***t1. Why did the English settlers of the Virginia Company call their first permanent location as New England?***

The English pictured the new land of America as New England because the region was not noticeably different from old England.The Virginia Company resembled English joint-stock companies of Africa and Asia, but the small Jamestown colony proved to be economic “white elephant” for investors and a nightmare for many of its earliest inhabitants. The location was low, swampy, covered with trees full of malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

(**Белый слон** ([англ.](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%90%D0%BD%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B9%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B9_%D1%8F%D0%B7%D1%8B%D0%BA) *white elephant*) — существующий в английском языке [фразеологизм](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%A4%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%B5%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%BC), означающий нечто чрезвычайно дорогостоящее, но не приносящее практической пользы.

Происхождение выражения связано с легендой, согласно которой [король Сиама](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%9A%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%B8_%D0%A2%D0%B0%D0%B8%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B0) дарил неугодным ему лицам [белого слона](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%91%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8B%D0%B9_%D1%81%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%BD_(%D0%B6%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B5)). Белые слоны считались [священными животными](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%97%D0%BE%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%B0%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%8F) и не использовались как рабочие. Стоимость содержания слона разоряла получателя такого подарка.

В [биржевой практике](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%91%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B6%D0%B0) выражение «белый слон» обозначает операцию, при которой расходы заведомо превышают ожидаемую прибыль)

***2. Who were the very first colonists in North America?***

Видимо, это англичане (больше в лекции я не нашла ничего такого) НО! нашли в интернете другую информацию

лекция:The English did not attempt to “share the American pie” and inhabit North America until the 17th century settlements in North America. English first colonization steps were stimulated by their hostility to Spain. Queen Elizabeth’s advisers Sir H. Gilbert, Walter Raleigh and Francis Drake proposed a more aggressive policy toward Catholic Spain and persuaded the Queen that New World colonies would serve as bases for attacks on it. a Spaniard called Lucas Vasquez de Allyon attempted to found a colony in Carolina. (He also brought the first black slaves to North America). However the attempt failed. Many Spaniards died of disease and the survivors abandoned the colony.

***3. What were the major events of the first period of the English colonization of North America?***

The first English attempts at colonization in Newfoundland and North Carolina however failed. Sir H. Gilbert’s expedition in 1583 was destroyed by a storm. It was bound to be unsuccessful from the start as the boats were too light for the trans-Atlantic passage. Walter Raleigh’s first expedition to America in 1587 brought back glorious reports of the coast of Virginia, but the outbreak of war between England and Spain in 1588 postponed the mission of England’s transatlantic ventures.

Only two decades later King James I authorized the chartering of a joint stock company to colonize Virginia. In 1607 Virginia Company landed 144 men near the mouth of the James River as a site for permanent settlement. During the first six months fever and disease killed approximately half the settlers. Still in 1609 the reorganized Virginia Company petitioned for a charter, fixing the limits of the colony at two hundred miles north and south and including all islands within one hundred miles of the coast.Over the years, the company established more liberal land grants, encouraged immigration of men and women, and slowly but steadily built strong economy based on growing and selling tobacco.

The next group of the immigrants to the New World consisted of the English who disagreed with the teaching of the English Church and fled from persecution at home to Holland. In July 1620 a group of 102 so-called pilgrims sailed on the ship “Mayflower” to North America with the hope to set up a colony and find there civil and religious freedom. After a long Trans - Atlantic crossing the pilgrims landed in a place now called Province Town and started building one of the first permanent Massachusetts’s villages called New Plymouth.

The first religious group was followed by a thousand so-called English Puritans who came to Massachusetts Bay and founded some communities in the place where now is Boston. Like the Pilgrims, the Puritans had been against the policies of the English crown, alarmed over growing immorality in English society and beset by economic anxiety. But unlike the Pilgrims, the Puritans claimed not separating from the English church, but establishing a purer version of it. Puritans built the first small towns centered around a church and a meeting house. The colony’s political leaders were also church leaders who tried to create the orders based upon true and strict Christian rules and the family as the basic unit of society. Good harbors, especially at the new town Boston, provided the foundation for a thriving commerce. The growth of trade and the development of shipping industry assisted the colony’s prosperity.

In 1681 William Penn, a son of the famous admiral of the English Navy, and a follower of religious group called Quakers made an agreement with the King, about the land in America. He called this land Pennsylvania (“Penn’s woods”). W. Penn did very much to build up Pennsylvania, writing advertisements, telling people in Europe about the beauty of his colony, promising that it would be a place open to settlers of all faiths.

***4. Why were some immigrants indentured for a term of service?***

Many Europeans, mostly from Germany, came to America through so-called “redemption”. Under that form of indentured servitude, so-called redemptioners paid as much as they could of their passage before sailing from Europe to America. After they landed in the colonies, they were indentured for a term of service proportional to the amount of their debt. The term of service lasted from one year to four or longer.

***5. How did New Amsterdam turn into New York?***

In 1626 the governor of the Dutch Colony bought Manhattan Island from the Indians for the trinkets and little trifles valued approximately $24. There he built a trading fort and a town, which he called New Amsterdam. The defenses of New Amsterdam were poor and later when English warships appeared in the bay the Dutch had to surrender the fort and the town to the English. In 1664 King Charles II gave a large area of Manhattan Island to his brother Duke of York and New Amsterdam was turned into New York in honor of the duke.

***6. What was the colonists’ policy towards the Indians?***

in return for Indians friendship the Europeans took their lands, destroyed their way of life, and turned them into refugees and beggars in their own country.

The story of the American Indians is one of the most brutal stories of violence and cruelty in human history. The settlers needed land, the Indians occupied it. Only when the white men began pushing the Indians off their land did they started viewing them as enemies and tried to strike back. The Indians were doomed to be defeated. The colonists had guns, the Indians fought only with bows and arrows.

Overall, the treatment of North American Indians by Europeans stands as the bloodiest acts of genocide. In books and later in Westerns the Indians were always portrayed as “the hair-raising baddies” (villains). The phrase “the only good Indian is a dead Indian” was generally used. The means of violence were varied and included not only mass extermination, but also bounty-hunting (scalping for profit), massacre of women and children, the assassination of Indian kings and leaders, the forced relocation of peoples. By the end of the 18-th century some Indian tribes had been exterminated. The others had been forced to accept “the peace terms” according to which they ceded a substantial part of their territory to the whites and moved to reservations, not suitable for farming and that’s why not needed by white settlers.

***7. How did Africans get into America?***

To work on the new lands, to produce large-scale products of tobacco, cotton and indigo black slaves were captured in Africa and brought to America. In August 1619 the first cargo of twenty blacks was brought by a Dutch ship to Virginia. In 1661 the Virginia legislature enacted the law that assumed African Negroes as “inferior” and “servants for life”.

***8. Why did the colonists need Black slaves?***

Most of them worked in the fields on tobacco or cotton plantations, others worked as domestic servants, cooking, cleaning, and caring for the master’s family.

***9. What happened to the Black slaves, if they escaped but later were captured?***

Outright resistance was impossible, but some slaves tried to escape. Although a few northern states, including New York, New Jersey, and Vermont, abolished slavery later, escaped slaves from the South could be legally recaptured there and returned to their masters.

***10. Who were so-called “conductors”?***

The escape route, called the Underground Railroad, was a network of hiding places and people called “conductors” who led slaves north to freedom.

***1. What was the main reason of British – French war?***

By the middle of the 18th century North America was no longer a series of isolated outposts inhabited by Englishmen. By 1750 there were thirteen British colonies, competing with the French ones. In 1749 the French sent an expedition down the Ohio River to claim the land in the Mississippi basin for Luis XV. The British government responded by organizing an offensive against the French. The Seven Years’ War ended in the expulsion of France from North America and stirred a wave of patriotism among the English population in America. Colonials cheered when the Treaty of Paris (1763) gave England control over all of North America east of the Mississippi

***2. What consequences had the victory of Britain on the relations between American colonies and their mother country?***

After the French war Great Britain rose to the heights of national power and prestige. At the same time the costly seven-year struggle severely strained Britain’s treasury and pointed up glaring differences of interests between English and Americans who felt much less dependent on the mother country. The controversy between England and the colonies after 1763 revolved around the laws of colonial trade, currency, taxes, courts of justice and legislation.

***4. What did “The Boston Massacre” and the Boston “Tea Party” play in the revolutionary movement?***

In March 1770 British redcoats who had been sent to enforce certain British Acts clashed with colonial civilians. Five men were killed and six wounded. The incident was later known as “The Boston massacre”.

The East India Company, finding itself in critical financial state, appealed to the British government and was given a monopoly on all tea exported to North America. When three ships loaded with tea came into the port of Boston in December 16, 1773 American colonists refused to pay the tax and unload the tea. Instead at night a group of 60 men disguised as Indians boarded the ships and dumped the cargo of three hundred forty two chests into the water of the harbor. That event came into American history under the name “The Boston Tea Party”. British King and Parliament condemned the “Tea Party” as an act of vandalism and advocated legal measures to bring the colonists into line. Punitive measures were taken. The newly adopted British laws-called by the colonists “Coercive Acts’- closed the port of Boston until the cost of the lost tea was paid for. New British officials were appointed in American colonies, and many more British troops were stationed there.

***3. What series of British actions led to the American war for independence?***

The British Prime Minister George Granville was determined to make the American colonies realize their obligations to the Empire .He introduced a series of new financial programs for America. The Currency Act of 1764 extended an earlier edict against making colonial money legal. A New Sugar and Molasses Act put a duty on the goods shipped to the colonies. Besides sugar taxes were put upon silk and wine. In 1765 Stamp Act laid taxes on all printed items such as paper, licenses, newspapers, playing cards and even college diplomas. To show that the tax had been paid, a stamp seller put a stamp on the paper. The Quartering Act (1765) demanded colonials to furnish shelter and provisions for the English troops.

The answer in colonies was boycott against the importation of British goods. The first political action - the Congress toward Stamp Act took place in New York. After more than two weeks of debate at the Congress the representatives of nine colonies issued a Declaration of Rights and Grievances that stated that colonies could be taxed only by their own legislatures. In 1766 an Organization “Sons of Liberty” was created in New York, who urged citizens not to buy imported goods. Even American women, who had traditionally remained outside of politics, joined the resistance movement. In towns throughout America young women calling themselves “Daughters of Liberation” sat publicly at their spinning wheels boycotting English cloth, eating only American food and drinking American herbal tea.

In 1774 the First Continental Congress was held in Philadelphia. Delegates wrote to King George asking to reopen Boston Harbor (it was closed earlier). American lawyers Thomas Jefferson and James Wilson worked out the rights of Americans and their own legislation. King George did not answer the letter and sent more warships to America. American patriots called on Americans to take up arms to defend their rights. In April, 1775 the British regulars at Lexington and Concord (near Boston) were met by armed American volunteers (so-called militia). Their first skirmish proclaimed the beginning of American War for Independence.

