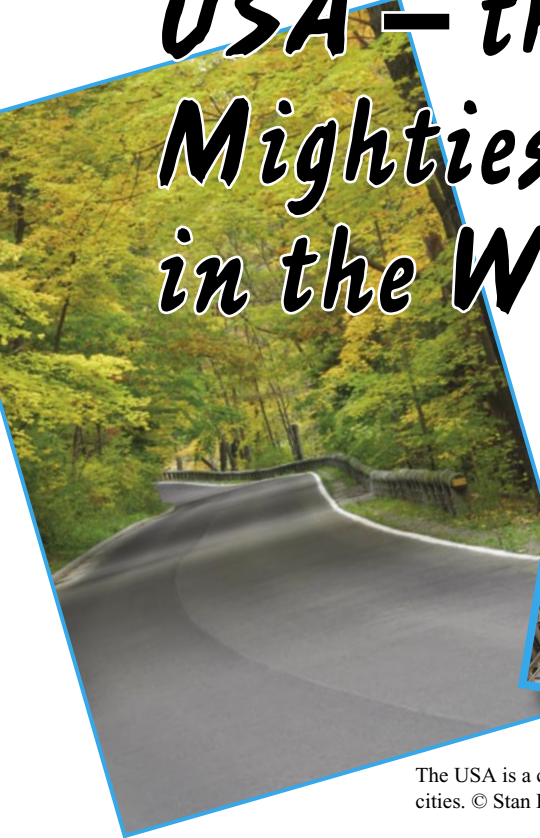


# USA – the Mightiest Country in the World



The USA is a combination of beautiful nature and vast cities. © Stan Rohrer (left) and Andrei Tchernov (right)

- 1 The United States of America (USA) is the fourth largest country in the world after Russia, Canada and China. It is also the world's richest country. It extends about 5,000 km from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific across four different time zones, and about 3,000 km
- 5 from Canada to Mexico. There is also the State of Alaska to the west of Canada and Hawaii out in the Pacific Ocean. The country is made up of 50 states and one district (the District of Columbia). The population of the USA is about 300,000,000. English is the official language. Washington DC (District of Columbia) is the capital but
- 10 New York is the country's largest city.

Now, let's take a brief look at this vast country and its influence on the rest of the world.



The Stars and Stripes of the American flag. © Dan Brandenburg

## 1 The American people

The majority of the population is white with about 14 percent Hispanic, 12 percent black and a little more than 3 percent Asian. The original Indian population – Native Americans – makes up less than one percent. Over 80 percent of the population is Christian, nearly 60 percent being Protestant and about 28 percent Roman Catholic. There are also religious minorities such as Jewish, Muslim, Amish and Mormon. Then, USA is known for its evangelists – people like Billy Graham who travel from place to place to hold religious meetings in order to persuade people to become Christians.

When the “New World” – that America became known as – was discovered by Columbus in 1492, it was inhabited by about 10 million Indians who lived in groups, mainly on the Great Plains of central USA. But many of them died of diseases, such as smallpox and measles, that the European settlers brought with them.

Over the years, immigrants arrived from all over the world. They came from China, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Sweden and Spain. Later on, more came from Central and South America, the West Indies, Syria and Russia. This immigration meant that the population of the USA increased considerably, especially during the 20<sup>th</sup> century to become what it is today.



A “dream catcher” - an original American Indian symbol. © Fred Dimmick



The Great Hall at Ellis Island in New York Harbour where millions of immigrants first arrived. © Kenneth C. Zirkel

## The geography of the USA



- 1 Extending about 5,000 km from east to west, and about 3,000 from north to south, the USA has a landscape that varies
- 5 enormously with snow-capped mountains, deserts, fertile farmland and semi-tropical rain forests.

