

The United States of America

Coleen Degan-Veness with Chantal Veness

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 - 1 Because Columbus thought he was in India.
 - 2 Europeans shipped Africans to North and South America because they needed slaves to work on farms.
 - 3 Pilgrims went to North America on *The Mayflower* because they wanted religious freedom.
 - 4 King Charles of England gave orders to his men to take New Amsterdam from the Dutch. His brother, the Duke of York, took it and changed the name to New York.
 - 5 The colonists were angry about the king's tax on tea. They went to one of his ships in Boston Harbor and threw the tea into the sea.
 - 6 Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, a document. He and other men signed it. It gave men the right to freedom and started the War of Independence.

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 - 1 Hispanics are the fastest growing ethnic group in the USA.
 - 2 Native Americans live on reservations.
 - 3 In 2009, one in seven new marriages were between people of different races.
 - 4 The Constitution says that every man has the right to carry a gun. A very strong group of Americans say it is their right to own a gun.
 - 5 In 2010, the richest Americans were in New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Connecticut; the poorest were in Mississippi.
 - 6 People need their cars to go to work, to the store, to church, and to school.

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 - 1 The Declaration of Independence was signed on the 4th of July in 1776.
 - 2 Americans eat turkey with cranberries, sweet potatoes, corn, squash, apple pie or pumpkin pie.
 - 3 Americans send Christmas cards about a month before Christmas. They have a Christmas tree and they give presents to family and friends. People decorate their homes.
 - 4 There are parades in cities and towns.
 - 5 They receive candy.
 - 6 It is not a holiday that is a day *off* work, but a day *on*: a day to work in the community.

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 - 1 New York's population has grown from fewer than 22,000 in 1771 to more than 8 million today.
 - 2 The growing difference between rich and poor people is a big problem. The city spends tens of millions of dollars to give people a better place to live.
 - 3 The Illinois and Michigan canal was built in 1848 and it gave the area a water route from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. Chicago became an important center for goods trains in the Midwest.
 - 4 The Johnson Space Center is in Houston, Texas. It is the center for the country's space exploration program called NASA.
 - 5 Washington, D.C. is on the Potomac River between Maryland and Virginia. It is the nation's capital.
 - 6 Boston, in the New England state of Massachusetts, is called Bean Town.

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- 1 Alaska and Hawaii are not joined to the rest of the USA. In Alaska, the winters are very cold in the Arctic Circle. In the southeast of Alaska, it is very wet with milder temperatures. Hawaii has a tropical climate.
 - 2 The national parks were set up to take care of very large areas of wild land and to protect the plants and animals living in them.
 - 3 The Grand Canyon is in Arizona. The canyon is 1.6 meters deep, 446 kilometers long, and 29 kilometers wide.
 - 4 America's tallest waterfall is Yosemite Falls in Yosemite National Park, 320 kilometers from San Francisco in California.
 - 5 Volcano National Park is in Hawaii. Tourists go there to walk on volcanoes, in deserts, and in rainforests.
 - 6 The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a government organization that works to protect the country's environment.
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- 1 The school year usually starts after Labor Day, in early September, and continues until the middle of June. Each school year has two semesters: September to December and January to June.
 - 2 Children go to Middle School when they are eleven years old.
 - 3 It is important for students to do extra-curricular activities well because colleges choose students not only for their grades, but also for their interests outside the classroom.
 - 4 When students fail a grade, they do not continue their education with the rest of their class. They must repeat the year with a class who are a year younger.
 - 5 A drop-out is a person who leaves high school before they have finished. The greatest number of drop-outs are in rural areas.
 - 6 At a graduation ceremony, parents watch their son or daughter receive their high school diploma.
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- 1 A sports scholarship is financial help to go to college for students who are very good in a sport. It can be the start of a very successful career.
 - 2 There are eleven players from each team on the football field at one time. The quarterback throws the ball to the players on his team.
 - 3 Michael Jordon is one of the most famous basketball players of all time.
 - 4 The New York Yankees play baseball and Babe Ruth was one of their most famous players.
 - 5 Hockey is most popular in the northern areas of the country because of the cold weather and good ice.
 - 6 Americans call American football "football" and European football "soccer."
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- 1 On the Hollywood "Walk of Fame," tourists find the names of over 2,400 famous people from the entertainment industry on a special sidewalk.
 - 2 An Oscar is a small, gold statue for the winners of the Academy Awards in Hollywood.
 - 3 Meryl Streep won Oscars for *Kramer vs. Kramer* (1979), *Sophie's Choice* (1982), and *The Iron Lady* (2011).
 - 4 The Tony Award ceremony for theater actors, actresses, and directors takes place in Radio City Music Hall every June.

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- 5 Walt Disney created famous cartoon characters, such as Mickey Mouse. He and his team made more than one hundred movies. He was the first to make cartoons in color.
- 6 "The blues" is the music which was brought to America by African slaves.
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- 1 Pocahontas's life was different from other Native American girls' lives because the colonists took her from her tribe and kept her. She became a Christian and married an English tobacco planter. She went to London and met King James the First.
 - 2 The Native Americans' coonskin cap became a symbol of the frontiersmen.
 - 3 Harriet Tubman helped slaves escape from the south to freedom in the north.
 - 4 Abraham Lincoln is remembered for freeing the slaves.
 - 5 The first American woman to go into space was Sally Ride in 1983.
 - 6 Henry Ford's assembly line made cars quickly and cheaply so more people could buy them.
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- 1 In 2012, SpaceX was the first private space company to take goods into space.
 - 2 From 2013, tourists will be able to go into space with Virgin Galactic—if they have \$200,000 to spend.
 - 3 Hybrid cars use both gasoline and batteries so they make less pollution.
 - 4 With driverless cars, people will choose where they want to go and their car will take them there. People who cannot drive will have much more freedom.
 - 5 The USA needs more people who know how to use the changing technology so they need more students to study science and technology.