American Presidents

1. George Washington 1789-1797
2. John Adams 1797-1801
3. Thomas Jefferson 1801-1809
4. James Madison 1808-1817
5. Abraham Lincoln 1861-1865
6. Ulysses S. Grant 1869-1877
7. Theodore Roosevelt 1901-1909
8. Woodrow Wilson 1913-1921
9. Franklin D. Roosevelt 1933-1945

George Washington (1732-99): the first US president, who is also called 'the Father of His Country.' He was a successful leader who led the army to success in the American Revolution and later gave his approval for the American Constitution. He was elected president twice and refused to stand as a candidate for the third time.

John Adams (1735-1826): the second US president who was a leader in forming the Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826): the 3\textsuperscript{rd} US president, who also wrote most of the Declaration of Independence.

Abraham Lincoln (1809-65): the 16\textsuperscript{th} president of the USA, often called 'Honest Abe.' He led the Union in the Civil War and in 1863 announced Emancipation Proclamation, which freed the slaves in the South. The proclamation led in 1865 to the Thirteenth Amendment to the American Constitution, which officially ended slavery in all parts of the States. He was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth in 1865 in Ford's Theatre in Washington DC while he was watching a play.

Theodore Roosevelt the first American to receive Nobel Peace Prize
Theodore Roosevelt won Nobel Prize for peace in 1906 after helping to end the Russo-Japanese War.

Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924): the 28\textsuperscript{th} US president. He tried to keep the USA out of World War I but finally joined the Allied Forces in 1917. After the war he took part in peace agreement and was given the Nobel Peace Prize in 1919.

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945): the 32\textsuperscript{nd} US president and the only one who was elected four times. His achievements included introducing New Deal programme which helped America to recover from the Great Depression.

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) was the wife of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She was a writer who was involved in politics and social questions, especially those concerning women and minorities.

Theodore Roosevelt
The Panama Canal is a canal through Panama which connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and is of great importance to world trade. It is owned and operated by the US government. It was completed by the US in 1914.

Jimmy Carter (1924-): the 39\textsuperscript{th} American president and a member of the Democratic Party. His great political achievement was arranging for the Camp David peace agreement between Egypt and Israel in 1979. He lost the next election to Ronald Reagan.
Ronald Reagan (1911-): a US actor who became 40th president of the USA in 1981. He was strongly against Communism but his great achievement was to reach agreements with the Soviet Union to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the two countries. He was wounded by a madman in 1981.

George Bush (1924-): the 41st president of the USA who won the Gulf War in 1991. He later lost support and was defeated by Bill Clinton in the elections! His son George Bush Jr. is the 43rd president of the USA.

Bill (William Jefferson) Clinton (1946-): the 42nd US president, who was elected twice (1992 and 1996). His successes to achieve world peace include the Camp David Agreement (concerning the Near East) and the Dayton Agreement to end the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1998 he admitted he had had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

John Kennedy Cuban Missile Crisis
In 1962 a dangerous political situation developed between the USA and the USSR. It was found that there were Soviet nuclear weapons in Cuba. That's why the US Navy was sent to stop Soviet ships from bringing more. The nuclear war seemed to be imminent between the two countries, but the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev ordered the Russian ships to turn back.

Robert Kennedy
Sirhan Sirhan murdered Robert F. Kennedy on 6th June 1968 in Los Angeles, as well as shooting and wounding eight other people. Sirhan was a Jordanian who had moved to the US and disliked Kennedy's policy of support for Israel. He was captured immediately and is still in prison.

John Wilkes Booth (1838-65) was the US actor who assassinated President Lincoln on 14th April 1865 in Ford's Theatre in Washington DC while the president was watching a play.

* Monticello - inscribed in 1987
It was the home of American President Thomas Jefferson on a hill near Charlottesville in Virginia. It was designed, by the president himself, in the neoclassical style.

US Director, Actors

John Ford (1895-1973): a US film director, famous for westerns. He made about 125 films, many of them with his favourite actor John Wayne and received four Oscars. His films include: Stagecoach, The Grapes of Wrath, Fort Apache.


Billy Wilder (1906-) is also an American director (born in Austria) whose films include The Lost Weekend, Sunset Boulevard, The Seven Year Itch, Some Like It Hot and The Apartment. He has won a total of five Oscars.

James Ivory (1928-): a US film director who has made a lot of successful films with Ismail Merchant. They include: A Room with a View, Howards End and Remains of the Day.

Woody Allen (1935-): an American actor, director and writer of films which take place in New York. His best known movies include: Annie Hall, Deconstructing Harry, Zelig Bullets Over Broadway, Small Time Crooks. He has won three Oscars. Allen Stewart Konigsberg is Woody Allen.

Marilyn Monroe (1926-62): an American Hollywood actress and the most famous sex symbol. She was married to a baseball player Joe Di Maggio and later to a writer Arthur Miller. She played in such movies as Niagara, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, Some Like It Hot and The Misfits. She died tragically after taking too much medicine.

