

The United States of America

short version

1 Geography

The USA lies in the northern Hemisphere, it borders with Canada in the north and with Mexico in the south. The Atlantic Ocean is on the eastern coast of the USA and the Pacific Ocean is on the west. The USA is the 4th biggest country in the world.

The longest rivers are Mississippi, Missouri and Colorado. There are several great lakes in the northern border with Canada and their names are Lake Superior, Ontario, Michigan, Huron and Erie. Niagara falls are between lakes Ontario and Erie. The highest mountain is Mt. Mac Kinley.

2 History

The new continent was discovered in 1492 by Christopher Columbus. At first the USA was a British colony. In 1776 the USA declared independence and the war between the United Kingdom and American colonists started. The Americans won the war of independence in 1783. George Washington became the first American president.

The important war in the USA history was the Civil War. The northern states wanted to cancel the slavery. Southern states used slaves on plantations, so they declared war to northern states. North won the war and Abraham Lincoln was the president.

The USA participated in both world wars. In the First World War the USA helped France and the United Kingdom to win the war against Germany. The Second World War started for the USA when Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour. In the Second World War the USA fought with Germany, but also with Italy and Japan. The USA and its allies won the Second World War in 1945 and the USA became the world biggest economy and military superpower.

3 Political system

The USA is a federal constitutional republic. The President of the USA is head of state and head of government. Congress has legislative power and Judiciary has the judicial power. President is elected for four years. Current president is Donald Trump. There are two political parties called the Republicans and Democrats. The Congress is divided into two parts The House of Representatives with 435 members and the Senate with 100 members (2 members from each state).

4 National Symbol

The US flag has 13 stripes of red and white and blue rectangle with 50 white stars each for every state.

5 Interesting places

Washington D.C. is the capital of the USA. The USA has many interesting places like Yellowstone National Park, Yosemite National Park, Niagara Falls, New York, Boston, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Everglades Swamps.

6 Holidays and Customs

One of the most important holidays is Independence Day on 4th July, celebrated since 1776. Very popular holiday is Thanksgiving Day (the fourth Thursday in November). Christmas Day is celebrated on 25th December. Other holidays are Easter holidays, Halloween and Veterans Day.

7 Doplnující otázky

Podle webu <http://www.vysokeskoly.cz/maturitniotazky/anglictina/the-united-states-of-america>, buďte připraveni na následující otázky. Anglickyzarok Vám připravilo navíc odpovědi na tyto otázky:

1. *Where in the world do you find the USA?*

The USA is in the northern hemisphere in the continent called America between Canada and Mexico.

2. *Is the USA a bigger or a smaller country?*

The USA is a very big country 4th largest in the world.

3. *How many states are part of the USA?*

There are fifty states altogether

4. *Who are the neighbouring countries of the USA?*

Neighbouring countries are Canada in the north and Mexico in the south.

5. *What is the largest city in the USA and which one is the capital city?*

The largest city is New York with 8.5 million inhabitants.

6. *Who are the people of the USA and what is their origin?*

They are European colonists.

7. *Is the countryside the same in the USA?*

There is big difference between large crowded cities full of skyscrapers and low-inhabited countryside.

8. *Who is the head of the USA now?*

The head of the USA is President Donald Trump.

9. *What is the traditional food in the USA?*

Traditional food is roasted Turkey, but modern common food are hamburgers.

10. *Is the American English the same as the British English?*

No the Americans have slightly different pronunciation and vocabulary.

11. *What are the symbols of the USA?*

An official symbol is flag with red and white stripes with blue rectangular with white stars. Another official symbol is brown eagle with white head.

12. *Which historical event do you consider the most important for the USA? Is there anything special about the US movie making?*

Victory in war of independence / Victory in World War 2 / vyberte si sami :-).

13. Is the USA a world superpower? Why? / Why not?

Yes, the USA is a military superpower, because it is the only state that can fight in the air, on the sea and on the ground in the whole world and has very strong all branches of military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines). The USA has thousands of nuclear missiles. There is no reason not to consider the USA as a superpower.

14. Do you know any world famous Americans?

Vyberte si sami, koho dobře znáte :-)

15. Which natural monument do you think is the most famous in the world? Why?

The Statue of Liberty in New York, because I think it is large monument showing American independence.

16. What do you think of the American patriotism?

Patriotism can be good, because people support their country, know the customs and traditions and have knowledge of their national history. However, strong patriotism supports intolerance for other beliefs, religion and nations, so it can be very dangerous for society.

17. Which sports are the most popular in the USA?

The most popular is American football, Soccer (normal football), ice hockey, basketball, NASCAR (car racing) and baseball.

18. What do you know about the American space programme?

The USA with its agency NASA is the leader in space programme from all countries in the world. In the past Americans achieved many successes like several landings on the moon including the first one. The space shuttle era was sad with two disasters and death tolls of astronauts. Nowadays space shuttles are no longer used and not only state agency NASA launches rockets to space, but also private companies Blue Origin (company of James Bezos founder of Amazon) and alliance of Boeing and Lockheed send rockets to space.

19. Otázky na Vaše názory:

Would you like to take a road trip around the USA? Which state of the USA do you like the most? Would you like to go surfing to California one day? Would you like to try living like a typical American?

8 Důležitá slovíčka

Fonetická výslovnost není pro lepší srozumitelnost uvedena.

border with	(bórdr wit)	mít hranici s
discovered	(diskavrd)	objeven
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slavery	(slej-v-ry)	otroctví
plantations	(plántejšns)	plantáže
allies	(élájs)	spojenci
power	(pau-wr)	mocnost
legislative power	(ledžisltiv pau-wr)	zákonodárná moc
Judiciary	(džudisi-j-ry)	soudnictví
judicial power	(džudisijl pau-wr)	soudní moc
disaster	(dízástr)	katastrofa
space shuttle	(spejs-šatl)	raketoplán