

**МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ**

**ХАРКІВСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ ЕКОНОМІЧНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ  
ІМЕНІ СЕМЕНА КУЗНЕЦЯ**

**Тексти та практичні завдання  
з країнознавства**

**з навчальної дисципліни**

**"ІНОЗЕМНА МОВА"**

**для студентів II курсу**

**напрямів підготовки 6.030503 "Міжнародна економіка",**

**6.140103 "Туризм", 6.030601 "Менеджмент"**

**спеціалізації "Менеджмент зовнішньоекономічної діяльності"**

**всіх форм навчання**

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Т30           Тексти та практичні завдання з країнознавства з навчальної дисципліни "Іноземна мова" для студентів II курсу напрямів підготовки 6.030503 "Міжнародна економіка", 6.140103 "Туризм", 6.030601 "Менеджмент" спеціалізації "Менеджмент зовнішньоекономічної діяльності" всіх форм навчання / укл. Я. П. Лютвієва, А. С. Коваль. – Х. : Вид. ХНЕУ ім. С. Кузнеця, 2014. – 32 с. (Укр. мов., англ. мов.)

Наведено тексти та завдання, які дадуть можливість поліпшити рівень володіння англійською мовою й отримати додаткові знання стосовно головних історичних подій у розвитку Сполучених Штатів Америки.

Рекомендовано для студентів II курсу напрямів підготовки 6.030503 "Міжнародна економіка", 6.140103 "Туризм", 6.030601 "Менеджмент" спеціалізації "Менеджмент зовнішньоекономічної діяльності" всіх форм навчання.

## **Вступ**

Тексти та практичні завдання з країнознавства з навчальної дисципліни "Іноземна мова" розроблені для студентів II курсу та побудовані з урахуванням мети, завдань та умов навчання іноземних мов у ВНЗ.

Робота складається з декількох історичних періодів, у кожному з яких базовий текст супроводжується завданнями для проведення дискусій, а також для розвитку навичок читання, мовлення та письма англійською мовою. Під час добору текстів враховувалась їх інформативність, пізнавальна цінність та актуальність тематики.

Запропонований матеріал рекомендовано використовувати як для аудиторної, так і для самостійної роботи студентів.

## **Native Americans**

America's ancient hunters who used stone tools are called Paleo-Indians. Little is known about these people, but what we do know is that they migrated from Asia during the last ice age 20,000 B.C. So much water turned into ice that it lowered the water level of the oceans. The lowered waters exposed a bridge of land as much as 1600 km wide linking Asia and North America. Geologists call this land Beringia. Across Beringia came bison, elephants, and other large animals. Hunters followed them. They lived as nomads.

About 10,000 years ago the earth began to warm, oceans rose, and the land bridge disappeared beneath the Bering Strait, now 80 km wide between Alaska and Russia.

As agriculture flourished and populations grew cities became the centers of civilization. The Olmecs created the earliest great civilization in America. Olmec civilization (1200 – 600 B.C.) is known as the "mother culture" of America. Mayas civilization flourished in A.D. 300 – 600. They created the most advanced early civilization. They excelled in mathematics and astronomy. The Mayas developed a written language. The Mayan civilization collapsed suddenly and mysteriously but the Mayan people have survived.

The Aztec Empire began to rise in the 1100s. Aztecs collected tribute in the form of gold and were successful in agriculture. The Incas dominated in the 1400s. Incas are known for their monumental architecture. In the 1500s both the Aztecs and Incas fell prey to conquerors from Spain.

In the lands that became the U.S. three desert societies lived. The Mogollons ("Mountain people") by around 100 B.C. were growing corns and beans in the deserts using irrigation. The Hohokanis (The Vanished ones)

were noted for their elaborate irrigation system of hundreds miles. Nobody knows why they disappeared. They were ancestors of today's Pima and Papago Indians of Arizona. The Anasazis A.D. 700 grew corn, squash and beans. First they lived in pit houses like Mogollons but later they built large communities of stone, wood and sun-dried mud. A.D. 1000 the Anasazis began building their villages in high canyon walls as protection from their enemies. Their dwelling was called Cliff Palace. The Spanish called them Pueblo (Town). Anasazis are known today as Pueblo Indians.

The first farmers of what is now the U.S. were the Indians of Southwest (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah). To cultivate crops they built irrigation network about 150 miles. About A.D. 700 people began joining their houses together into a single building. By the time the Spanish arrived many of these giant houses had been abandoned. When or why is not known. Maybe of severe drought that lasted for 24 years. Or Anasazi may have tried to escape from attacking nomads, such as the Navajo and the Apache, who were beginning to come into the area. The Spanish called the apartment houses Mesa Verde (Green Table), Colorado (Colored), Pueblo Bonito (Beautiful Town). Some pueblos were not abandoned. The pueblo of Oraibi, in Arizona, is said to be the oldest continually inhabited community in the United States. People have been living there since about 1300.

California and the Northwest coast provided the richest environment of all for early Americans. The climate was mild and rainy. Food resources were abundant. The people used cedar wood for their houses and totem poles.

The northern most part of North America was home to the Eskimos or Inuit, who arrived on the continent 2000 B.C. Alaska was a difficult area in which to live. The Eskimos got most of their food from sea animals. They hunted whales from boats called umiaks. The umiak was made of animal skin, and held to ten people. In winter they lived in pit houses. The passageway into the house was dug lower than the floor of the house. This kept out cold air. Some Eskimos built igloos made of snow blocks. The Eskimos travelled across the ice and snow by dog sled or toboggan.

The Plains Indians (Sioux, Dakota, Crow) tracked buffaloes. With the buffalo skin they made their houses, clothed and shoed themselves. They lived on the flash. The Plains Indians were divided into many tribes with widely different languages. For communication they developed a sign language.

The Eastern Woodland Indians lived in wigwams built by covering with birch bark or rush mats. Smoke from the cooking fire escaped through the

center of the roof. One of the leading groups was the Iroquois of what is now New York State. They lived in longhouses made of elk bark. Each house was inhabited by a dozen related families. Iroquois society was matriarchal. The Iroquois were famous for their political organization. They formed a league of 5 tribes: the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, and Seneca. They had an oral constitution. The League of Iroquois was the most powerful in the Northeast. The Southeastern Indians included the Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks, and Seminoles. They built pyramids of mud. Emerald Mound in Mississippi is 35 feet high. In the eastern part of the U.S. also lived the Indians called Mound Builders. Their cultures are the Adena (1000 B.C. – A.D. 200), the Hopewell (300 B.C. – A.D. 700), and the Mississippian (A.D. 700 – 1500). The gigantic (390m) Great Serpent Mound is near present-day Cincinnati. The Adenas were hunters and lived in the woodlands. Hopewells (after the name on whose farm in Ohio remains were found) were farmers and had a great trading network. Mississippians grew corn, beans and pumpkins. They fished and hunted deer and wild turkeys for meat. They lived in towns. One of those towns is Cahokia (AD 600) in present-day Illinois. Mississippian mounds were more massive, with temples and leaders' houses on top.

