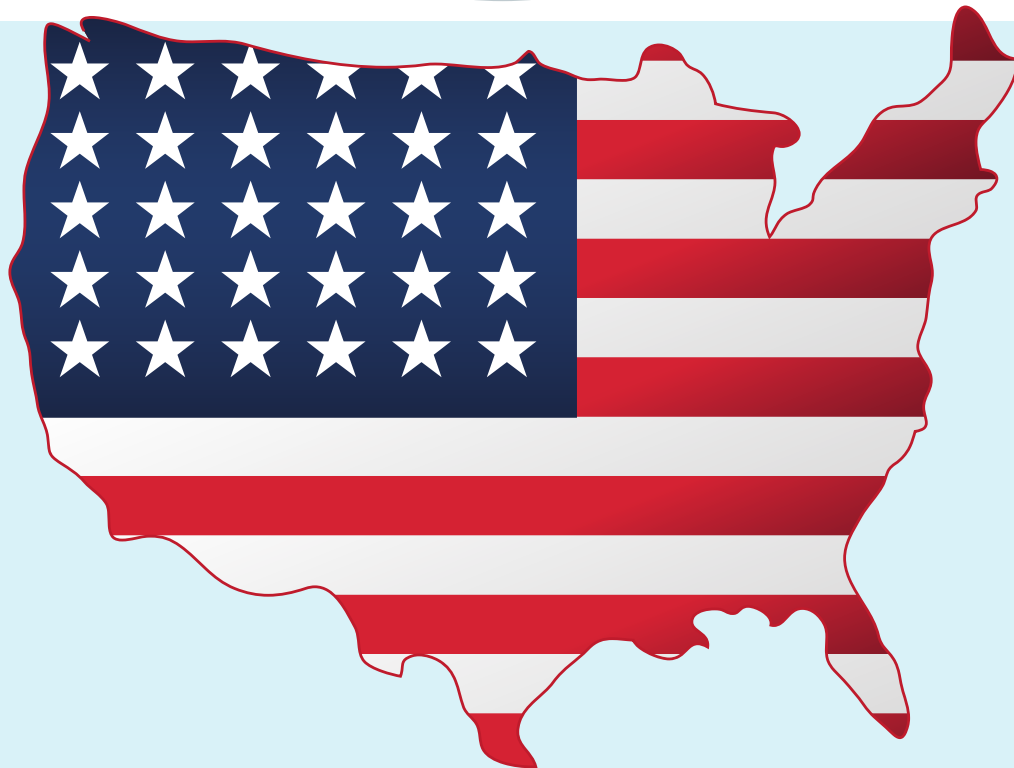


# ***Discover Your World 2020***

**WEEK 4**

## **THE AMERICAN WORLD**



**This week we focus on just one country, the United States of America. We will be looking at the natural features, landmarks, and government of our country.**

**The US is one the largest and most populated countries, as well as the most economically and militarily powerful, making it worthy of a whole week of study. Plus we live here!**

## What's new this year?

- 12 Historic sites, 6 Cultural landmarks, and 4 Major cities.
- Links for more state facts.

## What should you study to do well?

- The names and capitals of all 50 states.
- The names and locations of many landmarks.
- How to find them on a map.
- Know where historic events in US history happened.
- For challenge questions, have an idea of how these features might relate to each other.

## What will the categories be?

- State Capitals (Be able to know a capital from its state and vice versa)
- Picture This (Recognize landmarks from a picture)
- Tour Guide (Name a city from its landmarks)
- Where did it happen? (Know where historic events took place)
- On the map (Point out states and landmarks on a map)
- Superlatives (Know the things that are extremes in the US)

## Example Challenge Questions

- What famous building was subjected to arson in 1812?
- Which state only neighbors one other?



# States

The United States of America is split into 50 local governing units called states. States get to make many decisions on how they are govern, including what their local laws will be, how they collect taxes, and what services they will provide. Over the course of the United State's existence the states power has diminished, with the federal government taking a more active role in creating standards for business regulations and civil rights. That said, local governments still have a large effect on the lives of people of their states.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Statehood</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Area</b>
Alabama	Montgomery	1819	4,858,979	50,744 mi2
Alaska	Juneau	1959	738,432	570,641 mi2
Arizona	Phoenix	1912	6,828,065	113,595 mi2
Arkansas	Little Rock	1836	2,978,204	52,068 mi2
California	Sacramento	1850	39,144,818	155,959 mi2
Colorado	Denver	1876	5,456,574	103,717 mi2
Connecticut	Hartford	1788	3,590,886	4,844 mi2
Delaware	Dover	1787	945,934	1,954 mi2
Florida	Tallahassee	1845	20,271,272	53,927 mi2
Georgia	Atlanta	1788	10,214,860	57,906 mi2
Hawaii	Honolulu	1959	1,431,603	6,423 mi2
Idaho	Boise	1890	1,654,930	82,747 mi2
Illinois	Springfield	1818	12,859,995	55,574 mi2
Indiana	Indianapolis	1816	6,666,818	35,867 mi2
Iowa	Des Moines	1846	3,123,899	55,869 mi2
Kansas	Topeka	1861	2,904,021	81,815 mi2
Kentucky	Frankfort	1792	4,468,402	40,408 mi2
Louisiana	Baton Rouge	1812	4,670,724	43.562 mi2
Maine	Augusta	1820	1,32,323	30,862 mi2
Maryland	Annapolis	1788	6,006,401	9,774 mi2
Massachusetts	Boston	1788	6,797,422	7,840 mi2
Michigan	Lansing	1837	9,922,576	56,804 mi2
Minnesota	St. Paul	1858	5,489,594	79,610 mi2
Mississippi	Jackson	1817	2,992,333	46,907 mi2
Missouri	Jefferson City	1821	6,083,672	68,886 mi2
Montana	Helena	1889	1,032,949	145,552 mi2