The northern states have warm but short summers and long cold winters while the southern states have long hot summers and short but cool winters. America's distinct dairy farming areas are to be found around the Great Lakes in the north. The Midwest, in the middle of the country, is known as the "Corn Belt" where different types of wheat are grown. The south is often called the "Cotton

A little post office in one of the many Midwest country towns. © Mary Marin



1 Belt” as this is where the slaves who had been brought from Africa in the 1700s used to work. Today, though, the land here is more suited for growing rice. Tropical fruits such as oranges and lemons are grown in the states of California and Florida.

5 The USA is also a major producer of natural gas and oil. The original oil fields of Texas have now run dry, so they have been compensated by offshore drilling along the California  
10 coastline and in the Gulf of Mexico. Until the 1950s, coal was also a major mineral that was mined in the eastern part of the country, and which served the many industries that grew up here.

15 Furthermore, iron ore was plentiful until recently in the Appalachian Mountains in the eastern part of the country. This was transported to cities such as Chicago and Detroit where the car industry flourished. But nowadays most of the iron ore used in the car industry must be imported, mainly from South  
20 America.



View from the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. © Rich Cooke



In western USA are the Rocky Mountains with peaks rising well over 4,000 metres, and to the west of the “Rockies” lies the Great Basin, a low-lying hot desert that is almost completely uninhabited.

The “Rockies” with peaks rising well over 4,000 metres. © Karl Naundorf

Right up in the far north-west and neighbouring the western part of Canada is the state of Alaska, which is almost always very cold  
30 because it lies along the Arctic Circle. It is the biggest state in the USA but with the least population, the people being mainly Inuit.

Then, right out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean is the state of Hawaii. It is, in fact, a group of islands with Honolulu on the island of Oahu being the state capital.



## 1 The influence of American music

With its different styles of music such as jazz, blues, country and western music, rock and roll, American music has had a great influence around the world. We have all heard of the song writer,  
 5 Cole Porter, the band leader, Glenn Miller, and singers such as Frank Sinatra, Bob Dylan, Tina Turner, Madonna and many more.

*Blues music* originated from Mississippi, being songs full of suffering that were sung by the slaves in the cotton fields. Then *Chicago blues* became  
 10 popular in the early 1950s when musicians added electric guitars, and drums to their music. This music even had a great influence on bands in the 1960s, such as the Rolling Stones.

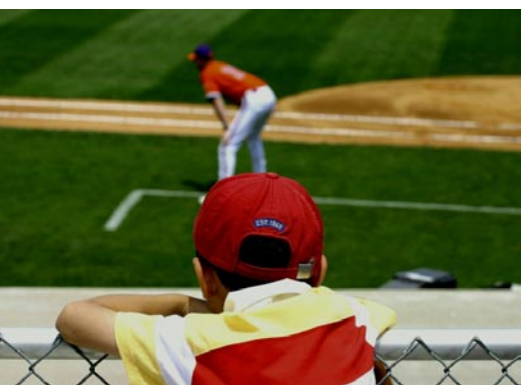
In the late 1920s and originating from Nashville,  
 15 *country and western music* grew in popularity. This was followed by *rock and roll music* in the 1950s with artists such as Bill Haley with his song, “Rock Around the Clock”. At the same time, Elvis Presley started his highly successful  
 20 career with 17 No. 1 records.

Then, one of the most significant popular music events was the *Woodstock Festival* in 1969 when the legendary guitar player, Jimi Hendrix, made one of his most memorable performances.

25 America has also produced well-known music composers such as George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein (particularly known for the musical, *West Side Story*).



Afro-Americans have had a major influence on American music. © Gisele Wright



Baseball is a leading sport in the USA.  
 © Rob Friedman

## America's dominant position in sport

Sport plays a very important role in the US, particularly team sports at American high schools and colleges. These include baseball (with the legendary Babe Ruth as the best-known player), basketball, American football, ice hockey and lacrosse – a game where each player has a long

1 stick with a net at the end to throw, catch and carry a small hard  
ball. The USA is also a world leader in producing Olympic sports  
champions such as in swimming, athletics, ice skating, boxing and  
ice hockey. Then, rodeos and car racing are typical American sports  
5 activities.