Gregory Peck (1916-2003) starred in many films including Moby Dick and To Kill a Mockingbird.

Harrison Ford (1942-): a US actor who often plays strong but calm characters. He first became famous in the Star War films as Han Solo and later as Indiana Jones. His other films are: Witness, The Fugitive and Air Force One.

Michael J Fox (1961-): a Hollywood actor, born in Canada, who often played teenage characters in the movies. He became an international star after playing in Back to the Future (parts 1, 2, 3). His other films include Doc Hollywood and Mars Attack!

Brad Pitt (1964-): an American actor whose films include California, Interview with the Vampire, Thelma and Louise, Seven, Fight Club and Snatch. He is married to an actress Jennifer Aniston.

Isadora Duncan (1878-1927) was a US dancer who helped to develop modern dance. She was influenced especially by ancient Greek art and often danced in bare feet, wearing a loose tunic. She worked mostly in Europe, and started schools of dance in Berlin, Moscow, Vienna and Salzburg.

Janis Joplin (1946-70): an American singer who performed at Woodstock festival. She became a regular heroin user and in 1970 she died of heroin overdose while recording an album with her new group.

George Gershwin (1898-1937): an American composer and the author of many popular songs. His best known works are: Rhapsody in Blue and the opera Porgy and Bess, but also many musical shows.

Leonard Bernstein (1918-90) was a US conductor, composer and piano player. He wrote several popular musicals. The most successful was West Side Story (1957) which became a film in 1961. The film won several Oscars, including Best Picture. The story is a modern version of Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet set in West Side of New York's Manhattan. The Adagio for Strings (1936) and the opera Vanessa (1958).

Annie Mae Bullock is Tina Turner (1939-), an African-American singer who started her career with her husband Ike Turner. After the divorce Tina started singing on her own and has won five Grammies so far.

Frederic Bulsara is Freddie Mercury (1946-91), the leader of the rock group Queen known for energetic performances at live concerts. He died of Aids. Graceland is now a museum. On 16th August 1997 about 75000 people from around the world gathered there to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Presley's death.

Walt Disney (1901-66): an American producer of films who was the first to make long cartoon films. He created Mickey Mouse which became the symbol of the company. Mickey's voice was spoken by Disney himself. He also produced
nature documentaries and adventure films.

**Walt Disney - Mickey Mouse**
Walt Disney, an American producer of films was the first to make long cartoon films. He created Mickey Mouse, that became the symbol of the company. Mickey's voice was spoken by Disney himself.

**Henry Ford** (1863-1947): the American who began the Ford Motor Company in 1903 and produced the first Ford car changing the motor industry by introducing the production of cars on a larger scale.

**Betty Ford** (1919-): the wife of Gerald Ford, the 38th US president, who helped to establish the Betty Ford Clinic -for people who have problems with drugs and alcohol.

**American Writers**

**Nathaniel Hawthorne** (1804-64): an American writer of short stories and novels. The most famous are *The Scarlet Letter* (this is the story of Hester Prynne who was accused of adultery and made to wear a scarlet letter A on her dress) and *The House of the Seven Gables*.

**Hester Prynne - The Scarlet Letter**
Hester Prynne is found guilty of adultery and is made to wear a scarlet letter on her dress.

**The Scarlet Letter - New England**
New England is an area that includes the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. The action of *The Scarlet Letter* takes place in Salem, Massachusetts.

**Edgar Allan Poe** (1809-49): an American writer of poetry and short stories. He was an orphan adopted by a tobacco merchant. He was expelled from university because of his addiction to gambling and alcohol so he joined the army. Then he was sent to West Point but was also expelled. In the meantime he published his first volume of poetry *Tamerlane and Other Poems*. He is also known for such stories as: "The Murder in the Rue Morgue," "The Pit and the Pendulum," "The Premature Burial" and "The Fall of the House of Usher." His stories, now usually called *Tales of Mystery and Imagination*, are still popular.

**Walt Whitman** (1819-1892): a major American poet who wrote about individual freedom, equal rights, as well as about his love for America. He had a strong influence on later American poets, especially the beat generation. His best-known works are *Leaves of Grass*, *Drum Taps* (1865) and a collection of writings, *Democratic Vistas.*'

**Francis Scott Fitzgerald** (1896-1940) was born in St Paul, Minnesota. His books form a kind of spiritual history of the 'Lost Generation' and he describes this generation in his first novel *This Side Of Paradise* (1920); Throughout the 1920s he wrote a lot of books: *Flappers and Philosophers*, (1920), *Tales of the Jazz Age* (1922), *The Great Gatsby* (1925). His last works include *Tender Is the Night* (1934), *The Crack-Up* (published in 1945 after his death) and his last incomplete novel *The Last Tycoon*.