<b>Name</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Statehood</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Area</b>
Nebraska	Lincoln	1867	1,896,190	77,358 mi2
Nevada	Carson City	1864	2,940,058	110,577 mi2
New Hampshire	Concord	1788	1,342,795	9,349 mi2
New Jersey	Trenton	1787	8,944,469	8,722 mi2
New Mexico	Santa Fe	1912	2,085,109	121,589 mi2
New York	Albany	1788	19,795,791	54,555 mi2
North Carolina	Raleigh	1789	10,247,632	53,819 mi2
North Dakota	Bismarck	1889	757,952	70,698 mi2
Ohio	Columbus	1803	11,613,423	44,825 mi2
Oklahoma	Oklahoma	1907	3,923,561	69,897 mi2
Oregon	Salem	1859	4,093,465	98,381 mi2
Pennsylvania	Harrisburg	1787	12,802,503	46,055 mi2
Rhode Island	Providence	1790	1,056,298	1,214 mi2
South Carolina	Columbia	1788	4,961,119	30,109 mi2
South Dakota	Pierre	1889	865,454	78,116 mi2
Tennessee	Nashville	1796	6,600,299	41,217 mi2
Texas	Austin	1845	27,695,284	268,581mi2
Utah	Salt Lake City	1896	3,051,217	84,899 mi2
Vermont	Montpelier	1791	624,594	9,616 mi2
Virginia	Richmond	1788	8,411,808	42,774 mi2
Washington	Olympia	1889	7,288,000	71,362 mi2
West Virginia	Charleston	1863	1,831,102	24,230 mi2
Wisconsin	Madison	1848	5,778,708	65,498 mi2
Wyoming	Cheyenne	1890	585,501	97,914 mi2

## State Trivia

Besides making laws and collecting taxes, states spend their time making official state things. Every state has its own bird, flower, motto, flag, and lots of other stuff. We don't have the space to put all that in this packet, but there are some great internet resources to check out if you are interested!

<https://www.ducksters.com/geography/usgeography.php>

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/states/>

# US Fast Facts

Capital: Washington DC

Largest City: New York City

Government: Presidential Constitutional Republic

Area: 3,796,742 mi<sup>2</sup>

Population: ~328,000,000 Americans

Currency: US Dollar

Official Language: English (de Facto)

Northernmost State: Alaska

Southernmost State: Florida

Easternmost State: Maine

Westernmost State: Alaska

Oldest City: St. Augustine, Florida

Largest Park: Wrangell-St. Elias, Alaska

Only State with Flamingos: Florida

Only State with Palm Trees: California

Hottest State: Hawaii

Coldest State: Alaska

Highest State: Colorado

Lowest State: Delaware

Biggest Crop: Corn

Biggest Island: Long Island

Biggest Export: Automobiles

Biggest Import: Machinery

Oldest Company: Caswell-Massey

Top Producer of: Petroleum, Natural Gas, Corn, Cotton, Sorghum, Turkey, Soybeans, Blueberries, Cow Milk, Almonds, Sawnwood

## Ten Biggest Cities

1) New York City

5) Phoenix

8) San Diego

2) Los Angeles

6) Philadelphia

9) Dallas

3) Chicago

7) San Antonio

10) San Jose

4) Houston

# Rivers

Like any country, the rivers of the US serve as waterways for transportation and sources of fresh water for people and farms.

## Mississippi

The second longest river in the United States at 2,320 miles, the Mississippi formed an early boundary of American territory. Beginning in Minnesota and emptying in the Gulf of Mexico, the Mississippi touches ten states and was an important transportation route known for its iconic steamboats.

## Rio Grande

Starting in Colorado, the Rio Grande crosses New Mexico before forming the US-Mexico border in Texas then emptying into the Gulf of Mexico.

## Missouri

The longest river in the United States at 2,341 miles, the Missouri River begins in Montana and joins up with the Mississippi in Missouri.

## Delaware

Extending from New York to the Delaware Bay, the Delaware River was an important river that connected Philadelphia to the Atlantic Ocean. It is also famous for being a part of an important revolutionary war event, involving a surprise attack by Washington's army.

## Colorado

Beginning in Colorado, this river crosses four states and Mexico before emptying into the Gulf of California. The Grand Canyon was carved by the Colorado River. Along with the Rio Grande, it is the primary waterway of the Southwest.

## Ohio

Connecting Pittsburg to the Mississippi River, the fierce rapids required a series of canals to make the river navigable. Many industrial cities in Ohio and Indiana are found along the Ohio.

