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# The USA :

- **Geography**
- **History**
- **States**
- **cities**
- **sights**

The lesson in the form of slide - lecture for the 10<sup>th</sup> form  
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Bayevo - 2007

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# Fact files:

- ❑ Official name: The United States of America
  - ❑ Status: A federal republic, a union of 50 states
  - ❑ Area: 9,364,000 squ. km.
  - ❑ Population: about 250 mln. people (2006)
  - ❑ Capital: Washington, D.C.
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- Who discovered America? The answer is: nobody knows. North America may have been discovered by Vikings under Leif Eriksson, but Europeans didn't know about its existence until Columbus' voyages. In **1492** three ships- the "Santa Maria", the "Pinta", the "Nine" under Columbus landed the continent. In **1507** Amerigo Vespucci explored the area of South America and introduced a new land to the world. This continent was called after him - "America".



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## Some facts from the history of The USA:

- In **1620** the first people from England arrived in America. They left England because of religious problems.
- In **1776** after the war with Britain, America became an independent country. Americans wrote the Declaration of the Independence and designed a new flag – **The Stars and Stripes**.

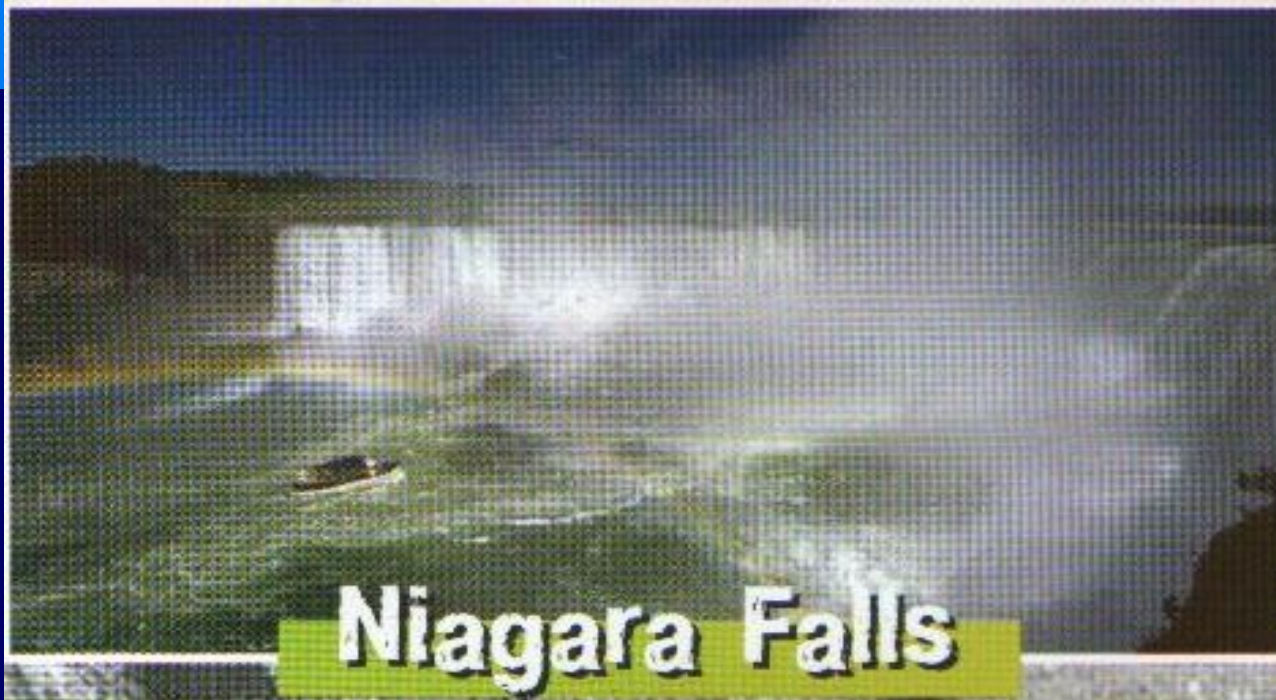
### **4<sup>th</sup> July – The Day of Independence (a national holiday)**

