

ПЕРМСКИЙ
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ
НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ
ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКИЙ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

Ю. Н. Пинягин

ЛИНГВОСТРАНОВЕДЕНИЕ

США: ИСТОРИЯ, ТРАДИЦИИ
И ОБРАЗ ЖИЗНИ



МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

Федеральное государственное автономное
образовательное учреждение высшего образования
«ПЕРМСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ
НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ»

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*Допущено методическим советом
Пермского государственного национального
исследовательского университета в качестве
учебного пособия для студентов, обучающихся
по направлениям подготовки бакалавров
«Лингвистика», «Перевод и переводоведение»,
«Международные отношения»*



Пермь 2021

УДК 81'25(075.8)

ББК 81.07

П326

Пинягин Ю. Н.

П326 Лингвострановедение. США: история, традиции и образ жизни [Электронный ресурс] : учебное пособие / Ю. Н. Пинягин ; Пермский государственный национальный исследовательский университет. – Электронные данные. – Пермь, 2021. – 1,60 Мб ; 137 с. – Режим доступа: <http://www.psu.ru/files/docs/science/books/uchebnie-posobiya/Pinyagin-Lingvostranovedenie-SSHA.pdf>. – Заглавие с экрана.

ISBN 978-5-7944-3618-1

Цель издания – обеспечение курса «Лингвострановедение» литературой и выработка у студентов навыков и приемов перевода научно-популярных текстов, содержащих лингвокультурную информацию.

Предназначено для студентов 2–5 курсов факультета современных иностранных языков и литератур направления «Лингвистика» и специальности «Перевод и переводоведение», а также для студентов и магистрантов историко-политологического факультета направления «Международные отношения» по дисциплинам «Лингвострановедческие аспекты перевода», «Теория и практика перевода».

УДК 81'25(075.8)

ББК 81.07

*Издается по решению ученого совета
факультета современных иностранных языков и литератур
Пермского государственного национального исследовательского университета*

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ISBN 978-5-7944-3618-1

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GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND CLIMATE

The USA is situated in the central and southern parts of the continent of North America, and includes the state of Alaska and the Hawaii Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The USA is washed by the Atlantic Ocean in the east, the Gulf of Mexico in the southeast and by the Pacific Ocean in the west. In the north it borders on Canada and in the south – on Mexico. The USA consists of 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Hawaii Islands became a state of the USA in 1959.

If we look at the map of the USA, we can see lowlands and mountains. In the west there are the Rocky Mountains, the Cordillera and the Sierra Nevada, the highest mountains in the USA. In the east there are the Appalachian Mountains. The areas in the middle of the country are called the prairies and the eastern lowlands are called the Mississippi valley. In the northeastern part there is the region of five Great Lakes: Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Here there are the Niagara River and the famous Niagara Falls. The largest rivers in the USA are the Mississippi River, the Missouri and the Ohio. The Mississippi and the Missouri form one of the longest rivers in the world – 7,330 kilometers. The largest rivers in the west are the Columbia River and the Colorado River that run into the Pacific Ocean. The St Lawrence River and the Hudson River are in the east. The Yukon is the largest river in Alaska.

The climate of the United States is extremely varied, and in some ways hostile. One thing that people tend to forget is how far south even the northern parts of the United States are in comparison with Western Europe. New York is on about the same parallel of latitude as Naples in Italy, Boston and Detroit are no further north than Rome or Barcelona. In all of the heavily populated parts of the United States the summer can be exceedingly hot, and particularly near the eastern seaboard it is very unpleasant. In the great cities a tremendous heat is built up, made more disagreeable by high humidity. The inhabitants have developed advanced techniques to make summer life tolerable; air-conditioning is one of the symbols of a home or office or factory that is based on reasonable economic success. It is very desirable indeed to have an air-conditioned interior.

In the winter on the other hand it can be very cold. Particularly away from the coast the winter cold is so intense that strong heating systems are essential if normal life is to be carried on. Even near the east coast in New York and Boston there are some spells of very cold weather indeed, though these may be interspersed with much milder weather.

On the west coast the climate is much more equable. One of the great advantages of California is that there are no extremes. Except in the desert the summer is never intolerably hot, and the winter is mild. The coastal region suffers from mist and drizzle, though only a little way inland the weather is commonly much clearer. Inland from California, Arizona and New Mexico can produce some of the highest temperatures of any inhabited part of the globe.

Much of America suffers constant insecurity from violent climatic happenings. Best known of these are the hurricanes which afflict the Southeast, particularly during the autumn. Originating in the Caribbean these circular storms tend to move north-eastwards, and any part of the deep South is liable to find itself in the track of a particular hurricane. In general it is the areas nearest to the coasts which suffer most severely.

The Midwest is similarly subject to damage from violent wind storms, here commonly called "tornadoes". As in the Southwest, damage is often extensive, but the likelihood of any particular place suffering from a tornado is very slight. There are several dozens of tornadoes each year, but each is short-lived and localized, likely to cause devastation in a restricted area. On the other hand, tornadoes are less easy to predict than southeastern hurricanes, and they are more likely to cause death or injury to people, and to cause severe suffering over small areas.

Another problem of the eastern half of the United States behind the Appalachian Mountains, in the whole basin of the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio Rivers, is the danger of flooding. Severe storms and heavy rainfall can raise the level of these rivers to dangerous heights. In the history of the United States river floods have probably caused more damage than any other single climatic element.

The great plains of the Midwest, where wheat is grown in vast quantities, correspond more closely with conditions found in southern Russia than with anything in Western Europe. In winter, cold and wind are particularly intense, and the pioneers had to suffer terrible hardships before they had established reasonable shelter.

In the Rocky Mountains the climate is what would be expected in a mountain area, with heavy snow in winter matched by brilliant sunshine and warm days in the summer even up to considerable heights. The mountains seem to have enormous potential as a holiday area, and vast sections of them have not yet been opened up. Here too the problem of what to do with the water has been acute, and enormous schemes already exist for controlling it and for deriving electric power from the great flow of waters in the Colorado and other great rivers.

The climate of the United States, with all its variations and violence – its frost and snow reaching far into the South, and the great heat of summer – made life difficult for the ill-equipped pioneers and for the American Indians before them. Now, however, so much of life goes on in the shelter of buildings that most people can carry on their lives without much concern for what is going on outside.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. Why the climate of the USA is considered to be hostile?
2. What is tornado?
3. How serious is the danger of flooding?
4. What features of American climate made the life of the pioneers difficult?

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The United States has the third-largest population in the world (after China and India). In 2020, population in the United States passed the 335,000,000 mark. Who are the American people?

As the nineteenth-century poet Walt Whitman said, the United States ‘is not merely a nation but a nation of nations’. People from around the world have come to the United States and influenced its history and culture.

The Native Americans. The first people on the American continent came from Asia. They came across the Bering Strait from Siberia to Alaska at various times when the sea level dropped. The first migration might have been as early as 40,000 years ago. Once in America, these people migrated east across North America and south through Central and South America. When Columbus arrived in the fifteenth century, there were perhaps 10 million people in North America alone. They had developed many different kinds of societies. These were the people that Columbus called ‘Indians’, in the mistaken belief that he had reached the East Indies.

The story of the westward growth of the United States was also the story of the destruction of the Native Americans, or Indians. Today there are about 1,5 million Indians in the United States. Western states – especially California, Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Mexico – have the largest Indian population. About one-third of the Native Americans live on reservations, land that was set aside for them. Most of the others live in cities. Poverty and unemployment are major problems, especially on the reservations.

The British. Beginning in the 1600s, the British settled the eastern part of North America. By the time of the American Revolution (1776), the culture of the American colonists was thoroughly British – with an American “twist”. In a sense, then, the British culture was the foundation on which America was built. Also, over the years, many immigrants to the United States have come from the United Kingdom and Ireland.

African-Americans. From 1620 to 1820 by far the largest group of people to come to the United States came, not as willing immigrants, but against their will. These people were West Africans brought to work as slaves, especially on the plantations, or large farms of the South. All in all, about 8 million people were brought from Africa.

The effects of 200 years of slavery, 100 years of segregation, and continued prejudice are not as easy to get rid of. Despite many changes, black Americans are still much more likely than white Americans to be poor and to suffer the bad effects that poverty brings. Today about 13 percent of America’s population is black. Many black Americans live in the South and in the cities of the Northeast and Midwest.

Immigrants from Northern and Western Europe. Beginning in the 1820s, the number of immigrants coming to the United States began to increase rapidly. Faced with problems in Europe – poverty, war, discrimination – immigrants hoped for, and often found, better opportunities in the United States. For the first half-century, most immigrants were from northwestern Europe – from Germany, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden, and Norway. In the late 1840s, for example, wide-spread hunger resulting from the failure of the potato crop led many Irish people to immigrate to the United States.

During these years, the United States was expanding into what is now the Midwest. There was a lot of land available for farming. Many new immigrants became farmers in the Midwest. To this day, German and Scandinavian influence is obvious in Midwestern foods and festivals.

Immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe. Although immigration from northwestern Europe continued, from the 1870s to the 1930s even more people came from the countries of southern and eastern Europe – for example, Italy, Greece, Poland, and Russia. Like the earlier immigrants, they came to escape poverty and discrimination. From 1900 to 1910 alone, almost 9 million people arrived from these and other countries.

During this period, the United States was changing from a mainly agricultural to a mainly industrial country. The new immigrants helped make this change possible. Many settled in cities and worked in factories, often under conditions that were quite bad. In the 1920s discrimination and prejudice in the United States led to laws limiting immigration. Immigration slowed down until the 1960s, when these laws were changed.

Hispanic-Americans. Hispanics are people of Spanish or Spanish-American origin. Some Hispanics lived in areas that later became part of the United States (for example, in what are now the states of California and New Mexico). Many others immigrated to the United States. Hispanic immigration has increased greatly in recent decades.

Hispanic came from many different countries. Three especially large groups are Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cuban-Americans. While the groups have much in common, there are also many differences. The groups are also concentrated in different areas – Mexican-Americans in Texas and California, Puerto Ricans in New York, and Cuban-Americans in Florida. Many recent immigrants are from Central American countries.

Hispanics are one of the fastest growing groups in the United States population. Within 25 years, they will be the largest minority group.

Asian-Americans. In the nineteenth century, laws limited Asian immigration. Also, Asians in the United States such as the Chinese and Japanese who had come to California, met with widespread discrimination.

Since the mid-1960s, with changes in immigration laws and with conflicts in Southeast Asia, Asians have been a major immigrant group. In the 1980s, for example, almost half of all immigrants were Asian. Countries that Asian-Americans have come from include China and Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and India. Many have settled in California, Hawaii, New York, and Texas.

Melting Pot, Mosaic and Pizza. For years, it was thought that the United States was and should be a “melting pot” – in other words, that people from all over the world would come and adopt the American culture as their own. Later on, some people compared the United States to a “mosaic” – a picture made of many different pieces. America’s strength, they argued, lies in its diversity and in the contributions made by people of many different cultures. America needs to preserve and encourage this diversity, while making sure that everyone has equal opportunity to succeed. For this reason the latest development of this idea is the notion of “pizza”, which means unity of the way of life, but there are national peculiarities which can be easily identified.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. Who are the “Native Americans” today and how they appeared on the continent?
2. What is meant by the term “African-Americans”?
3. From what countries did the immigrants of 1820s-1840s come?
4. What were the reasons of immigration from Eastern Europe in 1990s?
5. Who are “Hispanic-Americans” and what problems they face in the USA?
6. How do you understand the metaphors describing the American society: “melting pot”, “mosaic”, “pizza”?

NATIONAL SYMBOLS

The Flag of the USA. The 50-star flag of the United States was raised for the first time officially on July 4, 1960. The 50th star had been added for Hawaii, a year earlier the 49th, for Alaska. Before that, no star had been added since 1912, when New Mexico and Arizona were admitted to the Union.

The true history of the Stars and Stripes has become so cluttered by a volume of myth and tradition that the facts are difficult, and in some cases impossible, to establish. For example, it is not certain who designed the Stars and Stripes, who made the first such flag or even whether it ever flew in any sea fight or land battle of the American Revolution.

One they all agree on is that the Stars and Stripes originated as a result of a resolution offered by the Marine Committee of the Second Congress at Philadelphia and adopted in 1777. Despite repeated requests, George Washington did not get the flags until 1783, after the Revolutionary War was over. And there is no certainty that they were the Stars and Stripes.

The thirteen stripes on the modern flag, seven red and six white, stand for the thirteen colonies that joined together in 1776 to declare themselves free from the rule of England. The fifty white, five-pointed stars stand for the fifty states that now make up the nation.

Uncle Sam. There are several stories about the beginning of Uncle Sam, but the one Congress officially recognized in 1961 is the story that follows.

Samuel Wilson was born in Massachusetts in 1766. He fought in the Revolutionary War with his father and brothers. When the war was over, he moved to the New York state. He started a meatpacking business and was well-respected in his community.

During the war of 1812, Sam Wilson supplied meat to the U.S. Army in barrels marked U.S. When asked what the U.S. stood for, one of Wilson's workers said, Uncle Sam Wilson, the meatpacker. This story gained popularity when it was printed in a New York City Newspaper. Soon many things labeled U.S. were being called Uncle Sam's, not just meat!

After the war, Uncle Sam became the symbol of the nation. People drew him and dressed up like him. Uncle Sam is a United States' symbol that is recognized throughout the world. He has appeared in magazines, newspapers, and on posters for the last 150 years.

The Liberty Bell. On July 8, 1776 a bell rang out to announce the first reading of the Declaration of Independence to the people of Philadelphia. It became then, and still is, a symbol of American Independence.

The people of Pennsylvania sent an order to England in 1751 for the making of a "bell of about two thousand pounds weight" to be used in the State House in Philadelphia.

Soon after the bell's arrival to America in 1752, it cracked the first time it rang. It was then recast in Philadelphia and began its ringing for freedom. This historic bell rang to proclaim liberty until 1855, when it cracked. The Liberty Bell became a symbol of freedom, even though it could not be heard. It began to tour the country by train, visiting such places as New Orleans, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta, St Louis, and San Francisco. Since 1915, the Liberty Bell has been on permanent display in a glass-enclosed building in Philadelphia.

The Bald Eagle. This magnificent bird can be found on many things in the United States. Since ancient times, eagles have been a sign of power. Eagles have great size and strength, and because of this, many have claimed this bird as their emblem and symbol. When it came to choosing a national bird for America after the Revolutionary War, many wanted this bird to be chosen. It was a great and powerful bird, just as the new nation was great and powerful.

But, not all in Congress wanted this bird as theirs. Benjamin Franklin proposed that the turkey be the national bird, because it was a true native of the country. It was finally decided that the bald eagle, which was unique to North America, be the choice. In 1782, the bald eagle was finally adopted as the national bird for the country.

The bald eagle is not really bald. The head of the adult bird is white, and was called “bald” by the people from England who first settled in America. To them, “bald” meant “white”, not hairless! This bird also has white tail feathers.

The bald eagle still serves as the American national bird, a symbol of the size and strength of the nation.

The Great Seal of the U.S. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress appointed a committee consisting of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson “to bring in a device for a seal of the United States of America”. After many delays, a verbal description of a design was finally approved by Congress on June 20, 1782. The seal shows an American bald eagle with a ribbon in its mouth bearing the device *E pluribus unum* (One out of many). In its talons are the arrows of war and an olive branch of peace. On the reverse side it shows an unfinished pyramid with an eye (the eye of Providence) above it.

The Statue of Liberty. To many people the Statue of Liberty is one of America’s most cherished symbols. It is the symbol of freedom, a freedom that millions of people have come to America to find.

Since 1886, the statue of Liberty Enlightening the World has stood in New York harbor. It also commemorates American friendship for it was given by the people of France, designed by Frederic August Bartholdi. A \$2,5 million building housing the American Museum of Immigration was opened by President Nixon in 1972, at the base of the statue. It houses a permanent exhibition of photos, posters, and artifacts tracing the history of American immigration.

The people of France had long admired the liberty enjoyed by the people who lived in the United States. In 1865, Edouard de Laboulaye, French historian and admirer of American political institutions, suggested that the French present a monument to the United States that would be a tribute to this liberty as well as a symbol of the friendship between the two countries. This idea became a reality when F. Bartholdi sailed to the United States to find support and a location for France's gift.

Bartholdi decided to create a huge statue of a robed woman with her right arm holding a torch high above her head. He modeled her face after the strong features of his own mother's face. Construction began on "Lady Liberty" in a Paris workshop in 1875. Funds for the statue were raised by the French people. The complete statue was officially presented to the United States in Paris, France on July 4, 1884. It was then carefully taken apart and shipped to America. The statue arrived in 1885 and the pedestal was completed in April of 1886. The statue was made from copper sheets and it is hollow inside. There is a circular stairway from the base to the crown and a lift in it.

The figure shows a young woman. She holds a torch in her right hand above her head and in her left hand is a tablet with the date "July 4th, 1776" on it, which symbolizes the declaration of Independence. The torch lights up at night. Over the years, *The Statue of Liberty* became a symbol of hope for the millions of immigrants who came by it on their way to settle in America.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. Why the flag of the USA is called Stars and Stripes?
2. How did it happen that Uncle Sam became the symbol of the nation?
3. What does the bald eagle stand for?
4. What does "*E pluribus unum*" mean in Latin?
5. Who initiated the idea of "*The Statue of Liberty*" and why?

HISTORY OF THE USA

THE PLANTING OF THE COLONIES

The history of the English settlement in America began on a beautiful April morning in 1607, when three storm-beaten ships of Captain Christopher Newport anchored near the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. The newcomers were delighted by the richly colored birds, the fruits and berries, the fine sturgeon and the pleasant scenery. But the planting of a new nation in America was no holiday undertaking. It meant grim, dirty, dangerous work.

The climate in America is healthful, with a warm summer which permits of fine crops and a cold winter that stimulates men to activity. Europeans could establish

themselves in most of this area without any painful process of adjustment. They could bring their chief food crops: wheat, rye, oats, beans, carrots and onions. They found in the new land two novel foods of remarkable value – maize and potatoes. Everywhere game abounded, the deer and bison roaming in millions. The coastal waters were rich in fish. A search in due time revealed that North America contained more iron, coal, copper and petroleum than any other continent. It had almost boundless forests. Bays and harbors gave many shelters along the eastern shore, which in general was low, while broad rivers – the St. Lawrence, Hudson, Delaware, Potomac – made it easy to penetrate a considerable distance into the interior.

Certain natural features of the continent were destined to have a marked effect upon the future course of the American nation. The many bays and inlets on the Atlantic coast made for numerous small colonies rather than a few large ones. When independence came, the nation built out of thirteen of these units, simply had to be a federation. Behind the coastal plain rose a wide, wild mountain barrier, the Appalachian range. It was very hard to cross it at first, but when the settlers did push west, they traversed the mountains to find before them a huge central plain, the Mississippi basin. Settlers covered this fertile basin with comparative rapidity and ease. Men from all countries of Western Europe intermingled in it on equal terms. It became a great pool in which a new democracy and a new American sentiment developed.

The Early Settlers. The ship that under Captain Christopher Newport sailed to America in 1607, carried only men alone. They laid out Jamestown, with a fort, a church, a storehouse and a row of little huts. Agriculture was slowly developed; in 1612 John Rolfe began to grow tobacco, and as it brought high prices in the London market everyone took it up.

Yet growth was slow. By 1616 Virginia had no more than two thousand people. That year was notable for three events. One was the arrival of a ship from England with ninety “young maidens” who were to be given as wives to those settlers who would pay a hundred and twenty pounds of tobacco for their transportation. This cargo was so joyously welcomed that others like it were soon sent over. Equally important was the initiation of representative government in America. On July 30, in Jamestown church met the first legislative assembly on the continent: a governor, six councilors and the representatives from ten plantations. The third significant event of the year was the arrival in August of a Dutch ship with Negro slaves, twenty of whom were sold to the settlers.

While Virginia was thus painfully managing to survive and grow, a congregation of English Calvinists was making plans to remove to the New World. These “Pilgrims”, who had been persecuted because they denied the ecclesiastical supremacy of the king and wished to set up a separate Church of their own, had originally come from Nottinghamshire. They had endured popular hostility in England. They left it on board the ship called Mayflower. Sailing from Plymouth one hundred and two in number, the Pilgrims landed on the Massachusetts coast in December of 1620. That winter more than half of them died of cold and scurvy. But the next summer they raised good crops, and in the fall a ship brought new settlers.

Then in rapid succession emerged other English colonies. A May Day in 1629 saw the London wharves a scene of bustle and excitement; five ships carrying 4000 passengers were sailing for Massachusetts Bay. These people were Puritans – that is, members of the Church of England who wished to reform or purify its doctrines. The Massachusetts Bay colony grew so rapidly that it was soon throwing off branches to the south and west.

The seat of one rich colony was gained by conquest. The Dutch had sent Henry Hudson, an English mariner, to explore the river which bears his name – a task executed in 1609. Dutch fur traders had followed him, and in 1624 a small settlement was effected on Manhattan Island. The province of New Netherlands grew but slowly and failed to develop institutions of self-government. Meanwhile, the British never gave up their claim to the entire coast, and the Connecticut settlers were anxious for the seizure of this Dutch colony. Why permit this alien element in the very center of British America? Charles II granted the area to his brother, the Duke of York, who took vigorous action. In the summer of 1664 three warships arrived before New Amsterdam. Most of the Dutch settlers, sick of despotic rule, made no objection to a change of sovereignty. The British flag went up over the town renamed New York.

One of the most interesting colonies was formed only by the end of 17th century. A number of settlers, British, Dutch and Swedish, had found their way into the area which later became Pennsylvania and Delaware. When the farsighted William Penn came into control of the region in 1681, he prepared to erect a model commonwealth on the principles of the Quakers – that sect which Voltaire later called the most truly Christian of peoples. To attract colonists he offered liberal terms, assuring all that they could obtain land and live in justice and equality with their neighbors. No Christian would suffer from religious discrimination.

As soon as it was proved that life in America might be prosperous and hopeful, a great spontaneous migration from Europe began. It came by uneven spurts and drew

its strength from a variety of impulses. The first two great waves went to Massachusetts and Virginia. From 1628 to 1640 the Puritans in England were in a state of depression, suffering much actual persecution and they believed that the best course was to quit the island and build in America a new state. In the great emigration of that period some twenty thousand people left England. One striking characteristic of this movement was the migration of many Puritans not as individuals or families but in whole communities. Certain English towns were half depopulated. The new settlements consisted not of traders and farmers alone, but of doctors, lawyers, school-teachers, businessmen, craftsmen and ministers. New England became a microcosm of old England, carrying in extraordinary degree the seeds of future growth.

By the year 1700 a general system of colonial government had taken form. Connecticut and Rhode Island held a special status as completely self-governing commonwealths, choosing all their officers. The other colonies had much the same political framework. A governor was appointed by the king. About him, and to some extent supporting him, was a council, which was also appointed by the Crown. But whereas the governor was nearly always a Briton, the councilors were usually Americans; and though they generally represented the wealthier class, they often had views very different from those of the governor. At first their functions were chiefly administrative and judicial, but they developed more and more into an upper legislative chamber. Every colony had its representative assembly, chosen by those adult males who could meet certain property qualifications. This popular house initiated legislation and levied taxes. Its strength lay in its power to represent public opinion and in control of the purse – the elements which made Parliament so powerful in Britain after 1689.

The colonists had done much for themselves and posterity in winning and holding representative institutions. From the earliest years they had learned to hold sacred the rights written into the charters granted to trading companies or the people themselves. This regard for a written system of fundamental law was to have a profound effect on American history. England had no written constitution.

THE COLONIAL HERITAGE

A Developing Americanism. Two main factors may be distinguished in the development of a distinctive American nationality during the colonial period. One factor was a new people – an amalgamation of different national stocks. The other factor was a new land – a country rich, empty and demanding as a price of its bounty only that the newcomers should bring it industry and courage.

By 1775 a distinctly American society, with its own social, economic and political traits, was emerging. At some points it approached closely to the European pattern: the merchants and professional men of Boston and New York were not easily distinguishable from similar groups in London and Bristol. But the great mass of Americans was growing quite distinct from the European type in the old homeland.

The emigration to America had taken place in a way which made the English language and English institutions everywhere dominant, so that the country possessed a general unity. Neither the Germans nor the French Huguenots set up a separate colony, as they might have done; they mingled with the first British comers, adopting their language and outlook. The English migration soon swamped the Dutch in the Hudson Valley and the Swedes on the Delaware. Yet this happy unity of tongue and basic institutions coexisted with a remarkable diversity in national origins. The first great waves of settlement had been English waves, but while the original flow continued, in the eighteenth century two other heavy waves of emigration came from Europe – the German and the Scotch-Irish.

Most of the Germans were thrifty farmers whose hard work made the limestone region of Pennsylvania a huge wheat granary. They did not take readily to pioneering, but preferred to settle in protected and partly improved areas.

The Scotch-Irish, a more aggressive stock, furnished the chief pioneering element in Pennsylvania, the Shenandoah Valley and the upland parts of Carolina. They had fled from oppression at home, for they suffered under the Anglican establishment in Ireland. Coming over in shiploads, they brought with them a bitter anti-English feeling. Plunging into the wilderness, they lived by hunting, cleared the land and erected log cabins. They hated the Indians and were quick to quarrel with them. They were wonderful efficient pioneer settlers. Spreading south and west, rearing large families, showing marked gifts for politics and Indian fighting, the Scotch-Irish began to lay a strong impress on American life. Among them were names later famous – Jackson, Houston, McKinley, Wilson.

Other non-English groups were smaller but not unimportant. A sprinkling of Swiss came with the Germans; there were substantial numbers of Swedes and Finns along the Delaware, and, chiefly in the towns, small groups of Italians and Portuguese Jews. The defeat at Culloden, in 1745, sent many Highland Scots in flight to America. It is clear that even in the colonial era America was something of a melting pot.

The second great factor in shaping a distinct American nationality was the land, and especially the frontier. The early settlers were unbelievably inexperienced and

they had to adjust themselves to the primitive wilderness or die. From the Indians the settlers learned how to plant and fertilize corn, make canoes and snowshoes. By hard experience the pioneer became hunter, farmer and fighter all in one. Within a decade there were men in the New World who had little in common with the old neighbors they had left in England – and their children had still less. Successive generations were subjected to the influence of the frontier and emerged from the experience reshaped as by gigantic, irresistible mould.

But while an American character was developing, down to the eve of the Revolution the colonists thought of themselves primarily as loyal British subjects, secondarily as Virginians, New Yorkers or Rhode Islanders. By 1750 the thirteen colonies had taken firm root and contained almost 1,500,000 people. They ran the whole length of the eastern coast and each of them had characteristics of its own, while they fell into fairly well-defined sections.

Culture. By the latter part of the colonial period, culture was beginning to thrive bravely in favored communities. New England particularly placed great emphasis upon education. Grammar schools and academies flourished. Two colleges, Harvard and Yale, had been established.

In the middle colonies, Maryland alone had a system of public education, and it was ill-organized and weak. New York had had some good town schools, but no general system of instruction. In the South education was largely in private hands. Rich planters there hired private tutors from Great Britain and the Northern colonies, who taught reading, writing, practical mathematics, and Latin and Greek. Wealthy families in New York and in the South often sent their sons to Oxford and Cambridge.

Newspapers, magazines, almanacs, and even books were being published in the colonies. The oldest printing press in America was set up as early as 1639 at Cambridge, and its activity was never interrupted. On the eve of the Revolution, Boston had five newspapers and Philadelphia three. Book dealers became important colonial figures, and a number of libraries were established. Benjamin Franklin achieved a lasting European reputation as writer and scientist. Good artists were at work in the colonies, and the eminent Benjamin West, going to England shortly before the Revolution, succeeded Sir Joshua Reynolds as president of the Royal Academy.

Wealth was accumulating faster and faster; finer houses were being built, luxury in food and dress was increasing. By 1750 all along the seaboard a well-to-do society, acquainted with the best European thought, could be found. In Boston and New York, Philadelphia and Charleston, as much elegance was visible as in any British or

French towns, outside of London and Paris. But at the same time the frontier was steadily being pressed westward, and the first rivulets of immigration were pouring through the passes of the Appalachians into Ohio and Kentucky country. Hardy pioneers of the border, with their long rifles and their keen axes, cared nothing for luxury, fashion or ideas; their mission in life was to tame the wilderness. Between the fashionable planters and merchants on one side, the Indian-slaying frontiersmen on the other, stood the great mass of plain middle-class people who were the typical Americans of 1775. Farmers and planters, mechanics and shopkeepers, they had grown up with no real knowledge of any land but America, and no taste for any but American ways of life. They were loyal subjects of the Crown, admiring England and proud of their British birthrights; but at least subconsciously they felt that America had a destiny of her own.

THE FRENCH WARS

As the British Colonies in America grew strong and expanded, they were certain to come into collision with their neighbors north, west and south, the French and the Spaniards. One of the epic stories of North American history is that of the series of conflicts waged between Latin and Anglo-Saxon, conflicts the more dramatic because they involved not merely peoples but also ideas and cultures. The colonial undertakings of the Spanish, French and English were alike in being unplanned, but they differed sharply in other respects.

The Spanish conquests involved the subjugation of the natives by a small number of soldiers, traders and adventurers intent on a rapid accumulation of wealth. A Spaniard liked to be a ranch owner, a churchman or a soldier, but he did not like to be a merchant or industrialist.

The French came to America only in small numbers and what they looked for was not silver, gold or ranches, but fish and furs. They penetrated a chilly, inhospitable land, with a roving population of Indians, many of them hostile. Establishing a number of weak agricultural settlements, they therefore thrust their posts farther and farther into the wilderness, following the main watercourses – the St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes, Illinois and Mississippi. Steadily, by a line of forts and fur-trading posts, they had marked out a huge empire, stretching from Quebec in the Northeast through Detroit and St. Louis down to New Orleans in the South which got the name of New France. They expected to hold and develop this great territory, pinning the British to the narrow belt east of the Appalachians. France was a stronger nation militarily than Britain and could send over powerful armies. The highly centralized government of

New France was better fitted for conducting war than was the loose association of the British colonies.

The seventy years of conflict reached a climax in 1763 when many important battles took place. By the treaty of peace in 1763 England took all of Canada from France, and Florida from Spain, which had entered the war against the British Empire. North America from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, with New Orleans excepted, became British. The war lessened the old dependence on Great Britain and reduced the respect paid by the colonists to it.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. What were the reasons of the English settlement in America?
2. What was the most important American plant which was well sold in England?
3. What were the positive and negative aspects of life of the early settlers?
4. How did New York get its name?
5. What were the reasons of the French wars?

Vocabulary.

Give your understanding of these words and explain their origin: Pilgrims, puritans, Robert Penn, Pennsylvania, Mayflower, frontier, pioneers, Benjamin West.

THE REVOLUTION AND CONFEDERATION

It is not easy to say when the Revolution began; but it is certain that it was not in 1775. The Revolution and the Union of the colonies were gradually forming from the years 1760 to 1776. Only a minority of the American colonists by July 1776, had been convinced of the necessity of separation from the British Empire. It would, therefore, be more accurate to say that the Revolution prior to 1776 was in the minds of part of the people, and the struggle of 1776-1783 was a struggle to impose it on the rest of the people and to make the British government recognize it.

Little by little the irritation and turbulence increased. The presence of British troops in various cities gave the radical leaders an opportunity to excite the population.

In 1763 Britain and the colonies ended a seven-year war with the French and Indians. Britain thought the colonists should pay their share of the cost of this war, so the British Parliament started passing laws to tax the colonies. They put taxes on legal papers and everyday items such as glass, paint and tea. The taxes would help pay for keeping British soldiers in America who would serve along the borders of the colonies to protect the settlers from Indian attacks.