## St. Lawrence

This River is the main drainage for the Great Lakes extending from Lake Ontario to Atlantic Ocean in Canada. The Saint Lawrence is to this day and important seaway for connecting midwestern and Canadian cities to the Atlantic Ocean.

## Hudson

While only 315 miles long and almost entirely in a single state, the Hudson River became a vital trade lane after the Erie Canal was built, connecting the Midwest to the Atlantic Ocean.



# Mountains

The US has the Great Plains and a vast amount of farmland, but it also has its share of mountain ranges, especially near the coasts

## Sierra Nevada

Located mostly in California, the Sierra Nevada was the site of the Gold Rush, a mass migration of people westward in search of riches. Parts of these mountains are extremely inhospitable, making them a formidable natural barrier.

## Appalachians

The longest mountain range in the Eastern US, the Appalachians cross 19 states and cross into Canada. The Appalachian Trail is a hiking route that takes travelers months to cross. The record time is 41 days.

## Alaska Range

This range contains the highest mountains in the US. Unsurprisingly, you'll find these remote mountains in Alaska.

## Mt. St. Helens

A volcano in Washington near Portland, Oregon, Mount Saint Helens erupted in 1980, killing 57 people and causing more damage than any eruption in US history.

## Rockies

This longest mountain range in North America goes from Western Canada down through the Western US. The Rockies have very little population with the exception of a few of large cities like Denver and Calgary. There are three main sections of the Rockies: the Arctic, Northern, and Southern.

## Kilauea

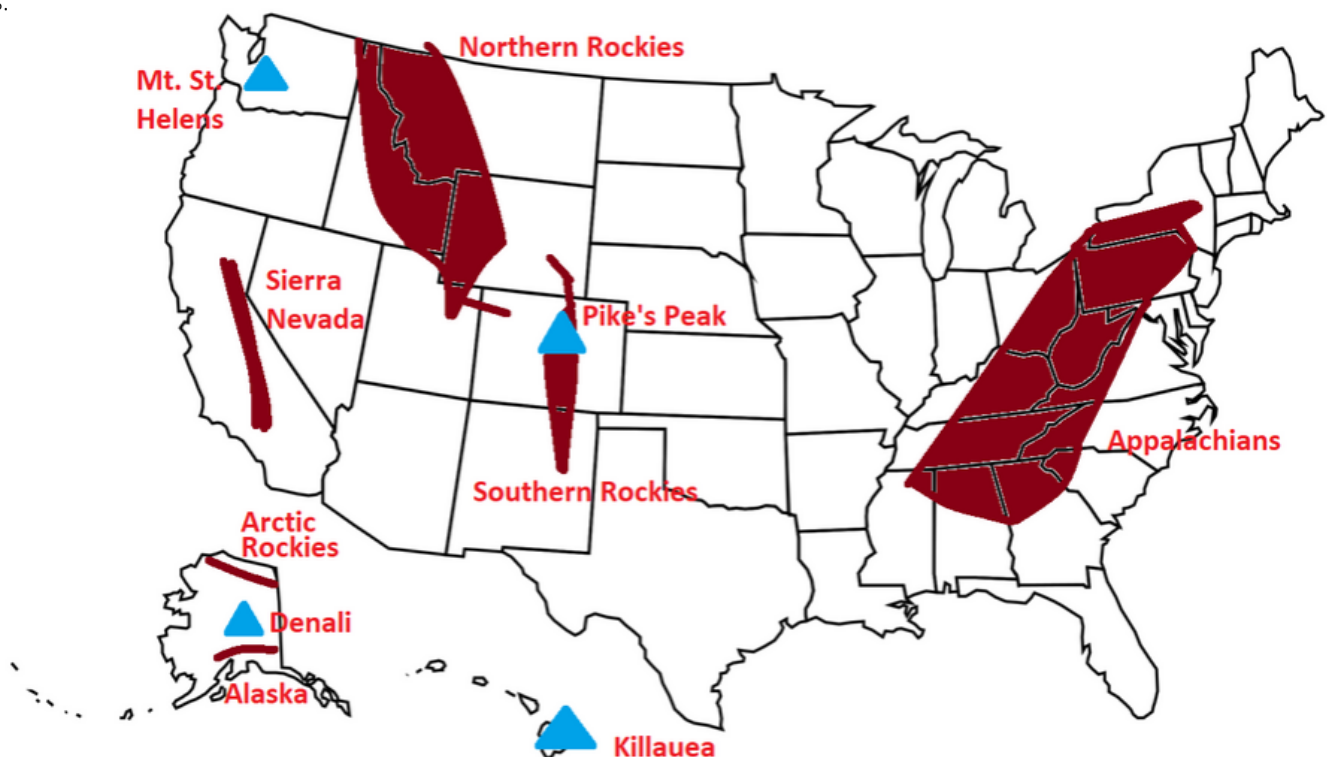
An active volcano in Hawaii, Kilauea erupted in 2018 causing a great deal of damage. It may erupt again in the near future.

## Pikes Peak

The highest point of the Southern Rockies at 14,115 ft., Pike's Peak overlooks Colorado Springs, Colorado.

## Denali

Part of the Alaska Range, Denali is the tallest mountain in the US. It was called Mount McKinley, for a US president, until 2015 when the federal government changed it to reflect the historic name given to it by indigenous people of Alaska.