***5. What was the main idea of the “Declaration of Independence” drafted by Thomas Jefferson?***

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence from the British rule. This famous document drafted by Thomas Jefferson maintained that all men were created qual and proclaimed their rights for life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. The Declaration of Independence was signed in so-called Independence Hall on the wall of which there is still the famous Liberty Bell, which told the people outside about the historical decisions.

***6. How did the revolutionary events develop after the “Declaration of Independence” had been adopted?***

The war for Independence lasted for six years and was hard to win. the British government and its generals made the fatal mistake of underestimating Washington’s army seriously. As the war

progressed, discipline and experience appeared and though the colonists lost many battles, they learned that they could be beaten but they could not be subdued. Besides France seeking the revenge to Britain had secretly provided assistance to the rebellious colonies, dispensing goods and finances through a trading company headed by French author Pierre Caron de Beaumarchais.

After the decisive victory of the colonial army at Yorktown in 1781 the British finally laid down their arms. In 1783 the ultimate peace treaty was signed in Paris. Britain recognized American independence and agreed to withdraw all its troops from the American soil. An American flag was raised. The 13 states joined together into a confederation. The citizens of the new country began to call themselves “Americans” and a new nation was born. Congress also worked out a system of adding new states to the original ones.

***7. Which great advantage did American militia have over British soldiers?***

Britain had the world’s greatest navy and a strong army. The rag-tag groups of irregulars seemed no match for England’s military might. Americans had only an ill trained militia and no navy. Yet they had one great advantage – they were fighting at home and for freedom. The colonial militia’s successes around Boston in the spring 1775 contributed to the American myth that British regulars were less effective than the colonials’ volunteers.

***8. What were the very first steps of Philadelphia Convention after the decisive victory of the American colonial army?***

One of the first tasks facing Americans was the creation of new political institutions to exercise the governmental authority seized from Great Britain. In 1787 a nation-wide meeting (named Convention) in Philadelphia adopted a new Constitution. It established a legislature of two Houses, the House of Representatives in which the places were assigned according to the population and filled by popular vote, and the Senate where every state was to send two members appointed by state. Centralized executive power was to be affected by Federal Government headed by a President with wide jurisdiction over home and foreign affairs.

***9. When was the very first president of the USA elected?***

During January and February 1789 elections took place in the states and soon the new congressmen gathered in the temporary capital New York. George Washington was unanimously elected the first President of the United States of America.

***1. What was the situation with Indians and black slaves in the USA after the Independence?***

At first Reconstruction of the Union seemed to hold many promises for Black men and women in the South, who were allowed to leave their former owners and move to other states. But in reality the Northern efforts brought few serious changes in the status of black people. The laws did not guarantee any social rights of the Blacks. They did not require redistribution of land or wealth and power and only temporarily interrupted white supremacy in the South. Without land and property black freedmen again became dependent on white landowners and worked for them as tenants. Harsh labor-contract laws, imprisonment for minor crimes, work under deplorable conditions for coal, lumber, or railroad-building corporations left most blacks in situation slightly improved from slavery. The political rights of Black people were not secured either. Under the free interpretation of the 15th P amendment the freedmen were actually denied suffrage on the grounds that they lacked education and property.

***1.What factors have contributed to the USA becoming the leading economic nation?***

After the end of the Civil War the United States continued the acquisition of the new territories. The United States acted like an imperial nation, gathering and settling new territories, pushing aside those who stood in its path. In 1867 the United States bought Alaska from Russia, later Spain gave most of its oversea empire to the USA – Cuba, the Philippines, Puerto Rico and a small Pacific island Guam. At the same time the USA also annexed Hawaii and a group of islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Having started as a colonial country, the USA quickly became a colonial power herself.

Within twenty-five years after the end of the Civil War the Great Plains were divided into States and territories of the USA. Ranchers were feeding large herds of cattle on the “sea of grass”; farmers were using the latest harvesting technology on the large irrigated fields of “Great American Desert” to grow wheat. By 1890 the separate areas of settlement on the Pacific Coast and along the Mississippi River had moved together and the wilderness had been largely conquered.

In the 1880s great Mesabi deposits of iron were found near Lake Superior. Soon the Mesabi became one of the largest producers of iron ore in the world. Besides iron at that time a great amount of coal was being extracted in the USA. Iron and coal were used to make steel for the railroads, locomotive, freight wagons and passenger cars. The first railroad finished in 1869 and was quickly joined by others. By 1884 four more major transcontinental lines had crossed the continent to link the Atlantic with the Pacific Coasts. New towns appeared along the railroads. By 1890 the industries of the USA were earning the country more than its farmlands. Within a few decades after the civil war the USA transformed from an undeveloped backwater into a primary world power.

***2.What role did tycoons play in American society?***

By 1913 more than one third of the whole world’s industrial production had been originated from the mines and factories of the USA. The growth of American industry was organized and controlled by the number of powerful businessmen like Andrew Carnegie, the owner of the giant Carnegie Steel Corporation and D. Rockfeller, the “king” of the growing oil industry. As the corporations grew bigger and more powerful, they often became “trusts”. By the early 20-century the trusts had controlled large parts of American industry. The biggest trusts were richer than most other nations. By their wealth and power - and especially their power to decide wages and prices - they controlled the lives of millions of people.

The handful of rich and powerful men bribed politicians to pass laws, which favored them. Others hired private armies to crush any attempts by their workers to obtain better conditions.

***3.Why were measures taken to control big business?***

**The United States was created as a land of equal opportunities to everyone. Yet half the American people had hardly enough finance to buy sufficient food and** **clothing.** In the industrial cities of the North, such as Chicago and Pittsburgh, immigrant workers still labored long hours for low wages in steel mills, factories and slaughter houses. The workers’ homes were over-crowded slums. In the South thousands of poor farmers, both black and white, worked from sunrise to sunset to earn barely enough to live on.

The handful of rich and powerful men bribed politicians to pass laws, which favored them. Others hired private armies to crush any attempts by their workers to obtain better conditions. Their attitude to the rights of other people was summed up in a famous remark of the railroad “king” William H. Vanderbilt. When he was asked whether he thought that railroads should be run in the public interest, “The public be damned” he replied.

Progressive Americans were alarmed by the power of the trusts and the contemptuous way in which leaders of industry like Vanderbilt rejected the criticism. In the early years of the twentieth century a stream of books and magazine articles drew people’s attention to a large number of national problems.

***4.What were the main causes of the Great Depression?***

In the first two decades of the 20th century thousands of Americans invested money in successful firms so that they could share their profits. There was also an orgy of speculation in real estate and stocks, buying and selling shares - “playing the market” became a national hobby and a sort of fever. Many Americans borrowed the large sums of money from the banks to buy shares on credit and to get “easy money” on selling them later “on the margin” (a higher price).

Bank debts were mounting. Low wages of most workers led to underconsumption. Excessive industrial profits and low industrial wages distributed one third of all personal income to only 5% of the population. The agricultural sector was also suffering with overproduction.

In October 1924 stock prices dropped dramatically. The nation began to panic. The money crash unlashed a devastating depression.

By 1932 the situation became still harder. Thousands of banks and over 100000 businesses had closed down. Industrial production had fallen down by half and wage payments by 60%. Twelve million people, one out of every four of the country’s workers, were unemployed. The factories were silent, shops and banks closed. With the number of people out of work rising day by day, farmers could not sell their produce.

***5.Why were the World Wars so beneficial for the USA?***

The USA quickly became the main supplier of weapons and other goods to the countries fighting Hitler Germany. American factories began working at full swing again. The unemployment practically ended.

The USA government organized the whole American economy towards winning the war. “Old Dr. New Deal has to be replaced by Dr. Win-the-War”, said. Roosevelt. Controls on wages and prices were placed, and high income taxes were introduced. Gasoline and some foods were rationed. Factories stopped producing consumer goods such as cars and washing machines, and started making tanks, bombers and other war supplies. The USA war production became six times greater than the military output before the war. The overall effect of the war was a positive one for the economy in general and the business community in particular.

Americans was the only nation in the world that the Second World War had made better off. Their homes had not been bombed or their land fought over like the homes and land of the Russian people. Busy wartime factories had given them good wages. Americans became the most prosperous people in the world.

***6.What were the main reasons of the “witch-hunt” of the 50s in the 20PthP century?***

Despite economic prosperity during the years under president Truman (1945-53) and then president Eisenhower (1953-61) there was a constant anxiety in America and fear of the Russian influence on the afterward world. After two unpleasant surprises – the Soviet Union’s atomic bomb and the creation of communist China – a wave of panic swept across the USA. Due to the terrible propaganda some Americans started to see communist plots everywhere. When in 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea their fears became even stronger. An ambitious and unscrupulous politician McCarthy tried to use these fears to win fame and power for himself. He started the campaign that came into American history with the name a “Witch Hunt” – a search for people he could blame for supposed threats to the United States. For over five years, from early 1950s till the mid 50s McCarthy launched the serial of “hearings”, accusing a lot of people – government officials, scientists, and famous entertainers – of secretly working for the Soviet Union. He never gave proofs, but Americans were so much frightened by the threat of communism that many believed his accusations. They were afraid to give jobs or even to show friendship to anyone “suspected” in “Soviet sympathy”.

***7.What is the role of John Kennedy in the détente?***

When J. Kennedy came to the office, foreign problems were numerous. Soviet Union power was growing and relations between two superpowers were as cold as ever. The incipient nations of Africa were rebellious. Fidel Castro had taken control of Cuba. Unrest was evident in all Latin America. Kennedy’s first two innovations – the Peace Corps and the Alliance for Progress – captured the imagination of much of the world. The Peace Corps sent thousands of young Americans abroad to assist underdeveloped countries. The Alliance for Progress was designed as a broad assault upon the economic and social problems of Latin America.

In June 1961 a group of anti-Castro Cuban exiles supported by the CIA attempted an invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. Although the attempt was a dismal failure, the Soviet Union tried to install Soviet mediation-range ballistic missiles and bombers in Cuba. Kennedy met the Soviet Union challenge and displayed great mind in dealing with what was probably the most serious confrontation of the Cold War era. He gave the promise not to invade Cuba. The leader of the Soviet Union Nikita Khrushchev also promised to recall the weapons from Cuba. The two leaders succeeded in setting up a “Hot Line” to facilitate a quick exchange of views in case of major crises, and in signing a Nuclear Test Ban Treaty that halted surface atmospheric and outer space testing. While Kennedy was president he frequently said: “All I want them to say about me is what they said about John Adams, “He kept the peace”. In the speech he had intended to give in Dallas on November 22,1963, the day of his assassination, Kennedy declared: “We ask…that we may be worthy of our power and responsibility, that we may achieve in our time and for all time the ancient vision of ”peace on earth, goodwill toward men”. Kennedy’s sensible policy not only reduced the tension between the two but also started the policy of so-called “détente”.

