

# The United States of America (USA)

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# The United States (U.S. or US) or America

- is a country primarily located in North America. It consists of 50 states, a federal district, five major self-governing territories, 326 Indian reservations, and some minor possessions
- 3.8 million square miles (9.8 million square kilometers)
- it is the world's third- or fourth-largest country by total area
- a population of more than 331 million people, it is the third most populous country in the world
- national capital is Washington, D.C., and the most populous city is New York City

# Map of the USA



# National symbols of the USA

## National symbols of the USA

Flag of United States



Great Seal of the United States

National animal: Bald eagle  
National motto: "In God We Trust "

National floral emblem: Rose

National tree: Oak

National anthem: "[The Star-Spangled Banner](#)"

## The American flag

The American flag is often called "The Stars and Stripes", it is also called "Old Glory". It has 13 horizontal stripes, 7 red and 6 white, which stand for the original 13 states. In the top left hand corner there are 50 white stars on a blue background.



# National symbols of the USA

## American National Symbols



Each star one state (50 states)

Flag: Stars and Stripes, Old Glory

Stripes: 13 original colonies



US Coat of Arms:  
The Great Seal of the United States

## United States Seal (front)



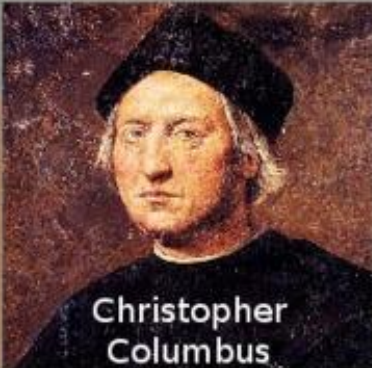
- Do you see a pattern of thirteen in the Great Seal?
- 13 stars in the crest above the eagle
- 13 stripes in the shield upon the eagle's breast
- 13 arrows in the eagle's left claw
- 13 olives and leaves in the eagles' right claw
- 13 letters in the motto carried by the eagle, *E Pluribus Unum* (out of many, one).

# History

## The discovery of America

The USA was discovered in 1492 by Christopher Columbus.

Amerigo Vespucci  
1454-1512



Christopher  
Columbus  
1451-1506



The first map of  
America

It was named after Amerigo Vespucci, another famous sailor.

The first known use of the name "America" dates back to 1507, when it appeared on a world map created by the German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller. On his map, the name is shown in large letters on what would now be considered South America, in honor of Amerigo Vespucci. The Italian explorer was the first to postulate that the West Indies did not represent Asia's eastern limit but were part of a previously unknown landmass.

In 1538, the Flemish cartographer Gerardus Mercator used the name "America" on his own world map, applying it to the entire Western Hemisphere.

# Language



- English (specifically, American English) is the de facto national language of the United States. Although there is no official language at the federal level, some laws—such as U.S. naturalization requirements—standardize English, and most states have declared English as the official language. Three states and four U.S. territories have recognized local or indigenous languages in addition to English, including Hawaii (Hawaiian), Alaska (twenty Native languages), South Dakota (Sioux), American Samoa (Samoan), Puerto Rico (Spanish), Guam (Chamorro), and the Northern Mariana Islands (Carolinian and Chamorro).
- According to the American Community Survey, in 2010 some 229 million people (out of the total U.S. population of 308 million) spoke only English at home. More than 37 million spoke Spanish at home, making it the second most commonly used language in the United States. Other languages spoken at home by one million people or more include Chinese (2.8 million), Tagalog (1.6 million), Vietnamese (1.4 million), French (1.3 million), Korean (1.1 million), and German (1 million).
- The most widely taught foreign languages in the United States, in terms of enrollment numbers from kindergarten through university undergraduate education, are Spanish (around 7.2 million students), French (1.5 million), and German (500,000). Other commonly taught languages include Latin, Japanese, American Sign Language, Italian, and Chinese. 18% of all Americans claim to speak both English and another language.↓

# Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C., formally the District of Columbia and also known as D.C. or just Washington, is the capital city of the United States. It is located on the Potomac River bordering Maryland and Virginia, with Congress holding its first session there in 1800. The city was named for George Washington, the first president of the United States and a Founding Father, and the federal district is named after Columbia, a female personification of the nation. As the seat of the U.S. federal government and several international organizations, the city is an important world political capital. It is one of the most visited cities in the U.S.





# The United States Capitol, often called The Capitol or the Capitol Building



# New York City (NYC), often simply called New York

- is the most populous city in the United States. With an estimated 2019 population of 8,336,817 distributed over about 302.6 square miles (784 km<sup>2</sup>), New York City is also the most densely populated major city in the United States. Located at the southern tip of the State of New York, the city is the center of the New York metropolitan area, the largest metropolitan area in the world by urban landmass. With almost 20 million people in its metropolitan statistical area and approximately 23 million in its combined statistical area, it is one of the world's most populous megacities. New York City has been described as the cultural, financial, and media capital of the world, significantly influencing commerce, entertainment, research, technology, education, politics, tourism, art, fashion, and sports, and is the most photographed city in the world. Home to the headquarters of the United Nations, New York is an important center for international diplomacy, and has sometimes been called the capital of the world.<sup>↓</sup>



# New York City (NYC) sights



# Most popular cities