# Other Natural Features

Being a big country, the US has a great deal of variety in its geography.

## Grand Canyon

The deepest and largest canyon in the world, the Grand Canyon was carved by the Colorado River in Arizona. The area around the Grand Canyon has been inhabited by humans for thousands of years. The Pueblo considered it sacred and made pilgrimages to the site. It is the most popular tourist destination in Arizona.



## Bryce Canyon

A national park in Utah, Bryce Canyon's spire shaped rock formations make it a major tourist attraction.



## Death Valley

Home to the hottest atmospheric temperature ever recorded (129.2 F), Death Valley is formed by the rain shadow of the Sierra Nevada Range. Found in California, it is one of the hottest and driest places on Earth with summer temperatures routinely over 110 F.



## Yellowstone Geysers

Yellowstone Park, mostly in Wyoming, is home to a number of natural geysers. Old faithful, the most famous of them, erupts several times a day.

Steamboat Geyser has the largest displays, but erupts must less frequently.

Yellowstone was the first national park in the US and is thought to be the oldest national park in the world



## Great Salt Lake

Found in Utah, this lake is saltier than ocean water. It is the largest saltwater lake in the Western Hemisphere as it has no outlet to an ocean. Utah's capital and largest city can be found along the lake's bank.



## Great Lakes

A group of lakes in the Northern United States, the Great Lakes contain 21% of the world's surface fresh water. Their names are Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior. Many major US cities are found on their shores like Chicago, Milwaukee, and Cleveland



## Redwood National Park

A national park in Northern California, this is one of the few places you will find the California Redwood, a species of tree that claims the title of tallest living thing on Earth.

While wildfires have been a big problem in California in recent years, fires are a natural occurrence and scientists have been using "prescribed burns" to preserve the ecosystem while also limiting damage to people and property.



## Mammoth Cave

Located under Kentucky, Mammoth Cave is the largest cave system in the world. First explored 5,000 years ago, 400 miles of the system has been surveyed, but an unknown amount has yet to be explored.



# Architecture and Engineering

Many of the world's most impressive structures are found in the United States, including bridges, dams, and skyscrapers!

## Freedom Tower

The tallest building in the United States, Freedom Tower is 1776 feet tall, a symbolic number that is the year of the US Declaration of Independence. Freedom Tower was built near the site of the Twin Towers that were destroyed in the 9/11 attacks in New York City. It's address is One World Trade Center.



## Gateway Arch

The tallest monument in the Western Hemisphere, Gateway Arch is a universally recognized symbol of St. Louis, Missouri. The structure is a symbolic gateway between the eastern and western United States.



## Empire State Building

Formerly the tallest building in the world, the Empire State Building is a mixed use office building and tourist attraction in Manhattan, New York. It was finished in 1931 and was the setting for the climax of the movie King Kong.



## Hoover Dam

A hydroelectric plant on the Colorado River, the Hoover Dam provides a large amount of power to Nevada, California, and Arizona. The construction of the dam was hazardous, claiming hundreds of lives.

The dam is done in a Art Deco style found in many constructions of the time period including the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building.



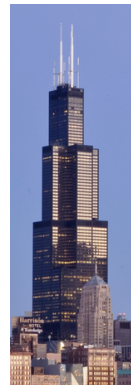
## Space Needle

Built for the 1962 World's Fair, the Space Needle is a tower in Seattle, Washington. This distinct part of the city skyline has a restaurant at the top.



## Willis Tower

Formerly Sears Tower, this skyscraper in Chicago, Illinois was formerly the tallest building in the world and is currently the second tallest in the US.



## Erie Canal

Running from the Hudson River near Albany to Lake Erie, the Erie Canal was 363 miles long. It connected New York City and the Atlantic Ocean to the Midwest, helping Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit become important cities during the 19th century.



## Brooklyn Bridge

Finished in 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge is a symbol of New York City, connecting Manhattan to Long Island. It was also a deadly project, as many people, including the architect, were seriously injured or killed by "The Bends," a sickness caused by pressure. As a result the construction of the bridge was overseen by Emily Roebling, the architect's wife.



# Cultural Landmarks

These locations are important places of culture, either because they were places where artists met and worked or because they preserve the works of the past.

## Statue of Liberty

Located in New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty was a gift from France. It is a popular tourist attraction. The poem "New Colossus" is inscribed on the base, highlighting the country's responsibility to immigrants and refugees.



## Mount Rushmore

A massive sculpture built into the rock face of the Black Hills in South Dakota, Mount Rushmore depicts George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt, four US presidents. Built as a tourist attraction, Mount Rushmore was built on land that was originally part of the Great Sioux Reservation until gold was discovered in the area and the US government dissolved the territory. The project originally was supposed to depict the presidents down to the waist, but a lack of funding forced the project to close incomplete. Still, Mount Rushmore draws many tourists, about 2 million each year, more than twice the population of South Dakota.



## Metropolitan Museum of Art

Nicknamed "The Met", this is the largest art museum in the United States and has a permanent collection of over 2,000,000 works. The many exhibitions feature art both specific to the US as well as samples of modern and historic styles from around the world.