***Discussion Points:***

***1.Franklin Roosevelt and his role in American history***

Roosevelt was crippled by polio he was energetic and determined to care for the welfare of ordinary people. Roosevelt’s main idea was that the federal government should take the lead in the fight against the Depression. His program, which he called “The New Deal”, consisted of a number of legislative measures. At first Roosevelt took active steps to stabilize banking. He also put right agricultural production by paying subsidies to farmers and introduced a system of **regulated prices** for corn, cotton, wheat, rice and diary products. Believing that his most urgent task was to give employment to the American people, he proposed a plan for public works and relief payments to the needed citizens. Roosevelt was especially anxious about the young people. The Civilian Conservation Corps found work for many young people. Part-time employment was provided for students who were invited to build roads and construct hospitals and schools. Roosevelt’s New deal program financed the painting of murals and the staging of plays. Writers were paid to write guidebooks and regional ethnic. In 1935 new trade unions were organized.

During his first term Franklin Roosevelt did not manage to fight unemployment and solve some other tasks completely As a result of all his measures unemployment dropped from 13 million people in 1933 to 9 million in 1936, but there were still over four million jobless people in the country and there was no real increase in the life of Afro-Americans, Indians and other minorities.

When the Second World War broke out in 1939 F. Roosevelt, who had been reelected for the second term, persuaded the USA Congress to approve the first peacetime military conscription act in the USA history and later to accept his Lend Lease Plan. The USA quickly became the main supplier of weapons and other goods to the countries fighting Hitler Germany. American factories began working at full swing again. The unemployment practically ended.

***2.John Kennedy and his peaceful initiatives***

In 1961 a new President John F. Kennedy (1961-3) was elected, the most progressive president since A. Lincoln and F. Roosevelt. He was young, had a good education, energy and keen, quick wit. The unfulfilled promise of Kennedy’s thousand days in office is nearly impossible to measure. He told American people that they were facing a “new frontier” with both opportunities and problems. He announced policy of fighting poverty and giving civil rights to black people. He streamlined and pushed through the space program and new laws for pollution treatment, but his main merit was his foreign policy.

When J. Kennedy came to the office, foreign problems were numerous. Soviet Union power was growing and relations between two superpowers were as cold as ever. The incipient nations of Africa were rebellious. Fidel Castro had taken control of Cuba. Unrest was evident in all Latin America. Kennedy’s first two innovations – the Peace Corps and the Alliance for Progress – captured the imagination of much of the world. The Peace Corps sent thousands of young Americans abroad to assist underdeveloped countries. The Alliance for Progress was designed as a broad assault upon the economic and social problems of Latin America.

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***1. What three main branches is the federal government of the US divided into?***

The constitution provides for three main branches of government which are separate and distinct from one another; *the executive branch* (the president, the vice president, the cabinet), **the** *legislative branch* (the Congress) and *the judicial branch* (the Supreme Court).

***2. What principle forms the basis of the US constitution?***

*The system of “check and balances”*

The USA Congress has the power to make laws, but the President may veto any act of Congress. Congress, in its turn, can override a veto by a two-thirds vote in each house. Congress can also refuse to provide funds requested by the President. The President can appoint important officials of his administration, but they must be approved by the Senate. The courts have the power to determine the constitutionality of all acts of Congress and of presidential actions, and to strike down those they find unconstitutional.

The system of checks and balances makes compromise and consensus necessary. Compromise is also a vital aspect of other levels of the US government.

The system of “check and balances” protects against extremes. It means for example, that new presidents cannot radically change governmental policies just as they wish.

***3. What way has the original text of the constitution been changed in?***

To meet the changing needs of the nation, the constitution has been repeatedly amended. Ten amendments in the Bill of rights (1791) guaranteed the basic right of individual Americans. The other sixteen amendments included the one besides banning slavery (1865) to give women the right to vote (1920)

***4. What is the difference between Republicans and Democrats?***

The president-day Democratic Party was founded in 1828 representing Southern planters. The Republican Party, founded in 1854, united industrial and trade bourgeoisie from Northeast. Later after the Civil War the differences between the two parties became minimal. Sometimes, the Democrats are thought of as associated with labor, and the Republicans with business and industry. Republicans also tend to oppose the greater involvement of the federal government in some areas of public life, which they consider to be the responsibility of the states and communities. Democrats, on the other hand, tend to favor a more active role of the central government in social matters. Yet it is still more difficult for ordinary Americans to distinguish between the parties. Furthermore, the traditional European terms of “right” and “left”, or “conservative” and “liberal” do not quite fit the American system. Someone from the “conservative right”, for instance, would be against a strong central government. Or a Democrat from one part of the country could be very “liberal”, and one from another part quite “conservative”. Even if they have been elected as Democrats or Republicans, Representatives or Senators are not bound to a party program, nor are they subject to any discipline when they disagree with their party. While some voters will vote a “straight ticket’ in other words, for all of the Republican or Democratic candidates in an election, many do not. They vote for one party’s candidate for one office, and another’s for another one. As a result, the political parties have much less actual power than they do in Britain. In the U.S., the parties cannot win seats, which they are then free to fill with party members they have chosen. Rather, both Representatives and Senators are elected to serve the interests of the “people-and the areas the represent, that is, their “constituencies”. In about 70 percent of legislative decisions, Congressmen will vote with the specific wishes of their constituencies in mind, even if this goes against what their own parties might want as national policy. It is quite common, in fact, to find Democrats in Congress voting for a Republican President’s legislation, quite a few republicans voting against it, and so on.

***5. What is the procedure for electing delegates to national Conventions?***

The national presidential election consists of two separate campaigns: one is for the nomination of candidates at national party conventions. The other is to win the actual election. The nominating race is a competition between members of the same party. They run in a succession of state primaries and caucuses (which take place between March arid June). They hope to gain a majority of delegate votes for their national party conventions (in July of August). At the party convention having now almost theatrical character (bands, balloons, lot of noise, etc.) the party’s official candidate for the presidency is selected. The follows presidential campaign that follows after begins very early and continues until election in early November when the candidates make final television appearances and appeal for the votes. Presidential campaigns also include major expenses, apart from TV and radio and the press advertising, such as the travel costs of the candidate and his staff, their salaries and campaign literature. Such publicity items as campaign pins and bumper stickers are also widely used. All these tremendous campaign costs are financed with federal funds with equal amounts of money for each major party. At the time of the primary campaigns the competing candidates may also receive private contributions. Every campaign attracts hundreds of unpaid workers at the grass roots, or local political level.

***6. What are the functions of the houses in Congress?***

The USA Congress, the legislative branch of the federal government, is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The House of Representatives has 435 representatives. They are elected every two years for two – year terms. They represent the population of “congressional districts” into which each state is divided. The number of Representatives from each state is based upon its population. For instance, California, the state with the largest population, has 45 Representatives, while Delaware has only one. There is no limit to the number of terms a Senator or a Representative may serve.

Congress proposes and approves federal laws; can declare war; decides upon taxes and money budget; approves the choice of federal judges; regulates commerce among the states and with foreign countries; sets rules for the naturalization of foreign citizens. A new Congress session begins on the 3rd of January each odd – numbered year and continues for two years. The most of congressmen’s work is done in committee meetings. There are 16 “standing”, or permanent, committees in the Senate and 22 in the House of Representatives. Here the bills (offered by either house) are studied, experts are consulted, and recommendations are made. Because the Congressmen on a committee are experts in that field, they accept and improve some bills, but reject most of them. The committee responsible for a particular bill holds hearings on it. Experts appear before the committee and offer suggestions and opinions about the bill. After the hearings, the committee reports its recommendations to the House. These recommendations may include suggested changes in the bill, or the committee may propose an entirely new ones. Generally Congress goes along with the decisions of its committees.

***7. How does a Bill become a law?***

For a bill to become a law it must be passed by both the House and the Senate and signed by President. If President disapproves, he vetoes the bill by refusing to sign it and sends it back to Congress. To overcome President’s veto the bill must get a two-thirds majority in each chamber.

***8. What is lobbying and how is its existence officially justified?***

Americans, always concerned that their politicians represent their interests, often form “pressure” groups, political lobbies, public action committees (PACs), or special interest groups. Such groups influence politicians on almost any imaginable subject. One group might campaign for a nationwide, federal gun-control law, while another group opposes it.

In the previous centuries people who wanted to hand in petition or to discuss some project went to Washington, to the Capitol and there met the Congressmen from their states. The tradition is still alive, only today it is big corporations, social organizations, foreign diplomats, etc. who try to influence law – making in their favor. This is done with the help of lobbyists who arrange meetings with Congressmen, and through bribery and persuasion make them vote for measures favorable to the group they represent. Practically lobbyist (backstage influencing of legislation) has become legal, it means, that the passing of a bill can be prevented if it does not suit the interests of a definite group of Big Business.

The delicate art of influencing legislation has moved a great distance from the days when votes were bought with black cases full of money. Today’s successful lobbyists are more likely to be smooth professionals. But if lobbying techniques have grown complicated, the name of the phenomenon is still the same: special interest. Lobbyists may call themselves legislative counsels or Washington representatives, but they are still hired to sell their client’s special interests.

Although a 1946 law requires all lobbyists to register with the clerks of both chambers of Congress, and to give annual reports of the money used for this or that bill, the most effective lobbyists seldom do. They try to remain, if possible, invisible. They do not even like to call themselves lobbyists. But more and more people realize that legislation is shaped as much by both the hidden influences and by the public debates.

***9. How is the US president elected?***

All American citizen, (at least 18 years of age), may take part in elections. Before the elections take place the Americans who want to vote must register.

The national presidential election consists of two separate campaigns: one is for the nomination of candidates at national party conventions. The other is to win the actual election. The nominating race is a competition between members of the same party. They run in a succession of state primaries and caucuses (which take place between March arid June). They hope to gain a majority of delegate votes for their national party conventions (in July of August). At the party convention having now almost theatrical character (bands, balloons, lot of noise, etc.) the party’s official candidate for the presidency is selected. The follows presidential campaign that follows after begins very early and continues until election in early November when the candidates make final television appearances and appeal for the votes. Presidential campaigns also include major expenses, apart from TV and radio and the press advertising, such as the travel costs of the candidate and his staff, their salaries and campaign literature. Such publicity items as campaign pins and bumper stickers are also widely used. All these tremendous campaign costs are financed with federal funds with equal amounts of money for each major party. At the time of the primary campaigns the competing candidates may also receive private contributions. Every campaign attracts hundreds of unpaid workers at the grass roots, or local political level.

In November of the election year (years divisible by four, e.g. 1988, 1992, 1996, etc.), the voters across the nation go to the polls. If the majority of the popular votes in a state go to the Presidential (and Vice - Presidential) candidate of one party, then that person is supposed to get all of that state’s “electoral votes”. These electoral votes are equal to the number of senators and Representatives each state has in Congress. The candidate with the largest number of these electoral votes wins the election. The «Electoral College» formally reports each state’s electoral votes, a procedure established by the constitution.

***10. What is “the Cabinet”?***

The Cabinet together with the president, the cabinet members (13) form the government. They advise on issues related to their departments.  
The Cabinet of the United States is composed of the most senior appointed officers of the [executive branch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_(government)) of the [federal government of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States), who are generally the heads of the [federal executive departments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_federal_executive_departments).

