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A crowd watches a launch of the space shuttle from the Kennedy Space Center on the east coast of Florida. First launched in 1981, the shuttle carries humans and cargo into orbit and has been a key tool for construction of the International Space Station.

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AS A NATION  
I

The United States has the third largest land mass of any nation in the world.

The U.S. population is also the third largest in the world.

The U.S. economy is the largest in the world.

These are a few random facts about the United States in the early years of the 21st century. They form a sketch of what the country has become 500 years after the first Europeans came to the New World and the dream of a new kind of nation was born.

In 1776—about 160 years after the first permanent settlement by the English—that dream took form in the Declaration of Independence from British rule. A revolution followed, and the United States of America was created.

The declaration envisioned a nation where government serves the people and honors the rights of the individual. The intent to

build a nation on those principles has come to be known as the American experiment. Over the centuries, the U.S. government and its citizens have been the subjects, the observers, and the masterminds in this experiment. Thousands of times—in statehouses, legislative chambers, and courtrooms across the nation—Americans have debated laws and government actions to ascertain how each adheres to the ideals of our experiment, the legacy

of a handful of men, now long dead, who once shared a vision of democracy.

Those leaders, who came to be known as the Founding Fathers, were all white men. They all spoke English and were educated landowners. In the first years of the new nation, only those who looked like them were granted a voice in government. As generations passed, more and more immigrants came to the United States

*“...governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”*

—THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, 1776

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** In Racine, Wisconsin, women play bocce ball, a game brought to the United States by Italian immigrants.

**THIS PAGE:** Martin Luther King Jr., right center, leads a march to protest lack of voting rights for African Americans in 1965.



from all corners of the globe. They fled war, deprivation, discrimination, and despair, pursuing a dream of a new life under the American ideals.

A new mix of Americans—women and people of



*“Thus are the Five Nations united completely... Therefore they shall labor, legislate, and council together for the interest of future generations.”*

—THE CONSTITUTION OF THE IROQUOIS NATIONS, CIRCA 15TH CENTURY

The American experiment is constantly evolving, as groups or individuals find reason to challenge laws and policies, claiming an infringement of the freedoms granted to them by the U.S. Constitution. That is their right, granted by that very document. The ground rules of the experiment hold that citizens can challenge and reshape their government, that they have access to the courts to pursue a complaint.

Collectively, the dreams of these citizens continue to renew the American experiment, now in its third century. As each new generation confronts new problems and controversies, the American experiment in the new millennium will enter a different phase and will be tested by the challenges of the times. ■

different colors and ethnicities—waged difficult and sometimes bloody struggles to assert their rights to a voice and a vote in government. They won. American government in the 21st century includes representatives of all races, genders, and ethnic backgrounds. A body of beliefs

about the person, the family, the community, and the social fabric largely binds Americans of different backgrounds together with respect and tolerance. But the roots of the past run deep, and Americans still work to expel traces of racial, ethnic, and gender bias.

## One Head, One Body, One Mind

The descendants of white Europeans wrote the story of how the United States became a nation. Time has shown us that a few chapters were left out, sanitized, or revised as earlier generations of historians tried to justify actions inconsistent with the ideals of the American experiment.

The documents that became the touchstone for a nation—the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution of 1787—were not as new to the New World as early historians may have maintained. In fact, similar principles existed among the peoples of these lands before the white Europeans ever arrived, though not in written form.

The Constitution of the Iroquois Nations was a code of governance adopted by five Indian tribes living in what is now the northeastern United States. Said to date in oral tradition to the late 1400s, the constitution of these Indian tribes outlined principles for a republican, representative form of government; it detailed rules for consideration of proposals, means for resolving disputes, and a succession of leadership.

Most important, it asserted the principle that government exists to serve the best interests of the people. “Thus are the Five Nations united completely and enfolded together, united into one head, one body, and one mind. Therefore they shall labor, legislate, and council together for the interest of future generations.”

Today the U.S. government holds more than 22 million hectares (56.2 million acres) of land in trust for Native-American tribes, many of which still adhere to their ancient principles of government. Within that territory, about 275 land areas are administered as Indian reservations. The largest is the Navajo Reservation of some 6.4 million hectares (16 million acres) of land in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

More than 550 tribal governments are recognized by the federal government, while some tribal groups are recognized only by state governments or only by the surviving members themselves. Federally recognized tribes have a special relationship with the U.S. government and are not governed by the laws of the state in which they are located. The federally recognized tribes are considered nations in their own right and have a government-to-government relationship with the federal government in Washington.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Women parade in New York City in 1970 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of women’s suffrage and to demand additional rights for women.

THIS PAGE: The Navajo Nation Council, left, meets in Window Rock, Arizona. Secondary school students on the Navajo Reservation in southeast Utah, above, play basketball during their lunch break.



## HOW MANY U.S. CITIZENS?



The U.S. population estimate in July 2007 was 301 million. The nation passed the 300 million mark in 2006, less than 40 years after the population reached 200 million in 1967.

### BY AGE

0–14 years: 20.2 percent

15–64 years: 67.2 percent

65 years and over: 12.6 percent

### MEDIAN AGE

Total: 36.6 years

Male: 35.3 years

Female: 37.9 years

OPPOSITE PAGE: A dancer from Ballet Folklórico México de Los Hermanos Ávila performs at a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month in Wisconsin.

THIS PAGE: A U.S. serviceman from Haiti, top center, rides a ferry to his naturalization ceremony on Ellis Island in New York City. Lake Michigan beaches, above, attract ethnically diverse crowds in Chicago.

## ONE FROM MANY



**T**he United States has been described as the most ethnically and culturally diverse nation the world has ever seen. That's a legacy from the nation's earliest years, when the vast, unsettled territories of the New World beckoned immigrants from the densely populated nations of Europe. The days of the western-bound pioneers live on in the movies and in the history books, but for tens of millions of Americans, family stories about making a home stake in the wilderness have become legend. For others, the family memories are far fresher, captured in black and white photographs and in treasured letters from the old country. For still others, the decision to become a U.S. citizen still seems like yesterday.

The U.S. Census Bureau issues these estimates on the diverse cultural and national backgrounds of the American people.

### German

Close to 49 million Americans are related to Germans who were among the Europeans drawn to the United States by the opportunity to acquire land more cheaply and easily than in Europe. That is ancient family history for today's German Americans, almost 95 percent of whom are now native born. A German heritage is the most frequently reported among Americans today.

### Hispanic

Some 44.3 million people trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. Hispanics are now considered the single largest ethnic minority in the United States. By an act of the U.S. Congress, Hispanic Heritage Month has been observed since 1968 from September 15 through October 15 each year.

### African American

More than 40 million people identify themselves as African Americans, including those of mixed race, making up 13.4 percent of the total U.S. population. Eighteen states have a black population of at least 1 million, led by New York. Of all the states, Mississippi has the highest proportion of African-American citizens—37 percent. Most African Americans trace their lineage to the history of slavery in the United States. Though the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution ended slavery shortly after the U.S. Civil War in the 1860s, it was not until the 1950s and 1960s that discriminatory practices in voting, employment, and housing began to end. The nation recognizes the contributions of African Americans with the commemoration of Black History Month each February.

### Irish

Almost 35 million Americans claim Irish ancestry, almost nine times the population of 21st-century Ireland. The deprivation caused by the Irish Potato Famine of the 1840s brought a huge wave of immigrants to the United States, but most arrived impoverished and faced many years of hardship and discrimination before they gained a place in the mainstream. The Irish heritage is celebrated on March 17 every year—St. Patrick's Day—when tens of millions more Americans will claim Irish heritage just to join the revelry.

### Italian

Italy is the ancestral homeland for about 18 million Americans, and this ethnic group also takes great pride in the role fellow Italians played in opening the New World. They claim Christopher Columbus—a Genoan by birth sailing under the Spanish flag—as their own, the first white European to land in the Western Hemisphere. Columbus thought he was in Asia, however. The name of the New World—America—is traced to Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci, the first to recognize the Americas as newly discovered continents. Italy was one of the most crowded nations in Europe in the mid- to late 19th century, and immigrants came by the millions seeking new opportunity.



### Asian

The 14.4 million Asians living in the United States trace their ancestry back to many nations: China, Japan, the Philippines, India, Vietnam, Korea, and others. Asian-Pacific Heritage month is observed in May each year and commemorates the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in that month in 1843, as well as the contributions of Chinese immigrants who helped build America's first transcontinental railroad, completed in May 1869.

### American Indian-Alaska Native

About 4.5 million U.S. citizens, including those of mixed race, are descended from the earliest people to inhabit North America. California, Oklahoma, and Arizona are the states with the largest Indian and native populations. About 20 percent of Alaska's population is American Indian or Alaska Native, the highest proportion of any state in the nation.

### Foreign Born

The foreign-born population of the United States approached 36 million as tallied in a 2006 survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, an increase of 16 percent since 2000. California, New York, Texas, Florida, and Illinois are home to 62 percent of the foreign born and are frequently referred to as the gateway states for immigrants to the United States.

OPPOSITE PAGE: High-stepping Irish dancers, left, perform in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Denver, Colorado. In New York's Little Italy neighborhood, right, a local man prepares Italian dishes at the annual San Gennaro festival.

THIS PAGE: A family shares the fun at Oktoberfest celebrations in Hays, Kansas. The event is held each year in recognition of the area's German settlers.



## Breakthroughs for Humanity

**W**hat this world really needs is a car that goes 160 kilometers (96 miles) on a liter of gasoline. Or maybe what the world really needs is a foothold on the moon as a stepping stone to outer space. Then again, maybe the world needs a better understanding of the human genome as a key to developing personalized preventive medicine.

Visionary thinkers at the California-based X Prize Foundation believe the world needs all those things, and it is tantalizing the world's inventors and innovators with millions of dollars in prize money to encourage these discoveries. The foundation is an educational, nonprofit institute devoted to motivating the competitive and entrepreneurial spirit of others to achieve "breakthroughs for the benefit of humanity," according to the organization's mission statement.

The proof that this strategy can work came in 2004, when Mojave Aerospace Ventures built and flew the world's first private spaceship and won the \$10 million Ansari prize sponsored by the X Prize Foundation and funded by Iranian-American telecommunications entrepreneur Anousheh Ansari and her family.

Google Inc. is putting up \$20 million for the Lunar X Prize, announced in September 2007. To win, a team must use a privately funded spacecraft to achieve a soft landing on the moon by the end of 2012. They also have to release a robotic rover for at least a 500-meter (1,640-foot) stroll on the surface and transmit a specific set of video, images, and data back to Earth.

"The Google Lunar X Prize seeks to create a global, private race to the moon that excites and involves people around the world and accelerates space exploration for the benefit of all humanity," said Peter H. Diamandis, chairman and chief executive officer of the X Prize Foundation, when the prize was announced. "The use of space has dramatically enhanced the quality of life and may ultimately lead to solutions to some of the most pressing environmental challenges that we face on Earth—energy independence and climate change."

More than 30 teams from various nations have said they intend to compete for the automotive prize, to be awarded based upon performance of the vehicle entries in a series of races expected to be held in 2009 and 2010.

And competitors began working in 2006 trying to win the \$10 million Archon X Prize for Genomics. It will be awarded to the team that develops technology to successfully map 100 human genomes in 10 days.

## Dreamers and Doers

The United States is built on beliefs that make us a nation of dreamers and doers—people who envision achievements and set goals, confident in the knowledge that they'll have the liberty and opportunity to turn those dreams into reality. Those dreamers have made the United States a fountain of innovation, overflowing with ideas, inventions, and breakthroughs that have changed the course of humanity. American invention and curiosity have expanded humankind's understanding of the universe and even helped to create a new electronic universe in a place called cyberspace.

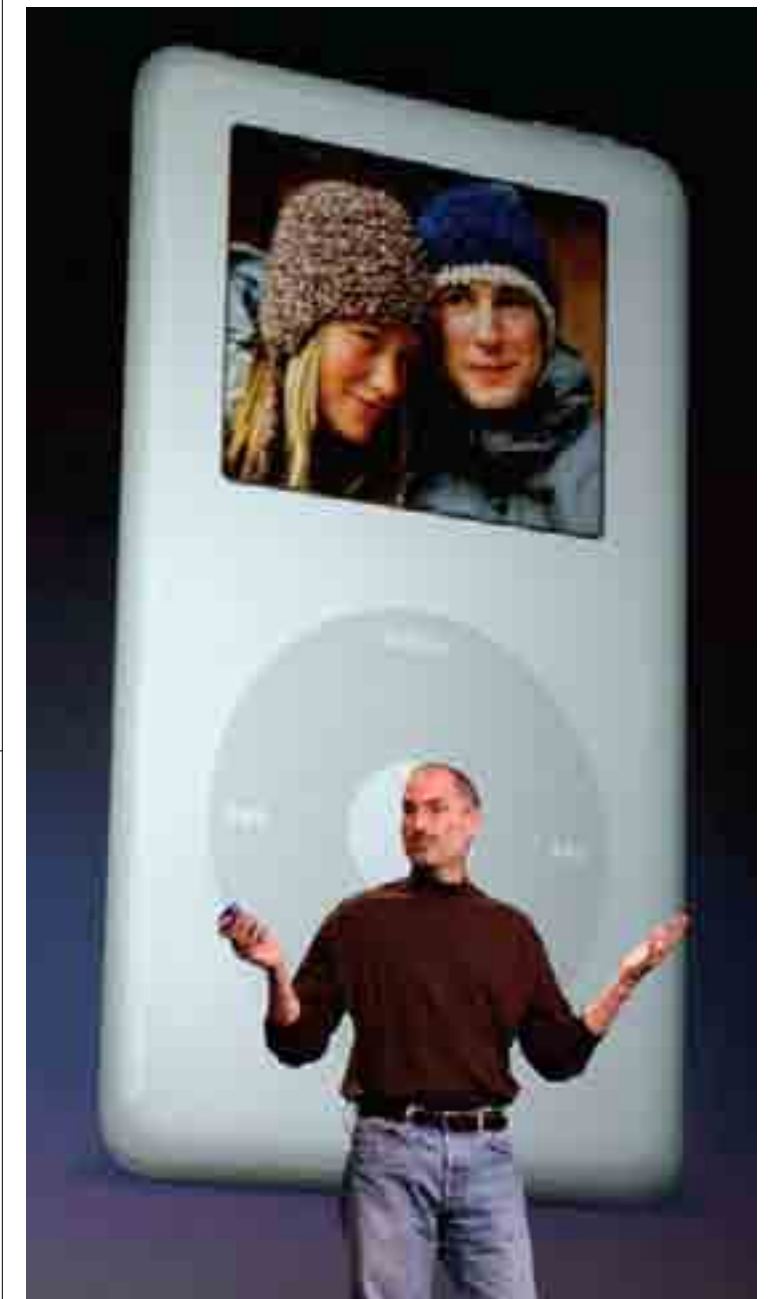
American dreamers look to a world that could be, while the doers are shifting the gears and turning the wheels to keep a nation of more than 300 million housed, fed, clothed, and informed. In so doing, they create the world's largest economy and manufacture more goods than any other country in the world.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Burt Rutan, right, designer of SpaceShipOne, speaks at the craft's installation ceremony at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. SpaceShipOne, hanging at left, was the first privately developed, piloted vehicle to reach space and the recipient of the X Prize Foundation's Ansari award in 2004.

THIS PAGE: Steve Jobs unveils the Apple iPod Photo. Jobs cofounded Apple Computer in 1976 and built it into a multinational corporation that has expanded from personal computers to a range of consumer electronics.

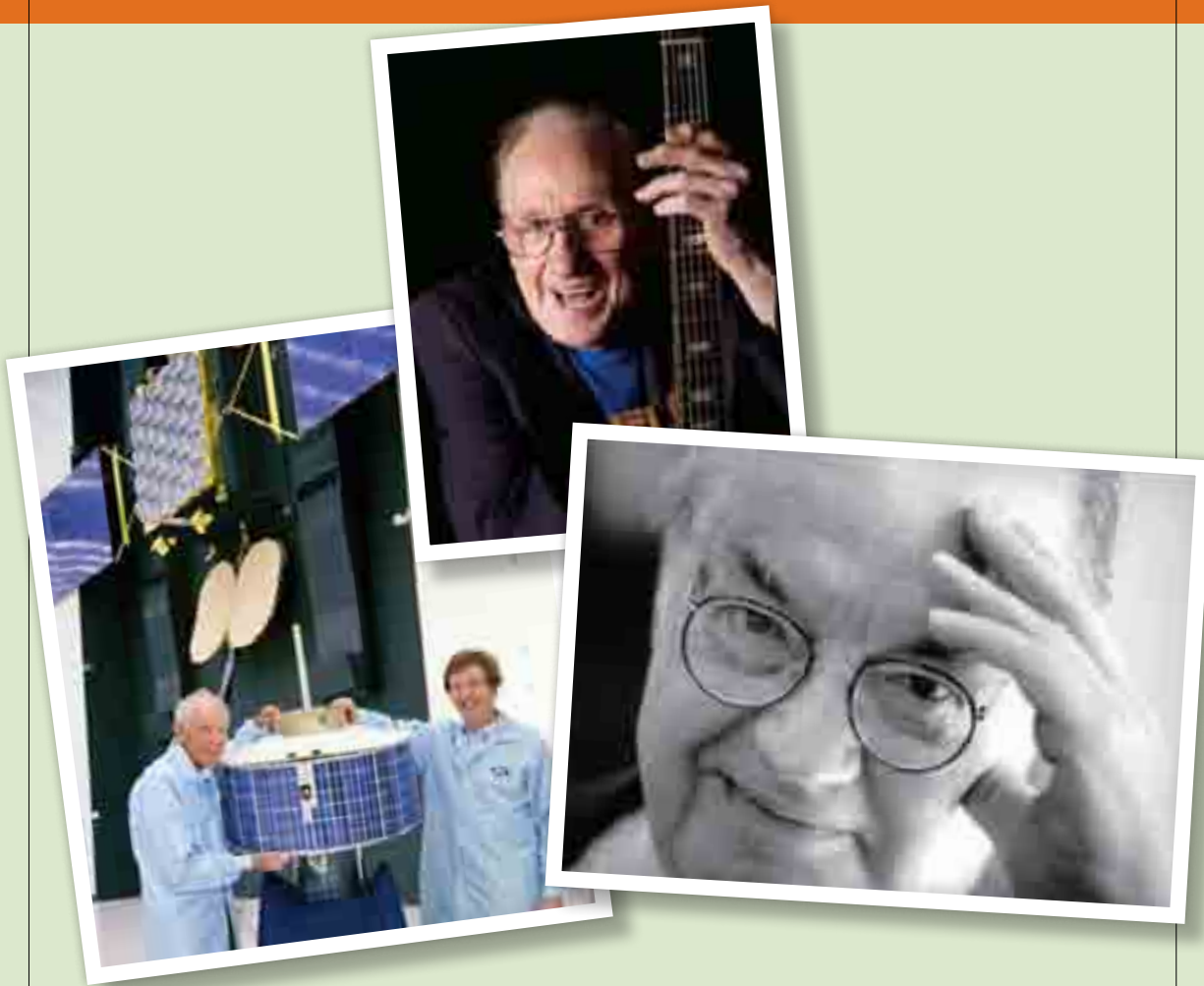
*"When you innovate, you've got to be prepared for everyone telling you you're nuts."*

—LARRY ELLISON, COFOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF ORACLE, A LEADING ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE COMPANY





## THE PURSUIT OF INNOVATION



A handful of U.S. inventors have achieved almost mythic status in the national lore. Orville and Wilbur Wright pushed their flying contraption off a sand dune and gave wings to humankind. With innovations to make the electric light and the phonograph commercially viable, Thomas Edison invented not mere gadgets, but the 20th-century lifestyle.

Technological change moves at fiber-optic speeds today, so the Wrights and Edisons of the 21st century may never become subjects of folklore like their predecessors. Neither do they work in obscurity. The value of their contributions and the importance of innovation is recognized by the White House each year with the national medals of science and technology.

These awards are presented to individuals whose work enhances our understanding of the world, changes our lives, and leads to innovations that make the United States a leading economic power.

Honoring innovation and its leaders is also the purpose of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, administered by a private foundation and supported by the U.S. government's Patent and Trademark Office. Hundreds of inventors, living and dead, are honored at the National Inventors Hall of Fame museum in Akron, Ohio, for the advances they have made that help make human, social, and economic progress possible.

Tour the galleries of these halls and you'll meet people whose names and faces are unknown to most of us, but whose work has reshaped the world.

### Paul Baran

Paul Baran was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2007 for development of an idea that became fundamental to advanced computer networking systems—digital packet switching. The term refers to a format for transmitting data in which messages are divided into packets before they are sent. Each packet is then transmitted individually and can even follow different routes to its destination. Once all the packets forming a message arrive at the destination, they are recompiled into the original message. Packet switching has become the standard method of construction for communications networks today because it results in digital networks with greater flexibility, reliability, and lower cost than circuit switching, the foundation of transmission networks of the past. Baran is a native of Poland who came to the United States as a child.

### Harold Rosen

Harold Rosen came up with a way to keep satellites spinning in orbit with Earth, a technological breakthrough allowing the launch of the satellites that now support the global communications network. A 24/7 communications network relies on satellites that remain in synchronous orbit with our planet. Rosen was instrumental in designing a lightweight satellite that maintains an orbit above a fixed point on Earth, stabilizing itself by continuous spinning. Rosen led a team in this work while employed by Hughes Aircraft in the late 1950s, leading to the first transoceanic television broadcast—of the Tokyo Olympics—in 1964.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Left to right, Harold Rosen, right, and Tom Hudspeth stand with a model of Optus B, a sophisticated descendant of Syncom, the first geosynchronous communications satellite; musician and inventor Les Paul, posing with his guitar in 1970, is credited with developing recording technology that allowed the emergence of totally new sounds in late 20th-century music; Paul Baran is recognized for his contributions to technologies that help build high-speed communication networks.

