



evropský
sociální
fond v ČR



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání
pro konkurenceschopnost

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPOJENÉ STÁTY AMERICKÉ

Geography and demographics

- it's the fourth largest country in the world (9,372,615 square kilometres)
- it's situated in Northern America and border on Canada in the north and Mexico in the south, the US includes Alaska in the north of the continent and the Hawaiian islands in the Pacific Ocean
- there are 50 states
- **mountains** – the Sierra Nevada, Cascade mountains, the Cordilla mountain, the Rocky mountains (the highest mountain – Mt. McKinley 6,194m- it's in Alaska)
- **rivers** – the Mississippi, the Missouri, the Hudson River, the Colorado, the Columbia, the Rio Grande
- the biggest **ports** – New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Los Angeles
- the capital is Washington D.C.
- the official language is English
- currency – American dollars
- the President (now- Barack Obama) is elected for a four year term and may be elected twice

History

- the American continent was discovered first around the year 1000 by Icelandic Vikings
- five hundred years later in 1492 Christopher Columbus came to the Caribbean Sea instead to Asia, the first inhabitants were Red Indians and in 1498 he began to take the land from them
- slowly more and more Europeans came to America
- the first English colony was founded in Virginia at Jamestown in 1607

- in November 1620 a small group of new colonist arrived to Plymouth (Puritans – they wanted to build up a colony based on their own religious ideals), the winter 1620-1621 was very cold and about half of them died, in spring they planted corn and other plants, in October 1621 they celebrated good harvest and held a feast with much food including wild turkey – they called this day of Thanksgiving
- in 1776 having won the War of Independence, George Washington (the first US President) established the first Federal Republic, the 13 United States of America
- in the twentieth century the US grew as a world power

Washington D.C.

- the capital of the US
- named after the first president George Washington
- there is federal government and the residence of the President (the White House)
- there are many museums (National Space and Air museum, the Museum of African Art, the National Gallery of Art)

New York

- the largest city in the US, it's called The Big Apple
- one of the most important financial, commercial and cultural centre in the world
- there are five parts – Manhattan, Queens, Bronx, Richmond, Brooklyn
- is famous for its skyscrapers
- **sights** - The Statue of Liberty, Wall Street, Madison Square Garden, Times Square, Central Park
- **theatres** – Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, Metropolitan Opera House
- there are several professional sports team – baseball, ice hockey
- many important newspapers and magazines – The New York Times, The Washington Post, Vogue, Time

Los Angeles

- the second largest city in the US on the west coast on the Pacific Ocean
- it is famous for its semi-tropical climate, palm trees and beaches
- there more cars than people
- an important tourist attractions – Hollywood and Beverly Hills are famous for celebrities and movies
- nearby there is the original Disneyland

Chicago

- the third largest city in the US near Lake Michigan
- an industrial centre (steel mills)
- there is large Czech and Slovak community

San Francisco

- the hilly city
- famous for the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz prison

Vocabulary

border – hraničit, sousedit

include – zahrnovat

port – přístav

currency – měna

elect – volit

discover – objevit

instead – místo něčeho

religious ideals – náboženské ideály

plant – rostlina, pěstovat

corn – kukuřice

harvest – sklizeň

feast – svátek

Thanksgiving Day – Den díkuvzdání

War of Independence – válka za nezávislost

world power – světová moc, síla

government – vláda

skyscrapers – mrakodrapy

coast – pobřeží

palm trees – palmy

industrial - průmyslový

steel mills – ocelárny

prison - vězení

Questions

- Where are the USA situated?
- Which countries are neighbours of the USA?
- Which currency do they use?
- Who is the president of the USA?
- Which mountains do you know there?
- Do you know the highest peak (mountain) in the USA?
- Do you know any rivers there?
- What do you know about history of the USA?
- What is Thanksgiving day and why do they celebrate it?
- Which interesting places in the USA do you know?
- What do you know about them?
- What is the capital city?
- What can we find there?
- Do you want to visit the USA?
- What would you like to see there?
- Do you know any stars from the USA (actors, singers, pop groups, sportsmen.?)