The colonists did not welcome these tax laws. People would not buy anything British. Perhaps the most excitement was caused by groups called the Sons of Liberty. They destroyed tax collectors' homes and drove some tax people out of the town. In 1770 most of the hated taxes were ended. Parliament and the king felt that collecting the taxes was too much trouble.

In order to keep contact between colonies, leaders started groups called Committees of Correspondence. They kept in touch by writing letters. Many leaders such as Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry were members of these committees.

George III, the king of England, said that there had to be a tax on something to prove that the British had the right to tax. So there was still a small tax on tea. The colonists remained firm – they would not pay *any* tax passed by Parliament. Colonial women refused to buy or serve tea.

British merchants were not selling much tea, so Parliament passed a law that greatly lowered its price. Boatloads of tea were sent to America. Since it was cheaper than ever, the British thought that surely the colonists would buy tea now.

They were wrong: tea was burned, tea was left to rot. Ships loaded with it were not allowed in ports. In Boston the Sons of Liberty, disguised as Indians, went to Boston Harbor and threw more than 300 chests of tea into the water. It happened on December 16, 1773 and this action was called the Boston Tea Party.

Within a few months the British passed what the colonists called the Intolerable Acts, which were meant to punish the people of Boston. The port of Boston was closed. The Committees of Correspondence acted quickly – letters were sent telling what was happening in Boston. Other colonies sent help and supplies. People wondered if their colony would be the next to feel the anger of Great Britain. The colonies agreed to meet together in late summer of 1774.

The first meeting of the group of representatives from the colonies was called the Continental Congress. It was held in Philadelphia on September 5, 1774. Efforts were made to keep peace with Great Britain. Parliament was asked to agree that the colonists had the same rights as citizens who lived in England. The colonists decided to meet again the next spring.

But events were almost out of control already. King George III was too stubborn to give in. He said that the king and Parliament would rule the colonies. The second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia on May 10, 1775 as a frankly rebellious body, organized the troops about Boston into the “American continental army” and appointed George Washington to take command. In June 1775 the battle of Bunker Hill was fought in Boston. The British won the hill but lost over a thousand men.

The Americans learned that they could fight the British successfully, but the colonies were not ready to declare independence.

The Second Continental Congress picked Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. George Washington was well known for being wise and kind. He was raised on a large Virginia plantation. He gained experience as a soldier and became well-known in the French and Indian War. He was elected to both the First and the Second Continental Congresses. Washington did not want war, but he saw no other way. He would prove to be an outstanding leader.

Loyalty to England in the colonies was still very strong as late as 1775. War was a very serious matter, but the continental army had been formed and battles were being fought. England was doing nothing to try to keep peace. Finally in June 1776 a committee was chosen to write a declaration of independence. Thomas Jefferson wrote the draft of the declaration based on the committee's suggestions. On July 4, 1776, after two days of discussion, Congress passed the Declaration of Independence. Church bells rang over Philadelphia to make independence known.

There are four parts in the Declaration of Independence. They are the Preamble or introduction; a Statement of Rights, telling what rights all people should have; a list of wrongs done by King George III, and finally, a Statement of Independence.

The men who drew up and adopted this epoch-making document were not content with a mere declaration of independence. They confessed to "a decent respect to the opinions of mankind", and they were at pains to set forth in detail the causes that impelled them to separation and the philosophy that justified it.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident", wrote Jefferson:

'That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among them these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness'.

The ideas that had for centuries been the property of philosophers were taken out of the realm of philosophy and made law.

The Revolution had given the American people an independent place in the family of nations. It had given them a changed social order, in which heredity, wealth and

privilege counted for less, and human equality for more; in which the standards of culture and manners were temporarily lowered, but those of equality were raised. But the American people still had to show that they possessed a genuine capacity for self-government – for making a success of their republic.

MAKING THE CONSTITUTION

By common agreement the United States has one of the most effective constitutions ever prepared, the constitution which unlike Britain's, is written, but which has expanded flexibly with the nation.

In May 1787 a meeting began in Philadelphia to change the Articles of Confederation. Representatives from all the states except Rhode Island were present. This meeting became known as the Constitutional Convention. Washington was chosen president of the convention.

From the very beginning the delegates of all states agreed that they would not revise the Articles of Confederation, but would write a wholly new constitution. To begin with, they had to reconcile two different powers: the power of local control which was already being exercised by the thirteen semi-independent states and the power of the newly created central government. The principle adopted was that the functions and powers of the national government should be carefully defined, while all other functions and powers should be understood as belonging to the states.

It was understood, that three distinct branches of government should be set up, each equal and co-ordinate with the others: the legislative, executive and judicial powers so adjusted and interlocked as to permit of their harmonious operation, but at the same time so well balanced that no one interest could ever gain control. Congressional enactments did not become law until approved by the President; the President, in turn, had to submit many of his appointments and all of his treaties to the Senate and might be impeached and removed from office by Congress. The judiciary was to hear all cases arising under the laws and the Constitution and, therefore, had a right to interpret the fundamental law. But the judiciary were appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, while they, too, might be impeached by Congress.

The new Constitution included a way to make changes, called amendments. If things did not work out, the Constitution could be amended without being entirely changed. This was to prove helpful very soon. Many states refused to approve the Constitution unless it listed people's rights as well as the rights of the government. They argued that important freedoms must be written down.

James Madison worked hard to explain the Constitution to people and wrote many amendments that would make rights like freedom of the press, speech and worship part of the Constitution. Ten of these amendments were passed by the states. These first ten amendments to the Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights.

NATION GROWS. WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON

April 30, 1789 was Inauguration Day for the young nation's first President. For his inauguration Washington traveled from Mount Vernon to New York city, which was the nation's first capital. He took the oath of office on the Bible and promised to do his best to keep, protect and defend the Constitution. The new government was started with a Constitution, a Congress, a President and little else. The job of President was too big for one person alone, so Congress formed three departments to help Washington. He chose able leaders for each of these departments, which would be called secretaries. Each of these men advised the President, but final decisions were made by George Washington. The group of advisors became known as the Cabinet.

A census taken the year after Washington's inauguration showed that the country had nearly four million people, of whom about three and a half million were whites. This population was almost wholly rural. The great mass of the population lived on farms and plantations or in small villages. Communications were poor and slow, for the roads were wretched, the stagecoaches uncomfortable, the sailing vessels uncertain. Most people lived comparatively isolated lives, with poor schools, few books and rare newspapers. The impression which America made upon European travelers was one of rudeness, discomfort, rough manners and thin culture, along with independence, material well-being and boundless self-confidence.

The main impulse of American energy was westward – ever westward. From the oak clearings of Ohio to the pine glades of Georgia the backwoodman's axe rang out as the drumbeat of advancing hosts. Year by year the Ohio and Mississippi saw more American rafts and flatboats floating downward to New Orleans with grain, salt, meat and potash. Year by year the western towns, such as Cincinnati, Nashville and Lexington grew more important. Indian warfare, malaria, wild beasts, the roving highwaymen and other perils had to be faced; hardship, poverty and disease took a heavy toll. But still ten thousand rivulets of settlement spilled into the wilderness, still the frontier line advanced.

In 1797 Washington retired and went back to the life he loved at Mount Vernon. He did not enjoy it for long time. On December 12, 1799 he was caught in a snow-storm while riding around his farm and became sick. Two days later he died.

The second president became John Adams. He was a true patriot as well as a brave and stubborn man. Near the end of Adam's term as President, the government moved from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. The most important of Adam's deeds was that he took responsibility of the peace with France in 1800.

The third president of the USA was a very remarkable man, Thomas Jefferson. He had been reared in the loose and carelessly intellectual atmosphere of Virginia. His life full of wide contacts with nature, books and men, merely stimulated his intellectual versatility. He acquired a knowledge of half a dozen languages, of mathematics and mechanics, of music and architecture, and of law and government.

When he went abroad as minister to France, he did realize that a strong national government could be of value in foreign relations, but he did not want it to be too strong in many other respects. He feared that a strong government would fetter men. He fought for freedom from Church control, freedom from landed aristocracy, freedom from great inequalities of wealth. He disliked cities, large banking and trading organizations; and though in his later years he admitted that industrialism was necessary to give the country an independent economy, he believed that America would be happiest if it remained chiefly a rural nation.

He was not only author of the Declaration of Independence and one of the Founding Fathers; he was, all his life, an ardent nationalist. Philosophically and culturally Jefferson was American. He was convinced that the New World was superior to the Old, and was determined to keep it that way, even at the cost of separation from the Old. For all his cosmopolitanism, he wanted an America that was culturally as well as politically independent – with its laws, its own literature, its own social institutions.

Jefferson's greatest accomplishment as President was the Louisiana Purchase. At that time Louisiana included just above all the land from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. The Mississippi River was a highway for those Americans who took their goods downriver to the port of New Orleans, which belonged to France. They were afraid that France would not allow them to use the port of New Orleans for trade. This was because Napoleon wanted to start another French empire in America. The Americans wanted to try to buy New Orleans from the French and succeeded in doing that for 15 million dollars. By this act the USA doubled its size.

THE RISE OF NATIONAL UNITY

The British-American War began in 1812. Americans were angry about British conduct on the sea. Britain, always in need of sailors, was stopping American ships and taking sailors. Britain had also passed laws that interfered with American trade.

Many Americans felt that British should be shown once and for all that the USA was free from British control. Rising feelings of national pride in the U.S. were another reason for the war, but the USA was not ready to fight one. The British had the largest navy in the world and the American navy was very small. The American army, which Jeffersonian economy had kept to fewer than three thousand troops, supported by undrilled, undisciplined militia, was in wretched shape to fight.

In 1814 the British army of less than five thousand men landed near Washington and met a slightly larger force, chiefly militia. The un-heroic defenders gave way after losing ten killed and forty wounded and ran for Washington so rapidly that many Britons suffered sunstroke in trying to keep up. British troops fired the Capitol and the White House.

In December 1814 a peace treaty was signed, but none of the problems that had been reasons for the war were settled by the treaty. The peace treaty had been signed in Europe. It took many weeks for the news to get back to the USA, so the biggest battle of the war was fought weeks after the peace treaty had been signed. 2,000 British were killed or wounded at the battle of New Orleans. The Americans lost 13 men and 58 were wounded. The formidable army of frontiersmen under the veteran Indian fighter, Andrew Jackson won this battle, but lives were lost in a needless battle. It made the fiery, imperious Jackson a tremendous national hero.

However, there were positive results from the war. The war gave the people of the USA a new way to look at themselves. They became proud of their ability to fight a great power. Europe now respected the USA more and the USA was free to go its own way. The war of 1812 is often called “the Second War for American Independence”. After the War of 1812 Americans were much more united. New states were added and the young nation was sure of itself. In 1816 James Monroe was elected President. Things went so smoothly that this time is called the era of Good Feelings.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. When did the Revolution begin?
2. What were the reasons of taxation of American settlers by the English king?
3. When was the Declaration of Independence passed by Congress?
4. How does the American Constitution work?
5. What was the first capital of the USA?
6. What were the reasons of founding Washington, D.C.?
7. Why the British-American war broke out and what was the outcome?

Vocabulary.

Give your understanding of these words and explain their origin: Sons of Liberty, Boston Tea Party, battle of Bunker Hill, Declaration of Independence, Mount Vernon, Founding Fathers, Thomas Jefferson, New World, Andrew Jackson.

A NATIONAL CULTURE

The Search of a National Character. It was a fact of immense significance that whereas in the making of most new states – Italy, for example, or Germany – the nation came centuries before the state, in the making of the United States the state came before the nation. That is, the United States crystallized politically and administratively before it had acquired most of the traditional ingredients of nationalism. And much of American cultural enterprise has been addressed, consciously or unconsciously, to the task of providing those ingredients – a common history, common songs, legends, heroes, a common literature and art.

From the first, Americans recognized the desirability of an “American” literature and culture. There was to be an American language, and Noah Webster set himself resolutely to champion American speech and prove its superiority to British speech. There was an American literature, an American education, and the generation of Jefferson and Webster worked tirelessly to make education at once secular and universal.

Actually little came of this cultural self-consciousness in the first generation after the revolution. The “American” language proved to be very much like the English, and in time the English came to more and more like the American. The many promising journals which were to promote American literature modeled themselves on the great British quarterlies. American painters like Benjamin West and John Singleton Copley not only studied abroad but lived abroad. It was in the areas of politics and law that the Americans made the most distinctive contributions.

The Birth of an American Literature. Not until after the War of 1812 did Americans really begin to achieve a native culture. That war encouraged American self-confidence, and turned American interests westward to the vast new areas which came to seem authentically American. Washington Irving, though he wrote very much in the style of contemporary English essayists, did at least address himself to native themes. His Knickerbocker’s *History of New York* has some claim to be considered the beginning of American literary humor.

James Fenimore Cooper, quite deliberately cultivated American themes as a counter to European romantic novels. It was Cooper who really discovered the literary possibilities of the Indian and frontiersman and who, in his Leatherstocking series, provided a record of the clash of red and white civilizations that caught the imagination of the whole world. A writer of wide-ranging talent, Cooper wrote novels about American society in urban and rural New York that have some claim to be regarded as the first examples of the sociological novel in America.

The first great flowering of American literature, however, came in New England. We can date that flowering from the appearance of Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Nature* in 1836, and its decline from the death of Nathaniel Hawthorne in 1864. Within a few years after the appearance of his first essays, Emerson emerged as a spokesman for the New England, and perhaps the American, mind. Idealistic, optimistic and original, Emerson spoke with a clarity and beauty that reached the mind and fired the imagination of the young of every generation. His poetry showed more originality and perhaps more philosophical depth than anything written in America before *Leaves of Grass*.

Emerson was, as one contemporary put it, the cow from which all the others drew their milk. One of those who depended on Emerson was Henry David Thoreau. But Thoreau had a mind as independent as Emerson's, and in many ways more original. His *Walden, or Life in the Woods*, read eagerly by each new generation of young men and women, bids fair to outlive anything that Emerson himself wrote, and his essay *Civil Disobedience*, inspired such world figures as Leo Tolstoy and Mahatma Gandhi.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, also an inhabitant of New England, was a novelist of exquisite sensibility. He found in the history of New England material for stories which, in his rich imagination, took on a universal character: *The Scarlet Letter*, *The House of Seven Gables*, etc.

Already in the 1850's, however, the center of literary gravity was shifting to New York. Herman Melville had published no less than five novels before 1850, but it was with *Moby Dick* (1851) that he inaugurated what may be considered a distinctively American literature, for *Moby Dick* owed less, perhaps, to the traditional English novel than any, that had been written in America up to that time. This great allegorical story of the pursuit of the white whale contained within its pages typical American characters but addressed itself to moral questions that were universal. A few years later came another authentically American voice. In 1855 Walt Whitman published the first of many editions of *Leaves of Grass*. Unorthodox both in style and in subject matter, these poems were regarded as both undisciplined and shocking. They

were in fact most skillfully contrived and revealed a poetic talent richer than that of any American poet of the twentieth century. American poetry – indeed modern poetry – never quite recovered from the impact of *Leaves of Grass*.

The Arts. In art and architecture, too, the new nation tried to achieve something distinctly national, but without great success. Painting and sculpture remained derivative until well after the Civil War. The first generation of American artists was under a strong influence of English and Italian traditions. The youthful Benjamin West had studied in Italy and settled in London; his studio was the magnet for most of the younger painters of the new republic – Trumbull, Peale, Copley and Stuart among them.

More nearly native were the paintings of American birds by the neglected genius John James Audubon, the wonderfully authentic Indian portraits by George Catlin and the genre paintings of George Bingham and William Sidney Mount.

Architecture, too, was derivative, though a new environment required, and new materials made possible, interesting variations on European styles. Three foreign-born architects – William Thornton, Stephen Hallet, and Benjamin Latrobe – were responsible for the national Capitol and the White House, based of course on Roman models. With support of Thomas Jefferson, Latrobe was largely responsible for launching the “Greek Revival” which flourished throughout the country until well into the second quarter of the century and gave a distinctive character to the domestic architecture of the South.

JACKSONIAN DEMOCRACY

The year 1824 found five candidates for the presidency, but beyond question the most popular aspirant was Andrew Jackson. Western admirers of the hero of New Orleans regarded him as the greatest living soldier. In the East many conservative men distrusted him.

Jackson was one of the few Presidents whose heart and soul were completely with the plain people. He sympathized with and believed in them partly because he had always been one of them. A childhood sense of inferiority may help to explain his explosive temper, his keen sensitiveness and his lifelong sympathy with the oppressed. As a mere lad, he fought in the Revolution, which cost the lives of two brothers, and which instilled in him a lasting distrust of the British.

Jackson had the western faith that the common man is capable of uncommon achievement. Westerners believed that a man who could command a militia company, run a plantation was fitted for almost any office.

Two principle elements could be distinguished in the heterogeneous Democratic Party supporting Jackson. It was composed mainly of the agrarian voters of the nation, the pioneers, farmers, small planters and country shopkeepers.

The great new democratic wave which surged forward under Jackson involved masses of population which Jeffersonian democracy had not touched. In 1824 the aggregate vote cast in the presidential election was only 356,000; in 1836 it rose to 1,500,000; and in 1840 the vote was 2,400,000 – seven times as much as only sixteen years earlier. While part of this increase resulted from the growth of population, most of it could be traced to the mounting interest in politics.

Life was going more democratic in many ways. A cheap press was arising. Imitating the penny papers of London, Benjamin Day in 1833 launched the New York Sun at popular prices, while two years later James Gordon Bennett achieved a more spectacular success by founding the sensational New York Herald. In education a tremendous battle was being fought for free public schools, nonsectarian, publicly controlled and tax supported.

Jackson believed in people who loved him. He felt that common people could run the government. This idea has come to be called Jacksonian democracy. He gave them their first chance to really have a part in government.

Not everyone benefited while Jackson was President. Women, black and Native Americans were not able to take part in government. In fact, in some cases, the government worked against them.

The Cherokee nation serves as an example of what happened to many Native American tribes in Jackson's times. The Cherokees had a great deal of land in Georgia and Alabama. They were farmers. They had a written language and a weekly newspaper. Their government was democratic. But white settlers wanted their land. They were told to go to Oklahoma. With soldiers watching them, they had little choice but to obey. This journey lasted several months. Disease, hunger and cold brought death to many. Over 4,000 Cherokees were buried along the Trail of Tears which stretched from Georgia to Oklahoma.

Jackson said that their removal was necessary. Without it, he said, the Cherokees all would have been killed by white settlers looking for more land. Jackson did a great deal to make people feel a part of government. But he was not ready to give

equality to Native Americans. A slave holder, all his life Jackson did not believe in equality for blacks either.

Yet in Jackson's time, some people were starting to oppose slavery. These people were called abolitionists.

THE WEST AND DEMOCRACY

One of the forces which did most to shape American life from the beginning was the *frontier*, which may be defined as the border area whose sparse population was engaged chiefly in clearing and breaking land and building homes. Moving across the continent as population advanced from the Atlantic to the edge of the Great Plains, it profoundly affected the American character. It was more than a line – it was a social process. It encouraged individual initiative, political and economic democracy; it roughened manners; it bred a spirit of local self-determination coupled with respect for national authority.

When we think of the frontier we think of the west, but the Atlantic coastal strip was the first frontier and long contained frontier areas.

But if the frontier fostered virtues, it also bred vices. The frontier folk were in general unruly, impatient of discipline, and too aggressively self-confident. Many of the military defeats of the War of 1812 were attributable to a frontier dislike of training and discipline. Frontier-trained Americans were inclined to do everything with hurried crudity. So many tasks needed performing that careful finish seemed a waste of time. Americans hurried up rough frame houses instead of durable stone and brick structures, they built rough roads, they made makeshift bridges, they gutted rather than cultivated the soil. Railroad collisions and steamboat explosions were frequent. Naturally, little attention was paid to manners or culture; the frontier had no leisure for them. And worst of all, frontier life was marked by a deplorable amount of outright criminality. Some of the scum of society swirled out to the border. Men developed ungovernable tempers and had a taste for setting their quarrels with fists or pistols. Officers of justice had to possess iron nerve and a quick trigger finger.

The undisciplined character of the frontiersmen had especially tragic consequences in their dealings with the Indians. They constantly encroached on Indian lands in defiance of treaty; they destroyed the game on which the Indians depended for food and clothing; and many were ready to slay any redskin on sight. When the Indians tried to defend themselves, war ensued. Of course, the savages were often aggressors, but the inexorable westward thrust of the whites was the principal cause of the many

conflicts. The most bloodcurdling wars were with the Indians in the South, where Andrew Jackson won a bloody victory.

The Oregon Trail. The first explorers and fur traders who journeyed from the Missouri River to the Columbia vaguely traced a route which in time became definite as the Oregon Trail and which by the middle forties was a great highway. Some two thousand miles in length, it abounded in dangers and difficulties. The first emigrants to set out for the Pacific numbering about eighty men, women, and children, successfully found their way through the wild country to Oregon in 1841. This was the advance guard of an astonishing movement. In 1843 occurred the "Great Emigration", when not fewer than two hundred families, comprising a thousand people, crossed the plains and mountains, driving hundreds of cattle with them, and reached their goal. At two miles an hour the ox-caravans could make twenty-five miles on good days; on bad days but five or ten. In 1845 the human rivulet following the Oregon Trail rose to a broad stream. More than three thousand people came into the Willamette Valley that year.

It was an epic migration, this Oregon movement. "Catch up, catch up!" would ring out the cry at dawn; and the long lines of covered wagons, marshaled by chosen leaders, would be got into motion. At nightfall they camped in a circle, the wagons, baggage, and men on the outside, the women, children, and animals within. Sentries were carefully posted. Food was cooked, clothes were washed, on the way. Courtships were carried on, children were born, the feeble died and were buried in unmarked graves. When worn oxen and mules could no longer drag the heavy wagons, dearly prized possessions had to be left by the trail. This mass movement made Oregon an American community, doing as much as diplomacy to secure it to the United States in 1846.

The Annexation of Texas. The annexation of Texas, and the conquest of California and the Southwest from feeble Mexico, finally rounded out the American domain in the West. Within a few years in the 1840's the United States extended its boundaries over some of the richest and most scenic regions of the continent.

Texas, at first a part of the Mexican Republic, was a land as large as Germany with but a few ranchers and hunters. It attracted many Americans, because free lands were easily accessible to the Southern States. The Mexican government was inefficient, corrupt, and tyrannical. In 1835 the American settlers rose in revolt and after a number of battles won their independence. Once established, the Texan Republic flourished and attracted many fresh American settlers. For a time the United States

refused to consider any proposal for annexing the country. But for a number of reasons many Americans gradually changed their minds. For one, they thought it a duty to expand over the unpeopled and undeveloped West. For another, they felt that the Texans were people whose natural place was under the American flag. For a third reason, they feared that Great Britain might intervene in Texas and try to establish a protectorate. And finally, pocket motives were at work. Northerners wished to sell farm products and manufactured goods in Texas; ship owners saw that their vessels could make profitable voyages to Galveston; Yankee mill owners wished to have cheap Texas cotton to spin.

In the national election of 1844 a majority of the voters showed, that they were ready to take the little republic into the Union, and early the next year it was annexed.

The Mexican War and the Acquisition of California and New Mexico. Meanwhile many Americans were equally intent upon gaining control of California by the same peaceful means. They thought this possible because of its peculiar position. In 1845 California had a population of eleven or twelve thousand people, clinging tightly to the coast. They had no money, no army, no political experience. They had more Spanish blood than the Mexican masses and regarded themselves as physically and intellectually superior and they were only nominally dependent upon Mexico. Year by year the American element in California was growing in numbers and aggressiveness. American ships had long traded on the coast, while emigrants who wished to settle in the golden climate and make money from cattle and wheat had begun crossing the mountains in the 1830's. By 1846 California had twelve hundred foreign residents, most of them Americans. No wonder that some men believed California would drop like a ripe pear into the outstretched hand of the United States – that no force would be needed.

Perhaps it would have done, so had not the Mexican War broken out in the summer of 1846. The remote cause of this conflict was the increasing distrust between the two nations, while its immediate cause was a dispute over the boundary of Texas. The United States found it a short and brilliant conflict. When peace was made, in February, 1848, the United States obtained not only California, but also the huge area between it and Texas called New Mexico, which included the present Nevada and Utah.

It also gained a treasure house, for even as the treaty of peace was ratified gold was discovered in the California hills. At once a host of fortune hunters poured forth, some by sea and some by overland trail. The mountains filled with roaring camps:

San Francisco sprang overnight into a lusty little metropolis, full of vice, luxury, and energy; and California was converted in a twinkling from a sleepy, romantic community of Spanish-American ranchers into a hustling and populous commonwealth of Anglo-Saxons. These “days of old, and the days of gold, and the days of 49” were among the most colorful in all American history. So fast did California grow that in 1850 it was added to the Union as a state.

Nation Changes. Americans had been heading west even before the War for Independence. The first trips were made on foot. Many roads, canals, steamboats and railroads were built in the early 1800s, and better transportation changed the U.S.

The early roads were nothing like the modern, hard surfaced roads. They were covered with stone and gravel. In spring they turned to mud. Also they cost a lot to build and use. While roads were a great help, people soon demanded cheaper forms of transportation to the West. A great time of canal building began in 1825. Canals were dug to join major rivers and lakes. They made transportation of people and goods easier and cheaper. Perhaps the greatest of the early canal was the Erie Canal. The Erie Canal connected Buffalo and Lake Erie with Albany on the Hudson River. Goods were then shipped downriver to New York City. Cities grew up around the Canal. But most important, the cost of shipping fell. Trade between east and west prospered, and more people headed west.

The U.S. was changing in the early 1800s. This change started in 1789 when young Samuel Slater arrived from England. Slater came with secret knowledge about England’s cloth-making. Information about the machines, used to make cloth, was not supposed to leave England. England wanted to keep textile business for itself, but Slater built machines and set up the first American textile factory in Rhode Island. He did this all from memorized plans. Soon other factories were built. The rapid building of many factories became known as the Industrial Revolution.

The Industrial Revolution and changes in transportation aided each other. The better transportation became, the more goods were shipped. The easier and cheaper it was to buy these goods, the more people wanted factory products.

New inventions brought great changes. An outstanding invention was made in 1844. Samuel Morse sent the first telegraph message from Baltimore, Maryland, to Washington, D.C. He used a code to send his message by wire. Now Americans would be drawn closer together not only by better transportation but also by rapid communication. The USA was an exciting place to be. There were new jobs, new land and new opportunities because of the Industrial Revolution and changes in

transportation. Many people in other parts of the world wanted a new chance in life. Beginning in the 1830s, immigrants came to the U.S. by the thousands.

NATION DIVIDES AND REUNITES

In the early 1800s differences arose among three sections of the U.S.: the Northeast, Southeast and West. These three sections had developed in different ways. In all three, farming was the chief means of making a living. But in the Northeast, farms were smaller, factories and trade were important, and those in business were the leading citizens. In the Southeast farms were larger. Cotton, tobacco and sugar were the main crops. The leading citizens were the great planters.

The sections disagreed on what was best for the country, but for a long time they found ways to settle their arguments.

The most troublesome issue among the sections was slavery. Originally all 13 American colonies had slavery. After the War for Independence, slavery slowly came to an end in the Northern states where slave labor, as part of the work force was not important. These became known as free states. Slavery was needed in the south, where slaves were a main part of the work force. They were one third of the population. Slaves were owned for life by their masters. They were forced to work without pay, receiving only food, clothing and housing.

In 1831, William Lloyd Garrison, editor of new Boston newspaper, *The Liberator*, called for ending, or abolishing, slavery at once. People who supported this idea called themselves *abolitionists*. Abolitionists held large meetings to win support for their cause. They sent papers to the South saying that slavery was evil. They asked Congress to do away with slavery, without payment to owners.

Blacks were free if their parents were free, or if their masters set them free. Sometimes relatives and friends bought their freedom. In 1860 about eight to ten per cent of blacks living in the USA were free.

Slavery was ended by a man who didn't like slavery but who opposed the abolitionists, Abraham Lincoln. In 1861 Lincoln became the president of the USA. In the election Lincoln didn't win in a single slave state. This showed how clearly the country was divided. The Southerners had said that if Lincoln won they would leave the Union. Now that Lincoln was elected, they would act on that threat.

South Carolina left the Union the month after Lincoln's election. By February 1861, six more states had seceded. At a meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, they formed the Confederate States of America and chose Jefferson Davis of Mississippi as their president.

War began on April 12, 1861. The Confederates attacked Fort Sumter at Charleston, South Carolina. Northerners rushed to fight for the Union. Southerners were surprised that Northerners cared enough about keeping the nation together to fight to do so. After Sumter, four more slave states joined the confederacy; the other four stayed in the Union.

The Union had far more states, people, money, factories, resources, railroads and ships. When the war began, Southern generals were in charge of five of nation's six military districts. Also, the Confederacy's 3,500,000 slaves did so much of the work that more of the 5,500,000 whites could fight. The Union had to beat Confederate armies and take over the Confederate states to force them back into the USA. Confederates wanted only to depart from the Union in peace. They had only to keep the war going until the Union side grew tired of it and stopped fighting, leaving them and their slaves alone. Also, Confederates had an easier time because they were fighting on their own familiar land, while Union troops had to fight on Southern soil.

Robert E. Lee ranked with Lincoln as one of the greatest men of his day. Lee was born into one of America's most famous families. His father served with General George Washington and later became governor of Virginia. Other relatives were congressmen, governors, and signers of the Declaration of Independence. Robert E. Lee graduated from West Point. He served in the Mexican War, and was a top Union officer when the war began. Lee disliked slavery. He had freed the new slaves he inherited. Lincoln asked him to be field commander of all the Union armies, but he said he could not. Lee became General-in-Chief of all the Confederate armies two months before the war ended.

The general who led the Union forces to victory was Ulysses S. Grant, who became one of the best generals in the West.

The Confederates won the first big battle of the war. This was at Bull Run in northern Virginia in July `1861.

General Robert Lee's greatest victory against the Union forces came in May 1863. The Union general had 130,000 men to Lee's 60,000. Lee's victory was amazing. It gave the Southern troops and their leaders new confidence.

Blacks tried to join the Union army. President Lincoln said that the war was "to save the Union", not to end slavery. After a year he changed his mind. "Things had gone on from bad to worse, until I felt that we must change our tactics, or lose the game. I now determined the adoption of the Emancipation Policy".

The President secretly wrote a proclamation, an order, that would emancipate, set free, the slaves and let them join the Union army. He believed that black soldiers

would help win the war. His Cabinet asked him to wait for a victory before announcing the new policy so that it would not look as if the government needed blacks to save the Union.

Lincoln waited three months until a Union army won an important victory. It was in September 1862. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, declared the slaves in all Confederate areas free forever. The Civil War ended four years after it began. The USA was one nation again. Slavery was about to be ended throughout the land.

One of the most terrible battles of the American Civil War was fought in July, 1863 at Gettysburg. In November of that year a portion of the battlefield was dedicated as a final resting-place for those men of both armies who died there. The chief speech on that occasion was given by Edward Everett, a celebrated orator. Lincoln was asked to "make a few remarks". Everett's speech lasted two hours, Lincoln's for two minutes; it was over almost before the crowd realized that it had begun. But the Gettysburg speech is now one of the world's immortal pieces of literature. Here is a fragment of his speech generally called The Gettysburg Address:

"The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus so far nobly advanced".

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth".

Less than a week after the war ended, Lincoln was dead. He was shot by John Booth, an actor, who was angry over the South's defeat. When Lincoln died Vice-President Andrew Johnson became President. President Lincoln's leadership was greatly needed during *Reconstruction*. This is the name given to dozen years after the Civil War, 1865 to 1877.