THIS PAGE: Steve Wozniak works on computer hardware in his office in 1984.

### Les Paul

Les Paul's invention of the solid-body electric guitar transformed popular music. As a well-known American performer in the 1950s, he also developed innovative recording techniques that revolutionized the music industry. Though the popularity of his own performance style waned with the emergence of rock and roll, Paul's multitrack recording techniques gave artists new capabilities in the creation of sound and mood.

### Steve Wozniak

The story of Steve Wozniak and his invention of the personal computer has achieved almost mythic status in the information technology industry: A young man with a lifelong talent for tinkering works in a garage and builds a machine that changes the world. Wozniak and secondary school friend Steve Jobs founded Apple Computer in 1976. By 1981, Apple had become a \$500 million a year business, and Wozniak left the company to finish a degree in electrical engineering and computer science. He is an active philanthropist, focusing intently on kids and computers.



## Meet the Young Inventors

**F**inding a better way to do something is a principal motive of innovation and invention, "building a better mousetrap," as they say.

That's the common theme among four very different ideas by some very bright young Americans who were honored in 2007. Young people ushered into the National Gallery for America's Young Inventors have devised new methods for finding a cancer tumor, easing agricultural pollution of water supplies, improving the efficiency of auto air-conditioning, and reconstructing a community in the aftermath of an emergency.

Alexandra Courtis, from Davis, California, came up with a nanoparticle that can pinpoint a tumor on the cellular level.

Anup Myneni and Gabrielle Marie Strike, a team from Yorktown, Virginia, found a method for protecting streams and rivers from agricultural runoff containing dangerously high levels of nitrogen.

A team from Plano, Texas, Ananth Ram and Arun Venkatraman, addressed a local problem in the hot climate of their state by devising a way to lessen the energy consumption of automobile air-conditioning systems with better regulation of window tinting.

Inspired by the plight of homeless people in the aftermath of foreign wars and natural disasters, Micah Toll of Pennsylvania developed a process to create a lightweight construction material that can be used to build shelters without the need for tools.

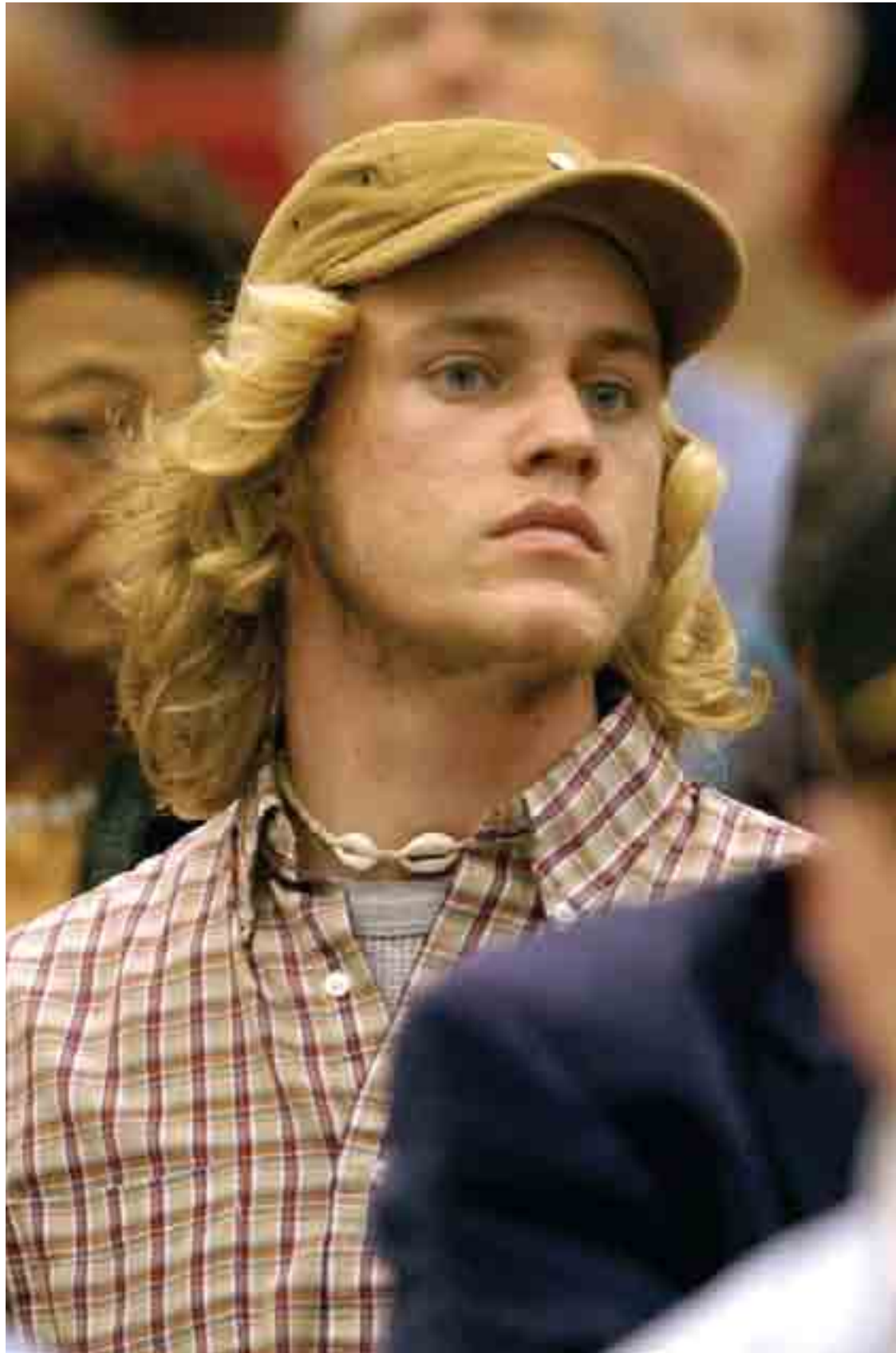
The National Gallery for America's Young Inventors has been honoring young people with great ideas since 1996, with particular focus on those inventions with potential to have a positive impact on society. Administered by the National Museum of Education and other sponsors, this venue to honor young inventors is intended not only to highlight their achievements, but, according to the gallery's mission statement, also seeks to "ignite the faith that students can solve real-world problems."



THIS PAGE: Alexandra Courtis, left, shares a laugh with her mother at home; a few of her science trophies are in the foreground. Young inventor Micah Toll, right, lifts a roof section for a circular shelter made of the construction material he designed.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Rachel Kaminsky holds her invention, the Dry Eyes Onion Slicer, for which she was a finalist in the Young Inventors Awards Program, sponsored by the National Science Teachers Association and Sears Craftsman® tools.





AS CITIZENS

2

“Government of the people, by the people, and for the people...” The 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865), described the United States with those words in a speech delivered in 1863, at the height of the U.S. Civil War. A century and a half later, the government Lincoln described continues to function for the people.

But the people also play an important role in serving their country. “Government by the people” depends on people who fulfill their responsibilities as citizens to be informed, involved, and invested in their communities and their nation.

A “government of the people” can exist only when citizens choose their leaders through free and fair elections. Voting is a fundamental right and responsibility of U.S. citizens—the right to have a say in how they are governed and the responsibility to be

informed about candidates and issues when they go to the polls.

The United States was founded, in large part, on the desire of its people to participate in the decisions of their government. Surprisingly, perhaps, the U.S. Constitution itself did not

interest in preserving society to protect their wealth and because they had the independence and education to decide important political matters. Universal suffrage was achieved through conflict and perseverance in U.S. society and through continued

*“The most important political office is that of private citizen.”*

—LOUIS D. BRANDEIS, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT, 1916–1939



**OPPOSITE PAGE:** A young voter listens intently during a town hall meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. Americans debate political and social issues at such forums across the country.

**THIS PAGE:** Volunteers help a California man register to vote.

address the right to vote or eligibility for voting. The prevailing view when the Constitution was written in 1787 was that only men who owned property were qualified to vote because they had an

analysis and interpretation of the meaning of the Constitution.

Voting makes demands on citizens, obligating them to stay informed about the issues before public officials in their neighborhood and around the world.

Voting alone does not make Americans good citizens. Neither will a birthright or an oath of allegiance. Good citizenship also requires respect for the rights of others, as well as responsibility and compassion



THIS PAGE: In Highland Park, Michigan, volunteers build a playground for children in a low-income neighborhood.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Rock the Vote takes its message to young people on spring break in Florida, top, and via a bus tour in California.

The pages that follow describe some of the many activities and responsibilities that Americans take on voluntarily to be good citizens and to better their neighborhoods. Hundreds of thousands hold positions to serve their towns or counties; tens of millions give their free time to volunteer in nonprofit organizations that work for a greater good. They may serve in local government, pick up trash in the park, tutor children after school, visit the elderly in nursing homes, or devote part of their income to a worthy cause. Americans contribute to their society and our country in thousands of ways, understanding that citizenship is a privilege to be paid for over and over again. ■

toward family and the community. Citizenship requires honesty and fair behavior toward others, without prejudice. And it requires discipline, perseverance, and adherence to all these ideals.

A century after Lincoln's words helped to clarify the relationship between the U.S. government and its people, President John F. Kennedy (1961–1963) offered another definition of citizenship when he said in his inaugural address, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

During his brief administration, Kennedy outlined policies for a massive assault on persisting pockets of poverty in the United States. He inspired young Americans to join government programs that worked against poverty abroad and in the inner cities at home. Though an assassin cut short the Kennedy presidency after only a thousand days, the challenge of his inaugural speech continues to inspire Americans not only to ask—but to act—to help their country, their communities, and their world.

## Expanding the Vote

1787	Voting is restricted to white male landowners, about three-fifths of adult white males. Men who did not own real property later won the vote, if they paid taxes.
1850	Property requirements for voting are dismantled in all states.
1855	Tax-paying requirements are abandoned, allowing all white males to vote.
1868	The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution sets the voting age as 21 years.
1870	The Fifteenth Amendment, ratified after the Civil War (1861–1865) and the abolition of slavery, guarantees the vote to all male citizens, regardless of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude."
1920	The Nineteenth Amendment extends the vote to all American women after a decades-long battle. With the U.S. entry into World War I in 1917, political wisdom dictated that the United States could not fight for democracy overseas while denying half its population the vote.
1971	The Twenty-sixth Amendment expands the vote to 18-year-olds, as thousands of 18- to 21-year-olds fought for their country in the Vietnam War but did not have the right to vote.

## Young Voters Turn Out

The percentage of Americans who actually exercise their right to vote declined during the second half of the 20th century. No single reason explains this trend. Some citizens may feel that their single vote does not make a difference; some may lose interest in campaigns run largely through the media. Others may simply be too busy to go to the polls every time there is an election.

An apparent shift in the trend occurred between the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections when voter turnout increased, particularly among young people, who traditionally vote in smaller numbers than older citizens. The graph displays voting patterns for two groups—18- to 29-year-olds and voters aged 30 and over—in presidential elections since 1972, the first election in which 18-year-olds could vote.

Some of the credit for increased young voter turnout has to go to groups that banded themselves together with that express purpose. From Rock the Vote to Declare Yourself, efforts to engage young Americans in the political process have been paying off, registering millions of voters between the ages of 18 and 29.

In 1990, members of the U.S. recording industry founded Rock the Vote, and since then its name has become synonymous with the power to influence elections, reflected in headlines such as "The Young Did Indeed Rock the Vote" and "Can Technology Rock the Vote?" The organization has produced public service announcements, television specials, and concerts starring celebrity entertainers who encourage young people to become involved and exercise their power in the voting booth.

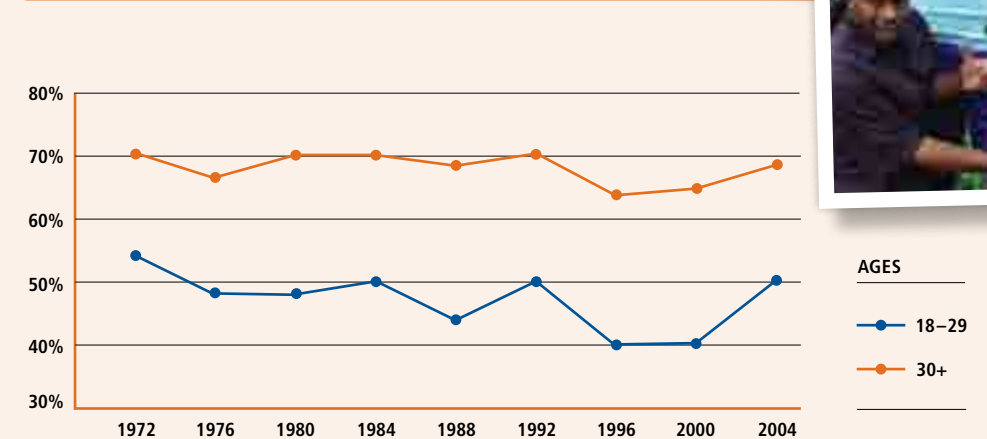
Rock the Vote has evolved with the times, registering voters on its own Web site, as well as through Facebook. In recent years, Rock the Vote has gone international, inspiring similar organizations in Australia, Ireland, and Mexico.

Declare Yourself describes itself as "a national nonpartisan, nonprofit campaign to energize and empower every eligible 18-year-old in America to register and vote." Founded in 2003 by television producer Norman Lear, Declare Yourself also uses celebrity spokespersons to connect with young audiences and sponsors a voter education initiative for secondary school students who soon will be eligible to vote. The organization has partnered with other online powerhouses, including MySpace, Yahoo!, YouTube, and Google.

Together, Rock the Vote and Declare Yourself take credit for registering upwards of 3 million new voters in recent elections.



## Voter Turnout





## Kids Learning to Vote

Voting is simple. You go to the polling place and make your choice, right? Not exactly. Before Election Day arrives, voters need to act on their own to find out who the candidates are and what they stand for. In order to cast a thoughtful ballot, voters may also need to research the pros and cons of other issues that might be on the ballot. Reaching the age of 18 in the United States makes a person eligible to vote but not necessarily educated to vote.

A unique program called Kids Voting USA® (KVUSA) has been working to fill in that educational gap since 1988. KVUSA works with community-based organizations, school systems, and local election officials to teach civic education to students in kindergarten through secondary school. Started in Arizona, the program now has affiliates in 26 states and Washington, D.C.

What makes Kids Voting effective is that students gain real-life practice in how to vote. In the run-up to Election Day, they learn about the candidates for local, state, and national offices and about ballot questions on state and local issues—the same ones their parents will vote on. On Election Day, the kids cast their votes in mock elections.

“The purpose [of Kids Voting] is to teach young people at earlier ages how to be reasonable citizens by exercising their democratic voting rights and paying attention to the news and candidates and issues,” says Ruthi Rapp, a Kids Voting organizer in Kansas. “And to learn an appreciation for the fact that they have that privilege, which doesn’t exist in some countries around the world.”

## Campaigning Online

As the Internet expands the bounds of cyberspace, online media also claim a larger place in the world of political campaigns. First used as a new tool to sign up volunteers and solicit campaign contributions, the Internet is now an integral communications tool between candidates and the public.

Take social-networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook, where many U.S. presidential candidates took up residence for the 2008 race. Tom Anderson, a founder of MySpace, says that the site reaches people who might not follow political news through traditional media. “A MySpace profile could excite their interest in ways they are used to,” he says. “In the same way they learn about their friends, they could learn about a candidate.”

YouTube, the video-sharing Web site, made history in presidential political campaigns, introducing a whole new level of voter interactivity. YouTube joined the Cable News Network (CNN) to conduct televised debates among candidates for their parties’ nominations in 2008. The traditional format allows a panel of journalists to question the candidates, but online users had their chance at the politicians in the 2008 campaign. Individual voters posed questions for candidates in videos uploaded to YouTube. The candidates assembled for a televised event in one location to respond to the video questions. The events, held separately for Democratic and Republican candidates, were broadcast on CNN.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Kindergartners in Pittsburg, Kansas, attend a rally in support of voting, part of the Kids Voting USA® program.

THIS PAGE: A cameraman works in front of a huge video screen as preparations are underway for a CNN/YouTube presidential primary debate in St. Petersburg, Florida.

## The Other Side of the Ballot

**E**lections in the United States are not only about the candidates running for office. Frequently voters are asked to decide public policy issues for their states and communities. These questions make their way to the voting booth through one of two routes: ballot initiative or legislative referendum.

A ballot initiative is a mechanism for citizens to propose policy changes, while a legislative referendum is proposed by the state legislature, an elected official, or a government agency or commission. Ballot initiatives are not permitted in all states, so legislative referenda generally outnumber ballot initiatives by a wide margin nationwide in any election year. In 2006, for example, 204 statewide measures were voted on by citizens: 79 ballot initiatives and 125 legislative referenda.

What are all these ballot measures about? Often they concern hot-button issues that citizens think are not being addressed by elected officials or that private-interest groups are promoting. In the case of referenda, legislators may not find agreement among themselves to enact a new policy or law, but they may think that voters should decide the matter.

Ballot initiatives run the gamut of issues from tax policy to property rights to health care to transportation. They provide an opportunity both for citizens to raise issues they're concerned about and for voters to express their opinions.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Two phases of a ballot measure in Washington State: A worker, top, adds up the number of signatures on petitions to place an education initiative on the state ballot; a farmer, below, drives his tractor through downtown Seattle, urging citizens to vote for a property rights ballot measure.



THIS PAGE: Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman, right, appears before the state legislature's Revenue Committee, making his case for tax cuts. Raymond Aguilar, below, is sworn in as the first Hispanic member of the Nebraska state legislature.

## In Fifty States

**A**s the U.S. Congress meets in Washington, D.C., state legislatures convene in each of the 50 state capitals to discuss state issues and make laws that apply to citizens within their own borders. Like the Congress, 49 of the states have two-house legislatures, composed predominantly of members of the two major political parties, Republican and Democratic. Only the state of Nebraska maintains a one-house legislature, and all its members are officially labeled as Independents.

A total of 7,382 Americans serve in state legislatures, elected by their fellow citizens for term lengths prescribed in state constitutions.

Until the 1960s, state legislatures generally met every other year for a limited number of days. Individual legislators were poorly paid and had little or no staff support. Since then, however, many states have held annual legislative sessions, increased legislative pay, and added professional staff support. Still, the amount of time a legislator needs to fulfill his or her job varies greatly from state to state.

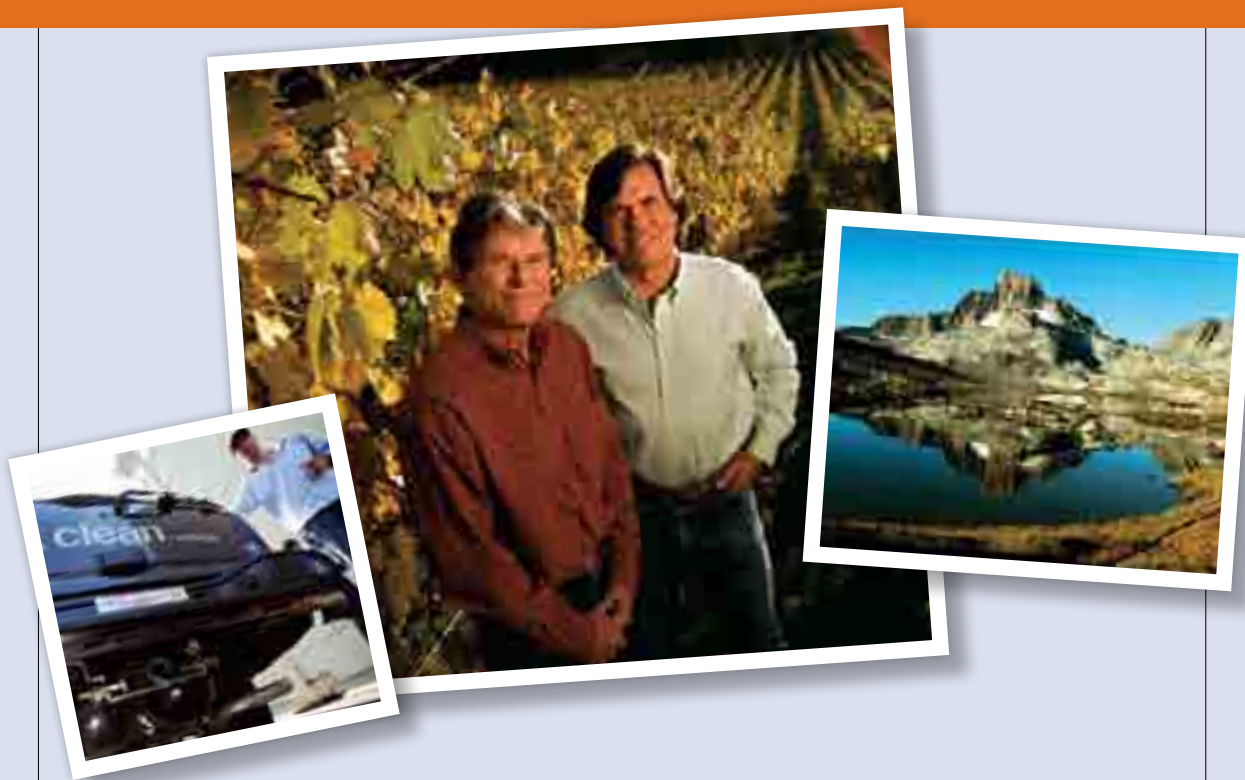
In large, industrialized states such as California, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania, for example, being a state legislator is a full-time job. In small or less populated states such as Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, the work of a state legislator occupies about 50 percent of his or her time. The other 40 states fall somewhere in between.

Legislators' salaries reflect the demands of their jobs. Where the work is greatest, legislators are paid enough to live without requiring outside income. At the other end of the spectrum, legislators receive low salaries, and they continue to devote time to their private-sector careers to make a comfortable living.



