**United States of America (USA)**

**Location**

The USA is located in North America and has an area of 3,679,122 square miles.

The USA is the fourth largest country in the world. To the north of the mainland is Canada and bordering the south is Mexico along with the Gulf of Mexico. To the east of USA is the Atlantic Ocean, the ocean runs along the entire eastern coast. Bordering the entire west coast is the Pacific Ocean. The USA has two states that are not connected to the mainland, Alaska and Hawaii, Alaska is the northernmost state of the USA and is also the biggest state. Hawaii is located in the Pacific Ocean.

**Geography**

The USA is a mix of all different types of landscapes and varying environments. The country varies from arctic to desert. It has giant mountain peaks and also has a vast abundance of prairie land. The largest state in the USA is Alaska. The
prairie lands of USA are encased in between two mountain ranges, the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachian Mountains. The USA is also the home of one of the longest rivers in the world in the mighty Mississippi River. The river flows into the Gulf of Mexico and begins in Missouri.

**Climate**

The climate of USA is as mixed as the geography of the country due to the large land area of the country. An example of the weather in the USA is in North Dakota the temperature has been as high as 121 degrees F and as low as minus 60 degrees F. The USA is known for having great differences between summer and winter temperatures. Most of the continental United States have four very discernable seasons with ranging temperatures. Since the USA is so large the the differences in temperature are great.

**History**

The area known as the United Stated has been inhabited for at least 15,000 years. In 1513 Spaniards reached Florida and then all people tried to race for the west. As the Europeans were settling the country they were also forcing native Americans off of their rightful land. Britain became the most successful to settle the new world and in 1607 Jamestown was settled. Britain became the dominant country after they took
Control of North America in 1763. Britain over-taxed the colonists, who then fought the Revolutionary War to take control away from Britain, in 1776, the colonists drafted the Declaration of Independence. After the colonists won their freedom, they quickly began expanding the country into the USA that we know today. USA has fought several wars, the most notable being the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam.

**Important Dates**


Important dates throughout the history of USA is July 4, 1776, is the signing of the Declaration of Independence; the Treaty of Versailles in 1919; and the Yalta Conference signifying the end of World War I in 1945. In 1991 the Soviet Union broke up and this ended the Cold War.

**Population**

The USA population was 281,421,906 at the time of the last census. The birth rate of the United States is 14.5 per 1000 of the population. This number has been decreasing since the beginning of the decade. The life expectancy has been on a dramatic rise for several years now. The infant death rate has also been decreasing since the onset of the 90's.
Currency

The official currency of the United States is the dollar. A dollar is equal to 100 cents. Coins come in 1, 5, 10, 25, and the more rarely used 50 cent piece and dollar coin. Bills come in the denomination of 1, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100. The US dollar is said by most, to be one of the strongest monetary units in the world.

Education

Public education in the USA is paid for by taxes. Public education is very important to Americans. Americans also have the option to go to private schools at varying costs. Public schools are mostly considered to be the superior schooling environment for children. Some children start pre-schooling as early as three years of age. Children go through thirteen years of schooling beginning with kindergarten and continue through high school. After high school, students can choose to go to a college, technical school or often go to work.

Language

While the USA has no official language, the unofficial language is English which has many different dialects. The United States in all its diversity, is also diverse with its very own language. With all the different slangs and dialects the American language has, one could speak perfect English and not understand a word from a conversation with people from varying parts of the country.
Agriculture

The United State has a huge agricultural influence on the rest of the world. Even though the land area for farming has been slowly decreasing since the early nineties, the USA is still a leader in the agricultural world. The actual number of farms has stayed at a relative consistent level for the past 10 years. The larger farms of the USA are located mostly in the heartland states. The land is high in fertility. The main crops of USA are wheat, corn, soybeans, tobacco, and grapes. Dairy farming is also one of the bigger industries in the USA.

Trade

International trade is a major player in the United State's economy. The USA is the biggest trading nation in the world and by far the most important. U.S’s main trading partners are Japan, China, Germany, and the Middle East. The USA is involved in several programs to support foreign affairs for third world countries. The United States is involved in almost every importing and exporting area in the world. It imports and exports more than any other country in the world.

Food

Popular food items for Americans include hamburgers, pizza, steak, and French-fries. The main drinks of the United States are milk, cola, beer, and bottled water. A typical breakfast for an American contains pancakes, eggs, sausage, cereal, or a
muffin. The main meal of the day is dinner. This, for most Americans, is the only meal a family will eat together. Desserts are often served at formal meals.

**Landmarks**

The United States is full of landmarks that are worth visiting for any tourist. You can travel to New York and visit the Statue of Liberty that was a gift from France, and is a giant reminder of freedom for Americans. If you are in the middle of the country you can visit Mount Rushmore. A living remembrance to four of the greatest Americans of all time carved into a mountain of rock. If you visit Chicago you will see the tallest building in the world, the Sears Tower. Covering the east side of the Mississippi River are reminders of war with Civil War especially landmarks in Gettysburg. Some cities are landmarks simply by themselves, Las Vegas with gambling and shows is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the United States.

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