

TRANSPORTATION

Major Forms of Transportation (2004)

Passenger Car – 136,431,000
Motorcycle – 5,781,000
Vans, Pickups, SUVs – 91,845,000
Trucks – 8,171,000
Bus – 795,000
[All are registered vehicles]

Air Travel

Total Airports (2004) – 19,820
Airports, Passengers Enplaned (2004) – 652,712,000

Total Licensed Pilots – 612,000.
Women Pilots – 34,000

General Aviation (Private) Aircraft – 218,000
Airliners – 7,900

Railroads

Railroads (2004) – 980,781,000 (miles of track)
Commuter Rail Cars and Locomotives – 5,959,000
Motor Bus – 77,328,000
Light Rail Cars – 1,482,000
Heavy Rail Cars – 10,754,000
Trolley Bus – 672,000

Other Modes

Passenger Transit (2004):
Buses – 81,033
Heavy Railcars – 10,858
Light Railcars – 1,622
Commuter Railcars – 6,228



WEB SITES

Government

Official U.S. government Web portal
[Gateway to governmental sites]
<http://www.usa.gov>

White House
[Official site of the President of the United States]
<http://whitehouse.gov>

U.S. Senate
<http://www.senate.gov>

U.S. House of Representatives
<http://www.house.gov>

U.S. Supreme Court
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov>

Library of Congress
<http://www.loc.gov>

U.S. Bureau of the Census
<http://www.census.gov/>
Statistical Abstract of the United States
<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>

U.S. Central Intelligence Agency
CIA World Factbook
<http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

U.S. Department of State
<http://www.state.gov>

Celebrations

Holidays on the Net
<http://www.holidays.net>

History

Historical Documents
National Archives and Records Administration
<http://www.NARA.gov>

Historicalstatistics.org - Links to historical statistics of USA
<http://www.historicalstatistics.org/index2.html>

Immigration

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
USCIS.gov.
<http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/index.htm>