### WHO SERVES IN STATE LEGISLATURES

	TOTAL SEATS	DEMOCRATIC	REPUBLICAN	INDEPENDENT/OTHER	VACANT
Senate	1,971	1,016	902	52*	1
House	5,411	2,978	2,408	18	7



The western state of California is home to 38 million people and covers 425,620 square kilometers (163,700 square miles) of land along the coast of the Pacific Ocean. According to the state's Web site, California—if it were a country—would have the fifth largest economy in the world and would be the ninth largest emitter of greenhouse gases. For nearly two decades, the state has been working to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2004, California has ramped up its efforts to protect the environment on several fronts, an example of how government at the state level responds to challenges and its citizens' concerns.

#### Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The state has set goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels—a reduction of 25 percent—by the year 2020 and to reduce emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Some California companies already have reduced their emissions voluntarily. Parducci Wine Cellars in Mendocino County has the

distinction of being the first carbon-neutral winery in the United States.

#### Million Solar Roofs Initiative

Californians who install solar roofs on their homes or businesses will be able to sell excess energy back to power companies, under legislation enacted in 2006. Thus, the state hopes to encourage the construction of 1 million solar roofs by 2018. The plan could provide 3,000 megawatts of clean energy and reduce the output of greenhouse gases by 3 million tons, the equivalent of taking 1 million cars off the road.

THIS PAGE: Left to right, a truck powered by compressed natural gas; Paul Dolan, left, and Tim Thornhill of Parducci Wine Cellars; a lakeside peak in the Sierra Nevada mountains in California.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Left to right, a typical family of four generates 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds) of annual recycling, left, and 2,400 kilograms (5,300 pounds) of discarded waste; commuter trains offer an alternative to driving; solar roof panels on a San Diego home.

#### Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS)

In January 2007, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an executive order requiring that the carbon intensity of transportation fuels sold in the state be reduced by 10 percent by the year 2020. (Carbon intensity is the amount of carbon by weight emitted per unit of energy consumed.) According to California's Web site, the LCFS is the first greenhouse gas emissions standard for transportation fuels in the world, and it has the potential to cut pollution from passenger vehicles by 10 percent.

#### Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC)

Recognizing the environmental and economic importance of the Sierra Nevada Region, in 2005 Schwarzenegger established the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, which "initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities, and the citizens of California." SNC covers 10 million hectares (25 million acres) in a region that produces 65 percent of the state's water supply and half of all timber.

#### Zero Waste California

Long a proponent of "reduce, reuse, recycle," the state has initiated a Zero Waste California campaign. On its Web site, consumers find all sorts of information, from tips on maintaining automobile tires to reduce wear and extend their life, to places to dispose of household waste such as batteries and electronic devices, to news on the latest environmental legislation, such as a 2007 law that requires grocery chains and other large stores to provide recycling bins for plastic grocery bags.

#### Center on Energy Efficiency

In 2006 the state awarded a \$1 million grant to the University of California at Davis to create the Energy Efficiency Center, which brings together leaders in academia, industry, and the investment community to advance innovation and to bring energy-efficient products and services to the people of California. The state's Environmental Protection Agency estimates that demand for energy-efficient technologies will create a market potential of more than \$180 billion annually.

For more information on California's climate change activities, visit [www.climatechange.ca.gov](http://www.climatechange.ca.gov).





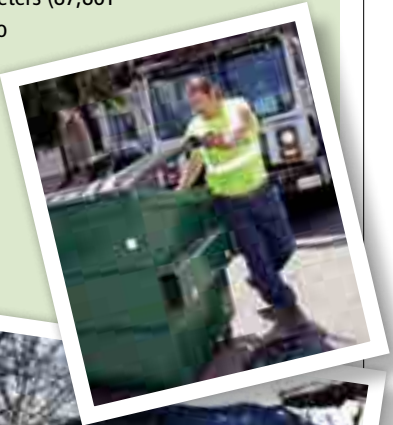
## Government Close to the People

Each of the 50 U.S. states is divided into any number of local jurisdictions, which include counties, cities, and towns. A county may encompass a number of communities that have different names, while a city or town encompasses an area that has one distinct name. The administration of government varies from county to county and city to city, but the mission of all local governments is the same: to provide essential, everyday services that ensure the well-being of their citizens.

To get an idea of the diversity of local government, consider these facts about county government: There are 3,066 counties in the United States, ranging in area from Arlington County, Virginia, with 67 square kilometers (25.9 square miles), to North Slope Borough, Alaska, with 228,439 square kilometers (87,861 square miles). Population varies from Loving County, Texas, with 140 residents, to Los Angeles County, California, with 9.2 million.

In general, local governments perform functions that are delegated by their state governments. County governments are responsible for managing the mechanics of elections. They register new voters, mail election information to voters, select voting devices, establish polling sites, recruit poll workers, and count and certify ballots on Election Day. Local governments also perform traditional functions, such as assessing property values for tax purposes; keeping records of property transactions; and maintaining vital statistics, such as births, marriages, and deaths.

Perhaps most importantly, local governments provide services that affect citizens' daily routines. Local authorities ensure that the water piped into their homes is safe, that trash is picked up from their neighborhoods, that public schools are accessible to all children, that the roads are paved. When unusual, and possibly dangerous, circumstances arise, local government is there too, with police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel protecting and aiding citizens. Clearly, the work of local government is closest to people's everyday lives.



## Government Service Online

U.S. citizens have access to their government 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Through government Web sites, Americans in most localities can go online to find out what their community officials are doing about garbage pickup and pothole repair. They can also transact with government agencies to renew a driver's license or update a passport. Many government agencies also allow citizens to submit comments about proposed policy changes online.

Virtually all government entities—federal, state, and local—maintain content-rich Web sites, easily accessed through USA.gov ([www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov)). The home pages of state and local governments also can be reached through State and Local Government on the Net ([www.statelocalgov.net](http://www.statelocalgov.net)).

OPPOSITE PAGE: Rangers give a human face to the U.S. Forest Service's mission to care for the land and serve the public. The agency manages more than 78 million hectares of forest land (193 million acres).

THIS PAGE: A garbage collector, top, picks up trash at an apartment complex in Oakland, California. A firefighter in Rockville, Maryland, above, cleans up the scene after fire ravaged an apartment building.



## Evolving News Media

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of the press. Mass media outlets are owned and run by private citizens, organizations, private companies, and public corporations—not by governments.

The American people rely on this free and independent media sector to provide information about all sides of an event or issue, and they have an array of sources to choose from. In the major midwestern city of Chicago, Illinois, for example, area residents have access to no less than 15 daily or weekly newspapers, 12 television stations, four news radio stations, and a news magazine, all produced locally. According to *Mondo Times*, a worldwide media guide, Chicago-based publishers produce an additional 16 newspapers and 19 magazines that cater to special local interests, from entertainment and sports to business and science. Through nationally circulated magazines, cable television, satellite radio, and the Internet, of course, Chicago residents—like all Americans—have access to countless sources from around the country and around the world.

The majority of Americans get at least some of the news from television. Prior to 1980, three major networks were the greatest sources of television news in the United States. The networks offer primarily entertainment programming with daily news broadcasts. In 1980, the Cable News Network (CNN) revolutionized the industry by offering news 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and by establishing an international presence. The success of CNN led to the formation of several other cable news channels.

Daily metropolitan newspapers and evening network news broadcasts once dominated news delivery, but cable news has now seized a significant share of the news-consuming audience. Perhaps one reason is that viewers perceive more of a difference among cable channels in the way they cover the news. A survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press revealed that 74 percent of viewers find the three major network news programs to be “pretty much the same,” while 48 percent found “real differences” in coverage among three cable news outlets.

### WHERE AMERICANS GET POLITICAL NEWS

	1996	2007
Television	72 percent	71 percent
Newspapers	60 percent	30 percent
Radio	19 percent	13 percent
Internet	3 percent	26 percent
Magazines	11 percent	4 percent



## The Gift of Service

Service to the community is an integral part of what it means to be an American. About 60 million people—one-quarter of the U.S. population over the age of 16—regularly give freely of their time through a service or charitable organization. The teenager who helps clean up a riverbank, the father who coaches his daughter’s basketball team, the senior citizen who reads to patients in a hospital—all these people are doing their part to make their communities better places.

On average, volunteers give 52 hours of time each year, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports. Women volunteer at a

higher rate than men: nearly 30 percent of women and 23 percent of men. They also differ in the types of activities they volunteer for, with women more likely to do fundraising or to tutor or teach and men more interested in doing manual labor or in coaching, refereeing, or supervising sports teams.

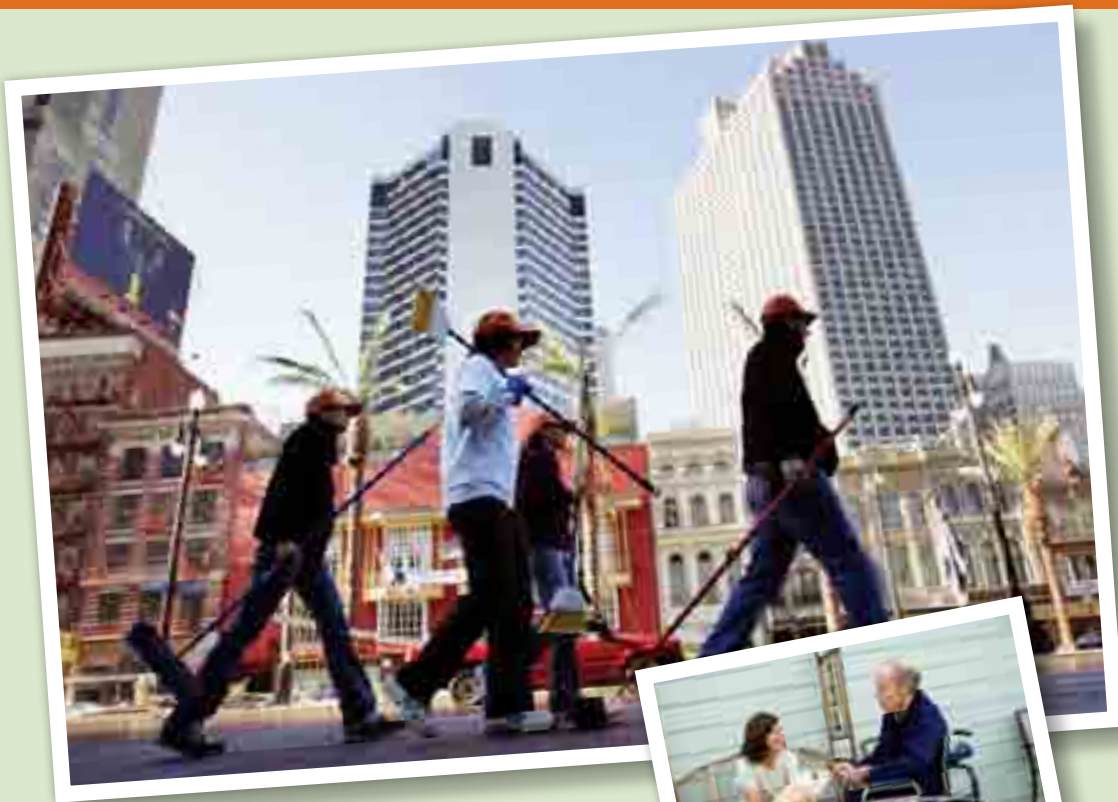
In addition to those who devote time to volunteer activities in between their regular commitments to work and family, millions more give one or more years of their life to national service through the military, the Peace Corps, or AmeriCorps, a domestic service program. The U.S. government

strongly encourages volunteer activities and works closely with state and local organizations to support programs that benefit all Americans.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Left to right, a voter from Texas appears on a television monitor as she poses a question to a presidential candidate onstage during a CNN/YouTube debate; a live satellite radio broadcast from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio; library patrons use free Wi-Fi service in Las Vegas, Nevada.

THIS PAGE: A child in Little Rock, Arkansas, receives a toy at Christmas from a volunteer with City Year, a program in which 17- to 24-year-olds give a year of service in urban neighborhoods.

## VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



### In Good Times and Bad

Volunteerism is a way of life in the United States, spanning across age groups and throughout institutions and organizations of all types. In schools, hospitals, houses of worship, and cultural institutions, the contributions of volunteers are vital to everyday activities. Volunteers serve their communities through good times and bad. Community festivals and holiday events are often organized completely by volunteers, and they also join emergency service workers in assisting victims of floods, tornadoes, and other disasters.

TOP TO BOTTOM: Volunteers helped sweep the streets during a community clean-up of New Orleans, Louisiana, just weeks after Hurricane Katrina in 2005; a volunteer and her dog provide companionship to an elderly man with Alzheimer's disease; a future homeowner in Painter, Virginia, looks through the window opening of the house he is helping to build for his family through Habitat for Humanity.



### WHAT VOLUNTEERS DO

Civic, Political, Professional, or International Organization	5.1 percent
Educational or Youth Service	26.2 percent
Environmental or Animal Care	1.9 percent
Hospital or other Health Care	7.8 percent
Public Safety	1.3 percent
Religious Institution	35.6 percent
Social or Community Service	13.1 percent
Sport, Hobby, Cultural, or Arts Organization	3.5 percent
Other/Not Determined	5.4 percent

### WHO VOLUNTEERS

AGE	NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS	PERCENT OF POPULATION
16 to 24 years	7,798,000	20.8
25 to 34 years	9,019,000	22.6
35 to 44 years	12,902,000	30.5
45 to 54 years	13,136,000	30.1
55 to 64 years	9,316,000	28.4
65 years and over	8,667,000	23.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60,838,000</b>	<b>26.2</b>

CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW: These dogs need a home, so the boys are helping an animal shelter in New Albany, Indiana, train the pups to more easily place them with an adopting family; a docent takes questions from visiting schoolchildren at a museum in Forth Worth, Texas; a retired woman volunteers to help children improve their reading at a school in Asheville, North Carolina.



## Volunteers—and New Citizens—in the Military

Perhaps the ultimate volunteers are the people who enlist in military service, willingly giving up years of their lives to defend their country and their fellow citizens. Since the military draft ended in 1973, the United States has relied on volunteers to fill its military forces, numbering more than 1.3 million.

Some 45,000 noncitizen immigrants are in the ranks of the U.S. military. Almost 37,000 immigrant soldiers have become citizens since September 2001.

Army Lieutenant General John R. Vines spoke at a citizenship ceremony in Iraq on July 25, 2005, noting that the new citizens had already made the decision about serving the United States. "Before they were its citizens," he said, "they were willing to fight for it, risk everything for it, and be required to spend a portion of their lives away from a country that they're dedicated to."

An immigrant soldier from Kabul, Afghanistan, expressed his love for his native land and his adopted country when he became a citizen on July 4, 2006, while serving in Afghanistan. "I came back to Afghanistan to protect my native land and also to defend my homeland—the United States," said Army Specialist Ahmed John. "The United States has offered me so many opportunities I would not have had anywhere else, so I would not hesitate to give my life for my new country."

Both citizens and permanent alien residents are eligible to serve in the U.S. military. In peacetime, noncitizens who serve in the military may obtain citizenship in three years, as opposed to the five-year wait required of civilian applicants. During time of military hostilities, however, the president of the United States may allow noncitizens immediate naturalization. In July 2002, President George W. Bush issued an executive order granting expedited citizenship to immigrant men and women who served in the U.S. military since September 11, 2001. Previous administrations took similar actions, granting citizenship to 143,000 military participants in World Wars I and II, 31,000 who fought in the Korean War, and more than 100,000 veterans of the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars.



## How Much Americans Give

67 percent of households give.

The average annual contribution per giver is \$1,872.

American giving reached a record high in 2006, with donations totaling \$295 billion.

Charitable giving accounted for 2.1 percent of gross domestic product in 2005.

Corporate foundations gave \$4.2 billion in 2006.

Electronic gifts via the Internet grew by 37 percent between 2005 and 2006, according to 187 organizations that provided figures.

In 2006, 83 percent of total contributions came from individuals.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Foreign-born military personnel salute during a naturalization ceremony aboard the *USS Ronald Reagan* at Coronado, California, in 2006.

THIS PAGE: Top to bottom, members of AmeriCorps and corporate volunteers from the Starbucks coffee shop franchise work to secure a newly raised wall for a structure being raised in 2006 on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi; money to help hurricane victims is collected during a church service in Pataskala, Ohio; college students in Austin, Texas, volunteer to spruce up a city neighborhood by planting trees.

*"A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense, partners in civilization."*

— GEORGE H.W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, 1989–1993

## PROFILES IN GIVING



What do two American teenagers, an Olympic medalist, and the wife of one of the world's richest men have in common? All are leaders in raising awareness of and money for causes that affect the most disadvantaged in society. Their names are Ana Slavin and Nick Anderson, Joey Cheek, and Melinda Gates.

Ana Slavin and Nick Anderson are secondary school students in the northeastern state of Massachusetts. The two friends became aware of the genocide in Darfur, Slavin while researching gender-based violence in the developing world, and Anderson when he traveled to South Africa in 2006 and learned about conflicts on the continent. They were motivated to help and together founded Dollars for Darfur.

Both teens used social-networking Web sites to stay in touch with friends, and they realized that those same sites could bring them together with students around the country for a good

THIS PAGE: Clockwise from bottom, philanthropists Melinda and Bill Gates in Mozambique; Joey Cheek, right, joins with others at a protest against the genocide in Darfur, held in Washington, D.C.; and U.S. Olympic skater Cheek, seen here in competition at a World Cup speedskating final in the Netherlands in 2006.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Left to right, Melinda Gates talks with children in New Delhi, India, while touring South Asia to learn about health-care initiatives; Massachusetts teens Ana Slavin and Nick Anderson, founders of Dollars for Darfur.

cause. Slavin and Anderson set a goal to raise \$200,000 during the 2006-2007 school year; they raised \$306,000 from students at some 2,500 schools nationwide. The following year they raised the goal to \$375,000. Half of the money is used to fund advocacy efforts to end the genocide; the other half goes to humanitarian aid for Darfuri refugees.

"Our generation knows it will inherit a world with staggering problems," Slavin says. "We simply can't wait for others to change the world. We must start now."

Joey Cheek made headlines when he won gold and silver medals in speedskating at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. He made even more news when he donated his cash winnings of \$40,000 to Right to Play, an organization that helps children in war-torn countries to develop and grow through sports.

"The Olympics is a very selfish pursuit," Cheek said. "After years of other people sacrificing so that I can be the best in the world, I feel that it is imperative to give something to someone who's less fortunate than myself." Cheek challenged corporations to match his gift, and within one week Right to Play received more than \$300,000 in contributions.

The American athlete asked that his donation be used to fund programs for refugees in Darfur, and his interest in that conflict didn't stop there. Cheek formed Where Will We Be?—an organization that aims to gather athletes from around the world to keep pressure on the international community to end the atrocities in Sudan.

Melinda Gates is the wife of Bill Gates, cofounder of the Microsoft Corporation. She also is the cochair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the largest charitable foundation in the world. Even before they were married in 1994, Bill and Melinda Gates discussed ways to distribute his vast fortune, and in 2000 they established the foundation. "I wouldn't be doing the foundation if it wasn't for her [Melinda]," Bill Gates says, "and she's really shaped where we're going with it."

Where they're going is "to help reduce inequities in the United States and around the world," according to the foundation's Web site, a pretty tall order for anyone. But with the foundation's endowment of \$35 billion (and growing) and the force of Melinda Gates's personality, they are having an impact.

Melinda Gates brings intelligence, compassion, and fierce determination to her work, along with a natural ability to connect with people from all walks of life and get them to sit down together. She travels extensively on behalf of the foundation. "The more deeply you get involved in the work," she says, "the more you see the needs and the inequities out there, the more you want to do for these causes."





AT WORK  
3

Americans identify themselves closely with the work they do. If you ask working Americans to describe themselves, you are likely to learn pretty quickly what their jobs are. That response stems from a deep-seated feeling that work is of value to who we are and what we contribute to our community. Perhaps it's a legacy we inherit from the generations that came before, the history that we learn as schoolchildren about pioneers who carved a living out of a wilderness and laid railroads across desolate territory. Diligent work was the key to their survival and their prosperity.

About 153 million people in the United States go to work or look for work every day—about two-thirds of all the people of working age in this country and the largest labor force

in the world behind China's and India's. When those people report to their jobs, they make a contribution to the world's largest economy, which thrives both on 21st-century technology and



In the 19th and 20th centuries, as the United States became the world's top manufacturing country, U.S. businesses focused more on selling to the rapidly expanding national market and less on shipping abroad.

In the 21st century, the United States is once again a major trading country. In 2005, two-way trade of goods and services represented 27 percent of total U.S. economic output, up from 11 percent in 1970. The jobs of at least 12 million U.S. workers now depend on

*"I find that the harder I work,  
the more luck I seem to have."*

—THOMAS JEFFERSON, AUTHOR OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, 1801–1809

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** A farmer in central Montana examines his wheat crop shortly before harvest time.

**THIS PAGE:** An assembly line worker reaches for screws at the New United Motor Manufacturing plant in Fremont, California, where Toyota and General Motors automobiles are made.

on commodities that have been produced for centuries.

The colonies that became the United States engaged in a lot of international trade. They exported furs, timber, tobacco, rice, and indigo. They imported wine, rum, books, and other luxuries.

The United States still exports agricultural commodities; it also exports high-tech industrial machinery; high-tech goods, such as pharmaceuticals; and services, such as banking and insurance.

About half of the people in the workforce have jobs in small



businesses, companies employing fewer than 500 people. In fact, of the nearly 26 million business firms in the United States, 97.5 percent employ fewer than 20 employees. Small businesses account for half of nonfarm economic output and generate 60 to 80 percent of new jobs. While U.S. corporations sometimes appear to be the giants of the economy, small business can also lay claim to many of the innovations that fuel economic expansion.

More and more U.S. firms and their employees face foreign competition. The United States has managed so far to stay way ahead of other countries in manufacturing, still accounting for nearly a quarter of the world's manufactured output.

Now, though, little more than 10 percent of U.S. employees work in manufacturing, down from more than 40 percent in the 1940s. Facing low-wage competitors abroad, manufacturers have slashed their labor costs through automation and by buying parts from foreign sources.