## The influence of American food

Today, the American food industry has become internationally  
known for its “fast food” chains such as McDonald’s. Almost all  
cities around the world have McDonald’s, Burger King or similar  
10 restaurants offering not only hamburgers but “pizza to go”, Coca  
Cola, American ice cream in many varieties as well as bagels, muffins  
and American-style cookies.

From the beginning though, immigrants  
from all around the world brought their own  
15 culinary traditions with them to the US, and  
this is why Italian, Chinese and Greek can be  
found in most towns. The Spanish influence is  
also particularly evident in the southern parts  
of the US that had originally been colonised by  
20 Spain.



America is famous for its “fast food”  
restaurants. © Valerie Loiseleux

## The influence of American writers, Hollywood and the media

America has many outstanding writers that have become particularly  
well-known throughout the world. Examples are: Mark Twain  
25 (Huckleberry Finn), Ernest Hemingway (winner of the Nobel Prize  
for Literature in 1954 for *The Old Man and the Sea*), John Steinbeck  
(*The Grapes of Wrath*), and many more.



In Hollywood’s Beverly Hills you can buy a map  
showing where all the film stars live.

© Alan Crosthwaite

Many successful novels have also  
been translated to the medium of  
film. Examples are “Gone with  
the Wind” (Clark Gable, Vivien  
Leigh – 1939), *Casablanca*  
(Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid  
Bergman – 1942), *The Graduate*  
(Dustin Hoffman – 1967) and  
*The Godfather* (Marlon Brando,  
Al Pacino, 1972). In the theatre  
world, the famous playwright,

1 Tennessee Williams, had some of his works successfully performed on Broadway in Times Square, New York as well made into films. These include “A Streetcar Named Desire” and “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof”.

Between the 1930s and 1950s, the Hollywood film industry boomed  
 5 and greatly influenced the way millions of people around the world dressed and looked through role models such as Katherine Hepburn and Gary Grant. For many, this was a way to escape from the problems of the Great Depression in the 1930s and the early 1940 war years. Later, in the 1960s, the world was bombarded with “Star War”  
 10 films which brought the world into the space age with their powerful combination of aliens, robots, spaceships and special effects.

The success of the animated film, mainly due to the characters created by Walt Disney, has made a great global impact on children ever since the 1930s, especially with Disney films such as “Bambi”, “Snow  
 15 White and the Seven Dwarfs” and “Cinderella”.

In more recent years, the media industry has grown considerably with its enormous influence via television channels broadcasting their programmes throughout the USA and the rest of the world.

## American involvement throughout the world since

### 20 World War II

Although the USA took an active part in both World War I and II, it was not until after 1945 that the country started playing a leading role in world events. To begin with,  
 25 the USA became actively involved in setting up the United Nations and NATO (signing the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949). Proposals were also outlined to give American military and economic support to countries that were  
 30 threatened by communism. This is why the USA got involved in the Korean War when Communist North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950.



Many thousands of Americans were killed in Europe during World War II, and they were buried in cemeteries like this one in Normandy, France. © Travis Ness

Then, in 1959 the nearby island of Cuba was taken over by Cuban  
 35 revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro. The USA opposed Fidel Castro's regime and imposed a trade embargo. As a result, Castro turned to what was then the Soviet Union (USSR) for support, causing a further escalation of the conflict which brought the world close to nuclear war.

- <sup>1</sup> In the early 1960s, the USA became involved in the guerrilla war in Vietnam, supporting South Vietnam against the communist North Vietnam.



American war ships like this one have been used in conflicts in many parts of the world.