The story of the Native Americans is tragic. They tried to live with the settlers in peace but their agreements were broken. They were pushed out of their homeland into reservations. The government's policy was to "civilize" them. The culture and religion of Native Americans were made illegal. Their children were taken away to the special boarding schools. Generations of Native Americans grew up with no confidence in their culture.

Native Americans never gave up their struggle. In 1980, the court decided that the United States had driven Native Americans illegally. The Sioux were offered \$105 million in compensation, but refused to take them.

The Navajo have declared their reservation independent. They are building their own economy and have taken control over education of their children.

There are great problems for young generations of Native Americans. They find themselves between their old traditions and new attractions of American civilization. Nevertheless the Native American's identity survives.

The Reservation area in Montana has a total population of 22,000 with 6,000 of Indian descent. Small number of the tribal members have graduated from college. To improve education, the Tribal Council established Two Eagle River School, which serves grades 9–12 and tribal Salish Kootenai College,

which provides postsecondary educational programs. The college offers Bachelor of Art Degrees. It is located on the Flathead Indian Reservation, the home of the Salish and Kootenai tribes.

**Discuss the following questions.**

1. Where did the American Indians come from before going to America?
2. What did the coming of Europeans affect the native population of North America most severely?

## **The Peopling of the USA**

### **Moments in the recorded history**

2500 B.C. – the first people appeared in the New World.

2000 B.C. – Indians had permanent village settlements. They cultivated manioc and maiz.

100 – Teotihuacan civilization in Mexico developed. The Pyramid of the Sun was built.

300 – Mayan civilization entered its Classical Age in Southern Mexico.

700 – Mayan Temples were built in the jungles of Guatemala.

1000 – Vikings under Eric the Red (940–1010) and Leif Ericson landed in North America.

1492 – On October 12, Christopher Columbus reached the Bahamas. The reason why America wasn't named after Columbus is that to the end of his life Columbus believed that his discoveries were part of Asia.

1497 – John Cabot reached present-day Massachusetts.

1499 – the Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci wrote some letters in which he described two voyages of exploration that he had made along the coasts of South America. He was sure that these coasts were part of a new continent. Some years later these letters were read by a German scholar. They convinced the scholar that Vespucci was correct, and that the lands beyond the Atlantic were a new continent. To honor Vespucci the scholar named them America, using the feminine form of Vespucci's first name as the other continents had female names.

1513 – Ponce de Leon discovered Florida.

1539 – De Soto made an expedition through Florida to Mississippi.

1587 – the first English colony in North America was established in North Carolina, at Roanoke.

1607 – Jamestown, Virginia, the first permanent English settlement in North America was founded. John Smith (1580 – 1631) became the colony's leader (1608 – 1609).

1608 – Champlain founded Quebec. Two first English women arrived in Jamestown.

1619 – a Dutch ship arrived in Jamestown with 20 (3 women) Africans on board.

1620 – September 6, a group of families left England on board the Mayflower. After a long voyage the people landed on the coast of North America on December 21, 1620. Pilgrims (Separatists) founded Plymouth in Massachusetts. The Indians called all Englishmen "Yankee" (English) and taught them how to plant corn and catch turkeys in the forest.

1621 – by January there were 2 streets in the village New Plymouth founded by pilgrims. In October the settlers invited Indians to celebrate "Thanksgiving Day". Other ships came with settlers.

1622 – colonists took the Indian land for tobacco plantations. Indians killed 350 settlers in Virginia.

1624 – the Dutch settled New Amsterdam on the Hudson River. Later, in 1664, King Charles of England gave orders to his men to take New Amsterdam from the Dutch. The Dutch settlers were unhappy with the Dutch government, so they did not fight very hard when King Charles's brother, the Duke of York, took the settlement from them. He then changed its name to New York.

1630 – Puritans (Reformists) settled Boston area.

1636 – Harvard University, the first university in the USA was founded.

1638 – Swedes began a settlement at Delaware.

1664 – British conquered New Netherland (New York).

1682 – French began to rule the colonial empire in North America.

1741 – Vitus Bering became the first explorer known to reach Alaska.

1754 – the French and Indian War began.

1763 – French control in North America ended with the British victory in the French and Indian War.

Until the 1760s most Americans seemed quite content to be ruled by Britain. An important reason for this was the presence of the French in North America. So long as France held Canada and Louisiana, the colonists felt that they needed the British navy and soldiers to protect them. Another reason the colonists accepted the British rule was that the British government rarely interfered in colonial affairs.

A century earlier the British Parliament had passed some laws called Navigation Acts. These listed certain products called "enumerated commodi-

ties" that the colonies were forbidden to export to any country except England. It was easy for the colonists to avoid obeying these laws. The long American coastline made smuggling easy. The colonists did not care much either about import taxes, or duties, that they were supposed to pay on goods from abroad. The duties were light and carelessly collected. Few merchants bothered to pay them. And again, smuggling was easy. Ships could unload the cargoes on hundreds of lonely wharves without customs officers knowing.

When a British Prime Minister named Robert Walpole was asked why he did not do more to enforce the trade laws, he replied: "Let sleeping dogs lie". He knew the independent spirit of the British colonists in America and wanted no trouble with them. The trouble began when later British politicians forgot his advice and awoke the "sleeping dogs".

**Discuss the following questions.**

1. Why were the lands that Columbus discovered called America?
2. What was called The Mayflower?
3. What was the Great Awakening?

## **Becoming a nation**

### **Moments in the recorded history**

1770 – Boston Massacre occurs on March 5. Several people were killed by British troops. It was one of the incidents leading up to the War of American Independence.

1772 – Rhode Island residents burnt a British ship to protest tax laws.

1773 – the Boston Tea Party takes place on December 16. Three shiploads of tea were dumped into Boston Harbour by citizens demonstrating against British "taxation without representation". It led to the War of American Independence.

1774 – Rhode Island abolished slavery. First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. October 14, the Congress issued a formal Declaration of Rights. Preparation for defense began. Colonial militia began training, one third of them were minutemen. The colonists began to collect guns. The biggest storehouse was in Concord. Sam Adams (1722 – 1803) was the Father of the Revolution.

1775 – the British commander, General Gage sent troops to Concord to destroy the war supplies. On April 18, 700 British troops moved on to Concord. Minuteman fired at the soldiers. It was the real start of the Revolution, the struggle for liberty. The Battle of Bunker Hill took place. On May 10, 1775 a Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. Militia of



Boston became the core of the Continental Army. George Washington was named Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. He excluded all blacks from the service.

1776 – King George III sent German mercenaries to fight the colonists. Washington moved his army of 5,000 from Boston to New York. Britain sent 32,000 troops. Americans retreated.