U.S. multinational companies are evolving, scattering different parts of their businesses in different parts of the world. Increasingly, the volume of goods shipped in foreign trade comprises intermediate goods, things on their way someplace else to undergo further processing.

"The growing ability and willingness of firms to fragment the production process—locating design in one place, parts manufacturing in another

place, and assembly in a third place—has implications for U.S. competitiveness, wages, and employment," a 2006 report by the National Research Council says. To remain part of the chain of production, each location must prove its competitive worth all the time.

U.S. workers are well placed to compete in a globalized economy because production of goods and services relies increasingly on knowledge, skill, and innovation. They and the companies for which they work—focused more now on design, marketing, and management than on assembly of product—possess many hard-to-measure intangible assets, such as patents and copyrights, well-known brand names, and

investment in research and development.

"This shift to services, high-value manufacturing, and intangibles creates more opportunities for the United States with its traditionally strong position in knowledge-driven activities and an already high stock of tangible as well as intangible assets," according to a 2006 report by the Council on Competitiveness.

Nevertheless, people on the council and a lot of other experts say that the U.S. leadership edge in science and engineering is shrinking, thus threatening U.S. competitiveness. A study by the U.S. National Academies science advisory organizations, called *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, recommends strengthening

the U.S. commitment to basic research and providing more incentives for innovation.

Partly in response to that study, the U.S. Congress passed the America Competes Act of 2007, which President George Bush signed in August 2007. The act increases research investment in a number of ways, including increasing spending by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science. It directs other federal agencies to spend some minimum level of money for scientific frontier research.

The act aims to strengthen education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. For example, it authorizes grants to state

governments for aligning their elementary and secondary education instruction with the knowledge and skills needed by the 21st-century workforce.

Some people, including venture capitalists, expect that the United States can continue to prosper by pioneering new technology, including goods and services for mitigating environmental problems—green technology. Besides the well-known need for clean, abundant energy, the world's developed and rapidly developing economies need to deal with global warming; pollution of air, water, and land; and water scarcity.

"We are at the point of new wealth creation when it comes to green technology," says Bill Joy, cofounder of Sun Microsystems and now a partner at the venture capital firm Kleiner, Perkins, Caulfield, and Byers. "We have been looking at a lot of things related to new fuels, such as ethanol, fuel cells, advanced battery technology, and new ways of using biotech to make fuels. We are trying to create the Googles, the Microsofts of the new era." ■

*Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work.*

—PETER DRUCKER, AUSTRIAN-AMERICAN MANAGEMENT WRITER, 1909–2005

OPPOSITE PAGE: Twenty-one percent of employed Americans work from home at least part of the time, thanks to advances in communications technology and employers' willingness to provide flexible working arrangements.

THIS PAGE: The owner of a small café in Gas, Kansas, proudly displays breakfast dishes that the restaurant serves to its patrons.



## THE WORK WE DO TODAY



Around 153 million Americans are in the civilian labor force, performing a wide variety of jobs. Over the last several decades, the United States has become a service economy; more than 78 percent of all economic activity is in the service sector, which describes everything from jobs in the tourist industry, in retail sales, and in the provision of such professional services as accounting and dentistry.

People who manage others or provide professional services form the single largest job category in the workforce, with 34 percent of employed Americans engaged in that line of work. Sales and office occupations also keep many people working; 26 percent of the workforce has that sort of job. The proportion of U.S. workers devoted to production—tasks such as raising crops, manufacturing goods, and extracting ore—has been on a steady decline for some years, down to about 20 percent in 2007.

Fourteen percent of American workers are employed by governments at the national, state, county, city, or town level.

THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: Clockwise from left, firefighters in Hobbs, New Mexico; a commercial airline pilot in his cockpit; a barber in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; a businesswoman uses mobile technology to work in her car; a railroad worker in Boone, Iowa; a retail cashier in Daly City, California; and dentists in Waimea, Hawaii.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics keeps records on a few hundred different occupations and how many Americans work in those types of jobs. A few are selected at random here to offer a snapshot of the work that fills the days of millions of Americans.

### WHAT WE DO

Farmers and Ranchers	784,000	Cashiers	3,063,000
Accountants and Auditors	1,779,000	Insurance Sales Agents	548,000
Computer Software Engineers	846,000	Bill and Account Collectors	213,000
Lawyers	965,000	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	3,455,000
Teachers	6,800,000	Electricians	882,000
Dentists	196,000	Automotive Mechanics	875,000
Firefighters	253,000	Bakers	186,000
Waiters and Waitresses	1,960,000	Machinists	415,000
Barbers	100,000	Aircraft Pilots and Flight Engineers	115,000
Hairstylists and Cosmetologists	767,000	Bus Drivers	565,000





## THE DAY GOES BY



**W**orking, sleeping, eating, playing, parenting, cleaning—these are the main activities that keep Americans occupied on an average day. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) interviews about 13,000 Americans each year, asking how much time each person spends in various activities on an average day. All their responses and all that data are compiled into the American Time Use Survey, which offers a window into the daily lives of regular people.

In trying to capture this picture of everyday life, BLS interviews people age 15 and over about their activities, including folks who have jobs and those who don't. They ask about what people do on weekdays and on weekends. They accumulate and massage all the resulting data to come up with two "average days"—an average for all Americans and an average for those who work.

Just about half of the U.S. population of more than 300 million is in the workforce. Large

### TIME SPENT IN PRIMARY ACTIVITIES

Employed American adults, on an average work day

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Working (including commute times)	9.3
Sleeping	7.6
Leisure and Sports Activities	3.0
Household Activities	.9
Other Activities	3.2

segments of the nonworking population are under 16 or over 65, either too young for the workforce or retired after decades of working. The BLS also conducts a broader survey of how the average American day breaks down when non-working persons are also included.

### TIME SPENT IN PRIMARY ACTIVITIES, AVERAGED

Americans 15 years and older

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Sleeping	8.6
Leisure and Sports Activities	5.1
Work	3.8
Household Activities	1.8
Eating	1.2
Helping Other Household Members	.53
Club, Civic, or Religious Activities	.30
Other	2.7

OPPOSITE PAGE: Mark Furstenberg revived traditional baking techniques as he created a successful chain of cafes and markets.

THIS PAGE: A family in Scottsdale, Arizona, left, enjoy playing a board game at home. With a toddler and newborn twins, a Baltimore, Maryland, couple, right, juggles child-care, home, and professional responsibilities.



# Protecting Workers

The laws that govern the U.S. workplace spring from the nation's founding principles as a capitalist democracy—a place where government serves the people yet does not infringe upon enterprise or dampen the entrepreneurial spirit that has produced so much innovation and prosperity.

The U.S. Constitution authorizes Congress to regulate commerce between the states and international commerce but leaves regulation of in-state commerce to each state. Since at least the late 19th century, federal and state governments have adopted a doctrine called the Doctrine of Employment at Will. It exists nowhere in written law but emerged from common law—that is, it developed from a series of court case precedents. This doctrine asserts that, in the absence of a contract, an employer can fire an employee or an employee can quit a job for any reason or no reason. That doctrine remains in force with a few exceptions related to unfair discrimination defined by law.

Formal U.S. labor laws were scarce before the Great Depression of the 1930s. During the Great Depression, when U.S. unemployment peaked at about 25 percent of the workforce, the U.S. Congress passed landmark labor laws, including the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). The act prohibits unfair practices by employers against most private-sector employees (workers in agriculture and transportation

are among those covered by different laws). The NLRA protects the rights of workers to organize labor unions, engage in collective bargaining, and go on strike. The National Labor Relations Board is the federal agency authorized to enforce the act.

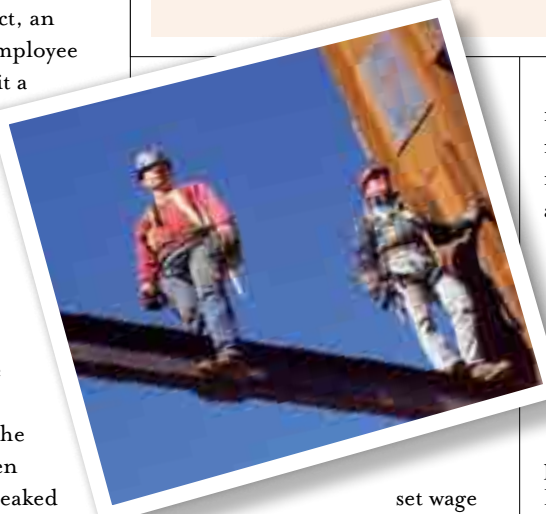
Also during the Great Depression, Congress passed the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931 and the Walsh-Healey Act of 1936 to

required the state governments to operate unemployment insurance programs. Under broad federal guidelines, each state determines its own level of benefits and eligibility criteria.

Then, in 1938, Congress passed the landmark Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), covering most private-sector employees working for companies engaged in interstate commerce. The FLSA set minimum wages,

*“The more I want to get something done,  
the less I call it work.”*

—RICHARD BACH, AMERICAN AUTHOR, 1936—



set wage standards for workers on federal construction projects and in jobs supplying materials and supplies to the federal government.

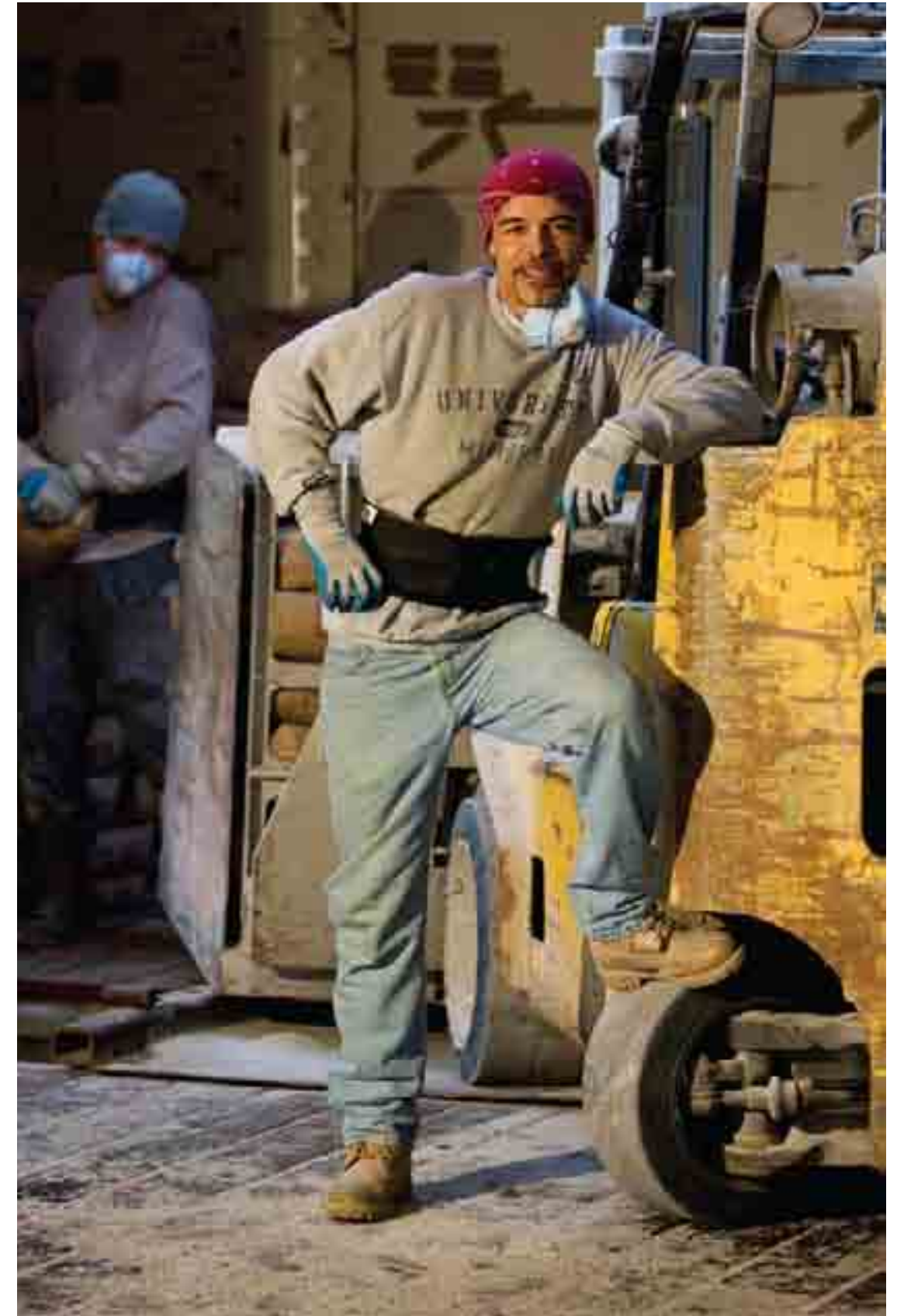
The Social Security Act of 1935 not only established the U.S. public retirement pension system, but also essentially

maximum hours, and standards for overtime hours and pay. It regulated child labor; a 1949 amendment prohibited child labor. The U.S. Department of Labor has offices scattered around the United States to enforce the law.

In 1947, Congress, overriding President Harry Truman's veto, passed an amendment to the National Labor Relations Act called the Labor Management

**THIS PAGE: Iron workers in Boston, Massachusetts, on the high steel.**

**OPPOSITE PAGE: A cargo loader wears the safety equipment required by workplace regulations.**



Relations Act (Taft-Hartley Act), which prohibits unfair practices by labor unions. For example, it prohibits what are called closed-shop agreements, which require employers to hire only union members.

The amendment does allow what are called union shops, where employees must join a union soon after getting a job and must be fired for not paying union dues. But Taft-Hartley also allows states to pass what are called right-to-work laws prohibiting union shops; about half the states have passed such laws. Taft-Hartley also prohibits what is called featherbedding, union practices requiring an employer to pay for unnecessary work or unnecessary workers.

Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to, in part, address discrimination in employment. As amended, the act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, natural origin, age, or disability. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission enforces the act. An amendment to the act allows a victim of intentional discrimination to have a jury trial to sue for compensatory and punitive damages from an employer.

In 1970 Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) to protect workers in private-sector industries that participate in interstate commerce. Under OSHA,

the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission can set health and safety standards for an industry, conduct inspections of workplaces, and fine employers for violations.

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 requires covered employers to grant up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave per year to eligible employees to care for a newborn child or a seriously ill immediate family member. ■



## High Tech: Engine of Workforce Change

Technology has been a powerful force for social and economic change throughout the course of human history. The final decades of the 20th century gave new meaning to this truism, as warp-speed advances in information and communications technology changed every sector of society.

In that process, the United States developed the most high-technology-intensive manufacturing sector among the major nations, growing from 12 percent to 30 percent of total domestic manufacturing since 1990, according to a 2006 evaluation from the National Science Board. In Western Europe, the high-tech sector accounts for 12 percent of manufacturing, and for 15 percent in Japan.

In turn, that shift has also affected the types of jobs Americans do, with ever-increasing numbers involved in science and engineering (S&E) fields. In 2003, 4.6 million people worked in science- and engineering-related jobs, increasing by 1 million in just a decade. In fact, through the 1990s, S&E jobs rose three times as fast as overall civilian employment.

With a total workforce of 153 million, that may not seem like a huge proportion, but "their effect on society belies their numbers," according to the study. "These workers contribute enormously to technological innovation and economic growth, research, and increased knowledge."

The growth of the high-technology sector has had a broader effect on the workforce, with a wide range of jobs requiring a degree of science and engineering expertise. Almost 13 million workers say they need at least a bachelor's degree level of knowledge in S&E fields in their jobs, even though their positions may not be described as "scientist" or "engineer."

Upwards of 20 percent of the people in these positions are foreign born, which reflects trends of globalization in research and development and science and technology. Business development and investment in these specialized fields occurs across national borders, and the workforce that supports these endeavors moves with similar ease around the world.

The National Science Board study raises the prospect that job growth in the high-technology sector may be headed for a slower rate of growth, owing to retirements from the field by older people and a lack of training among young people.

## Work of the Future

Economic change and development, domestically and internationally, cause significant shifts in the dominant sectors of U.S. economic activity over time, and further change is predicted in the decades ahead. The total workforce is expected to expand to more than 164 million by 2014. The demographics of the workforce will also become more diverse, with greater proportions of jobs going to women, African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics.

To help American workers, educators, and employers prepare, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) makes predictions about the occupations likely to experience the greatest job growth in the future.

The chart below depicts some of the occupational fields that will experience the greatest growth by percentage by 2014, according to the BLS.

OCCUPATION	NEW JOBS	PERCENT GROWTH
Home Health Aides	350,000	56
Network Systems & Data Communications Analysts	126,000	55
Medical Assistants	202,000	52
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	222,000	48
Physical Therapists	57,000	37
Postsecondary Teachers	524,000	32
Medical Scientists	25,000	34



OPPOSITE PAGE: Scientific equipment being used in surface exploration of Mars is developed at this Tufts University laboratory in Medford, Massachusetts. Science and engineering students like these will be in great demand as the high-technology sector of the U.S. economy grows.

THIS PAGE: Four male nurses pause from their work at CJW Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia.

## Dream Jobs

Work is so much a part of the American ethic that one commonly hears an adult trying to get acquainted with a child by asking the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Drawing upon a limited knowledge of the world, small children might answer out of the experiences they've had or the stories they've heard and say "ballplayer" or "princess."

By the time they are preteens, the answers turn into "rock star" or "movie actress."

Somewhere along the way, most young people get more realistic in their goals and start planning for college or job training—or they start practicing with the band just as hard as they can.

The Internet is a great advantage today for people, young or old, trying to choose a career or find an opportunity that interests them. Research that might have taken weeks or months a generation ago now takes only minutes. In moments, search engines and specialty Web sites can guide the curious to jobs in exotic places or in exciting activities.

- Find an opportunity as a whitewater rafting guide or a trail wrangler at <http://www.backdoorjobs.com/adventure.html>.
- Jobs at sea and on shore in the international maritime industry are available at [www.maritimecareer.com](http://www.maritimecareer.com).
- Jobmonkey.com specializes in short-term job opportunities in the travel and tourism industry.
- The International TEFL Corporation provides guidance on gaining qualifications and opportunities to teach English at locations all around the world at <http://www.teflcorp.com/>.
- Devnetjobs.org is a clearinghouse for positions in international development, nongovernmental organizations, and environmental preservation.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A lifeguard on duty at Santa Monica Beach in California; the owners of the Rose Hill Inn Bed and Breakfast in Pennsboro, West Virginia; and a whitewater rafting expedition on the Kings River in California.

*"Real success is finding your lifework in the work that you love."*

—DAVID McCULLOUGH, U.S. BIOGRAPHER AND HISTORIAN

## ARTFULLY EMPLOYED



More than 11,000 Americans work as fine artists, painters, and sculptors, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. While some are at work in the media, publishing, and film industries, the greatest proportion are self-employed.

Work life plays out on the stage for the almost 52,000 actors who are employed in this profession in the United States. Most work is in films and television, but almost 10,000 are employed by independent performing companies. About 1,500 other actors find steady work at museums, historic sites, and amusement parks. Thousands of other people are involved in theater and performance as a nonpaying hobby, giving time on nights and weekends to participate in community-based, amateur productions.

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of hundreds of performing arts companies

that keep some of America's 16,000 dancers working. The company was founded in 1958 by its namesake and a group of young dancers, and it quickly developed a reputation as the premier interpreter of the African-American experience in movement.

Musicians and singers have some of the broadest employment opportunities for artists in the United States. The Bureau of Labor Statistics counts almost 47,000 people making a living in song and performance.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Dwana Akiaha Smallwood rehearses a piece for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; actress Megan Brown dons a wig to complete the 18th-century costume she wears to help visitors see the past at Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia; sculptor Bill Rains poses with his bronze statues of country music legends Buck Owens and Johnny Cash in Nashville, Tennessee.



AT SCHOOL

4

If it's a typical school day in the United States, journalist Nicholas Lemann has observed, about one-quarter of the American population (counting students, teachers, and staff) are sitting somewhere in a public school building or in a college classroom. Students can be confronting the mysteries of middle-school algebra, secondary school juniors writing essays in Spanish, or a college biochemistry class writing up the results of a laboratory experiment.

In the 19th century, the United States was the first nation to establish universal free public education as a national goal. It is fair to say that education in all its aspects has remained a central preoccupation of American society ever since.

The great dramas of U.S. social history have played out in the schools: westward expansion, immigration, race relations, industrial growth,

and the evolving role of women. The United States has defined its values and purpose as a free democratic nation in its schools.

Despite obvious similarities with classrooms around the world, the U.S. school system

United States maintains one of the largest educational enterprises in the world. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly 76 million children and adults are enrolled in American schools from nursery school to

*"Schools are the most familiar of all civic institutions. You find them in city slums and leafy suburbs, Appalachian valleys, and mining towns high in the Rockies."*

—DAVID TYACK, EDUCATION SCHOLAR



**OPPOSITE PAGE:** A first grader ponders a question on a mathematics test in Los Angeles, California.

**THIS PAGE:** Ninth-grade girls work together with a microscope in a biology lab class at Boston Latin School in Boston, Massachusetts.

has evolved in some distinctive ways, among them, size, diversity, decentralization, and choice.

With its commitment to universal free education, the

college—another 6.8 million are teachers.

Today, there are more than 95,700 elementary and secondary schools in the United States, plus more than 4,000 colleges and universities.

Although the overwhelming majority of Americans attend public schools, more than 11 percent of the 55 million elementary and secondary students are enrolled in private schools. More than half of the nation's 5 million private school



students attend Catholic schools, the nation's oldest private school system. Other private schools are a window on America's religious diversity, encompassing virtually all major Protestant denominations, as well as the Quaker, Islamic, Jewish, and Greek Orthodox faiths.