© Nicholas Belton

- <sup>5</sup> In the beginning of the 1990s, the US took an active part in the Gulf War to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait. As a result of American involvement in the Middle East, this caused a series of terrorist attacks on the USA. When New York experienced a major terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 (called the 9/11 attack), the USA accused
- <sup>10</sup> Osama Bin Laden of planning this incident. Because the leaders of Afghanistan refused to extradite Bin Laden, the US went to war against this country. Continuing the policy of “war on terrorism”, the USA also ordered the invasion of Iraq in 2003 in order to remove the dictator Saddam Hussein from power.
- <sup>15</sup> As a result of USA’s intervention in the internal affairs of different countries since World War II with the original purpose of fighting against the spread of communism and then waging war on terrorism, world opinion is beginning to turn against the USA taking such a dominant role in world events.



## Check your words

<b>mighty</b>	very great in power, strength, size, etc	<b>chain</b>	a number of restaurants, shops or hotels under the same ownership or management
<b>time zone</b>	any of the 24 parts into which the Earth is divided for the purpose of keeping time. Each time zone is usually one hour different from those on either side	<b>bagel</b>	a ring-shaped bread roll
<b>Amish</b>	a group of people following a branch of the Christian religion, and which has many rules about behaviour. For example, they must wear a certain kind of clothing and must not use machinery	<b>culinary</b>	connected with or used in the kitchen or for cooking
<b>Mormon</b>	a religious organisation with strict moral rules, such as not being allowed to drink alcohol or coffee	<b>playwright</b>	a writer of plays
<b>smallpox</b>	a serious infectious disease that causes spots which leave marks on the skin. Today, people are vaccinated against this disease	<b>boom</b>	expand extremely rapidly
<b>fertile</b>	good for producing crops	<b>the Great Depression</b>	a very severe economic period of reduced business activity and high unemployment in the 1930s following the crash on the US Stock Market
<b>dairy</b>	milk products	<b>bombard</b>	flood, overflow (the market)
<b>wheat</b>	a plant from which grain flour is made, cereal	<b>alien</b>	foreigner, a person from outer space
<b>ore</b>	rock or earth from which metal can be obtained	<b>animated film</b>	cartoon
<b>uninhabited</b>	where nobody lives (because it is not suitable)	<b>impact</b>	impression
<b>Inuit</b>	a group of people living in the icy northern part of North America, Eskimo	<b>oppose</b>	to regard a planned course of action with strong disapproval, and to try to take action to prevent it from happening
<b>legendary</b>	famous in a particular area or activity	<b>trade embargo</b>	an official order forbidding business with another country, especially with the import and export of goods
<b>high school</b>	an American school for students of the age group 14-18 years	<b>escalate</b>	rapid increase
<b>college</b>	an American school for higher studies that can lead to a bachelor's degree	<b>guerrilla</b>	an unofficial military group fighting to remove a government
<b>athletics</b>	the practice of sports demanding strength and speed, such as running and jumping	<b>the Gulf</b>	a part of the Indian Ocean between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, strategically very important in the Middle East
<b>rodeo</b>	a public entertainment at which cowboys ride wild horses, catch cattle with ropes, etc	<b>extradite</b>	to send someone (who may be guilty of a crime and who has escaped to another country) back for trial
		<b>intervention</b>	interruption in order to prevent a bad result

## Reading comprehension questions

**Discuss or write short answers to the following questions:**

1. Which countries are larger than the USA?
2. How many time zones do you cross if you travel across the USA from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific coast?
3. What is the approximate population of the USA today?
4. What percentage of the American population is made up of Native Americans?
5. What percentage of the American population is made up of Black Americans?
6. Why is the name *Billy Graham* particularly well-known in America?
7. Why did such a large percentage of the original population of America die when Europeans started settling in the country?
8. What caused the population of the USA to increase considerably during the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
9. What is the “Corn Belt”, and where will you find it?
10. Where is the “Cotton Belt”, and why did it get this name?
11. In what way is Alaska different from other American states?
12. Where is the state of Hawaii, and what is the name of the state capital?
13. Where did *blues music* originate and what was the main theme of *blues* songs?
14. What sort of music influenced bands such as the Rolling Stones?
15. What sort of music originated in the 1920s in Nashville?
16. Can you name two of the original *rock and roll* artists?
17. Which American sport do you associate with Babe Ruth?
18. Why is there such a strong Italian, Chinese, Greek and Spanish food influence in the USA?
19. What was Ernest Hemingway particularly famous for?
20. In what way did the Hollywood film industry influence people all over the world between the 1930s and 1950s?