## Harlem

A neighborhood in Manhattan, Harlem was the center of the Harlem Renaissance, a golden era of African American art and culture. The poet Langston Hughes is the most well known voice of this era.

Pictures of Harlem are easily recognizable by the iconic brownstone buildings.



## Graceland

Elvis Presley was the first "Rock Star", a title that has less to do with his music talents and more to do with his lifestyle and the worship of his status as a celebrity. Graceland was his home and now serves as a museum to this person who completely redefined pop culture.



## Art Institute of Chicago

The second largest art museum in the United States, the Art Institute of Chicago is also a library and an art school, making it one of the largest art facilities in the world.



## The Algonquin Hotel

Starting as a practical joke, the Rose Room in the Algonquin Hotel in New York became a meeting place for a group of writers and critics.

Many of the members achieved acclaim in their fields, including playwrights, journalists, and novelists.



## National Museum of African-American History and Culture

Part of the Smithsonian, the NMAAHC has an important place in Washington, DC as it documents a history that many have tried to forget. Historically the mistreatment of African-Americans has been ignored while their achievements have been minimized. The NMAAHC opened in 2016 and current events tell us it will remain an important place for a long time.



## Smithsonian

The group of museums with a wide range of focus, the Smithsonian houses collections that capture the breadth of American history and advances in science in technology. Some of the museums include American History, Air and Space, and the National Zoo. The Smithsonian is in Washington DC.



## National Portrait Gallery

Part of the Smithsonian, the National Portrait Gallery specializes in just one type of art: portraits. Pictures of famous Americans, including all of our presidents, hang there. The current curators of the museum have made it their mission to have the collection of the museum better reflect the diversity of the country.



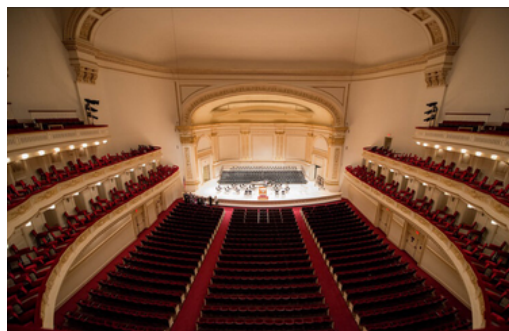
## New York Public Library

The third largest library system in the world, New York Public Library has 92 branches and serves Manhattan, the Bronx, and Staten Island. The main branch is easily recognized by its famous lion statues named Patience and Fortitude.



## Carnegie Hall

Located in Manhattan, New York City, Carnegie Hall is a concert venue that is the most prestigious in the US and one of the most famous in the world. The venue is named for Andrew Carnegie, a ruthless businessman that exploited workers and crushed competitors, but also a great philanthropist who donated money to build hundreds of libraries.



## French Quarter

Known as the birthplace of Jazz, New Orleans has long been on the forefront of American culture, attracting musicians and artists to its Bohemian neighborhoods. The French Quarter is one such place and its famous Bourbon Street bars and music venues.





# Major Cities

These are some of the most important cities in the country, historically and today.

## New York City

The largest city in the US and one of the largest in the world, more than 8 million people call NYC their home.

Nicknamed 'The Big Apple', New York has more places described in this packet than any other city. Formerly a Dutch, then British colony, its position at the head of the Hudson River and on the harbor of New York gave it the ideal location for trade.

New York was the first capital of the US. New York remains the most financially and culturally important city in the US.

## New Orleans

At the mouth of the Mississippi River on the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana, New Orleans has been a major port and a diverse cultural hub mixing Spanish, French, and British culture. Home to a large African American population, New Orleans is known as the home of Jazz and Cajun Cuisine.

## Philadelphia

The birthplace of American democracy, Philadelphia is the largest city in Pennsylvania. The Constitutional Congress took place here. The Liberty Bell, an iconic symbol of America, is also here. Philadelphia was the second capital of the United States.

## Boston

The birthplace of the American Revolution, Boston was home to many of the founding events of US history. The Boston Massacre and Boston Tea Party are two storied events in American lore. Today Boston has a thriving research scene, with many of the colleges and universities in the area among the most prestigious in the world.

## San Francisco

A large city in California along the bay of the same name, San Francisco boomed during the gold rush. The city is one of the wealthiest in the country as it is part of Silicon Valley, an area of the country with a heavy concentration of profitable technology companies.

## Detroit

Nicknamed Motor City, Detroit is near Lake Erie in Michigan. Detroit became one of the most important cities in the US in the early 20th century as it was the center of the US car manufacturing industry. The headquarters of Ford, the first major car company in the US, is in Dearborn, a smaller city next to Detroit.

## Chicago

The fastest growing city of the 19th century, Chicago is the third largest city in the US. Chicago is the finance, transportation, culture, and technology center of the American Midwest. Chicago's growth was spurred on by the Erie Canal connecting the Great Lakes to New York. In many lists Chicago comes in second in US cities right behind New York in many categories.

## Los Angeles

The most populous city in California, Los Angeles is the entertainment capital of America. Hollywood, famous for containing many motion picture production companies, is found in LA. The port of LA is the busiest in the US, surpassing even New York and Houston and giving the LA dockworkers union a great deal of power in the city.