Four years of fighting had left much of the South's railroads, factories and bridges torn up. Several cities, such as Atlanta, Georgia, and Columbia, South Carolina, had been burned. Many people had been driven from their homes. Some areas had very little food. Others with more than enough had no way to ship food to places in need.

From 1865 to 1870, three constitutional amendments changed life for blacks. The 13th Amendment, ratified late in 1865, ended all slavery everywhere in the USA. The 14th Amendment made black citizens of the USA equal in rights and status to any other citizen. The 15th Amendment gave blacks everywhere in the USA the right to vote.

New state governments had been set up during Reconstruction. Many Southerners could not see any good in the actions of these Reconstruction state governments. They felt that they had not chosen these governments. The federal government in Washington was forcing Reconstruction on them.

Secret societies such as the Ku Klux Klan were formed. The Klan started in Tennessee in 1866. Members wore hoods. The Klan was against everyone and everything connected with Reconstruction. They beat and killed blacks. They burned schools and churches. They frightened people to try to keep them from voting or holding office. The Klan grew more violent as the Reconstruction governments grew stronger.

The Klan officially broke up in 1871. Its actions drew so much attention that federal laws were passed. Federal offices began taking steps against it.

The nation was reunited. The North and South stopped arguing in the 1890s over rights for blacks. The Civil War, 1861-1865, had made clear that one part of the country could not pull out and form another country. The 1890s saw an end to much of the bitterness left by that war. The USA was firmly one nation indivisible.

THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN AMERICA

The Civil War worked a revolution in American society and economy, North as well as South. Although the roots of modern America go deep into the prewar years, we can date its actual emergence from the war itself. That conflict gave an immense stimulus to industry, speeded up the exploitation of natural resources, the development of large-scale manufacturing, the rise of investment banking, the extension of foreign commerce, and brought to the fore a new generation of “captains of industry” and “masters of capital”. Americans probably patented more numerous and more ingenious inventions than any other people. Between 1860 and 1900 no fewer than 676,000 patents were granted by the United States Patent Office; since that time the number has reached almost astronomical figures. Important inventions dated back to the end of the eighteenth or the early years of the nineteenth century – Eli Whitney’s cotton gin, Robert Fulton’s steamboat. Elias Howe’s sewing machine, Charles Good-year’s vulcanized rubber, the harvester invented by Cyrus McCormick. But the large-

scale production of new appliances awaited the development of the steel industry and the application of electricity to industry.

A brief enumeration of the most spectacular of the new inventions suggests their role in the making of modern America. Before the Mexican War, Samuel F.B.Morse, who had turned from painting to science, had worked out the principles of electrical telegraphy and persuaded Congress to subsidize the stringing of wires from Washington to Baltimore; in 1856 the Western Union Company was organized to exploit the invention, and soon it and other companies were netting the continent with their poles and wires.

In 1876 a Scottish immigrant, Alexander Graham Bell, exhibited a telephone instrument, and within a few years a phone box was in every business office, and the streets of the great cities were all but darkened with overhead wires.

Improvements in transportation kept pace with the expansion of the nation. The introduction of the Pullman sleeping car made it more comfortable. Throughout the early eighties Americans were experimenting with electrical railways, and before the end of the decade perhaps a score of cities – among them Baltimore, Boston, and Richmond – had streetcars operated from overhead trolleys. The invention of the gasoline motorcar came in the nineties.

Electricity, so important to industry, transportation, and communication, intimately affected the social life of the nation. In 1878 a young Ohio engineer, Charles Brush, patented an arc lamp which was promptly adopted by new enterprising cities for street lighting. More practical was the incandescent lamp which Thomas A. Edison had ready in time to illuminate his home when Garfield was elected President. The commercial possibilities of electric lighting were enormous. In 1882 Edison constructed a generating and distributing station in New York. In the nineties he experimented with a motion-picture machine; a decade later the commercial history of the movies began, and this powerful agency was launched upon a career of conquest which was to carry American speech, manners, and morals to the uttermost corners of the globe. Radio broadcasting, equally important in its social implication, came into effective use just after the First War; two decades later every home had its radio set. The telephone, the electric lamp, the movies, the radio added immeasurably to the pleasure and scope of life and for better or worse did much to break down isolation and standardize social habits.

Natural resources, capital, workers and inventions were the base of the Industrial Revolution in the U.S. Hardworking business people put them all together to form the giant businesses.

Three men stand out more than any others: Andrew Carnegie in steel; John D. Rockefeller in oil; John P. Morgan in banking.

Carnegie was born in Scotland in 1835. His family came to the U.S. when he was a boy. In Scotland they had been very poor. They hoped to find a better life in the USA. Carnegie went to work full time even though he was only twelve. During the Civil War he put money into the iron ore business. After the war he became interested in the steel industry. It was here that he made his great fortune.

Carnegie built very up-to-date steel mills. He hired skilled workers. His mills turned out large numbers of steel rails for the growing railroads. Carnegie wanted as little competition as possible. He began to drive other steel mill owners out of business. By 1892, Carnegie ruled a giant steel empire. Less than ten years later, he decided he had had enough of big business and sold his company to J.P. Morgan. Morgan used the Carnegie Company to put together an even larger steel company. This was the United States Steel Corporation.

Carnegie felt that his money should be used for the good of the people. He spent the rest of his life giving away much of his fortune.

John D. Rockefeller was born in western New York but he grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. He worked as a clerk and bookkeeper. He was noted for his careful handling of money. After oil was discovered in Pennsylvania, in 1859, Rockefeller entered the oil industry. He joined an inventor who found a better way to refine oil. Rockefeller formed Standard Oil Company in 1867.

Under Rockefeller's leadership, Standard Oil drove out just above all competing firms. By 1877 Rockefeller controlled 95 per cent of all the oil refineries in the USA. This was almost a complete monopoly of the entire oil business in the country. In 1911 the Supreme Court ordered Standard Oil broken up into different competing companies. Many of today's oil companies were once part of Standard Oil, which by itself is still the nation's leading company. It is also one of the largest of all corporations in the world.

In 1911 Rockefeller, who lived to be nearly 98, turned over the business to his son. He devoted much of his billion-dollar fortune to charity.

J.P. Morgan was born into a wealthy family in Connecticut. His father was an American who founded a banking house in London. The younger Morgan was educated in Boston, Switzerland, and Germany. After working in his father's bank in London he entered banking and railroad business in the USA.

Morgan's firm became one of the leading banking houses in the world. He controlled vast amounts of money. He believed in putting businesses together into larger,

more efficient units. He organized many great corporations, such as United States Steel, International Harvester and the Southern Railroad.

Many Americans did not agree with Morgan about combining businesses into giant corporations. They felt that the companies competing with each other would offer lower prices, better quality and better service.

The state and federal governments tried to control business combinations that lessened competition. Congress set up the Interstate Commerce Commission to regulate railroads. This was the first attempt to control American business.

The Melting Pot. Most Americans have never properly appreciated the role of immigration in their history. They think of immigration as a “problem”, and usually as one that has come to the fore only in the last half century or so.

Yet all Americans, except Indians, are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants. Immigrants came at different times, in different circumstances, from different parts of the globe. But all of them went through the same experience of being uprooted from their old homes and transplanted to a new one. All brought their strength, culture, and faith. All of them are ingredients in the giant melting pot of America.

By 1880 there were large communities in which most of the adults had been born in Europe. Many of the new arrivals were following friends and relatives who had come already; many had heard news of possibilities of employment. There were some compact national groups, particularly of Germans, so that some whole communities were composed mainly of people recently arrived from Germany. It might have been possible for large areas to become homes for compact ethnic groups maintaining the German language and German customs, and so building up new little Germanies on the American continent, but in practice this never happened. Groups of Germans did keep their own national identity and they did live together, but they were always assimilated into the general pattern of American culture.

More than three-quarters of a million people crossed as settlers in 1882 and the flow continued, with some big fluctuations. New sources suddenly developed, as new trickles of people from northern, then eastern and southern Europe began to grow. One-tenth of the whole population of Sweden and Norway left for America in only ten years, 1881-90. Their numbers were soon far surpassed by those from Italy, Russia, Hungary and Slav-speaking Eastern Europe, including many Jews escaping from sporadic persecution.

Twelve million immigrants came in 1900-14, and during the final years before the First World War, three-quarters of the new arrivals came from Eastern Europe

and Italy. They were on the whole regarded as inferiors, and they were conscious of having started late in the race for wealth and prestige in the society they had come to join. It was a great advantage at this time to be a white Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP), and a disadvantage to be a Catholic or a Jew, or from Italy or Eastern Europe. These new groups had to practice a good deal of self-help and community development on their own for the sake of their own protection. Being different in so many obvious ways from the established Americans, they found it hard to get themselves accepted.

After the First World War, immigration from Europe was on a much smaller scale. In 1921 new rules restricted the number of immigrants allowed from each country – and favored northern Europeans. They allowed less than 6,000 people a year from Italy, but ten times as many from Britain – though the quotas were amended after 1929. But soon the great depression, then the Second World War, played their part in restricting the flow further still, and since then the small numbers coming from Europe have been very different from the earlier generations. Professors, engineers, scientists and doctors have come, particularly from Britain, to better conditions of work and much higher pay than they would find in Europe. Intellectuals and specialists of every kind have brought their special skills to reinforce American industry, commerce, education, research, arts and entertainment. Many of these people have received their education and training at the expense of the taxpayers of their own home countries.

Immigration from Europe has declined even more since the 1850s, though the flow of doctors, nurses and scientists from Britain causes anxiety in that country about what is called ‘the brain drain’. Fewer European settlers came in the fifteen years from 1970 to 1985 than in the one year of 1907. One reason for the change is the increasing prosperity of Western Europe, another one -- the difficulty of leaving Eastern Europe. But there are plenty of people from Europe living temporarily in the United States, with permits to work but not to stay indefinitely. There is not only a ‘brain drain’ to America, but also a continuous flow both ways across the Atlantic as professors and managers make their careers partly on one side, partly on the other, bringing America and Europe closer to each other. Meanwhile, the main sources of immigration have been increasingly outside Europe, mainly Central America and the Caribbean but also Asia, and to a lesser extent, Africa.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. What cultural achievements happened in the country in the 19th century?
2. What were the results of the Mexican War?

3. How was California acquired?
4. What revolutionary changes happened in industry in 1800s?
5. Do you see any positive aspects in Jacksonian democracy?

Discussion. Give your understanding and comments about very important events of American history.

1. How do you understand the role of the *frontier* in American history?
2. What were the reasons, the most important events and the results of the Civil War?
3. What was the role of the “captains of industry” and “masters of capital” by 1900s?

Give your understanding of these words and expressions and explain their origin: Jacksonian democracy, Oregon Trail, Annexation of Texas, the Mexican War, California, Industrial Revolution, Samuel Morse, abolitionists, Abraham Lincoln, the Gettysburg Address, Reconstruction, North, South, Ku Klux Klan, Robert Fulton, Alexander Bell, Pullman sleeping car, Thomas Edison, a melting pot.

AMERICA COMES OF AGE

The years from roughly 1890 to the First World War constitute a watershed in American history. On the one side lies an America predominantly rural and agricultural, traditionally isolationist, still rooted in eighteenth century optimism. On the other lies an America in world affairs, deeply troubled with problems that had long seemed to be the lot of the Old World, and passing through convulsive changes in economy, society, and culture.

Literature. We can date an American literature, with some confidence, from Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass* of 1855, and with ever greater confidence from Mark Twain’s *Innocents Abroad* of 1869. The first to understand the character of the common man, to give expression to an authentic American humor, Mark Twain was indisputably American. Much of his writing was autobiographical. *Life on the Mississippi* was an account of his experiences as a pilot learning the great river and the country that it traversed, and the society that lived on its boats or along its banks. In 1884 came the greatest of his achievements, *Huckleberry Finn*; all modern literature comes from *Huckleberry Finn*, said Ernest Hemingway, and the aphorism is more nearly true than most. It was, with the possible exception of *Moby Dick*, the first major novel so unmistakably American that it could not have been written elsewhere.

The second of the major novelists who emerged during the seventies and reached maturity in these transition years was Henry James. Where Mark Twain wrote of the life of the great river, of the mining camps and rundown plantations, Henry James took for his theme the sophisticated interrelationships of American and European society. The best of his novels – *The Portrait of a Lady*, *The American*, *The Ambassadors* – explore the themes of clashing standards of manners and morals; very often they are cast into a pattern of New World innocence and Old World corruption. Of all American novelists between Hawthorne and Faulkner, James was most completely preoccupied with moral problems.

Mark Twain and James came to maturity before the full impact of the Darwinian philosophy made itself felt. It was the next generation that responded almost convulsively to that philosophy, or, perhaps, to those European literary currents of naturalism and Freudianism which in turn owed so much to that philosophy. That response could be read in the naturalistic novels of Jack London, Frank Norris, and Stephen Crane. It was perhaps Theodore Dreiser who responded most sensitively to these new currents of thought. In a long series of great sprawling novels – *Sister Carrie*, *The Titan*, *The Financier*, *An American Tragedy* – Dreiser interwove the themes of the survival of the fittest, the turbulent life of the great city, and the fierce struggles of the robber barons of business and finance.

The Arts. A distinctively American architecture began with Frank Lloyd Wright, who had early taken to heart the admonition that form should follow function, and who thought of buildings not as separate architectural entities but as parts of an organic whole which included the land, the community and the society. In a very real way the houses of colonial New England and some of the Southern plantations had been functional, but Wright was the first architect to make functionalism the authoritative principle for public as well as for domestic building. As early as 1906 he built the Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois, the first of those churches which did so much to revolutionize ecclesiastical architecture in America. Thereafter he turned his genius to such structures as prairie houses, schools, office buildings, and factories, among them the famous Larkin Building in Buffalo. The most original of all American architects, Wright was, too, the most philosophical, the one most deeply and continually concerned with the social implications of his craft.

American painting, too, long remained dependent on French and Italian inspiration, but gradually in the post-war years a group of painters emerged whose style was authentically American. The Civil War produced the first and the most distinguished

of these: Winslow Homer. Homer had been sent to the front to do sketches of camp life and battles, and he did these with a skill which still stirs our imagination. After the war he turned to genre painting, and in such pictures as *Morning Bell* and *The Carnival*, he lifted that art to its highest levels. In the eighties he took up residence on the Maine coast, and there painted the sea and the wilderness; *Eight Bells*, *Gulf Stream*, had a vigor and an originality which were unknown in American painting.

Homer's great contemporary Thomas Eakins was fascinated by character and like the Dutch painters of the seventeenth century, he found nothing foreign to his brush: young men swimming or rowing, surgeons operating, professors lecturing, singers on the concert stage, scientists in their laboratory, prizefighters in the ring.

At the turn of the century came a school of realists: Robert Henri, John Sloan, George Luks, and George Bellows. They were, for the most part, disciples of Eakins; they painted life where they found it – girls drying their hair on the roof of a tenement, the Staten Island ferry. Known derisively – and then affectionately – as the Ash-Can School, they were the American equivalents of Toulouse-Lautrec and Edward Munch.

The most distinguished of American painters preferred to live and work abroad. James McNeill Whistler had led the way even before the Civil War; in the seventies he settled in London and there painted those wonderful *Nocturnes* and *Symphonies* that brought him world fame. Another expatriate was John Singer Sargent, the most dazzling technician and the most fashionable portrait painter of his generation; to be painted by Sargent became the equivalent of wearing a decoration! A third expatriate, the wealthy Mary Cassatt of Philadelphia, was the only American to be accepted by the Impressionists as one of them. A disciple of Degas, friend and patron of Manet and others, she is remembered for her exquisite paintings of children, her early experiments with Japanese techniques, and for her imaginative patronage of the Impressionists at a time when they were generally looked upon with indifference.

Education. The Founding Fathers assumed that the democratic experiment could not possibly succeed without an enlightened electorate. From the first, therefore, education became something of an American religion and remained that to our own day. The Civil War retarded education in the South, but greatly stimulated it in other parts of the country. The Reconstruction years saw the creation of the first real universities in America: Harvard, made over from a college to a university by Charles W. Eliot, in 1869; Cornell University, founded by Ezra Cornell in 1868; and the Johns Hopkins University, an entirely new foundation dedicated to graduate and professional work,

opened in Baltimore in 1876. Thereafter came other new foundations such as the University of Chicago, founded by John D. Rockefeller in 1892.

Three developments in higher education are of lasting interest. First was the rapid growth of technological and professional education to meet the urgent demands of a complex industrial and urban society – new schools of technology, engineering, architecture, law, and medicine. Second was the provision for graduate study such as had long existed in France and Germany: the reformed Harvard and the new Johns Hopkins quickly took the lead in this field, but the state universities did not lag far behind. Third was more adequate provision for the education of women, the establishment of new women's colleges and the adoption of co-education in all the new state universities outside the South and in many of the private institutions as well. At the same time newly established schools, like Howard University in the nation's capital, undertook to provide college and professional training for Negroes.

WOODROW WILSON AND THE WORLD WAR

Woodrow Wilson was in many respects the most remarkable figure in American politics since Jefferson. A scholar and an intellectual, he was hardheaded, and resourceful. A visionary and an idealist, he was at the same time the most thoroughly realistic political leader since Lincoln.

Wilson's foreign policy departed as sharply from that of his predecessor as did his domestic. It was Europe that presented the most serious threat to American peace. On June 28, 1914 a Serbian patriot fired a shot whose echoes reverberated around the world; within five weeks all Europe was locked in the greatest war of modern times. The American reaction was one of incredulity and bewilderment. When President Wilson formally proclaimed American neutrality, he expressed the attitude of the majority of Americans. Yet Americans could no more be indifferent to the struggle of 1914 and neutrality proved in the end impossible.

Two considerations – sympathy for the Allies and fear of the consequences of German victory – were in the end decisive in controlling American policy. Economic considerations re-enforced sentimental and political ones. The American people loaned huge sums of money to Britain and France. American industry rapidly geared itself to Anglo-French war needs, supplying enormous quantities of guns, shells, high explosives, and other materials, and reaping heavy profits.

Yet it was not these economic considerations that persuaded Wilson and the American people of the necessity of war, but rather the German policy of 'frightfulness'. Submarines were used to sink merchant ships, and they could not save the lives

of crew or passengers. When the British vessel *Lusitania* was sent to the bottom in 1915 with the loss of more than eleven hundred lives, 128 of them American, a wave of horror and anger swept the country.

Early in 1917 the Germans announced the reopening of unrestricted submarine warfare. Within a few weeks eight American vessels were sent to the bottom. The preservation of both honor and peace had become “an impossible and contradictory thing”, and on April 2, Wilson appeared before the Congress and asked for a declaration of a state of war.

The U.S. was not really ready for war. But lessons had been learned from the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. All young men had to sign up for the armed forces. Those who had special jobs, such as farmers, or those who were studying to be doctors did not have to join. Those young men who went into the armed forces were sent overseas with the proper supplies. Money for the war was raised by the sale of Liberty Bonds. Farmers worked overtime to raise more crops. Trains were used to move troops and supplies. People at home made sacrifices to help the soldiers in Europe.

Women went to Europe as nurses and with the Red Cross. They replaced the men who had worked on farms and in factories. They worked in groups that made warm scarves, socks, and gloves for the soldiers who had to face the cold European winter. Women were very active in the war effort during this time.

The Allies were helped enormously by the presence of the American soldiers. By May 1918, American soldiers were pouring into France at the rate of 10,000 per day and took part in several big battles. In November 1918, the Germans asked for an *armistice*, and at 11 o'clock in the morning on November 11, 1918, fighting in World War I stopped.

Wilson understood how tragic war is. He wanted World War I to be a “war to end all wars”. Wilson had an idea on how to avoid war. This was the League of Nations. Instead of fighting, countries could meet together and talk about their problems. The powers of Europe accepted the idea. But the President could not convince the U.S. Congress of the importance of the League. Wilson lost his health in the bitter fight to see his dream come true. But Congress voted against joining the League of Nations. And without one of the most powerful nations in the world, the League was doomed to failure.

AMERICA BETWEEN THE WARS

Society and Culture in the Postwar Years. Three presidents, each so different in personality and character, represented well enough the dominant forces in American society during the postwar years. The idealism of the Wilson era was in the past; the Rooseveltian passion for humanitarian reform was in the future. The decade of the twenties was dull, bourgeois and ruthless. “The business of America is business”, said President Coolidge, and the observation was apt if not profound. Wearing by idealism and disillusioned about the war and its aftermath, Americans dedicated themselves with unashamed enthusiasm to making and spending money. Never before had American society been so materialistic, never before so completely dominated by the ideals of the market place or the techniques of machinery. It was an age of bigness and of efficiency and popular admiration went out to these things: the stock-broker, the salesman, the advertiser, and the moving-picture star were the popular heroes. Cities were bigger, buildings taller, roads longer, fortunes greater, automobiles faster, colleges larger, night clubs gayer, crimes more numerous, corporations more powerful, speculation more frenzied than ever before in history, and the soaring statistics gave to most Americans a sense of satisfaction if not of security.

It was an era of conformity and of intolerance with non-conformity. The seeds of intolerance had been planted during the war; after the war they sprouted in strange and terrifying form. Nationalism was chauvinistic; isolationism took on moral and intellectual as well as political character. There was widespread hostility to foreigners and to foreign ideas. Aliens suspected of radical notions were rounded up and deported by the scores. The Ku Klux Klan, which boasted a membership of millions, dedicated itself to that notion of Aryan supremacy which European dictators were to take up a decade later, and its hooded Klansmen intimidated Catholics, Negroes, and Jews. Hostility was directed against the critics of American business practices, embracing, indiscriminately, labor leaders, liberal economists, socialists, pacifists, or “agitators” of any stripe who dared to question the ethics of business.

The most important factors conditioning social development during this generation were the growth of cities and the acceleration of technological changes. By 1930 over half the population of the country lived in towns and cities, and a substantial part of it in the great metropolitan areas. The cities were the centers of industry and business, of government, of entertainment, of education, of literature and the arts. Urban ideas and ways of life spread out over the countryside. Under the impact of the movies, the radio, the automobile, national advertising, and a host of other influences, provincialism gave way to standardization.

Of the many forces making for standardization, the automobile, the moving picture, and the radio were easily the most important. They were, indeed, the most important factors in the social life of this decade. Of the three, the automobile was the oldest and, in some respects, the most significant. Henry Ford had built a “gasoline buggy” back in the mid-nineties, but it was not until the second decade of the new century that Ford’s famous Model T and other cheap cars came on the roads by the hundreds of thousands. In 1920 there were some nine million automobiles in use; ten years later the number had increased threefold. The automobile broke down isolation, discovered new ways to spend leisure, gave a new freedom to youth, created vast new industries, gave work to millions of men, stimulated a nationwide road-building program, provided serious competition to the railroads. Within a few years the automobile ceased to be a luxury and became a necessity.

The movies and the radio, both relatively new, were scarcely less important than the automobile. Moving pictures date from the early years of the century, but they did not become a big-time business until the First World War or attain their immense influence until the advent of “talkies” in 1927. By the end of the decade, between eighty and one hundred million persons went to the movies every week – and a very large proportion of these were children. It was from the movies that the rising generation got many of its ideas about life, usually romantic and highly misleading; the day of violence was still ahead. To many the moving pictures offered an escape from drab reality into the never-never world of romance, where wickedness was always punished and virtue always rewarded, where all women were beautiful and all men handsome, where riches brought happiness and poverty contentment, and where all stories had a happy ending. Directly and indirectly the movies exercised an incalculable influence. They set the styles in dress and coiffures, in furniture and interior decoration, they originated popular songs, they taught manners and created popular heroes and heroines. Their influence spread throughout the world, and they proved perhaps the most powerful instrument of American cultural and social imperialism.

The radio was equally influential as an instrument for entertainment, education, and standardization. Radio developed rapidly during the First World War, and the first commercial broadcasting station began business in 1920. Within a decade almost every family was able to tune in on news broadcasts, or on music. The radio, like the movies, was a big business, and like the movies, too, it was geared to mass consumption and had to fit its programs to popular interest: a study of radio programs would reveal as much about the popular mind as would any other study. It is interesting to note that the radio remained, with very few exceptions, a private enterprise, supported

not by taxes, as in all European countries, but by advertisers. Whether Americans paid too high a price for freedom from government control of the radio is a matter about which opinions differed.

The Great Depression. Herbert Hoover assumed office under auspices more favorable than those which had attended any other President since Taft. To all appearances the country had never been more prosperous or society more healthy. Stocks soared to dizzy heights, and every month hundreds of millions of dollars in new securities were snapped up by avid investors who hoped to share in the wonderful new game of making something out of nothing. Factories could not turn out automobiles, refrigerators, radios, vacuum cleaners fast enough to keep up with the insatiable demand for new gadgets, railroads groaned with their burdens. Hundreds of thousands of new houses, in colonial, Tudor, Gothic, Spanish, pueblo, and modernistic styles, sprang up in the suburbs of great cities or in the new industrial towns of the South and the West. Advertising rose from the level of a business to the higher levels of a science and an art. Every day some new and marvelous technological improvement or scientific advance gave assurance of still better times ahead. It was the New Era, and if the farmers and the unskilled workers did not share in its benefits, all that would come later. And it was appropriate that the New Era was to be ushered in by a man who had made his reputation as an engineer, had proved himself a humanitarian, and had revealed his understanding of the business civilization by his work as Secretary of Commerce. “We in America”, Hoover boasted, “are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of any land”, and almost everyone expected that Hoover himself would celebrate that “final triumph”. But fate was unkind.

For, with dramatic and outrageous abruptness, came the crash of October, 1929. On the twenty-fourth over twelve million shares changed hands in a delirium of selling; on the twenty-ninth came catastrophe. Sound stocks like the American Telephone and Telegraph, General Electric, and General Motors lost from one hundred to two hundred points in a single week. By the end of the month stockholders had suffered a paper loss of over fifteen billion dollars; by the end of the year the shrinkage in securities of all kinds had reached the fantastic sum of forty billion dollars. Millions of investors lost their life savings. But the spiral of depression did not stop here. Business houses closed their doors, factories shut down, banks crashed, and millions of unemployed walked the streets in a vain search for work. Hundreds of thousands of families lost their homes; tax collections dropped to the point where cities and

counties were unable to pay schoolteachers; construction work all but ceased; foreign trade, already badly hit, declined to an unprecedented low.

It was soon clear that the nation was in the grip of the most ruinous depression in its history. The great depression of 1929 lasted almost a full decade. It was unprecedented in length and in the wholesale poverty and tragedy which it inflicted upon society. And in another respect, too, it differed from earlier depressions; it was clearly the product of abundance, not of want. More completely than any other depression it was a monument to the breakdown of the system of distribution of wealth and of goods and to the failure of business leadership.

By 1932 the number of unemployed had mounted to over twelve million; over five thousand banks had closed their doors; farm prices had fallen to the lowest point in history; the middle class was in danger of being wiped out; national income had declined from over eighty billion in 1929 to forty billion. The whole economy of the nation seemed to be disintegrating, and the people were in an ugly mood.

Americans are not prone to revolution, and in this crisis they turned hopefully to a different leadership. In 1930 the Democrats swept the Congressional elections, and in 1932 they prepared to take over the presidency. The Republican Old Guard, which had learned nothing from the depression, defiantly re-nominated President Hoover. The Democrats presented the magnetic Franklin D. Roosevelt, who as governor of New York had revealed himself a resourceful, courageous, and humane leader and politician, who promised the nation a "new deal". In the November elections Roosevelt rode triumphantly into the White House on the crest of a popular majority of seven million votes.

Roosevelt had made his reputation as an efficient and socially minded Governor of New York, but behind that lay a long apprenticeship in politics. A man of wealth and of distinguished family, a graduate of Harvard, he had decided to play an active role in politics. His early ventures were distinguished by two qualities which characterized him later: devotion to progressive principles and a talent for commanding the confidence of people from all walks of life.

His inaugural address served formal notice on the nation that there was to be a New Deal. Roosevelt proposed to restore the rules of the democratic game. To many contemporaries the New Deal seemed like revolution. The New Deal closed the banks and reopened them under stricter supervision and with government guarantees of bank deposits. It abandoned the gold standard and devalued the dollar in order to achieve a mild controlled inflation and thus raise commodity prices. It set up careful control of the selling of stocks and bonds and other securities. It broke up the great

holding companies which had obtained control of a large part of the business of supplying the country with electric light and which had often been manipulated for the benefit of a few insiders. It formulated codes of fair practices for business, designed to end wasteful competition. It raised taxes on the income of the rich and of corporations, plugged up loopholes in the tax laws.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The most titanic conflict in history reached one of its grand climacterics with Pearl Harbor. That the Japanese won a spectacular victory at Pearl Harbor, is clear; it is equally clear that by their attacks on American territory they violated one of the basic principles of warfare: if you strike a king, strike to kill. The assault on Pearl Harbor in 1941 knocked out the United States Pacific fleet, but it did not knock out the United States. On the contrary, it united that nation as nothing else could have done, dedicated all its resources and energies to war, put its giant productive capacity into high gear, and inspired in its people an implacable determination to fight on to victory.

Yet the situation in December 1941, was dangerous, and the prospect bleak. Everywhere the Allies stood on the defensive; everywhere the Axis powers were triumphant. Hitler controlled the whole of Western Europe except the Iberian peninsula, and his armies had thrust hundreds of miles into the USSR. Italy dominated the Mediterranean, and her legions were swarming across North Africa and threatening Egypt and the Suez Canal. The Japanese had subdued a large part of China and were prepared to conquer the Philippines.

The United States, certainly, was better equipped for this war than for any previous wars. American factories produced enough airplanes, tanks, jeeps, trucks, field telephones, rubber tires, radar sets and a thousand other things to supply not only the needs of their own war machine, but the needs of Britain and to some degree of the USSR as well. The USSR got over 400,000 trucks, 50,000 jeeps, 7000 tanks, and 420,000 tons of aluminum. By the end of the war the lend-lease account showed that the United States had supplied foodstuffs and war material to the value of fifty billion dollars to the Allies.

All war material to Russia had to be shipped across the Arctic to the ports of Murmansk and Archangel. Exposed to ceaseless attacks from German planes, submarines, and cruisers based in Norwegian waters, this was the most perilous of all convoy routes; in 1942 no less than one fourth of all the ships that ran this gauntlet were

lost. Yet in that year nineteen convoys fought their way through ice, fog, and nazi attacks to the northern Russian ports.

The grand strategy of the war, and of the invasion of the continent, had been worked out in a series of conferences between the Allied war leaders in 1943. The most important conferences came at the end of the year, in Teheran and Cairo. At Teheran Churchill and Stalin discussed the grand strategy of the war and laid definite plans for a series of mighty concerted movements of Soviet and Anglo-American forces the following year.

Thus Operation Overlord, as the invasion came to be called, had been planned both in broad strategic principle and in detail for fully a year before it was launched. By the spring of 1944 plans for that invasion were complete. D-day had been fixed for June 5. The invasion area had been determined, largely by considerations of distance, tides, beaches, and shore defenses, as the Normandy coast. The Allies had gathered a vast host of almost three million soldiers, sailors, and airmen. An armada of four thousand warships and boats of all kinds was ready to ferry the invasion army across the Channel.

Foul weather threatened the whole plan, but Eisenhower gambled on clearing skies and gave the word to go on June 5. That night planes hammered the whole of northern France from Belgium to Brittany, a fake fleet sailed for the Pas de Calais area to deceive the Germans, and three airborne divisions parachuted behind German lines on the Normandy coast. Then early in the morning of June 6 the invasion armada approached the beaches and, breaking through formidable underwater obstacles, the Allied soldiers swarmed ashore.

