaceutical companies who export medicines.

## Key Vocabulary

- USA
- North America
- Alaska
- Rocky Mountains
- Hawaii
- State
- Washington D.C
- New York City

## Physical Geography

- Due to its vast size, the physical geography of The United States is extremely varied.
- Much of the country contains large plains, with rolling hills further inland.
- Parts of the south-western area of the country contains desert, whilst northern areas of the country can have very cool winters.
- The Great Lakes (on the border with the Canada) contain some of the largest lakes in the world.
- There are several long rivers in the USA, including the Mississippi (3,778km) and Missouri (3,767km).
- The Rocky Mountains run north to south down the western side of the country.
- The highest mountain in US territory is Denali, in Alaska, at 6190m. It is the tallest mountain in North America.



-The United States of America is split into 50 states. There are 48 mainland states, in addition to Alaska (to the northwest of Canada) and Hawaii (an island archipelago in the Pacific Ocean).

## Comparison with the UK

- The UK is in Europe, whilst the USA is in North America. Both nations are entirely in the northern hemisphere.
- It is difficult to compare the climates, as the USA is so vast and the climate varies from place-to-place. Parts of the southern United States are far warmer than Britain.
- The USA is much larger than the UK - 9.834 million sq. km compared to 243,610sq km.
- More people live in the USA, 327 million compared to 66 million in the UK.
- Washington DC has a smaller population than London: 700,000 people compared to 8.4 million.
- The USA is mostly situated on its continent, but the United Kingdom is an island country.



## USA Timeline

<b>5000 BCE</b> Small tribal groups develop across the US.	<b>1000 BCE</b> Woodland period and Adena culture.	<b>1000 CE</b> Mississippian culture develops along rivers.	<b>1400 CE</b> Apache, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Navajo tribes develop.	<b>1492 CE</b> Christopher Columbus sights the Americas.	<b>1500s CE</b> Spanish and English navigators explore different parts of US.	<b>1776 CE</b> American colonies declare Independence from Britain.	<b>1789 CE</b> George Washington becomes first US President.	<b>1914-45 CE</b> US fights with the Allies in WWI and WWII	<b>2001 CE</b> 9/11 attacks occur.	<b>2009 CE</b> Barack Obama becomes the first black US President.
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