

Lecture 1

The land and the people

The USA

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Plan

- General characteristics
- Location
- American geography
- Population
- A changing America
- The American people
- The Native Americans



The USA

- nine million square kilometres (9,364,000 sq. km)
- 253 million people
- “In God We Trust”
- “the Stars and Stripes and Old Glory”
- The coat-of-arms - an eagle with wings outspread
- “E Pluribus Unum” (“One out of many” in Latin).
- “Uncle Sam” – 1812
- Uncle Sam Wilson



Location

- two highland and two lowland regions
- Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands
- the Appalachian Mountains
- the Cordillera and the Rocky Mountains
- 2,037 metres high



American Geography

7 regions

1. New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont),
2. Middle Atlantic States (New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania),
3. Southern States (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia),
4. Midwestern States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin),
5. Rocky Mountain States (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming),
Southwestern States (Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas),
6. Pacific Coast States (California, Oregon, Washington).
7. Hawaii and Alaska



The face of the land

- The Mississippi – 3,970 miles
- The Missouri
- The Ohio
- The Colorado & the Columbia
- The Rio Grande – 1,990 miles
- 5 Great Lakes



A changing America

- 1950s – the decade of calm and free time
- Birth control, high cost of raising children
- Neighborhood
- Since 1960s – single parent families
- Summer or after school jobs, baby-sitting, part time job
- Women – 24, men – 26



The American People

- The 3rd largest population
- 1990 – 250,000,000
- Walt Whitman – is not merely a nation but a nation of nations



The Native Americans

- Across the Bering Strait from Siberia and Alaska
- The 1st migration – 40,000 years ago
- Columbus – 15th c. – 10 mln people in North

America – Indians – 1.5 mln

- Reservations
- Poverty and unemployment



Immigrants

- The British – 1660s
- African-Americans – 1620-1820
- Northern and Western Europe – 1820s