21. In what way did Walt Disney make an impression on the outside world?
22. Why did America get involved in the Korean War in the 1950s and the Vietnam War in the 1960s?
23. What event was responsible for making America go to war in Afghanistan and later in Iraq?
24. What is world opinion about the USA taking a dominant role in world events?

## Can you believe it?

### Here are some interesting facts about the USA

#### 1 People and events in America's history

About a thousand years ago, Leif Ericson, who was born in Iceland, was the first to make voyages of discovery along the North American coast. Later, between 1492 and 1504, Christopher Columbus travelled to America, which got its name from another explorer of that time called Amerigo Vespucci.

Russia sold the State of Alaska to the United States in 1867. Then, in 1898, Spain handed over the island of Guam to the US. It became one of the most important military air bases for America in the Pacific.

- 10 In 1903, the Wright brothers made the first successful flight in a plane, and in 1927, Charles Lindbergh made the first non-stop transatlantic flight from New York to Paris.

- 15 In the 1700s, people were brought from West Africa to work as slaves on the cotton fields of the American south. In 1865, slavery was abolished as a result of the Civil War (1861-65) which was fought between the northern and southern American states. Abraham Lincoln was the American president at the time of the Civil War. He was strongly against slavery and was responsible for its abolition in 1865. He was shot dead the same year by a southern states supporter at a theatre in Washington DC.



Abraham Lincoln - seen here on a 5 dollar bill - is remembered as one of the greatest American presidents. © Joy Fera

- 25 When gold was discovered in California in 1848, people started migrating across America from the east coast, thus opening up what was to be known as the "Wild West" as well as the struggle between cowboys and Indians. There are many famous names from

- 1 this period, such as the Sioux Indian, Sitting Bull, the Apache Indian, Geronimo, and Buffalo Bill, who is said to have killed thousands of buffaloes and Indians single-handed. He later spread the legend of the “Wild West” with his Wild West Show that toured both America and
- 5 Europe with his performing rodeo riders, Indian hunters and staged buffalo hunts.



The empty “wild west” main street in Bodie, now a Californian state historic park. © Nick Cook

At the end of World War II, in August 1945, the USA dropped atom bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This event forced the Japanese to capitulate, thus ending the war in the Far East.

During the turbulent period of the 1960s when people in America were demonstrating against their involvement in the Vietnam War as well as the injustice of racial discrimination, Civil Rights leader, Martin Luther King,

became particularly known for his speech, “I have a dream ...” He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 but was assassinated in 1968.

- 20 On September 11, 2001, four US civil aviation planes were hijacked by terrorists. Two of these crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York, one crashed into the Pentagon in Washington DC, and the fourth crashed in a Pennsylvania field. Over three thousand people were killed. This event marked the
- 25 beginning of America’s fight against terrorism, and triggered the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

## Government in the USA

- Each of the 50 states in America has its own government led by a governor that deals with all local matters. Then, there is the
- 30 federal government for national matters such as the country’s security and foreign policy. The federal government is situated in
- 25 Washington DC and is led

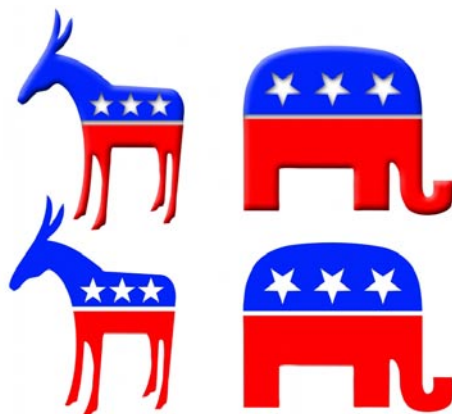


The White House in Washington DC where the President resides. © Pietro Valdinoci



1 by the President of the USA from the White House. There are three branches of the US federal government. These are:

- *The Executive*, consisting of the President and his staff.
- *Congress*, which is the law-making branch consisting of  
5 the Senate and the House of Representatives. Senators are representatives who are sent from each of the 50 states. Each state sends two senators to form the Senate. Each state also sends a number of congressmen who form the House of Representatives. The number of congressmen from each state  
10 depends on its population.
- *The Judicial*, consisting of Supreme Court judges who are usually chosen by the President



Political symbols that represent the two main American political parties - the Democrats (donkey) and the Republicans (elephant).  
© Brian Palmer

## Check your words again

abolish	forbid by law	hijack	take control of something using the threat of force, usually to make political demands
civil war	a war fought between opposing groups of people in the same country	the Pentagon	a building just outside Washington DC which contains the main offices of the US Department of Defence, and from which the US military forces are directed
migrate	travel from one part of a country to another	security	protection against danger or risk
staged	acted	federal	national
capitulate	surrender, accept defeat	the Executive	the organisation in the US having the power to carry out government decisions and laws
turbulent	violent and disorderly	the Judicial	the American judges in the courts of law
injustice	unfairness	the Supreme Court	the highest court in the US federal system
racial discrimination	the unfair treatment of people because of their race		
civil rights	the non-political rights of freedom, equality, etc. which belong to a citizen without regard to race, religion, colour, sex, etc.		
assassinate	murder for political reasons		
civil aviation planes	planes for passenger traffic		

## Can you believe it?



## True or false?

True False

- |  |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Leif Ericson was born in Iceland, and was the first person to discover America.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. America got its name from an explorer who was a friend of Christopher Columbus who made discovery voyages to the New World. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The State of Alaska became an American state in 1867 as a result of a war with Russia.                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Slavery in America was abolished as a result of a war between the northern and southern states of America.                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The “Wild West” got its name after people started travelling across the American continent to California in search of gold. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The USA bombed Japanese cities with atom bombs at the end of World War II to force the Japanese to surrender.               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Martin Luther King was killed during a demonstration against USA’s involvement in the Vietnam War.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. The major terror attack that took place in America on September 11, 2001 triggered US intervention in Afghanistan and Iraq. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. The White House is where the US federal government is situated.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Congress consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Suggestions for further investigation and study



### 1. Choose your favourite American states

The 50 American states all have their own particular characteristics depending on their geographical position. You can now choose 2-3 states that you would like to study in more detail. You can do this by linking up to the following Internet address: [www.infoplease.com/states.html](http://www.infoplease.com/states.html)

Then, study your chosen states and fill in information in the table below:

Name of state	1	2	3
Where this state is situated			
Population of the state			
Name of the state capital			
<b>Special characteristics:</b>			
- main industries			
- natural resources			
- geographic features			
- tourist attractions			

When you have completed your study, you can prepare to make a short presentation of your favourite state to others in the class.

2. Today, it is popular to spend a year as an exchange student in the USA or even to attend a college to gain a bachelor's degree. With the help of Internet, find out as much as possible about the requirements for studying in the USA. Then, discuss what you have found out with others, and decide on the best alternatives.
3. Choose either a famous American in the field of politics, sports or the arts. Prepare a portrait of this person that you can then present to others in the group.
4. Choose an important event in American history such as the Civil War, the discovery of gold in California and how this influenced the development of the country, America's fight against the spread of communism, etc. Again, make an in-depth study, and then present this to the group.
5. As a result of USA's intervention in the internal affairs of different countries since World War II, world opinion is beginning to turn against the USA taking such a dominant role. What is your opinion on the matter? Be prepared to argue your opinion with others.
6. "The American Dream" is a concept that you will often hear American people use. Find out what "the American Dream" really is, and try to give examples of people in America who have succeeded in accomplishing this.
7. We learn from the text that American food has been greatly influenced by food cultures from countries such as Italy, China, Greece and Spain. How has the food culture in your country changed in recent years? Which countries in particular have influenced your food culture? Take a typical example and describe to others the special characteristics of this style of food.