**William Faulkner** (1897-1962): an American writer who had a number of jobs before publishing his first book of poetry, *The Marble Faun*, in 1924. In 1929 he published the novel *The Sound and the Fury*, which established him as one of the most important writers in America. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1949.

**The Sound and the Fury - William Faulkner.**
William. Faulkner wrote such books as: *The Sound and the Fury, Sanctuary,*
The Lost Generation: a group of young US writers of the 1920s, among them Ernest Hemingway, who were opposed to the moral values of US life in the period following World War I and went to live abroad, especially in Paris. The term 'Lost Generation' was first used by Gertrude Stein.

Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961): an American writer who was also a newspaper reporter, a war correspondent during the Spanish Civil War and World War II and a successful novelist. His novels include: The Sun Also Rises, A Farewell to Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls, The Old Man and the Sea. In 1954 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. His failing health and unhappy personal relationships drove him to commit suicide in 1961.

Frederick Henry - A Farewell to Arms
Frederic Henry is an American ambulance driver for the Italian army. He meets a young English nurse, Catherine Barkley, and falls in love with her. Being unable to cope with cruelty of war, Frederick Henry deserts from the army.

Henry Miller (1891-1980): an American writer who went to live in Paris and published his first novel, Tropic of Cancer, there in 1934. In 1939 the sequel, Tropic of Capricorn, was published. Both books were banned in the USA and Britain as pornographic. He came back to the States in 1940.

John Steinbeck (1902-68): an American writer born in California and educated at Stanford University, His best known books which gave him fame were Of Mice and Men, The Grapes of Wrath, which won the Pulitzer Prize, and East of Eden. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962.

Irving Stone (1903-89): an American writer who wrote detective stories before achieving great success with his fictionalized biography of Vincent Van Gogh, Lust for Life in 1934, which was made into a film with Kirk Douglas in the main role. He wrote some similar novels based on famous people's lives, including The Agony and the Ecstasy (about Michelangelo) and The Origin (about Darwin).

Jack Kerouac (1922-69) was an American writer who has been called 'the spokesman for the beat generation' of the 1950s. His best-known novel On the Road (1957) is about a journey across America by a young person who is opposed to traditional American values. The book established him as one of the leaders of the beat generation.

The term beat generation was used to describe a group of young writers and artists in the 1950s and early 1960s who rejected the social values of their times. They did that, at least in part, by meditation and hallucinogenic drugs. The movement started in the USA and included such writers as: Jack Kerouac, Allan Ginsberg, William Burroughs and Gary Snyder.


Washington Square is a book written by Henry James (1843-1916), an American writer and the author of such novels as: Daisy Miller, The Bostonians, Portrait of a Lady, The Wings of the Dove, which were also adapted for the screen.


Holden Caulfield - The Catcher in the Rye
Holden Caulfield, a young man, runs away from school and finds the world of adults false and unfair.
Ichabad Crane - The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
The action of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow takes place in the Hudson Valley. Here comes Ichabad Crane, a cunning but superstitious Yankee who wants to marry a farmer's daughter.

Rosemary's Baby by Ira Levin
Ira Levin (1929-): an American writer of such novels as: Rosemary's Baby and The Stepford Wives.

The Naked and the Dead - Herbert George Wells, Norman Mailer
Norman Mailer, an American journalist, became especially famous for The Naked and the Dead. Mailer's other novels include The Armies of the Night, The Executioner's Song, The Prisoner of Sex and Harlot's Ghost.

The Crucible - Arthur Miller, Joseph Conrad
Arthur Miller is especially known for such plays as Death of a Salesman and All My Sons. In The Crucible he attacks the contemporary anti-Communist tactics of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy.

Moby Dick - Rober Louis Stevenson, Herman Melville
Herman Melville wrote such books as Typee, Omoo, Billy Budd.

My Fair Lady: a successful musical version of the play Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw. It was written by Learner and Loewe, and opened on Broadway in 1956. There was also a film version (1964) with Audrey Hepburn as Eliza Doolittle. The film won three Oscars.

The 'Swinging Sixties.' It was the decade of great changes and social and cultural shifts in music (The Beatles, The Rolling Stones), fashion (mini skirts), politics (Civil Rights, anti-war campaigns).

America's first movie house - 1902
Electric Theatre, America's first movie house, opened in Los Angeles, California.

Issac Bashevis Singer (1904-91) was born in Poland but emigrated to the USA in 1935, where he became a journalist. He wrote in Yiddish and his books were translated into many languages. He wrote a collection of short stories Gimpel the Fool and among his novels are: The Magician of Lublin, Shosha and The Penitent. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1978.