***11. What is the US president responsible for?***

The President chooses the fourteen cabinet members who head departments, such as Justice, Defense, or Education; chooses who will run as vice president; appoints federal judges; chooses heads of agencies such as the FBI and CIA; proposes laws, and approves federal laws after Congress has approved them; appoints US ambassadors to foreign countries; bears the responsibilities of relations with foreign countries and commander- in chief of armed forces.

***12. What is the main instrument of the federal judiciary?***

The third branch of government is the Judiciary branch. The judiciary, especially the Supreme Court, makes sure that laws are constitutional. Nine Supreme Court judges are appointed for life.

In addition to the Supreme Court, there are also twelve courts of appeal and ninety-one district courts. Congress has the power to fix the number of judges sitting on the Court, but it cannot change the powers given to the Supreme Court by the Constitution itself. The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and eight associate justices.

The Supreme Court has direct jurisdiction in only two kinds of cases: those involving foreign diplomats and those in which a state is a party. All other cases, which reach the Court, are appeals from lower courts. Most of the cases involve the interpretation of the Constitution. The Supreme Court also has the “power of judicial review”, that is, it has the right to declare laws and actions of the federal, state, and local governments unconstitutional.

***13. What is the main significance of the Bill of Rights?***

In 1791 ten amendments were added to the Constitution, known as the “Bill of Rights”, according to which the Federal government guarantees freedom of speech, press, or religion.

***14. What is the attitude of many Americans to their politicians?***

Americans, always concerned that their politicians represent their interests, often form “pressure” groups, political lobbies, public action committees (PACs), or special interest groups. Such groups influence politicians on almost any imaginable subject. One group might campaign for a nationwide, federal gun-control law, while another group opposes it.

The traditional American distrust of a too powerful central government has kept the controversy between federal, states’ and local rights over the years.

***15.What are the responsibilities of State Governments?***

Although Federal Laws apply to all citizens wherever they live, each of the fifty USA states also has its own Constitution and three branches of the Government: Executive, with a governor, a legislative assembly, and a judiciary. Each state has its own state police and its own criminal laws. The same is true w0ith marriage and divorce laws, driving laws and licenses, alcohol laws, voting procedures.

All education at any level is the concern of the states.

A great many of the most hotly debated questions, which in other countries are decided at the national level, are in America settled by the individual states and communities. Most states and some cities have their own income taxes.

***Discussion Points:***

***I. Which document is the operation of the US government based on?***

The governmental systems of the United States – federal, state, country, and local are quite easy to understand. The operation of these systems is based on the US Constitution, which was adopted by US Congress in 1785.

***2. Explain the function of the different branches of government in the USA.***

The [United States Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress) is the legislative branch of the federal government. It is [bicameral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameralism), comprising the [House of Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives) and the [Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate).

The Constitution grants numerous powers to Congress. Enumerated in Article I, Section 8, these include the powers to levy and collect [taxes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tax); to coin money and regulate its value; provide for punishment for counterfeiting; establish post offices and roads, issue patents, create federal courts inferior to the [Supreme Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_the_United_States), combat [piracies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piracy) and [felonies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felony), declare [war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War), raise and support [armies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_of_the_United_States), provide and maintain a [navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Navy), make rules for the regulation of land and naval forces, provide for, arm and discipline the [militia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militia_(United_States)), exercise exclusive legislation in the [District of Columbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_D.C), and to make laws necessary to properly execute powers.

The executive power in the federal government is vested in the President of the United States although power is often delegated to the [Cabinet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Cabinet) members and other officials.

The Judiciary explains and applies the laws. This branch does this by hearing and eventually making decisions on various legal cases.

***3. Compare them with those in Britain and the RF.***

***4. The election of a president is a long and complex process;***

***.5. What is the relationship between federal, state, and local governments.***

***1. What were the aims of early institutions of higher learning?***

Obviously, the main purpose for establishing institutions of higher learning is to get people educated. During Colonial Era these people were immigrants, seeking for schooling as the tool for a better life and “rising the new world” according to “american dream”. Before the revolution nine colleges had been opened in North America by religious denominations in order to train men for service in the church and civil problems. The American Independence brought a lot of new tasks. The independence of the states raised new questions about what American education should be. The first state universities were founded, though their serious work came a century later, after the Civil War. Rapid development of industry, agriculture and transportation after the Civil War brought about the technological needs and stimulated the creation of agricultural and engineering colleges.

***2. Did American colleges duplicate their British counterparts in all respects?***

At the time of their establishment they did. They were modeled after Oxford and Cambridge universities in England; they (american ones) early began to collect endowment and special emphasis was laid on classical education.

***3. List the changes that took place in the American system of higher education in the 19th century?***

Many of the oldest and best-known liberal arts colleges, such as Yale, Columbia and Harvard, became universities during this period. The more elite colleges became increasingly exclusive and contributed relatively little to upward social mobility (such as Harvard). Oberlin College in Ohio was the first to admit women on an equal basis with men in 1837. In 1861 the private school known as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was founded. In 1862, Congress passed a law, which provided states with federal lands for construction and use for higher education. After that many “land-grant colleges” were established.

***4. What does the word “school” mean as applied to an American university?***

It doesn’t mean “school” in common way. It is a word we use referring to higher educational facility. For example, it is usual for us to say “law school” instead of “university of law”.

***5. When were women first admitted to American universities?***

Oberlin College in Ohio was the first to admit women on an equal basis with men in 1837.

***6. Is the USA school education centralized? Is there a unified system of education?***

The United States have never had a national system of education although there is a Federal Department of Education, which in some ways corresponds to the Russian ministry of Education. Its function is merely to gather information and to help finance certain educational programs. Education, Americans say, is “a national concern, a state responsibility, and a local function”. Since the Constitution does not state that education is a responsibility of the federal government, all education matters are left to the individual states. In turn, however, state constitutions give the actual administrative control of the schools to the local communities.

***7. At what age do children begin to attend school in the USA?***

American children begin to attend school at the age of five or six. There are also pre-school classes or kindergartens. Before this kids may attend nursery school or a day care center.

***8. What is a high school in the USA?***

[High school](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_school) is a form of secondary education and comprises grades 9 or 10 to 12. Most American high schools are [comprehensive high schools](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comprehensive_high_school) and accept all students from their local area, regardless of ability

***9 What is the theoretical basis of the great amount of time allotted to extra-curricular activities?***

There is usually a very broad range of extracurricular activities available. Most schools, for instance, publish their own student newspapers, and some have their own radio and t.v. stations. Almost all have school orchestras, bands, and choirs, which give public performances. There is theater and drama groups, chess and debating clubs, and, of course, sports. Students can learn flying, diving, and mountain - climbing. They can act as volunteers in hospitals and homes for the aged and do other public-service work. Such activities not only give pupils a chance to be together outside of normal classes, they also help develop a feeling of “school spirit” among the students and in the community.

***10. What kind of personality do they try to develop in American school-students?***

The apostle of American school education is philosopher and educator John Dewey. He believed that the main aim is to teach kids skills, which they will use in the future. He also greatly stressed that activity and experimentation should come first but factual or theoretical information to students is secondary. So, in American schools much attention is given to creative activities. American schools try to adapt to the needs of society. Schools are initiating programs previously viewed as a part of home education. These include subjects such as driver’s education, sewing and cooking classes called home economics, health and sex education, where issues like drug and alcohol abuse and smoking may be treated.

***11. Is there a national system of higher education?***

Every state in the US maintains at least one institution of university rank. Programs in them are often adapted to serve local needs. State universities provide opportunities of higher education usually at a cost considerably below the cost of education in private institutions. Each state has the right to found new public or private institutions of higher education within its borders. Of the nation’s 1,900 institutions of higher learning roughly one-third are state or city institutions. About 1,200 are privately controlled or controlled by religious groups. The others are vocational or junior colleges.

***12. How can an American school-leaver enter a higher educational institution?***

Acceptance into university is based on a written application, submission of a transcript showing all courses and results in previously-attended educational institutions, evidence that the student satisfactorily completed all requirements at the previously-attended institution, and sometimes an oral interview or written resume. The evidence of completing requirements in school is either a SAT or ACT.

***13. What are the entrance standards and admission policies at American universities and Colleges?***

Different schools of higher learning may have different standards of acceptance: some may require excellent grades on the S.A.T. (**Scholastic Aptitude Test**, which attempts to measure skills in mathematical and verbal fields) or A.C.T. (**American College Testing** program, which attempts to measure skills in English, mathematics, and the social and natural sciences), while others may have less strict requirements.

***14. What are the levels of the American higher learning?***

The levels are: College or Undergraduate University Education; Graduate or Professional Education; Doctoral Program. Students in College or Undergraduate University Education are classified as freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. A freshmen is a first year student, a sophomore a second year student, a junior a third year student, and a senior a fourth year student.

***15. What are “majoring” and “minoring” in American higher education?***

Most undergraduate students must take classes in English, Math, History, and science. They choose a major (specialize) in a subject such as business, education, or art in their third year of college or after they have completed half of their course work. Minors are other subjects they study during their education.

***16. What are the American degrees?***

**The bachelor’s (baccalaureate) degree** is the oldest academic degree used in various forms by almost every institution. It comprises of four years of education. After graduating the baccalaureate students can take **Master’s Program** (2 years) .The master’s degree program is not, however, considered to be a research degree, but rather preparation for the PhD. Doctoral programs usually consist of at least 3 years of study beyond the baccalaureate. There are 2 quite distinct types of doctoral programs: **the professional degree** and **the research degree**.The first type represents advanced training for the practice of a given profession, while **the research doctorate (PhD)** is the highest earned degree in the American graduate school.

**“Science”**

***1. What do you know about NAS activity? What are the similar and different features in the work of the US National Academy of sciences and the Russian one?***

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is a private non-profit organization in the United States. It was founded in 1863 as a result of an Act of Congress that was approved by Abraham Lincoln.

As of 2013, the National Academy of Sciences includes about 2,200 members and 400 foreign associates. It employed about 1,100 staff in 2005. The current members annually elect new members for life. Nearly 200 members have won a Nobel Prize.

Headquartered in Moscow, the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) is considered to be a non-profit, civil, self-governed organization, too; however, it is not private, but chartered by the Government of Russia.

***2. Which non-profit scientific institutions do you know in the USA? What is “Think Tanks”?***

The large and important subset of non-profit scientific institutions consists of Federally Funded Research & Development Centers (FFRDCs), for example:

Aerospace FFRDC, National Cybersecurity FFRDC, Berkeley National Laboratory, Linkoln National Laboratory. They are “think tanks”, too.

A think tank or policy institute, research institute, etc. is an organization that performs research and advocacy concerning topics such as social policy, political strategy, economics, military, technology, and culture. Most policy institutes are non-profit organizations, which some countries such as the United States and Canada provide with tax exempt status. Other think tanks are funded by governments, advocacy groups, or businesses, or derive revenue from consulting or research work related to their projects.

***3. Which role did the World Wars play in the development of American science?***

**WWI.**

From the inventors’ side - Tomas Edison created Naval Discussion board which came up with thousands of solutions to military problems.

From the academic schientists’ side - newly established National Research Council was kept even after the war.