1776 – Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress on July 4 in Philadelphia. The Liberty Bell told that a new nation was born. On Christmas night, 1776, Washington defeated the British troops at Princeton. France secretly encouraged Americans.

1777 – on June 14, 1777 the first national flag was taken. The American armies enlisted African Americans. Americans won the British troops at Saratoga on October 17. It was a turning point of the war. It convinced Louis XVI to sign a treaty with the U.S. B. Franklin went to Paris to get help.

1778 – Benjamin Franklin brought about an alliance with France.

1780 – French army of 5,000 landed at Newport. The British fleet blocked Washington.

1781 – Lord Cornwallis, a British general, was forced to surrender at Yorktown, October 19.

1783 – the Treaty of Paris officially ended Revolutionary war 1775 – 1783.

1784 – Russia established a settlement in Kodiak in Alaska.

1787 – Constitution of the U.S. was adopted. Delaware was the first state to ratify.

1788 – the constitution was ratified on June 21.

1789 – George Washington was inaugurated as the first U.S. President.

1803 – Napoleon sold the U.S. the area of Louisiana for \$15 million.

1804 – Lewis and Clark were sent to describe the land and tell Indians about the U.S. A 16-year-old Shoshoni Indian girl Sacajawea (Bird Woman) was their guide-interpreter.

1805 – Lewis and Clark expedition reached the Pacific.

1812 – Fort Ross was built by the Russians in what is now California. The Russians considered trying to establish a huge empire in America. Fort Ross was to be the "jumping off" place. Threats of revolution in Russia, trouble with China, and the growing power of the U.S. ended the plans. The founder Ivan Kuskov (Vologda) left in 1821. Fort Ross was sold in 1841.

President Madison declared war to Britain on June 18. On June 23 the war of 1812 began. The nation was divided. The U.S had 6 ships and only 6,700 soldiers. Napoleon met defeat in Russia.

1813 – the Indian leader Tecumseh was named a general in the British army. After his death, the Indians were left without strong leaders. Many settlers took the Indian land.

1814 – President Madison fled from Washington on August 22. The British entered on August 24 and burnt Washington D.C. because earlier some U.S. troops burned the capital of Canada York, now Toronto. On September 13 they attacked Fort McHenry. F. Key watched the attack from sea. He wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner". It became the national anthem. The battle of New Orleans was a great victory but a peace treaty was signed 2 weeks earlier.

1825 – President Monroe began moving the Indians west of Mississippi.

1828 – Andrew Jackson, the old Indian fighter, was elected President.

1830 – under the Indian Removal Act the Indians were driven out of land east of the Mississippi River. Country's first railroad was built in South Carolina.

1832 – the Sauk leader Black Hawk tried to stop the theft of the Indian lands. In the Black Hawk War Abraham Lincoln gained military experience. Black Hawk was put in jail. Later he and 5,000 Indians were pushed west.

1836 – Texas became an independent republic.

1838 – the removal of Cherokees began. They lived in the South as a separate nation. They had their own alphabet and published a daily newspaper. But their land was good for growing cotton, and gold was discovered there. The removal lasted until 1839. They had walked 1,000 miles for 4 months. 4,000 Cherokees died that's why the way was called the Trail of Tears.

In the eighteenth century, there were thirteen colonies on the east coast of the continent. England, at that time the richest and strongest country in the world, ruled these colonies. The thirteen colonies later became these states: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

By 1763, King George III and his British government expected the colonists to help British soldiers living in the colonies. The colonists had to give the soldiers food and a bed. This was expensive, and the colonists were very unhappy. The British government also expected the colonists to pay taxes on tea, coffee, wine, and sugar.

On December 16, 1773, about one hundred colonists decided to show King George what they thought of his tax on tea. They went to Boston Harbor at night, where there were three British ships full of tea. The men dressed as native Americans threw all of the tea into the water. In American history, this important event is known as the Boston Tea Party. King George was angry and he closed Boston Harbor. The colonists began to prepare for war against England.

One colonist, Thomas Jefferson, wrote a very famous document, called the Declaration of Independence. In it, he said that the colonies were a new and independent country. On July 4, 1776, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and some other men signed the Declaration of Independence at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson wrote, "All men are created equal" and he wrote about man's right to life, liberty, and happiness. Men on horseback took the document to colonial towns and read it to the people. Now King George was angrier than ever with the colonists, and he sent more soldiers with guns across the Atlantic Ocean to New York. General George Washington and his army of colonists were waiting for them. France and Spain joined Washington and the colonists in the long American War of Independence against Britain.

Many people died in the American War of Independence. But in 1783, the war ended and a new country was born: the United States of America. The people were no longer colonists; they were Americans. Some colonists who did not want independence, and who fought with the British army against their colonial neighbours, escaped to Britain or Canada.

George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and other important colonial leaders wrote the Constitution of the United States of America in 1787. The Constitution is the government document that said that the new government was a democracy, a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." George Washington became the first president, and John Adams was his vice-president. The USA grew larger by buying land from other countries and by winning land in wars. In the north, cities grew quickly, and trade and business made many people rich. In the south, there were lots of big farms, and farming made many people rich there. Between 1793 and 1861, over eight hundred thousand slaves were sent from the northern states to the south to work on farms. Africans continued to be slaves for many more years. Slavery did not end until another war was fought – the American Civil War – a war between the states of the north and the south.

### **Discuss the following questions.**

1. Who were minutemen?
2. What day in the USA is known as July 4?
3. Who was the first president of the United States of America?
4. What is the birthday of the American flag?
5. What is the name of the US National Anthem?

## **Civil war and reconstruction**

### **Moments in the recorded history**

1841 – The Russians sold Fort Ross to John Sutter.

1849 – "California 49-er" gold rush began.

1852 – 300,000 copies of H.B. Stow's Uncle Tom's Cabin were sold.

1859 – John Brown who wanted to free the slaves was tried and hanged on December 2.

1860 – With election of Abraham Lincoln (40 % of votes), 7 states seceded from the Union and formed Confederacy (Southern states) with J. Davis as president.

1861 – Abraham Lincoln became President on March 4. Kansas entered the Union as a free state – Southern states numbering 11. On April 12, Confederate cannons open fire at the Fort Sumter. 4 states seceded from the Union. The Civil War began.

1862 – congress passed a law called the Homestead Act.

The Homestead Act offered free farms in the West to families of settlers. Each homestead consisted of 160 acres of land and any head of a family who was at least twenty-one years of age and an American citizen could claim one. Building a house was the first task the homesteaders faced. They had to do this themselves, for there was no one else to do it for them. But they had a problem. No trees grew on the plains, only mile after mile of long, waving grass. The settlers built their houses from the matted roots of this grass.