## Washington DC

The capital of the United States, Washington DC is between Maryland and Virginia along the Potomac River. Washington has many monuments, memorials, and museums that relate to US history, particularly the US government. People in Washington, DC can vote in presidential elections, but do not have any representatives in congress.

## Houston

A major port city, Houston is on the Gulf of Mexico in Texas. Houston is the most diverse population of any major US city with no majority race and significant populations of Hispanics, whites, African-Americans, and Asians. The oil industry is a major part of Houston's economy.

## Phoenix

The capital of Arizona, Phoenix has been one of the fastest growing large cities in the country. Drawn to the warm, dry weather, there is a concern that the water supply in this climate may not be able to support such a large population over the long term.

## Las Vegas

Famous for casinos and entertainment, 'Sin City' has a reputation for wildness. Bright lights mark the city at all hours of the night. Las Vegas was the fastest growing city of the 20th century. Found in the Mojave Desert, water supply is a concern here as well.

# Government and Territories

Many of the world's most impressive structures are found in the United States, including bridges, dams and skyscrapers!

## White House

The White House serves at the home of the President of the United States and offices for many members of the executive branch. Every president since 1800 has lived there, though the building had to be reconstructed after being badly burned during the War of 1812.



## Capital Building

The meeting building for the Legislative branch of the federal government, the United States Capitol was built at the same time as the White House.



## US Military Academy

Located in West Point, New York, this is the primary training facility for US Army officers. The Academy is often just called West Point for short.



## Pentagon

The headquarters of the Department of Defense, the pentagon lives up to its name with its unique 5 sided design. Located in Washington DC, the Pentagon was badly damaged during the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks.



## Puerto Rico

Found to the east of Hispaniola, Puerto Rico is a small Caribbean island that is a territory of the United States. Puerto Rico could become the 51st state as interest in statehood has grown in recent years. Puerto Ricans are US citizens, but do not have representation in congress and cannot vote for president unless they move to one of the states or Washington DC.



## Guam

Guam is a western Pacific island and is the west most point of the United States. Like Puerto Rico, Guam Nationals are US citizens but have no representation in the federal government. Guam's military bases are important to US operations in Asia.



## American Samoa

Made up of seven small islands, American Samoa is a South Pacific US territory. Unlike Puerto Rico and Guam, people born in American Samoa are not US citizens. In spite of this, more people from American Samoa volunteer for service in the US military than from anywhere else in the country.



## US Virgin Islands

East of Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands are the easternmost territory of the United States. The three main islands are St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas. People from the US Virgin Islands are US citizens, but like those in Puerto Rico have no federal representation.



# Native Peoples

When European settlers arrived in what is now the United States, these lands weren't empty. Diseases brought over from Europe devastated these populations, while wars and aggressive expansion severely reduced the size of their territory. The United States history with the native peoples of this continent, like all imperial histories, is painful and tragic. Forced relocation like the Trail of Tears killed large portions of these populations and disconnected them from their ancestral lands. Many Native Americans today live in reservations, areas created by the US government where they have sovereignty.

## Navajo

Traditionally living in the Southwest, the Navajo are the second largest Native American population with about 300,000 members. They have the largest reservation in the US. Their territory covers parts of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah.

## Chippewa

Traditionally residing in the American Midwest, the Chippewa are currently have the third largest population of any US tribe. Chippewa reservations can be found in the Northern US in places like Minnesota near the Canadian border.

## Sioux

Traditionally residing in the Midwestern areas that are now Iowa, Minnesota, and the Dakotas, the Great Sioux Nation was a confederacy of many tribes in the area. The US broke treaties with the Sioux that provided them reservation territory when gold was discovered in the Black Hills.

## Iroquois

The Iroquois are a confederation of tribes that traditionally inhabited the Northeastern US. This confederation broke apart during the American Revolution as different tribes supported different sides during the war.

## Apache

Distantly related to the Navajo, the Apache are a group of related tribes traditionally found throughout the Southwest. There are Apache reservations in New Mexico and Arizona.

## Cherokee

The largest recognized tribe, the Cherokee's lands were traditionally in the Southeastern US. The Cherokee were targeted in the Indian Removal Act and forced to move to reservations in Oklahoma, an area now known as Cherokee Nation.

## Pueblo

A name for both the people and the towns where they lived, the Pueblo traditionally lived in the US Southwest. The Pueblo have distinctive adobe architecture.

## Native Hawaiians

The native people of Hawaii had a kingdom that was recognized as a independent country and trading partner of the US until the US government backed militants what overthrew their government, turning Hawaii into a US territory and later a state. About 150,000 people in the US identify as Native Hawaiian.

# Historic Sites

Our nation is relatively young, but a lot has already happened. These sites relate to important events, both triumphant and tragic, in the history of the United States. Many relate to the wars the country has fought and the constant struggle for people to force this country to live up to its proclamation of "Liberty and Justice for All."

## Ground Zero

September 11, 2001 was a day that few people will forget. Terrorists hijacked 4 planes and succeeded at using 3 of them as weapons, destroying both towers of the World Trade Center and damaging the Pentagon. Ground Zero, the site where the Twin Towers once stood in Manhattan, New York, serves as a memorial for all those who died on that tragic day.