Maps

National Atlas of the United States
<http://nationalatlas.gov>

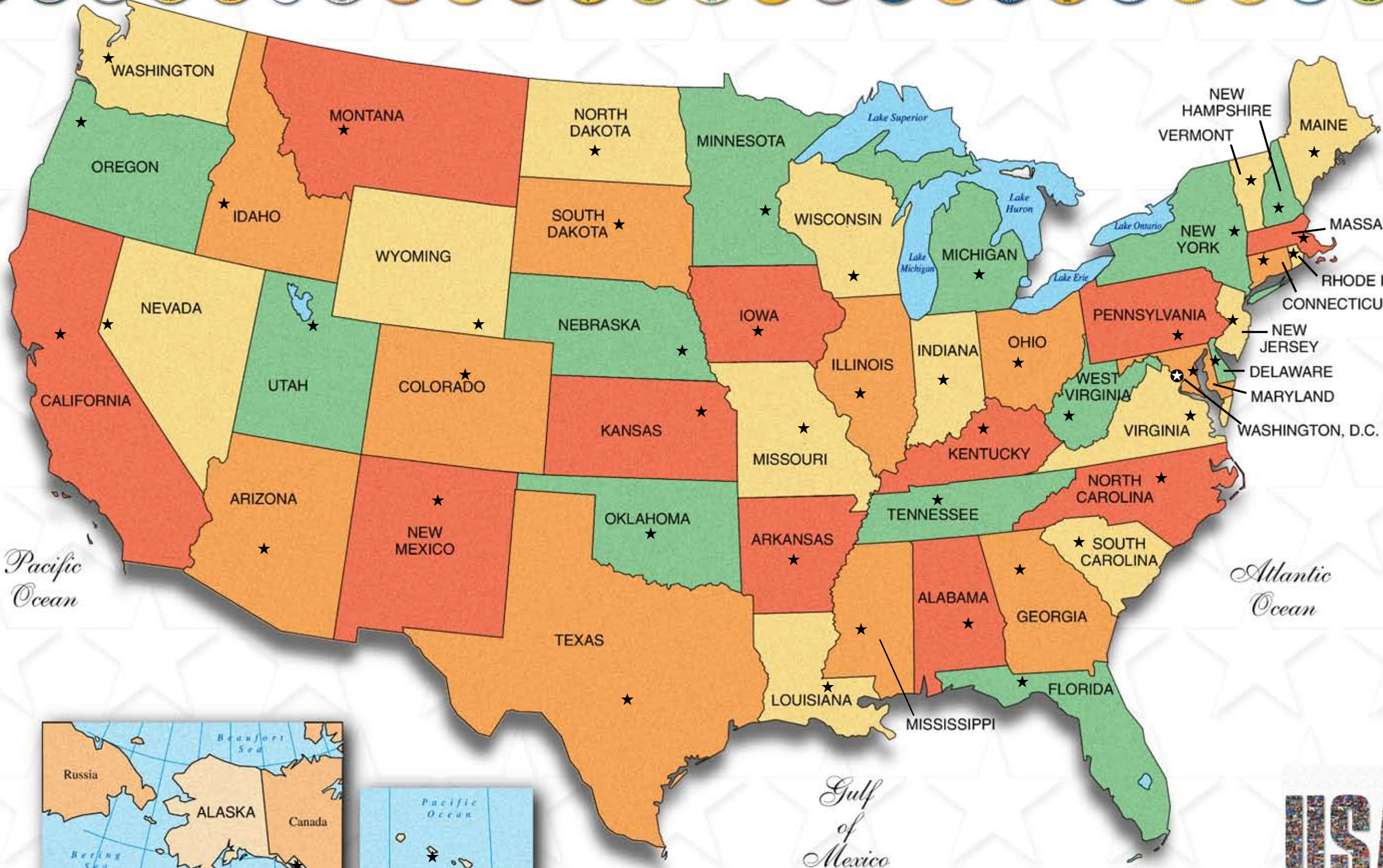


STATE CAPITALS

- Alabama: Montgomery
- Alaska: Juneau
- Arizona: Phoenix
- Arkansas: Little Rock
- California: Sacramento
- Colorado: Denver
- Connecticut: Hartford
- Delaware: Dover
- Florida: Tallahassee
- Georgia: Atlanta
- Hawaii: Honolulu
- Idaho: Boise
- Illinois: Springfield
- Indiana: Indianapolis
- Iowa: Des Moines
- Kansas: Topeka
- Kentucky: Frankfort
- Louisiana: Baton Rouge
- Maine: Augusta
- Maryland: Annapolis
- Massachusetts: Boston
- Michigan: Lansing
- Minnesota: St. Paul
- Mississippi: Jackson
- Missouri: Jefferson City
- Montana: Helena
- Nebraska: Lincoln
- Nevada: Carson City
- New Hampshire: Concord
- New Jersey: Trenton
- New Mexico: Santa Fe
- New York: Albany
- North Carolina: Raleigh
- North Dakota: Bismarck
- Ohio: Columbus
- Oklahoma: Oklahoma City
- Oregon: Salem
- Pennsylvania: Harrisburg
- Rhode Island: Providence
- South Carolina: Columbia
- South Dakota: Pierre
- Tennessee: Nashville
- Texas: Austin
- Utah: Salt Lake City
- Vermont: Montpelier
- Virginia: Richmond
- Washington: Olympia
- West Virginia: Charleston
- Wisconsin: Madison
- Wyoming: Cheyenne

Washington, D.C.: National Capital indicated by ⚡ on map.

State Capitals are indicated by ★ on map.





TIMELINE

1492, OCTOBER 12 – Christopher Columbus arrived from Spain to the island of San Salvador in the Bahamas. He is honored as the discoverer of America.

1607 – Colonizers establish America’s first permanent English settlement at Jamestown, Virginia.

1620 – Mayflower Compact established government by majority will in the settlement of Plymouth in Massachusetts.

1636 – First U.S. college, Harvard, founded at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1754 – Seven Years’ War (also known as the French and Indian War) began between France and Britain. At the war’s end, France ceded Canada, the Great Lakes, and the upper Mississippi Valley to the British.

1776, APRIL 19 – First shots of U.S. war for independence from Britain fired at Lexington, Massachusetts.

1776, JULY 4 – Delegates from America’s 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence with its “decent respect for the opinions of mankind.”

1781, OCTOBER 19 – British army surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia.

1783, SEPTEMBER 3 – Britain and the United States signed the Treaty of Paris, recognizing U.S. independence. The new nation extended from Canada south to Florida, and west from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River.

1787, MAY 25 – Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation, the compact among states then governing the newly independent nation. The new Constitution was adopted by delegates on September 17.

1789, APRIL 30 – George Washington inaugurated as the first president of the United States.

1791 – Ten amendments (Bill of Rights) added to the U.S. Constitution to protect the rights of individuals.

1796 – Publication of President George Washington’s Farewell Address, in which he warned against “entangling political alliances.”

1803 – The Supreme Court, in *Marbury v. Madison*, asserted its right to declare laws unconstitutional.

1803, APRIL – Negotiations for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory between the United States and the French Republic were completed while Thomas Jefferson was president. The sale doubled U.S. land area.

1812-14 – The United States and Britain fought the War of 1812. British burned the Capitol and the White House in August 1814, inciting a large number of American volunteers to rush into service and help stop the British offensive. Uncle Sam became the symbol of the United States, an image that stirred American feelings against the British.