The Germans, who had expected the main attack to come in the Pas de Calais area, were taken by surprise. Though they continued for some time to regard the Normandy invasion as a diversionary attack, they reacted to it vigorously enough. By the close of D-day the Allies breached the Atlantic Wall, began to work their way inland. Within a week they had over 300,000 men and 100,000 tons of supplies on shore, and controlled an area seventy miles in length and five to fifteen miles deep. On July 25 the battle for Normandy was over, and the battle for France began.

The Soviet army launched the great winter offensive destined to carry it to the gates of Vienna and Berlin, the Allies prepared to plunge across the Rhine and close in on Hitler from the west. It was the end. On April 25, Russians and Americans met at the Elbe, and the two armies cut Germany in twain. Fanatical defenders put up a last-ditch fight for Berlin; when it was clear that the city was doomed Hitler committed suicide.

Even as the Allied armies were fighting their way into Normandy in the summer of 1944, the two major political parties had made nominations for the fall presidential elections. The Democrats turned, almost inevitably, to the man who had three times led them to victory and who was now leading the United Nations to victory, and re-nominated Roosevelt on the first ballot.

In his fourth inaugural address Roosevelt pledged himself not alone to victory but to the construction of a firm international order after victory was achieved. More and more, as victory approached, Roosevelt's thoughts had been turning to this great problem of peace and international law, and more and more his energies had been devoted to its solution. In February, 1945, he had taken the long trip to Yalta in the Crimea to confer with Stalin, Churchill, and their military and civilian advisers about the war and the postwar settlements. So much of the Yalta conference was devoted to planning for the postwar world.

Roosevelt returned from Yalta obviously a sick man and, for the first time, gave his report to Congress from his wheel chair. Then he went to his winter home at Warm Springs, Georgia, to rest and to prepare for the opening of the first United Nations conference in San Francisco. On April 12 as he was drafting a Jefferson Day address he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and died. The last words he wrote were a fitting epitaph to his own life: "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith".

It would be the task of Roosevelt's Vice President, Harry Truman, to end the war in the Pacific. The Japanese refused to agree to a surrender. Then Truman made one of the most difficult decisions any leader in history has had to make. The U.S., with the help of many scientists who had escaped Hitler's Germany, had developed a terrible weapon of destruction – the atomic bomb. On August 6, 1945, a plane dropped the first atomic bomb over Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later a second Japanese city Nagasaki was hit. More than a quarter of a million people were killed or injured. The cities were destroyed. Four days later the Pacific war was over.

COLD WAR

The USA and the USSR did not remain friends after World War II ended. The Soviet Union had a communist government. One of the goals of communism, as stated by many of its leaders, was to spread the idea to as many countries as possible.

Many countries in Eastern Europe became communist after the War. Winston Churchill, the British leader, said that the Soviet Union was "pulling down the iron curtain", because it had become a secret from the western countries what went on in

these countries. The competition between the Western nations and the communist countries under the leadership of the USSR became known as the *cold war*. There are no battles in a cold war, no tanks, no bombs. There is no destruction. A cold war is a war of words. The UNO has often served as a major battleground in the cold war.

The USSR has been successful many times in gaining new followers. It was a great shock to many Americans when Cuba became communist in 1959. Relations between the iron curtain countries and the Western democracies did not get better as the 1940s came to an end. The U.S. joined the countries of Western Europe in a military treaty and formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – NATO. The USSR and other European communist countries formed a similar group in 1955. They were known as the Warsaw Treaty countries.

President Kennedy. The first President to be born in the twentieth century, and the youngest ever to be elected to the presidency, Kennedy was not only spokesman for a new generation, but symbol as well. He brought to the presidency not only an alert intelligence, immense personal charm, a warm and generous humanitarianism and a sophisticated grasp of political realities, but also a lively awareness of the immense potentialities of presidential leadership.

The Kennedy administration brought a new era of political thought as well as of political personalities, for Kennedy himself was young in mind as in years, and he instinctively rejected the weary clichés which for almost a decade had corrupted much of American political discussion: hackneyed denunciations of Communism, the frantic search for “subversion”.

Shortly after President Kennedy took office, a rash step imperiled the American moral position in the Cuban crisis. Contrary to both the United States and international law, the Central Intelligence Agency had covertly armed and drilled large numbers of Cuban refugees. On April 17, 1961, some fifteen hundred of these, sailing from Central America and from Florida, supported by American ships, attempted an invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. The invasion failed, and Castro, who had first accused the Americans of “cowardly aggression”, was able to proclaim his superiority over the Americans.

This was the background of events in the autumn of 1962.

In the early weeks of October, American reconnaissance planes discovered that the USSR had installed in Cuba rockets capable of carrying nuclear warheads and of destroying all major American cities. President Kennedy responded to this threat and ordered the Navy to patrol Cuban waters and establish a “quarantine” against the importation of arms and other dangerous materials. More important, he demanded the

immediate dismantling of all rocket sites and the removal of the Soviet weapons and airplanes from the island.

For a few days the world hovered on the brink of a nuclear war. But clearly Khrushchev was no more desirous of such a war than was Kennedy. The USSR found it wise to accept Kennedy's demands, and in return obtained from the United States a pledge that it would end the "quarantine" and assurances that it would not invade Cuba. By November the President was able to assure the American people of progress toward a restoration of peace in the Caribbean, and in January, 1963, he could announce that the Cuban missile crisis was at an end.

Faced with widespread hostility to his civil rights and welfare programs in the South, the President planned, in November 1963, to take his case to the people. He selected Florida and Texas as key states. The President's combination of high spirits and deep seriousness made a tremendous impression in Florida, and on November 21 he took off for Texas in a jubilant mood. In San Antonio and Houston he received tumultuous ovations. Then on Friday, November 22, 1963, he flew to Dallas. As his cavalcade was driving from the airport into the city, the President was shot through the head and killed by an unbalanced young man named Lee Harvey Oswald. Vice-President Lyndon Johnson at once took an oath of office as President. For three days the nation – and the world – sat in stunned silence as it watched and heard the solemn funeral of the man who was loved as no other American of his time.

Lyndon Johnson. In his Inaugural Address as President in his own right, Lyndon Johnson called upon the Congress and the people to help him build the Great Society.

The outlines of the Great Society were already familiar from presidential recommendations. President Johnson's Great Society did not differ from the New Deal in spirit or in purpose. "No longer", said the President, "need capitalist and worker, farmer and clerk, city and countryside, struggle to divide our bounty. By working shoulder to shoulder, together we can increase the bounty of all". President Kennedy had sensed something of this and had coupled his own recommendations for welfare programs with proposals for tax reduction. But it remained for President Johnson to provide proof that the theory actually worked.

The war on poverty ignored millions of aged, sick, and disabled Americans. In sum, the Administration programs simply did not go far enough; unlike the one in Vietnam. Deepening American involvement in Vietnam was paid for by loss of cohesion at home. Radical violence became widespread, and black militants transformed into a revolutionary or at least black nationalist, organization. In April 1967, Martin

Luther King, Jr., led a protest march in Washington that symbolically linked the antiwar and civil rights crusades.

Many Americans thought that it was wrong for the U.S. to be fighting in Vietnam. Some didn't like the way the war being fought. Others believed that the South Vietnamese people should be fighting the communist takeover themselves. Still other Americans believed that the U.S. should send guns and planes, but not troops. In the late 1960s the Vietnam War came close to splitting the American people, into two camps, one group for fighting the war to a victory and the other group for getting out of Vietnam as quickly as possible.

The Poor People's Campaign of April 1968 – the march of rural and urban poor that terminated in the nation's capital – caught the public imagination. Then, on April 4, civil rights leader Martin Luther King was shot down in Memphis, Tennessee. His assassination sparked riots in urban centers across the country. The week-long protests, with their violence, were followed in quick succession by the June assassination of Robert Kennedy, then a candidate for the Democratic Party's nomination.

The Nixon Presidency and the Watergate Affair. The mood of the country had turned conservative and Nixon was elected with a popular majority of 17 million.

The President had proclaimed that no man can “set himself above the law in the name of justice”, but he misused for political purposes national security and intelligence agencies, and set up a personal and extra-legal investigative force funded by taxpayers but accountable only to the President himself. It all began on a minor key – when a gaggle of former CIA agents broke into Democratic headquarters at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, installed phone taps, and photographed documents. After another raid on the night of June 17, 1972, the team was apprehended inside the darkened offices. This seemingly unimportant event might have been just that, had it not involved the very highest echelons in the administration and had not the administration committed itself to covering up the nature of the crime. As it was, Watergate was to ignite a fuse that exploded two years later into the greatest political scandal in American history.

In the spring of 1973, a Senate Select Committee began a two-month probe of the Watergate affair as well as of the larger issue of presidential authority. Its hearings appeared on television and it soon became apparent to millions of viewers that the drama was in fact part of the real world rather than the dramatic world of television. A parade of former cabinet officers, FBI agents and Justice Department officials marched into the Senate chamber. Their testimony was confusing, and even contra-

dictory, but their political philosophy was simple: loyalty to the President came before loyalty to the laws or to the Constitution.

The proceedings continued to be hindered by presidential delaying tactics on the release of tapes and transcripts. But by this time both the public and the Congress had had enough. When the publication of tapes that Nixon had unsuccessfully sought to conceal proved irrefutably that he had known all along of the Watergate cover-up and had perjured himself by proclaiming ignorance and innocence, the House Judiciary Committee voted two articles of impeachment on July 30, 1974.

Aware that his strength had eroded, the President did not wait for further developments. On August 8, 1974, he resigned from office and departed for his home in San Clemente, California. Just one month later, the new President Gerald Ford, departing from his earlier assurances, granted an unconditional pardon to the man who had nominated him to the Presidency.

FROM FORD TO CLINTON

Gerald Ford's presidency had a healing effect on the Watergate-inflicted wounds of domestic politics; his two years in office, however, failed to reverse what was perhaps the most sustained impact of Watergate, the decline of public confidence in government. Instead those years produced a deepening of the crisis in legitimacy. This was, in part, because of the deteriorating economy at home and the continuing decline of American prestige abroad; and, in part, because of popular disapproval of Ford's premature pardon of Richard Nixon.

Among those unresolved problems inherited from the preceding Administration, the most urgent was the wrap-up of Vietnam. Although Nixon had concluded a cease-fire with the Vietnamese and begun the withdrawal of American troops in March of 1973, it was left to Gerald Ford to negotiate a final settlement. The negotiations proved protracted, largely because U.S. policy was wholly lacking farsightedness shown toward Japan and Germany after World War II; but then Americans were not used to losing wars. Even if the Ford Administration had been predisposed to pay for "Peace with Honor", acknowledgment of defeat would have found little popular support.

The loss of their status as Number One caused many Americans to clamor for a "militarization" of American society. The Cold War, diminished somewhat by Nixon's overtures toward China, seemed to take on added vindictiveness by concentration on the Soviet Union. Vietnam had demonstrated that the United States was unprepared. Gerald Ford accepted without question that the American people and the

American economy should serve the military. What Eisenhower had termed the “military-industrial” complex expanded under Nixon and Ford to a “military-industrial-financial-labor-academic” complex. If this contradictory policy failed to excite serious public protest it was because the majority of Americans, like their President, considered “national security” to be the top priority of government; and because national security, which had once meant *social* security, had by 1974 come to mean *military* security. By favoring the military at the same time he vetoed many social programs such as federal jobs bill and a school lunch program.

The 1976 Election. In the galaxy of familiar politicians who fought for the presidency in 1976 there was a brash newcomer, “Jimmy” Carter, one-time Governor of Georgia and peanut farmer. To the astonishment of all the professionals, it was the outsider who, in the end, captured the prize.

Born and raised in a little country town, almost symbolically named Plains, Georgia, he had graduated from the Annapolis Naval Academy and worked closely on the nuclear submarine program. By profession an engineer, by practice a peanut farmer, by instinct a politician, he had served, like Woodrow Wilson, for one term as Governor of his state. He was an “outsider” both excluded from, and suspicious of, the Washington Establishment; and he promised to provide a more positive government than that of Gerald Ford.

The Carter Administration continued to make contributions toward setting on the road to solution the problem of the nuclear arms race which threatened to get out of control.

Notwithstanding the long history of paranoia toward communism in its Russian, as in its Chinese form, it was Nixon who – with the guidance and support of Henry Kissinger – made the first effective move for slowing down the ruinous arms race with the Soviet Union. In 1972 came the First Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty (SALT I). If it did not actually reduce armaments, it did place ceilings on the manufacture of some categories of nuclear arms.

In his Inaugural Address Carter had gone even further by pledging his administration “to move toward our ultimate goal – the elimination of nuclear weapons from this earth”. No other words of that address excited more enthusiastic approval. Only in June 1979, after protracted negotiations, the President was able to join Leonid Brezhnev in Paris to sign a second treaty – SALT II.

One of President Carter’s successes in foreign affairs resulted from his efforts to settle the disputes between Israel and Egypt. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat began to develop closer ties with the U.S. President Carter invited Sadat and Israeli Prime

Minister Begin to the United States to discuss their differences. They met at the President's Camp David retreat in the mountains of Maryland. Carter played an important role in the successful conclusion of the Camp David agreement. Carter remained unpopular in spite of Camp David agreement and in 1980 he was defeated by Ronald Reagan, former sports announcer, actor and a two-term Governor of California.

The Reagan Years. Raised in small towns in Illinois, Ronald Reagan, in his early years, seemed to be a confirmed Democrat. It was during the late 1940s that he began to move politically to the right and, by the mid-1950s, while president of the Screen Actors Guild, the major union representing Hollywood talent, he had moved all the way to the right. In the mid-sixties he was elected to two terms as governor of California.

During his first years in office, President Reagan introduced an economic program, known as Reaganomics. Despite a deepening recession, Reagan urged Congress and the American people to give his program time to work. After four years, many Americans felt themselves to be better off: inflation had fallen to eight percent; unemployment figures declined and employment itself increased. Americans welcomed what they saw as a return to "normalcy". Now, at last, after the disillusionment of the Vietnam War, Americans were achieving a new self-confidence.

In the realm of foreign policy, President Reagan's leadership represented both a resurgence of chauvinistic nationalism and a return to the intellectual simplification of the Cold War. His presidency demonstrated how enduring were the historic forces of American exceptionalism. Reagan exalted the idea of America as a special land with a special history and a special destiny – a "city on a hill". Americans were seen to be "God's chosen people"; their country, "the promised land"; their government, "the last best hope of earth" – all concepts, to be sure, nourished by earlier generations. His method was to be tough and to build up the military.

Reagan's foreign policy views were dominated by a "hard-line" approach to the Soviet Union. As he saw it, the world was divided between two great ideological and power groups, one dedicated to freedom, the other to slavery. The United States represented the first, while the Soviet Union represented the second. According to Reagan, America's main problem in the international arena was to combat the expansion of Soviet power around the world.

At a time when the two superpowers already controlled some fifty thousand nuclear weapons – sufficient to kill every person on the globe twelve times over – continuous enlargement of nuclear capability might well be seen as a manifestation of insanity. Scientists around the globe offered chilling visions of a world condemned to

“nuclear winter”, the end of all life as a result of fallout. President Reagan offered as a substitute for the arms race, the so-called “Star Wars” defense program: an anti-nuclear system based on exotic technologies and designed to search out and destroy all incoming offensive weapons. In a televised address to the nation in 1983 Reagan proposed this “Strategic Defense Initiative”, which, he implied, would make all existing nuclear missiles “obsolete”. Though critics charged that the system would never be feasible, Congress endorsed a five-year research program which was expected to cost some \$ 30 billion. The long-range program called for trillions.

After eight years in office President Reagan’s popularity was still unabated, and his influence on his own party and on members of the Democratic party all but irresistible. In most matters of both foreign and domestic affairs he had his own way: even his most controversial policies and his most dubious appointees were routinely confirmed by the Congress.

George Herbert W. Bush. In 1989 George Bush became the 41st President of the USA. Most of Bush’s own experience in government was in the field of foreign affairs. This turned out to be fortunate, since 1988-1992 brought dramatic developments around the globe.

The most important of these changes was the collapse of world communism.

At first, President Bush tried to work with M. Gorbachev to improve relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union and reduce the number of nuclear weapons held by both sides. But in August of 1991, Gorbachev was driven from power. The Soviet Union itself fell apart. Bush had to deal with Boris N. Yeltsin, President of Russia, and the leaders of the other newly independent republics.

In August 1990, Saddam Hussein, the dictator of Iraq, invaded the tiny, oil-rich country of Kuwait. Bush convinced a group of nations including Great Britain, France, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt that it was necessary to force Hussein to withdraw his army. In February 1991, after weeks of bombing raids, the combined armies of all these nations swept across the desert and freed Kuwait.

The swift victory in the Persian Gulf has made Bush tremendously popular. But at home problems were building up. An economic recession, which began officially in August of 1990, proved to be the deepest in decades. Business went bankrupt at record rates. About ten million Americans were out of work.

When it came to dealing with problems at home, the President seemed like a different person from the strong leader who had engineered the Gulf War. In handling foreign affairs, Bush had clear goals and stuck to them, even if it meant making con-

troversial decisions. On the domestic side, he had few bold ideas, but when he made proposals, he was often unable to get Congress to cooperate.

Many Americans were deeply worried about the rising cost of health care, but Bush proposed only minor changes to the system. His unwillingness to make defense cuts in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War made it doubly hard to do anything about the government's rising budget deficit. As early as the summer of 1990, Bush was forced to break his promise to the voters by asking Congress to pass new taxes.

In the end, the voters decided it was time for a change. George Bush, after the overwhelming victory in the Gulf War, was turned out of office after a single term.

Bill Clinton. In 1993 William (Bill) Clinton became the President. He is the first President born after World War II. In his first term B. Clinton made strengthening the domestic economy by increasing free trade as his primary foreign policy goal. The elimination of the Iron Curtain and lowered nuclear tension caused jubilation and optimistic attempts to fashion a better future across Europe, central Asia and the US. European leaders moved quickly to include ten of the recently independent eastern European countries in the European Union (EU) by 2004 and two more by 2007. These countries thus grew less dependent on America for trade and military needs.

In his first term President Bill Clinton made strengthening the domestic economy by increasing free trade his primary foreign policy goal. By 1995 both the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), between Canada, Mexico and the US, and the Uruguay General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) had been ratified by the Senate.

During the second term the world witnessed the situation the results of which some critics called "new interventionism". Commentators debated over how often and how forcibly the US should act, when those abroad generally wanting international leadership from America, but expecting it to come in agreement with *their* policy aims. A prominent group of critics took this view, but there was heated disagreement about how much the US should allow its foreign policy to be influenced by the agendas of other nations. A consensus appeared only about regret at America's not having intervened to end the genocide in Rwanda, which was Clinton's worst error.

George William Bush. After taking office in 2001, George W. Bush formed a team of foreign policy officials and advisers. On the one hand, they urged a new foreign policy realism. That approach dictated that the US should review its international commitments, acting energetically to achieve key objectives that served the country's interests. On the other hand, in agreement with neo-conservative advisers, Bush

also embarked on a major modernization and expansion of the country's military capabilities.

Until the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the Bush regime reduplicated the Clinton administration's policies and criticized its willingness to engage US troops abroad. But from that day the president announced a global war on terrorism. In an age of global terrorism, President Bush announced, the US could no longer wait for threats to materialize. Instead it had to use its intelligence-gathering capacities to discover threats and then strike enemies first, abroad, before they could attack American homeland. The US would take "pre-emptive action", attacking an enemy as it prepared to strike, and "preventive action", attacking even without evidence of an imminent enemy strike. At election time in late 2009, a majority of the American public became critical of the war in Iraq and of efforts to counter terrorism. They felt that Bush leadership came to an end.

Barak Obama. On assuming office, President Obama demonstrated his desire to make a fresh start that he hoped would open new opportunities for multilateral talks whose only predetermined position was America's willingness to work out agreements on the basis of shared interests. This was the basis for his speech to the Islamic nations of the world at Cairo University, the reopening of the talks with North Korea and trips to Europe. The contrast of his stance and global polls showing rapidly improving attitudes to US foreign policy were a factor in encouraging Norway's Nobel Peace Prize committee to award the new president the prize, they said, to urge him to fulfill his promise. But although his administration's rhetoric and actions brought less open hostility, the roots of the problems involving relations with countries such as North Korea and Iran remained intractable. The complex dynamics of motives and historical memories of American policies going back through the decades of the Cold War and beyond, were not to be solved by verbal demonstration of good will or even the avoidance of hostile action. In 2017 Donald Trump became 45th president of the USA.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. What important achievements in literature and arts can you tell us about?
2. How can you describe American reaction to the beginning of World War I?
3. What was life like in the USA in the postwar period until the Great Depression?
4. How do you understand the essence of the New Deal?
5. What was the most shocking effect of the Pearl Harbor?
6. What is lend-lease?

7. What was Martin Luther King?
8. Why did Watergate Affair lead to impeachment of Richard Nixon?
9. Who of the American presidents seems to be more sensible in politics than others?

Give your understanding of these words and phrases and explain their origin: League of Nations, the Great Depression, the “New Deal”, Pearl Harbor, the Axis powers, lend-lease, Operation Overlord, Cuban crisis, Great Society, hard-liner, “Star Wars”, Persian Gulf War, terrorist attack of 9/11.

ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

NEW ENGLAND

New England is highly industrial, but it also has many fields, woods and small towns. New England is the part of the United States that is most like “old” England. It is also the most well-defined region of the United States: Americans might disagree over exactly which states are part of the South, but for everyone New England includes six states – Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

To people from the South of the United States, *Yankee* may mean a Northerner. To people from other countries, *Yankee* means an American. But, properly used, *Yankee* has a more specific meaning: it refers to people who live in New England.

The New England Yankee has a distinct character, shaped in part by the history and geography of the region. New England was settled in the 1600s by Puritans from England. The Puritans were a religious group who objected to the rituals of the Church of England. The Puritans wanted to “purify” the religion, making it stricter and simpler. They were also very strict about the way people lived. For example, when a sea captain back from a three-year voyage kissed his wife on their doorstep, he was publicly punished.

The land was even harsher than the people. Its soil was thin and poor for farming. And before any land could be farmed, large stones had to be cleared away. The stones were used for walls, many of which still exist.

What, then, is the Yankee character? Yankees are known for being honest but shrewd; realistic and to-the-point; practical rather than romantic; untalkative, thrifty, principled and independent.

The Yankee character may partly explain the special role that New England has played in United States history. In the eighteenth century, the American Revolution

began in New England. Yankees were among the strongest supporters of independence. In the nineteenth century, many New Englanders said slavery did not fit with their beliefs and principles. New England Yankees led the movement to end slavery in America.

From the time the first settlers discovered they could not expect much from the soil of New England, the sea played a major role in the region's economy.

In colonial times, New England prospered from fishing and trade. One kind of trade was the "triangular trade": New Englanders brought sugar up from the islands of the West Indies, used the sugar to make rum, took the rum to West Africa and traded it for slaves, and then sold the slaves in the West Indies.

The American Revolution disrupted trade with England, and New Englanders had to find new trading partners. They soon were trading with Russia, Sweden, and even China. Whaling became an important activity. The mid-1800s were the era of the Yankee clipper ships. These elegant wooden ships, built in New England, were designed for speed and broke many records. When the 1849 Gold Rush suddenly populated San Francisco, clippers took goods to California. The trip around Cape Horn at the tip of South America was dangerous but worth it. The miners had gold and not much else. In California, goods were worth twenty times what they were worth in the East!

The discovery in the 1850s of underground sources of oil marked the decline of the whaling era in New England. The days of the clipper ship ended even more quickly. The clippers simply could not compete with the metal steamships developed in England in the 1860s.

By the late 1800s, the sea no longer played such an important role in New England's economy. But money earned from the sea was used to build factories. The result was a new direction for New England's economy.

The American Revolution lasted from 1775 to 1781. After March 1776, the city of Boston was never again touched by fighting. Yet no other city played as important a role in the struggle for independence. It was events in Boston that led to the revolution. The first shots were fired in April 1775, in the nearby town of Lexington. Independence was formally declared, by Massachusetts and the 12 other colonies, on July 4, 1776.

Visitors to Boston can see landmarks of the revolution by walking the Freedom Trail, which begins in the *Boston Common*. Today a public park, the Common was in the past a cow pasture, a public execution site and a drilling field for soldiers.

The *Old State House* was the building from which the British had ruled Massachusetts. On July 18, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read from its balcony. The statues of a lion and a unicorn, symbols of the British government, were then thrown down into the streets. *Faneuil Hall*, sometimes called “the Cradle of Liberty”, functioned as both a market and a meeting place.

Paul Revere was a well-known silversmith and a hero of the revolution. The Freedom Trail continues to a neighborhood known as North Boston, where visitors can see *Paul Revere’s House*. This house is the oldest in Boston.

The last stop on the Freedom Trail is *Bunker Hill*. Colonists defended Bunker Hill against a much stronger British force. The colonists were defeated, but at a huge cost of the British. Bunker Hill convinced other colonists to fight. For the colonists, it was a victory in defeat.

Just across the Charles River from Boston is Cambridge, America’s most famous student town. It is sometimes called the birthplace of American intellectual life: it has the nation’s oldest university, Harvard University, founded in 1636. Cambridge remains a center of intellectual life, especially since it is also home to MIT, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Harvard has an excellent reputation in many fields; MIT is a leader in science and technology. Students attending Harvard and MIT come from around the world; Harvard alone has students from 90 countries.

NEW YORK

Manhattan is an island just 13 miles long and 2 miles wide. It is the center of American finance, advertising, art, theater, publishing, fashion – and much more. The borough of Manhattan is what most people think of when they come to New York, one of the most exciting cities in the world.

New York’s other boroughs are Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island. Brooklyn alone has so many people that if it were a separate city, it would be the fourth largest in the United States!

Manhattan is divided into the East Side and the West Side. The dividing line is Fifth Avenue. So, for example, East 47th Street begins at Fifth Avenue, as does West 47th Street. (Avenues with lower numbers are on the East Side, avenues with higher numbers on the West Side).

Manhattan is also divided, with less exactness, into Lower (Downtown), Midtown, and Upper (Uptown) Manhattan. As you go north, or uptown, the street numbers get higher. Lower Manhattan generally refers to streets below 14th Street, Mid-

town to the area between 14th Street and Central Park, and Upper Manhattan to the remaining northern part of the island.

The Dutch were the first Europeans to settle Manhattan. To protect themselves from attacks, they built a sturdy wooden wall. Although it is now long gone, this wall gave its name to a street in Lower Manhattan and the street, in turn, became synonymous with American capitalism. The street, of course, is Wall Street.

It is easy to see why “Wall Street” means capitalism. The New York Stock Exchange and the American Stock Exchange are both in the Wall Street area. So are many stockbrokers, investment banks and headquarters of many large corporations. There is also the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, a branch of the national bank of the United States – and the only branch that buys and sells government securities.

Appropriately, the very first business deal in Manhattan was made in what became the financial district. As every American schoolchild knows, the Dutch bought Manhattan from the Indians, for the ridiculously low price of 24 dollars worth of beads and trinkets. There is, however, another, less known side to this story: evidently, the Indians who had sold Manhattan did not themselves live there or in any sense owned it! The Dutch and the Indians alike walked away pleased.

The Lower East Side was originally an elegant neighborhood. When New York was the capital of the United States, President George Washington lived on the Lower East Side. By the mid-1800s the Lower East Side had changed greatly. It became an area in which immigrants settled. First there were many Irish, then came many Jews from Eastern Europe. The immigrants lived in crowded tenements. The population density of the Lower East Side in the 1880s was greater than that of Bombay, India. Working conditions were as bad as living conditions. Immigrants worked in “sweatshops” for long hours. After working six or seven days a week, they brought home as little as four dollars.

Near the Lower East Side there are two other neighborhoods that also attracted immigrants – and that are also famous for their food. Italians settled Little Italy at the same time that Jews settled the Lower East Side. Like the Jews, many Italians have now moved to other neighborhoods. Little Italy has become littler. The Italian restaurants and cafés remain popular to tourists and Italians alike.

As Little Italy has grown smaller, its streets have become part of the neighborhood next door – Chinatown. For years, there were laws limiting the number of Chinese immigrants. Finally, the laws were changed. Today Chinatown is the only im-

migrant community in Manhattan that's still growing. Chinatown has seven newspapers of its own. It also has nearly 200 restaurants.

Greenwich Village and the *East Village* have always been at the center of New York's excitement. Both have been places for people with different and creative ideas. Both have an active nightlife with plenty of bars, restaurants, and clubs. But there are also clear differences between them.

Greenwich Village, more often called "the Village", is in many ways a residential area. It has homes on narrow, tree-lined streets. This charm attracted bohemians – writers and artists – to the Village in the early 1900s. The rents were cheap, and the artists, writers, and political radicals spent hours and hours in the cafés. By the 1920s, the streets of the Village were filled with other people, curious to see how these odd Villagers lived. The artists and writers began moving out, some to the East Village. Today, rents in the Village are far from cheap – they are much more than most artists can pay – but the tourists still visit. Some New Yorkers complain that the Village is "touristy" and "not authentic".

Over the years, the East Village has been a center for many movements – for the beat poets of the 1950s, the hippies of the 1960s, and, more recently, for New York's punk scene.

Many of New York's offices and jobs are in *Midtown*. So are many of its famous skyscrapers. New York's first skyscraper was built in 1902. Twenty stories high, it towered over the other buildings of its time. The first building boom for skyscrapers came in the late 1920s. These skyscrapers were done in *art deco* style: they were highly decorated and elaborate. This was somewhat ironic, since when they opened, it was the Great Depression, the country's economy had collapsed.

The most beautiful and famous of the art deco skyscrapers are the Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building. You can't go to the top of the Chrysler Building, but you can admire it from many different points in the city. You can, however, go to the top of the Empire State Building, the third tallest building in the world. The Empire State Building has become not only a symbol of New York but also part of its history – both real, as when a plane crashed into it in 1945, and fictional, as when King Kong clung to it in the 1933 movie.

Rockefeller Center, built in the 1930s, is the world's largest privately owned business and entertainment center. Its nineteen buildings include the monumental Radio City Music Hall. Radio City is so luxurious and interesting that murals from its bathrooms now hang in the Museum of Modern Art.

In the 1950s there was a second building boom, featuring a new style. The United Nations Secretariat building was the first *glass curtain wall* skyscraper. The style became very popular; according to some people, Manhattan now has too many steel-and-glass skyscrapers.

Times Square. Perhaps nowhere are New York's extreme contrasts more obvious than in the Times Square area, around 42nd Street and Broadway. Beneath the bright neon signs of Times Square, you'll find some of New York's most elegant theaters and some of its famous shops. Times Square is named after the *New York Times*, which for years had its headquarters there. The *New York Times* is considered among the best newspapers in the country.

Times Square is the beginning of the theater district – the area where Broadway plays are performed. Most “Broadway” theaters are located east or west of Broadway on streets in the 40s and 50s. Broadway has long been the center of theater in the United States. In addition to Broadway there are Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway theaters. Most of these theaters are in the Village and the East Village. Plays at these theaters tend to deal with a wider range of subjects and to be more experimental – some say more interesting – than plays on Broadway. They may involve audience participation – that is, the audience becomes part of the play. And at some Off-Off Broadway plays, you *feel* like you're part of the play because the theater is in someone's living room!

The value of land in Manhattan has turned the island into a sea of concrete. Fortunately for New York's residents there is one major exception: **Central Park.**

This huge park in the middle of the city was designed in the 1850s by landscape architect Frederick Olmsted. He wanted the park to be a rural paradise within an urban area, a place for all – “rich and poor, young and old”. Central Park is still much as he intended.