These same tangled grass roots also gave homesteaders a lot of trouble. The Great Plains had never before been ploughed. The roots of its grasses formed a tangled mat at least four inches thick. When farmers tried to cut through this mat to sow their seeds it often broke or twisted the iron blades of their ploughs. Lack of water was another problem. The Great Plains had few streams and the rainfall was so low and unreliable that farmers often watched their crops shrivel up and die in the dry ground. Fire was another

danger of the long, dry summer. A lightning flash, or even a small spark, could start a fire that would race across the prairie very fast. Some homesteaders were discouraged by such problems. They gave up their lands and moved back east.

1862 – many northerners lost interest in the Union. The government printed more money. New paper dollars were called "greenbacks". In Russia serfs became free.

1863 – in January Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing Confederate slaves. It kept Europe out of the war. Russia was a very good friend of the Union. In winter of 1863 a Russian fleet stood in the harbors of New York and San Francisco. Confederate troops were defeated on July 3 at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. On July 4, Grant took Vicksburg.

1864 – General Grant (1822 – 1885) became Commander-in-Chief of the Union Army. In May, Union forces led by Sherman invaded Georgia and destroyed it.

1865 – Commander-in-Chief of Confederates Robert Lee (1807 – 1870) surrendered on April 9. Grant told Lee to lay down their weapons and go home. President Lincoln promised moderation to the South but was assassinated by a Southern fanatic Booth on April 14.

### *Reconstruction*

1867– Alaska is purchased from Russia by the USA for \$7,2 million.

1872 – Yellowstone became the first national park.

1875 – the Sioux War started when prospectors headed to seek gold on the Sioux land. Indians attacked the invaders. In response, General Crook led the Army forces to Montana, the heart of the Indian country. Colonel Custer, Hero of the Civil War, had to put down the Indian's best chiefs Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and Gall.

1876 – Custer was defeated by Indians in Montana at Little Bighor on June 25. It was Custer's Last Stand. By late 1876, the Indians were defeated and moved onto reservations.

1877 – Indian Chief Joseph was defeated in Nez Perce War.

1878 – the yellow fever epidemic struck the South.

1879 – Thomas Edison invented the electric lamp.

1880 – Gold rush in Juneau in Alaska began.

1881– President Garfield was assassinated.

1885 – Washington Monument was dedicated. World's first skyscraper rose in Chicago.

1886 – the Statue of Liberty was dedicated. Coca-Cola was introduced in Atlanta.

1890 – Indian Sioux leader Sitting Bull was killed by US forces in the last Indian battle.

1891 – Thomas Edison invented the motion picture camera.

1898 – a US battleship was blown up in Havana Harbor, igniting the Spanish-American War. US marines invaded Cuba, captured Philippines, Puerto Rico, and annexed Hawaii.

1899 – Gold rush in Nome in Alaska occurred.

1900 – the Chicago River was reversed, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

1903 – gold was discovered in Fairbanks in Alaska. Wrights made the first airplane flight.

1906 – diamonds were discovered in Arkansas.

1908 – the first Model T Ford was introduced.

Henry Ford is famous for making automobiles. But what made him important is how he made them. He began to make automobiles in the 1890s. One day in 1903 he was talking to a friend about the best way to do this. "The real way is to make one like another, as much alike as pins or matches," he said. The friend said that he did not believe that this was possible. "This principle is just the same," Ford replied. "All you need is more space."

Ford tried out this idea with an automobile called the Model T. Like Whitney's guns, every Model T was put together or "assembled" from exactly the same parts. The cars were even painted the same color. "A customer can have an automobile painted any color that he wants," Ford is supposed to have said, "so long as it is black".

This use of identical parts in manufacturing is called "standardization." Ford added to it the idea of moving the assembly line. The idea of the assembly line is to save time. It does this by positioning workers in a factory in one place and taking work to them. Ford first used an assembly line to make magnetos for his Model Ts. By the old method one man on his own did this job from start to finish. Ford divided the work into twenty-one separate actions. A different man carried out each one as the magneto moved past him on a moving belt called a "conveyor". The change reduced the time taken to put together a magneto from twenty minutes to five.

In 1913 Ford started to use assembly-line methods to make the complete Model T. As the cars moved along on the conveyor, dozens of

workmen each carried out a single operation – tightening certain nuts or fixing parts. By the time a car reached the end of the line it was complete. It was filled up with gasoline and driven off ready for the road. Making a car in this new way took 1 hour and 33 minutes. Making one previously had taken 12 hours and 28 minutes.

By combining standardization and the assembly line Ford showed manufacturers of all kinds how to produce goods cheaply and in large quantities. Because of this he is seen as the father of twentieth-century mass production.

1914 – World War I broke on July 28, 1914.

1915 – the British ship with 1,200 passenger (128 Americans) was sunk by a German U-Boat.

1917 – American ships were sunk by German U-Boats. Congress declared war on Germany.

1918 – Russia surrendered to Germany in March. Britain and France pleaded the U.S. for troops. 30,000 Americans helped stop the German drive on Paris. WW I ended on November 11, 1918.

1920 – the 19th Amendment was ratified, giving women the right to vote.

1924 – all native American Indians were made US citizens.

1927 – Charles Lindbergh made the first solo flight across the Atlantic on May 20.

### *The Great Depression*

1929 – the Stock market collapsed on October 24. The Great Depression began.

1932 – first woman was elected to US Senate.

1933 – Franklin Roosevelt became president and began a New Deal to combat Depression.

1937 – the Golden Gate Bridge opened in San Francisco.

1939 – German troops attacked Poland. World War II broke.

1940 – Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented third term.

### *The USA in the war of 1941 – 1945*

1941 – US Lend-Lease aid was extended to Britain and the Soviet Union. Attacked by Japan at Pearl Harbour on Dec. 7, the USA declared war on Japan. Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S.

1942 – the Japanese took control of the Philippines. Americans of the Japanese ancestry were moved to isolated camps. The Japanese suffered a

naval defeat at the Battle of Midway. First controlled nuclear chain reaction was produced at the University of Chicago.

1943 – the Japanese were defeated in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea.

1944 – the American Fifth Army entered Rome. On June 6, the Allied forces landed in France (D-Day).

1945 – the Buchenwald extermination camp was liberated. The Allied leaders met at Yalta.

Roosevelt died. Germany surrendered unconditionally. World's first atomic bomb explosion at Alamogordo in New Mexico. The USA dropped atomic bombs on Japan, on August 6 – over Hiroshima (60,000 died), in 3 days – on Nagasaki – 36,000 died. On August 4, Japan surrendered. World War was over. Cold War began.

#### *Post-war years*

1947 – Marshall Plan led way towards European recovery from war.

1949 – the birth of the NATO.

In the years after 1945 the non-communist governments of Western Europe looked uneasily at the huge Russian armies grouped just behind the barbed-wire fences of the Iron Curtain. They feared that Stalin might order his soldiers to overrun them. In February 1948, their fears increased. With Russian support a communist government took control in Czechoslovakia. Then, in June, Stalin started the blockade of Berlin.