The mix of private and public schools is even more pronounced at the college level, where students can attend local two-year institutions, often called community colleges; compete for places at smaller, private liberal arts colleges; or apply to large state universities with multiple campuses, which may enroll 30,000 to 50,000 students.

The ethnic, racial, and social changes in America's schools have mirrored the social and political changes in the country as a whole. Although the United States adopted the goal of universal free education early in

its history, slavery and segregation excluded African Americans from equal education until the mid-20th century. Other minority groups, including Hispanics and Native Americans, suffered from discrimination during this same period.

Issues related to educational opportunity persist, but American schools today are more diverse than ever before: 41 percent of all public school students are from minority ethnic groups.

Although Spanish-speaking students constitute the largest foreign-language group, many public schools in large metropolitan areas are a veritable United Nations of diversity. Vietnamese, Chinese, Hindi, Persian, Arabic, and Russian are the first languages of many youngsters in U.S. public schools. It is not surprising, then, that English as a Second

Language has become one of the teaching profession's fastest-growing specialties.

At the college level, the most dramatic change in recent decades concerns gender. Of the 18 million students now attending institutions of higher learning, about 56 percent of undergraduates and a remarkable 59 percent of graduate students are women.

U.S. education is characterized by a level of decentralized control almost unknown elsewhere. The federal government does not directly oversee education; the states do. The United States may have national standards but not a national curriculum. Federal influence in education has unquestionably grown over the years, but public education, from school buses to school textbooks, remains the responsibility of states and local communities.

One element of local control today has been an increasing emphasis on choice, not simply between public and private schools but options regarding the kind of teaching that takes place inside them. Most families send their children to their neighborhood schools. But in many urban communities, they can apply to foreign-language schools, schools that emphasize a "back-to-basics" curriculum, or a "magnet" school providing advanced instruction in, for example, science or the arts.

Another alternative is charter schools: public schools that operate independently of the local school system, giving them more flexibility in course offerings and providing an element of competition to regular public schools.

Despite diversity and decentralization, American schools have been consistent in teaching the nation's core beliefs in democracy, individual freedom, and religious tolerance. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, one of public education's great triumphs was its ability to educate vast numbers of immigrants from Europe. Schoolchildren didn't just learn English and arithmetic, they learned how to become Americans. In later decades, schools had to meet the demands for equal opportunity by African

Americans and other minorities, a task that continues today.

As scholar Diane Ravitch has written: "To me, the most radical of all American ideas is the idea that everyone can be educated—not just that everyone can go to school, but that everyone can be educated."

All education transmits values and beliefs. The purpose of education in a democracy such as the United States, however, is not to indoctrinate students but to provide them with the knowledge and ability to seek

their own path in an environment of open inquiry and respect for others.

The debate over the purpose and content of education in the United States is a necessary and continuing one. As scholar David Tyack writes: "I do not see any way to achieve a good future for our children more effectively than debating together and working together on how we educate the next generation. Children may be about 20 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future." ■

*"Failure to educate all students is everyone's failure."*

— KATHY MELLOR, 2004 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR



OPPOSITE PAGE: Secondary school seniors test the iron content in a vitamin tablet in the Chemistry Analysis Research Lab at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, a magnet school in Alexandria, Virginia.

THIS PAGE: Higher education institutions attract students from across the socioeconomic spectrum.

## American Education Timeline

- 1635 The first Latin Grammar School is established in Boston, Massachusetts, to train boys for careers in church, state, or the courts.
- 1636 Harvard College, the first higher education institution in the New World, is founded in Massachusetts.
- 1837 Horace Mann becomes head of the Massachusetts State Board of Education. His belief in the importance of free, universal, public education gains a national audience.
- 1837 Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, the first U.S. college for women, opens with 80 students.
- 1837 The Institute for Colored Youth, now Cheney State University of Pennsylvania, is founded, the oldest U.S. institution of higher learning for African Americans.
- 1862 The Land Grant Act, donating public lands to states, becomes law. Proceeds from the states' sale of the lands are used to establish public colleges and universities, many of which are thriving and successful institutions today.
- 1944 The GI Bill provides funding for World War II veterans to attend college.
- 1946 The Fulbright Act provides for the international educational exchanges of students and scholars.
- 1947 The *Mendez v. Westminster* court decision ends segregation of Hispanic and white children in California public schools.
- 1954 The U.S. Supreme Court declares that racially segregated schools are unconstitutional in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*.
- 1957 Federal troops enforce the integration of Little Rock High School in Arkansas.
- 1965 Congress provides the first direct federal funding of public education as part of President Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty."
- 1965 Project Head Start, a preschool education program for children from low-income families, begins. Head Start is the longest-running antipoverty program in the United States.
- 1972 Title IX, prohibiting discrimination based on sex in all aspects of education, including athletics, becomes law.
- 1975 The Education of All Handicapped Children Act is signed into law by President Gerald Ford, requiring that all disabled children be provided a free public education suited to a student's individual needs.
- 2001 President George W. Bush signs the No Child Left Behind Act, mandating national educational standards and testing in all public schools.

TOP TO BOTTOM: The Boston Latin School and a zoology lab at Mount Holyoke College, circa 1890; a nine-year-old who has spina bifida goes to class in Columbia, Missouri.



## Scholastic Stats

Each fall, as the new school year begins, the U.S. Census Bureau collects statistics from different sources that offer a quick picture of American education today.

### ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Students enrolled in elementary and secondary schools	55.8 million
Elementary and secondary school students enrolled in private school	11 percent
Elementary and secondary school students who are minorities	41 percent
Students at the secondary level taking honors, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate courses	24 percent

### COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Students enrolled in colleges and universities	18 million
Undergraduates who are women	56 percent
Graduate students who are women	59 percent
Average amount of aid received by full-time college students	\$6,290
College degrees awarded each year	3 million

### SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

Public elementary and secondary schools	95,726
Community colleges, colleges, and universities granting degrees	4,276
Children who are home-schooled	1.1 million
Teachers in the United States	6.8 million
Public schools with Internet access	100 percent

LEFT TO RIGHT: Students from Little Rock, Arkansas, surround Thurgood Marshall, center, on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., in August 1958, after he filed an appeal in an integration case involving Little Rock's Central High School; a teacher leads preschool children in an outdoor art project at a Head Start program in Hillsboro, Oregon.





## A Teacher's First Year

Michael Gerber is a first-year, sixth-grade teacher at Timber Lane Elementary School in Falls Church, Virginia. Here's what he has to say about his experiences.

There is no formal preparation for the first time you face a classroom of 22 very different students.

I have only four native English speakers, eight special education students who are handicapped or disabled in some manner, and a wide range of abilities in my class. Some of my students come from Vietnam, El Salvador, and Bolivia. Others come from Mexico, Bhutan, Nepal, Guatemala, Pakistan, and Jordan.

All of these factors make lesson planning challenging and require many late nights of work. The workday is often 10 to 12 hours, and there is no mental break from the concern I feel for my students' well-being and educational progress. It also can be difficult to communicate with parents because of language problems.

Many teachers take for granted that students come to school with a blank slate, ready to learn and focus on the school day. But just yesterday, two students and their mother were evicted from their apartment. These kids are wondering where they will sleep at night and where their next meal is coming from.

The English language learners possess different language abilities, and we have to modify instruction to reach them all. We have to do the same for special education students—while challenging students who are higher achievers.

My expectations as a sixth-grade teacher are for my students to show up and work hard every day. For the most part, I have had this. Students crave positive reinforcement from their teachers and classmates.

One wonderful reward is success in creating a positive, safe learning environment, where students feel comfortable taking risks and working as part of a team toward a common goal. Seeing my students take chances in their thinking and writing has been especially gratifying.

The smiles I see when students learn a skill are so satisfying. Knowing that students are learning and developing reinforces my decision to choose education as my profession.

*"The smiles I see when students learn a skill are so satisfying."*

—MICHAEL GERBER, TEACHER



OPPOSITE PAGE: Sixth-grade teacher Michael Gerber helps students with a science experiment comparing the differing properties of liquids and solids.

THIS PAGE: The students in this Falls Church, Virginia, classroom reflect the diversity in U.S. schools.

## TWO REVOLUTIONS

Actions by the U.S. Congress and the courts set in motion two revolutions in American education in the last half century, bringing greater equality and opportunity to the schools.

### Brown v. Board of Education

In large measure, the drama of the civil rights movement in the 20th century was played out in U.S. public schools.

In 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court had declared segregation legal under the doctrine of "separate but equal." As late as 1950, African Americans could not attend white schools in 17 southern states. Black families had challenged segregation for decades, with little success, although a little-noticed 1947 lawsuit ended separate schools for Hispanics in California.

Beginning in the 1930s, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) traveled throughout the South, systematically gathering evidence and honing legal arguments that segregated schools were never equal and often desperately poor and neglected.

The celebrated lawsuit that reached the Supreme Court as *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, began in 1950, when the NAACP

recruited 13 black parents to attempt to enroll their children in neighborhood schools. They were denied entrance, and the NAACP filed a lawsuit on their behalf. By the time the case reached the U.S. Supreme Court, *Brown* had been consolidated with similar cases from Delaware, Virginia, South Carolina, and the nation's capital, the District of Columbia. The chief NAACP attorney was Thurgood Marshall, who became the first African-American member of the Supreme Court a decade later.

In a unanimous 1954 decision, the Court declared that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Kansas and a few other states complied with the decision, but southern state school officials defied the court's ruling, sparking a nationwide civil rights movement in ensuing years and a confrontation between the state and federal governments. The integration of Little Rock High School in Arkansas in 1956 required the dispatch of U.S. Army soldiers, and in 1962 when black student James Meredith enrolled in the University of Mississippi, it triggered widespread rioting.

With the steady desegregation gains, as well as passage of the far-reaching Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965, segregation in public schools had ended by the 1970s. The debate over equality in schools then shifted to issues such as residential patterns and divisions between poor and affluent school districts.

Although racial and ethnic problems persist in some school districts, *Brown v. Board of Education* remains a milestone in how a democracy addresses major social and political problems.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Portrait taken in 1953, left, of children involved in the landmark civil rights case *Brown v. Board of Education* includes Linda Brown, third from left, for whom the case was named. White and black students, right, study together at Clinton High School in Clinton, Tennessee, in 1964.

THIS PAGE: Veterans of World War II attend a classroom lecture along with other students at the University of Iowa in 1947. Thanks to financing made available by the GI Bill of Rights, veterans made up 60 percent of the university's enrollment at that time.



### The GI Bill

When President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, few people had any inkling of the profound impact it would have on American higher education and on society as a whole.

The GI Bill of Rights, as it became known, provided unemployment benefits, home loans, and, most important, financial support for veterans returning from World War II to attend college or take vocational training. (The term "GI" referred to "government issue" and became synonymous with "soldier.")

In the 1940s, little more than 20 percent of American military forces had secondary school diplomas, and only 3 percent had college degrees. Prior to the GI Bill, colleges were predominately private, elitist, liberal arts, and often highly discriminatory.

The GI Bill changed all that. As scholar Milton Greenberg points out: "Today, American universities are now overwhelmingly public (80 percent of enrollments); focused heavily on occupational, technical, and scientific education; huge, urban-oriented, suitable for commuter attendance; and highly democratic."

No one anticipated the enormous enthusiasm with which returning veterans embraced the opportunity for a college education, especially

when the bill paid tuition and living expenses for any school to which a veteran could gain admittance. In 1940, 160,000 people earned college degrees; by 1950, that number had leapt to 500,000. Veterans studying under the GI Bill totaled almost half of all college students in the late 1940s.

In addition to the 2.2 million veterans who attended college under this historic legislation, another 3.5 million took vocational training courses. By the time the initial GI Bill expired in 1956, the United States, according to Greenberg, had gained 450,000 trained engineers, 240,000 accountants, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, 22,000 dentists, and more than 1 million other college-educated individuals.

Equally significant, GI Bill educational and home loan benefits created a large, skilled, upwardly mobile American middle class that would sustain the nation's growth and development for decades to come. The GI Bill also lifted the educational expectations of the children of these veterans and established a strong belief in the value of learning as a lifelong pursuit.

Later versions of the GI Bill have continued to provide educational benefits for veterans, whether they served in peacetime or during conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq.





### Opening Doors, Opening Minds

Foreign students have long been a familiar and vital element of American higher education. In the past seven years, the United States has hosted more than half a million foreign college students each year, according to the definitive annual report *Open Doors*, published by the Institute of International Education.

For the 2006-2007 academic year, *Open Doors* reported that almost 583,000 international students enrolled in the more than 4,000 U.S. colleges and universities—a 3.2 percent increase over the previous year. India continued to be the largest single source of foreign students (83,833), followed by China (67,723), Korea (62,392), and Japan (35,282).

The most popular fields of study for foreign students are business and management, followed by engineering, physical and life sciences, social sciences, and mathematics and computer sciences.

The University of Southern California in Los Angeles hosts the largest number of foreign students (more than 7,000), followed by large public and private universities in New York, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Texas.

International students attend U.S. institutions of higher learning for the same reasons that Americans do: academic excellence, unparalleled choices in types of institutions and academic programs, and flexibility in designing individual courses of study.

Surveys of returning exchange students consistently show that their greatest adjustment in American-style classrooms is a communication style that allows students to ask questions and to state and defend their points of view. Students are also encouraged to challenge and defend one another's papers in graduate-level seminars. Learning these ways of creative thinking was the greatest reward of their study time in the United States, according to student reports.

American higher education can be expensive. But with schools offering a wide range of tuition and living costs, plus opportunities for financial aid, a U.S. education can be affordable as well.

International secondary school exchanges also have been growing. Since the late 1990s, according to the U.S. Department of State, the United States has issued student visas for approximately 30,000 secondary school students annually.

The secondary school programs come in all shapes and sizes, but all provide an opportunity for teenagers from other countries and cultures to live with host families, attend school, and participate in the varied experiences of American life.

The State Department counts 107 current secondary school exchange programs: 76 operated by private volunteer organizations (some with government funding), 12 by individual school districts, and 19 by Rotary International, which has sponsored international exchanges since 1927.

THIS PAGE: Secondary school exchange student Miroo Kim of South Korea laughs with fellow students over lunch at the Harrisburg Academy in Wormleysburg, Pennsylvania.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Tom and Carol Risher, left center, have hosted nine international students in their home in Alabama. Their most recent guests are secondary school students Tathmina, left, who is from Tajikistan, and Aya, who is from Iraq. Mohammed, right, a secondary school student from Pakistan, entered an exchange program to live with a family in Florida, attend school, and learn about the United States.

### Three Exchange Students Share Their Stories

#### Tathmina

Schools are very different. At home we have the same lessons all year long, but here we change them during the year. The biggest surprise was that you have a lot of clubs and teams. At home, we just have lessons and go back home. The most fun and best things are the clubs, where we can find friends—German club, drama, yearbook, and Asian clubs.

I want to start clubs at schools back home, more like we do here. I'm also interested in volunteer work; with my host family, every week we go somewhere to help someone. When I get home I want to open clubs, then get students interested in volunteer work.

#### Aya

School is really different from ours. We don't have boys and girls in the same class. And no clubs. The hardest thing for me was to have boys in class, but I am getting used to it now.

Classes are really different. At home we just read, memorize the book, write it down. Here we have more projects, we do things.

I want to be an architect, and my host mom is trying to find me a mentor who knows about architecture.

My host family was my biggest surprise. They have rules. Sit down together, talk about the day, pray before you eat. I like this part of the day. At home, we would watch TV at dinner.

#### Mohammed

I was a little bit homesick at first. In school, I had lots of friends in Pakistan, and at first making friends here was not so easy. Gradually it's happening.

The biggest surprise: I thought Florida would be all buildings and roads, but there is much greenery. We traveled to Disney World. It was great fun. So big and different—and lots of rides!

I am taking AP [advanced placement] classes—very intense, lots of homework, but it is easy because I have learned most of this in Pakistan.

I would recommend that my friends come here and have this great experience. One year is so much, and you learn a lot of things. You learn about the American life.



## The Sound of Music in Schools

With popularity of rock and hip-hop music among U.S. young people, it may come as a surprise to learn that American students experience very different kinds of music in their classrooms.

In U.S. middle and secondary schools, music education is largely built around participation in bands, choruses, and string orchestras. School bands are a long-standing tradition in schools, certainly since the early 20th century, when John Philip Sousa composed his stirring marching band music that remains popular today.

Although more than 90 percent of school students receive some kind of music education, the percentage of students playing an instrument has declined in recent years, according to the National Association for Music Education, which cites tight local budgets and national testing standards for the drop in music programs. Music educators do wield a very effective weapon, however; repeated studies find a direct connection between music education and educational success.

Although numbers can vary widely, a typical secondary school band consists of wind instruments (flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet), brass (trumpet, trombone, saxophone, French horn, euphonium, tuba), and percussion. Orchestras, which feature string instruments (violin, viola, cello) and piano, are

less common, although smaller jazz and guitar ensembles are growing in popularity.

To provide a rounded music education, school concerts

are often eclectic affairs, featuring classical music excerpts, Broadway show tunes, old favorites such as Sousa marches, traditional folk tunes, and original music composed or arranged specifically for school bands.

Choral music, second only to bands in popularity, can also be wide-ranging and challenging. In Oklahoma,



*“How are we supposed to continue as a creative society without exposing our students to the arts? Rock and roll shapes our culture and is the great equalizer among people of different racial, social, and economic backgrounds. It belongs in the schools!”*

— STEVEN VAN ZANDT, MUSICIAN, ACTOR, AND FOUNDER OF THE SCHOOL-BASED ROCK AND ROLL FOREVER FOUNDATION

THIS PAGE: Musician and actor Steven Van Zandt is an active proponent of music education in government-funded schools.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The Kansas Lions Band consists of outstanding secondary school musicians from across the state. It is sponsored by the Kansas affiliate of the service organization Lions International.



for example, school choirs compete in the annual “Circle the State With Song” festival. The 2008 repertoire includes music by Antonio Vivaldi, a traditional Quaker hymn, and “Ton Thé,” described as a “French tongue twister.”

A recent survey found that almost 1,800 colleges and universities offer music programs for an estimated 320,000

students, or about 2 percent of total enrollment in higher education. The United States is also home to some of the world’s most prestigious music education institutions, such as the Juilliard School and Eastman School of Music in New York, and the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio. Aspiring jazz musicians flock to the Berklee College of Music in Boston; pianists to

the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore; classical vocalists to the University of Texas School of Music.

Educators cite benefits of a music education extending beyond a select number of performers who pursue music as a career. Instead, they cite the observation of IBM scientist and engineer Fred Behning. “I made a career of doing things that weren’t invented when I went to high school,” he says. “What made a difference in my life has been the ability to learn as I go, adapt to new ideas, and have the courage to take risks—all skills I learned through participation in band.”

Behning still plays the oboe and English horn in a community orchestra. ■

*“Education is the movement  
from darkness to light.”*

—ALLAN BLOOM, AMERICAN EDUCATOR AND AUTHOR



## Music Matters

**S**tudy music and you will learn to appreciate different musical traditions or to play an instrument. Music education bolsters other life skills also, according to experts.

Music education will increase your chances of succeeding in school, earning an advanced degree, and getting a better job at higher pay, according to a 2007 Harris Poll that found “a positive association of music with lifelong educational attainment and higher income.”

Music requires cognition, emotion, and aesthetics, and it develops individual capabilities. People learning music are synchronizing and integrating these faculties so that they stretch themselves mentally in a variety of ways, according to the Brown University Center for the Study of Human Development.

“Music is about communication, creativity, and cooperation, and, by studying music in school, students have the opportunity to build on these skills, enrich their lives, and experience the world from a new perspective,” according to Bill Clinton, former U.S. president (1993–2001) and saxophone player.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Two 10th-grade violinists work with their music teacher, left, at Boston Latin School in Boston, Massachusetts.

THIS PAGE: A music teacher helps sixth-grade students with keyboard exercises at Public School 161 in New York City.



## Teaching in the Wired Classroom

Technology has transformed the American classroom. One hundred percent of public schools have Internet access. These schools are equipped with 14.2 million computers, or roughly one computer for every four students. Kevin Murphy, who was named Illinois State Teacher of the Year in 2000, is physics and astronomy instructor at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange, Illinois. He talks about using technology in his daily teaching.

I actually begin my morning at home with the news, a cup of coffee, and my e-mail. I’ll almost always have a couple of e-mails from students asking about a missed test if they were absent. As a science teacher, my class periods are divided between lecturing, guiding, and monitoring laboratory experiences. All use technology, but the newest technology component is in my lectures.

Last year some of our staff received “tablet” notebook computers that hook up wirelessly to a projector. I can write on my computer and the writing is projected for the class to see. In this way, I’m able to move about the class—still “writing on the board” [using the laptop]—to check on student progress. It’s a definite upgrade on the standard “stand at the blackboard” approach.

Our entire school uses Gradequick/Edline—an online program and Web site that allows students and parents to check on grades and to see assignments, upcoming tests, and the like. The feedback loop (from assignment to grading to return) is much shorter, and parents are nearly immediately aware of performance changes. Most of my e-mails from parents begin with “I saw on Edline that Johnny got a D on the last quiz...”

In addition to seeing their grades, students are able to download any documents that I’ve posted. Based on student demand (“Are you going to put these on Edline?”), I’ve taken to putting all of my teacher-generated work on the Web site. It takes some preparation time, but I no longer have to answer this question from a student returning after an absence: “What did we do yesterday?”



## The Ladder of American Indian Education

Shortly before his death in 1893, the great Navajo Indian chief Manuelito said, "My grandchild, education is the ladder. Tell our people to take it."

The Navajo Nation has taken those words to heart. Today, Diné College, formerly Navajo Community College, remains the oldest and largest tribally controlled college in the United States.

The path of Native-American education has often been a difficult one. It is also unique as the only national education system run directly by the federal government. It grows out of the special relationship between the government and the semi-sovereign tribes of American Indian and Native Alaskan peoples as established in both laws and treaties.