This American has not yet fulfilled his "American Dream"!

© Digital Darkroom



## Practise your use of words



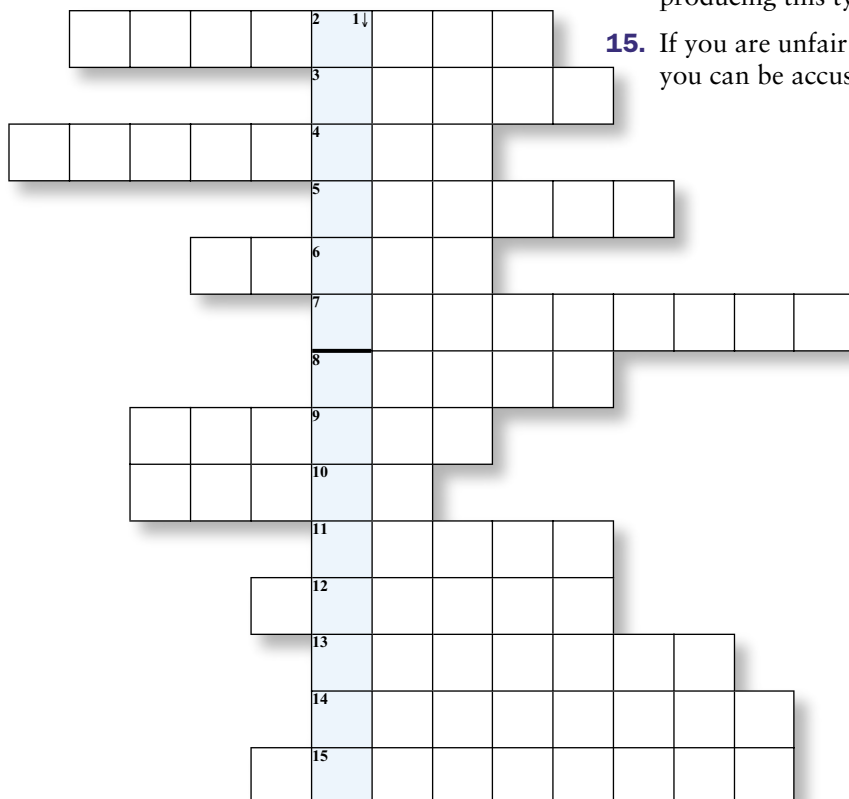
## I. American crossword

## Down:

1. The official name to describe an Indian living in the USA.

## Across:

2. Linked with kitchen equipment or cooking.
3. Religious people in the USA who wear a certain kind of clothing and must not use machinery.
4. Sports that demand strength and speed for running and jumping.
5. The same as impression.
6. A war between opposing groups of people in the same country.
7. To send a criminal back to his/her own country for trial.
8. A person from outer space.
9. People belonging to this religion are not allowed to drink coffee or alcohol.
10. A ring-shaped bread roll that is very popular in America.
11. Entertainment at which cowboys ride wild horses.
12. This is when you take control of something by force in order to make special demands.
13. An American school where you study to gain a bachelor's degree.
14. Walt Disney became famous for producing this type of film.
15. If you are unfair to another person, you can be accused of this.



**II. Match the words**

- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. prosper    | a) famed             |
| 2. culinary   | b) impact            |
| 3. impression | c) escalate          |
| 4. legendary  | d) boom              |
| 5. ascend     | e) kitchen equipment |

**III. Odd man out**

Which word does not fit?