**WWII.**

Physicists successfully pursuaded the military community in the high potentioal and

necessity of the nuclear weapons development. Ergo, little military labs were multiplied and unified by the heavily funded Manhattan project on nuclear weapons.

***4. What part did the US universities occupy in the development of research?***

A great part of Research and Development is done at the US universities. The organization of research in universities is carried out in two forms: on the basis of grants and contracts. Universities conduct research not only in their laboratories, but also in laboratories belonging to different government departments. The largest Federal research centers are managed under contracts of University administration. An example is the Laboratory Lincoln at the Massachusetts Institute of technology. Thanks to the cooperation of University research with industry there is the rapid growth of scientific and industrial complexes. Among such complexes the most important are: the Cambridge-Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Princeton and Houston.

***5. Which names of American Nobel prize winners do you know? Do you know any Russians among them?***

Robert J. Shiller, Lars Peter Hansen, Eugene F. Fama (Economics, 2013).

Alexei Alexeyevich Abrikosov (theoretical physicist, 2003)

In the mid-1950s the US government gave huge investments to the science sector, which attracted scientists from all over the world to work there. The research facilities in the US were second to none, and scientists were drawn to the USA for this reason alone. That led to the situation that since 1950, Americans have won approximately half of the Nobel Prizes in the sciences (so far over 781). It is also worth mentioning that among the American Nobel Prize winners there are not a few Russian former compatriots (over 60), who moved to the USA during different periods of time and under different circumstances. Undoubtedly, they have left a considerable “Russian” trace both in American and the world science. Alexander Seversky (1894-1974) was a designer of military aircraft. Among his ideas were the autopilot system disprove in the air. Another aircraft designer Igor Sikorsky, Stephan Timoshenko (1878-1972) - scientist-metallurgist, the largest specialist in the world of resistance materials. Nobel laureate economist Leontief, the inventor of television Zworykin, the great ophthalmologist Elena Fedorovich, Nina Fedorova - geneticist, academician of the National Academy of Sciences, physicist George Gamow, Sergey Brin, the co-founder of Google, Abraham Maslof, a psychologist, Pitirim Sorokin, a sociologist, and many others.

***6. What do you know about NASA activities?***

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is the United States government agency responsible for the civilian space program as well as aeronautics and aerospace research.

The main achievement of NASA during its early years involved the human exploration of the Moon.

On July 16, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin landed on the moon in Apollo 11, leaving behind a plaque that read: “Here Men from Planet Earth First Set Foot upon the Moon. We Came in Peace for All Mankind”. “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind”, said Neil Armstrong on returning to the earth.

***7. Tell about the space age in the USA and Russia. Give the examples of space cooperation of our two countries.***

*In 1975, NASA began to cooperate with the Soviet Union to achieve the first international human spaceflight, the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP). The two spacecrafts were launched within 7.5 hours, docked three hours after and 3 American astronauts Thomas P. Stafford, Vance Brand, Donald Slaytor and 2 Soviet Cosmonauts Alexei Leonov and Valerii Kubasov met and shook hands in orbit. After that various US space shuttles docked with the Soviet Mir nine times, and 52 American astronauts as well as astronauts from Europe and Japan, visited the station for research and training.*

***1. What kind of words did the English settlers borrow from other languages?*** First in importance came the words derived from the languages of various Indian tribes. The English immigrants met in America with the nature, plants and animals unlike anything they had seen before in Europe. The landscape was completely different from the neatly tailored English countryside. Words had to be provided for all aspects of their new life: names of rivers, mountains, lakes, plants and animal world, for implements and food. The Indian languages gave the colonists a lot of such words and thousands of geographical names all over the USA. The names Palmyra, Washington, Alabama, Alaska, Chicago, Idaho, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Manhattan (island of hills) and many others are of the Indian origin. Such words as **canoe, moccasin, wigwam, toboggan, tomahawk, squaw, raccoon, opossum, skunk, moose, caribou, totem**, etc. were also borrowed from the Indians.

Besides the Indian influences, American English reflects the other non-English cultures, which the colonists and frontier men met in their conquest of the continent. As we know, in the expansion of their territory, the English-speaking colonists came into contact with the French and Spanish. Some of the borrowings from these languages proved to be very productive in American English. Words like **liaison, rendezvous, silhouette, prairie, chowder and rapids came from French.** **Creole, mulatto, canyon, ranch, sombrero, rodeo, mosquito, lasso cafeteria, hammock, stampede, vigilantes were acquired from Spanish. Opera, pizza, dominoes are of Italian origin.**

The Dutch settlers also contributed some words to American English. Among the widely used words of the Dutch origin are **Yankee, boss, roster, cookie, Santa Claus**.

The words of German origin found their way into the American vocabulary as well: **frankfurter, hamburger, semester, and seminar** are among them.

The black slaves from Africa brought to North America not only their culture, songs and music but also words: **jazz**, **hippies** are probably African in origin.

***2. What importance did the founders of American nation attach to the power of the language?*** For Jefferson, Franklin, John Adams, and the other leaders of the American Revolution, American English was one of **the weapons for independence, for forming national consciousness**. After the Revolution the problem of having a national language acquired **great political significance.** The extent to which the English language became a political problem is illustrated by the curious procession, in New York on July 23, 1788, which coincided with the ratification of the new American Constitution. An association of young men, called the Philological Society, carried the coat of arms and a book inscribed “Federal Language”, emphasizing the strong desire of many Americans to break with the classical British English.

***3. When was the phrase “the American language” used for the first time?*** The American Revolution is regarded as the turning-point in establishing this new kind of English, the American English, due to the rebels who wanted to announce their separation from the old country.Their longing for a nationality of their own lead to the fact that in 1782 the citizens of the new republic were proudly christened Americans and in **1802** the United States Congress recorded the first use of the phrase "the American language".

***4. Who was the first to think of reforming the chaotic English spelling?*** English was fortunate that its standard orthography was framed in the fifteenth and sixteenth century by the Tudor chancery, and fixed in semi-permanent form when William Caxton set up a printing press and began printing books in [London](http://rationalwiki.org/wiki/London). Spellings were free, though a consensus was shaping, and not fixed into a canonical form until the appearance of **Samuel Johnson's** Dictionary of 1755, but the general rules of the system were put in place at that time. During this time, English was enduring a sweeping sound shift involving its vowel sounds, a process known as the Great Vowel Shift.

***5.What measures were suggested to promote American English?***

***6. What was the aim of this political action?***

***7. Why is Webster called the champion of American English?*** Noah Webster is considered the father of “American English” and was the author of the first comprehensive American dictionary.

***8. What did Webster do to develop American English?*** Noah Webster was an American [lexicographer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lexicographer), textbook pioneer, [English-language spelling reformer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English-language_spelling_reform), political writer, editor, and prolific author. He has been called the "Father of American Scholarship and Education". His blue-backed speller books taught five generations of American children how to spell and read, [secularizing their education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secular_education). According to Ellis (1979) he gave Americans "a secular [catechism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catechism) to the nation-state."

Webster's name has become synonymous with "dictionary" in the United States, especially the modern [Merriam-Webster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merriam-Webster) dictionary that was first published in 1828 as [An American Dictionary of the English Language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webster%27s_Dictionary).

He was one of the [Founding Fathers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Founding_Fathers_of_the_United_States) of the nation.

***1 .Why is it so difficult to make generalizations about American character?***

It is very difficult to make generalizations about American characters or lifestyles, as the diversity of patterns of American life is really great. Very many things account for this: ethnic and social background, immigration date of their forbears, religion and other factors.77% of the USA population lives in urban areas, 23% - in rural areas. The population of the USA represents cultures from around the world. The largest minority group consists of Afro-Americans who make up about 12% of the population. Spanish-speaking people from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba and other Hispanic countries form another group, which equals 6% of the population. Native Americans are less than one half of I% of the total. Minorities of Asian descent include Chinese, Japanese, Indochinese and others.

***2. What is the main idea of the “Melting pot”?***

The key words and phrases: “Melting Pot”, to be enrolled in, high and higher education, liberal arts colleges, curriculum, extra-curricular activities, vocational courses, per capita, transcript.

One of the fundamental parts of the American “Melting Pot or “Americanization” is its education.

For many immigrants America seemed to be the only place to fulfill their dreams. Before the late 1960s, immigrants were expected to become part of the mainstream of American culture – the idea of “the melting pot”.

***3. What are the most distinctive American characteristics from your point of view?***

The willingness to experiment and invent led to another American trait, a “can-do” spirit, and a sense of optimism that “every problem has a solution”.

Emphasis on individual personality rather than collective identity or responsibility is one of the most important features of the American character.

Another distinctive American characteristic is pragmatism. This means that emphasis on achievement and success is understood first of all as material prosperity.

Americans are fond of common sense; they are not particularly interested in theory, abstract reasoning, or philosophy. If something works, do it; if it does not, try to do something else.

Generally speaking, Americans are open and friendly people

It is normal for Americans to speak loudly, joke and laugh in public.

Like the British, Americans have love for the intricate practical joke, the pun, and the understated quip (clever remark).

***4. What can you say about American social life?***

The lives of most Americans revolve around their homes and houses. Home ownership is one of the definitions of success in the USA. Generally people are judged by the house they live in, not only by its size and architecture but also the type of neighborhood and the distance from different amenities.

One of the features of American life is volunteer work. According to the statistical Gallup polls, about 84 million Americans both adults and teenagers donated part of their time as volunteers. Some of this work is done through volunteer organizations and clubs; some is on a personal basis.

***5. Why are Americans so much involved in volunteer work?***

One of the features of American life is volunteer work. According to the statistical Gallup polls, about 84 million Americans both adults and teenagers donated part of their time as volunteers. Some of this work is done through volunteer organizations and clubs; some is on a personal basis. Teenagers, for example, often volunteer to work in hospitals – so-called “candy- stripers”, from their striped uniforms.

***6. Why do so many American parents think that part-time jobs are “good for their kids”?***

This also effects customer-employee relations: the kid who just packed your groceries or filled your tank could be your neighbor’s son or daughter. In general, Americans feel that young people should appreciate the value of work and learn how to stand on their own feet.

***7. What is the impact of cars on the US economics?***

As the automobile plays such a large part in American life, it has a great impact on American economy. Now the manufacture of automobiles in America is becoming more and more international. Japanese companies like Honda and Toyota do not just sell cars in America; they have their own plants where they build them. The major American automobile companies, such as Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler have also formed various kinds of partnerships with Japanese and German manufacturers.

***8. What are the main demands for an immigrant to be naturalized and become an American citizen?***

Immigrants who apply after five years of residence to be naturalized and become American citizens must prove that they know the national symbols and support the Constitution of the USA.

***Discussion problems:***

***1.The American Frontier and American character;***

***2.Compare typical English and American characters. Which traits are in common and which are different?***

***3.American houses and homes;***

***4. American society and cars***

***1. What do you know about NAS activity? What are the similar and different features in the work of the US National Academy of sciences and the Russian one?***

In 1863 the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) was organized. The creation of the Academy originated from the immediate practical problems of the time of the Civil War. It also reflected the fact that at that time the US was beginning to emerge as a technological country. The Academy created departments related to scientific and technological problems (the Geological Survey, the National Bureau of Standards, the US Weather Bureau, the Patent Office, etc.). The need for scientific instruction led to the organization of scientific schools and centers of learning and research (at Yale and Harvard Universities).In 1861 the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was founded.