Annie Proulx, William Faulkner - WRITERS WHO WERE AWARDED PULITZER PRIZE
Annie Proulx (Annie Edna Proulx) (1935-): a US writer educated in Canada. Her novel The Shipping News published in 1993 was awarded both Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. Pulitzer Prize is given for achievements in journalism and literature. The first prizes began in 1917 after the death of Joseph Pulitzer who left the money to Columbia University to establish a School of Journalism and be in charge of the awards.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
Mark Twain (1835-1910) was born as Samuel Langhorne Clemens in Florida. He worked as a journalist for some time but when he settled in New England, he started writing books. His best known novels include: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Prince and the Pauper, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and A Yankee at the Court of King Arthur.
Mark Twain - S. L. Clemens heard the expression 'mark twain' when he was working as a pilot on the Mississippi River. It meant that the boat was safe with twelve feet of water under it.

Washington Irving (1738-1859) An author, diplomat, US minister to Spain. Rip Van Winkle is a man who sleeps for 20 years under a tree and when he wakes up, he finds how much the world has changed.

Rip Van Winkle - near the Hudson River
Rip Van Winkle, a character in the story by Washington Irving (1783-1859), sleeps for 20 years under a tree near the Hudson River. When he wakes up, he is surprised to see how much the world has changed.

John Grisham (1955-) - an American author of popular novels about lawyers. He himself was a lawyer in a small town. His most popular books, which were also made into films, include: A Time to Kill, The Firm, The Partner.

Festivals / US Astronauts / Explorers

CBS (Columbia Broadcasting System) - not connected with Afro-American Art

W. E. B. Du Bois (William Edward Burghardt Du Bois 1868-1963): an African-American writer who helped to establish the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). His books include The Souls of Black Folk, and he was the editor of the NAACP magazine Crisis. He was the first African American to receive a PhD degree from Harvard University and taught economics and history at Atlanta University. In 1961 Du Bois became a communist and moved to Ghana, where he died.

Martin Luther King (1929-68): the leader of the US civil rights movement, led campaigns against racial segregation in southern states. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, murdered in 1968. In 1963 he led people on a protest march to Washington DC and made his famous speech ("I have a dream") at Lincoln Memorial.

Arlington National Cemetery is the most famous national cemetery in the US. It contains the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Many outstanding figures of American life are buried there, including a North Pole explorer Robert E. Peary and an Antarctic explorer Admiral Richard Byrd. Former President John F. Kennedy is buried there, together with his wife, and his brother Robert. Arlington became a military cemetery in 1864 during the US Civil War (1861-65).

Groundhog Day is an American tradition held on 2nd February in Punxsutawney (Pennsylvania). It is believed that if the groundhog comes out of its hole after the winter's sleep and doesn't see its shadow, it is a sign that there will be early spring. If it sees the shadow, it is frightened and comes back to its hole. That means six more weeks of winter.

Al Capone - St Valentine's Day Massacre
On 14th February 1929 seven US criminals, members of 'Bugs' Moran's North Side Gang, were shot by a group of Al Capone's men dressed as police officers.

Mardi Gras is a US festival taking place in New Orleans before the Lent. It's a French name for 'Fat Tuesday.' Parades are held, people dress in costumes and Mardi Gras 'Kings' and 'Queens' are chosen.

Pumpkin, lantern, witches, rowan - Halloween
Halloween is celebrated on 31st October. It is a time when children have parties, dress up as witches, make lanterns out of pumpkins. In the past people used to think that ghosts could be
seen, therefore they protected their houses against evil decorating them with the branches of rowan.

**Thanksgiving Day** is celebrated in the States on the fourth Thursday in November. The holiday is associated with the time when Europeans came to America. In 1620 the ship called 'Mayflower' arrived with about 150 people. Nowadays in New York, there is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Macy's is a famous shop in New York.

**Los Angeles - Magic Johnson**, an American basketball player, played for the Los Angeles Lakers. He was named 'Most Valuable Player' in the National Basketball Association three times.

**Tiger Woods, Lance Armstrong, Linford Christie - SPORTSMEN**


**Neil Armstrong** (1930-): the US astronaut who first stepped onto the surface of the moon on 20th July 1969. His famous words are: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

**Edwin (’Buzz’) Aldrin** (1930-): the second US astronaut to walk on the moon in 1969.

**John Glenn** (1921-): a US astronaut who was the first American in space in 1962. He left NASA and has been elected a Senator. In 1998, at the age of 77 he again took part in a space flight.

**Alan Shepard** (1923-98): an American astronaut who was the fifth man on the moon when he commanded Apollo 14 in 1971.

**Edwin Hubble** (1889-1953): an American astronomer who was the first to find evidence that the universe is becoming larger in size. In 1923 he also discovered that there are large galaxies existing beyond our own.

**George Eastman** (1854-1932): the American who invented a small camera easy to carry and a film in a flexible roll. He started a company in 1884 which later became the Eastman Kodak Company.

**Lewis and Clark**: two US explorers who made the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1804-5. They were sent by President T. Jefferson to lead an investigation of America's new Louisiana Purchase and record what they saw. Their journey encouraged many Americans to move to the West.

**Bill Gates** (1955-): the US businessman who started the Microsoft Corporation when he was only 19 together with his school friend Paul Allen.