These events convinced President Truman that Western Europe needed more than economic aid. In 1949 he invited most of its nations to join the United States in setting up the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This was an alliance of nations who agreed to support one another against threats from the Russians and set up combined armed forces to do this.

The North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington in April 1949. The following September Americans heard the news that the Russians, too, could now make atomic bombs. This persuaded Congress to vote millions of dollars to equip NATO's armed forces. In 1951 General Eisenhower, one of the United States' best known generals of the Second World War, was placed in command of these forces.

1950 – Truman sent combat troops to Korea. The U.S. plunged into a red scare.

1952 – the first H-bomb was exploded.

1957 – the first Soviet satellite brought space race.



1958 – the first U.S. satellite was launched. The American Van Cliburn won Tchaikovsky contest.

1959 – Nikita Khrushchev visited the U.S. First hints of better US/Soviet relations.

1960 – the American U-2 spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union.

1961 – the first American troops arrived in Vietnam.

1962 – astronaut John Glenn made the first US orbital flight.

1963 – the two super powers – the USSR and the U.S.A. – signed a nuclear test ban treaty. President Kennedy sent a civil right bill to Congress. President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

1964 – Congress passed the Civil Rights Act. It was the biggest victory for black Americans.

1966 – the US Congress declared Leif Ericson to be the discoverer of the New World.

1968 – Dr. Martin Luther King was killed in Memphis, Tennessee.

Large oil deposits were discovered in Alaska. Senator R. Kennedy was killed.

1969 – Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to walk on the moon.

1971 – spacecraft Mariner 9 orbited Mars.

1973 – Vietnam War ended ingloriously, with 50,000 U.S. servicepersons dead.

1974 – the Watergate scandal shook Americans. President Nixon resigned.

1986 – seventy three seconds after the blast-off, the shuttle Challenger exploded and killed all the seven astronauts on board. The explosion was the greatest loss ever for the American space program, and was later blamed on faulty o-rings in the booster rocket. The shuttle Columbia disintegrated on re-entry, killing all of its astronauts.

*Alone at the top*

1991 – the Soviet Union separated into individual nations and the USA was the only "superpower".

1994 – Republicans gained control of both houses of Congress.

2000 – President Clinton visited Ukraine.

2001 – on September 11, the United States suffered the most devastating foreign attack ever against its mainland. That morning, Middle Eastern terrorists simultaneously hijacked four passenger airplanes and used two of them

as suicide vehicles to destroy the twin towers of the World Trade Center. A third crashed into the Pentagon building, the Defense Department headquarters just outside of Washington, D.C. The fourth, probably meant for the U.S. Capitol, crashed into the Pennsylvania countryside as passengers fought the hijackers.

2003 – in March, the United States and a coalition of 30 countries launched "Operation Iraqi Freedom," a war effort to disarm Iraq and change its regime.

2009 – on January 20<sup>th</sup>, President Obama was inaugurated the 44th President of the United States. President Obama defeated the Republican Senator John McCain to win the presidency. The inauguration took place one day after Martin Luther King's Day.

2011 – on May 1, an elite American military unit entered the compound where Osama Bin Laden was hiding in Abbottabad Pakistan and shot him. The death of Bin Laden ended one of the longest manhunt in the American history that had begun when Bin Laden had ordered the attack on the U.S. Destroyer Cole in 2000.

**Discuss the following questions.**

1. Have you read "Uncle Tom's Cabin"?
2. What are "greenbacks"?
3. When did Gold Rush in Alaska begin?

## **African Americans**

The majority of people of African descent in the United States are descended from enslaved Africans. African peoples in the Americas, especially those living in the USA are a very complex people biologically, ethnically and racially. In their genetic make-up are Europeans, Native Americans and Asians. They became a new people – a new American people.

The slave trade was brutal and horrific. And slavery was oppressive and dehumanizing. Lasting 400 years the slave trade forced migration of 12 million Africans from their homelands.

The first African slaves come to Massachusetts from West Indies in 1638. The English colonists did not plan to establish the institution of slavery. It developed gradually. From the colonial point of view, Africans made better slaves. They were completely cut off their homeland. Also they were much

more used to farming than the Indians were. So eventually, slavery in the colonies became black African slavery.

The transatlantic slave trade was central to the development of the European colonial economies in the Americas. It was also central to the development of the modern world as we know it. It linked the economies of four continents into an Atlantic world economy. The trading activities took place in three stages. The ships left ports along the western European seaboard laden with trade goods bound for Africa, Spain, Portugal. From Africa they transported captured Africans across the Atlantic for sale to America. From the Americas the ships carried goods to European ports.

Enslaved Africans worked on sugar, tobacco, cotton, coffee and rice plantations. Wherever slavery existed, slaves ran away. 50,000 enslaved Africans ran away each year in the American South before the Civil War. They disappeared in free black communities in the South, the North and abroad. Others settled in Native American communities and became actively involved in the anti-slavery struggle. Still others ran away and created new "maroon" communities where they set up their own systems of government and led their own lives.

The abolitionist movement was strong in the Americas. The first and consistent abolitionists were those enslaved Africans who said slavery was wrong. The Quakers published a manifesto condemning slavery in 1688, and in 1755 they organized the first abolition society. Prior to the Civil War upwards of 200,000 Americans joined various anti-slavery and abolition societies. But the USA was not the first to abolish slavery. Only the passage of the 13th Amendment in 1865 ended the slavery.

Slave societies repeatedly passed laws prohibiting blacks to have their own property. But on plantations the enslaved Africans were given plots where they worked after hours and on weekends. Many earned enough property and after the Civil war many of them created and operated businesses, purchased homes and other real estate. They made deposits to the banks, totalling 3 million dollars.

Enslaved Africans and free blacks organized businesses – pharmacies, jewellery stores and printing establishments. Among them there are many famous inventors. Garret Morgan (1877 – 1963) invented the gas mask and the first traffic signal. Luis Latimer (1848 – 1928) invented an important part of the light bulb – the carbon filament. Jan Matzeliger (1852 – 1889) invented a shoemaking machine that increased shoe-making speed by 900 %. Madam

Walker (1867 – 1919) invented a hair-growing lotion and became the first female African-American millionaire. Otis Boykin (1920 – 1982) invented IBM computers. Dr. Patricia Bath (1949) invented a method of eye surgery that has helped many blind people to see.

After slavery was abolished one of the priorities was to locate lost family members. Free blacks laid foundations of black institutional life in the Americas. They founded numerous churches, library societies, literary journals and black newspapers. The former slaves were from diverse cultures and spoke multiplicity of languages on their arrival in the Americas. Many became bilingual and trilingual. They created new languages that fused aspects of their African linguistic heritage with the vocabulary of the colonizer's language. These Creole languages are the foundation of the languages African peoples speak in the Americas today.