1818 – United States and Britain agreed on an unfortified border between Canada and the United States.

1820 – Missouri Compromise passed Congress. Maine entered the Union as a free state. Slavery is allowed in Missouri but prohibited west of the Mississippi River and north of 36° 30’ latitude.

1823 – Monroe Doctrine asserted opposition to future colonization of American republics by European nations.

1846 – Mexican War between the United States and Mexico began. The treaty that ended the war (1848) gave the United States a vast stretch of land from Texas west to the Pacific Ocean and north to Oregon.

1857 – Dred Scott decision, released by the U.S. Supreme Court, held that Congress cannot bar slavery from territories, nor can slaves be citizens.

1860 – Abraham Lincoln elected the 16th U.S. president.

1860, DECEMBER 20 – South Carolina, rapidly followed by five other southern states, seceded from the Union in reaction to the election of Lincoln, who opposed the extension of slavery into the western territories. These six southern states organized the Confederate States of America; five additional states joined their ranks, to make 11 Confederate states in all.

1861, APRIL 12 – First shots fired in the U.S. Civil War at a Union installation, Fort Sumter, South Carolina, over the question of southern states’ right to secede from the Union. President Lincoln mandated first official U.S. government censorship and heavy propaganda campaigns were initiated by both the North and the South.

1863, JANUARY 1 – President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, giving freedom to slaves in Confederate-held territory.

1865, APRIL 9 – Civil War ended with the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee to General Ulysses S. Grant, commander of Union forces, at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

1867 – Territory of Alaska purchased from Russia.

1882 – President Grover Cleveland began practice of meeting with reporters to influence public opinion.

1896 – Supreme Court upheld the legality of racial segregation under the “separate but equal” doctrine of *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

1898 – Spanish-American War declared in April and ended in August. The peace treaty signed with Spain in December guaranteed Cuban independence and assigned the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam to the United States. Introduction of newspapers as yellow journalism brought military casualties to average reader with lurid front-page headlines.

1906, NOVEMBER – In Colon, Panama City, President Theodore Roosevelt inspected the construction of the Panama Canal, first visit by any president abroad.

1908 – Henry Ford introduced the era of mass production with the efficient, low-cost car, which “puts America on wheels.”

1914 – Panama Canal, built by the United States across Central America, opened, permitting ships to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans without rounding the tip of South America.

1917, APRIL 6 – United States entered World War I, declaring war after German violations of American neutrality.

1918, NOVEMBER 11 – World War I ended (“11th month, 11th day, 11th hour”) with armistice.

1920 – 19th Amendment to the Constitution guaranteed women’s right to vote. The National Broadcasting Company (NBC) made the first coast-to-coast network radio broadcast.

1933 – President Franklin D. Roosevelt launched “New Deal” programs to provide work for the unemployed, raise farm prices, and stabilize banks to relieve depression in America. Federal arts programs created to offer government patronage to the arts (visual artists, theater workers, musicians, writers) established in the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

1935 – Congress passed the Social Security Act.

1941, DECEMBER 7 – Japanese attack naval fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (“a day that will live in infamy”), initiating U.S. entry into World War II.

1945, MAY 7 – Germany surrendered, ending war in Europe, but military action continued in Pacific area. On September 2, Japan surrendered, ending war in the Pacific.

1947, JUNE 5 – At Harvard commencement, Secretary of State George C. Marshall proposed aid for the economic recovery of war-torn Europe; over the next four years, Congress authorized some \$13 billion for the Marshall Plan (European Recovery Program). President Truman signed the Foreign Assistance Act that established the program.

1949, APRIL 4 – United States, Canada, and 10 Western European nations formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to provide mutual military aid if any member is attacked.

1950, JUNE 27 – United States and other members of the United Nations sent troops and other military aid to defend the Republic of Korea (South Korea) against attack by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea).

1953, JULY 21 – Armistice to end fighting in Korea signed following year-long talks.

1954 – Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional (*Brown v. Board of Education*).

1955 – United States agreed to help train South Vietnamese army, beginning a 20-year commitment of American troops and resources to Vietnamese conflict.

1955, DECEMBER – Rosa Parks refused to sit in the back of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, initiating a year-long bus boycott organized by Martin Luther King Jr that protested segregation of that city’s buses. On December 23, 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the bus system desegregated. Similar gains made in other southern cities.

1956, NOVEMBER – Hungarian Revolution proved effectiveness of Voice of America (VOA) and of Radio Free Europe in bringing balanced message to captured Hungarians of events going on in their country.