**Ray-Bans** is a popular American make of sunglasses. They were originally worn by US pilots and became very fashionable when Tom Cruise wore them in the film *Risky Business*.

**The History of USA**

**The discovery of America - 1492**

Christopher Columbus, an Italian explorer was the first European to discover America in 1492. He tried to find a new route to Asia by crossing the Atlantic. Having arrived at one of the Caribbean islands he thought he had found the coast of Asia and believed this for the rest of his life.

**The colony Plymouth is set up - 1620**

Plymouth Colony, an American community in Massachusetts, was established by the Pilgrim
Fathers in 1620. These were English people who sailed to America on the ship *Mayflower*. The Mayflower is the name of the ship on which the Pilgrim Fathers sailed to America in 1620. She carried 102 passengers. They were a group of Puritans... escaping from England because of religious persecutions. When they arrived in the New World, they established Plymouth Colony.

**The Gold Rush - 1848-1849**
Gold was found in California in 1842, but 'gold fever' started 6 years later when a carpenter, James W. Marshall, found flakes of gold in a river. Within months fortune seekers were converging on California.

**The American Civil War - 1861-1865**
The American Civil War was fought between the northern and southern states. There were two main causes of the war: slavery and states' rights (should the US federal government be more powerful than governments of individual states). The war ended in 1865, when the South could not fight any more.

**Ku Klux Klan** is a secret organisation set up in the southern states of the United States in 1866 after the Civil War. The name comes from the Greek word *kuklos* meaning circle. The klamen believed that the blacks were inferior and opposed the rise of the former slaves to the equal status with the whites. Their leader is called the Grand Wizard. They wore white robes and pointed hats. They would burn crosses to terrify and intimidate those they wished to frighten. The organisation was disbanded in 1869. It was revived in 1915, attacking not only African Americans but also Jews, Roman Catholics and people from foreign countries.

America bought Alaska from Russia in 1867. The territory of Alaska was purchased from Russia by Secretary of State William Seward for over 7 million dollars. The Russians seemed to be more interested in exploitation rather than settlement. In the wake of their defeat in the Crimean War, it became obvious to the Russians that Alaska could not be defended in future hostilities with Britain so Moscow decided to sell it.

**First Transcontinental Railroad - 1869**
On 10th May, the golden spike united Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads at Promontory, Utah, forming the first transcontinental railroad.

**The Boston Tea Party** - in 1773 a group of Americans dressed as Indians went onto the three British ships in Boston Harbour and threw the cargo of tea into the sea. In this way they wanted to protest against the British tax on tea. The event is considered the starting point for the American Revolution against the British rules.

**The American Declaration of Independence** is a document stating that the thirteen colonies were independent of Britain. It also included the principles of the new government. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston drew up a formal declaration after a resolution by Richard Henry Lee that "United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent..." The document was signed in Philadelphia and approved by the Continental Congress on 4th July 1776.

**Great Depression** was a severe period of reduced business activity and high unemployment in the 1930s which followed a crash on Wall Street in America in October 1929. The effects, of the Great Depression were also felt in Europe.

**Enola Gay** dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6th August 1945 at the end of World War II. The city was destroyed and about 130000 people were killed. Many more died later of serious diseases. Three days later the second bomb destroyed Nagasaki.

**Watergate** was the US political scandal when president Nixon was in office. It was connected
with the members of the Republican party who tried to steal information from the offices of the Democratic Party in 1972. Nixon claimed he didn't know about it but the tapes of his telephone conversations proved otherwise. As a result he was forced to leave the office in 1974. - See point 21 for the information about president Nixon.

**Operation Desert Storm** was a military operation in which international armed forces attacked Iraq in the Gulf War in 1991.

**Peace Corps**: an American government organisation which sends volunteers, usually young adults, to help developing countries. President John F. Kennedy began it in 1961 with the aim of helping other countries in the field of health, education, farming, etc.

**The Great Western** was a paddle steamer built in 1838 by I. K. Burnel. The Great Western was the first steam ship made especially for carrying passengers across the Atlantic Ocean.

**US Culture**

The melting pot is the phrase used to describe the US because it's a country where different races and cultures 'melted' (mixed) together to form one nation.

25-cent coin, cherry tree, president, capitol city - **George Washington**

President George Washington as a boy cut his father's cherry tree and then admitted having done that. His memory is honoured by the name of capital city, Washington, and his image on the 25-cent coin.

**The Democrats** (the Democratic Party) is one of the two major political parties in the USA. Democratic presidents were: Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton.

**The Republicans** (the Republican Party) - it is sometimes called the Grand Old Party and is more conservative than the Democratic Party.

**Stars, stripes, Old Glory, banner - the US Flag**

Old Glory is a popular name for the US flag It is also called the Stars and Stripes or the Star-Spangled Banner.