The first Indian schools sought to assimilate Native Americans into the mainstream culture, but most were chronically neglected and under-funded. Authorities later built a network of boarding schools, off the reservations, that emphasized vocational and industrial education. These schools, however, ignored Indian cultures and often prohibited native languages and dress.

A 1928 report spotlighting the failures and abuses in Indian education led to reforms and increased financial aid—a change known as the Indian New Deal. Later, the civil rights movement sparked a parallel Indian rights movement. Over decades, the federal government reversed policy and established an educational system that sought to provide the skills and knowledge of a modern, technological world, while remaining grounded in the traditions and culture of Native-American peoples.

Today, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education administers 184 elementary and secondary schools, as well as 24 colleges located in 23 states. These schools serve approximately 60,000 Native-American students on 63 reservations, representing a rich mosaic of 238 different tribes.



## The Rise of the Community Colleges

For an American secondary school graduate with a modest academic record, a limited budget, or a need to stay close to home, a four-year college may not be an option. An alternative is the community college, which offers affordable tuition and the opportunity to continue living at home.

Walk into Paul D. Camp Community College in rural Virginia, for example, and choose from courses ranging from electronics to welding, police science to marketing.

Paul D. Camp's offerings are typical for America's almost 1,200 community colleges. Two-year degree programs in medical technology, business, teaching, and computer technology can be found at most community colleges. Other programs reflect more varied interests, often linked directly to job opportunities in the local area: fire science at Umpqua Community College in Oregon; agribusiness and mortuary science at Dodge City Community College in Kansas; airframe and power plant mechanics at Blackhawk Technical College in Wisconsin; satellite communications at the Mitchell Technical Institute in South Dakota; and computer numerical control at Tulsa Community College in Oklahoma.

Community colleges date back to the early 20th century, a time when America recognized the need for a better-educated workforce to meet increased global competition. Yet many secondary school graduates had neither the money nor the desire to attend traditional four-year colleges.

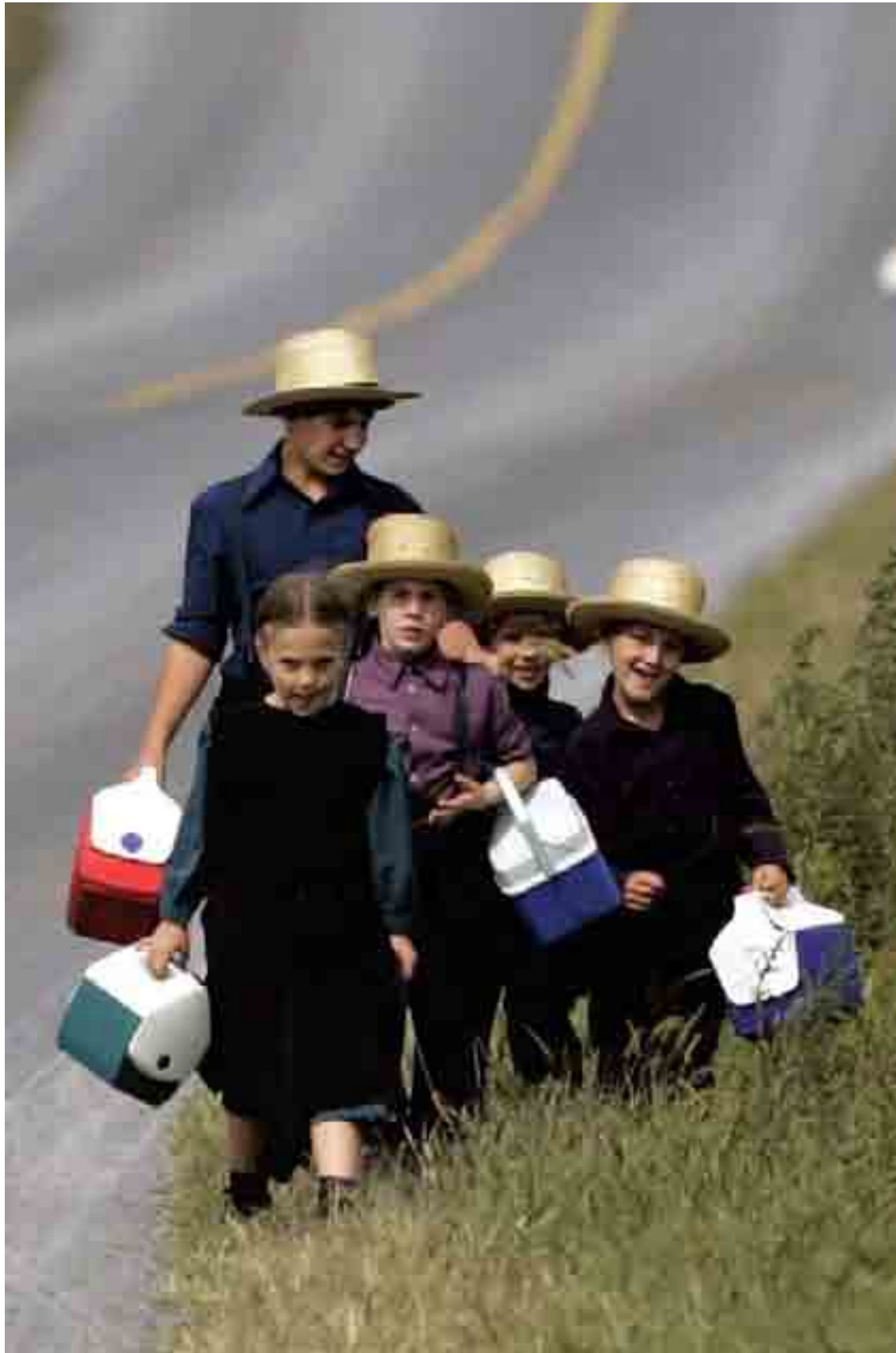
The solution: Create publicly funded, two-year institutions of higher learning to serve local communities. Today, the nation's community colleges, with low fees and liberal admissions policies, offer credit and noncredit courses to 11.6 million students, some of whom discover their local campuses can be a springboard to a four-year institution.

Community colleges today are at the forefront of educational institutions training "first-responders": nurses, firefighters, law enforcement officials, and emergency medical technicians. According to the American Association of Community Colleges, the five most popular study programs right now are registered nursing, law enforcement, licensed practical nursing, radiology, and computer technologies.

OPPOSITE PAGE: School buses, top, take children to class on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Monument Valley on the border of Utah and Arizona. Third- and fourth-graders, below, practice songs for a holiday performance at the Star School in Flagstaff, Arizona, which caters to Native-American students but is open to all. The Star School emphasizes native values and culture in addition to regular school subjects.

THIS PAGE: Top to bottom, students in the Manufacturing Engineering Technology Program at St. Philip's College, a community college in San Antonio, Texas; a cooking class at Elgin Community College in Chicago, Illinois; and an instructor and a student in the Machining and Technology Center at Mitchell Community College in Statesville, North Carolina.





IN COMMUNITIES

5

Ask an American what the word “community” means, and you will likely get a variety of answers.

A community is a neighborhood of houses, apartments, offices, shops, maybe factories within a certain geographic area. It is an ethnic population. It is a group with the same religious or political beliefs. It is an organization of business people, teachers, health care professionals, or lawyers. Communities are also groups sharing similar interests—a book club, a choir, a hiking club, or an online chat room.

What makes a group a community is a sense of shared values or a unity of purpose. What makes a community successful is the willingness of its members to work together to achieve a common goal.

Communities in the United States reflect the geographic, political, religious, racial, ethnic, and economic diversity of the nation. Some are

small—several dozen boys and girls in a suburban baseball league. Some are large—millions of African Americans, for example. And some are huge—like, everyone who uses the Internet. Whether local or national, communities give individuals an identity and a sense of contributing to something greater than themselves.

Envisioning a community is easy. Lots of people think it would be great to have a garden in the neighborhood or a chat room in cyber-

Communities need leaders and action plans. Democratic communities need transparency and a mechanism so everyone’s voice can be heard.

Maintaining a community, whether new or long-estab-



*“People don’t live in cities, they live in neighborhoods, the building blocks of cities.”*

—AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST MONSIGNOR GENO BARONI

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Amish children walk home from school in Leacock, Pennsylvania.

**THIS PAGE:** Native Americans of the Onandaga Nation in New York State observe a tradition in which children go from home to home on January 1, bringing New Year greetings and receiving a treat in return.

space or an event to raise money for cancer research. Creating a community to accomplish these goals is harder. Who will seek the permit to turn a vacant lot into a garden and divide the space into plots? Who will set up and monitor the chat room? Who will organize the charity event?

lished, can be difficult. The challenge is to keep the community relevant and attuned to the goals and the needs of members. Members want their efforts to be appreciated. They want to know that they are not wasting their time. They want to see progress. Communities



must continually reassess the reason they exist. They must listen to their members and make changes when necessary.

Even strong communities based on ethnic, racial, or religious ties are not immune from change. Their members intermarry and combine beliefs and traditions. Or they move away from the old neighborhood and different groups move in. While many communities remain fairly stable for decades, many others experience frequent change. Americans are free to choose to

move to the suburbs, or back to the city, or to someplace warmer, or to a college town, or to where they can afford a better home—and they do.

All this is why in many U.S. cities today, Korean, Jamaican, Somali, or Pakistani immigrants live where German, Irish, Greek, or Polish immigrants once lived. It is why unmarried people and same-sex couples live in family neighborhoods. It is why university professors live next door to carpenters. Most Americans experience

such diversity at a young age. For them, it is normal. And an increase in familiarity usually brings an increase in tolerance—a key ingredient in any community.

What keeps American communities alive is their ability to hold on to their history and values while adapting to social, economic, or technological changes. This requires a clear sense of purpose and a plan for passing responsibilities and traditions from one generation to the next. ■

#### U.S. HOUSEHOLDS

Number of households: 114.4 million

Average household size: 2.6 people

Average family size: 3.7 people

Number of housing units in the United States: 126.3 million

THIS PAGE: A Jewish man, above, puts phylacteries, small boxes that contain scriptural passages, on the left arm of a Russian Jewish immigrant at a park in Brooklyn, New York.

OPPOSITE PAGE: A new homeowner, top, receives the key to his house. Painting window trim, below, is one of many tasks homeowners undertake themselves.

## Building Dreams

Owni ng one’s own home is often called “The American Dream.” Increasing the rate of home ownership is one of the core missions of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

As Lawrence Thompson relates in *A History of HUD*, since 1934 the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), now a major HUD agency, has insured private mortgage loans against the risk of default. This has helped to make banks more willing to extend credit to home buyers, especially first-time and minority buyers. In 1940, 43.6 percent of Americans owned their own home. By 2005, the rate had jumped to 68.9 percent overall, with the rate for minorities a little less than 50 percent. Almost 30 million homeowners have gotten their start with an FHA-insured mortgage.

Over the years, the U.S. Congress has expanded HUD’s mission to help achieve better living conditions for many other people. Hallmarks in U.S. housing policy are marked by the new initiatives undertaken by HUD:

- 1937 Help low-income renters obtain safe and affordable housing.
- 1949 Strengthen communities by improving the physical, social, and economic health of cities.
- 1968 Fight inequality in housing markets by prohibiting discrimination in sales, rentals, and lending services on the basis of race, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or family status.
- 1987 Help homeless persons by working through local governments and nonprofit organizations to provide emergency shelter, transitional or permanent housing, and substance abuse counseling or other social support services.

#### A NATION OF HOMEOWNERS

Almost 69 percent of people in the United States owned their own home in 2006.

75.8 percent are non-Hispanic whites.

47.9 percent are African Americans.

49.7 percent are Hispanics.

60.8 percent are Asians.



*Americans beautify and improve their living spaces with “do-it-yourself”—or DIY—projects around their homes. DIY is a \$45 billion industry and a major family pastime. More than 40 million adults in the United States are DIYers, more than the number who play sports or attend sporting events.*

SOURCES: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU; NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM

## Making Housing Green

**G**reen has become the shorthand term when we want to say ecologically friendly or environmentally sustainable.

Green buildings are compatible with the natural environment. They use energy-efficient appliances, lights, and heaters. They have water-saving plumbing systems. They are constructed with sustainable materials that do not contribute to air pollution.

Green neighborhoods can have green buildings or other eco-friendly amenities. For example, they usually have parks, gardens, or farmers' markets. They are connected to other areas by public transportation, sidewalks, or bicycle paths. And they have active recycling programs for paper, plastic, and aluminum.

Green buildings and green neighborhoods can now be found in more and more parts of the United States.

The nonprofit U.S. Green Building Council has 11,000 member organizations representing every sector of the building industry. The council encourages use of the LEED system—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—to rate the eco-friendliness of buildings. The system has standards for site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials, and indoor environmental quality. More than 50 U.S. cities and more than 20 federal agencies have adopted LEED standards for buildings.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Members of the Campus Committee for Sustainability, top, go over plans for a new green building at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. Randy Udall, director of the Community Office for Resource Efficiency, and his daughter, below, stand by the photovoltaic system used at their home near Carbondale, Colorado.

THIS PAGE: A neighborhood in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, grew up on the city's steep hillsides. Flat land was reserved for industry, so workers built homes on the slopes in order to live near their jobs.

## What Makes a Neighborhood

"People don't live in cities, they live in neighborhoods, the building blocks of cities."

The late American civil rights activist Monsignor Geno Baroni believed in those words. He also believed in the importance of community so much that he went on to found the National Neighborhood Coalition. As a Roman Catholic priest, his work in support of communities was an extension of church teachings that consider communities

a fundamental social unit for the human family.

Neighborhoods give people a sense of place, an identity that extends beyond self and family. Neighborhoods are a mosaic of the country's ethnic, religious, economic, and technological history.

Americans live in neighborhoods that are urban, suburban, and rural. They live in all sorts of homes—single-family dwellings, townhouse complexes,

low-rise apartment buildings, and mixed-use skyscrapers with stores on the lower levels and condominiums above. Their neighbors may be just like them, or they may reflect the great diversity of the U.S. population.

The neighborhood may have an active association working to beautify and improve the area. It may have a more loosely organized group of volunteers who care for each other.

Large cities have hundreds of neighborhood associations.

These groups are made up of residents, business owners, and representatives of local schools and churches. Their mission is to improve conditions in the neighborhood. Most have an elected board of directors. Most meet monthly to discuss issues affecting the neighborhood, to share information, and to organize community events.

Common issues addressed by neighborhood associations include traffic, municipal services, parks, land use, and

crime prevention. Clean-up days, block parties, yard sales, children's activities, and sports contests are the types of events frequently organized by neighborhood associations.

Neighborhood associations provide a forum in which everyone can participate. They also serve as a conduit to town or city government, giving the neighborhood a strong, united voice in civic life. ■

## Keeping a Community Safe

People pull together when a need arises in their neighborhood. Maybe it's sharing babysitting, helping a family facing illness, or coping with shared problems such as crime.

Neighborhood Watch is a successful crime prevention program that helps police in keeping an eye on what's happening from one block to the next. Law enforcement agencies are a part of every community in the United States, but the National Sheriffs' Association created this neighborhood program in 1972 to get local groups involved in policing their communities and addressing their concerns, ranging from vandalism to drug peddling and even to potential terrorism.

Neighborhood Watch does not take the place of law enforcement, but it gives police another tool to help keep neighborhoods safe. In some places, Neighborhood Watch has been so successful in getting neighbors involved that it now works to improve community life in many other ways.

Another successful citizens' group is the National Association of Town Watch, which began in 1981. It sponsors the annual National Night Out—"America's Night Out Against Crime"—on the first Tuesday of each August. On this night, residents literally shine a light on their neighborhood to let criminals know they can't hide. Electric lights stay on all night and neighbors march to demonstrate that they—not criminals—are in control. The event has grown to involve more than 35 million people in more than 11,000 communities throughout the United States.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for communities nationwide to promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie," says Matt A. Peskin, executive director of the National Association of Town Watch. "While the one night is certainly not an answer to crime, drugs, and violence, National Night Out does represent the kind of spirit, energy, and determination that is helping to make many neighborhoods safer places throughout the year. It is a night to celebrate safety and crime prevention successes—and to expand and strengthen programs for the next 364 days."



## Creating a Zone for Children

Helping poor children to succeed is the goal of the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), which covers a 60-block area of New York City that has a long history of poverty, high unemployment, and urban blight. The program follows children from birth through college, using an integrated system of educational, medical, and social services.

The HCZ's Baby College teaches skills to new parents. The Harlem Gems program offers reading, music, and computer training for very young children. The Promise Academy has an intensive curriculum for children of kindergarten and primary school age. The Employment and Technology Center introduces teenagers to the world of business and financial investment. And the Family Support Center provides counseling for parents, grandparents, and others who are raising the neighborhood's children.

Created by community activist Geoffrey Canada, the HCZ is operated like a successful company. It has a business plan, marketing incentives, a corporate management structure, effective internal communication, and a stringent process to evaluate its performance. And it is compiling data to prove the theory that all children can succeed given parental and community support.

As Canada told the *New York Times Magazine*: "If we just end up saving a bunch of kids in Harlem, that will be good for them, but it won't mean an awful lot to me in the long run. We want to be able to say that thousands of poor children can learn at high levels and perform at rates that are the same as middle-class children, if they are given the opportunity to do so."

Canada, who earned degrees from Bowdoin College and Harvard University, has dedicated his life to helping children. Yet he wanted to help large numbers, not just a few. To do this, he had to rethink the problem. He realized that to succeed, he needed to create a broader system of support for children and their families. Today more than 13,000 children and adults in Harlem are part of his unique community-building initiative.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Police Chief William McManus (in uniform) talks with residents of San Antonio, Texas, during a National Night Out.

THIS PAGE: Founder Geoffrey Canada talks with a participant in the Harlem Children's Zone Summer Olympics. The organization works not just to help children, but aspires to rebuild community life by providing a range of services and assistance for all age groups. The approach is being studied by other cities trying to break the cycle of poverty and unemployment.



## Community Gardens: Facts and Figures

There are more than 6,000 community gardens in the United States:  
 67.4 percent in residential neighborhoods  
 16.3 percent in government-supported housing areas  
 8.2 percent at schools  
 1.4 percent at centers for elderly people  
 1.4 percent at mental health and rehabilitative facilities

These are collaborative projects that bring together people of diverse ages, cultures, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

They produce extra food for poor people.

They often form the basis for broader neighborhood associations.

They beautify the community, reduce vandalism, and increase property values.

The American Community Garden Association provides information on starting and maintaining neighborhood gardens, conducts educational programs, and supports research on the benefits of gardening.

*“It’s a beautiful day in this neighborhood, A beautiful day for a neighbor. Would you be mine?”*

—“WON’T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?”  
 SIGNATURE SONG OF FRED M. ROGERS, 1928–2003, TELEVISION HOST, MR. ROGERS NEIGHBORHOOD, BROADCAST 1968–2001



## POCKETS OF THE HOMELAND IN THE NEW LAND



The United States is a nation of immigrants. Traditionally, when people emigrate to America, they choose to live among people from their own ethnic group. That is how ethnic neighborhoods—Chinatown, Pilsen, and Little Italy in cities from New York to San Francisco—are created.

Ethnic neighborhoods in cities and ethnic communities in rural areas are a bridge between an immigrant’s homeland and adopted country. Here you can read a newspaper, listen to a radio program, or attend a religious service in your native language. You can buy the foods of your native land and celebrate your native traditions. These communities are places where a newcomer can make friends, get a job, and learn about life in the United States.

Some ethnic neighborhoods stay the same for generations. Others change as the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the first immigrants become more assimilated and move away. Sometimes new immigrant groups take the place of earlier ones. Albanians settle in old Italian neighborhoods, for example, or Mexicans settle where Poles once lived.

Ethnic neighborhoods attract new residents and tourists as well. Guided tours of these communities are now a popular way to experience America’s colorful cultural mosaic.

### SAMPLING U.S. ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

Arab	Dearborn, Michigan Chicago, Illinois
Chinese	San Francisco, California Manhattan, New York Chicago, Illinois
Cuban	Miami, Florida Jersey City, New Jersey
Greek	Detroit, Michigan Astoria, Queens, New York
Italian	South Philly, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Little Italy, Baltimore, Maryland
Russian	Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, New York

OPPOSITE PAGE: Children work with an adult master gardener to harvest vegetables at a community garden project in Lynchburg, Virginia.

THIS PAGE: Immigrant neighborhoods are found in cities and towns across the United States. From left to right: Student volunteers help out in a cleanup event in Little Haiti in Miami, Florida; the Moscow Café and Bar in Little Odessa, a Russian area of Brighton Beach, New York; and Chinatown in San Francisco, California.



## Keeping the Faith

The U.S. Constitution prohibits the government from establishing a national religion, but this does not mean the United States is a nonreligious nation. Recent polls show that 96 percent of Americans say they believe in God or a Supreme Being. More than 50 percent say they attend religious services at least once a month.

Four hundred years of immigration have brought followers of many religions to the United States, with the majority being Christian: Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox. Other Christian religions began here, including the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. Of those Americans who profess a religion, more than 84 percent say they are Christians.

All other religions have been welcome, in keeping with the earliest principles of the American experiment. America's religious population includes significant minorities: 1.92 percent Jewish, 1.55 percent Muslim, and 0.91 percent Buddhist.

There are about 335,000 religious congregations in the United States: 300,000 Protestant or other Christian; 22,000 Roman Catholic or Orthodox; 12,000 non-Christian. The median-size church has 75 regular participants at weekly worship services. A very large or "mega-church" has thousands.

Many religious institutions have their own primary schools. Most have programs to help people in need. And some offer their church buildings

as meeting places for nonreligious community events. From the streets of New York City to the hills of New England, from the midwestern suburbs to the southwestern desert, churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques are part of the skyline and community life in America.

**THIS PAGE:** Imams pray during a break between panel discussions at a Leadership Conference for Imams in Alexandria, Virginia.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Left to right, Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois; Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas; and the Crystal Cathedral in Anaheim, California.

