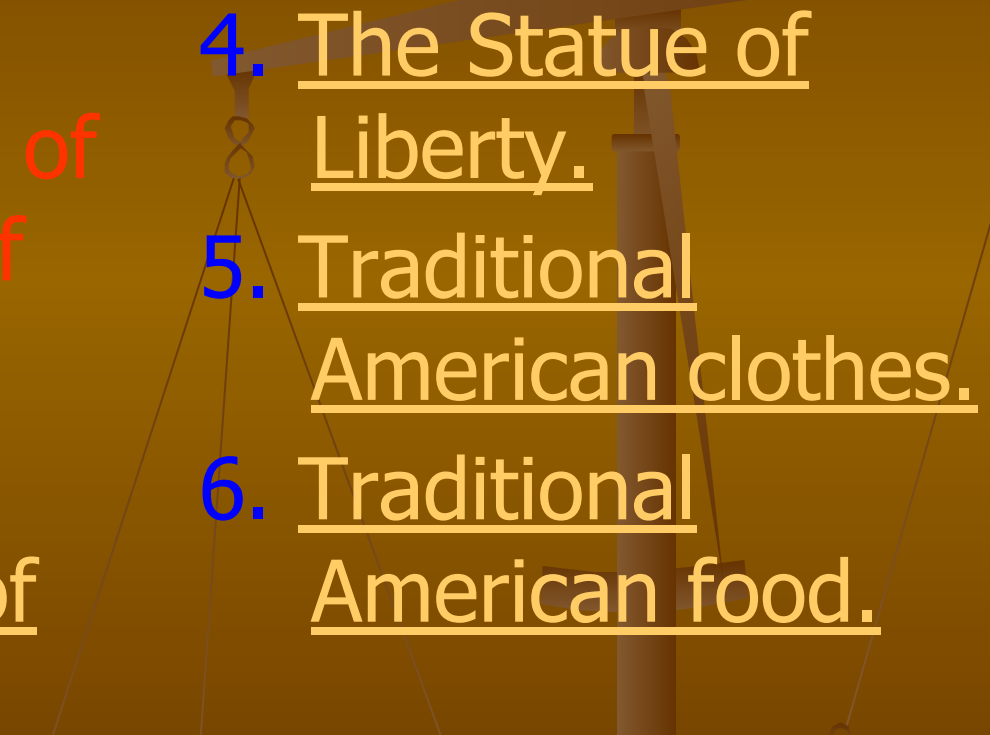


America



Maintenance

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The discovery of America

In our days everybody knows what the word «America» means. First of all it's the name of the country - the United States of America - or just America.

And then America is the name of the two continents - North America and South America.



These two continents, North and South America form the part of the word called America. Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. "In fourteen hundred and ninety- two Columbus sailed the ocean blue..."



American flag

The American flag is often called «The Stars and Stripes». There are three colours on the flag of the United States - red, white, and blue. As there are fifty states in the United States, there are fifty stars on the American flag: one star for each state. The American flag has thirteen stripes. The stripes are red and white. The flag has seven red stripes and six white stripes. There is one stripe for each of the first thirteen colonies of the United States.



