

# Summer Week 2 - Geography Lesson 2

Can I identify interesting facts about the USA?

## Fast Five: (answers on next page)

- 1) What does USA stand for?
- 2) Name one similarity between the USA and the UK.
- 3) Name one difference between the USA and the UK.
- 4) True or false? The UK is bigger than the USA.
- 5) True or false? The USA has much more extreme weather than the UK, such as tornadoes and hurricanes.

# Fast five answers:

- 1) What does USA stand for? **United States of America.**
- 2) Name one similarity between the USA and the UK. **Various answers - both have same language, culture, religions etc.**
- 3) Name one difference between the USA and the UK. **Various answers - different geography, different weather, different currency, different size, etc.**
- 4) True or false? The UK is bigger than the USA. **False - the USA is much bigger than the UK.**
- 5) True or false? The USA has much more extreme weather than the UK, such as tornadoes and hurricanes. **True.**

Today we are going to learn some interesting facts about the USA.

What is something that you would like to find out? Write it down so you can see if it gets answered in the lesson.

# History



- The United States of America was created on July 4th, 1776 when its leaders signed the Declaration of Independence.
- The USA started with only 13 states (known as colonies), but now it has 50. This is why their flag has 50 stars and 13 stripes.

This is where they signed it!



# Geography

- The USA is the 4th largest country in the world
- It has the 3rd biggest amount of people living there.
- The tallest mountain in the USA is Mt McKinley, located in Alaska, and is 6,194m tall.
- Most of the world's tornadoes happen in Tornado Alley, in the Midwest.
- The San Andreas fault line runs through California on the West Coast of the USA and causes earthquakes.



Mt McKinley, Alaska

# Animals

- Bison are cow-like animals that are native to the USA. They can be over 2 metres tall and weigh up to 900 kg!
- You can find polar bears living in Alaska and dolphins in California or Florida.
- Yellowstone National Park is home to bison, elk, moose, bears and wolves, just to name a few!



# People

- The first man to walk on the moon was an American called Neil Armstrong. He did this in 1969.
- English is the most commonly spoken language. Spanish is second.
- The most popular team sports in the USA are American football, baseball, basketball and ice hockey.





# Activity

We are going to pretend we have gone on holiday to the USA and we are writing a postcard back home to tell your friends and family about the facts you have learnt. Here is an example I have written. The facts are highlighted.

Dear Mr V, Miss Forge, Ms King and Miss Williams,

I am having a fantastic time here in the USA and I thought I would share some of the amazing things I have learnt with you!

Did you know that the highest mountain in the USA is Mt McKinley? You can find it in Alaska.

I've also seen wild dolphins while I've been in Florida. Isn't that amazing?

Finally, I know more about the American flag now. It has 50 stars to represent the 50 states, and 13 stripes because when the USA started, it only had 13 states.

See you soon,  
From Miss Rolfe



Monkwick Junior School  
School Road  
Colchester  
CO2 8NN  
United Kingdom

# Activity

Write a postcard, imagining you are in the USA. You want to tell your friends and family all about the interesting facts you have learnt!

**Red** - Fill in the gaps in the postcard with 2 interesting facts you have learnt about the USA. You can also use the information sheet to help you remember the facts.

**Yellow** - Use the information sheet to help you write 3 facts about the USA on your postcard.

**Green** - Write 4 facts you have learnt about the USA on your postcard.

# Plenary

Did you get the answer to what you wanted to find out at the beginning?

If you didn't, try to find the answer by researching it. You could use your adults, books or Google to help you.