During slavery the dominant form of education available to enslaved Africans was apprenticeships. The first schools were established in Charleston and New York City. The NY African Free School, founded in 1787, trained some of the principle black leaders of the 19th c. Lincoln University, the first historically black college in the United States, was founded in 1854. Within two decades of the end of the Civil War, a vast network of black colleges had been established by and for the first generation of free men and women.

Enslaved Africans on board slave ships were frequently forced to dance. They were given drums to play while others sang and danced. Dancing was a kind of exercise, which helped keep the enslaved healthy during the Middle Passage voyage. This daily ritual became one of the African-based expressive cultures in the New World. Africans in Americas built their religious and secular rituals, festivals and social gatherings on the foundation of the songs, dances and rhythms they invented.

In the U.S. the dominant forms of American music and dance are African-based. Drums were outlawed in many slave communities when the slave "masters" discovered they could be used as secret means of communication. But African rhythm sensibility could not be suppressed. In the place of drums, enslaved Africans substituted hand clapping and tapping the feet. Vernacular dances jigs, shuffles, breakdowns, shake-downs and backsteps – as well as the shout and other religious expressions were danced to the accompaniment of the fiddle, the banjo, bones and other handcraft instruments.

### **Discuss the following questions.**

1. What do you know about the slave trade?
2. Where did the first formal protest against slavery take place?
3. When was slavery abolished in America?

## **Government**

In 1776 the 13 weak British colonies in America came together, stood up and told that from now on they would be free and independent states. The Revolutionary War (1776 – 1783) followed. A new republic was founded. Americans decided that it was their right to choose their own form of government. Something new was under the sun. It was a system of government, in Lincoln's words, "of the people, by the people, for the people".

In 1787 delegates from the states met in Philadelphia and wrote the Constitution. The Constitution, the oldest still in force in the world, sets the basic forms of government; three separate branches, each one having powers over the others.

The ultimate power under the Constitution is not given to the President (the executive branch), or to the Congress (the legislative branch) or to the Supreme Court (the judicial branch). It belongs to "We the People," in fact and in spirit.

The Bill of Rights determines the fundamental rights of Americans: the freedom of religion, speech and the press, the right of peaceful assembly and the right to petition the government to correct wrongs.

There are several basic principles of American government. One of these is the "one person, one vote" principle. Under this principle, all the election districts must have the same number of residents. Another principle is "the President proposes, but Congress disposes".

Congress is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are 100 Senators, two from each state. The House has 435 members. They represent the population of "congressional districts". The number of Representatives from each state is based upon its population. Congress makes all laws. Each house of Congress has the power to introduce legislation. Legislation only becomes law if both houses agree.

The President of the United States is elected directly by the voters every four years to a four-year term of office. The President must be able to convince Congressmen of his point of view. He must bargain and compromise. This is a major difference between the American system and those in

which the nation's leader represents the majority party, that is, parliamentary system. The President earns \$ 320,000 plus \$ 150,000 for expenses. His lifetime pension is \$ 97,500.

The Supreme Court watches over Congress and the President. It determines whether or not their laws and acts are in accordance with the Constitution. The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and 8 associate justices. They are nominated by the President but must be approved by the Senate. Once approved, they hold office for life.

The two leading political parties are the Democrats and the Republicans. The Democrats are associated with labor and the Republicans with business. The parties have not much power.

The division of power between the states and the national government is known as federalism. The national government has to have more power than the states for the nation to survive. Some powers belong only to the national, or federal government, such as powers to declare war or coin money.

Some powers belong to the states alone. Only the states can set up public school systems. Marriage and divorce laws are made by state legislature, not by Congress. Most criminal laws are state laws; they may differ from state to state.

The division of government power among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches is called separation of powers. As a result, no one branch of government can become too powerful. The principle of separation of powers was first proposed in 1748 by Baron de Montesquieu in 1748.

The system by which each branch of government can check-limit the power of the other two is called checks and balances. The President can check the lawmaking power of Congress by vetoing. Congress can check the President's veto by overriding a veto with a two-thirds vote of both houses. The Supreme Court can check both the President and Congress by declaring their actions unconstitutional.

Because the Constitution has provided a flexible framework for controlling both the people who govern and the people who are being governed, it has served the American people long and well.

**Discuss the following questions.**

1. Who has the ultimate power under the U.S. Constitution?
2. What is "one person, one vote"?
3. Who holds office for life?

## **Economy**

In 1876 President Ulysses S. Grant travelled to Philadelphia to open a special exhibition. The exhibition was called the Centennial Exposition. It had been organised to celebrate the United States' hundredth birthday as an independent nation by showing some of its achievements.

The main attraction of the Centennial Exposition was the Machinery Hall. This was a big wooden building that covered more than twelve acres. Inside it visitors could see such recent American inventions as the typewriter and the telephone as well as machines for countless other uses – for sewing, grinding, screwing, printing, drilling, pumping, hammering.

American industries grew quickly. The production of coal and iron grew especially fast. These were the most important industrial raw materials in the nineteenth century. Americans discovered vast new deposits of both in the 1880s and 1890s. American manufacturing industries grew rapidly in these years. Railroads were very important in this growth. Vast amounts of coal and iron were used to make steel for their rails, locomotives, freight wagons and passenger cars. But this was not all. The railroads linked together buyers and sellers all over the country.

By 1890 the industries of the United States were earning the country more than its farmlands. In the twenty years that followed, industrial output went on growing, faster and faster. By 1913 more than one third of the whole world's industrial production was pouring from the mines and factories. The growth of American industry was organised and controlled by businessmen who found the money to pay for it. Many of these men began their lives in poverty. By a mixture of hard work and ability, and by ignoring the rights of others, they made themselves wealthy and powerful.

The giant industrial organisations that such men created were known as "corporations". As they grew bigger and more powerful still, they often became "trusts". By the early twentieth century trusts controlled large parts of American industry. One trust controlled the steel industry, another the oil industry, another the meat-packing industry, and there were many more. The biggest trusts were richer than most nations. By their wealth and power – and especially their power to decide wages and prices – they controlled the lives of millions of people.

In economic and business affairs the United States has long been strongly internationalist. American foreign policy has often tried to provide businessmen with fresh opportunities. In the early years of the twentieth

century, for example, the industrial nations of Europe were dividing the trade of China between them. To ensure that Americans also profited from this rich new market the United States' government worked to ensure freedom of trade in China by persuading other nations to accept a policy called the "Open Door".

The close relationship between American foreign policy and American business interests has shown itself in other ways. Political leaders have sometimes encouraged American businesses to invest abroad as a way of strengthening the political position of the United States. This happened in the early 1900s, when President Taft favored a policy known as "Dollar Democracy". This encouraged Americans to invest in areas that were strategically important to the United States, such as Latin America.