- After the war in **1861-1865** between the northern and the southern states (south lost) the government stopped slavery .
  - **1969** – the first people on the moon were three astronauts: Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Ed Collins.
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**Nationalities: white Americans - 83,5 %**  
**Africans - 12,4%**  
**immigrants from Asia - 3,3%**  
**native Americans (Indians, Aleuts, Eskimos) – 0,8 %**



## Natural sights of the USA



- The Niagara Falls – a waterfalls on the river Niagara (51 meters high). It is situated on the boarder between the USA and Canada. The waterfalls was discovered by the expedition of R. Lassel. There is always a rainbow over it.



**The Mississippi** – “Old man river” together with its tributaries the Missouri and the Ohio is the longest river in the world. The history of this river is described in the book “Life on the Mississippi” by M. Twain.





- The USA is divided into 50 states. Hawaii became the 50th state in 1959. Alaska is separated from Russia by the Bering Strait. It is the biggest and the coldest state of the country.
- Each of the states has its own capital, government and symbol.

What is special about Hawaii and Alaska ?

Washington (D.C) was named in honour of the first American president (1789-1796).



**George Washington**, “the father of his country”.

He was an example of bravery and approved the fight against slavery. General Henry Li wrote : “Washington was first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen”

The capital of the country, a state, a lake, an island, a mount, a canyon, some universities and colleges, streets and squares are named after him. In 1888 the Washington Monument was established in the capital (169 m. high)



**22<sup>nd</sup> of February – birthday of J. Washington, a national holiday in the USA.**

## The Sights of Washington



**The White House** is the Residence of the American President.



**The Capitol** is the highest building in W., where laws are made.  
~~No building in the city may be more than 40 meters high.~~

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**Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the USA**



**Lincoln – memorial with 36 columns (the number of states in Lincoln days) – in a park on the banks of the Potomac River.**



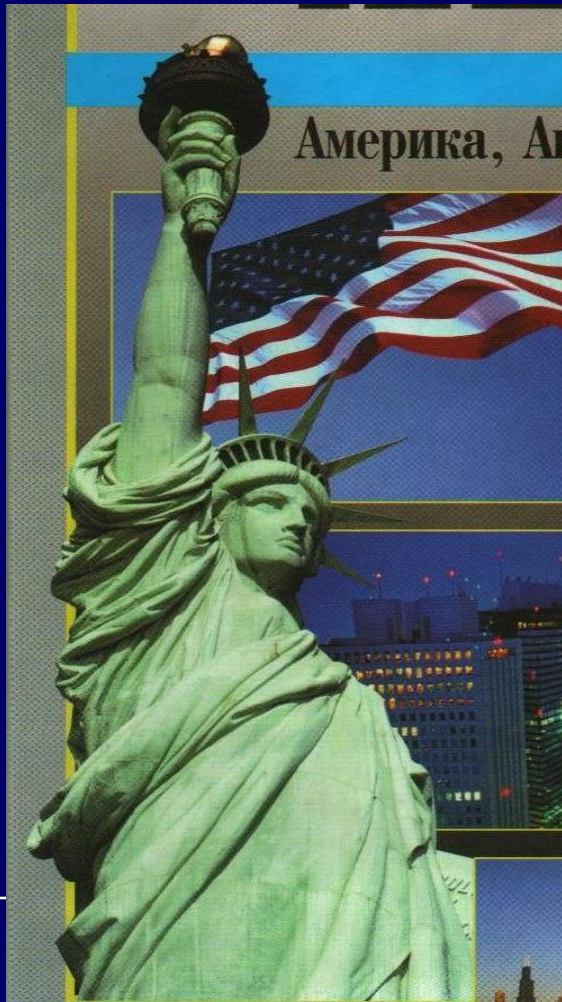
**A magnificent sculpture (6m.) of Abraham Lincoln inside**

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- Washington National Cathedral (St. Peter and St. Paul's Church Cathedral) – was built in a gothic style. The first stone was laid by Th. Roosevelt (the 26<sup>th</sup> president) in 1907. Finally it was rebuilt in 1990.