You can take a horse and buggy ride through Central Park. You can explore the park even better by renting a bicycle. Attractions in the park include gardens, a zoo, a skating rink, an old-fashioned carousel, a lake where you can row, and an outdoor theater, where events are held each summer.

East Side. Central Park was opened in 1876. Wealthy New Yorkers soon built mansions along Fifth Avenue, on the park's east side. The Vanderbilts, a large family, at one point had eleven mansions on Fifth Avenue! The mansions that remain now hold art collections. For example, there's the Frick Collection in what was once the home of millionaire Henry Clay Frick. The Frick is a delightful museum to wander through since it is set up, not like a museum, but as it was when the Fricks lived

there. This part of Fifth Avenue along Central Park has so many museums that it is called “Museum Mile”. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, with huge collections of art from around the world, may be the most important museum in the United States.

West Side. The street on the western side of the park, Central Park West, has large and unusual apartment buildings. When the first one was being built, people laughed. They said nobody with money would live in an apartment house, especially when it was so far from the center of town that it might as well be in Dakota (one of the western states of the USA). The builder had the last laugh; he named his building the Dakota, and when it opened, every apartment was occupied.

The Dakota has had many famous residents, including composer Leonard Bernstein. But, above all, the building makes people think of John Lennon, who lived there and was killed right outside on December 8, 1980.

Harlem. In 1900, when the city extended the subway all the way uptown to Harlem, new housing was built there. For once, though, there wasn’t a big need for housing in Manhattan, and the new building stayed empty. Then a black man approached the building owners with an idea: Why not rent to the black families, who wanted to move from the rundown housing they lived in downtown? It was in this way that Harlem became a largely black neighborhood.

The news soon spread that in Harlem blacks had better opportunities for housing and education. Many blacks came to Harlem from the south of the United States and even from the islands of the Caribbean.

The 1920s were Harlem’s great years, especially in the arts. Top jazz musicians were heard regularly – Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Fletcher Henderson, and many others. Harlem had a very active club scene. Whites from downtown came to Harlem and partied until the early hours of the morning. Ironically, some of these clubs, including the famous Cotton Club, didn’t allow blacks as customers. But people who lived in Harlem had parties of their own. At these parties, 50 cents bought lots of food and all-night piano playing. The music was probably better than anywhere else, as famous musicians came and “challenged” each other.

The depression of the 1930s hit Harlem hard. With a bad economy and ongoing discrimination, many blacks were unable to earn a living. The neighborhood became poorer, and many middle-class blacks left. Harlem has never really recovered. Yet it has kept its special feel and remains a center for black culture.

Give your understanding of these words and explain their origin: Downtown, Uptown Manhattan, Wall Street, Greenwich Village, *art deco* style, Times Square, Off-off Broadway theatres, Harlem.

THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

The Mid-Atlantic region is by no means uniform: geographically, historically, and economically, the Mid-Atlantic states are quite different from one another. New York borders on Canada and has cold winters; Maryland has much in common with the American South.

The Mid-Atlantic region plays an important role in the United States. Its cities include Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, and New York City, the nation's financial center. Not surprisingly, the Mid-Atlantic region is densely populated: Although the region is relatively small, nearly one in every ten Americans lives there.

Niagara Falls. Spectacular and beautiful, Niagara Falls has always been especially popular with two kinds of visitors: thrill-seekers and honeymooners.

It is easy to see why the thrill-seekers have visited Niagara. In 1859, Frenchman Jean Francois Gravelet became the first person to cross the falls on a tightrope. Not satisfied with this achievement, he made the trip again, this time with his manager on his back! In 1901, a schoolteacher, Mrs. Annie Edison Taylor, became the first person to go over the falls in a barrel.

It is less easy to see why so many newlyweds feel they have to begin married life at the falls. We do, however, know when and how this tradition got started. In 1803, Jerome Bonaparte, a nephew of Napoleon, visited Niagara Falls with his bride. Each year many people visit from either the American side or the Canadian side. A boat called *Maid of the Mist* will take you right out to the falls!

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is the city where the two most important decisions in American history were made.

In May 1775, representatives of the thirteen colonies met in Philadelphia to decide whether to remain with Britain or fight for independence. Fighting had already begun, but many people still hoped for peace with Britain. Finally, more than a year later, on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was unanimously approved.

In 1787, representatives from all the states met in Philadelphia to discuss the problems. They soon decided that the confederation could not work and that a new system of government was needed. For this purpose, they wrote the United States Constitution. The Constitution united the states into one country. For over two hundred years, it has provided the framework for American government.

Washington, D.C. With its grand neoclassical buildings and its tree-lined avenues, Washington, D.C. strikes the visitor as a lovely and formal city. Washington wasn't always this way.

When it was decided that the new country needed a new city for its capital, President George Washington himself helped pick the spot – a marshy area where the Potomac and Anacostia rivers come together. French engineer Pierre L’Enfant created a design based on Versailles, a palace built for King Louis XIV in the 17th century. The capital city would be crisscrossed by broad avenues, which would meet in spacious squares and circles.

The Capitol Building is one of the most impressive buildings in Washington. The Capitol Building is easy to recognize because of its large dome, which is the fourth largest dome in the world, rising 180 feet above the floor and weighing almost nine million pounds. Around the large dome there are 36 marble columns, each representing the 36 states in the Union when the dome was built. Above these 36 columns there is another set of 13 columns that represent the 13 original colonies.

The White House. The most famous address in America is 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue because this is the address of the President of the United States.

The cornerstone of the White House was laid on October 13, 1792, making it the oldest government building in Washington. Washington himself, in the company of his staff, walked through the rooms just a few days before his death in 1799. John Adams was the first actually to occupy the house in 1800. The White House was burned by the British in 1814. After the fire, the White House was repaired and ready for use again in 1818. With the restoration, the stone was painted white to obliterate the marks of the fire.

Known officially as the Executive Mansion, the White House not only served as a residence for the President but also serves as the official office for the Executive Branch of American government. The President is the head of this branch of government and works from his Oval office in the White House.

The White House has 132 rooms and 20 bathrooms. The President and his family live on the upper floors, but the public can visit the White House and see several of the famous rooms such as the State Dining Room, the Blue Room and the Red Room.

Washington Monument. In the city filled with monuments and memorials, the Washington Monument is the most visible. Dedicated to U.S. first president, the monument stands 555 feet tall and is not only the tallest structure in Washington, D.C., but is the tallest stone monument in the world. Hence, its nickname – the “Pencil”.

Work was officially begun on July 4, 1848 and progressed until 1854, reaching a height of 150 feet. Public dissatisfaction with the monument, lack of funds and the Civil War halted construction until 1880. When the work resumed, a different color

marble was used, thus creating a line still visible today. Work was completed in December 1884; the monument was officially dedicated in February 1885 and opened to the public in October 1888.

Use of its 898 steps is now prohibited and visitors must use the elevator to reach the top and return. The panoramic view from the Washington Monument is equally impressive in the daylight and at night.

Lincoln Memorial. At the western end of the Mall and in the direct line with the Washington Monument and Capitol is the Lincoln Memorial, dedicated to U.S. sixteenth President, Abraham Lincoln – a man who believed all men should be free.

In a city with many varied architectural styles, this memorial is designed similar to the Greek Parthenon. Construction began in 1914 and was completed in 1922. It has 36 columns surrounding the walls, representing the 36 states in the Union at the time of Lincoln's death. The nineteen foot statue of Lincoln faces east, toward the Capitol and reflecting the pool. On the north wall is Lincoln's Inaugural Address, and on the south wall is the Gettysburg Address.

Jefferson Memorial. The last great monument to be erected on the Mall is a fitting tribute to a man who was an accomplished architect as well as a powerful statesman. Located at the east end of the Tidal Basin is the large domed memorial dedicated to U.S. third president – Thomas Jefferson. The circular, colonnaded structure is an adaptation of his favored Pantheon in Rome.

The nineteen foot bronze statue faces north toward the White House where Jefferson served as Secretary of State under George Washington, Vice-President under Adams, and became President in 1801. Engraved on the interior walls are four inscriptions describing the chief principles of Jefferson's beliefs. The most famous of these is the Declaration of Independence, of which he was the author. Also included are words expressing Thomas Jefferson's beliefs in freedom of the mind, freedom of the body, necessity of education and necessity for change in laws.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Vietnam War was the longest in U.S. nation's history; the first casualty was July 1959 and the last in May 1975. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1982. Its black granite walls contain the names of over 58,000 men and women who lost their lives or who are missing or unaccounted for in the war. The names are listed in chronological order of the casualty. Maya Ying Lin designed the memorial. Her concept was that "the names would be the memorial": no other words are used here. Also symbolic is the "V" shape, with one wall pointing toward the Lincoln Memorial and the other toward the Washington Monument. The life-size sculpture nearby was designed by Frederic Hart and represents all

men – Hispanic, Black and White – who participated in the Vietnam conflict; it also portrays the youth of many of the Vietnam soldiers.

Arlington National Cemetery is the burial grounds for America’s military personnel and the families. Thousands of veterans from American wars are buried in Arlington. Today there are approximately 300,000 graves in Arlington and that number increases by about 3,500 each year.

Some of the famous people are buried in Arlington Cemetery including Admiral Robert E. Peary (explorer of the North Pole region), General John J. Pershing (General of the Armies in World War I), Major Pierre L’Enfant (designer of Washington, D.C.) and many others. There are two past American presidents buried in Arlington Cemetery, William Howard Taft and John F. Kennedy.

Probably the most visited area of Arlington National Cemetery is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Tomb is a marble tribute to the memory of all the soldiers who have died in service to their country, but were never able to be identified. On the front of the Tomb are three figures that represent Peace, Victory and Valor. Inscribed on the back of the Tomb are words of tribute, “Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God”.

Mount Vernon, the home of George and Martha Washington, is located along the shore of the Potomac River a few miles south of Washington, D.C.

This famous plantation was passed on to George Washington from his older brother, and at one time included 8,000 acres. On Mount Vernon, George Washington built five complete farms and a fishery. These farms and the people who worked supplied them with nearly everything they needed for everyday existence. They grew their own food and raised their own animals: horses, cows, sheep, hogs, etc. The workers made their own clothes, shoes, furniture, candles and soap. Mount Vernon was a working plantation on which life, as the colonists knew it, was totally self-sufficient.

At the end of one of the beautiful brick walks is the tomb of George and Martha Washington. George Washington had built the tomb for his brother and knew that upon his own death, he would also rest on his beloved Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon was so revered that during the Civil War, it was considered neutral ground by both sides.

Smithsonian Institution. When you visit any of the Smithsonian’s 16 museums, you are entering the world’s largest museum complex. The Smithsonian Institution holds some 134 million artefacts and specimens . The Institution, an important center

for research, is dedicated to public education, national service and scholarship in the arts, science and history.

The Smithsonian was established in 1846 with a gift of \$500,000 given to the American people by James Smithson, an English scientist. After his death, James Smithson's body was brought to the United States and entombed in the "Castle" building on the Mall.

Though the Smithsonian has millions of artefacts and specimens, only three per cent are displayed at any one time. Therefore, the exhibits are constantly being changed in order to display as many items as possible and to make them as current and relevant as possible.

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts offers opera, ballet, film, drama, musical theater, chamber music, symphony orchestras, recitals, workshops, and master classes. On any given night the six theaters of the Kennedy Center stage several of these cultural events before thousands of admiring patrons. Only a few in the audiences, however, may know they are witnessing the fulfillment of a dream, that George Washington had more than 200 years ago when he proposed that a national cultural center be located in the capital city.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is unique: a presidential memorial operating under the auspices of the National Park Service, and a national center for the performing arts directed by a board of trustees. The foyer is one of the largest rooms in the world, measuring 210 by 14 meters. The focal point is the bronze bust of President Kennedy.

THE SOUTH

The South is economically, historically and culturally a distinct region. With its warm climate and rich soil, it soon developed an economy based on export crops like cotton. These were grown on farms worked by slaves from Africa. Conflicts between the North and the South, especially over slavery, led in 1861 to the Civil War. South lived an elegant life – something like the beginning of the famous movie *Gone With the Wind*. In fact, very few whites lived on plantations. Most whites were small farmers who did not own any slaves. But these small farmers also favored slavery; it gave them someone to look down on. In the last few decades, the South has become more industrial and urban than in the past. Some parts of the South are among the fastest-growing areas in the country. But the South also preserves its traditions – for example, its emphasis on good cooking and its slower, more hospitable way of life.

The Mississippi River. The Indians called it the father of the Waters. Indeed, its name comes from the Indian words for “big” (*michi*) “water” (*sipi*). Sometimes it’s affectionately called the Big Ditch. The Mississippi is without doubt the most important geographic feature in the eastern United States. It runs 2,300 miles, from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. At one end, bears prowl through snow; at the other, alligators lie in the sun. With its tributaries, the Mississippi drains all or part of 31 states. In 1811, the steamboat was introduced to the Mississippi. Skeptics said that such a large boat could never survive the Mississippi’s currents, bends, sandbars, and floods. The steamboat *New Orleans* proved them all wrong, by traveling from Pittsburgh to New Orleans and back.

For a while, at the end of the 19th century, the Mississippi lost out to railroads. But today the river is more important than ever for commerce. Boats – now diesel-powered – carry bulk cargo, like oil, steel, and coal, that trains cannot transport. The Mississippi is also a river of history and memories. No writer captured the Mississippi River better than **Mark Twain.** Twain knew the river well. As a boy, he almost drowned in it nine times; as a young man, he was a riverboat pilot. Twain’s *Huckleberry Finn* may be the greatest American novel ever written. It tells the adventures of Huck Finn, a runaway boy, and Jim, an escaped slave. Huck and Jim travel the Mississippi on a raft; Jim tries to reach the North.

Elvis Presley was born in 1935, in East Tupelo, Mississippi. His family was poor. They moved to Memphis, Tennessee in search of better opportunities.

What influenced Elvis and his music? First, there was his mother Gladys. For his eleventh birthday, Elvis wanted a rifle. Gladys convinced him to get a guitar. Then there were the revivals, or religious meetings, he went to. These revivals were highly emotional, with singing as well as preaching and prayer. Elvis was influenced by the gospel music sung and by the way the preachers stirred up the crowds’ emotions. Finally, there was Memphis, which was a center for blues music and had a radio station that played gospel, blues, and rhythm-and-blues. Elvis often listened to this station.

Elvis became a truck driver. One day in 1954, he stopped in at the Memphis Recording Studio and, just for fun, recorded a song. Sam Phillips, the studio head, heard the song and immediately recognized Elvis’s potential. He called Elvis back for a real recording session. Elvis was an instant hit on the radio and soon went on tour. Success came more from spontaneity than from deliberate plans. Elvis’s career was interrupted in the late 1950s, when he went to the army. When he came out, at his manager’s urging he turned to acting. Most of his films were not very good, but they were financially successful.

In 1968 Elvis returned to live performances. But to many people, these performances were like a bad imitation of his former self. Elvis also had problems in his personal life (his wife divorced him), as well as problems with his weight and with drugs. Elvis died in 1977 at the age of 42. Was he a failure? The answer – from musicians and fans – is no. The Beatles replaced Elvis in the early 1960s as the most important figures in rock. When asked about Elvis and rock, the Beatles' John Lennon said simply, "Before Elvis there was nothing".

As an American city, *New Orleans* is unusual. It was founded by the French in 1718 and did not become part of the United States until 1803. New Orleans has taken elements from many cultures and created its own unique culture.

New Orleans is where jazz and the blues really got started. You'll find there are still many jazz clubs there. In spring you can go to the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. There you'll hear everything from fiddlers to large jazz bands, from street musicians to "big names" in music. When you get hungry, you can treat yourself to local specialties, like alligator soup and crawfish pie.

Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) is the city's most famous festival. It takes place the week before Lent, which is the period of fasting before Easter. There are many parades, organized by special groups. Even spectators dress in elaborate costumes. There have always been balls during Mardi Gras, and in recent years there is a costume contest, too. One grand-prize winner was a forty-foot crawfish!

Florida: America's Vacationland. Walt Disney World, near Orlando, Florida, lets you experience it all: the past, the present, the future, the world of fantasy.

In Disney's Magic Kingdom, you can go to Main Street, USA, a town from around 1900, whose theater shows only silent movies. You can travel through space on Space Mountain, just as several astronauts have. You can, of course, also see characters from Disney movies and even have dinner at Cinderella Castle.

But Florida is much more than Walt Disney World: At Cape Canaveral, you can go to the Kennedy Space Center and tour buildings where vehicles are assembled and astronauts are trained.

Miami reflects a more recent Hispanic influence. After the Cuban Revolution, many Cubans settled in Miami. In Miami's "Little Havana", you'll see Spanish-style street lights, Cuban food, factories where cigars are rolled by hand, and even stores with signs saying "English spoken here".

No city grew more than *Atlanta, Georgia.* People today speak of the "New South". If there is a New South, then Atlanta is surely its "capital". Atlanta has the world's second largest airport. Of the 500 largest companies in the United States, 450 have offices in Atlanta. One of these, Coca-Cola, is no surprise; the formula for Coca-Cola was developed over 100 years ago by a pharmacist in Atlanta.

In 1886, Dr. John Pemberton, an Atlanta pharmacist, invented the syrup for Coca-Cola. He sold it in his pharmacy for 5 cents a glass. One hundred years have brought many changes. In 1894 Coke was for the first time sold in bottles. During World War II, bottling plants were set up in Europe, Africa, and the Pacific. More recently, Coke has introduced variations like Diet Coke and Cherry Coke. Today the Coca-Cola Company is the world's largest soft drink producer. Coca-Cola is sold in more than 160 countries.

Another characteristic of the New South is improved relations between blacks and whites. In this sense, too, Atlanta symbolizes the New South. In 1974, Atlanta became one of the first cities in the country to elect a black man as its mayor.

THE MIDWEST

The Midwest is a large, economically important region. It contains major industrial cities and much of America's farmland. Geographically, the Midwest can be divided into three smaller regions. The northern Great Lakes area has many hills, lakes, and forests. South of that is the prairie area, which is flat and has good soil for farming. To the west is the Great Plains area, which, although also farmed, is far drier than the prairie.

According to an old joke, "New England is New England, the South is the South, and California is California, but the Midwest is America".

The Midwest seems less "different" than the other regions precisely because it is America's center, its heartland. It is America's center in many ways: it is America's geographical center. The exact middle point of the United States falls in Smith County, Kansas. The Midwest is the center of American agriculture and industry. Traditional American values are associated most strongly with the Midwest – especially with its many small towns. These values focus on family, hard work, church, and community. It is also in the political middle. Even when it comes to accents, the Midwest is considered the "real American thing". Television and radio announcers from elsewhere in the country work hard to get rid of their regional accents and to speak English as it's spoken in the Midwest.

The Great Lakes – lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario – are the largest concentration of fresh water in the world. They lie on the border between the United States and Canada. They have always played a major role in the Midwest's economy. Many of the region's important cities – including Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, and Cleveland – are on the Great Lakes. The lakes are used for transporting grain, timber, ore, and other products of the Midwest.

Chicago is on Lake Michigan, and waterways (and later, railroad lines) made Chicago a natural link between the products of the Midwest and the markets of the

East. Soon Chicago was a center for meatpacking and grain storage, as well as for the manufacturing of farm equipment. In this way, Chicago played a key role in the growth of the Midwest and of the United States. Not surprisingly, Chicago itself grew rapidly – from 50,000 people in 1850 to over 1 million by 1900.

In 1871, Mrs. O’Leary’s cow kicked over a lantern in a barn, starting a fire that just about destroyed Chicago. From the ashes of the Great Chicago Fire emerged that great modern innovation – the skyscraper.

Chicago needed to rebuild and could afford to do so. In the 1880s and 1890s, Chicago attracted engineers and architects from around America and Europe. These men, now known as the Chicago School, included Louis Sullivan, John Root, and Frank Lloyd Wright. The traditions they began have been developed over the years by others who worked in Chicago, for example, the German architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.

You can see many architectural landmarks if you visit the Loop. The Loop is Chicago’s downtown area (it got its name because Chicago’s elevated railway makes a circle, or loop, around it). Chicago’s tallest buildings are the John Hancock Tower, the Standard Oil Building, and the Sears Tower, which is the world’s tallest building.

Motor City. In 1701, Antoine Cadillac founded Detroit. But in many ways, Detroit really got its start almost 200 years later. In 1896, in a workshop in Detroit, Henry Ford built an automobile. With this, Detroit was on its way to becoming Motor City – the city that is home to the American automobile industry.

Henry Ford, a Michigan farm boy, was not the first person to build an automobile. But he saw its potential importance: As he said, “Everybody wants to be somewhere he isn’t”. Ford’s dream was to build an affordable car. Ford introduced standardization, or the idea of making all cars alike, and the assembly line, which brought the car parts to the worker. Through standardization and the assembly line, Ford was able to make his dream reality – in the shape of the Model T Ford.

The Indians of the Great Plains. In the Black Hills of South Dakota there are two huge monuments carved from mountains. One is the Mount Rushmore National Monument. It shows the faces of four American presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt. The other is the Crazy Horse Monument. In progress since 1947, it will show the famous Sioux Indian leader on horseback. These two monuments are tributes to heroes of two cultures that clashed on the American continent.

THE SOUTHWEST

The Southwest is characterized by geographical and cultural variety. Geographically, the region ranges from humid lands in eastern Texas to drier prairies in Oklahoma and Texas to mountains and deserts in Arizona and New Mexico.

Texas. The word that may best explain Texas is “big”. Texas is the size of all the New England states *plus* New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois. In fact, one Texas ranch, the King Ranch, is larger than the state of Rhode Island! Texas also has a unique history. After becoming independent from Mexico in 1836, it was a separate country for nearly ten years. Texas was also home to the cowboy, that hero of the American West.

Texans seem to have a special talent for making money – sometimes without even trying. In the 1890s some boys in Beaumont, Texas liked to play in a certain field where matches would burst into flames without being struck. In 1900 a man dug for oil in that field. The oil companies laughed; at that time, all known American oil deposits were in Pennsylvania. Today Texas produces about one-fourth of America’s oil.

The Cowboy. People’s images of the cowboy don’t quite fit the reality. For example, people often think of all cowboys as white Americans. Actually, the first cowboys were Mexican; many cowboy customs began in Mexico. There were also black cowboys – often ex-slaves freed by the Civil War – and Indian cowboys. People also forget that the cowboy’s main job was to take care of cows and to get them to market. The cowboy’s life, although full of adventure, was hard and often boring.

In the mid-1860s, Texas cattle ranchers found that in other states, like Kansas, they could get ten times, as much money for their cattle. This is how cattle drives got started. On the drives, cowboys took the cattle along trails from Texas up to Kansas and even further north.

The cattle of different owners grazed together in open grassland. They were marked with their owner’s symbol. When it was time for the drive, the cowboys would round up the cattle that had the right brand. Brands were also meant to discourage cattle thieves; cattle owners chose brands that would be hard to change.

On the trail, cowboys worked from before sunup to after sundown. At night they took turns guarding the cattle. One constant danger was the stampede: a change in weather or an unexpected noise was enough to make the cattle run. The era of the cattle drive – the real era of the cowboy – lasted only about twenty years. As more land was fenced in, cattle could no longer graze freely. Today there are still cattle ranches

and cowboys. The work in many ways remains the same. But with fences and modern machines, a lot has changed. Even cattle rustlers now use planes and helicopters!

Rodeos give modern cowboys a chance to show their skills. In the old days, when cowboys got bored on cattle drives, they often challenged each other in informal competitions. Soon towns had more formal competitions for cowboys. Today the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association sponsors about 700 rodeos a year.

Las Vegas, Nevada. Las Vegas is a center of gambling in America. For this reason, some say the name Las Vegas comes from a mispronunciation of the phrase “lost wages”. In reality, “*Las Vegas*” is Spanish for “the meadows”. Early settlers were impressed by the fact that Las Vegas was an oasis of green grass in the middle of a desert.

Today Las Vegas is still an oasis – not of grass, but of neon lights. Las Vegas’s hotels and gambling casinos use so much neon that Las Vegas has been nicknamed the City of Lights. Las Vegas’s growth began in 1931, when the state of Nevada, in need of money, decided to allow gambling and to make divorce easy. Getting married is also easy in Nevada. Las Vegas has wedding chapels that are open 24 hours a-day!

In fact, all of Las Vegas is basically open 24 hours a day. In addition to casinos, Las Vegas is famous for its shows, which often feature well-known performers. What is Las Vegas like? Its many admirers and many critics agree that it is an “adult Disneyland”, a fantasy oasis in the Nevada desert.

The Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon was formed by the mighty Colorado River cutting into a plateau in Arizona. The canyon is 277 miles long and about 1 mile deep. Because it is so deep, the top and the bottom have very different weather and vegetation. Going from the top to the bottom is somewhat like going from Canada to Mexico.

The canyon is visually stunning, with gold, pink, and purple bands of rock. Each of these bands is a stratum, or layer, of the earth’s crust. Some strata took over 170 million years to form. In the Grand Canyon you can hold a rock that is 2 billion years old!

According to an Indian myth, it was through the Grand Canyon that humans entered earth. There are signs that humans lived in the Grand Canyon 4000 years ago. Lieutenant Ives was one of the first non-Indians to see the canyon. He wrote: “It seems intended by nature that the Colorado River shall be forever unvisited”. The prediction made by Lieutenant Ives couldn’t have been more wrong. Today, millions visit the Grand Canyon each year. Many come only for a quick look. But for those who want to explore the canyon, there are plenty of opportunities.

Arizona and New Mexico are both known for their varied and often spectacular scenery – deserts as well as mountains and high plateaus. Arizona has been the setting for many Western films, and New Mexico has been a subject for many painters.

In Arizona, as elsewhere in the Southwest in the 1800s, towns sprang up overnight when miners struck gold (or silver, or copper). When the mines were “played out”, the townspeople disappeared as quickly as they had appeared. Only their buildings remained, “ghosts” for modern visitors to explore. Every ghost town is different. Some were active only a few years, others lasted nearly a century. Some are represented today by a single ruin, others have dozens of well-preserved buildings.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

The mountain region has plains and even deserts. But its main geographic feature is the Rocky Mountains. These mountains stretch from Alaska to northern Mexico and include many smaller ranges. The Rockies are among the earth’s youngest mountains. Because they are young, they are not worn down. They have steep slopes and many peaks and valleys. The mountains give the region spectacular scenery – and they limit economic development.

Salt Lake City. Today Utah has over 1,5 million people, about 70 percent of whom are Mormons. In Salt Lake City, Utah’s capital, you can learn a lot about Mormon history. Early Mormon society differed from the rest of the United States in several ways. Mormon society was largely communal. Irrigation water, for example, was owned by the community, and the church gave each family the amount it needed. In the United States, church and government are separate. The early Mormons, however, combined the two; church leaders like Brigham Young were also political leaders. The most noticeable difference was that Mormons practiced polygamy – men could have more than one wife. Polygamy led to continued bad feelings between Mormons and others. Only after the Mormons gave up polygamy (1890), did Utah become a state (1896).

The Wasatch Mountains, only minutes from Salt Lake City, have some popular ski resorts. Also nearby is the Great Salt Lake, which has water fifteen times saltier than ocean water. The lake is a great place for floating. It’s almost impossible to sink in the Great Salt Lake! Fishing, hunting, river rafting, rock climbing, hiking, skiing, bicycling, horseback riding – there’s almost no end to what you can do outdoors in the Rockies.

Denver, Colorado. Denver lies on the eastern slope of the Rockies. To its east are vast plains, to its west are the mountains. There are no other large cities around. This

setting gives Denverites a sense of isolation and self-sufficiency, just as in the days when Denver was a frontier mining town. Over the last thirty years, Denver has become an important center for energy research and for high-tech industries. Many people – especially young people – have moved to Denver.

One of Denver's landmarks is the home of "the unsinkable Molly Brown". Daughter of a ditchdigger, Molly Brown became wealthy but, despite years of effort, was not accepted by Denver "high society". In 1912, Molly Brown decided to sail the *Titanic* on its first voyage, because so many rich and famous people would be making the trip.

When the ill-fated ship hit the iceberg that sank it, Molly Brown didn't panic. She loaded people into lifeboats, leaving only when thrown into one herself. When the ship's officer who was in her lifeboat refused to row and moaned that the end was near, Molly Brown took charge. Wearing a fur coat under her life jacket and holding a gun in her hand, she gave orders to row. She told stories about the west and sang songs to keep people's spirits up. When rescued, she said simply, "I'm unsinkable". And, on returning to Denver, she finally received those invitations she'd always wanted!

Yellowstone National Park. For almost seventy years, no one believed the stories about Yellowstone. The first white person to explore the area was fur trapper John Colter. In 1807, when he described the hot water and steam shooting into the air and the bubbling, boiling pools of mud, people just laughed at him in disbelief. In 1869, members of a scientific expedition refused to describe what they had seen. They were afraid they would lose their reputation as scientists.

Finally, in 1871, the U.S. government sent a team, which included William Henry Jackson, a famous photographer. Jackson's photos were impressive – so impressive, in fact, that Congress voted to set the area aside as a park. Yellowstone became the first U.S. national park. Yellowstone has more thermal activity than any other place in the world. This is caused by a hot spot deep in the earth, which sends liquid rock nearly to the surface, producing heat.

The geysers, which shoot water into the air, are especially spectacular. Yellowstone's most famous geyser is Old Faithful. Old Faithful got its name because it is so reliable: It erupts about every 70 minutes. Mudpots, another result of thermal activity, are bubbling, boiling pools of mud.

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND ALASKA

This region is known for its natural beauty – a beauty that is fairly tame in Oregon and Washington and much more wild in Alaska. There are mountains, forests, and rugged coastlines. The outdoors play an important role in people’s lifestyles, which tend to be casual and informal.

In the economic hard times of the early 1990s, these states were among the few that were not experiencing difficulties. Alaska was doing well because of its oil, while Oregon and Washington were doing well because they are centers of trade with Asia. Manufacturing and agriculture are also important in Oregon and Washington; lumber (wood) and fishing are important to all three states.

According to a joke, with so little sun and so much rain, people in Oregon don’t tan – they rust. Not all of Washington and Oregon is rainy, however. In fact, many areas get only about 6 inches of rain all year! The Cascade Mountains run through Washington and Oregon. Moist air from the Pacific Ocean loses its moisture, as rain, by the time it passes the Cascades. So there is a “wet side” to the west of the Cascades and a “dry side” to the east.

Seattle, Washington is often called the Emerald City, or the Jewel of the Pacific Northwest. Like a beautiful jewel in an expensive ring, Seattle is in an exquisite setting: it is surrounded by green hills.

At first, Seattle’s circumstances did not seem too promising. Although Seattle had an excellent port, it was far from the rest of the United States. But Seattleites were enterprising: They were determined that Seattle would one day be another New York and were willing to work to make their city great. They took whatever opportunities came their way. For example, in the mid-nineteenth century, San Francisco, burned down six times in less than two years. Each time, San Francisco was rebuilt with wood from Seattle.

Seattleites with faith in their city were rewarded at the end of the century. The railroad finally reached Seattle, linking it to the rest of the country. Then, one day in 1897, a ship pulled into Seattle with news that gold had been discovered in Alaska. The thousands who went to Alaska left from, and came back to, Seattle. Seattle became wealthy as a result of the gold rush.

In the early part of this century, a man who wanted to make airplanes started a company in Seattle. For lack of work, the company often made furniture in its early days. Now, however, the Boeing Company has more orders for planes than it can handle.