1959, JULY 25-SEPTEMBER 4 – American National Exhibition held in Moscow’s Sokolniki Park. Famous ‘kitchen debate’ between Vice President Nixon and Soviet Premier Khrushchev took place in exhibition’s model American home when Nixon defended the United States against the Soviet premier’s disparaging remarks.

1961, MAY 5 – Astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. made first manned U.S. space flight.

1962, FEBRUARY 20 – Astronaut John H. Glenn Jr. became first American to orbit the Earth.

1962, OCTOBER – Soviet Union withdrew offensive missiles from Cuba after President John F. Kennedy warned that an attack from Cuba on any Western Hemisphere nation would bring full U.S. retaliation.

1964, JULY 2 – President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, barring discrimination in public places based upon race or color.

1965 – Social legislation extended in the fields of education, medical care for the elderly, housing and urban renewal, and federal aid to the arts. Congress also passed a voting rights bill that supplemented the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

1968, JANUARY – USS *Pueblo*, an intelligence-gathering ship, seized by North Korean forces.

1969, JULY 20 – *Apollo 11* astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin landed on the moon (“One small step for a man. . .”), an event televised 400,000 kilometers to Earth.

1972, FEBRUARY – President Richard Nixon traveled to Beijing for meetings with leaders of the People’s Republic of China; in May, he met with Soviet leaders in Moscow. He was the first U.S. president to visit both countries while in office.

1974, AUGUST 9 – In the wake of the Watergate break-in and cover-up, President Nixon resigned from office, the first president to do so. He was succeeded by Vice President Gerald R. Ford.

1975, JULY 11-19 – U.S. *Apollo* and Soviet *Soyuz* spacecraft linked together in space.

1978, SEPTEMBER 11 – U.S.-sponsored Middle East summit at Camp David concluded with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat agreeing to the framework for a peace treaty.

1979, JANUARY 1 – Full diplomatic relations are established between the United States and the People’s Republic of China.

1979, NOVEMBER 4 – Iranian militants took over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and seized 68 hostages, demanding that the shah, then receiving medical treatment in the United States, be returned. President Carter refused, the militants released 13 women and blacks, and a series of sanctions followed.

1981, JANUARY 20 – American hostages in Tehran were released minutes after President Ronald Reagan took the oath of office as president of the United States.

1981 – Sandra Day O’Connor became first female Supreme Court justice.

1987, DECEMBER 8 – At a summit meeting in Washington, D.C., President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev signed a treaty eliminating an entire class of intermediate-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles.

1991, JANUARY 17 – Persian Gulf War began when U.S.-led forces launched a series of air attacks against Iraq’s command and control facilities, in response to Iraq’s earlier invasion of Kuwait. After 43 days of air and ground combat, Kuwait was liberated and Iraq agreed to a ceasefire.

1993, DECEMBER 8 – President Bill Clinton signed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which established free trade between the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

2000, NOVEMBER 7 – One of the closest U.S. presidential elections was decided by the Supreme Court in favor of George W. Bush, who became the 43rd president.

2001, SEPTEMBER 11 – Terrorists hijack and crash U.S. commercial airliners into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., killing more than 3,000 people.

2003, MARCH – President Bush, with almost unanimous support from Congress, started military action in Iraq. On April 3, Marines crossed the Tigris River and moved closer to Baghdad.

2003, DECEMBER – Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein captured by U.S. military forces in an underground hideout southeast of Tikrit. He is executed in December 2006.

2005, JULY – President Bush nominated John G. Roberts to replace retiring Associate Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O’Connor. When Chief Justice William Rehnquist died the following September 3, President Bush picked Judge Roberts to be Chief Justice.

2005, AUGUST – Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf of Mexico, causing thousands of Gulf Coast residents to flee homes in New Orleans and along the Mississippi coast, one of the largest evacuations in U.S. history.

2007, JANUARY – Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) became first woman Speaker of the House for the 110th Congress.

GOVERNMENT



Official Name: United States of America
Capital: Washington, D.C. (District of Columbia)

Language: English
National Holiday: Independence Day, July 4
National Anthem: “The Star-Spangled Banner”
Flag: Stars and Stripes, consisting of 13 horizontal stripes (seven red and six white) and a blue field at the upper-left corner containing 50 white, five-pointed stars
Motto: “In God We Trust” (Joint resolution of Congress, July 1956)
Monetary Unit: U.S. dollar
Weights and Measures: U.S. Customary System and the International (metric) System

Legal System:

Based on English common law. Dual system of courts, state and federal. Constitution adopted 1787. Judicial review of legislative acts.

Branches of Government:

Executive – President and vice president, elected by the people, through the electoral college, to a four-year term; limited to two terms. There are also federal departments and agencies. Fifteen

departments, each headed by a secretary, except the Department of Justice, which is headed by the attorney general. Departments: Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury, Veterans Affairs.