The challenges of World War I had a far-reaching effect on the development of science in the USA. During the war and after it American universities produced the great number of well-trained scientists and engineers. With the introduction of graduate schools into American education scientific research began to play a major role in many universities. American industry began to have a scientific foundation; several of the larger industries established research laboratories of international level. The Federal Government also developed a number of scientific agencies.

It has a great number of programs that include the participation in international scientific undertakings, the development of relationships with other academies, cooperation in worldwide scientific project. **Although it does not maintain direct research programs of its own, as, for example, the Russian Academy of Sciences**, the Academy plays its leading role in various advisory governmental committees and determining scientific policy matters in general.

***2. Which non-profit scientific institutions do you know in the USA? What is “Think Tanks”?***

**Oak Bridge National Laboratory**- is an American multiprogram science and technology [national laboratory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_laboratory).

**National Research Laboratory**

**Brookhaven National Laboratory**- Although originally conceived as a nuclear research facility, its mission has greatly expanded.

Its foci are now:[Nuclear and high-energy physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High-energy_physics)

Physics and chemistry of materials

Scientific organizations formally classified as “independent research institutes “but nicknamed as “**Think Tanks**” or “Brain Factories” were organized. The main aims of TT or BF, attached to the Federal government and its Agencies by annual contracts, are long-range analysis and ideas necessary for policy-making, problem solving and decision-making. The largest of the “Think tanks” is the RAND Corporation (Research and Development). RAND employs a lot of prominent scholars: mathematicians, chemists, physicists, social scientists, computer experts and others. The most important researches carried out by RAND are connected with military tasks.

***3. Which role did the World Wars play in the development of American science?+***

The challenges of World War I had a far-reaching effect on the development of science in the USA. During the war and after it American universities produced the great number of well-trained scientists and engineers. With the introduction of graduate schools into American education scientific research began to play a major role in many universities. American industry began to have a scientific foundation; several of the larger industries established research laboratories of international level. The Federal Government also developed a number of scientific agencies.

During World War II a lot of leading European scientists, many of them of Jewish descent, fled to America from the regimes of their countries. One of the first to do so was Albert Einstein. After him a good percentage of Germany’s theoretical physics community left for the US as well This circumstance gave American science in general and the American academy in particular a mighty boost.

***4. What part did the US universities occupy in the development of research?+***

A great part of Research and Development is done at the US universities. The organization of research in universities is carried out in two forms: on the basis of grants and contracts. Universities conduct research not only in their laboratories, but also in laboratories belonging to different government departments. The largest Federal research centers are managed under contracts of University administration. An example is the Laboratory Lincoln at the Massachusetts Institute of technology. Thanks to the cooperation of University research with industry there is the rapid growth of scientific and industrial complexes. Among such complexes the most important are: the Cambridge-Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Princeton and Houston.

***5. Which names of American Nobel prize winners do you know? Do you know any Russians among them? Дописать ещё немного лауреатов американцев***

*Американцы*

**Ernest Miller Hemingway** was an American novelist, short story writer, and journalist.

**Richard Phillips Feynman** was an American [theoretical physicist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theoretical_physicist) known for his work in the [path integral formulation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Path_integral_formulation) of [quantum mechanics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_mechanics), the theory of [quantum electrodynamics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_electrodynamics), and the physics of the[superfluidity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superfluidity) of supercooled [liquid helium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liquid_helium), as well as in [particle physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Particle_physics) for which he proposed the [parton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parton_(particle_physics)) model.

**John Forbes Nash**, Jr. was an American [mathematician](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematician) who made fundamental contributions to [game theory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Game_theory), [differential geometry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Differential_geometry), and the study of [partial differential equations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partial_differential_equation). Nash's work has provided insight into the factors that govern chance and decision making inside [complex systems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Complex_system) found in daily life. He shared the 1994 [Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Memorial_Prize_in_Economic_Sciences) with game theorists [Reinhard Selten](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reinhard_Selten) and [John Harsanyi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Harsanyi).

**William Faulkner (1897-1962)**, known for his novels about people living in the South “ The Sound and the Fury”(1929),”As I lay Dying”(1930),”Intruder in that Dust”(1948), received the Nobel prize in 1949.

*Русские-Американцы:*

**Iosif Aleksandrovich Brodsky** was a Russian and American poet and essayist. Born in [Leningrad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Petersburg) in 1940, Brodsky ran afoul of Soviet authorities and was expelled ("strongly advised" to emigrate) from the Soviet Union in 1972, settling in America with the help of [W. H. Auden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W._H._Auden) and other supporters. He taught thereafter at universities including those at [Yale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yale_University), [Cambridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Cambridge) and [Michigan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Michigan).

Brodsky was awarded the 1987 [Nobel Prize in Literature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Literature) "for an all-embracing authorship, imbued with clarity of thought and poetic intensity".He was appointed [United States Poet Laureate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poet_Laureate_Consultant_in_Poetry_to_the_Library_of_Congress) in 1991.

**Wassily Wassilyevich Leontief** was an American [economist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economist) notable for his research on how changes in one [economic sector](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_sector) may have an effect on other sectors. Leontief won the Nobel Committee's [Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Memorial_Prize_in_Economic_Sciences) in 1973, and three of his doctoral students have also been awarded the prize ([Paul Samuelson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Samuelson) 1970, [Robert Solow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Solow) 1987, [Vernon L. Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vernon_L._Smith) 2002).

**Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov** was a Russian-American novelist. His first nine novels were in Russian, and he achieved international prominence after he began writing English prose.

**Simon Smith Kuznets** was an [American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Americans) [economist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economist), [statistician](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statistician), [demographer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographer), and [economic historian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_historian) who won the 1971 [Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Memorial_Prize_in_Economic_Sciences) "for his empirically founded interpretation of economic growth which has led to new and deepened insight into the economic and social structure and process of development".

***6. What do you know about NASA activities?+***

In 1958 the Federal Independent Agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was created in the USA. NASA was headed by Famous German rocket specialist Werner von Braun and absorbed into itself the earlier National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and lots of other organizations. It keeps three major research laboratories and some smaller test facilities (with the annual budget of 100 million dollars and 8000 employees). Eventually NASA created other Centers and a number of affiliates including the Space Center in Huston, where the forming and training of the space crews is carried out.

**The main achievement of NASA** during its early years involved the human exploration of the Moon in 1969.

During the 1980s and the 1990s, the USA launched several spaceships to investigate distant planets: Jupiter, Venus and Mercury.

By the 1980s NASA had created the nation’ space transportation system of the future – the Space **Shuttle** that was a reusable manned spacecraft taking off like a rocket and landing like an airplane.

***7. Tell about the space age in the USA and Russia. Give the examples of space cooperation of our two countries. +***

The world’s first artificial satellite SPUTNIC 1 was launched in the Soviet Union in October 1957. The space race began and in 1958 the Federal Independent Agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was created in the USA. NASA was headed by Famous German rocket specialist Werner von Braun and absorbed into itself the earlier National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and lots of other organizations. It keeps three major research laboratories and some smaller test facilities (with the annual budget of 100 million dollars and 8000 employees). Eventually NASA created other Centers and a number of affiliates including the Space Center in Huston, where the forming and training of the space crews is carried out.

When in 1961 Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin returned to the earth he pronounced a well-known challenge: “Now let the other countries try to catch us”. Several weeks later President Kennedy appealed to Congress: “I believe this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth”.

After that NASA began to conduct space missions. On May 5th, 1961 **Alan B. Shepard Jr. became the first American to fly into space**, and on February 20th, 1962 **John H. Glenn became the first US astronaut to orbit the Earth**.

On June 3, 1965, **Edward H. White became the first US astronaut to conduct a spacewalk**.

On July 16, 1969, **Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin landed on the moon** in Apollo 11, leaving behind a plaque that read: “Here Men from Planet Earth First Set Foot upon the Moon. We Came in Peace for All Mankind”. “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind”, said Neil Armstrong on returning to the earth.

**In 1975, NASA began to cooperate** with the Soviet Union to achieve the first international human spaceflight, **the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP)**. The two spacecrafts were launched within 7.5 hours, docked three hours after and 3 American astronauts **Thomas P. Stafford, Vance Brand, Donald Slaytor** and 2 Soviet Cosmonauts **Alexei Leonov and Valerii Kubasov** met and shook hands in orbit. After that various US space shuttles docked with **the Soviet Mir nine times.**

In spite of the tragedies and loss of the human lives NASA continued space scientific research in cooperation between Russian and U.S. scientists.

The USA and Russia set up quite a number united workgroups for coordination of cooperated actions in such fields as biology, astrophysics, solar physics and interplant researches. From 1995 to 1998 the joint programs **Mir-Shuttle and Mir-NASA** were carried on. The USA-Russian Space cooperation was supervised by joint American-Russian workgroups, including the representatives of different governmental bodies, universities and institutions of the USA and Russia.

**The ILS (International Launch Services) joint venture was formed in 1995 and became another example of cooperation between the two countries.** One of the notable events in bilateral space work was the establishment of the Sea Launch International consortium, of which 40% was owned by Boeing Commercial Space Co. and 25 % by Russian Energia Rocket Space Corp. The achieved experience paved the way for the creation of another International project ISS with the participation of 11 countries. The permanent work of ISS began in 2000. In May 2000 the first launch of the U.S. rocket-carrier Atlas 111, equipped with a Russian RD-180 engines was conducted.

***Questions for the final test***

***In whose honor did America get its name?***

The continent America however was named for Italian explorer – Amerigo Vespucci (1454-1512) who completed many voyages to South America and was the first to understand that he had reached not India but a new continent – the New World.

***Who were the first European settlers on American continents?***

In 1528 five Spanish ships under the command of Panfilo Narvaez reached the west coast of Florida, staying on the continewnt in search of gold for several years. In 1539 Spanish legendary explorer Fray Marcos de Niza was sent to America and described a “very beautiful city”in South America as one of the “Seven cities”. His report stimulated further explorations into the area. In all areas of Spanish exploration, settlement and colonization soon followed and before long the Spanish Empire was spread from Florida to California to Central and South America.

***Why were the original tribes in North America called Indians?8***

When Christopher Columbus arrived in the “New World” and thought that he was in India, he called the native people as Indians.

***Do you remember the history of New York?***

In 1626 the governor of the Dutch Colony bought from Indians Manhattan Island for the trinkets valued approximately $24, built a trading fort and a town, which he called New Amsterdam. The defenses of New Amsterdam were poor and later when English warships appeared in the bay the Dutch had to surrender the fort and the town to the English. In 1664 King Charles II gave a large area of Manhattan Island to his brother Duke of York and New Amsterdam was turned into New York in honor of the duke.