4th July is the day when Americans celebrate Independence Day. On that day in 1776 the Declaration of Independence was signed. People celebrate the day with parades, flags and the display of fireworks.

11th November is Veteran's Day in Canada and the USA. It is held to honour all those who have served in the armed forces. On a Sunday nearest to 11th November falls the British holiday - Remembrance Day. It is held to honour those who died in the two World Wars. It is also known as Poppy Day because people pin a poppy to their clothes.

**The Five Civilized Tribes** is the name used to refer to five groups of Native-American people in the South: Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole. The tribes were forced to leave their own lands and settle in the Indian Territory, even though it was thought that they could be trusted because they had developed their own versions of the American Constitution and US laws.

**Creek**

Hopi: a member of a Pueblo Native-American people living in north-east Arizona. The Hopis are mostly farmers and very religious. Their god is Kachina, and their religious ceremonies include the snake dance. They have had a long dispute with the Navajos about land on the border that separates them. Creeks were one of the Five Civilized Tribes.
The Bible Belt - a name sometimes used to describe the US Deep South and parts of the Midwest because many people there are religious Protestants who follow the words of the Bible very closely.

Santa Clara Valley, south of San Francisco, used to be famous for its prunes. In 1939 two young engineers, Bill Hewlett and David Packard, went to work in a garage in the valley. They developed an oscillator, an electronic device. Today it is the most important centre of America's computer and electronics industry, and Hewlett-Packard is one of its major firms. Santa Clara is often referred to by its nickname, the Silicon Valley. (Silicon is an element used in making computer chips).

Poulet D'Or is the first French restaurant opened in San Francisco in 1849; the miners unfamiliar with French called it 'Poodle Dog.'

The Indian name for Devil's Tower is Mateo Teepee that can be translated as Bear Lodge. According to an Indian legend, three girls were picking flowers and were chased by bears. The girls climbed onto the rock but the bears still followed them. To protect the girls, the Great Spirit made the rock higher and higher. The bears scratched the sides of the rock with their claws as they were tumbling down.

Sacajawea was a Native American woman who acted as a guide on Lewis and Clark's travels from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean.

Hoover Dam is a large dam situated on the Colorado River on the border of Nevada and Arizona. It was built in 1935 and called Boulder Dam. The name was changed in 1947 to honour the president Herbert Hoover. It is 221 metres high and 379 metres wide.

McKinley - The highest mountain in North America (6198 metres). It is in Denali National Park in southern central Alaska, and is also called Denali in the Aleut language. The mountain was named after US President William McKinley, and it was first climbed in 1913.

North Beach - connected with San Francisco but not with the hippie movement

The Haight-Ashbury is a district of San Francisco that in the mid 1960s gave rise to the hippie movement.

San Francisco's North Beach area was in the 1950s a centre for 'beat poets.'

Sacajawea - not connected with Devil's Tower

Devil's Tower is a volcanic rock located on the plains of Wyoming. The unusual thing about this rock is the deep vertical lines which go down its sides.

The Golden Gate Bridge is a suspension bridge connecting San Francisco with the Pacific Ocean. It was completed in 1937. => See also ex. II, point 10.

NAMES OF PRISONS - San Quentin (a large prison near San Francisco), Alcatraz (a prison on the island near San Francisco used from 1933 till 1963).

US States

Alabama - the Cotton State or the Heart of Dixie

Dixie is an informal name for the south-eastern states. It is also a battle song of the Confederate States. It begins:

I wish I was in the land of cotton,
Old times there are riot forgotten;
Look away, look away, look away,
Dixie Land!

Alaska - the Last Frontier

The largest and most northern state of America, connected to the other states to the south by
the Alaska Highway through Canada. A lot of oil is produced there, which is sent through the Alaska pipeline (795 miles/1270 kilometres long).

**Utah - the Beehive State**
A western American state that is named after Ute (people of the mountains), Native American People. Nowadays about two-thirds of the population are Mormons (members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints). Great Salt Lake, the Rainbow Bridge and Zion National Park are worth seeing there.

**Oklahoma - the Sooner State**
A southern central state where oil is produced. In 1899 President Benjamin Harrison opened a two-million acre track to homesteaders. At the sound of a pistol shot about 50,000 people poured into the Oklahoma district. Those who sneaked across the line before the signal were known as 'sooners' - hence Oklahoma's nickname.

**Louisiana - the Pelican State**

**Arkansas - the Land of Opportunity**
This state in the central southern USA is famous for its Hot Springs National Park and a diamond mine.

**Mississippi - the Magnolia State**

**Missouri - the Show Me State**
An American State in the Middle West which is famous for the Gateway Arch at St. Louis and the homes of President Harry S. Truman at Independence and Mark Twain at Hannibal.

**Cajun** is the name given to the people of Louisiana who originate from French Canadians. They were forced to leave Nova Scotia in Canada in 1755 and they moved to Louisiana. They are famous for their lively music and spicy food.