## Gettysburg

The site of the bloodiest battle in US history, Gettysburg is a city in Pennsylvania. In an attempt to destroy Union morale by counter-invading, General Robert E. Lee led his army deep into US territory. Lee's army was soundly defeated at Gettysburg, forcing the Confederates back to the defensive, a major turning point in the war. Abraham Lincoln gave a speech at this battlefield, the Gettysburg Address, which is only ten sentences long, but is largely remembered as the greatest presidential speech ever given.



## Fort Sumter

A military base in South Carolina, Fort Sumter is where the American Civil War began. Troops from the Confederacy, who had just declared succession from the US, surrounded and fired cannons on Fort Sumter with US troops inside, demanding they surrender the Fort. This siege only lasted for a day, but the war went on for 4 years, ending in the Confederate surrender at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.



## National Mall

A park in Washington, DC, the National Mall is a large field and reflecting pool surrounded by some of the most famous monuments in DC including the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. The National Mall has been the site of inaugurations and other gatherings, the most famous of which was The March on Washington, a civil rights protest that was punctuated by Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, possibly the most famous oration in US history.



## Promontory Summit

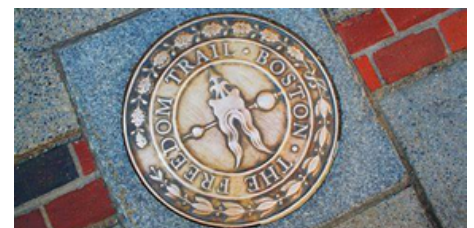
The US is the third largest country in the world with major population centers on opposite sides of the continent. With rail technology growing, the idea for a railway that could cross and connect the country was something that the government decided to support. Two railways, one from each coast, were funded and built towards each other. These railways met at Promontory Summit in Utah and were joined with a ceremonial golden spike.



## Freedom Trail

Boston was home to many historic events and places from the time period leading up to the American Revolution. Freedom Trail is a walking tour that leads visitors between these sites, allowing them to see these locations where history was made.

Some of the most famous locations on the trail are Boston Common, Paul Revere's House, Old State House, and the site of the Boston Massacre.





## Independence Hall

This small meeting hall in Philadelphia is where the US Constitution was written.

Representatives from the 13 colonies met to debate what the rules of the new government would be. The founders were successful in creating a system that has lasted to this day. In many ways this government was radical and progressive, with no mention of nobility and a designed to represent the interests of the people. In other ways it failed to meet its ideals of equity, enshrining slavery and giving few rights to women. It is important to remember that the Constitution refers to a "more perfect Union", not a perfect one that is above criticism and revision. Indeed the Constitution was amended almost immediately with the passing of the Bill of Rights.



## Monticello, Mount Vernon, and Montpelier

Monticello, Mount Vernon, and Montpelier were the homes of three of US presidents and all are found in Virginia. Monticello was the home of Thomas Jefferson, Mount Vernon was the home of George Washington, and Montpelier was the home of James Madison. All three of these people are hugely important to early American history. These historic homes preserve the architecture and home life of early America. They were also to home of slaves as these three founding fathers were slaveowners. The fact that many of the early leaders of the US, a self-described bold experiment in freedom, participated in a system of total oppression is a contradiction many try to forget, but as uncomfortable as it may be to think about, the legacy of slavery can't be ignored and still has effects today.



## Wall Street

Both a street and a district in Manhattan, New York, Wall Street is the center of finance in the US. The New York Stock Exchange, the largest financial market in the world with about \$30 trillion in assets, is found here as is the NASDAQ exchange. The stock market both reflects the economy and drives it, with Wall Street being at the center of some of the lowest points in US economic history, including the 1929 market crash that lead to the Great Depression and the 2008 crash that lead to the Great Recession.



## Trail of Tears

The name for the route used to relocate Native Americans to "Indian Territories", the Trail of Tears emerged after the passage of the Indian Removal Act. The disorganized, forced relocation lead to the deaths of thousands. The Trail of Tears is one of the worst of the many examples of the US's horrific treatment of the indigenous peoples of North America.



## Greenwood District

Formerly a freedom colony in Tulsa, Oklahoma, this neighborhood was known as Black Wall Street due to the concentration of successful African American business owners. In the worst act of racial violence in the US since the Civil War, massive riots driven by racial animosity erupted in Greenwood, killing over a hundred and burning most of the homes and businesses to the ground, destroying one of the largest centers of African American wealth in the US.



## Edmund Pettus Bridge

Named for a Confederate General and Klu Klux Klan leader, this bridge was the site of Bloody Sunday, an attack by state troopers on protesters marching to Montgomery. Tear gas was used and many were beaten with nightsticks and other weapons. The events were recorded and televised shocking many in the country and across the world who were ignorant to the depths of the racial violence that was occurring.



## Plymouth Rock

Plymouth Rock is thought of as the site the Mayflower landed in 1620. These colonists, known as The Pilgrims are strongly associated with the Massachusetts colony and the holiday of Thanksgiving.



## Angel Island

A small island in the San Francisco Bay, Angel Island served as one of the main entry points for immigrants entering the United States from Asia. About 1,000,000 people passed through Angel Island in their attempt to enter America. Angel Island has also been used as a fort and quarantine station.