- intervention – interview – interference – intrusion
- powerful – forceful – mighty – feeble
- disorderly – peaceful – unruly – turbulent
- quash – abolish – put an end to – promote
- conquer – give up – capitulate – yield

**IV. What do the explanations make you think of?**

- The same as to murder for political reasons.  
A \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- To move to another part of the country.  
M \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- The same as *bias* or *discrimination*.  
I \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- A person who writes plays.  
P \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- An American school where you can study to gain a bachelor's degree.  
C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## V. What are the missing words in the postcard?

Choose from the words in the box

☐ escape☐ throughout☐ global☐ animated☐ popularity☐ suffering☐ impact☐ culinary☐ boomed☐ role models

America has made a great **1** on the rest of the world with its different styles of music. First was blues music with songs full of **2** that were originally sung by slaves when working in the cotton fields. Later, Chicago blues was introduced when musicians added electric guitars and drums. In the 1920s country and western music grew in **3**. This was followed in the 1950s by rock and roll music with well-known artists such as Bill Hailey and Elvis Presley.



American food is also popular around the world, especially with fast food chains that you can find in practically every city. But, originally, immigrants to the USA brought their **4** traditions with them. This is why there is still a strong Italian, Chinese, Greek and Spanish influence **5** America.

The Hollywood film industry, that started up in Los Angeles and **6** between the 1930s and 1950s, has greatly influenced millions of people the world over. For example, Hollywood film stars such as Katherine Hepburn and Gary Grant became **7** for how people dressed and looked. Hollywood films helped people **8** from the problems of the Great Depression in the 1930s and the war years in the early 1940s. At the same time, Walt Disney made a great **9** impression on children with his **10** films such as "Bambi", "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and "Cinderella".

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## Check your use of grammar



### I. Nationality words

We have learnt from the text that many immigrants arrived in the USA over the years from all parts of the world. Now, look at the examples and fill in the blank spaces in the same way.

#### Examples:

He/she is from Italy	He/she is an Italian
He/she speaks Italian	
He/she is from Sweden	He/she is a Swede
He/she speaks Swedish	

- |             |                   |         |
|-------------|-------------------|---------|
| 1. Poland   | _____             | _____   |
| 2. Germany  | _____             | _____   |
| 3. _____    | a Frenchman/woman | _____   |
| 4. _____    | a Spaniard        | _____   |
| 5. _____    | a Mexican         | _____   |
| 6. Portugal | _____             | _____   |
| 7. _____    | _____             | Russian |
| 8. China    | _____             | _____   |
| 9. _____    | an Irishman/woman | _____   |
| 10. _____   | _____             | Dutch   |
| 11. Iraq    | _____             | _____   |
| 12. _____   | a Cuban           | _____   |



## II. Missing words

Look at these examples:

Blues music originated from Mississippi.

Chicago blues music became popular in the early 1950s.

Now, fill in the missing words in the blanks.

1. Over 80 percent \_\_\_\_\_ the American population is Christian.
2. When Columbus first arrived \_\_\_\_\_ America it was inhabited \_\_\_\_\_ about 10 million Indians.
3. Many of the American Indians died \_\_\_\_\_ diseases such as smallpox and measles that the European settlers brought with them.
4. Country and western music originated \_\_\_\_\_ Nashville \_\_\_\_\_ the late 1920s.
5. Leonard Bernstein became particularly famous \_\_\_\_\_ the musical called West Side Story.
6. Many team sports are played \_\_\_\_\_ American high schools and colleges.
7. Many successful American novels have been translated \_\_\_\_\_ the medium \_\_\_\_\_ film.
8. Walt Disney's animated films have made a great impact \_\_\_\_\_ children all over the world since the 1930s.
9. The conflict that America had \_\_\_\_\_ Cuba in the early 1960s brought the world close \_\_\_\_\_ a nuclear war.
10. In the early 1990s, the USA took an active part \_\_\_\_\_ the Gulf War in order to expel Iraqi forces \_\_\_\_\_ Kuwait.