**Harvard University, Yale University, the Ivy League**
Columbia University, Princeton University
US universities group together into institutions and do some activities such as sport. The Ivy League is the most respected of these groups.

**Harvard, Cambridge**
First school for higher education in Colonies. It is among world's most prestigious universities. Its graduates include: John Adams, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy.

**The Stanley Cup** is an ice hockey competition which decides the best team in the National Hockey League. It was first held in 1893.

**Annie Oakley**, Texas Leaguer, grand slam, curve ball - baseball
Baseball, America's national sport, has its own language: Annie Oakley means a free walk to first base; Texas Leaguer means a weak hit over the infield; a grand slam means a home run with three runners on bases: a curve ball deceives the batter.

**Niagara Falls** is a very popular tourist attraction on the US-Canadian border. The Park covers the areas of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

**The Grand Canyon** was created by the Colorado River and it's a major tourist attraction in the state of Arizona.

**Big Muddy** - it refers to the Mississippi River; other expressions refer to cities.

**Big Easy**: a popular name for New Orleans because of the relaxed atmosphere there.

**Big Apple**: a popular name for New York City.

**Big Smoke**: a popular name for London because of the clouds of smoke from its factories.
Silicon Valley is the name of the area in California where there are many computer and electronics companies.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" is the US national anthem written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key. It was officially made the anthem in 1931.

The financial centre of New York is Wall Street, where the New York Stock Exchange is situated. Albany is the capital city of New York State.

Hawaii became the fiftieth state on 21st August 1959.

Vermont is a state in New England, on the border with Canada, also known as the Green Mountain State. The capital city is Montpelier. The products characteristic of the state are stones such as marble and granite, but also wood, furniture and maple syrup.

Washington is a US state situated in the north-west of the USA, called the Evergreen State, with the capital Olympia and the largest city Seattle. It has a large aerospace industry and it also produces wood, paper, apples and fish. Tourist attractions include: Mount Rainier, Mount St Helens and Seattle's Pacific Science and Space Needle.

The Dakotas is the common name for North Dakota and South Dakota, situated in the north of the USA. North Dakota is called the Sioux State or the Peace Garden State. The largest city is Fargo and the capital is Bismarck. It is mostly an agricultural state. South Dakota is called the Coyote State or the Mount Rushmore State. The capital city is Pierre and the most popular tourist attraction is Mount Rushmore, famous for the very large heads of four US presidents carved in the rock by Gutzon Borglum. These presidents are: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

New York State is situated in the north-east of the USA. It is also called the Empire State and its capital is Albany although the biggest city is New York.

Nova Scotia is a Canadian province with the capital in Halifax. It comprises the peninsula of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton Island and a number of small adjacent islands.

Montana - the Treasure State
A state in the north-western US, on the Canadian frontier, which produces many minerals, especially copper. Tourist attractions include the Rocky Mountains, Yellowstone National Park and the Glacier National Park.

Wyoming - the Equality State
It is one of the Rocky Mountain States in the western central American States. It is called the Equality State because in 1869, as the first one, it gave women the right to vote.

Geyser / Yellowstone
An underground hot spring that shoots water or steam up into the air to a height of about 150 feet (46 metres).

Yellowstone National Park was the first US national park established in 1872, and one of the largest. It covers the area of north-west Wyoming and part of Idaho and Montana. It has many wild animals, including bears and buffalo, and is famous for its fine scenery, hot springs and geysers (the most famous geyser is called Old Faithful).

Aspen is a town that is famous as a centre for skiing in the US state of Colorado. It is in the Rocky Mountains and is often visited by rich and well-known people.

Louisiana is a US state situated on the Gulf of Mexico. Louisiana is also known as the Pelican State; its largest city is New Orleans and the capital is Baton Rouge. The state produces gas, oil, salt, sugar and rice.
Mississippi is a US state situated in the south and often called the Magnolia State. The capital city is Jackson and it is also the largest city in the state. The main product is cotton. It used to be one of the Confederate States. There were conflicts between the races. The Vicksburg National Military Park and the historical buildings at Natchez (built before the Civil War) are worth seeing.

Texas is situated in the south-west of the USA. The largest cities are Dallas, Houston and the capital city is Austin. It is also called the Lone Star State (as it was once an independent republic) and is well known for oil and gas as well as beef and other agricultural products.

Ohio is situated in the north-east of the USA and it's also called the Buckeye State. The capital city is Columbus. The state is well known for the production of cars, steel and rubber, as well as corn, grapes and minerals such as coal and oil.

Idaho is situated in the north-west of the USA with the capital city Boise. Its popular name is Gem State because it has many minerals, including silver. Idaho's attractions are: the Rocky Mountains and Hell's Canyon, which is the deepest in North America.

California is situated on the Pacific Ocean and often called the Golden State because in 1849 gold was discovered there. Its largest city is Los Angeles. It's well known for Hollywood, Disneyland, the Silicon Valley (where computer companies are situated), as well as for wine.