American coat of arms

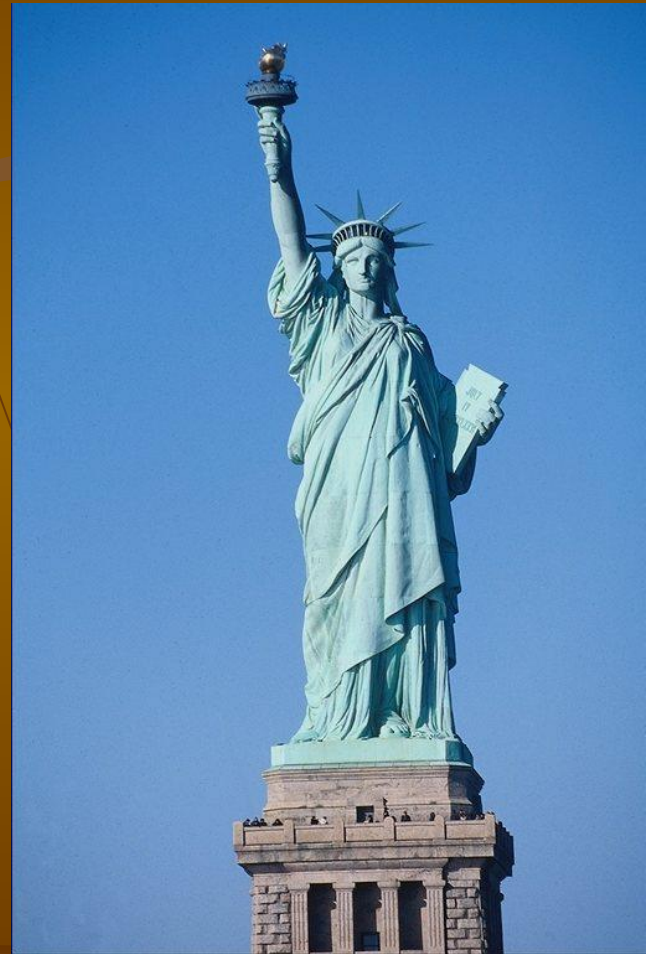
The eagle became the official national symbol of the country in 1782. It has an olive branch (a symbol of peace) and arrows (symbols of strength). You can see the eagle on the back of a dollar bill.



The Statue of Liberty

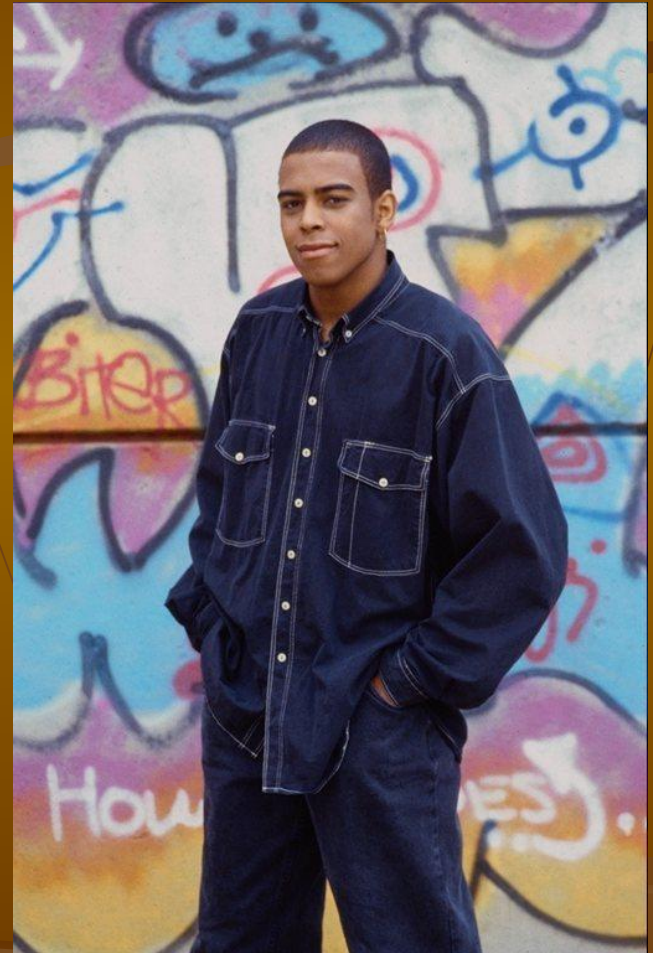
One of the most famous symbols of the USA is the Statue of Liberty.

France gave the statue to America in 1884 as a symbol of friendship. The Statue is in New York on Liberty Island. It is one of the first things people see when they arrive in New York by sea.



Traditional American clothes

One of the traditions from the Wild West is a cowboy clothes. As cowboys spent much time outdoors, they usually wore hats, boots and jeans. Hats protected their faces and eyes from the hot sun and boots made riding a horse easier. As for special clothes – strong trousers called jeans, a tailor Levi Strauss made them in the middle of the 19-th century in the city of San Francisco.



Traditional American food

The USA is most famous for «fast foods». The first fast food restaurants served hamburgers, but now they serve other kinds of food too. Inside there is often a «salad bar», where you can help yourself to as much salad as you want.



Most American now have a light breakfast instead of the traditional eggs, bacon, toast, orange juice and coffee. But on weekends there is more time, and a large late breakfast or early lunch («brunch») is often eaten with family or friends.