Legislative: Senate of 100 members, two from each state; and House of Representatives of 435 members, divided among states proportionally by population.

Judicial: Supreme Court of nine members appointed for life by the president, with Senate confirmation; and system of federal courts.

Elections:

Federal elections are held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each even-numbered year. The presidential election is held every four years; members of the Senate are elected for six-year terms, members of the House of Representatives for two-year terms.

Political Parties: Republican and Democratic are the two major national parties; other minor groups and parties. Voting: Registered citizens over age 18, not compulsory.

Political Subdivisions:

Fifty states [of which four are designated commonwealths: Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia], the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

Did you know?

The first presidential election was authorized on September 13, 1788, by the

Constitutional Convention; the presidential election authorized in this resolution took place on February 4, 1789.

U.S. Presidents:

Washington, George (1789-97)
Adams, John (1797-1801)
Jefferson, Thomas (1801-1809)
Madison, James (1809-1817)
Monroe, James (1817-1825)
Adams, John Quincy (1825-1829)
Jackson, Andrew (1829-1837)
Van Buren, Martin (1837-1841)
Harrison, William Henry (1841)
Tyler, John (1841-1845)
Polk, James (1845-1849)
Taylor, Zachary (1849-1850)
Fillmore, Millard (1850-1853)
Pierce, Franklin (1853-1857)
Buchanan, James (1857-1861)
Lincoln, Abraham (1861-1865)
Johnson, Andrew (1865-1869)
Grant, Ulysses S. (1869-1877)
Hayes, Rutherford B. (1877-1881)
Garfield, James (1881)
Arthur, Chester (1881-1885)
Cleveland, Grover (1885-1889)
Harrison, Benjamin (1889-1893)
Cleveland, Grover (1893-1897)
McKinley, William (1897-1901)
Roosevelt, Theodore (1901-1909)
Taft, William H. (1909-1913)
Wilson, Woodrow (1913-1921)
Harding, Warren (1921-1923)
Coolidge, Calvin (1923-1929)
Hoover, Herbert (1929-1933)
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (1933-1945)
Truman, Harry (1945-1953)
Eisenhower, Dwight (1953-1961)
Kennedy, John F. (1961-1963)
Johnson, Lyndon (1963-1969)
Nixon, Richard (1969-1974)
Ford, Gerald (1974-1977)
Carter, Jimmy (1977-1981)
Reagan, Ronald (1981-1989)
Bush, George H.W. (1989-1993)
Clinton, William J. (1993-2001)
Bush, George W. (2001-

ECONOMY



Business (2003)

Non-farm proprietorships — \$19,710 billion
Partnerships — \$2,375 billion
Corporations — \$540,100 billion

Corporate Profits Taxes and Dividends (2005): \$1,352 billion

Patents and Trademarks Issued

(2005) —157,700
Copyright Registration (2005) — 515,200 claims

Imports/Exports (2006)

Imports — \$2,435,328 trillion [Deficit]
Exports — \$1,749,892 trillion

Energy

Domestic Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Natural Gas Liquids (2004) — 201,810 billion barrels
Petroleum Products Supplied for Domestic Use (2004) — 7.6 millions of barrels
Energy Production (2005): \$70,720 quadrillion
Electricity (2006) — 3,716.5 trillion kilowatt hours (19.9% nuclear)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP; Total Value of Goods and Services Produced in the United States):

2005 — \$12,487 trillion
2004 — \$11,734 trillion
Rate of Increase:
2004 — 4.2%
2005 — 3.5%

Consumer Price Index (CPI; Measure of Price Changes of the Vast Number of Goods and Services Purchased by Households):
2004 — 1.6%
2005 — 2.7%

U.S. Foreign Economic and Military Aid Programs (2004)

\$33,405,000, U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services (2005) – \$716,730,000 [Deficit]

Labor Force (2005) 149, 300,000
Percent of Population - 66.0%
Management, Professional, and Related Occupations — 49,245,000
Services — 23,133,000
Natural Resources, Construction, and Maintenance —15,348,000
Production, Transportation, and Material Occupations — 18,041,000
Labor Union Membership (2005) — 15,685,400

Unemployment Rate (2005) 5.1%
Number — 7,591,000
Per capita income (2005): \$29,676
Persons not in labor force (2005) — 76,762,000

Agricultural Production (2005)

Milk Cows – 9,041,000
Milk – 75.5 billion kilograms
Corn — 75,107,000 bushels
Soybeans — 71,361,000 bushels
Wheat — 50,119,000 bushels
Greenhouse and Nursery Crops (2004) — 15,697,000,000
Nuts (2004) – 322,000,000 pounds

