

Country and Map: North America

Geography: Located in the Northern Hemisphere, NAmer. Is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, Pacific Ocean on the west and Arctic Ocean on the north. It has three countries including the United States of America.

Climate/weather: Temperatures are seasonal except in the extreme north or south where it can be very cold or very hot. The cont. experiences tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, and blizzards.

Land Types: There are forests, grassland, deserts, wetlands, tundra, ice and mountains.

Now we will focus mainly on the United States of America.

This vast country consists of 50 states with major rivers like the James River, Mississippi River, Rio Grande and mountain ranges such as the Appalachian Mtns, Rocky Mtns, and bodies of water like the Great Lakes.

History: Before the Europeans arrived, Native Americans were grouped into regions. Regions are places that have the same characteristics. Three of the major Nat. Amer. Regions were the Eastern Woodlands which had the Powhatan Indians, the Plains which had the Sioux and the Southwest where the Pueblo or Hopi Indians lived.
(new slide) Powhatans lived in wood or bark houses called wigwams or longhouses. They were fishermen, hunters or farmers. They walked or paddled canoes to get around.
(new slide) Sioux lived on the Plains in tepees. They were hunters, horsemen and warriors. They walked and used horses.
(new slide) The Pueblo of the Southwest lived in multi story terraced “apartment” building. Their homes were made of adobe clay. They were farmers. They walked from place to place.

In the 1500’s European explorers started coming to America. At first they bumped into America by mistake looking for a route to Asia. Then they decided to set up colonies in the New World.

Columbus: sailed for Spain, to find western sea route to Asia. First European to discover a sea route to America, discovered “New World”

DeLeon: sailed for Spain, to discover riches and land to conquer. First European to land in Florida **near St. Augustine**. Gave Spain claim to FL.

Cartier: sailed for France to colonize the New World. Explored St. Lawrence Riv near Quebec Canada. Gave France a N. Am. Claim.

Newport: sailed for England. To discover riches, find western sea route to Asia and to colonize VA. Arrived at present day Jamestown.

Government: In 1776, the United States declared its independence from England. The Declaration of Independence was written and Independence Day was celebrated on July 4th. It is still celebrated to this day.

The US President is the leader of the United States. We have a democratic society in which we vote for representatives to the government. Those representatives make rules and laws, carry out the rules and laws, and decide if rules and laws have been broken. Life, liberty and pursuit of happiness are privileges that everyone is born with and can't be taken away. Everyone is considered equal and should be treated fairly.

Symbols: American flag has fifty stars representing the 50 states on a background of blue. There are thirteen red and white stripes representing the thirteen original colonies. The pledge to the flag is called the Pledge of Allegiance. The Bald Eagle is the national bird and the cardinal is the Virginia state bird. The dogwood is the official state tree. Richmond is capital of this state. The James River flows through Richmond. The Washington Monument and the Statue of Liberty are patriotic symbols that honor the people and traditions of the US.

Culture: The US has changed a lot from past to present.

Schools: in the past there were one-room schoolhouses but now there are large schools with many rooms.

Communities: used to be small villages and more spread out. Now there are large cities with many people.

Transportation: in the past walked, rode horses or wagons. Now we ride in cars, airplanes, trains and even on the space shuttle.

Family Life: handmade clothing, games and family veg. Gardens. Now we have store-bought clothes, tvs, electronic games, and microwave ovens.

Holidays: Thanksgiving in November, Veterans Day on November 11th, Presidents Day in February, Memorial Day in May, Independence Day in July, Columbus Day in October

Famous: There are many famous Americans.