American firms which have established themselves in other countries have often received a mixed welcome. Their critics accuse them of using their economic power to influence foreign governments to follow policies that serve the political and economic interests of the United States rather than those of the country in which they are working. But foreign leaders often welcome American investment. They see such investment as a way of obtaining new jobs and new technology, and so of improving their countries' living standards.

How many businessmen are there in the U.S.?

The U.S. economy is based on free enterprise system. The government places regulations on economic practices. The nation's gross domestic product (GDP) is about \$ 6 trillion. Labor force is 50 %. Unemployment rate is 5.5 %. Federal budget per capita is \$ 5,740 with public debt \$ 18,956 and personal income per capita \$ 22,000.

Petroleum provides 40 % of energy. Natural gas generates 25 %. Coal is the source of 25 %. Hydroelectricity and nuclear power generate 5 % in America's energy.

The U.S. has a highly developed transport system. The country has 6,200, 000 km of streets and roads. The U.S. has 75 automobiles for every 100 people. Trucks carry 25 % of the freight. The U.S. has 240.0 km of rail-road lines. They handle 35 % of the freight. Airlines have 18 % of all passenger traffic and 1 % of the freight. Chicago's O'Hare International airport is the world's busiest. 15 % of the freight traffic travels on waterway.

U.S. exports include aircraft, computers, plastic materials, metals and paper, corn and wheat. The leading imports are automobiles, clothing, shoes,



toys, petroleum, iron, steel, paper, and medicines. Canada and Japan are the country's chief trading partners. In 1993, Mexico, Canada and the U.S. signed the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The U.S. economy has faced problems from time to time. The problems include recession, depression and inflation.

The American economy had to be built from the ground up. What was achieved is amazing. By 1900, the U.S. has become the greatest industrial nation, and its citizens enjoyed the highest standard of living in the world. By the post-war era, the U.S. was producing 50 % of the "gross world product".

Today the American economy no longer dominates the world as it did then. But with 5 % of the world's population and 6 % of its land area, the US still produces 25 % of the world's industrial products, agricultural goods, and services. America has not dropped behind other nations: its gross national product (GNP) has tripled since the end of the WW II.

America remains the world leader in a great many. Among these are biochemical and genetic engineering, aerospace research, computer and information services. America's private industries are doing quite well. American firms which sell passenger aircraft or computers retain the largest share of the world market. The best selling car in the world is a Ford (the Escort).

Foreign investments in the U.S. amounted to \$164 billion, with the UK (\$ 38 billion) and Japan (\$ 16 billion).

The U.S. is also the world's leading agricultural nation. It grows 20 % of all the world's wheat, corn, oats and sorghum with 3 % of population involved in agriculture. America not only feeds its own people but a great many other people in the world as well. Agriculture accounts for 2 % of the U.S. GDP and employs 3 % of the nation's workers. Yet the U.S. is a world leader in agricultural production. About a third of the world's food exports come from U.S. farms. Beef cattle ranks as the most valuable product.

Many reasons have been offered to explain why the U.S. has been able to go from a small economy to the leading industrial nation. One reason is the size and the natural resources. The spirit of enterprise and initiative has certainly played an important role. The American system of government, too, has encouraged citizens to pursue their own economic interest. Typically American constant willingness to experiment and social and geographical mobility have also played a part. Many Americans prefer to be their own bosses. 10 million Americans own their own business, and 42 million own a part of business through stock.

The "very rich" in America give away much of their money before they died. Carnegie gave away 370 million of his 400 million dollars for the "benefit of community".

**Discuss the following questions.**

1. What is free enterprise?
2. Do you like Ford (the Escort)?
3. Who sets monetary policy in the United States?

## **Living in the USA**

### **U.S. Population**

The United States has always prided itself on being a "melting pot", a changing, developing heterogeneous society. Everywhere in the U.S. you will meet people of many different cultural backgrounds. Since 1980, the U.S. population has risen 7 % to 242,2 million.

U.S. society has traditionally stressed individuality. Some manifestations of this "individuality" may seem to be rude. In the U.S., there are as many exceptions as there are rules. One hard rule – expect the unexpected.

### **Social customs**

*Forms of address.* In U.S. culture, there are three titles which can be used for women – Miss, Mrs. and Ms, and one for men – Mr. The title "Dr." is used in academic settings. Some professors will prefer to be addressed by their first name. In the U.S., people tend to be informal.

*Personal space and handshaking.* Americans tend to guard their personal space. Generally people stand 61 cm apart. People in the U.S. shake hands when they are first introduced. Touching the elbow or kissing the hand are considered too intimate.

*Hello and goodbye.* Americans are friendly. Strangers may smile to you and say "hello" or "how are you?" – it is a U.S. version of politeness. In U.S. culture one "hello" per day is sometimes not enough. There may be many hellos in a day but the good-byes are too few. One will often leave the room without saying "excuse me" or "goodbye". Students in a rush to get to the next class, may not say "good-bye" or "thank you". It is customary to say "good-bye" at the end of the working day.

*The U.S. Public Face.* Besides greetings from complete strangers in public places visitors can expect loud laughter, singing, whistling, yelling, running and skipping. Children may play ball or skateboard on sidewalks.

When people converse, they often use sweeping hand gestures, use direct eye contact, and tend to smile a lot.

*Speech.* People in the U.S. also tend to be informal. They use a lot of slang. There are also differences in the American and British English.

*In the U.S. classroom.* Europeans are surprised by the teachers' informal atmosphere of U.S. classrooms. They may eat, drink or chew gum in the classroom. Teachers have a right, however, to ask their students not to do these things in their classroom. Students also dress rather informally. Students often wear jeans and tennis shoes to class. Jeans are often purposely ripped for a "stylish" effect. Some students wear revealing clothing – short skirts, tank tops, and sheer clothing. Students also sit rather informally, sometimes on their own legs or cross-legged. Students often rush to and from classes without saying hello or good-bye to teachers. Sometimes students come into classrooms after the class period has begun, or leave before it has ended. They say nothing to the teacher, since they may consider that interrupting would be rude.

*Dress.* People in the U.S. wear different types of clothing in different situations. Students often wear informal clothing. Professors dress in more formal, yet comfortable clothing. It is appropriate to alternate clothing daily. People often wear different combinations of three or four outfits. They mix and match a few shirts with 3 or 4 pairs of pants or shirts.

*Smoking* is prohibited in elevators and some bathrooms, on buses, subways, on all domestic airline flights and most public buildings (museums, markets, classrooms and offices). Violators are subject to fines. It is polite to ask your companions if they mind if you smoke.

*Consumption of alcoholic beverages.* The purchase of alcoholic beverages by or for people under the age of 21 is unlawful in the U.S. It is also prohibited on many university campuses. No beer or alcoholic beverages may be consumed in public areas, including streets and parks.