Not owned by federal government — 1,618,044,000 acres
Total — 2,271,343,000 acres

25 Largest U.S. Cities: (2006)
1 – New York, New York: 8,104,079
2 – Los Angeles, California: 3,845,541
3 – Chicago, Illinois: 2,862,244
4 – Houston, Texas: 2,012,626
5 – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1,470,151
6 – Phoenix, Arizona: 1,418,041
7 – San Diego, California: 1,263,756
8 – San Antonio, Texas: 1,236,249
9 – Dallas, Texas: 1,210,393
10 – San Jose, California: 904,522

Northernmost City: Barrow, Alaska
Southernmost City: Hilo, Hawaii
Easternmost City: Eastport, Maine
Westernmost City: Atka, Alaska

Federally Owned Land (2004)

Owned by federal government — 653,299,000 acres (28.8%)

Hogs and Pigs (2005) — 61,327,000 number on farms
Quantity produced — 27.5 billion pounds
Value of production — \$13.7 billion
Cattle and Calves — 97,102,000 head
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (2005) — \$10.6 billion
Poultry — \$17.9 billion

U.S. Farms (2005)

Number of farms: 2,101,000
Total land in farms: 933,000,000 acres
Average acreage per farm: 444
U.S. cash receipts from farm marketings:
Cattle and Calves — \$47.3 billion
Dairy Products — \$27.4 billion
Corn — \$22.2 billion
Broilers — \$20.5 billion

Average U.S. Farm Real Estate Values, Including Land and Buildings — \$20.5 billion

Number of Farms by Type of Organization (2002)
Individual or family-owned — 1,910,000
Partnerships — 130,000
Corporations — 74,000

Agricultural Imports/Exports (2005)

Imports — \$59.3 billion
Exports — \$63.0 billion

Did you know?

The U.S. economy is a market-oriented system, with most decisions made by private individuals and business and with government purchase of goods and services made predominantly in the marketplace.

First paper money was issued in the colonies on February 3, 1690, when Massachusetts established a provincial bank and issued money in denominations from two shillings to five pound notes to pay the soldiers who served in the war with Quebec.

EDUCATION



Earned Degrees (2004)

Associate degree holders — 665,000
Bachelor’s degree graduates — 1.4 million
Master’s degree graduates — 559,000
Doctoral degree graduates — 48,000

School Expenditures (2006)

Elementary and secondary — \$361.1 billion
Colleges and universities — \$237.8 billion
High School Graduates — 85% (% of persons age 25, 2004)

Enrollment (2004) 72.2 million
* Nursery school or kindergarten — 4,672,000
* Elementary— 36,500,000
* Secondary — 14,700,000
* Colleges and universities — 17,400,000

High School Graduates (2004) 85% (% of Persons Age 25+)
Adult Education (2005) — 211,607

Public and Private School Enrollment (2006)

Public — 60.8 million
Private —11.4 million

Percentage of Schools with Internet Access (2006) — 98%

Percentage of Recent Secondary School Graduates Enrolled in College (2006): 62.9%

Foreign Student Enrollment in Colleges and Universities in the United States (2005)

From Africa — 36,000
From Asia — 356,000
From Europe — 72,000
From Latin America — 68,000
From North America — 29,000
From Oceania — 4,000

Children Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home (2004)

10.0 Million

Did you know?

Oldest public school still in existence is Boston Public Latin School, established on February 13, 1635.

GEOGRAPHY

The United States is the fourth largest country in the world, after Russia, Canada, and China. It consists of 48 contiguous states, located in the central portion of North America, plus the states of Alaska and Hawaii.

Area: 9,628,382 square kilometers

Size Comparisons:

The United States is...

- about one-half the size of Russia
- three-tenths the size of Africa
- one-half the size of South America

- two and one-half times the size of Western Europe, and
- slightly smaller than China.

Boundaries:

- 48 states: Canada on the north; Atlantic Ocean on the east; Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico on the south; and Pacific Ocean on the west
- Alaska: Arctic Ocean on the north; Canada on the east; Pacific Ocean on the south; and Arctic Ocean, Chukchi Sea, Bering Sea, and Bering Strait on the west
- Hawaii: Pacific Ocean

Rural Land Use (2006)

Cropland — 27.1%
Rangeland — 29.1%
Forestland — 29.2%
Pastureland — 8.6%
Other rural land — 6.0%

Coastline: 19,929 kilometers, including Alaska and Hawaii
Inland Waterways: 41,009 kilometers of navigable inland channels, excluding the Great Lakes
Longest River: Mississippi-Missouri — 5,936 kilometers
Deepest Lake: Crater Lake in Oregon — 580 meters