Alaska: Land and People. Alaska is big. It is twice the size of Texas, the next-largest state. Alaska spans four time zones. One-third of Alaska is above the Arctic Circle. Areas near the Arctic Circle experience long periods of perpetual light in summer and long periods of perpetual dark in winter. Alaska has had temperatures as low as -80°F and has areas of permafrost, ground that is always frozen. Parts of Alaska are so remote that many mountains there have not yet been named! Although Alaska is the largest state, it has the fewest people: 0.7 persons per square mile.

According to an Indian legend, an Indian long ago helped a giant in Siberia kill his rival, who fell dead into the sea, forming a land bridge to North America. Scientists say that at times from about 15,000 to about 40,000 years ago, the sea level was so low that people could walk from Siberia to North America. These were the first inhabitants in the Americas. Some stayed in Alaska, others, over thousands of years, migrated south and east.

Today Alaska has slightly over 500,000 people, about 15 percent of whom are native. “Native” refers to people in three groups: Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut. The Indians are of several different tribes. The Eskimo live not only in Alaska but in an area from Siberia to Greenland. The origin of the Aleuts is not known. It is thought they may have come long ago from a northern island of Japan. The first non-Natives came from Russia. Many Alaskans still belong to the Russian Orthodox church. Since the 1950s, the number of non-Natives has increased greatly.

CALIFORNIA AND HAWAII

These two states are grouped together mainly because they are relatively near each other: California, although 2,500 miles from Hawaii, is the closest state to Hawaii. California is the most populated of the states and one of the largest. The eight islands of Hawaii are together one of the smallest, least populated states. The two states do have a few things in common: culturally diverse populations and lots of sun and sand.

California is frequently described as being “like America, only more so”. In California, America’s good points often seem even better and its problems even worse. Many people think of California as the state that symbolizes the American dream. There, individuals have the opportunity to succeed – to do and be what they want.

Geography adds to the sense that California is somehow a symbol of the American dream. When you stand on California’s high, rocky northern coast, you are aware that you are at the end of the continent. For several centuries, Americans pushed west in search of a better life. California was as far as they could go.

California is a land of startling contrasts – dense forests, alpine mountains, fruitful valleys. There were about 130,000 Indians living in the region when the Spanish discovered it in 1542. The first permanent Spanish settlement did not, however, appear here until the 18th century. In 1812 Russian fur traders established Fort Ross on California’s northern coast and it functioned as a Russian trading post until 1841 when, by order from Alaska, the fort was dismantled and its population returned there.

In 1822, after Mexico won its independence from Spain, California became a Mexican province, and its social, economic and political life was centered around large cattle ranches. The first organized group of American settlers came to the region in 1841. But even as late as 1846 California’s white population was still only about 6,000 Mexicans and Spaniards and no more than 1,000 Americans. In 1848, after the end of the Mexican War, Mexico ceded California to its powerful neighbor.

The Forty-Niners. In January 1848, a man named James Marshall noticed some flecks of gold in a river in California. Word of Marshall’s discovery got around, and by 1849 thousands of people – “forty-niners”, as they were called – were on their way to California. Within four short years California’s population jumped dramatically and its reputation as a land of opportunity was well established!

The trip to California, over land or by water, was difficult but the rewards were great – at least in the early days. Gold was in the hills, and rivers had eroded the hills. As a result, a miner could get gold simply by panning the rivers – by using a pan to separate the gold in the water from the dirt and rocks.

Often, the most money was made not by miners themselves but by those who had something to sell to the miners. A man named Levi Strauss, who had recently immigrated to the United States, thought he knew just what the miners would buy: He headed for California with canvas for tents.

“Tents!” the miners told him. “We already have tents. You should have brought pants. Pants don’t last at all here”. A quick thinker, Strauss made his canvas into pants. Miners liked the pants because they were sturdy and lasted. And so Levi’s were born. By the 1870s Strauss was making blue jeans much like those today. He’d begun using a strong cotton from Nimes, France called *serge de Nimes* (from “de Nimes” we get the word “denim”). He’d also begun dyeing the cotton blue and even stitching the pockets with double arcs – the same design you see on Levi’s now!

The city of San Francisco was itself a result of the Gold Rush. Forty-niners who went to California by ship passed through San Francisco. Many of them returned to

San Francisco – with or without fortunes – to stay. In 1848 San Francisco was a settlement of 200 people. Eight years later it was a city of 50,000.

San Francisco is surrounded on three sides by water. It is famous for its bridges, fog, and foghorns. San Francisco has 40 hills. It is famous for its cable cars, which climb these hills, and for its bright houses that cling to the hills along steep and narrow streets. San Francisco is a wonderful city to explore on foot.

San Francisco also has a reputation as an intellectual, liberal, and slightly crazy city – a city where new and different ideas can be explored. In the mid-1960s, San Francisco gave rise to hippies (and even to the word “hippie”, which comes from the adjective “hip”, meaning “aware”). The college protests that swept America in the late 1960s also began in the San Francisco area – at the University of California, Berkeley. Always known for academic excellence, in the 60s and 70s Berkeley was even more known for student protest.

Don't leave San Francisco without seeing the structure that has become its symbol – the Golden Gate Bridge. This beautiful orange suspension bridge, which opened in 1937, goes between San Francisco and Marin County to its north.

In 1939, two young engineers, Bill Hewlett and David Packard, went to work in a garage in the valley. They developed an oscillator, an electronic device. Today Santa Clara Valley is the most important center of America's computer and electronics industry, and Hewlett-Packard is one of its major firms. More often than not, Santa Clara Valley is referred to by its nickname, Silicon Valley. Trends today include more attention to computer software, more partnerships with Japanese companies, and consolidation. One key element remains the same: the emphasis on innovation.

Los Angeles. If, as was said earlier, California is like the United States only more so, then surely Los Angeles is like California only more so. The images most people have when they think of California best fit Los Angeles and the surrounding area.

The Los Angeles area has many beaches, with surfers, volleyball players, and people getting tan. The Los Angeles area is also the center of the movie industry and home to many movie stars. Los Angeles has money and glamour; the Beverly Hills neighborhood, for example, is famous for its mansions and high-priced shops.

One thing that Los Angeles seems *not* to have is a city. Actually, there is a downtown area, but since the 1950s Los Angeles has grown outward. Los Angeles's "suburbs" are not really suburbs: They not only have houses but also many businesses and offices, and they tend to develop suburbs of their own. So Los Angeles keeps growing spreading out into farmland and even desert.

Los Angeles's growth is supported by its diverse economy. It is a center, not only for entertainment and tourism, but also for manufacturing, business and finance, aerospace, oil, and trade. Its ports now handle more cargo than New York. The growth of trade is largely the result of the strong economies in Asia. Asian companies have also invested heavily in Los Angeles; three-fourths of downtown L.A. is foreign owned, much of it by Japanese.

Los Angeles faces some serious problems. With so much traffic, Los Angeles has the dirtiest air in the United States; all too often the sunshine is hidden by smog. Crime and violence are also major problems. Police say there are at least 500 gangs in Los Angeles. Violence among gang members, who are usually teenagers, has grown with the spread of drugs and drug money. Experts emphasize that the problems must be solved if Los Angeles is to maintain the Southern Californian lifestyle for which it's so famous.

Hollywood. Hollywood was once all farmland. By 1910, however, filmmakers began moving there. Southern California's climate was perfect for shooting movies all year-round. And the area had settings for just about any movie – it had mountains, desert, and ocean. Soon “Hollywood” came to mean “the American film industry”.

In Hollywood you can see two great theaters, where many movies premiered: Pantages Theater and Mann's Chinese. Mann's Chinese is famous for its cement courtyard with footprints and handprints of stars who were in – and at! – movies the theater showed. (People say the tradition started when the theater first opened and an actress in the movie being premiered accidentally stepped in the still-wet cement).

Even if you can't see the stars, you can see many things associated with them. Hollywood souvenir shops are filled with autographs, old movie posters, costumes, and stills. Stills are photos of scenes from movies.

Thousands of tourists flocking daily to Los Angeles are especially attracted by **Disneyland**, the children's fairy-tale park, opened in 1955 and the Hollywood Bowl, a gigantic open-air cinema theater which every summer houses national musical festivals and where the highest film awards – the Oscars – are presented to film stars and producers.

The Hawaiian Islands are volcanic. Volcanoes on the floor of the Pacific grew as a result of eruptions and finally appeared as islands above the ocean's surface.

The Hawaiian Islands are remote: the nearest land is 2,500 miles away. Yet, as early as 300 A.D., ancient Polynesians, who were skillful navigators, migrated to Hawaii. Hawaii's first contact with the West wasn't until 1778, when it was “discovered” by English explorer James Cook.

The early 1800s brought great changes. First, Kamehameha, a powerful chief, unified the islands of Hawaii by defeating the other chiefs. He established a monarchy and proved to be a good king. Second, Protestant missionaries from the U.S. came to Hawaii. On the positive side, the missionaries applied the alphabet to Hawaiian and soon taught the people to read and write. On the negative side, the missionaries disapproved of Hawaiian culture and did much to discourage it.

In 1848, the land, which had belonged to the king, was divided up. *Haoles*, the Hawaiian word for foreigners, could now own land, as could Hawaiians. Foreigners soon had large sugarcane plantations. These plantations required a lot of labor. Workers came from China, and then from Japan, the Philippines, Portugal, and elsewhere. Many workers stayed.

There was growing disagreement between the economically powerful *haoles* and the Hawaiian monarchy. The *haoles* wanted political reforms and obtained some of them. They were mostly Americans, and they wanted the United States to annex Hawaii. The U.S. at first refused but soon found itself in need of a military base in the Pacific and in 1900 Hawaii was annexed. In December 1941, the Japanese surprise attack on the naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, brought the United States into World War II.

In 1959, Hawaii was made the 50th state. Just as important, the first jet landed in Hawaii. With quicker, cheaper travel, Hawaii's tourist industry boomed. Today tourism accounts for 30 percent of Hawaii's income – a figure that won't surprise anyone who has been to its crowded beaches! Tourists come from around the world but especially from the U.S. mainland and Japan.

Hawaii's people today are from many groups – Japanese, American, Chinese, and Filipinos. Less than one percent of the population is pure Hawaiian, but many people have some Hawaiian blood. Today one of every two marriages is between people of different groups.

Hawaiian culture reflects this ethnic mix. Hawaii has been described as a place where East meets West. It has also been described as a mixture of U.S. culture and its own island culture, with "island culture" meaning the combination that has developed from all the groups that settled there.

When James Cook reached Hawaii in 1778, he was astonished to see people on boards riding the waves. Although surfing was unknown in the West, the thrill was immediately obvious to Cook. Surfing had come from ancient Polynesia and for centuries had been practiced as an art and a sport, especially by the royalty.

The missionaries thought the surfers were insufficiently dressed. As a result of their influence, surfing nearly died out. In the end, far from dying, surfing spread around the world. Surfing became *really* popular once light boards were developed. (Traditional surfboards weighed about 150 pounds!). Hawaii has some of the world's best surfing. Serious surfers go to Hawaii in winter to catch the dangerous 25-foot high waves.

Comprehension. What associations have you got with these names, place names and places of interest: Niagara Falls, the "Pencil", the Capitol Building, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Institution, John Kennedy Center, the Midwest, Great Chicago Fire, Sears Tower, Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone National Park, the "forty-niners" hippie.

POLITICAL SYSTEM

The U.S. is a democracy. Lincoln said that the U.S. had a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people". He called the U.S. a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. No one has formulated a better way of describing the principles of the American political system as Americans understand it. The Constitution, laws and traditions of the U.S. give the people the right to determine who will be the leader of their nation, who will make the laws and what the laws will be. The people have the power to change the system. The Constitution guarantees individual freedom to all.

The form of government is based on three main principles: federalism, the separation of powers, and respect for the Constitution and the rule of law. Americans are subject to two governments, that of their state and that of the Union, and each has its own distinct function. The states have, under the Constitution, the primary functions of providing law and order, education, public health and most of the things which concern day-to-day life. The Federal government at Washington is concerned with foreign affairs and with matters of general concern to all the states, including commerce between the states. This at any rate is how the system was planned at the beginning. But for a long time the Federal government has been extending its activities more and more. Many of the programs of action which a modern society demands need to be undertaken on a nationwide scale if they are to be effective. The Federal government has in fact been active in the fields of social services, education, research of many kinds, and regulation of business and of the ordinary productive processes.

At each level, in state and Union, there is a constitution which defines and limits political power, and which provides safeguards against tyranny and means for popular participation. In each state, power is divided between three agencies, with law-making power given to a legislature (usually of two houses, elected for fixed terms), an executive (the governor), and finally the judges of the State Supreme Court. Each state is divided into counties, which have their own powers, and there are also special-purpose areas for some functions of local interest. Within the counties the towns have their own local governments, mainly as 'cities'. City government, with elected mayor, council and judges, reproduces the state pattern on a smaller scale. Each of the fifty states has its own peculiarities, and one cannot attempt to describe particular systems one by one. But one can say that all state and city governments provide for election of legislatures and executives for fixed terms, and all have devices for ensuring that each of the three elements of government exercises a check on the other two.

The Federal government also has three elements – executive (the President), legislature (Congress) and judicial, and the three elements are checked and balanced by one another. The President is the effective head of the executive branch of government as well as head of state. In November of each leap year a President is elected to serve for exactly four years from a fixed day in the following January. The four-year rhythm has never been broken. Together with the President, a Vice-President is elected, and if the president dies the Vice-President becomes President for the unexpired part of the four years – which could be three years or three months. The founders of the Constitution thought of the President as a replacement for the English king, and did not expect any President to resign, though the old device of impeachment was available for Congress to remove a President by a special kind of political trial. Up to 1974 no President had resigned, and the two attempts at impeachment of Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton failed.

A person elected as **Vice-President** expects that he will have no defined function (except, curiously, to preside over the Senate) unless he happens to be thrust into the highest office through the chance of the President's death. Most Vice-Presidents during a second term regard the office as a useful base from which to try to win their party's next candidature for the Presidency, as Nixon did in 1960 and Bush in 1988.

Out of the nineteen men elected to the Presidency between 1840 and 1960, four were assassinated and four died in office, so eight of the men elected as Vice-President before Ford acceded to the highest office – and in May 1945 Vice-President Truman became President only four months after the four-year period had begun.

Until 1951 there was no limit to the number of four-year terms for which a person could be elected as President. (Up to 1940 eight had served for two full terms, but none for a third). In 1940 Franklin Roosevelt was elected for a third term, and in 1944 for a fourth, cut short by his death. In 1951 a constitutional amendment set a limit of two terms – that is, eight years.

The powers of the presidency are formidable, but not without limitations. **The President**, as the chief formulator of public policy, often proposes legislation to Congress. The President can also forbid any bill passed by Congress. The veto can be overridden by a 2/3 vote in both the Senate and House of Representatives. As head of his political party, with ready access to the news media, the President can easily influence public opinion regarding issues and legislation that he deems vital.

The President has the authority to appoint federal judges as vacancies occur, including members of the Supreme Court. All such appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Within the executive branch, the President has broad powers to issue regulations and directives regarding the work of the federal government's many departments and agencies. He also is commander in chief of the armed forces.

The President appoints the heads and senior officials of the executive branch agencies; the large majority of federal workers, however, are selected through a non-political civil service system. The major departments of the government are headed by appointed secretaries who collectively make up the President's cabinet. Each appointment must be confirmed by a vote of the Senate. Today these 14 departments are: State, Treasury, Defense, Justice, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy and Education.

Under the Constitution, the President is primarily responsible for foreign relations with other nations. The President appoints ambassadors and other officials, subject to Senate approval, and with the Secretary of State, formulates and manages the nation's foreign policy. The President often represents the U.S. abroad in consultations with other heads of states, and through his officials, he negotiates treaties with other countries. Such treaties must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Senate.

The legislative branch is made up of elected representatives from all of the states and is the only branch that can make federal laws, levy federal taxes, declare war or put foreign treaties into effect. It consists of a Congress that is divided into two groups, called houses:

The House of Representatives comprises lawmakers who serve two-year terms. Each House member represents a district in his or her home state. The number of districts in a state is determined by a count of the population taken every ten years. The most heavily populated have more districts and, therefore, more representatives than the smaller states, some of which have only one.

The Senate comprises lawmakers, who serve six-year terms. Each state, regardless of population, has two senators. That assures that the small states have an equal voice in one of the houses of Congress. The Terms of the senators are staggered, so that only 1/3 of the Senate is elected every two years. That assures that there are some experienced senators in Congress after each election.

The main duty of the Congress is to make laws, including those which levy taxes that pay for the work of federal government. A law begins as a proposal called a “bill”. It is read, studied in committees, commented on and amended in the Senate or House chamber in which it was introduced. It is then voted upon. If it passes, it is sent to the other house where a similar procedure occurs. Groups who try to persuade congressmen to vote for or against a bill are known as “lobbies”. When both houses of Congress pass a bill on which they agree, it is sent to the President for his signature. Only after it is signed the bill becomes a law.

The judicial branch is headed by the Supreme Court, which is the only court specifically created by the Constitution. Federal judges are appointed for life and can only be removed from office through the process of impeachment and trial in the Congress. The Supreme Court today consists of a chief justice and associate justices. The Court’s most important function consists of determining whether congressional legislation or executive action violates the Constitution. This power of judicial review is not specifically provided for by the Constitution; rather, it is the Court's interpretation of its Constitutional role.

When Americans talk about their three-part national government, they often refer to what they call its system of “checks and balances”. The system works in many ways to keep serious mistakes from being made by one branch or another. Here are a few examples of checks and balances:

If Congress proposes a law that the President thinks is unwise, the President can veto it. That means the proposal does not become law. Congress can enact the law despite the President’s views only if 2/3 of the members of both houses vote in favor of it.

If Congress passes a law which is then challenged in the courts as unconstitutional, the Supreme Court, has the power to declare the law unconstitutional and, therefore, no longer in effect.

The President has the power to make treaties with other nations and to make all appointments to federal positions including the position of the Supreme Court justice. The Senate, however, must approve all treaties and confirm all appointments before they become official. In this way the Congress can prevent the President from making unwise appointments.

The Constitution has always been regarded with almost religious veneration, both because it is the main expression of the American ideal, and because of its success in translating that ideal into practice. It is a short document, and some of it is vague and uncertain in meaning. Also, it was written in 1787 and the actual conditions and problems of an industrial nation of over 250 million people are very different from those of the small pre-industrial society of the eighteenth century.

The Constitution consists of the Preamble, seven articles and twenty-seven amendments, the first ten of them, called collectively the Bill of Rights, and adopted under the popular pressure in 1791. When the Constitution was first proposed in 1787, there was wide-spread dissatisfaction because it did not contain guarantees of certain freedoms and individual rights.

In the Bill of Rights, Americans are guaranteed freedom of religion, of speech, and of the press. They have the right to assemble in public places, to protest government actions and to demand change. They have the right to own weapons if they wish. Neither police nor soldiers can stop and search a person without good reason. They also cannot search a person's home without legal permission from a court to do so. The Bill of Rights guarantees Americans the right to a speedy trial if accused of a crime.

There is one more very important part of the American political scene which is not part of any formal written document: the political party system. When members of a political party form a majority in Congress, they have great powers to decide what kinds of laws will be passed.

Today, the U.S. has two major political parties. One is the Democratic party which evolved out of Th. Jefferson's party, formed before 1800. The other is the Republican party, which was formed in the 1850s, by people in the states of the North and West, such as A. Lincoln.

Most Americans today consider the **Democratic party** the more liberal party. By that they mean that Democrats believe the federal government and the state govern-

ments should be active in providing social and economic programs for those who need them, such as the poor, the unemployed or students who need money to go to college. The Democrats earned that reputation in the 1930s when there was a world-wide economic depression. Under President Roosevelt's plan Democrats set up government programs that provided paid employment for people building dams and roads and public buildings. The government under the Democratic party established many other programs, including Social Security, which ensures that those who are retired or disabled receive monthly payments from the government.

Republicans are not necessarily opposed to such programs. They place more emphasis on private enterprise and often accuse the Democrats of making the government too expensive and of creating too many laws that harm individual initiative. For that reason, Americans tend to think of the Republican party as more conservative. Both major political parties have supporters among a wide variety of Americans and embrace a wide range of political view points.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. On what three principles is the form of government based?
2. What are the powers of the presidency?
3. How the legislative branch is made up?
4. Why are Federal judges appointed for life?
5. What does the Constitution consist of?

PRIVATE LIFE

Home. First of all Americans, when they are free, concern themselves with their homes and with their activities at home. Most people have an ambition to own their house in a little piece of ground, and very large numbers of them have achieved that ambition. Houses are not excessively expensive in relation to their space and comfort by European standards, and in relation to income levels they look very reasonable. Two-thirds of all families own the houses in which they live, though many of the owners have borrowed money on the security of their houses and their jobs in order to pay for them.

As the suburbs grow, so the city centers tend to become mainly places for business, and the central areas are losing commerce to the suburbs. In suburban areas shopping centers consist of a group of perhaps fifty shops around a huge car park; and the main unit of the shopping center is usually a supermarket which stays open very late, or even all night. The growth of these vast establishments, and the decline of the small independent shops, began earlier than in Europe and proceeded faster.

Modern Americans are accustomed to buying all their food in weekly visits to the supermarket, bringing it home in the car and storing it in the deep-freeze.

Once Americans have reached home they are interested in working to improve it and in making it as pleasant as possible. There is a strong incentive to spend much free time at home when the home is well-equipped, comfortable and attractive; for example, the private swimming pool is no longer reserved for the rich. One of the first activities at home is making things, mending things and working on the car. Apart from that there is television, and in most parts there are many programs to choose from as well as cable TV.

Americans like to invite their friends to their homes, even for Sunday breakfast. Parties for children and for grown-ups are constantly occupying their leisure hours, usually with something to drink. When a new family moves into a suburban house the neighbors will be calling at once to see if they can help in any way. The problem of personal social barriers has been overcome more successfully than in any part of Europe. So although each home may be a unit looking inwards to itself, it is also a unit which is much involved with the activities of the homes round about it. The new suburb recreates the sense of community of the old country village so that a family's home, instead of being an isolated island, is itself a part of a group of homes. It is possible to turn it into an island, but not many suburbanites want to do that. Most find their homes more satisfying because of their links with the neighbors – and also not too narrow because they still have plenty of contacts outside the neighborhood. Most go to work in another place, so that the suburban home is only a part of their environment.

The constant visits of friends and neighbors encourage people to display their possessions. It is not enough just to have the usual array of machines and gadgets in the house; they must be new ones and the best ones too. The gadgets which increase leisure act at the same time as an encouragement to more work and more earnings, and are sometimes regarded as ends in themselves, not merely as useful tools with which to avoid unpleasant work. The acquisition of the latest dishwashing machine is followed by the air-conditioning system, the swimming-pool or covered terrace. But a family whose income rises soon looks for a better house, in a better district, with more land, a better view, a bigger and finer swimming pool. They may be attached to the house which is home for the time being, but this does not imply that they have roots there. Today's job, today's home, today's friends and neighborhood: all these are part of a family's identity. Nothing is regarded as permanent, the Americans hope and expect to exchange them all for something better and new.

Outside the home. Cities visited by tourists, notably New York, San Francisco, New Orleans and Washington, have downtown areas and some other sections with the mixture of culture and entertainment facilities usual in European cities, but most others are less well equipped for the enjoyment of city life. There is no tradition of cafes with tables on the sidewalks. Bars and saloons are in general too unattractive to compete with people's homes as social centers. There are plenty of agreeable restaurants where the food is good and reasonably priced. Along with the ethnic restaurants and fast-food places there is a wide variety of choice – but it is possible to find the same choice in suburbs and beside main roads. City parks and riverside walks are now popular with joggers and cyclists conscious of the need for exercise.

The movies have held their audience, particularly among the younger generation. The growth of television cut the movie audiences quickly until the 1960s, but since then attendances have fallen less than in other countries with similar living standards, from seven visits per year per person to a little less than five. People who like sitting in their cars may choose the drive-in movies, where they can have the baby sleeping on the back seat, so that they do not need to call upon a baby-sitter. Movies, discos, bowling alleys and other indoor entertainments are not much concentrated in the big city centers, but are scattered around the residential areas. It is only the theatres, concert halls and museums that keep alive some semblance of city culture.

The arts are sponsored more by business than by government, but other aspects of the quality of life are promoted by innumerable improvement societies and other pressure groups, not only in cities but in suburbs and small towns too. Group activity in support of causes is more developed in America than in any other country: against pollution, noise, ugliness; in support of action to make the environment more pleasing, more humane. Promotion of such causes demands group activity, and enthusiasm in such groups absorbs the time and energy of members, among whom women are prominent. Leadership is widely diffused, and an active member of a church, a rotary club, a parent-teachers' association or the League of Women Voters has a social role which gives significance to his or her life and place in the community.

All this social effort has contributed to a recent development which is making urban life more cultivated than it used to be. Apart from New York and a few other big cities, most towns were for a long time weak in music, theatre and the arts. By now the rest of the United States has gone so far in material development that it is no longer satisfied with being a cultural desert. Amateur orchestras and dramatic groups have flourished, taking their place among the manifold social activities – but these have also developed taste and talent.

The Family. The American family has changed greatly in the last 20 or 30 years. Many of these changes are similar to changes taking place in other countries. Young people are waiting longer before getting married. Women are also waiting longer to have children. It's not unusual today for a woman to have her first child in her mid-thirties. And families are having fewer children. The typical family used to have three children. Today most families have one or two children.

In the traditional family, the wife stayed at home with the children while the husband earned money. Now 60 percent of all married women work outside the home. So a majority of couples have two wage-earners. One reason for this change is that women want and expect to have careers. Another reason is economics. With rising prices, many families cannot survive on one person's salary.

The United States has a high divorce rate: Approximately 1 in every 2 marriages ends in divorce. One result of this high divorce rate is that many American children live in single-parent families.

Although some women wait until their thirties to have their first child, other women become mothers while they are still teenagers. Many of these teenaged mothers are not married. Many are also poor. Poverty among children in homes headed by single mothers has become a serious problem in the United States.

Often people who are divorced get married again. This has led to a new kind of family – the “**reconstituted family**”, in which there are children from previous marriages as well as from the present marriage.

There used to be mainly two types of families: the extended and the nuclear. **The extended family** most often included mother, father, children, and some other relatives, such as grandparents, living in the same house or nearby. Then as job patterns changed and the economy progressed from agricultural to industrial, people were forced to move to different parts of the country for job opportunities. These moves split up the extended family. **The nuclear family** became more prevalent; this consisted of only the parents and the children.

In the American family the husband and wife usually share important decision making. When the children are old enough, they participate as well. Foreign observers are frequently amazed by the permissiveness of American parents. The old rule that “children should be seen and not heard” is rarely followed, and children are often allowed to do what they wish without strict parental control. The father seldom expects his children to obey him without question, and children are encouraged to be independent at an early age. Some people believe that American parents carry this

freedom too far. Young people are expected to break away from their parental families by the time they have reached their late teens or early twenties.

Now, besides these two types of traditional groupings, the word “family” is being extended to include a variety of other living arrangements. Today’s family can be made up of diverse combinations. With the divorce rate nearly one in two, there is an increase in single-parent homes: a father or mother living with one or more children. **Blended families** occur when previously married men and women marry again and combine the children from former marriages into a new family. On the other hand, some couples are deciding not to have any children at all, so there is an increase in two-person childless families. There are also more people who live alone: single, widowed, divorced. Now, one in five Americans lives alone.

Is the American family in trouble? People point to the divorce rate, to the fact that working mothers might have less time with their children, and to the “generation gap”, or the problems that parents and children sometimes have understanding each other. Experts say, however, that the family is as strong as ever. Family is still at the center of most people’s lives.

Women in the USA constitute 52% of the country’s population. Many of them are earning money outside their homes today. Among women who are eighteen to sixty-four years old, sixty-two per cent have jobs.

Today more women are holding jobs of greater diversity than ever before. The number of women in law and medicine rose dramatically. In high schools and colleges, women’s studies, courses in history, literature, and sociology have brought new attention to women’s lives. At the same time women traditionally dominate certain occupations. In recent years they comprised the great majority of nurses, secretaries; 68% of all teachers, excluding those at the college level; and 97% of all private-household workers.

In general, working women have more education than those who stay at home. Of those who work, thirty-two per cent have attended college, compared with twenty per cent of those who do not have jobs. It’s natural that college-educated women want to use their academic training after marriage. Besides, the task of running a household has become easier due to modern appliances and aids such as convenience foods, and many women choose to work primarily for the satisfaction derived.

Among women with jobs, eight out of ten drive a car to work, and eight per cent took a vacation away from home during the past year. Much of their travelling was by air. These figures come from a report which was written by advertisers. The report gives a new picture of women today. For instance, it tells advertisers that fifty-one

per cent of all American women have traveled by air – along with fifty-nine per cent of all American men. The lesson for American business is that a significant number of married women have entered the labor force for non-economic reasons because they want to have other interests in addition to their homes. They like advertisements which show women in offices, planes and cars.

Holidays. Most working Americans take at least four weeks' holiday each year, in addition to the few one-day national holidays added to weekends. A new tendency to split the main holiday into two grows, with the development of winter sports and easier access to the winter warmth of the Caribbean and Mexico.

In any one year some stay at home, for domestic or health reasons, or because they want or need to avoid expense. Some of the most ambitious work nearly all the time, and take no holiday at all, or very little. Some return to old homes, or go to see old friends who have moved to new homes. For many people, a holiday of two weeks or more includes several long days of car travel, most of it monotonous. To serve these long-distance travelers there is a wealth of motels beside the roads, more comfortable and convenient than interesting, with heated or non-heated open air swimming pools. Some have self-catering facilities in their rooms.

Second homes abound, used for weekends and for holidays, if possible by lake or river shores and equipped with boats. People, who prefer mobility, favor “campers” -- enormous homes on wheels, which go from one campsite to another. Many country, state and national parks have well-equipped camping facilities, better located than the motels outside the park boundaries. Enterprising retired people – and some workers who choose to take long unpaid vacations – travel big distances in their campers, even to the sunshine of southern Mexico to escape the northern winter months. Such expeditions rarely aim at solitude, and wherever Americans go on holiday, one of their aims is to meet new people, make new friends and share new experiences with them.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. How many families own the houses in the USA?
2. What is vitally important for the Americans to have at home?
3. What is “reconstructed family”?
4. What occupations do women traditionally dominate today?
5. Where do Americans go on holiday?

ON THE AMERICAN CHARACTER

Many books and articles have been written on American character. Their authors are by no means always in agreement, but they tend to focus on the peculiarities and contrasts, in the way the Americans behave. A few of these contrasts were very well described by Stephanie Faul in her book which covers this vast and highly debatable topic. Understanding of it will inevitably require from the reader the presence of a sense of humor.

Nationalism and Identity. Americans are like children: noisy, curious, unable to keep a secret, not given to subtlety, and prone to misbehave in public. Once one accepts the Americans' basically adolescent nature, the rest of their culture falls into place, and what at first seemed thoughtless and silly, appears charming and energetic.

Visitors may be overwhelmed by the sheer exuberant friendliness of Americans, especially in the central and southern parts of the country. Sit next to an American on an airplane and he will immediately address you by your first name, ask "So, how do you like it in the States?", explain his recent divorce in intimate detail, invite you home for dinner, offer to lend you money, and wrap you in a warm hug on parting.

This does not necessarily mean he will remember your name the next day. Americans are friendly because they just can't help it; they like to be neighborly and want to be liked. However, a wise traveler realizes that a few happy moments with an American do not translate into a permanent commitment of any kind. Indeed, permanent commitments are what Americans fear the most. This is a nation whose most fundamental social relationship is the casual acquaintance.