New York (New York) is the city of contrasts, financial and business centre of the USA. It was founded some three hundred years ago. It is situated in the mouth of the Hudson . Its nickname is “A big apple”, because everybody wants to bite it.



**The Statue of Liberty is the symbol of New York.**

- At the entrance to New York Harbour you can see a great statue which is called the Statue of Liberty. It is 46 meters high excluding the pedestal.

The Statue was designed by Bartholdy, a French sculptor, who worked ten years at it. In 1876 the statue was taken to pieces and shipped across the Atlantic as a gift from the French government to the USA for its democratic views.



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**Chicago ,the second capital  
of the USA, stands on the  
banks of Lake Michigan  
(was founded in 1833)**

- Chicago – the second economical center in the USA after New York.**
- The biggest river port in the world.**
- The biggest airport in the world.**
- 200 colleges, 5 universities are situated here.**
- The home of the first skyscrapers.**

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**Chicago** is known in a sport world as a home of the best basketball club “Chicago bulls”.

Chicago's architecture is one of the youngest in the USA "thanks to" the great fire in 1871.



- The whole city was destroyed. The cause was the cow "Mrs. O'Leary", who pulled down a burning candle in a time she had been milked.

**90 thousand people were left without houses! Almost all the buildings of wood were burnt.**

**Some years later the city was rebuilt. The first skyscrapers appeared with iron constructions.**

**The city became the most modern one from all the biggest American cities.**

**A wonderful fountain in a classical style near the Michigan**



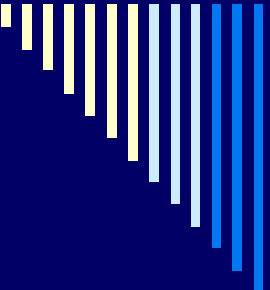
**Los Angeles** (California) – the nation's third largest city. It leads the USA in production of aircraft. This city is the world capital of filmed entertainment. The first cinema house in the country was opened here in 1902.



**Hollywood** – the centre of the US film industry. In 1913 the first film was made there. The biggest film companies are here: MGM, Paramount, 20<sup>th</sup> century Fox, Columbia Pictures, Warner Bros.



**The star avenue**



In **1955** a world famous cartoon's creator Walt Disney founded the first park of entertainment with decorations from popular Disney cartoons in Los Angeles.

10 mln. people visit Disneyworld every year.



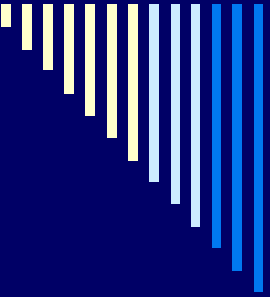
Walt Disney (1901-1966)

A world famous cartoon Director.

His *Mickey Mouse* and *Donald Duck* are known to every child in the world.

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A new Disneyland in Florida, built in 1971.

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- **New Orleans** is the place to come if you like jazz or blues. Almost all the bars and clubs in the city feature live music, there are usually more bands playing out in the streets. Other reason to visit this city is its 19th century architecture.
  - **Las Vegas is the city that never sleeps!**
  - San Francisco, Philadelphia ...

***“America! Who has seen you once, will never forget ”***

**J. London.**

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Would you comment the dates?

1492

1909

1776

1955

1861

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## Would you answer the questions?

1. Thanks to his exploration America has got its name?
  2. It is 51 meters high, is situated on the border between Canada and the USA-?
  3. It is famous for its three universities - ?
  4. He founded the first park of entertainment for children - ?
  5. The home of the first skyscraper?
  6. Who presented the Statue of Liberty to the USA and why?
  7. Th. Roosevelt took part in the building of this sight?
  8. What is the biggest state of the USA?
  9. This city has no skyscrapers - ?
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