## A Church With a Vision

The People's Community Baptist Church in Montgomery County, Maryland, was founded in 1978 with 35 members. Led by the Reverend T.J. Baltimore, the church in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., has grown into a vibrant organization. Its mission is to meet the needs of the parish and community by promoting spiritual, physical, cultural, and political growth through a variety of activities.

Among its ministries, the church's Chamber of Commerce provides resources to build ethical and successful businesses through entrepreneurial workshops, trade fairs, and scholarships. Community Action addresses social and political issues through voter education and registration programs and forums with candidates for political office. Generation 1 provides meals and group activities for older persons and organizes senior volunteers to help others in the community. The Preventive Medicine/Health Committee presents educational forums and screening programs. One Church, One Child offers support and information on adoption. The Prison Ministry reaches out to prisoners and their families, and it helps ex-prisoners reenter the community as productive citizens. SHARE distributes food packages to parishioners and community residents. And the Substance Abuse Prevention and Education program works to reduce problems related to tobacco, alcohol, and other addictions.

Recognizing the congregation on its 25th anniversary, Congressman Chris Van Hollen said the People's Community Baptist Church has "established a legacy built on spiritual empowerment, social action, and community outreach."

## Houses of God—Super-Sized

Mega-churches are non-Catholic churches with at least 2,000 members. In 1990, there were 350 such churches in the United States. Today there are more than 1,200.

Mega-churches usually have strong, charismatic leaders who conduct contemporary worship services utilizing high-tech video and audio systems. They have auditorium-sized worship halls. They also usually have meeting rooms, multimedia centers, bookstores, and cafés. Religious, social, and recreational activities take place seven days a week and are organized by staff members and large numbers of volunteers. Most mega-churches are located in the suburbs of large American cities.



# Libraries—Something for Everyone

The United States has about 17,400 public library facilities supported by local, state, and federal governments and open free of charge. This includes main libraries, branch outlets, and bookmobiles. In 2004, Americans visited libraries 1.3 billion times, an increase of 61 percent in 10 years, and borrowed 2 billion books or library materials. Electronic resources were used 343 million times. Between 2004 and 2006, 550 public libraries were built or renovated.

American libraries are no longer just buildings full of books. They are centers of print materials, electronic data, music, video, and art. Some even have cafés.

In an article in *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine, Carla Hayden, a library executive in Baltimore, Maryland, noted that “libraries have become vital places, even noisy ones. There’s truly something for everyone.”

Libraries have activities for children and teenagers. Classes for seniors. Special assistance for job-seekers and entrepreneurs. Anyone who needs information is welcome.

As technology has changed the way people access information, libraries have changed the way they provide it. Some, for example, aren’t even located in buildings. They exist only in cyberspace:

- [www.questia.com](http://www.questia.com) claims to be the world’s largest

online library, with access to 500,000 books and articles.

- [www.libraryspot.com](http://www.libraryspot.com) offers online dictionaries, maps, and other research materials.
- [www.booksfree.com](http://www.booksfree.com) mails books, CDs, and DVDs to its members.

Libraries remain a place where people can meet their neighbors, but they are now also a place where people can meet the world.



## Libraries by the Numbers

In 2004, 97 percent of the U.S. population had access to public libraries housing 804.9 million print materials, 38.8 million audio materials, and 36 million video materials in their collections. Almost 48 percent of the population had used a public library in the past 12 months.

Central Libraries: 9,047

Branch Libraries: 7,502

Bookmobiles: 844

Nationwide circulation of public library materials: 2 billion (7.1 per capita)

Visits to public libraries: 1.3 billion (4.7 per capita)

Circulation of children’s materials: 708.3 million (35 percent of total)

Use of electronic library resources: 343 million (1.2 per capita)

Reference transactions in public libraries: 304.4 million (1.1 per capita)

Materials loaned by public libraries to other libraries: 30.2 million

Internet terminals in public libraries: 171,000 (3 per every 5,000 persons)

THIS PAGE: Teenage chess players, top, engage in a workshop at a public library where a grandmaster (not shown) helps the students analyze their games. A storyteller, above, reads a favorite children’s book to a group at a public library in Missouri.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Children and adults reach for a piñata during a celebration at a neighborhood library in Kentucky.



## Culture in the Community

Many Americans take an active part in making their communities better places to live, and art projects have become an increasingly popular way to achieve that goal. A community art project might be as simple as displaying children's drawings in the library or flying colorful banners from lampposts on Main Street. It might be a little more complicated, such as organizing a Saturday night "art hop" in which local businesses exhibit works of art and people can move around from one place to another enjoying them. Some communities undertake more complex projects: creating a sculpture garden in a vacant lot or turning an empty store into a performing arts center.

Communities can get support from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the official arts organization of the federal government. Established in 1965, the NEA has awarded more than 120,000 grants to help bring art to American communities, as well as poetry, literature, jazz, and other cultural programs.

Six regional and 56 state and territorial arts councils in the United States are engaged in similar work, as are many local arts agencies and foundations. The total number, according to the nonprofit advocacy group Americans for the Arts, is about 4,000.

Cities and towns throughout the United States have shown that art can transform communities

and bring together people of all ages and backgrounds. It can beautify a single building or revitalize an entire area. It can even turn a run-down neighborhood into a place that is attractive to both visitors and investors. For these reasons, experts say, art should not be considered a luxury, but an essential aspect of community life.

**THIS PAGE:** At the Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn, New York, teenagers paint vinyl floral stickers later applied to taxicabs to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first metered taxicab in 2007.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** The interior, top, and exterior of the refurbished Lincoln Theatre in Washington, D.C., which reopened in 1994.



## Encore in a Neglected Neighborhood

The Lincoln Theatre opened in 1922 to serve the African-American community in Washington, D.C. Laws at that time segregated the races in public venues, and blacks wanted a place of their own to see movies and vaudeville shows. In time, U Street became known as Washington's "Black Broadway," and the Lincoln Theatre showcased some of the most talented performers of the era—Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Pearl Bailey, Cab Calloway, Sarah Vaughn, and Lionel Hampton among them.

The Lincoln struggled financially after desegregation opened other theaters to African Americans in the 1950s, and the whole area suffered from neglect and decay following race riots in 1968. An initial attempt to renovate the building in the early 1980s failed, but with support from the District of Columbia government, the refurbished, elegant Lincoln Theatre reopened in 1994.

Since then, U Street has regained its place as a cultural crossroads for the city, hosting music and film festivals, dance companies, comedy performances, and even political events.



### BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY ART PROJECTS

Bring together a diverse population.

Instill pride in a neighborhood.

Introduce children to the world of art.

Beautify old buildings.

Revitalize an area.

Attract investment.

Create a destination for tourists.

Build partnerships with companies and philanthropists.

*The NEA initiatives Shakespeare in American Communities and Shakespeare for a New Generation bring professional productions of William Shakespeare's plays to people throughout the United States. From 2003 to 2006, some 500,000 people saw 2,000 performances in 1,200 communities in all 50 states.*

SOURCE: NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

## ART GONE WILD



American cities have gone “wild” in recent years with some public arts projects. Borrowing on a concept that began in Zurich, Switzerland, they have invited artists to decorate large statues—usually animals with some connection to the city’s history or economy. The statues are placed around town for everyone to enjoy and then are auctioned off to raise money for local causes.

Chicago’s “Cows on Parade” in 1999 began the U.S. trend, raising \$3.5 million, and dozens of other cities have continued these community arts projects.

THIS PAGE: Whimsical sculptures, above, created for public enjoyment include, from left to right, a flamingo in Miami Beach, Florida; a fish at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland; and one of Chicago’s “Cows on Parade,” here being installed in Jefferson City, Missouri.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Mark Zuckerberg, founder of the popular social-networking Web site Facebook.

### PUBLIC ARTS PROJECTS IN U.S. CITIES

Washington, D.C.	Party Animals
Indianapolis, Indiana	Dolphins by Design
Buffalo, New York	Herd About Buffalo
Salem, Oregon	Salmon in the City
San Luis Obispo, California	Trout About Downtown
Longmont, Colorado	Geese Galore
Honolulu, Hawaii	Geckos in Paradise
Coeur d’Alene, Idaho	No Moose Left Behind
Louisville, Kentucky	Gallopalooza
Lake Charles, Louisiana	Gators on the Geaux
Baltimore, Maryland	Fish Out of Water
Rochester, Michigan	The Ewe Revue
North Hampton, New Hampshire	Lighthouse Lobsters
Salt Lake City, Utah	Seagull Fest

## Shopping Malls as Neighbors

Shopping malls—stores, restaurants, and movie theaters built as a unified commercial area—can be found in just about every city and suburb in the United States. Large towns in rural areas have them, too. Malls are built in block-long strips or in huge complexes under one roof.

J.C. Nichols of Kansas City, Missouri, is credited with developing the first shopping area outside a city center. His Country Club Plaza opened in 1922. The first fully enclosed, two-level, climate-controlled mall was the Southdale Center, which opened near Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1956. Then came malls in historic locations—“festival marketplaces”—such as Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts; Harbor Place in Baltimore, Maryland; and Union Station in Washington, D.C.

William S. Kowinski, in his book *The Malling of America*, reports that there are now more than 45,000 shopping centers—more than the number of school districts, hospitals, or four-year colleges—across the United States.

Today, some malls have an added attraction: entertainment. The Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, has a 14-screen movie theater, an aquarium you can walk through, and amusement park rides. In Las Vegas, Nevada, you can take a ride in a gondola at the Grand Canal Shops at the Venetian Hotel.

Shopping malls have been criticized as consumerism run rampant. Yet they also have been praised as being the new town square, where Americans of all backgrounds can

meet. “Shopping malls allow themselves to become closer to the community if they focus on more than just retail,” George Stratigos, former vice mayor of Sausalito, California, told an interviewer from *Span* magazine.

People take classes at malls. Senior citizens walk around malls before the stores open as part of a physical fitness routine. School singing groups hold concerts at malls, especially during the Christmas holiday. And some malls have public libraries and post offices. These are the kinds of activities that make shopping malls an important gathering place in many communities.



### Virtual Communities

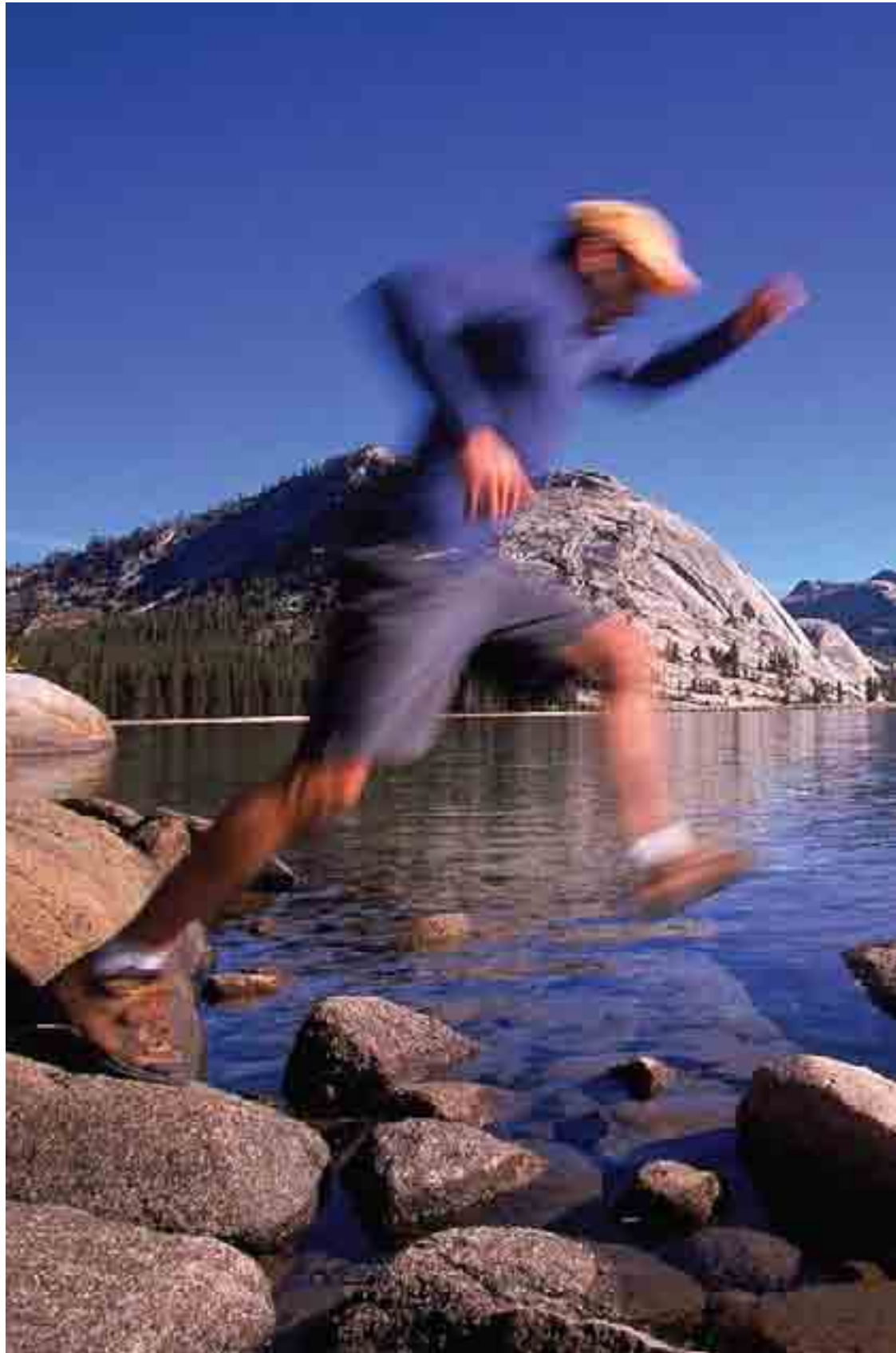
Traditionally, most people have defined community as the interaction of a group of people in a common location, a specific area of houses, apartment buildings, offices, and shops. Today, that location no longer needs to be physical but can be virtual—cyberspace. The Internet has created new kinds of communities, connected by computers, where people interact across town or across the globe.

Seventy million Americans log on to the Internet every day. They exchange e-mail with family and friends. They share photos. They study. They shop. They get news and information. They post their opinions for anyone to read. They make travel plans. They look for love.

This online community grows bigger every year. According to the Pew Research Center, 63 percent of adults in the United States (those 18 years old or older) now use the Internet. The number is even higher for teenagers (those 12 to 17 years old)—81 percent.

Despite fears that the Internet would weaken social relationships and communities, researchers have found that it actually helps strengthen them. E-mail and text messaging make it easier for people to stay in touch with those in their social network, whether nearby or far away. In addition, people are using the Internet to organize and announce school, religious, and neighborhood events. And they are using it to contact and help each other in times of need.

The Internet has transformed and broadened the idea of community. It brings together people who might never have interacted before to create new communities and support traditional ones.



AT PLAY  
6

When colonial Americans were plotting a revolution to overthrow the British crown, they wrote a Declaration of Independence that proclaimed the right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Almost two-and-a-half centuries later, Americans are pursuing happiness with zeal and creativity, not only at work and with our families, but also by finding activities likely never imagined by our forefathers. Americans head in countless directions to find what makes us happy in the 21st century. It may be up mountains, down trails, to raucous arenas or to hushed performance halls, or perhaps to pursue a hobby we’ve invented ourselves.

No matter where or how we find it, Americans are pretty well agreed that the recreational activities that bring us happiness are not trivial or frivolous pursuits at all. In fact, research shows that physical activity and recreation are good

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** More than 3 million visitors per year go to Yosemite National Park in California for hiking, rock-climbing, and sight-seeing.

**THIS PAGE:** Senior citizens take water aerobics class in Ohio.

for the body, the mind, and the soul. Beyond the benefits to the individual alone, recreation advocates say that group recreation activities build closer friendships with others and create greater community bonds.

The health benefits of a physically active lifestyle are widely known, including reduced

Physical activity helps to stave off the body’s decline, and medical experts recommend that senior citizens stay active in both



*“The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.”*

—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, U.S. FOUNDING FATHER, WRITER, DIPLOMAT, AND INVENTOR

risks of heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and some cancers. *Healthy People 2010*, one of the U.S. government’s definitive policy documents on public health, says that recreation and physical activity can also improve psychological well-being, reduce the risk of depression, and improve mood.

body and mind. Mental gymnastics such as games, puzzles, and music may help to prevent the small strokes that occur in the brain and are one cause of dementia.

People frequently report that the social relationships they develop through recreational activities are also an

important motivator. Further research indicates that those relationships give an individual a greater

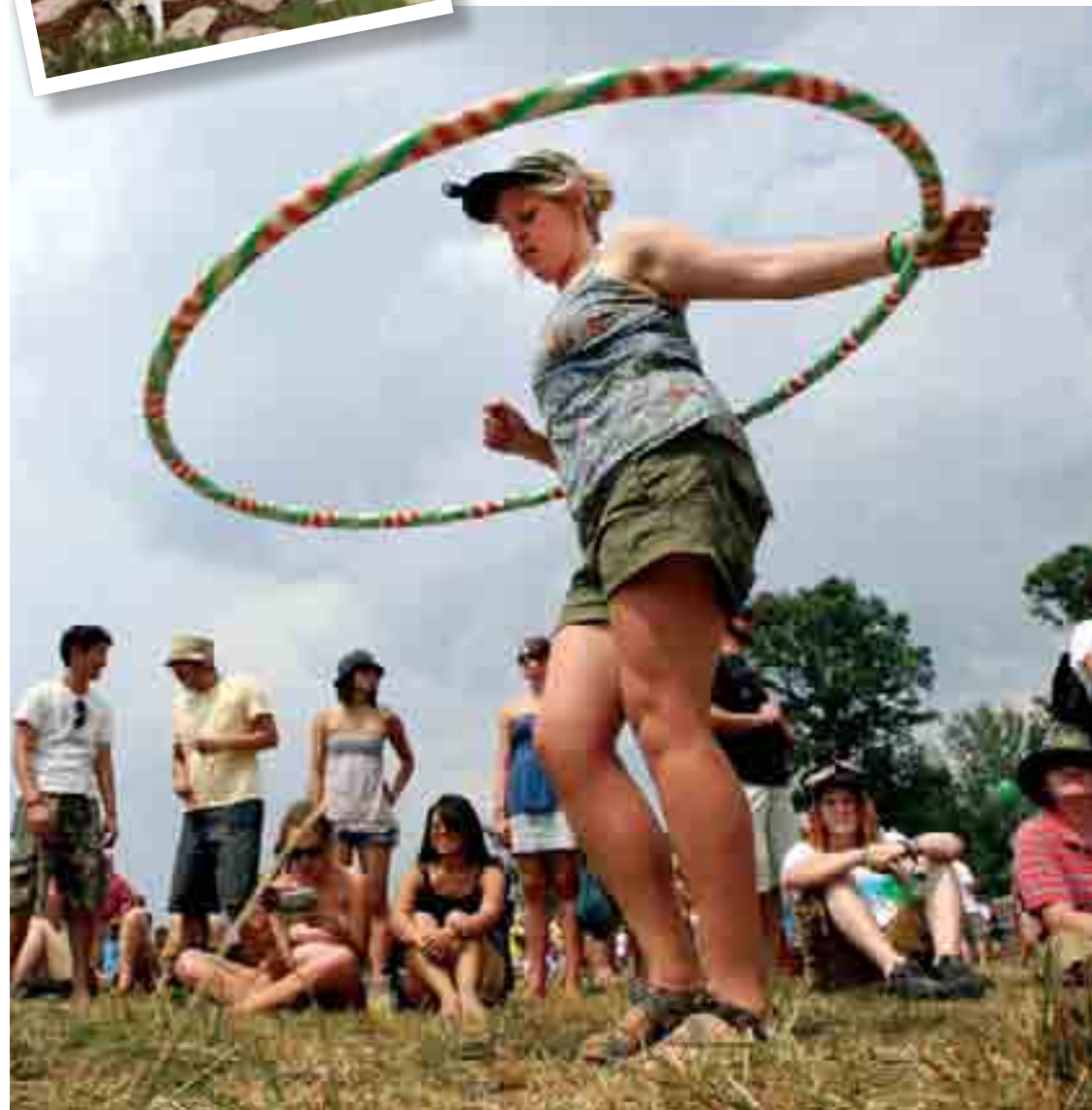
feeling of connection to community and a sense that one can rely on those relationships during difficult times.

Recreational activities, both active and passive, are also a significant economic sector. According to the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, issued by the U.S. Census Bureau, arts, entertainment, and recreation were a \$165 billion business in 2004, the most recent year for which

data are available. Data from several earlier years indicate a steady annual growth rate in this sector.

Businesses involved in arts, entertainment, and recreation are also a significant source of employment, with close to 2 million people working in jobs that support play and pastimes.

So a healthy dose of recreation and play in life makes for good health, good business, and good times. Who needs more reason to play on? ■



## TOURING THE UNITED STATES



When Americans go on vacation, they have thousands of places to choose from without ever leaving the United States. These popular tourist spots reflect the nation's history and culture.

### Redwood Forests

The magnificent redwood forests of California and Oregon remind visitors of the beauty and fragility of the Earth's resources. Many of these regal trees are more than 1,000 years old and 91 meters (300 feet) tall, though most of the ancient coast redwoods were cut by loggers long ago. Some trees remain protected in Redwood National and State Parks in northern California, in Muir Woods near San Francisco, and in many California and Oregon state parks. Besides the redwoods themselves, these forests support an ecological treasure of plant and animal life.

### Gateway Arch

Better known as the Gateway Arch, the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri, reflects St. Louis's place in the westward expansion of the United States during the 19th century. The stainless steel arch was completed in 1965 and is the tallest national monument in the country at 192 meters (630 feet). Each year, approximately 1 million visitors ride trams to the top of the arch.

### Gettysburg

The Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania marks the site of a battle fought there in July 1863, the largest and deadliest battle in the U.S. Civil War. Some 160,000 soldiers engaged in combat over three days, and 51,000 died, were wounded, or went missing. Today this hallowed ground is preserved as a symbol of the United States' struggle to survive as a nation and as a lasting memorial to the armies that served in the conflict.