How they See Themselves. As befits a nation originally settled by misfits, convicts, adventurers, and religious fanatics (a demographic mix that has changed hardly at all in nearly 400 years), the United States retains a strong flavor of intransigent non-cooperation. Americans are proud to be American – it is the best country in the world – but each individual will explain that he, personally, is not like the other Americans. He is better. Americans are proud to be different from each other, and from the world. The only visual difference between Americans and other nationalities is that Americans are taller and have straight teeth.

There's no such thing as a plain American, anyway. Every American is a hyphenated-American. The original 'melting pot' has crystallized out into a zillion ethnic splinters: Irish-Americans, Japanese-Americans, Mexican-Americans, and so on. A typical American might introduce him or herself as Patrick Ng, Octavio Rosenberg, or Ilse-Marie Nugumbwele. An American will say "I'm Polish" or "I'm Italian" because his great-grandparents were born in Poland or Italy. It doesn't matter that he

speaks not a word of any language besides English and has never been farther east than New York City or farther west than Chicago.

How They See Others. Only 10% of Americans own passports. They don't need them. An American can travel for a week and still be on home turf. The fact that everyone who, lives within 3,000 miles of an American is also an American, gives the average citizen a seriously provincial point of view. Because Americans visit foreign countries relatively seldom, they assume that people all over the world are just like themselves, except for not speaking English or having decent showers.

Some Americans believe that foreign natives really do speak English (they study it at school, you know), but refuse to do so out of prejudice. The delusion that 'they're just like us except for their language, food, and clothing' comes from the reality that nearly all Americans descend from foreign immigrants. Thus people in other countries aren't really aliens, they're just potential Americans.

Special Relationships. Americans have a special relationship with Canadians with whom they share the world's longest undefended border. In fact, most Americans aren't fully aware that Canada is a separate sovereign nation. Canadians look and talk like Americans, and any Canadian baseball team must be from the United States, no matter what its supporters think.

Europe is not very well differentiated in the American mind. American travelers on guided tours happily swing through five countries in seven days, returning home with the vague notion that the Eiffel Tower is somewhere in the neighborhood of the Tower of Pisa – which, by American standards, it is. The distance from London to Istanbul is less than the distance between Pittsburgh and Phoenix and only two-thirds the mileage from Maine to Miami.

Americans feel sentimental about England. They import much of their decent literature and most of their better television programs from Britain, and anyone over 40 worships the country that produced the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. There's also the Royal Family element: lacking a domestic equivalent, Americans lap up the latest imported blue-blooded scandals. Royal weddings attract huge American audiences, who sigh at the glorious un-American pomp of it all.

Americans distrust the Japanese because they are everything the Americans are not: group-oriented, conformist, and ethnically monotonous. They claim, that the fact that the Japanese are richer than they are, doesn't bother them at all.

CHARACTER

Like every other nation, America knows that it's the best country in the world. The difference is that Americans have proof: people from all over the globe really do make enormous sacrifices to come to the United States, often risking their lives in the process. What more evidence is needed? Being Number One is very important to an American. In the United States, it's definitely not how you play the game that matters. It isn't even really whether you win or lose. It's whether you look like you win or lose – more specifically, win. Winning is central to the American psyche. As American football coach Vince Lombardi put it, “Winning isn't everything. It's the only thing”. Virtually every event in American life, from school graduation to marriage, to buying an automobile, is structured so that one party wins, or at least comes out looking better than any of the other participants. What is more, Americans believe themselves to be the only nation that is truly capable of winning

The Feel-Good Factor. Winning is important to Americans because it makes them feel good, and good is the American thing to feel. Americans spend thousands of dollars on books, drugs, and various forms of psychotherapy in order to feel good. The most widely-prescribed psychiatric drug in the country is an anti-depressant.

The American reaction to any kind of disaster or crisis is to feel good about it. Americans always look at the bright side, whether or not there is one, and if possible accentuate the positive of every disaster. “If life hands you lemons, make lemonade”, they'll say as they examine the smashed wreck of their car or the earthquake-ravaged ruin of their house; “I always hated that kitchen”.

Feel-goodism affects all aspects of private and public life. Universities hand out academic awards to anyone with even a passable performance. The American business world is full of rosy projections and enthusiastic estimates. The government and various associations hand out awards and citations for excellence like so many Christmas cards. It's a rare American who doesn't have hanging on his wall at least one Certificate of Excellence, whether in Management, Salesmanship, or Best Attitude.

Elementary schools focus on teaching children self-esteem, urging them to feel good about their accomplishments (even if such accomplishments don't include the ability to perform long division without a calculator). Some schools have stopped giving spelling tests because many of the children couldn't get all the words right and the resulting failure damaged their confidence, i.e., made them feel bad.

Insecurity. The dark side of American cheerfulness is the undercurrent of insecurity and depression. Underneath their grins, Americans are deeply fearful, pessimistic, and unhappy. They're afraid that after working so hard, someone – whether the government through taxes or a thief through force – will take the things they value away from them.

Americans feel inadequate to meet life's challenges. They're afraid they will lose their jobs. They're afraid their children will grow up to become criminals, pornographic film stars, or, worse still, politicians. They're afraid that eating raw oysters will kill them, that their neighbors make more money than they do, that they have cancer.

If they are single they're afraid they will never get married, if married they're afraid they will get divorced, if divorced they fear they will never meet anyone attractive ever again. To prevent these dire events Americans move to the suburbs, install car alarms, buy insurance, avoid shellfish, go into therapy, join clubs for singles, and see marriage counselors. Often this only makes the anxiety worse by bringing sufferers into contact with people who have the same problem.

Being depressed is unattractive and thus not suitable for public display. The preferred reaction is treatment, either with drugs or psychotherapy or both, and concealment. If pressed about his or her state of mind an American will admit, "Oh, I've been depressed for a while, but I feel pretty good about it now".

OBSESSIONS

There are a few, a very few things that Americans condemn as being beyond the pale. They include:

Growing Old. There is nothing more contrasting to the American ideal than growing old. The cultural message for both men and women is 'Look 20 years younger'. Old people, who are called seniors, fight the man with the scythe by dyeing their hair, wearing blue jeans, and having their faces lifted and their tummies tucked.

Perhaps the definitive American remark on aging was made by Ivana Trump, who said, "I'll always look 35, but it's going to cost Donald a lot of money". (It didn't work. He dumped her for a younger woman, but she got the kids and the Plaza Hotel).

Being Fat. An American socialite once said "You can never be too rich or too thin". All Americans crave to be svelte (and rich). This doesn't mean that an average person is thin; far from it. At any given moment fully 30% of all women are on a

weight-loss diet and another 30% are clinically obese. However, rich women are thinner than the non-rich.

Fat is one of the great American paradoxes: films, television, and magazines all idolize undernourished fashion waifs; the weight-loss industry generates billions of dollars per year, yet back in the heartland Mr. and Mrs. America are putting extra mayonnaise on their Big Macs and tucking into a large order of fries. Ironically, discrimination against fat people is tolerated in a way that would be unthinkable for any other form of prejudice.

Dying. It's in extremely bad taste for an American to die, not to mention inconsiderate to loved ones and friends. Americans try to pretend that death doesn't happen at all, and certainly not to their own personal selves. When someone does die, Americans don't know what to say and try to put the experience behind them as soon as possible. Mentioning death in polite society is considered morbid unless it's in the context of a lurid murder.

Getting sick is in almost as bad taste as dying (and significantly more expensive). When an American asks "How are you?" he or she knows the answer already: "Fine. Thanks. And you?"

Gadgets. Do you need to chop lettuce? Dry your hair? Buff your fingernails? Cook a hot dog? Make popcorn? Scent the air? If so, America has an electrical appliance constructed specifically for that purpose, and it can be acquired either from a drugstore or by calling the telephone number of an advertisement on late-night television. American inventiveness, not satisfied with giving the world the automobile, the airplane, color television, and the cellular telephone, has tackled less obvious needs. Americans own thousands of specialized tools that address nearly every human requirement, however obscure. This is the land of the electric salad dryer, the electric can opener, the electric soap dispenser, the electric air freshener, the electric hair curler, and the electric tweezers. Heaven forbid one should have to do anything manually.

LEISURE AND PLEASURE

If there is one thing at which the U.S. excels, it is amusing itself and the world. Not that Americans have much time for leisure. As most workers receive only two weeks of paid leave each year, the mini-vacation is very popular. People head out of town for a long weekend of three or four days so as not to burn up all their holiday time at once.

The United States offers vast holiday resources. The average family going for holidays, packs the children and a huge amount of luggage into a car or RV (recreational vehicle – a motorized small house with all the comforts of home) and drives thousands of miles. Favorite activities include camping, fishing, and visiting America's national monuments and sights. The fact that all these attractions are separated by hundreds of miles of Interstate only adds to the fun. When they go on holiday Americans become even more American than usual, if that's possible, wearing crazy-patterned shorts, white running shoes, and T-shirts with offensive slogans.

Sport. A polyglot, varied country like the United States needs a national means of communication, something that allows the members of any minority subculture to communicate on a friendly basis with people from vastly different backgrounds. Sport is this language. Formerly restricted largely to males, sport has become the universal means of communication as the genders approach social equality.

Major cities have a professional football, baseball, basketball, or hockey team, while smaller towns make do with a high school, college, or minor league team. The sports year may be divided roughly into baseball in summer, football in autumn, basketball in spring, and hockey forever. In practice, the seasons overlap – a hectic scheduling which prevents the television from ever becoming completely idle and gives American males a year-round excuse to escape weekend chores.

Every American football and basketball team, from high school on up to the professional leagues, has an auxiliary squad of attractive young women who wave pom-poms and lead the fans in various cheers. Just as every American boy yearns to be a football quarterback, so girls yearn to head the cheerleading squad, amidst vicious real-life rivalry.

Born to Shop. The American love affair with shopping is more than the natural by-product of a materialistic society. Shopping isn't a chore, it is recreation. It is a pleasure, an amusement, a way to spend time. Friends will make a date to go shopping together and happily return home empty-handed.

American shopping malls and supermarkets are places of consumerism, vast labyrinths of shops and restaurants. Surrounded by many acres of car parks, laden with costly merchandise from all over the world, America's malls beckon with glitter and lights. In suburban communities, it's common for schools to hold dances and parties in shopping malls. They're clean and safe and patrolled by private security guards who have far broader latitude than publicly funded police.

ATTITUDES AND VALUES

Money. As writer and social critic Frank Leibowitz puts it, “In this country, they don’t only think time is money. They think everything is money”. On consideration, the truth is obvious: in the United States, everything really is money. In an egalitarian society of self-made men, what use is a noble family? What good is a developed spiritual nature in the hard-battling arena of technology and commerce? How valuable are clean hands and a pure heart when it’s a dog-eat-dog world? Americans think of everything in terms of money because money can be quantified. In the game of life, money is the most effective way to keep score.

Americans are quite open about their obsession with money. They cheerfully ask and tell each other what possessions cost and how much they earn, and have conversations like, “How much did your lawyer charge you for your divorce? Really? Wow. I guess I got a better deal than I thought”.

Class and Social Status. Almost every American, when asked, will describe him or herself as middle class. (For practical purposes, middle-class means having a job). Today’s Americans no longer believe that anyone can grow up to be President, and are only too conscious of the vast gaps in welfare between their richest and poorest citizens. But they haven’t given up all illusions of equality.

America provides vast social mobility. A plumber could easily have a son who’s a college professor, and just as easily, a college professor could have a son who’s a plumber, especially when the son discovers the direction of the salary differential between the two professions.

In other countries those with hereditary wealth may lead comfortable lives. This is not the case in the United States where even those who don’t need to work pretend they do. Anyone without a job is a non-person. An American conversational staple is to ask “What do you do?” The only forbidden answer is “Nothing. I’m rich”.

When they talk about class, Americans mean a loose consideration of background and attitude that is unrelated to wealth. Donald Trump, for example, while possessed of great wealth, has remarkably little class.

A Man’s Car is His Castle. The automobile, along with a house and a garden, is an essential element of the American Dream.

The average American household has 1.8 vehicles; each vehicle is driven an average of 10,000 miles per year at an average highway speed of 59 miles per hour. Most cars are used for daily commuting; less than 6% of the American workforce uses public transportation to get to work. Some of the country’s high-speed highways now

carry three or more times the intended amount of traffic. San Francisco and Washington, D.C., win the prize for the two cities with the worst congestion.

Even if suburban residents could walk to anything other than the house next door, they wouldn't. Walking is un-American. Whenever possible, Americans drive and, if necessary, wait to get a parking place close to their destination. Congestion occurs as drivers circle the shops, looking for a parking space that's closer to where they want to go.

A car is not just an America's castle, it's a suit of clothes, a haircut, a display of one's personality to the world. Car owners not only select vehicles that reflect this, from red Mazda to long black Mercedes, they also customize them in innumerable ways. They paint the cars with flames, or woodland scenes; they add mirrors and chrome and special headlights. More conventional drivers satisfy themselves with bumper stickers that reveal their educational background, political opinions, or marital status, from 'Yale School of Law' to "If you're rich, I'm single'.

But the biggest purveyors of automotive messages are state governments, which offer special licence plates for a few extra dollars. These 'vanity tags' allow drivers to identify their vehicles with six or seven numbers and letters they choose themselves. This has spawned an elaborate form of coded communication, with car owners outdoing each other to see who's the cleverest. A dentist might have 2TH DR, which may be understood as 'tooth doctor' if you have creative imagination. Political opinions abound, e.g. DEM CAR and LEFANT ("Democrat car", "elephant" – a symbol of the Republican party).

Super-highways with over-passes and under-passes and few or no traffic lights, double or treble the rate of traffic movement. They are magnificent for the fast driver. But even roads like these don't always prevent accidents and one couldn't help noticing some typical American safety-signs: CAN YOUR WIFE AFFORD YOUR FUNERALS?

BEHAVIOR

Family Values. Conservative politicians in particular like no matter on about family values. The problem is that in America nobody is exactly sure what that means. The divorce and illegitimacy rates are high, homosexual couples are having and adopting children in greater numbers, and nearly a third of Americans live alone anyway.

Marriage in the United States tends to look more like serial monogamy than lifetime partnership, especially in the major cities. Just under half of all marriages end in

divorce. However, this statistics is misleading: many people, such as Elizabeth Taylor, married repeatedly, but three-quarters of Americans who marry for the first time, stay that way. The others go through several spouses before settling down. And approximately 10% of men and 5% of women never marry at all.

When Americans say 'family', they mean a nuclear family of Mom, Dad, and the kids. That such households are melting down at a huge rate, doesn't affect the cultural ideal one iota. Another component of the ideal family is a non-working wife, the caring, nurturing mother who greets children after school with a plate of home-baked cookies. Such women, while they do exist, are nearly extinct. More than 80% of women, between the ages of 35 and 45, are employed outside the home for the simple reason that they need money. The children go to day care nurseries or stay with a relative or neighbor; when they're old enough, they go to school and to after-school care. Working parents, especially those in demanding careers, must console themselves by spending 'quality time' rather than quantity time with their children.

Children are raised to be independent and cautious, with a strong sense of self-esteem. Homework is often minimal, so the children have plenty of time to watch television. It is difficult and expensive for parents to get a baby-sitter because local teenagers are probably working at McDonald's. Thus American parents take their children to all sorts of functions such as cocktail parties, the cinema and weddings. Children are raised in as risk-free manner as possible. Along with his or her first bicycle, an American child also receives a safety helmet. The government continually tests toys to make sure they can't cause harm even when used inappropriately; gone are the days of home chemistry sets. School athletics has switched from American football to the less violent soccer.

On the other hand, in many areas teenagers are given a car as soon as they are old enough to drive (usually 16). The insurance payments are astronomical, but since there's little public transportation, it saves hours every day for mothers. Such protected children grow up into perfect Americans -- self-centered, self-assured, competent, cheerful, and eager to try something life-threatening now that their parents are finally off their backs.

The Perpetual Teenager. For many Americans the best years of their lives were in high school -- the years between 15 and 18. Teenagers have few responsibilities, plenty of disposable income and lots of energy with which to have fun and get into trouble.

Given his choice, the American man wants to be a sports star, like basketball wonder Michael Jordan. You can see weekend athletes on playgrounds all across the

country, shooting baskets and pretending they could have gone professional if they hadn't had to earn a living.

American women yearn to be film stars or models, and spend their weekends shopping for cosmetics to make them look like Cindy Crawford. They also yearn for a domestic fantasy, and dream about redecorating the guest bathroom, and 'putting up' quarts of home-canned tomatoes. Martha Stewart, a television personality with her own magazine, had earned a fortune telling American women how to iron their sheets, grow their own salads and make dried flower wreaths. Virtually, no women actually do these things. For many Americans, fantasizing about their own potential is a full-time activity.

Manners. Americans are intrigued by good manners, in part because they don't have any. In the past few years middle-class parents have realized that their children not only don't know which fork to use at a formal dinner but rarely use a fork at all. It seems beside the point, that this is due in large part to the fact that said children are eating most of their meals at fast-food restaurants with their friends instead of around the family table.

Manners are back, up to a point, and etiquette schools do a brisk trade in educating young savages in the niceties of proper behavior, American-style. However, manners have had to adapt to a number of situations hitherto unthought of. What role does the stepfather of the bride play in the wedding ceremony? Should a woman introduce her children to her new boyfriend on the first date?

Americans manage to combine an overall public rudeness with heartfelt concern for others' welfare. They talk too loudly, chew with their mouths open and cut each other off at intersections when driving. Yet they are generous to charities, kind to animals, and concerned about the welfare of the poor.

Many of the variations in American public behavior are regional. Urban New Yorkers are chatty but brusque, giving them the reputation for being intrusive and rude, whereas the friendly Midwesterners can take so long to get to the point that it takes a half an hour to buy a bar of soap.

CULTURE

Though the fine arts do exist in the United States, often heavily subsidized by government and charitable foundations, the country's true pulse is popular. America produces culture of the people, by the people, and for the people, all of the people, all over the world. American popular culture is, in fact, the most popular pop culture ever invented. Foreign governments occasionally try to stop the rising tide of American

cultural influence, but they always fail. The tsunami, that is American popular culture, sweeps aside everything in its path.

Television. Television is the single strongest cultural influence on American life and the widely recognized lowest common denominator. More homes have televisions than indoor plumbing, and the average child spends more time watching television than he or she does in the classroom.

Television defines a reality of its own; news that isn't covered on television didn't happen, and television-only events (such as the wedding or the death of a fictitious character) provoke nationwide reactions. Daytime shows lean towards endless soap operas with plots that revolve around infidelity and medical crises, and talk shows in which hosts prod their guests to reveal personal details no sane person would want to make public.

The American passion for getting something for nothing reaches a frenzy in evening game shows. Another evening staple is the hard-boiled investigative show, which dwells on lurid topics such as body-snatching, drug dealing, and juvenile male prostitution. The latest development in this genre is the real-life crime show, on which cameramen follow the police around for an evening and film them making arrests.

Television reached its nadir with the introduction of cable, which provides more than 80 channels of unwatchable drivel. Specialized programs include The Weather Channel, 24 hours a day of barometry and precipitation forecasts; Music Television (MTV) and its country music and soul music imitators; C-Span, which shows the U.S. Congress in session; and Courtroom Television, which allows viewers to shriek at the television judge the way sports fans might shriek at a referee.

Few topics are considered cultural minefields. Turn on an American television any afternoon and you can see people discussing, in intimate detail, before millions of viewers, topics natives of other nations wouldn't whisper about in the dark. One may hear the testimony of a man who had a sex-change operation, or a wife who had a baby by her sister's husband (her own husband does not know about the situation, but presumably will soon if he's at home watching television). Talk-show guests include everything from homosexual fathers to children who killed their parents.

Faced with such unabashed exhibitionism, one is tempted to scream, "Is nothing sacred?" The answer, of course, is "Well, actually, no. Not on television, anyway".

GOOD LOOKS AND HYGIENE

Frenchmen worry about their livers. Americans worry about their hair. When asked in a survey what they notice first in a potential mate, the answer from both men and women was hair. Having good hair is more important than having a college education or a happy family.

American drug stores burst with hair care products: shampoos, conditioners, permanent colorants, temporary colorants, setting gels, gloss enhancers, curl relaxers, curl activators, and holding sprays. Every American woman has at least one hair dryer, and usually a curling iron and electric rollers besides, not to mention styling brushes, smoothing brushes, holding combs, clips, bands, and other decorations. Men also have hair dryers and, if they suffer from baldness, they use a growth stimulator, buy hairpieces, or have hair transplanted.

Hair makes a political as well as a personal statement. In the 1960s, an Afro hairstyle was a badge of independence among African Americans. Recruits into the U.S. Marines have their heads shaved as part of their introduction to military life. The 'big hair' look is a badge of femininity and often denoted social class as well. The worst personal crisis an American can endure is a 'bad hair day'.

When First Lady Hillary Clinton changed her hairstyle, it made the front page news. President Clinton himself became the subject of national ridicule when he had his hair cut, allegedly for \$400, in his airplane on the runway of Los Angeles airport. The mockery rings hollow, though. Every American would love to get a \$400 haircut.

The odor of the human body is considered repulsive. Americans like pleasant scents, and douse themselves and their personal products liberally with perfume. They use deodorants, spray their homes with room freshener, put fuzzy dice with air freshener in their car.

Heartache. The heart is amazing – it beats more than 30 million times a year, pumping life-giving oxygen throughout the body, without getting tired or ever taking a day off. Americans don't take their hearts for granted. Heart disease is a leading killer, and there isn't an American who doesn't know this on some level. Americans fear cancer with a deadly terror, but they fear a heart attack even more. Health-minded Americans shun activities linked with heart disease, such as smoking and eating fatty foods, and engage religiously in vigorous exercise. Joggers can be seen on the streets in droves soon after dawn, and health clubs and gyms dot the landscape of major cities.

Heart fear is largely, although not exclusively, a masculine phenomenon. For some men fear of a heart attack is an incentive to fidelity. Every once in a while a

famous public figure suffers a heart attack while alone in the company of a person who is not his wife. The resulting publicity does wonders for the nation's marriages.

Not everyone in the country has stopped smoking and drinking and eating steak or started exercising, of course, but they know they should. Recent evidence that a glass of red wine every day helps prevent heart attacks gives these people much hope.

Health Care and Doctors. One reason Americans are obsessed with staying healthy is that it is much, much cheaper than getting sick. American medical care, like so much else in the United States, is the finest that money can buy, but then one needs money to buy it. The system that provides medical services includes a bewildering array of public and private facilities reimbursed by government-mandated insurance schemes that usually cover part, but not all, of the cost of treatment. For non-emergencies, proof of insurance is a prerequisite for receiving care in a private hospital. Even an insured person who becomes ill may be presented with a bill for 20% or more of the treatment cost. The end result is that for many Americans a bout of illness is also the broad road to bankruptcy.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. How can you explain the notion of a “hyphenated-American”?
2. What is American perception of Europe?
3. What is the “feel-good factor”?
4. Can you name any of American obsessions?
5. Why are they called “born to shop”?
6. How much is “class and social status” important in the USA?
7. Why walking is un-American?
8. What are main family values in this country?
9. Why American popular culture is the most popular pop culture?
10. Why nothing is sacred on television?
11. What is important to do for good looks and hygiene?

HOLIDAYS

As a secular country, the United States has trouble with holidays because religious observances and saint's days are off-limits as far as the public calendar is concerned. Yet the traditional cultural observances are mainly religious in nature. To solve the problem, the Americans observe their holidays on a two-tier system. In the first tier are the official government holidays, primarily patriotic, which comprise a dozen or so days commemorating notable men and important civil events. Most of these float to the nearest Monday to provide a series of three-day weekends for office

drones. Banks and workplaces are closed, there is no mail delivery, and public institutions in general shut down. Shops are open, however. In America, the shops are always open, except on Christmas Day.

Observance of most secular holidays is limited to parades, speeches, and enthusiastically advertised department store sales. But in the American ritual calendar, the three summer holidays – Memorial Day, Independence Day, (the Fourth of July), and Labor Day – are consecrated to outdoor barbecues. All across the country homeowners dust off their grills, open packs of hot dogs for the children and trays of chicken, steak or ribs for the adults, douse lumps of charcoal in evil-smelling flammable liquids, and proceed to carbonize the meat, pollute the air, and irritate their stomachs. Holding backyard barbecues is popular all summer long, of course, but on those three days it's mandatory.

The Fourth of July domestic culinary pyromania is followed by community pyrotechnics. Every town puts on the most lavish public fireworks display it can afford. Since fireworks laws vary from state to state, a certain amount of smuggling goes on, with interesting fireworks flowing from states with the laxest controls to states that place more emphasis on public safety.

The population at large also observes a dozen or more unofficial holidays, which celebrate various aspects of religion and popular culture, and which are promoted by the retail, greeting card, and floral industries – such as National Secretary's Day, Grandparents' Day, and Sweetest Day, which is a Saturday holiday six months after Valentine's Day and which was initiated by a candy shop in Chicago some seventy years ago.

St. Patrick's Day turns everybody in the United States into honorary Irishmen and women and everything turns green, even things not normally seen in that color. Bars serve green beer, bakeries produce green bagels. It is traditional on St. Patrick's Day to consume a minimum of one serving of an alcoholic beverage in an Irish bar, and on this day all bars become Irish, as do all musicians.

Few holidays tap into the American psyche so closely as Halloween. Some of the nation's most distinctive character traits – exhibitionism, religious extremism, paranoia and greed – all come together on Halloween to celebrate, protest and turn a profit. Adults and children alike wear costumes, often to work (air travelers may find their flight attendants dressed as witches or fairies). Religiously conservative parents make annual attempts to ban Halloween pumpkins and ghost costumes from schools, because they claim, it teaches the children to worship Satan. Other parents allow their

children to go trick-or-treating (code for ‘give me some candy or I’ll drape toilet paper all over your shrubbery’).

Ten holidays per year are proclaimed by the federal government. They are as follows:

New Year’s Day (January 1)

Martin Luther King Day (traditional – January 15; official – third Monday in January)

President’s Day (third Monday in February)

Memorial Day (traditional – May 30; official – last Monday in May)

Independence Day (July 4)

Labor Day (first Monday in September)

Columbus Day (traditional – October 12; official – second Monday in October)

Veterans’ Day (traditional – November 11; official – second Monday in November)

Thanksgiving (fourth Thursday in November)

Christmas (December 25)

New Year’s Day. In the United States the legal holiday is January 1, but Americans begin celebrating on December 31. Sometimes people have masquerade balls, where guests dress up in costumes and cover their faces with masks. According to an old tradition, guests unmask at midnight.

At New Year’s Eve there are parties across the United States on December 31, many guests watch television as part of the festivities. Most of the television channels show Times Square in the heart of New York City. At one minute before midnight, a lighted ball drops slowly from the top to the bottom of a pole on one of the buildings. People count down at the same time as the ball drops. When it reaches the bottom, the New Year sign is lighted. People hug and kiss, and wish each other “Happy New Year!”

On January 1, Americans visit friends, relatives and neighbors. There is plenty to eat and drink when you just drop in to wish your loved ones and friends the best for the year ahead. Many families and friends watch television together enjoying the Tournament of Roses parade. The theme of the Tournament of Roses varies from year to year. Today the parade is usually more than five miles long with thousands of participants in the marching bands and on the floats. City officials ride in the cars pulling the floats. A celebrity is chosen to be the grand marshal, or official master of

ceremonies. The queen of the tournament rides on a special float which is always the most elaborate one of the parade, being made from more than 250,000 flowers. Preparation for the next year's Tournament of Roses begins on January 2.

In most cultures people promise to better themselves in the following year. Americans have inherited the tradition and even write down their New Year's resolutions. Whatever the resolution, most of them are broken or forgotten by February.

Martin Luther King Day. Martin Luther King was a black clergyman who is ranked among the greatest of black Americans because of his crusade during the 1950s and 1960s to win full civil rights for his people. Preaching nonviolence, much in the same way as had Mahatma Gandhi of India, Martin Luther King spoke out and campaigned tirelessly to rid the United States of traditions and laws that forced on black Americans the status of second-class citizens. Among these laws were those in some states which required black people to take back seats in buses or which obstructed voting by blacks.

In 1968, Martin Luther King was assassinated while he was leading a workers' strike in Memphis, Tennessee. White people and black people who had worked so hard for peace and civil rights were shocked and angry. The world grieved the loss of this man of peace. Martin Luther King's death did not slow the Civil Rights Movement. Black and white people continued to fight for freedom and equality.

On Monday, January 20, 1986, in cities and towns across the country people celebrated the first official Martin Luther King Day, the only federal holiday commemorating an African-American. A ceremony which took place at an old railroad depot in Atlanta, Georgia was especially emotional. Many were the same people who, in 1965, had marched for fifty miles between two cities in the state of Alabama to protest segregation and discrimination of black Americans.

All through the 1980s, controversy surrounded the idea of a Martin Luther King Day. Congressmen and citizens have petitioned the President to make January 15, Martin Luther King's birthday, a federal legal holiday. Others wanted to make the holiday on the day he died, while some people did not want to have any holiday at all. Finally, in 1986, President Ronald Reagan declared the third Monday in January a federal legal holiday commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

President's Day. Until the mid-1970s, the birthday of George Washington, first president of the United States (February 22) was observed as a federal holiday. In addition, the birthday of Abraham Lincoln (February 12), president during the Civil War (1861-1865), was observed as a holiday in most states. In the 1970s, Congress declared that in order to honor all past presidents of the United States, a single holi-

day, to be called President's Day, would be observed on the third Monday in February. In many states, however, the holiday continues to be known as George Washington's birthday.

Memorial Day. This holiday is a day on which Americans honor the dead. Originally a day on which flowers were placed on graves of soldiers who died in the American Civil War, it has become a day on which the dead of all wars and all other dead are remembered the same way. Families and individuals honor the memories of their loved ones who have died. Church services, visits to the cemetery, flowers on graves, or even silent tribute mark the day with dignity and solemnity. It is a day of reflection.

Independence Day. This day is regarded as the birthday of the United States as a free and independent nation. Most Americans simply call it the "Fourth of July", on which date it always falls. The holiday recalls the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. At that time, the people of the 13 British colonies located along the eastern coast of what is now the United States were involved in a war over what they considered unjust treatment by the king and parliament in Britain. The war began in 1775. As the war continued the colonists realized that they were fighting not just for better treatment; they were fighting for freedom from England's rule. The Declaration of Independence, signed by leaders from the colonies, states this clearly, and for the first time in an official document the colonies were referred to as the United States of America.

Generally, picnics with patriotic speeches and parades are held all over the United States on the Fourth of July. It is also a day on which firework displays fill the skies in the evening. The flying of flags, which also takes place on Memorial Day and some other holidays, is common.

Every July 4, Americans have a holiday from work. Communities have day-long picnics with favorite foods like hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad and baked beans. The afternoon activities would not be complete without lovely music, a friendly baseball game and a pie-eating or watermelon-eating contests. Some cities have parades with people dressed as the original Founding Fathers who march in parades to the music of high school bands. Wherever Americans are around the globe, they will get together for a traditional 4th of July celebration.

Labor Day. This holiday has been a federal holiday since 1894. Its purpose is to honor the nation's working people. In many cities the day is marked by parades of working people representing the labor unions. For most Americans, it also marks the end of the summer season, during which most of them take vacations – although va-

cations can be taken at other times of the year. Public schools and other schools below the college level open just before or just after Labor Day.

Columbus Day. This day commemorates Italian navigator Christopher Columbus' landing in the New World on October 12, 1492. Most nations of the Americas observe this holiday on October 12, but in the United States, annual observances take place on the second Monday in October. The major celebration of the day takes place in New York City, which holds a huge parade each year.

