



United States of America Knowledge Organiser

Geography Focus

Year 5

Autumn 1 & 2

What should I already know?

I know that a country is a nation with its own government, occupying a particular territory (Y1)
 I know the compass directions (North, East, South, West) (Y2)
 The weather and climate in countries close to the equator is generally hot and wet. (Y3)
 Time is different depending on where you are in the world. If it is daytime in the UK, it will be night-time in Australia. (Y3)

What will I know by the end of the topic?

- The capital is Washington, D.C.
- The United States is the fourth largest country in the world (after Russia, Canada, and China). It extends across North America from the Atlantic Ocean on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west. The United States is made up of 50 states and the District of Columbia. Forty-eight of the states lie between Canada on the north and Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico on the south. The 49th state, Alaska, lies northwest of Canada. The 50th state, Hawaii, is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean.
- The longest rivers are the Mississippi and the Missouri. They join in the middle of the country. The combined Mississippi-Missouri river system is 3,710 miles (5,971 kilometers) long.
- The climate of the United States is as varied as its land. It ranges from Arctic cold in Alaska to tropical warmth in Hawaii and southern Florida.
- More than four fifths of the people live in or near cities. New York City on the East Coast, is one of the largest cities in the world.
- The United States is made up of people from many backgrounds. White Caucasians make up almost seven tenths of the population. They have roots in many European countries. Hispanic Americans represent about one sixth of the population. About one eighth of the people are African American. Asian Americans and people of mixed ancestry make up small groups. There are also small groups of Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, and people of other backgrounds. Most Americans speak English. The country also has many Spanish speakers because of its large Hispanic population.
- About four fifths of the population is Christian. Protestants are the largest Christian group, followed by Roman Catholics. Other people practice Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, other religions, or no religion.
- The USA is a popular tourist destination for its human and physical features such as landmarks like; the Empire State Building, Golden Gate Bridge, Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore, Rocky Mountains and the Grand Canyon.



Key Vocabulary	Definition
Population	All of the inhabitants of that location.
Topography	The gradient (steepness) of the land.
New York	A city on the East coast of USA.
Tourism	The attraction of visitors to the location for their holiday.
Physical Features	Features of a place that are natural and not man made.
Human Features	Features of a place that are man made.
Climate	The temperature of the location.
State	A governed region/society in the USA.
Continent	A large continuous mass of land regarded as a collective region.