11 – Detroit, Michigan: 900,198
12 – Indianapolis, Indiana: 784,242
13 – Jacksonville, Florida: 777,704
14 – San Francisco, California: 744,320
15 – Columbus, Ohio: 730,008
16 – Austin, Texas: 681,804
17 – Memphis, Tennessee: 671,929
18 – Baltimore, Maryland: 636,251
19 – Fort Worth, Texas: 603,337
20 – Charlotte, North Carolina: 594,359
21 – El Paso, Texas: 592,099
22 – Milwaukee, Wisconsin: 583,624
23 – Seattle, Washington: 571,480
24 – Boston, Massachusetts: 569,165
25 – Denver, Colorado: 556,835

NOTE: These figures are current as of August 2007, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

ENVIRONMENT

Climate: Mostly temperate, but tropical in Hawaii and Florida and arctic in Alaska, semiarid in the Great Plains west of the Mississippi River, and arid in the Great Basin of the Southwest



Total Number of Wetlands on Nonfederal Land and Water Areas by Land Cover/Use and Farm Production Region (2003) — 110,760,000 acres

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife and Plant Species (2006):
Mammals — 357
Birds — 273
Reptiles — 118
Amphibians — 32
Fishes — 149
Snails — 37
Clams — 72
Crustaceans — 22
Insects — 49

Arachnids — 12
Plants — 748

Did you know?

First national celebration of Earth Day was April 22, 1970.

First national park was the Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, authorized March 1, 1872, by an act of Congress. Additional grants of land to Yellowstone Park were made in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho.

POPULATION



Citizenship

With very few exceptions, persons who are born in the United States become American citizens regardless of their ethnic backgrounds or of the citizenship and national origins of their parents. In this respect, the United States differs from many other countries that do not automatically confer citizenship on persons merely on the basis of birth within their national jurisdictions. Open acceptance has characterized the American nationality process since the nation’s founding, despite changes to laws and regulations over the years.

General Statistics (2007)

Total Population: 302,503,635
Male: 48.9%
Female: 50.8%
Population Density: 31.8 person per square kilometer
Population Distribution: 80% urban, 20% rural
Annual Growth Rate: 0.9%
Median Age: 35.3

U.S. Households (2006)

Number of Households: 104,705,000
Persons per Household: 2.62
Persons per Family: 3.17

Life Expectancy at Birth for Americans Born in 2006

White males — 73.8 years
White females — 79.6 years
Non-white males — 68.9 years
Non-white females — 76.1 years

Population by Age (2006)

0-18 years — 25.0%
19-44 years — 37.0%
45-64 years — 22.0%
65 years and over — 12.4% (2004)

Population by Race (2004)

White — 80.4%
Black — 12.8%
Asian, Pacific Islander — 4.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander — 0.2%
American Indian, Aleut — 1.0%
Hispanic or Latino origin — 14.1%
[Note: Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race]

Health Care (2006) 84.5% of population covered by private or government health insurance
254 physicians per 100,000 people
5,890 hospitals
3.6 beds per 1,000 people
39.1 million people covered by Medicare, health insurance provided by the federal government primarily for people age 65 and older

Immigrant Population

Legal immigrants (2004) — 946,000
Illegal immigrants — Between 6 million and 9 million estimated to be in the United States in 2006

Visitors to the United States

48,491,000 international visitors in 2006

Adoption

Number of immigrant visas issued to orphans coming to the United States for adoption in 2003, up from 7,377 a decade earlier. The leading sources of these orphans are China and Russia — 21,616.

Percentage of European-born adopted children under six who are from Russia or Romania — 82%.

1.7 million households contain adopted children. These households comprise 4% of all households in which the householder has children.

Older Persons

36.8 million
The number of people 65 and older in the United States on July 1, 2005. This age group accounted for 12 percent of the total population. Between 2004 and 2005, this age group increased by 457,000 persons..

Our Aging Nation

Number of people 65 or older.
1967: 19.1 million
2005: 36.8 million

Education

Percentage of the population 25 or older who had at least a high school diploma.
1967: 51%
2005: 85%

Singleness

100 million
Number of unmarried and single Americans. This group comprises 44 percent of all U.S. residents age 15 and over.

Jobs

Americans work in a wide variety of occupations. Here is a sampling:
Gaming services workers (gambling) — 98,000
Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists — 738,000
Chefs and head cooks — 317,000
Firefighters — 243,000
Musicians, singers, and related workers — 213,000
Bakers — 183,000
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs — 291,000
Service station attendants — 100,000
Farmers and ranchers — 827,000
Pharmacists — 248,000
Teachers — 6.8 million
[Source: *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2007*]

Number of civilian employees of the federal government (2005) — 2.7 million

Number of self-employed workers (2005) — 10.5 million

The number of people who work at home (2005) — 5 million

Top Five Religious Denominations in the United States

1. Roman Catholic Church (69 million)
 2. Southern Baptist Convention (16.3 million)
 3. United Methodist Church (8 million)
 4. Mormon Church (Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) (5,599,000)
 5. Church of God in Christ (5.5 million)
- [Source:
- Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, 2007*
-]

Did you know?