Veterans' Day. This holiday was originally called Armistice Day and was established to honor those Americans who had served in the World War I. It falls on November 11, the day on which that war ended in 1918. It honors veterans of all the wars in which the United States has been involved. Organizations of war veterans hold parades or other special ceremonies, and the president places a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington, D.C. There are soldiers buried there from each war the United States has fought in since World War I.

Thanksgiving. Almost every culture in the world has held celebrations of thanks for a plentiful harvest. The American Thanksgiving holiday began as a feast of thanksgiving in the early days of the American colonies 400 years ago.

In 1620, a boat filled with more than one hundred people sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to settle in the New World. This religious group had begun to question the beliefs of the Church of England and they wanted to separate from it. The Pilgrims settled in what is now the State of Massachusetts. The first winter in the New World was difficult. They had arrived too late to grow many crops, and without fresh food, half the colony died from disease. The following spring, the Indians taught them how to grow corn, a new food for the colonists. They showed them other crops to grow in the unfamiliar soil and how to hunt and fish.

In the autumn of 1621 bountiful crops of corn, barley, beans and pumpkins were harvested. The colonists had much to be thankful for, so a feast was planned. They invited the local Indian chief and ninety Indians. The Indians brought deer to roast with the turkeys and other wild game offered to the colonists. The colonists had learned how to cook cranberries and different kinds of corn and squash dishes from the Indians. To this first Thanksgiving, the Indians had even brought popcorn.

In following years, many of the original colonists celebrated the autumn harvest with a feast of thanks. After the United States became an independent country, Congress recommended one yearly day of Thanksgiving, for the whole nation to celebrate. George Washington suggested the date November 26 as Thanksgiving Day.

Then in 1864, at the end of a long and bloody Civil War, Abraham Lincoln asked all Americans to set aside the last Thursday in November as a day of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is a time for tradition and sharing. Even if they live far away, family members gather for a reunion at the house of an older relative. All give thanks together for the good things that they have. Turkey, corn, pumpkin and cranberry sauce are symbols which represent the first Thanksgiving. Now all of these symbols are drawn on holiday decorations and greeting cards. The use of corn means the survival of the colonies. "Indian Corn" as a table or door decoration represents the harvest and the fall season. Sweet-sour cranberry sauce, or cranberry jelly, was on the first Thanksgiving table, and is still served today. The Indians used the fruit to treat infections. They used the juice to dye their rugs and blankets.

Many people attend religious services on Thanksgiving Day, and watching football games – sometimes in person but usually on television – is also a popular Thanksgiving Day activity. The next day, a Friday, most people return to work. But some people take the day off to begin shopping for Christmas gifts. This is the day on which Americans also show increased concern for the poor. Gifts of food for a dinner are common. Charitable organizations and churches provide food or serve dinners for the needy.

Christmas Day. Christmas is a joyful religious holiday when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. To people all over the world, Christmas is a season of giving and receiving presents. In Scandinavian and other European countries, Father Christmas, or Saint Nicholas, comes into houses at night and leaves gifts for the children. Saint Nicholas is represented as a kindly man with a red cloak and long white beard. He visited houses and left gifts, bringing people happiness in the coldest months of the year.

Immigrant settlers brought Father Christmas to the United States. Father Christmas's name was gradually changed to Santa Claus, from the Dutch name for Father Christmas. Although he has origins in Norse and pre-Christian mythology, Santa Claus took shape in the United States. Americans gave Santa Claus a white beard, dressed him in a red suit and made him a cheery old gentleman with red cheeks and a twinkle in his eye. American children believe that Santa Claus lives in the North Pole with his wife. All year he lists the names of children, both those who have been good and those who have been bad. He decides what presents to give to the good children. He oversees the manufacturing and wrapping of the presents by his helpers. On December 24, Christmas Eve, Santa hitches his eight reindeer to a sleigh, and loads it

with presents. The reindeer pulls him and his sleigh through the sky to deliver presents to children all around the world, that is, if they had been good all year.

Special Christmas songs, or carols, are sung and heard all during the holiday season. There are different types of carols: old traditional songs in English, German, Spanish, French and other languages, religious songs and modern American songs. Christmas carols, both religious and secular, capture the spirit and excitement of the season. Another important custom of Christmas is to send and receive Christmas cards, which are meant to help express the sentiment of the season. Some are religious in nature; others are more secular.

Going home for Christmas is a most cherished tradition of the holiday season. No matter where you may be the rest of the year, being “at home” with your family and friends for Christmas is “a must”. The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are the busiest times of the year at airports, train stations and bus depots. It seems that all America is on the move and Americans are on their way to spend the holidays with their loved ones. This means that the house will be full of cousins, aunts and uncles that might not see each other during the year. Everyone joins in to help in the preparation of the festivities. Some family members go to choose a Christmas tree to buy and bring home. Others decorate the house, or wrap presents. And of course, each household needs to make lots of food!

The Christmas table looks much like a Thanksgiving feast of turkey and ham, potatoes and pie. No Christmas is complete without lots of desserts, like other Christmas customs, which were started long ago in other parts of the world. Guests bring English fruit cake or plum pudding as presents to their hosts.

Long ago, each child hung a stocking, or sock, over the fireplace. Santa entered down the chimney and left candy and presents inside the socks for the children. Today the tradition is carried on, but the socks are now large red sock-shaped fabric bags still called stockings. Each child can't wait to open his or her eyes to see what Santa has left in the stocking.

Every year human interest newspaper articles remind readers of the origin of Christmas. Shelters for the homeless and hungry appeal through the newspapers to send money or gifts to those, who are less fortunate. Employees give a small part of their paychecks as a donation to a favorite charity. Such groups and organizations try to emphasize the true message of Christmas – to share what you have with others.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. How is the problem of religious cultural observances and official holidays solved in the USA?

2. Can you explain what “trick-or-treating” means on Halloween?
3. How is Independence Day traditionally celebrated?
4. What is the idea of Thanksgiving holiday and how is it celebrated?
5. How is Christmas celebrated and what traditions are observed?

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN NORTH AMERICA

The American English is different today from the British dialects spoken by the first American settlers. Nevertheless in spite of all borrowings and newly invented words, American English is not a new language. American English and British English develop as variants of the English language constantly influencing each other. American English reflects numerous non-English cultures which colonists met in their conquest of the continent. The American variety of English has borrowed many words from the vocabulary of the French, Dutch, Spanish and German-speaking settlers.

The French borrowings are numerous and the most productive one is *prairie*, which can be found in more than eighty combinations in Webster. The Spanish colonial occupation of North American territory is reflected in American Spanish through the words *ranch*, *rodeo*, *cafeteria*, *lasso*. Among the widely used words of Dutch origin are *Yankee*, *boss*, *cookie*, *Santa Claus*. The words of German origin or showing some aspects of German influence also found their way into the American form of the language: *frankfurter*, *semester*, *seminar* among them. Another source of new words has been the Indian languages and the language of Negro slaves brought to America from Africa. Recent research shows that *jazz*, *hippie* are probably African in origin. The names of many native animals and plants are of Indian origin. As newcomers, the Europeans were at a loss to explain the new plant and animal life of the New World, or to give names to their new tools, so they used Indian words *raccoon*, *opossum*, *skunk*, *moose*, etc. The words *moccasins*, *wigwam*, *toboggan*, *tomahawk* also came from Indian languages.

Both British English and American English have a common origin in the English language of Shakespeare’s time, i.e. the early 17th century. As the time went on the meanings of some words changed, some words became out-dated in Britain, while they were still used in American English. One of the best examples is *fall* – *autumn*. The word was used by Shakespeare, but since his time practically all speakers of British English have used the word *autumn*.

Thus, besides the borrowings from different languages and new meanings of words which appeared due to the development of American ways of life, American

English contains archaic features of the language which have disappeared in England itself. The American Revolution of the British colonies which declared themselves independent, marked the turning point in the making of new, American kind of English. The men who gathered in Philadelphia to sign the Declaration of Independence understood the power of language to shape national consciousness. 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”.

For Jefferson, Franklin, John Adams, and the other leaders of the American Revolution, American English was the proud badge of independence, a language with a future. They professed that English in America should be “improved and perfected”. But how? John Adams suggested that the United States Academy would provide promoting American English and edged a talented linguist Noah Webster to compile the dictionary of it. The culmination of Webster’s efforts came with the publication of his *American Dictionary of the English Language* in 1828, larger than Samuel Johnson’s in England by about a third and containing much American usage. But Webster’s importance does not rest only upon the size of his work. His precise definitions are models of lexicography style. Also, by the inclusion of thousands of technical and scientific terms, Webster laid the groundwork for the modern comprehensive dictionary.

In retrospect, Webster’s influence on American spelling was enormous. It is to him that Americans owe *color* for *colour*, *fiber* for *fibre*, *tire* for British *tyre*, etc.

A few other examples of different spelling are as follows:

| <u>British English</u> | <u>American English</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Honour</i> | <i>honor</i> |
| <i>colour</i> | <i>color</i> |
| <i>theatre</i> | <i>theater</i> |
| <i>centre</i> | <i>center</i> |
| <i>catalogue</i> | <i>catalog</i> |
| <i>programme</i> | <i>program</i> |

The changes introduced into the American variety of English are to be found in grammar and structure as well, but they are especially evident in the vocabulary.

| <u>British English</u> | <u>American English</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>minister</i> | <i>secretary</i> |
| <i>car</i> | <i>automobile</i> |
| <i>secondary schools</i> | <i>high school</i> |
| <i>biscuits</i> | <i>cookies</i> |

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>flat</i> | <i>apartment</i> |
| <i>lift</i> | <i>elevator</i> |
| <i>pavement</i> | <i>sidewalk</i> |
| <i>lorry</i> | <i>truck</i> |
| <i>petrol</i> | <i>gasoline (gas)</i> |

The Queen's English and the President's English. The American vocabulary during the 19th century began to be exported abroad, and by the 20th century, with its economic, political and technological prominence in the world, America and its language became one of the greatest forces for change and the expansion of English. American infiltration of the British word stock began before films, radio, and television were ever thought of, although they have hastened the process.

Many Americanisms have been introduced into British usage: *cafeteria*, *cocktail*, *fan*. American *radio* has replaced British *wireless*. These and other Americanisms have slipped into British English, so that their American origin is hardly regarded at all; since they are used by the English, they are “English”.

We can cite as firmly established in Standard British English *disk jockey*, *natural* (something very suitable), *show business*, *star* – all originally from the usage of the world of entertainment, enormously important in modern America. Most words are frequently borrowed from American English quite unconsciously. Even when they are consciously borrowed, the fact that they are of transatlantic origin is soon forgotten. To recognize American coinages sometimes means to get a taste of American history and character: *abolitionist*, *automobile*, *baby-sit*, *basketball*, *chewing gum*, *credit card*, *electric chair*, *home-made*, *know-how* and so on and on.

The American word *okay*, generally abbreviated to two letters *OK*, is one of those coinages that testify to the enormous influence of Americanisms on the standard British usage. Few people, even among specialists, are conscious of the extent of this influence, and some virtually deny its existence. *OK* expresses approval of any kind and may be used as different parts of speech. The origin of the word is quite obscure, but one of the versions is that it represents the initial letters of *oll korrekt*, which is the phonetic respelling of *all correct*. The establishment of the new word was reinforced by the use of the letters *O.K.* for signing official documents during the President's term of the American general Andrew Jackson (1829-1837), who could not be called a well-educated person.

Many of the new American words added to the English vocabulary are based on old processes, such as compounding existing words, as in *boyfriend*, *bookstore*,

brainstorm. American English also tends to coin and use more freely nouns compounded from a verb and a preposition, such as *checkup*, *fallout*, *feedback*, etc. New words are frequently created by shifting the function of an existing word. Nouns are used as verbs: *to park*, *to package*, *to program*, *to vacation*; adjectives can become nouns: *briefs*, *comics*.

The convenient use of noun as verb in *to contact*, meaning “to see, call, meet, get in touch with”, seems to have originated in America, though it might just as well have done so in English, since there is nothing un-English about such a functional change. But this one word *contact* carries high symbolic importance – there will be no American language, for the simple reason that the Queen’s English and the President’s English grow together.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. Can you give examples of the borrowings from the European languages?
2. Who proposed the idea of American English and how was that idea implemented into life?
3. What spelling differences are we to take into account when we read texts in American English?

AMERICAN FOOD

The popular view outside the U.S. that Americans survive on cheeseburgers, Cokes, and French fries is as accurate as the American popular view that the British live on tea and fish’n’chips, the Germans only on beer and sauerkraut, and the French on red wine and garlic.

This view comes from the fact that much of what is advertised abroad as “American food” is a pretty flat, tasteless imitation. American beef, for example, comes from specially grain-fed cattle, not from cows that are raised mainly for milk production. As a result, American beef is more tender and tastes better than what is usually offered as an “American steak” in Europe. When sold abroad, the simple baked potato that comes hot and whole in foil often lacks the most important element, the famous Idaho potato. This has a different texture and skin that comes from the climate and soil in Idaho.

Even something as basic as barbecue sauces shows differences from many of the types found on supermarket shelves overseas. A fine barbecue sauce from the Southside of Chicago has its own fire and soul. The Texans have a competition each year for the hottest barbecue sauce (the recipes are kept secret).

America has two strong advantages when it comes to food. The first is that as the leading agricultural nation, she has always been well supplied with fresh meats, fruits, and vegetables in great variety at relatively low prices. This is one reason why steak or roast beef is probably the most “typical” American food; it has always been more available. But good Southern-fried chicken also has its champions, as do hickory-smoked or sugar-cured hams, turkey, fresh lobster, and other seafood such as crabs or clams.

In a country with widely different climates and many fruit and vegetable growing regions, such items as fresh grapefruit, oranges, lemons, melons, cherries, peaches, or broccoli, iceberg lettuce, avocados, and cranberries do not have to be imported. This is one reason why fruit dishes and salads are so common. Family vegetable gardens have been very popular, both as a hobby and as a way to save money, from the days when most Americans were farmers. They also help to keep fresh food on the table.

The second advantage America has enjoyed is that immigrants have brought with them, and continue to bring, the traditional foods of their countries and cultures. The variety of foods and styles is simply amazing. Whether Armenian, Catalonian, Danish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, traditional Jewish, Russian, Mexican, Vietnamese or what have you, these traditions are now also at home in the U.S.

There seem to be four trends in America at present which are connected with foods and dining. First, there has been a notable increase in the number of reasonably priced restaurants which offer specialty foods. These include those that specialize in many varieties and types of pancakes, those that offer only fresh, baked breakfast foods, and the many that are buffets or salad bars. Secondly, growing numbers of Americans are more regularly going out to eat in restaurants. One reason is that they are not too expensive. Another reason, probably more important, is that many American women do not feel that their lives are best spent in the kitchen. They would rather pay a professional chef and also enjoy a good meal. At the same time, there is an increase in fine cooking as a hobby for both men and women. For some two decades now, these have been popular television series on all types and styles of cooking, and the increasing popularity can easily be seen in the number of bestselling specialty cookbooks and the numbers of stores that specialize in often exotic cooking devices and spices.

A third trend is that as a result of nationwide health campaigns, Americans in general are eating a much light diet. Cereals and grain foods, fruits and vegetables, fish and salads are emphasized instead of heavy and sweet foods. Finally, there is the international trend to “fast food” chains which sell pizza, hamburgers, Mexican

foods, chicken, salads and sandwiches, seafood, and various ice creams. While many Americans resent this food, many young, middle-aged, and old people, both rich and poor, continue to buy and eat fast foods.

In the U.S., meals are usually served at the following times:

Breakfast: between 6.30 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

Lunch: between noon and 2.00 p.m.

Dinner: between 4.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.

At breakfast coffee shops are popular, reasonably priced restaurants are popular for breakfast, lunch, dinner and just a snack.

Lunch is usually served between noon and 2.00 p.m. Sandwiches are a very popular quick lunch in both the U.S. and Canada.

Fast-food restaurants are popular in the United States for quick, inexpensive meals or snacks. You order your food and take it to a table yourself. If you order your food “to go”, you take it out of the restaurant. Tipping is not necessary in this kind of restaurants.

Dinner time varies somewhat in the U.S. In small towns it may be as early as 5.00 p.m., while in large cities it may be as late as 9.00 p.m. It’s best to call for a reservation in expensive or well-known restaurants.

Dinner, being often the most substantial meal of the day, usually includes a main course of meat, poultry or fish, accompanied by side dishes such as soup, salad and vegetables. Lunch in the U.S. tends to be a lighter meal (often a sandwich, yoghurt, or a light entree). Breakfast meals can vary from cereal and milk to eggs and pancakes or French toast. Brunch, a common Sunday meal, served between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m., is really a combination of traditional “breakfast” and “lunch” dishes.

Cocktail parties are popular for both business and social functions. They may be casual or formal and are often held between 6.00 and 8.00 in the evening. You’ll find restaurants for every situation in the U.S. If you’re in a hurry, you may just want to grab some “junk food” at a grocery store or a candy counter, or you can get a bite to eat at one of the many fast-food chains, like McDonald’s, Burger King, Kentucky Fried Chicken, or Taco Time. Or you can get a sandwich “to stay” or “to go” from a sandwich shop. Some of these places have tables, but many don’t. People eat in their cars or take their food home, to their offices or to parks. If you prefer sitting down but still don’t want to spend time, you can try a cafeteria. At all of these places, you sit down, and you don’t have to tip anybody – but you usually have to clear the table when you finish!

Coffee shops are less expensive and less dressy than fine restaurants. So are pizza places, pancake houses, sandwich shops and family restaurants. But the name of a restaurant won't necessarily tell you much about the kind of place or the food it serves.

Like most fast-food restaurants and cafeterias, many restaurants don't serve alcoholic beverages. This is because they want people to feel comfortable bringing their children. Minors can eat at restaurants that serve beer and wine, but they are not allowed to enter pubs, cocktail lounges or bars. You may be asked to show some identification documents that prove your age before you go into a bar.

You Are What You Eat. Americans approach every meal in terror that the food will kill them or, worse, make them fat. Diet contributes to disease, particularly heart disease, and one never knows which mouthful could be fatal. Suspicious dishes include steak (a 'heart attack on a plate') and any high-fat, high-cholesterol, high-calorie, low-fiber food, such as sugar, butter, cheese, ice cream, white bread, or fried anything. Hot dogs, an American staple, have recently been linked with leukemia in children. In the endless American battle for eternal youth, glowing good health, and an attractive figure, food is on the front lines, and flavor is the first casualty.

Americans will eat any disgusting and tasteless substance, especially if they can be convinced it will keep them healthy or make them thin. Restaurants put special symbols on their menus to indicate dishes that are 'heart healthy' (low in cholesterol and saturated fat) or 'light' (an indefinite term that implies, but does not necessarily mean, low calorie or low fat). Supermarkets have aisles of items marked 'low salt', 'low calorie', 'low fat', 'cholesterol-free', 'diet', or 'imitation'. The food itself isn't nearly as repellent as the food bore. A food bore will preach about the benefits of whatever regimen he or she is following, and is only too willing to explain just how a particular diet is beneficial. Any discussion is larded with comments like "Eating more vegetables prevents cancer, you know", or "It isn't fat that makes you fat, it's carbohydrates that make you fat".

Tea or Coffee. Americans drink coffee. Tea in most parts of the country means iced tea, specifically sweetened iced tea, and more specifically, sweetened iced tea with lemon.

Anyone who wants a cup of hot tea must be prepared to fight to get it. And even when one can be produced, it is guaranteed to be dreadful. The typical American tea service consists of a mug, paper cup, or little metal pot of hot water with a tea bag sitting beside it. Sometimes a waiter will bring a box filled with different types of teas from which to choose. At other times he forgets entirely to bring the tea bag and must

be reminded. It arrives after several minutes of searching in the kitchen. The tea drinker is then expected to add the tea bag to the rapidly cooling water and swish it around, if by that time there is enough heat left to dissolve anything at all.

Ready-made hot tea is never served; Americans believe that when a restaurant pours boiling water directly over the tea in the kitchen it violates the customer's constitutional right to control the tea strength.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. What are two advantages of food in America?
2. What are four trends in the USA at present connected with foods and dining?
3. How do you understand the expression "you are what you eat"?

SPORTS

Sports in the U.S. is a complex, many-sided phenomenon. Like many other aspects of American life sports is one of the most profitable goods on the American market. It has become a social institution which influences education, economics, art, international relations. It is widely used in American political life. Many famous sportsmen participate in Presidential election campaigns attracting attention to the candidates' tours and meetings with Americans.

Interest in sport has grown steadily in the US since a survey in 1956 showed that American children were much less fit than similar European children. A special council on fitness was set up by President Eisenhower and each succeeding president has supported the council's work. Ironically, since the program began with concern for children, it is the adults who have continued their interest in fitness. There is now concern that today's children in the US, with their fondness for television and video games, are getting less exercise than ever.

Many communities maintain tennis courts, swimming pools and golf-courses for public use. Seldom more than within an hour's drive from any American town are facilities for camping, hiking, fishing, boating, swimming and horseback riding. Hunting is very popular in the USA and is pursued over large areas, including some close to the metropolitan centers. Where the climate and terrain permit, there are many places set up for water-skiing, surfboarding, ice-skating, skiing and mountain climbing. The one sport that draws more participants than any other in America is bowling. Men, women and children make up teams rolling heavy balls down a hardwood-surfaced "lane" toward ten standing "pins". For the more adventurous there are wilderness trips deep into primeval America by boat, on horseback or on foot.

Americans are partisans of a number of colorful sports that are unlike those in other countries. The most popular kinds of professional sports are American football, baseball, basketball, boxing, rugby, hockey, horse and automobile racing. Most games are shown on television, and the camerawork is so skilful that the thrilling events can be followed even if you know nothing about the game.

In the USA football is the most popular sport in autumn. The game originated as a college sport. It is still played by almost every college and university in the country. There are professional football teams in nearly all major cities of the United States. This ferocious game is quite unlike the game of the same name played elsewhere. The players are dressed in plastic armor-helmets, face masks, bulky shoulder-and-hip padding, because the game is rough. The matches are accompanied by uniformed bands, cheerleaders, pretty girls dressed in short skirts, knee-high red leather boots and military-looking white jackets who dance and lead the cheering and rouse the crowd to noisy enthusiasm.

Baseball is played throughout the spring and summer. It is often called the “national pastime”. Not only boys, high school and college teams play baseball, but it is played by grown men as amateurs and by professionals. The World Series is the culmination of the professional season – a few days during which, for baseball fans and readers of newspapers, normal activities take a back seat while attention is focused on the outcome of the championship. Heroes in baseball are talked about and remembered as perhaps in no other sport.

Basketball is the winter sport in American schools and colleges. It is more popular here than in other countries. Many Americans prefer it to football because it is an indoor game and faster than football.

In addition to road racing by sport cars, there is a good deal of car racing on oval tracks by a variety of vehicles. The most famous is the annual 500-mile race round the speedway at Indianapolis, Indiana. A few tracks occasionally offer a strange event called a demolition derby, in which drivers of a dozen or so old cars endeavor to smash one another into junk until only one car -- the winner's -- remains mobile.

There are good municipal facilities for tennis and other participant sports, as well as swimming. But many municipal swimming pools are covered, and in the hot summers it is not easy to find a place to swim outside except for those who have pools in their own home backyards. But even people able to afford a private pool may be deterred by the labor involved in maintenance. There are pools, as well as facilities for tennis, squash, golf, etc., in private clubs, but the fees for membership

are very high. Even by coasts and lake shores, swimming is restricted. Most of the adjoining land is privately owned, though there are sections formally arranged as public-beaches, the owners may be more concerned with people who want to fish or use boats than with swimmers. Swimming in public places is forbidden, if there are no lifeguards on duty.

There is almost no informal access to the countryside of the kind familiar in most of northern Europe. There is no network of ancient footpaths made by medieval peasants, no patches of open common land, no easily accessible open river banks. For practical purposes there are no detailed maps through which such amenities could be discovered if they existed.

Outside the built-up areas, hundreds of attractive places have been formally designated, by state or county authority, for public access and resort – some as ‘state parks’ or ‘county parks’, big or small. There is often an entrance gate, with a barrier which may be closed at night. Some parks charge a few dollars for each car coming in. Someone who has put in a little beer to drink with the family picnic may feel worried if the notices say ‘no alcohol’.

As well as picnic tables, the bigger parks have visitor-centers with guidebooks, postcards, maps of the area, information on the history, geology and wildlife, maybe a room with a video show. Energetic visitors may go for long walks on well-planned footpaths (‘trails’) to the best viewpoints – though the vast majority of visitors stay near their cars. The existence of these places compensates a little for the lack of informal countryside.

On a grander scale, America was a pioneer in setting up ‘National Parks’, beginning with Yellowstone in 1872. By now this and a dozen other scenic ‘parks’ or ‘recreation areas’ together cover a small fragment of the whole area of the Rocky and other western mountain ranges, but they probably include the best scenery, and the most accessible mountains for the serious climbers.

Comprehension. Answer the questions.

1. What are the most popular professional sports?
2. What problems can people face if they want to swim in public places?
3. Does informal access to the countryside, of the kind typical of Russia, practiced in the USA?
4. What is an idea of the “National Park”?

ENGLISH-AMERICAN GLOSSARY

| English | American |
|---|---------------------------------|
| A erial (<i>radio/TV</i>) | antenna |
| anorak | parka |
| aubergine | eggplant |
| autumn | fall |
| B ank holiday | legal holiday |
| bank note | bill |
| bill | check (<i>restaurant</i>) |
| bill/account | account |
| billion = million million | billion = thousand million |
| biscuit (<i>sweet</i>) | cookie |
| biscuit (<i>unsweetened</i>) | cracker |
| black or white? (<i>milk/cream in coffee</i>) -- with or without? | |
| block of flats | apartment house/building |
| blue jeans | dungarees |
| bonnet (<i>car</i>) | hood |
| book (v.) | make reservation |
| boot (<i>car</i>) | trunk/rear deck |
| bootlace/shoelace | shoestring |
| break (<i>school</i>) | recess |
| briefs | shorts (<i>jockey shorts</i>) |
| C aravan | trailer |
| caretaker/porter | janitor |
| car park | parking lot |
| cattle grid | Texas gate |
| centre (city/business) | downtown |
| chemist | druggist |
| chemist's shop | pharmacy/drugstore |
| chest of drawers | dresser/bureau |
| chips | French fries |
| chocolate/sweets | candy |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| cinema | movie house/theater |
| cloakroom | check room |
| cloakroom attendant | hat check girl |
| cooker | stove |
| cot/crib | baby bed/crib |
| cotton | thread |
| courgettes | zucchini |
| crisps | chips (<i>potato</i>) |
| cupboard | closet |
| curtains | drapes |
| District | precinct |
| diversion | detour |
| drawing pin | thumb tack |
| dressing-gown | bathrobe |
| dual carriageway | divided highway |
| dummy | pacifier |
| dungarees | overalls |
| dustbin/bin | garbage can/ash can/trash can |
| dynamo | generator |
| Estate agent | realtor |
| estate car | station wagon |
| Face flannel | wash cloth |
| fair (<i>fun</i>) | carnival |
| filling station | gas station |
| film | movie |
| first floor | second floor |
| flat | apartment |
| football/soccer | soccer |
| fortnight | two weeks |
| foyer | lobby/foyer |
| Gallery (<i>theatre</i>) | balcony |
| gangway | aisle |

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| garden | yard |
| goods truck (<i>railway</i>) | freight truck |
| green fingers | green thumb |
| grill (v.) | broil |
| guard (<i>railway</i>) | conductor |
| gym shoes/ tennis shoes | sneakers/tennis shoes |
| H air grip/kirby grip | bobbie pin |
| handbag | purse/pocket book |
| headmaster/mistress | principal |
| hire purchase | time payment/instalment plan |
| holiday | vacation |
| homely = pleasant | homely = ugly |
| hoover | vacuum cleaner |
| I ced lolly | popsicle |
| identification parade | line-up |
| interval | intermission |
| ironmonger | hardware store |
| J oint (<i>meat</i>) | roast |
| jug | pitcher |
| K ipper | smoked herring |
| L abel | tag |
| larder | pantry |
| lavatory/toilet/w.c. | toilet/john/bathroom |
| left luggage office | baggage room |
| let | lease/rent |
| lift | elevator |
| liver sausage | liverwurst |
| lodger | roomer |
| lorry | truck |
| lost property | lost and found |
| lounge suit | business suit |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| M ackintosh | raincoat |
| marrow | squash |
| mincer | meat grinder |
| moped | motorbike |
| motorway | freeway/throughway/super highway |
| N appy | diaper |
| net curtains | sheers/under drapes |
| newsagent | news dealer/news stand |
| number plate | licence plate |
| O ff licence/wine merchant | liquor store |
| overtake (<i>vehicle</i>) | pass |
| P acked lunch | sack lunch |
| pants | shorts (<i>underwear</i>) |
| paraffin | kerosene |
| parcel | package |
| pavement/footpath | sidewalk |
| pillar box | mail box/mail drop |
| post | mail |
| postal code | zip code |
| postman | mailman |
| pram | baby carriage/baby buggy |
| prison | penitentiary |
| public convenience | restroom/toilet/comfort station |
| public school/private school | private school |
| pudding | dessert |
| purse | change purse |
| pushchair | stroller |
| put through (<i>telephone</i>) | connect |
| Q ueue (<i>n.</i>) | line |
| queue (<i>v.</i>) | stand in line/line up |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| R ecption (<i>hotel</i>) | front desk |
| receptionist | desk clerk |
| return ticket | round trip ticket |
| ring up | call/phone |
| roof/hood (<i>car</i>) | top |
| roundabout (<i>road</i>) | traffic circle |
| rubbish | garbage/trash |

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| S aloon (<i>car</i>) | sedan |
| sellotape | scotch tape |
| shop assistant | sales clerk/sales girl |
| sideboard | buffet |
| single ticket | one way ticket |
| sledge/toboggan | sled |
| sleeping car | pullman/sleeper |
| sofa | davenport/couch |
| solicitor | lawyer/attorney |
| spirits (<i>drink</i>) | liquor |
| staff (<i>academic</i>) | faculty |
| stalls (<i>theatre</i>) | orchestra seats |
| standard lamp | floor lamp |
| state school | public school |
| sticking plaster | adhesive tape |
| sweet shop/confectioner | candy store |
| sweets/chocolate | candy |
| Swiss roll | jelly roll |

| | |
|--|---|
| T ap | faucet |
| term (<i>academic – three in a year</i>) | semester (<i>two in a year</i>) |
| tights | pantie hose |
| time-table | schedule |
| tin | can |
| torch | flashlight |
| traffic lights | stop lights/traffic signals/ /stop signals |
| trousers | pants/slacks |

trunk call
tube/underground

long distance
subway

Undergraduates:

1st year
2nd year
3rd year
4th year
upper circle

freshman
sophomore
junior
senior
first balcony

Valve (*radio*)
van
vest

tube
delivery truck
undershirt

Waistcoat
wallet
wardrobe
wash up
wash your hands
windscreen

vest
billfold
closet
do the dishes
wash up
windshield

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Учебное издание

Пинягин Юрий Николаевич

Лингвострановедение. США: история, традиции и образ жизни

Учебное пособие

Издается в авторской редакции
Компьютерная верстка и дизайн: *Ю. Н. Пинягин*

Объем данных 1,60 Мб
Подписано к использованию 18.03.2021

Размещено в открытом доступе
на сайте www.psu.ru
в разделе НАУКА / Электронные публикации
и в электронной мультимедийной библиотеке ELiS

Издательский центр
Пермского государственного
национального исследовательского университета
614990, г. Пермь, ул. Букирева, 15