***What was the American capital before the War for Independence?***

Philadelphia (In 1774 Americans established so-called Committees of Correspondence, which sent delegates to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia.)

***How did the movement for independence develop in Amer4eican colonies?***

The Seven Years’ War ended in the expulsion of France from North America and stirred a wave of patriotism among the English population in America. The colonies had become quite different and no longer wanted to be seen as extensions of England. The controversy between England and the colonies after 1773 revolved around the laws affecting the settlement of the West, colonial

trade, currency, taxes, courts of justice and legislative assemblie. The British Prime Minister George Granville was determined to make the American colonies realize their obligations to the Empire. The answer in colonies was boycott against the importation of British goods. After “The Boston Tea Party” British King George and Parliament closed the port of Boston, and in 1774 Americans established so-called Committees of Correspondence, which sent delegates to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Delegates from 12 colonies except Georgia wrote to King George asking to reopen Boston Harbor. American lawyers Thomas Jefferson and James Wilson worked out the rights of Americans and their own legislation. King George did not answer the letter and sent more warships to America. American patriots called on Americans to take up arms to defend their rights. The Second Continental Congress, which also convened in Philadelphia, authorized an American army and appointed a young Virginian planter George Washington as its .commander-in-chief. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence from the British rule.

***What is Boston “tea party”?***

When three ships loaded with tea came into the port of Boston in December 16, 1773 American colonists refused to pay the tax and unload the tea. Instead at night a group of 60 men disguised as Indians boarded the ships and dumped the cargo of three hundred forty two chests into the water of the harbor. This event came into American history under the name “The Boston Tea Party”, and it was an impulse to starting War For Independence.

***What are personalities of the period of “American Revolution?”***

The British Prime Minister George Granville was determined to make the American colonies realize their obligations to the Empire. The answer in colonies was boycott against the importation of British goods. The British King George and Parliament condemned the “Tea Party” as an act of vandalism and punitive measures were taken. The Second Continental Congress, which also convened in Philadelphia, authorized an American army and appointed a young Virginian planter George Washington as its .commander-in-chief. George Washington was unanimously elected the first President of the United States of America.

During this period American lawyers Thomas Jefferson and James Wilson worked out the rights of Americans and their own legislation. This famous document drafted by Thomas Jefferson maintained that all men were created equal and proclaimed their rights for life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

***When and how long did the War for Independence last?***

In April, 1775 the British regulars at Lexington and Concord (near Boston) were met by armed American volunteers (so-called militia). Their first skirmished proclaimed the beginning of American War for Independence. After the decisive victory of the colonial army at Yorktown in 1781 the British finally laid down their arms. In September, 1783 the ultimate peace treaty was signed in Paris.

***What were the main reasons of the victory of “American Revolution”?***

In Great Britain at that time there lived 9 million people, in the American colonies – less than 3 million, 20 percent of which were slaves. Britain had the world’s greatest navy and a strong army. Americans had only an ill trained militia and no navy. Yet they had one great advantage – they were fighting at home and for freedom. The colonial militia’s successes around Boston in the spring 1775 had contributed to the American myth that British regulars were less effective than the colonials’ volunteers. At the same time the British government made the fatal mistake of underestimating Washington’ ragged army seriously. As the war progressed, discipline and experience appeared and though the colonists lost many battles, they learned that they could be beaten but they could not be

.

***When was the American Constitution adopted?***

In 1787 a nation-wide meeting (named Convention) in Philadelphia adopted a new Constitution. It established a legislature of two Houses, the House of Representatives in which the places were assigned according to the population and filled by popular vote, and the Senate where every state was to send two members appointed by state legislature. Centralized executive power was to be effected by Federal Government headed by a President with wide jurisdiction over home and foreign affairs. During January and February 1789 elections took place in the states and soon the new congressmen gathered in New York, the temporary capital.

***When was the name “The United States of America” first used?***

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence from the British rule. The American Declaration of Independence refers to the country being founded as the "United States of America"

***Which variant of American constitution is used now?***

Although the constitution has been amended 26 times it is still the “supreme law of the land” and

provides three main branches of government: the executive branch (the president, the vice president, the cabinet), the legislative branch (the Congress) and the judicial branch (the Supreme Court). Currently used version of the constitution, adopted in 1978.

***Which were the only wars on the territory of the USA?***

This is a list of attacks against territory held by the United States.

Attacks on mainland U.S. or organized incorporated U.S. territories:

American Revolutionary War 1775-1783

American Indian Wars 1775-1918

War of 1812 1812-1815

Thornton Affair April 26, 1846

Mexican American War 1846-1848

Black Tom explosion July 30, 1916

Battle of Columbus 1916 guy

Bombardment of Orleans 1918

Battle of Ambros Nogales 1918

Attacks on North America during World War II 1941-1945

1993 shootings at CIA Headquarters January 25, 1993

1993 World Trade Center bombing February 26, 1993

September 11 attacks by al-Qaeda on New York City, New York; Arlington, Virginia; and Shanksville, Pennsylvania September 11, 2001

***What were the main causes of the Civil War in North America?***

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There are many causes that led to the American Civil War. While slavery is generally cited as the main cause for the war, other political and cultural differences between the North and the South certainly contributed. Below we will discuss some of these differences and how they created a divide between the North and the South that eventually caused the Civil War.

Industry vs. Farming

In the mid-1800s, the economies of many northern states had moved away from farming to industry. A lot of people in the North worked and lived in large cities like New York, Philadelphia, and Boston. The southern states, however, had maintained a large farming economy and this economy was based on slave labor. While the North no longer needed slaves, the South relied heavily upon slaves for their way of life.

States' Rights

The idea of states' rights was not new to the Civil War. Since the Constitution was first written there had been arguments about how much power the states should have versus how much power the federal government should have. The southern states felt that the federal government was taking away their rights and powers.

Expansion

As the United States continued to expand westward, each new state added to the country shifted the power between the North and the South. Southern states began to fear they would lose so much power that they would lose all their rights. Each new state became a battleground between the two sides for power.

Slavery

At the heart of much of the South's issues was slavery. The South relied on slavery for labor to work the fields. Many people in the North believed that slavery was wrong and evil. These people were called abolitionists. They wanted slavery made illegal throughout the United States. Abolitionists such as John Brown, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Harriet Beecher Stowe began to convince more and more people of the evil of slavery. This made the South fearful that their way of life would come to an end.

Bleeding Kansas

The first fighting over the slavery issue took place in Kansas. In 1854, the government passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act allowing the residents of Kansas to vote on whether they would be a slave state or a free state. The region was flooded with supporters from both sides. They fought over the issue for years. Several people were killed in small skirmishes giving the confrontation the name Bleeding Kansas. Eventually Kansas entered the Union as a free state in 1861.

Abraham Lincoln

The final straw for the South was election of Abraham Lincoln to President of the United States. Abraham Lincoln was a member of the new anti-slavery Republican Party. He managed to get elected without even being on the ballot in ten of the southern states. The southern states felt that Lincoln was against slavery and also against the South.

Secession

When Lincoln was elected, many of the southern states decided they no longer wanted to be a part of the United States. They felt that they had every right to leave. Starting with South Carolina, eleven states would eventually leave the United States and form a new country called the Confederate States of America. Abraham Lincoln said they did not have the right to leave the United States and sent in troops to stop the South from leaving. The Civil War had begun.

***When and how long did the Civil War take place?***

The Civil War lasted four years from April 1861 to May 1865.

***What were the results of the Civil War?***

The biggest result was the end to Slavery. The 13th Amendment called for the abolishment of Slavery, and it was in support of President Lincoln’s Emancipation proclamation. Also Federal government assumes supreme national authority. Union was reunited. Both sides lost thousands of young men. Northern economy boomed, and Southern economy devastated.

***Which personalities do you remember of the period of the Civil War?***

Abraham Lincoln was the 16thPresident of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the Union Army. General Grant of the North won several decisive battles. Also in the Confederate States there were men of great military talent – generals Jackson and Lee.

***Which American writer devoted his stories to the period of so-called “Gold Fever”?***

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 set off the famous “Gold Rush”. “Gold Rush” or “Gold Fever”, dramatically described by famous American writer Jack London, occupies a special place in the USA history.

***When and how did the USA turn into the richest country of the world?***

Theodore Roosevelt found the Progressive movement; he wanted to allow the businessmen enough freedom of action to make their firms efficient and prosperous. While the First World War started on the continent of Europe, the USA quickly became the main supplier of weapon and capital to the countries of the Anti-German allies. By 1919 USA had a primary world economy, with enormous productive capacity and extensive markets for manufactured goods. From 1920 to October 1929 America became the wealthiest country in the world with no obvious rival. Yet by 1930 it had hit a depression that was to have world-wide consequences.

***What were the main events in the USA between two World Wars?***

After the First World War USA was a country with primary world economy. And business continued develop. At that time “business had become almost the national religion of America”. But there were already a lot of troubles. Bank debts were mounting. Low wages of most workers led to underconsumption. And so stock prices dropped dramatically on October 29, 1929, known as Black Tuesday. It was a start of Great American Depression, which lasted until the late 1930s. Nearly eight million Americans were out of work, thousand of banks and over 100000 businesses had closed down. Industrial production had fallen down by half and wage payments by 60%. In 1933 Franklin D. Roosevelt became a president. His program, which he called The New Deal 15 major, consisted of a number of legislative measures to fight against the Depression. As a result of all his measures unemployment dropped from 13 million people to 9.

***What were the main reasons of Great American Depression?***

On the surface it seemed that prosperity would continue forever but below the surface there were already a lot of troubles. Bank debts were mounting. Low wages of most workers led to underconsumption. Excessive industrial profits and low industrial wages distributed one third of all personal income to only 5% of the population. The agricultural sector was also plagued with overproduction. In the United States, the Great Depression began soon after the stock market crash of October 1929, which sent Wall Street into a panic and wiped out millions of investors.

***What do you remember of US president Franklin Roosevelt?***

The Progressive movement found a leader in the Republican Theodore Roosevelt T. Roosevelt who became president in 1901 got particularly concerned about the power of the trusts. His idea was to give the USA the best of both worlds. He wanted to allow the businessmen enough freedom of action to make their firms efficient and prosperous, but at the same time to prevent them from taking unfair advantage of other people (the policy of so-called “square deal». However the “square deal” of Roosevelt’s administration (1901-1909) failed to bring the trusts under control.

***What happened after the end of the World War 11?***

World War II paved the way for change in the he area of civil rights. Black Americans began to play a much greater role in American society. After World War 11 under the Eisenhower administration in 1953 some measures were taken to accelerate assimilation and destroy remaining Indian culture, which provided a real threat to the tribes. So-called “relocation” policy was implemented.

***What is so-called McCarthyism?***

An ambitious and unscrupulous politician McCarthy tried to use these fears to win fame and power for himself. He started the campaign that came into American history with the name a “Witch Hunt” – a search for people he could blame for supposed threats to the United States. For over five years, from early 1950s till the mid 50s McCarthy launched the serial of “hearings”, accusing a lot of people – government officials, scientists, and famous entertainers – of secretly working for the Soviet Union. He never gave proofs, but Americans were so much frightened by the threat of communism that many believed his accusations.