The first census of the United States was authorized by act of Congress on March 1, 1790, “providing for the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States.”

The U.S. population was 80 million in 1902 and 298 million+ on Census Day, April 1, 2006.

In 1803, the United States paid France \$15 million for the Louisiana Territory — 828,000 square miles of land west of the Mississippi River. The lands acquired stretched from the Mississippi to the Rockies and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border. The Louisiana Purchase nearly doubled the size of the United States and contained area from which all or part of 13 states were eventually carved.

First conservationist of note was naturalist John Muir; he founded the Sierra Club and campaigned successfully for the establishment of protected national parks and forests. Muir Woods National Monument (California) and Alaska’s Muir Glacier honor him.

SPORTS and ENTERTAINMENT

Revenue From Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (2004)

— \$158, 545,000,000
Total Recreation Expenditures (2004) — \$702,400,000,000

Participation in:

Various leisure activities (2002) — \$205,900,000
Various arts activities (2002) — \$90,300,000
Lawn and garden activities (2005) — 83%
Selected sports activities (2004) — \$258,533,000

Most Popular Sports

Baseball
Basketball
Golf
Hockey
NASCAR (auto racing)
Soccer

Sporting Goods Sales (2005)
\$86,774,000,000

Ten Best American Movies (2006):

1. *Citizen Kane* (1941)
 2. *Casablanca* (1943)
 3. *The Godfather* (1972)
 4. *Gone With the Wind* (1939)
 5. *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962)
 6. *The Wizard of Oz* (1939)
 7. *The Graduate* (1967)
 8. *On the Waterfront* (1954)
 9. *Schindler's List* (1993)
 10. *Singin' in the Rain* (1952)
- [Source: American Film Institute]

In 1972, astronauts on board *Apollo 17* captured the first full view of Earth suspended in space, exposed in full sunlight. Amid a growing awareness of environmental concerns, the “Blue Marble” photograph became a symbol of the planet’s fragility in the cold vast blackness of space. More than 30 years later, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) receives more requests for this photo than any other, and the agency suggests that it could be the most frequently reproduced photograph of all time.

Five All-Time Highest-Rated Television Programs (2005)

1. *M*A*S*H* (last episode; 2/28/1983)
 2. *Dallas* (Who Shot J.R.?.; 11/21/1980)
 3. *Roots* — Part 8 (1/30/1977)
 4. *Super Bowl XVI* (1/24/1982)
 5. *Super Bowl XVII* (1/30/1983)
- [Source:
- World Almanac and Book of Facts 2006*
-]

Ten Top Record Long-Run Broadway Plays

1. *Cats* (1982-2000)
 2. *Phantom of the Opera* (1988- 2007)
 3. *Les Miserables* (1987-2003)
 4. *Chorus Line* (1975-1990)
 5. *Oh! Calcutta!* (revival: 1976-1989)
 6. *Beauty and the Beast* (1994-)
 7. *Miss Saigon* (1991-2001)
 8. *Rent* (1996-)
 9. *Chicago* (revival: 1996-)
 10. *42nd Street* (1980-1989)
- [Source: League of American Theatres and Producers, Inc., New York, NY]

Five Top-Selling Video Games (2004)

1. *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*, Sony PlayStation 2
 2. *Halo 2*, Microsoft Xbox
 3. *Madden NFL 2005*, Sony PlayStation 2
 4. *ESPN NFL 2K5*, Sony PlayStation 2
 5. *Need for Speed: Underground 2*, Sony PlayStation 2
- [Source:
- World Almanac and Book of Facts 2006*
-]

International Travelers to the United States (2005)

49,402,000
U.S. Travelers to International Countries — 63,866,000
Foreign Visitors for Pleasure (2004) — 22,803,000

State Parks and Recreation Areas (2004)

Acres — 14,180,000
Visitors — 697,831,000

Did you know in sports?

Basketball is considered the first sport created in the United States. It was invented in 1892 by Dr. James Naismith, an instructor at the International Young Men’s Christian Association Training School, Springfield, MA. The game was originally played with peach baskets mounted on poles.

Did you know in entertainment?

First video game that was commercially successful was the arcade game Pong, introduced in 1972 by Atari Corporation.

Television was invented by several people, including the Russian-American electrical engineer Vladimir Kosma Zworykin, who received two essential television patents on December 20, 1938.