Oregon is a state in the north-west of the USA, also called the Beaver State. The capital city is Salem and the biggest one is Portland. Captain James Cook sailed along its coast in 1778. Crater Lake National Park and the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area are worth visiting there.

New Mexico is a south-western state on the Mexican border, also called the Land of Enchantment. The state is known for its many minerals such as uranium, gold and silver but also gas and oil. The capital city is Santa Fe and the largest city is Albuquerque.

Nebraska is the state situated in the western part of the Middle West, also called the Cornhusker State with the largest city of Omaha.' The capital city is Lincoln. It is known for agricultural products, including corn, beans, wheat and potatoes. Its eastern border is formed by the Missouri River.

Kansas - the Sunflower State
An American State in the Middle West; it is the most central of all the states. It suffered during the Dust Bowl (dust storms in the 1930s). With a trend towards larger, fewer and more mechanized farms, it has retained its place as the 'breadbasket of the nation.'

US Cities
New York was founded in 1624 by the Dutch settlers who named it New Amsterdam. In 1664 the city was divided into five districts: Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island. Manhattan forms the state of New Jersey. The Hudson River separates New York from the state of New Jersey. The most famous landmarks of the city are: Times Square, Wall Street, the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building. The city has the nickname 'Big Apple.'

New York - the Statue of Liberty
The Statue of Liberty, a colossal statue in New York Harbour, commemorates the birth of the USA and friendship with France. It was designed by a French sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi and dedicated in 1886.

New York - The Empire State Building
It is an office building in Manhattan. It is 1250 feet (381 metres) high and has 102 floors.
**New York** - United Nations (Organization) is an international organization to which nearly all the countries in the world belong. Its head offices are in New York City. The UN tries to make sure that there is peace in the world and that all countries work together to deal with international problems.

**Manhattan Transfer** - New York
Manhattan is the island that forms the main borough of New York. *Manhattan Transfer* written by Dos Passos is a story about American society, which attacks for its hypocrisy.

**Broadway**
The Guggenheim Museum is a museum of modern art in New York (not on Broadway but on Fifth Avenue), built with money given by Solomon Guggenheim, a rich businessman. The unusual circular building was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and opened in 1959. It is sometimes called the 'giant snail.'

**Harlem** is not a street in New York but an area in Manhattan (NY) known especially for being a neighbourhood of mostly black people and Hispanics. The 1920s were Harlem's great years, especially in the arts. Duke Ellington played there regularly. Ironically, the famous Cotton Club didn't allow blacks as customers. After the depression of the 1930s the neighbourhood became poorer and many middle-class blacks left. Harlem has never really recovered, yet it has kept its special feel and remains a centre for black culture.

**Miami** is a US city and port in south-eastern Florida. It is a popular holiday destination but also an important financial and industrial centre;

**Chicago** is the third largest city in the USA, situated in the State of Illinois on Lake Michigan. It's sometimes called 'Windy City.' It has the tallest building in the USA - the Sears Tower. During prohibition, the city was known for its gangsters, especially Al Capone.

**Chicago - the Sears Tower**
The Sears Tower was built by Sears, Roebuck and Company. It is 1454 feet high (443 metres), with 110 floors.

**Chicago - Al Capone**
Al Capone (1898-1947) was a leader of organized crime in Chicago during Prohibition. The police could not find evidence of his crimes. Finally, he was sent to prison for failing to pay enough income tax.

**Washington DC** (District of Columbia): the capital of the USA. Its area covers the District of Columbia and was chosen by George Washington in 1790. Since 1800 the main departments of the US government have been there.

**Los Angeles - Sunset Boulevard**
Sunset Boulevard is a famous street in Hollywood (surrounded by Los Angeles), where many early film companies had their offices. Nowadays there are a lot of expensive shops and restaurants and cheap business as well.

**Los Angeles - Disneyland**
An American amusement park that was opened by Walt Disney in 1955. It is divided into several different 'lands' such as Adventureland, Frontierland, and Tomorrowland.

**Philadelphia** is the fifth largest city in the US and one of the most important historical cities as it is the place where the Declaration of Independence was signed and the American Constitution was written. **The Liberty Bell** is a symbol of freedom, made in London and taken to Philadelphia in 1752. It was used during important historical events and is now placed in a special case of glass and steel.

**The Golden Gate Bridge** joins San Francisco Bay in California to the Pacific Ocean. It is the second largest US suspension bridge. It was completed in 1937; It is not gold but orange. It
takes four years to paint the bridge, and the work of painting never stops.
In St. Louis, Missouri, there is a famous Gateway Arch. St. Louis was known as the 'Gateway to the West,' and Gateway Arch is a symbol of this.

**Dallas President Kennedy**
President John Kennedy was murdered in Dallas in 1963.

**Nashville** is the capital city of Tennessee and the centre of the country music industry.