***What is the political structure of the USA?***

The President chooses the fourteen cabinet members who head departments, such as Justice, Defense, or Education; chooses who will run as vice president; appoints federal judges; chooses heads of agencies such as the FBI and CIA; proposes laws, and approves federal laws after Congress has approved them; appoints US ambassadors to foreign countries; bears the responsibilities of relations with foreign countries and commander- in chief of armed forces. The Vice President leads the Senate and combined meetings of both houses of Congress, .serves on special government committees and. becomes president if the president must leave office.

The Cabinet together with the president, the cabinet members (13) form the government. They advise on issues related to their departments.

The USA Congress, the legislative branch of the federal government, is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

***What is the Policy of Checks and Balances?***

The system of checks and balances makes compromise and consensus necessary. Compromise is also a vital aspect of other levels of the US government.

The system of “check and balances” protects against extremes. It means for example, that new presidents cannot radically change governmental policies just as they wish.

***What are the main political parties?***

The US Constitution says nothing about political parties, but over time the US has developed a two-party system: the Democratic and Republican parties. The president-day Democratic Party was founded in 1828 representing Southern planters. The Republican Party, founded in 1854, united industrial and trade bourgeoisie from Northeast.

***What are the stages of Presidential election in the USA?***

The national presidential election consists of two separate campaigns: one is for the nomination of candidates at national party conventions. The other is to win the actual election. The nominating race is a competition between members of the same party. In November of the election year (years divisible by four, e.g. 1988, 1992, 1996, etc.), the voters across the nation go to the polls. If the majority of the popular votes in a state go to the Presidential (and Vice - Presidential) candidate of one party, then that person is supposed to get all of that state’s “electoral votes”. These electoral votes are equal to the number of senators and Representatives each state has in Congress. The candidate with the largest number of these electoral votes wins the election. In January of the following year, in a joint session of Congress, the new President and Vice – President are officially announced.

***How are laws made in the USA?***

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Laws begin as ideas. First, a representative sponsors a bill. The bill is then assigned to a committee for study. If released by the committee, the bill is put on a calendar to be voted on, debated or amended. If the bill passes by simple majority (218 of 435), the bill moves to the Senate. In the Senate, the bill is assigned to another committee and, if released, debated and voted on. Again, a simple majority (51 of 100) passes the bill. Finally, a conference committee made of House and Senate members works out any differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. The resulting bill returns to the House and Senate for final approval. The Government Printing Office prints the revised bill in a process called enrolling. The President has 10 days to sign or veto the enrolled bill.

***What do you remember about John F. Kennedy?***

In 1961 a new President John F. Kennedy (1961-3) was elected, the most progressive president since A. Lincoln and F. Roosevelt. He was young, had a good education, energy and keen, quick wit. He told American people that they were facing a “new frontier” with both opportunities and problems. He announced policy of fighting poverty and giving civil rights to black people. He streamlined and pushed through the space program and new laws for pollution treatment, but his main merit was his foreign policy. When J. Kennedy came to the office, foreign problems were numerous.

***Who was the main reformer of the American English Language?***

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson made the first attempts to renovate the English language. Jefferson was fascinated by words and liked to invent the new ones. Benjamin Franklin, who founded the first free public library in the USA, was also interested in the reform of the English language. In 1768, he published a paper entitled “A Scheme for a New Alphabet and a Reformed Mode of Spelling”. His ideas were not adopted, but made a profound influence on further US linguists.

***Which linguistic reforms did Noah Webster carry on?***

Noah Webster is The most famous of all American dictionary-makers. His contribution in the creation of American language is hard to overestimate. His works on linguistics had an enormous influence on American standards of spelling and writing. By including thousands of technical and scientific terms, Webster laid the groundwork for modern lexicography and very many dictionaries published in the USA still bear his name.

***Why did American English Language become the global language?***

The American vocabulary during the 19Pth and especially 20Pth and 21 centuries began to be exported abroad due to its economic, political and technological prominence in the world. American movies, radio, television, pop culture have certainly hastened the process.

In recent years Americanisms have been introduced into international usage. Hundreds of new business buzz-words are used, reflecting the birth of global markets and the take-over boom.

Americans invented a lot of new words connected with new technology, computers and internet: a notebook, a laptop computer, download, upload, online, offline, website, to hack, software, know-how, the dotcom economy, screensaver, trackpad, thumbnail, footprint, gridlocked, cyber pet, a techno-wizard, a cybercafé and many others of computer-related terms are increasingly invading the daily life. A lot of politically correct terminology also appeared. A lot of abbreviations and acronyms appeared, especially often used in and ads ( advertisements): NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) , UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), IMF (International Monetary Fund), CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), Call

(Computer Assisted Language Learning), ZIP code (for Zone Improvement Plan), etc.

***What do you remember about American media?***

American newspapers get much of their news from the two US largest news agencies AP (Associated Press) and UPI (United Press International). It is estimated that altogether, around 2 billion people get most of their news directly or indirectly through AP and UPI.

Quite a few have “daughter” editions in other countries. Among such internationals are Time, Newsweek, National Geographic, Reader’s Digest, Cosmopolitan, Vogue, Time, Newsweek, and Psychology Today. The best known professional periodicals The Atlantic Monthly, Harvard Educational Review, Saturday Review, National Geographic, Smithsonian (published by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.), Scientific American have a huge readership both in the USA and abroad.

There are many different types and varieties of American radio and television: commercial, non-commercial, individual, etc. There is also a great variety among television stations. The majority of commercial television stations buy most of their programming, roughly 70 %, from the three commercial networks: ABC (American Broadcasting Company), CBS (Columbia Broadcasting System), and NBC (National Broadcasting Company).

***Is there any national press in the USA?***

It is often said that there is no “national press” in the United States as there is in Great Britain. In one sense this is true. Most daily newspapers are distributed locally or regionally. There have been attempts to publish truly national newspapers, e.g. The USA Today. But it still has only a circulation of 1.2 million, which is not enough in a country where state, city, and local news and political developments most deeply affect readers and are therefore especially interesting to them.

***What groups are American higher institutions divided into?***

In the USA there is no clear definition of the term "institution of higher education". The institutions, which provide higher education, do not constitute any coordinate system and are not controlled by any centralized national authority In principle, any educational institution offering further training after leaving high school, the so-called "post-secondary educational institution” may be referred to as Higher Educational Institution. The only criterion to determine the nature of any U.S. institution may be a qualitative level of it.

Junior Colleges

Colleges of Liberal Arts

Specialized Institutions

A University

(+ Private universities? )

***What are different student groups in the USA?***

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Students are classified as freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. A freshmen is a first year student, a sophomore, a second year student, a junior, a third year student, and a senior, a fourth year student.

***Tell about the American scientists you know.***

John Forbes Nash, Jr. (born June 13, 1928) is an American mathematician whose works in game theory are used in market economics, computing, evolutionary biology, artificial intelligence, accounting, politics and military theory. He awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.

Norbert Wiener (November 26, 1894 – March 18, 1964) was an American mathematician and philosopher. He was Professor of Mathematics at MIT. Wiener is considered the originator of cybernetics, a formalization of the notion of feedback, with implications for engineering, systems control, computer science, biology, neuroscience, philosophy, and the organization of society.

Alan Curtis Kay (born May 17, 1940) is an American computer scientist. He is best known for his pioneering work on object-oriented programming and windowing graphical user interface design

***Tell about your favorite American writer.***

**Henry Charles Bukowski** (born **Heinrich Karl Bukowski**; August 16, 1920 – March 9, 1994) was a German-born American poet, novelist, and short story writer.

His writing was influenced by the social, cultural, and economic ambience of his home city of [Los Angeles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Bukowski#cite_note-Bukowski.2C_Charles-4) His work addresses the ordinary lives of poor Americans, the act of writing, [alcohol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcohol), relationships with women, and the drudgery of work. Bukowski wrote thousands of poems, hundreds of short stories and six novels, eventually publishing over sixty books. The [FBI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Bureau_of_Investigation) kept a file on him as a result of his column, [*Notes of a Dirty Old Man*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Notes_of_a_Dirty_Old_Man), in the LA underground newspaper *Open City*.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Bukowski#cite_note-5)[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Bukowski#cite_note-6)

In 1986 [*Time*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_(magazine)) called Bukowski a "laureate of American lowlife".[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Bukowski#cite_note-7) Regarding Bukowski's enduring popular appeal, [Adam Kirsch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Kirsch) of [*The New Yorker*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_Yorker) wrote, "the secret of Bukowski's appeal. . . [is that] he combines the confessional poet's promise of intimacy with the larger-than-life aplomb of a [pulp-fiction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulp_magazine) hero."[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Bukowski#cite_note-8)

***What is American character in comparison with the British one?***

One of the most important features of the American character is emphasis on individual personality rather than collective identity or responsibility. Another distinctive American characteristic is pragmatism. This means that emphasis on achievement and success is understood first of all as material prosperity. Americans are fond of common sense; they are not particularly interested in theory, abstract reasoning, or philosophy. Generally speaking, Americans are open and friendly people. The public behavior of Americans is less reserved than that of English, e.g. It is normal for Americans to speak loudly, joke and laugh in public. Americans tend to be informal and unceremonious in both their public or private lives, although they are not absolutely uniform in their outward behavior. Like the British, Americans have love for the intricate practical joke, the pun, and the understated quip (clever remark).

***Give examples of American pop culture?***

For example, Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley are outstanding representatives of American pop culture.

Michael Joseph Jackson (August 29, 1958 – June 25, 2009) was an American singer, songwriter, dancer, and actor. Called the King of Pop, his contributions to music and dance made him a global figure in popular culture for over four decades.

Elvis Aaron Presley(January 8, 1935 – August 16, 1977) was an American singer and actor. Regarded as one of the most significant cultural icons of the 20th century, he is often referred to as "the King of Rock and Roll", or simply, "the King".

***Do you know the history of American cinema industry?***

Originally American cinema was born in the East, when in 1903 a cameraman Edwin S. Porter turned out a short film. The first “Patent Cinema Company” was formed in 1908 in Chicago. Soon the number of film companies, producers, actors, technical staff grew up there and the first film studio was founded in 1911 in Hollywood. By the middle of the 20s Hollywood had modern financial and technical basis of film production and the professional stuff.

The first “talking” movies appeared in the 30s.

The years before the Second World War and after it became “the golden age” of Hollywood. During that period 7500 full-length films were shot there.

At our time gradually Hollywood transformed beyond recognition. Generations have grown up watching American films. A lot of copies are made for VCR and sold all over the world. Film companiesw spent hundreds million dollars on the film production and almost the same money on their advertisements. The films by famous directors and producers Steven Spielberg, Kevin Kostner, Quentin Tarantino, Paul Verkhoven, Lucas receive the most attention. The most highly paid actors Sylvestor Stallone, Jack Nicolson, Demy Moor, Julia Roberts, Sharon Stone and others receive a lot of prestigious prizes and awards at the leading international film festivals.