# The United States of America (USA)

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

- is a country <u>primarily located</u> in North America. It consists of 50 <u>states</u>, a <u>federal district</u>, five major <u>self-governing</u> <u>territories</u>, 326 <u>Indian reservations</u>, and some <u>minor</u> <u>possessions</u>
- 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 <u>third</u> <u>most populous country</u> in the world
- <u>national capital</u> is <u>Washington</u>, D.C., and the <u>most populous</u> <u>city</u> is <u>New York City</u>



#### National symbols of the USA

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Flag of United States



National animal: Bald eagle National motto: "In God We Trust " National floral emblem: Rose National tree: Oak National anthem: "<u>The Star-</u> <u>Spangled Banner</u>"

Great Seal of the United States

## 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)





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

Stripes: 13 original colonies

# **United States Seal (front)**



#### • Do you see a pattern of thirteen in the Great Seal?

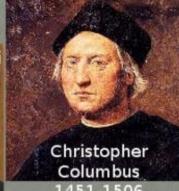
- 13 stars in the crest above the eagle
- 13 stripes in the shield upon the eagle's breast
- 13 arrows in the eagle's left claw
- 13 olives and leaves in the eagles' right claw
- 13 letters in the motto carried by the eagle, *E Pluribus Unum* (out of many, one).

# History

#### The discovery of America

The USA was discovered in 1492 by Christopher Columbus.







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 <u>Martin Waldseemüller</u>. On <u>his</u> map, the name is shown in large letters on what would now be considered South <u>America, in honor of Amerigo Vespucci.</u> The Italian explorer was the first to postulate that the <u>West Indies</u> 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 <u>Western Hemisphere</u>.

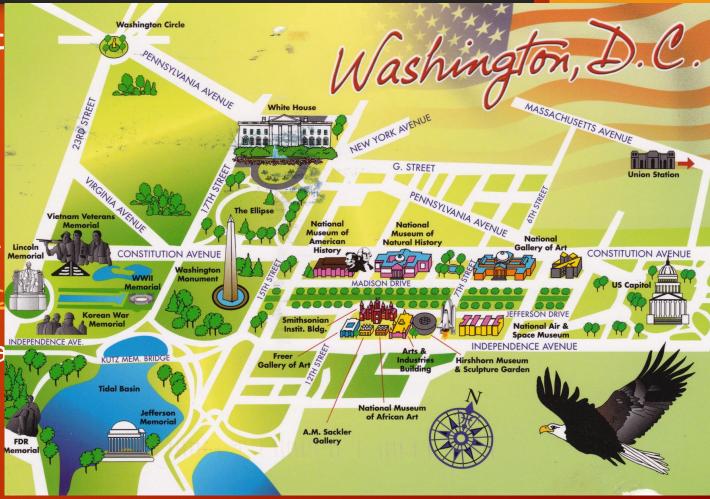
#### Language



- English (specifically, <u>American English</u>) is the <u>de facto national language</u> of the United States. Although there is no <u>official language</u> at the federal level, some laws—such as <u>U.S.</u> <u>naturalization requirements</u>—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 <u>Hawaii</u> (<u>Hawaiian</u>), <u>Alaska</u> (<u>twenty</u> <u>Native languages</u>), <u>South Dakota</u> (<u>Sioux</u>), <u>American Samoa</u> (<u>Samoan</u>), <u>Puerto Rico</u> (<u>Spanish</u>), <u>Guam</u> (<u>Chamorro</u>), and the <u>Northern Mariana Islands</u> (<u>Carolinian</u> and Chamorro).
- According to the <u>American Community Survey</u>, 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 <u>Spanish</u> 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 <u>Chinese</u> (2.8 million), <u>Tagalog</u> (1.6 million), <u>Vietnamese</u> (1.4 million), <u>French</u> (1.3 million), <u>Korean</u> (1.1 million), and <u>German</u> (1 million).
- The <u>most widely taught foreign languages</u> in the United States, in terms of enrollment numbers from kindergarten through university <u>undergraduate education</u>, are Spanish (around 7.2 million students), French (1.5 million), and <u>German</u> (500,000). Other commonly taught languages include <u>Latin</u>, <u>Japanese</u>, <u>American Sign Language</u>, <u>Italian</u>, and <u>Chinese</u>. 18% of all Americans claim to speak both English and another language.<sup>1</sup>

# Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C., formally the District of Columbia and also known as D.C. or just Washington, is the <u>capital city</u> 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 <u>George Washington</u>, the first president of the United States and a <u>Founding Father, and the federal distri</u> is named after <u>Columbia</u>, a female personification of the nation. As the sea 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 <u>State of New York</u>, the city is the center of the <u>New York metropolitan area</u>, the largest metropolitan area in the world by <u>urban landmass</u>. With almost 20 million people in its <u>metropolitan statistical area</u> and approximately 23 million in its <u>combined statistical area</u>, it is one of the world's most populous <u>megacities</u>. New York City has been described as the <u>cultural</u>, 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 <u>headquarters of</u> the United Nations, New York is an important center for international diplomacy, and has sometimes been called the capital of the world. • is the most populous city in the United States. With an capital of the world.



# New York City (NYC) sights





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# Most popular cities