## Ellis Island

A small island in New York harbor, Ellis Island housed the busiest immigration station in the US. Handling immigrants from Europe, the station saw about 12,000,000 people pass through.



## Dealey Plaza

A public area in Dallas, Texas, Dealey Plaza was the site of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the 35th president of the US. Kennedy was a popular politician and his death, on national television, was an event that few people who witnessed it would ever forget. Kennedy was shot by a sniper as his motorcade drove through the city.



## Fenway Park

Baseball is known as America's pastime and has historically been the most popular sport. Of all of the ballparks, Fenway is the oldest still standing and the home of the Boston Red Sox, one of the oldest teams in the MLB.



## Old San Juan

Found in the capital city of Puerto Rico, Old San Juan is a historic district that preserves the architecture of colonial Spain. It has some of the oldest buildings still standing in the United States.



## Harvard

The oldest university in the United States, Harvard is possibly the most prestigious school in the world. A member of the Ivy League, Harvard is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts in the Boston Metropolitan area.



## Pearl Harbor

A naval base in Hawaii, Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese in 1941, destroying much of the US navy in the Pacific. This action was the impetus that forced the US into World War II.



## Arlington National Cemetery

A graveyard in Virginia, Arlington has been used as a cemetery to bury members of America's armed forces since the Civil War. It is a stark reminder that warfare has a heavy human cost.





## Ford's Theatre

A live theater venue in Washington DC, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated here while watching a play. The Civil War had just ended and Lincoln still had more than three years left in his term. Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's vice president, saw his plans on dealing with the aftermath of the Civil War lead to division and impeachment, leaving the wounds of the war to fester.



## Alamo

A church in San Antonio, Texas, the Alamo was the site of a battle during the Texas Revolution. While the Texans were defeated, the cruelty of the enemy in the battle inspired many people to join the Texas Revolution and ultimately win their independence, with Texas later becoming a US state.



## Fort Ticonderoga

Found in Northern New York near the Vermont border, Fort Ticonderoga saw important battles in the French and Indian War. During the American Revolution, Fort Ticonderoga was dramatically captured by Benedict Arnold who was making his name as a heroic general and had not yet become the traitor of infamy.



## Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building

A government building in Oklahoma City, this was the site of the deadliest bombing in US history. Carried out by an American citizen in 1995, the attack killed 168 people, making it the deadliest act of terrorism in the US until 9/11/2001.

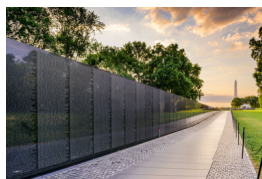


## Heart Mountain

This mountain in Wyoming was the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, one of the largest internment camps in the US. Created during World War II, fears driven by racism lead many to believe that Japanese-Americans could be spies serving the Emperor of Japan. People of Japanese descent were arrested with no evidence of any crime and forced to live in these camps like the one at Heart Mountain as prisoners until the end of the war, a grievous infringement of their human rights.

## Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The Vietnam War was not one of the bright points in American history. The war was unpopular, the mission was unsuccessful, and the cost massive. This simple stone memorial in Washington DC records the names of the all the Americans who died, its sheer size putting the toll of that war into perspective as well as give us the chance to separate our feelings about the war itself from our feeling towards those who died in it.



## Fort McHenry

When you here the Star Spangled Banner, Fort McHenry is the place where the battle in the song is taking place. Found of the waterfront in Baltimore, it was the site of a battle with Britain during the War of 1812 where the US successfully defended Baltimore Harbor from invasion.



## Kennedy Space Center

Visiting the moon is probably the most impressive accomplishment in the history of mankind. Cape Canaveral, now Kennedy Space Center, is where all of the Apollo and Space Center missions were launched including Apollo 11, the first manned spaceflight to reach the moon.



## Alcatraz

The most famous prison in the US, Alcatraz is found on an island off the shore of San Francisco. Alcatraz housed some of the most infamous criminals in US history like Al Capone and George Kelly. After it was shut down, Native American Activists took over the island, declaring it Indian land. It is now a tourist attraction.



## Tuskegee University

Founded by Booker T Washington, Tuskegee is one of the most storied Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Built as a place to give African Americans the education they were denied by segregated colleges, Tuskegee famously trained a group of African American pilots during World War II known as the Tuskegee Airmen that flew thousands of missions.



## Sutter's Mill

John Sutter was a carpenter with a mill built along South Fork River in California in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. When news broke that he discovered gold flakes in the river, thousands moved into the area in search of riches. Known as the Gold Rush, this influx of people changed US geography, leading to California becoming the most populous state in the country.



## Kent State

A University in Ohio, Kent State like many colleges in the US is home to young people interested in activism. In 1970 a group of college students protesting the Vietnam War were confronted by National Guard troops.

The situation escalated and the troops fired upon the protesters, killing four and injuring many more. Images captured by journalists helped turn the tide of public opinion against the war.



# The Flag



50 Stars for 50 states.

13 Strips for the 13 original colonies

The colors do not have an official meaning, but the Great Seal of the US uses the same colors and when presented to Congress it was explained that it used the same colors as the flag: that red stood for hardiness and valor, white stood for purity and innocence, and blue stood for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.