### **Attitudes and values in the USA**

*Individuality and independence.* People in the U.S. consider themselves individuals. They value independence and self-reliance. Children are encouraged to think and do things on their own. The educational system seeks to cultivate an adult who can manage his/her life independently.

*Frankness and Curiosity.* Directness is a desirable trait in the U.S. People often respond to questions in a frank manner. People are quick to get to the point. In the classroom students frankly disagree with a professor and

express their own opinion. People in the U.S. are eager to learn. Their curiosity may lead them to ask many questions.

*Privacy.* People in the U.S. feel comfortable answering most personal questions. However, some people may take offence to certain questions regarding personal finances, house or car costs, family details and health.

*Achievement.* People in the U.S. tend to value personal achievements. This lends to the competitive nature of U.S. society. Honor codes are taken very seriously.

*Materialism.* Some people in the U.S. take great pride in their possessions as measures of their success. However, there are many people who do not agree with this definition of success.

*Time Orientation.* People in the U.S. value time. They are often rushing around. This creates a very rapid pace of life. They keep very busy even during their leisure time. People punctuality is respected. There is a great emphasis on meeting deadlines. U.S. society is focused on the present and not the past.

*International Naivete.* Some people in the U.S. are relatively unaware of other nations and cultures. They may ask questions which are very uninformed and may even seem rude.

### **Adjustment**

"*Jet Lag*" is the first of many adjustments which you will have to make during your stay in the U.S. After the long flight, it may take some days to rid yourself of sleepiness.

*Cross-cultural adjustment* comes next. Cultural shock happens to everyone. There is a general cycle of emotional phases that a person experiences.

Phase 1 – "The honeymoon period". This is a time in which everything will seem new and interesting. You will be happy to explore.

Phase 2 – "Culture fatigue". You will realize that you will have to work to adjust to a new culture. You may feel stressed, isolated, irritated, homesick or unmotivated. You may begin to eat or sleep too much and even believe that you are ill.

Phase 3 – "Rejection of the host culture". At this point you may feel hostile toward the U.S. as the cause of your discomfort. You may wonder how Americans live as they do. You may not want to speak English and may withdraw from others.

Phase 4 – "The new culture makes sense". You will become more self-confident and outgoing.

Phase 5 – "Adaptation to the new culture". You will feel comfortable and effective.

### **Practical information**

*Time.* There are 4 time zones: Eastern Standard, Central, Rocky Mountain and Pacific Time. Alaska and Hawaii are 5 hours earlier than Eastern Standard Time. In the U.S. time is measured on a 12-hour basis. Time is expressed in am and pm. Daylight savings time is also practised. Most regions in the United States turn back their clocks one hour on the last Sunday of October. They turn their clocks forward one hour on the first Sunday of April.

*Temperature.* In the U.S., temperature is measured in degrees Fahrenheit. To convert Fahrenheit to Centigrade (Celsius), subtract 32 and divide by 1,8. To convert Centigrade to Fahrenheit, multiply 1,8 and add 32:  $0\text{ C} = 32\text{ F}$ ,  $37\text{ C} = 98,6\text{ F}$ .

*Voltage.* Electrical current is 110 volts in the U.S. Sometimes, appliances of 220 volts will work with a transformer. You may purchase a transformer and a 110-v plug.

### **Discuss the following questions.**

1. Is the U.S.A. "a melting pot"?
2. What is cultural shock?
3. What is one hard rule in the U.S.A.?

## **Cultural life in the USA**

American cultural history is divided into three stages. The first stage stretches from colonial times until the Civil War. In this period, American art, architecture, music, literature and fashion were strongly influenced by European ideas. This did not mean that America only imported its art or artist.

The American painter Benjamin West (1738 – 1820) was called the "American Raphael" in England. The art of other American painters also found fame in Europe. American writers such as James Fenimore Cooper or Edgar Allan Poe became widely read throughout Europe.

Soon that particular American gift to modern music had started. The names of their composers might not be known, but songs like "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", "Oh, Susanna", "My Old Kentucky home", Negro spirituals "Nobody knows... ", "Go Down, Moses", continue to be sung, played and remembered.

Many Americans wanted a cultural break with Europe. European culture was attacked as being "aristocratic". The Art of America, like the country, would need a fresh start.

The second stage stretches from the Civil War to WW I. By this stage America has developed a cultural style of its own. The Ashcan School were the first to paint ordinary people. A strong national culture had been established. "Eastward I go only by force: but westward I go free" wrote Thoreau in 1862.

The third and present stage is marked by a growing international influence. "The world language English became American English". The first American to be honored by a Noble Prize in literature was Sinclair Lewis, in 1930. He was then followed by Eugene O'Neill, William Faulkner, Ernst Hemingway, and John Steibeck. They were willing to cross the Atlantic eastward to Sweden to accept their prizes.

There are 6800 museums in the U.S. Many museums offer classes, lectures, films and field trips. The most famous museums in the U.S. include the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, and Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

Theater in America is especially healthy in the hundreds of university groups. But it is Broadway with its 40 major professional stages and 350 experimental theatres that bring to mind American playwrights such as O'Neill, Saroyan and Shephard. The theater in the U.S. is not state-supported. Americans pay for his /her own favorite cultural activity. The Met's (Metropolitan Opera) annual budget is \$ 75 million: only 5 % comes from governmental sources, the other 95 % is made by individual contributions.

The community open-air concerts which are free for all also has a long tradition in America. They attract thousands of Americans. So called serious music is therefore very healthy in the U.S. The contribution of America to "semi-classical" or "classical" musical form has been enormous, from Oklahoma and Westside Story to Hair and a Chorus Line. Jazz was once thought to be a great danger to youth and was outlawed in some countries. Luis Armstrong (1900 – 1971) revolutionized jazz. Because of his genius he became one of the architects of American art. Swing, rock'n'roll of Elvis Presley who changed the face of American popular culture and country western music have similar histories. Metallica is famous for their stage shows.

The world of the American film is a far-reaching topic. There are many studios throughout the country. Of course, Hollywood comes first to mind. American films grow in popularity throughout the world. Generations have grown up watching American films (and viewing America through them), for better or for worse. Television has only increased its popularity. American films stretch from "Gone with the Wind" to "Star Wars". Movies which treated alcoholism, divorce poverty and immigration have all received awards and have done well at the box office.

American popular culture is adopted and adapted in many countries. Its American origins are often forgotten. "Happy Birthday to You", potato chips, "American hotdogs", blue jeans became universal. American in origin, informal clothing has become the world's first truly universal style.

**Answer the following questions.**

1. Who was the "American Raphael"?
2. Did you see the film "Gone with the Wind"?
3. Who is your favorite American writer?

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НАВЧАЛЬНЕ ВИДАННЯ

**Тексти та практичні завдання  
з країнознавства**

**з навчальної дисципліни**

**"ІНОЗЕМНА МОВА"**

**для студентів II курсу**

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