OPPOSITE PAGE: A woman, top, enjoys the newspaper and her dog in the garden. A woman, below, plays with a hula hoop.

THIS PAGE: Paddlewheelers and cargo ships, left, ply the Mississippi River near the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri. A group of nature lovers, right, marvel at the stately grandeur of a redwood tree in the western United States.



### Statue of Liberty

Millions of immigrants entered the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, welcomed by the Statue of Liberty and processed through Ellis Island. The main building on Ellis Island was restored and reopened as a museum in 1990, and millions of visitors come to the site each year to connect with the immigrant experience and to research family histories. The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the people of the United States from the people of France in 1886. It is a universal symbol of freedom and democracy.

### Mount Rushmore

The granite carvings of four U.S. presidents that comprise the Mount Rushmore memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota are a symbol of democracy and a testament to the perseverance of man. Between 1927 and 1941, Gutzon Borglum designed and sculpted the huge monument on a mountain rock face. The four presidents were chosen because of what each represented: George Washington (1789–1797), for the struggle for independence; Thomas Jefferson (1801–1809), for the principle of government of the people;

Abraham Lincoln (1861–1865), for the belief in human equality; and Theodore Roosevelt (1901–1909), for the role of the United States in foreign affairs.

### USS Arizona

The United States entered World War II following an attack on its naval fleet, anchored in Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. Today a memorial spans the midsection of the sunken *USS Arizona*, commemorating the ship and the lives of the more than 1,000 *Arizona* crewmen who were killed in the attack. In all, more than 2,400 Americans died at Pearl Harbor.

**THIS PAGE:** Visitors to Mount Rushmore, left, look up to the faces of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln. Campers in sleeping bags, right, enjoy the view from a cliff of the Grand Canyon.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Colorful sculptures of guitars, left, grace the plaza outside the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. The National Museum of the American Indian, right, features a limestone exterior that evokes natural rock formations.

### Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Ohio, tells the story of rock and roll through photographs, artifacts, videos, and interactive displays. The museum traces the roots of rock and roll; features the work of individual performers, ranging from Elvis Presley and Chuck Berry to the Beatles and the Rolling Stones; and highlights today's chart-topping and up-and-coming artists.

### Grand Canyon

One of Earth's most powerful and inspiring landscapes, Arizona's Grand Canyon overwhelms the senses through its immense size: The canyon is 446 kilometers (277 miles) long, up to 29 kilometers (18 miles) wide, and 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) deep. Nearly 5 million people see the Grand Canyon every year, most from overlooks along the rim. Smaller numbers of hardy individuals backpack or ride a mule into the canyon or take a trip on the Colorado River at the canyon's floor.

### Selma-to-Montgomery National Historic Trail

The Selma-to-Montgomery National Historic Trail commemorates a milestone event in the U.S. civil rights movement. On March 21, 1965,

some 3,200 civil rights demonstrators set out from Selma, Alabama, to march to the state capital in Montgomery to protest unfair treatment of African Americans. Walking 19.3 kilometers (12 miles) a day and sleeping in fields, the marchers reached the capital four days later, and their numbers had grown to 25,000. Passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 came later that year and marked a significant step forward in guaranteeing equal rights to all Americans. The Selma-to-Montgomery road was designated a national historic trail by the U.S. Congress in 1996.

### The National Museum of the American Indian

The National Museum of the American Indian, which opened in September 2004, is the newest addition to the complex of museums and galleries that are part of the Smithsonian Institution. The museum is the first to present exhibitions from a Native-American viewpoint. Its mission is to convey the significant presence and diversity of Native peoples throughout the Americas, their history, and their contributions to contemporary American art and culture. The Smithsonian maintains 19 museums, 10 of them located along the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The new American Indian museum takes its place on the Mall, in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol.







## Preserving Land for All to Enjoy

U.S. efforts to conserve natural areas began when the first national park at Yellowstone was established by an act of Congress in 1872 “as a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.” The founding of Yellowstone National Park began a worldwide national park movement, and today more than 100 nations have some 1,200 national parks or equivalent preserves.

U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt furthered the conservation of public lands by designating five national parks, 150 national forests, the first 51 federal bird reservations, and the first four national game preserves. In *A Book-Lover’s Holidays in the Open*, published in 1916, Roosevelt said: “The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose, and method.”

This concern for the preservation of land for the enjoyment of all extends from the federal government to the 50 states. State governments across the country manage more than 5,800 park areas, covering more than 5.5 million hectares (almost 14 million acres) of land. In 2007, the National Recreation and Park Association recognized the state of Tennessee for its achievements

in park management with its biannual Gold Medal Award for Excellence.

State and national parks offer visitors—from the United States and abroad—outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, fishing, boating, and horseback riding.

become better stewards of the parks for tomorrow.... They provide incredible opportunities to experience the marvelous natural and cultural heritage of our country.”

The importance of recreational space is well recognized on the local level as well. Rare is the U.S. community lacking a park where its residents go to walk or jog, to ride bicycles, to take their children to play, to picnic with their friends and families, or simply to relax, read, and bask in the joy of being outdoors. ■



*“We need wilderness whether or not we ever set foot in it. We need a refuge even though we may never need to go there.... We need the possibility of escape as surely as we need hope.”*

— EDWARD ABBEY, WRITER AND ENVIRONMENTALIST

as well as a chance to learn the history and culture of the area. In kicking off the 2007 summer travel season, National Park Service Director Mary Bomar said: “These magnificent places pay homage to our ancestors and inspire our children to

OPPOSITE PAGE: A fisherman in Yellowstone National Park waits for a bite on the banks of one of the great trout rivers of the world.

THIS PAGE: The mountain vistas of the Appalachian chain are the main attraction of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

## About U.S. National Parks

The first national park, Yellowstone National Park, sprawls across the states of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. President Ulysses S. Grant signed the law creating the park in 1872.

President Woodrow Wilson established the National Park Service (NPS) on August 25, 1916. NPS is a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The National Park Service comprises almost 400 areas covering more than 33.6 million hectares (84 million acres) in every state (except Delaware), the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These areas include national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House.

The National Park Service employs approximately 20,000 people, assisted by 145,000 volunteers who also work in national parks.

Almost 275 million visitors enjoyed the parks in 2007.

The annual budget of the National Park Service is approximately \$2.2 billion.

The largest national park is Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Reserve in Alaska, measuring 5.3 million hectares (13.2 million acres).

The smallest national park is Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial in Pennsylvania at 0.008 hectares (0.02 acres).



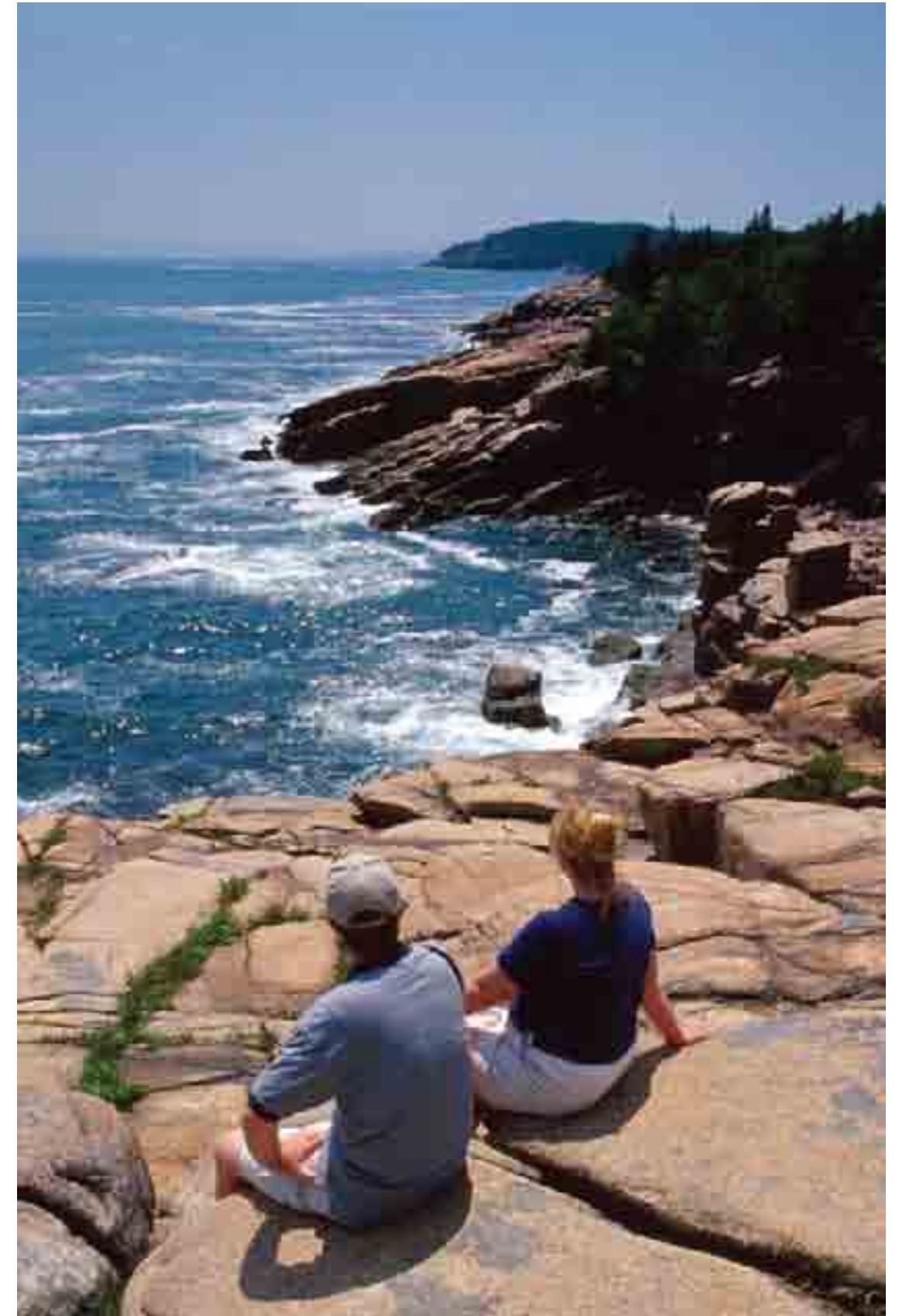
## Tennessee State Parks

The southeastern state of Tennessee maintains 54 state parks and 77 natural areas, visited each year by more than 25 million people. From the Appalachian Mountains in the east to the Mississippi River in the west, Tennessee State Parks include vast scenic areas, small recreational parks, and historic and archeological sites.

Fall Creek Falls State Park sprawls across more than 8,000 hectares (20,000 acres) laced with waterfalls, gorges, streams, and virgin hardwood forest. The 80-hectare (200-acre) Indian Mountain State Park lies at the base of the mountain and offers camping, fishing, and walking trails. Other state parks honor native sons of Tennessee, including parks named for African-American educators Booker T. Washington and Thomas O. Fuller and parks that preserve the homesites of pioneer Davy Crockett, World War I hero Sergeant Alvin C. York, and World War II-era Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

THIS PAGE: A spectacular geyser known as Old Faithful, top, amazes visitors to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. A fisherman, above, enjoys the solitude of the Tennessee River, which flows through three state parks.

OPPOSITE PAGE: A couple shares the scenery of the rocky Atlantic coastline found at Acadia National Park in Maine.





## The Museum Scene

The United States is home to an estimated 17,500 museums, according to the Institute of Museum and Library Services. A museum is a permanent, non-profit institution that acquires, conserves, researches, and exhibits tangible objects; it is open to the public for the education and enjoyment of the community it serves. The focus of museums ranges from natural history to fine art, from historic

artifacts and documents to scientific innovation.

A 2006 survey conducted by the American Association of Museums found that the most highly attended types of museums in the United States are zoos, science and technology museums, arboretums and botanic gardens, children's and youth museums, natural history and anthropology museums, and art museums.

**THIS PAGE:** At the Bronx Zoo in New York City, a window separates a child from a western lowland gorilla.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Top to bottom, a docent lectures visitors at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City; children work with hand tools at the Boston Children's Museum; a monoplane built in Florida in 1941 is one of the attractions at the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia.

## Interest in the Arts

The numbers below represent the percentage of Americans who attended a performance, visited a museum or historic site, or read a work of fiction in a sample year.

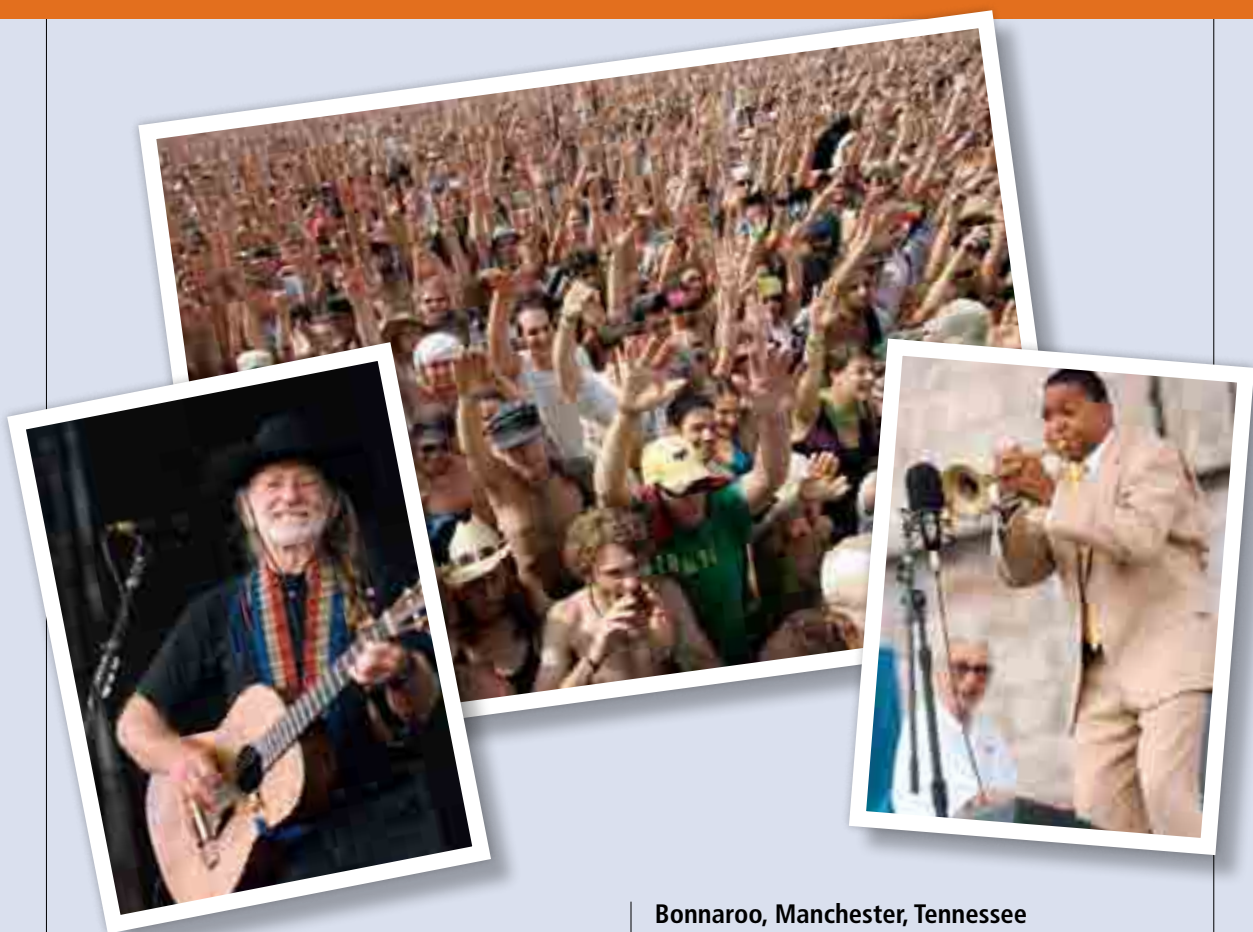
Literature	46.7
Arts/Craft Fairs and Festivals	33.4
Historic Sites	31.6
Art Museums/Galleries	26.5
Musical Theater	17.1
Nonmusical Plays	12.3
Classical Music	11.6
Jazz Music	10.8
Ballet	3.9



*“Work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do. ...Play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do.”*

—MARK TWAIN, 19TH-CENTURY AUTHOR AND HUMORIST, FROM *THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER*





From the streets of New York City to the mountains of Colorado and the coast of California, the United States is alive with the sounds of music festivals throughout the summer months. Hundreds of festivals draw millions of Americans—and foreign visitors—each year to listen to their favorite type of music. A few of the biggest events are highlighted here.

**JVC Jazz Festival, New York City and Newport, Rhode Island**

The nation's premier jazz festivals present the biggest names in jazz, the quintessential American music style. The New York festival runs for two weeks in June, and the Newport event takes place over three days in August. Venues include concert halls, clubs, parks, schools, and museums.

**Bonnaroo, Manchester, Tennessee**

Begun as a festival composed primarily of "jam bands" (bands that play long, mostly improvised songs), Bonnaroo now includes electronica, pop, country, and hard rock music. Festival-goers camp out on a 280-hectare (700-acre) farm for four days of entertainment on 10 stages.

**Jazz Aspen Snowmass, Colorado**

This organization presents two summer festivals of jazz and pop music, set amid the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains. One event happens in downtown Aspen in June; the other in nearby Snowmass Village over Labor Day weekend in September.

**Lollapalooza, Chicago, Illinois**

Held in Grant Park in downtown Chicago, this three-day music festival presents something for nearly everyone: hard rock, rap, reggae, pop, and jam bands.

**Austin City Limits Music Festival, Austin, Texas**

An outgrowth of a long-running concert program on public television, this event features more than 100 rock and rhythm and blues acts performing in Zilker Park over three days.

**Monterey Jazz Festival, Monterey, California**

The longest continuously running jazz festival in the United States, Monterey has been entertaining people for 50 years. The three-day event is a jazz showcase but also includes some pop and blues music for variety.

**Mostly Mozart Festival, New York City**

Held annually in August at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Mostly Mozart Festival features the work of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and other classical composers of his time. In recent years, the Mozart festival has expanded its focus to embrace contemporary music styles from around the world. In 2007 the Argentine-American composer Osvaldo Golijov was the festival's first composer-in-residence.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Left to right, Willie Nelson at Jazz Aspen Snowmass; an audience at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival; Wynton Marsalis on trumpet and Dave Brubeck on piano at the JVC Jazz Festival in Newport.

THIS PAGE: Top to bottom, Michael Franti of Spearhead at Bonnaroo; Liz Phair at the Austin City Limits Music Festival; composer Osvaldo Golijov; Chris Botti at the Monterey Jazz Festival.





## The Super Bowl

The Super Bowl is the championship game of American professional football, played under the auspices of the National Football League (NFL). The NFL is divided into two groups, known as conferences; each conference has 16 teams, and each team plays 16 regular-season games between early September and

late December. The teams with the best win-loss records play off against each other until two teams—one from each conference—remain to compete for the ultimate prize.

Begun in 1967, the Super Bowl has become more than a game. It is a

nationally recognized and celebrated event. More than 90 million people watch the game on television in the United States alone, and millions



*“Do you know what my favorite part of the game is? The opportunity to play.”*

— MIKE SINGLETARY, PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PLAYER, CHICAGO BEARS, 1981–1992

more worldwide tune in. In February 2008, the Super Bowl was broadcast to 223 countries and territories in 30 languages, with the potential to reach an audience of 1 billion.

Played on a Sunday evening in mid-winter, the Super Bowl brings friends and families together to watch the game, as well as hours of other programming about the teams, the players, and the game-day stadium atmosphere. Home gatherings of TV fans are widely referred to as Super Bowl parties, and they have become a tradition from one end of the country to the other.

### AMERICANS' FAVORITE SPORTS TO WATCH

SPORT	PERCENT OF ADULTS
American Football	34
Basketball	14
Baseball	13
Soccer	4
Auto Racing	4
Ice Skating	3
Ice Hockey	3
Golf	2
Tennis	2
Boxing	2
Wrestling	1
Other/None	19

OPPOSITE PAGE: A young football fan watches in amazement at a Super Bowl game played in New Orleans, Louisiana.

THIS PAGE: A Super Bowl party at the governor's mansion in New Jersey included members of the state's National Guard contingent who had recently returned from active duty.



## Aimee Mullins

**A**imee Mullins set world records in track; she is a model, actress, and motivational speaker; and in 2007 she became president of the Women's Sports Foundation. That's a lot for any young woman to accomplish, and Aimee Mullins has done it while walking—make that running—on artificial legs.

Born in 1976 without fibula bones in both shins, Mullins's legs were amputated below the knee when she was a year old. Nevertheless, she has participated in sports all her life. In secondary school she took up running track, and she won a full scholarship to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., in 1993. There Mullins became the first disabled athlete to run with able-bodied students on a major college track team. At

the 1996 Paralympics in Atlanta, Georgia, she set records in the 100- and 200-meter dashes and in the long jump.

The Women's Sports Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1974 by tennis great Billie Jean King. It is "dedicated to advancing the lives of girls and women through sports and physical activity." On becoming the foundation's president, Mullins expressed concern over a lack of athletic opportunities for girls with disabilities, girls of color, and girls from lower socioeconomic levels. "It is my desire," she said, "to help lead the foundation in continuing to break down barriers and stereotypes so that anyone who chooses to can benefit from a healthy, active lifestyle."

## Manny Acta

**F**rom the time he was a kid playing baseball in the Dominican Republic, Manny Acta was preparing to manage a major-league team. The only kid in his neighborhood with a catcher's mitt, he recalled, "I was like, 'I'm running the game, or I'm taking my glove away.' I've run games all my life." In November 2006, Acta was named manager (the equivalent of head coach) of the Washington Nationals baseball team. Just 37 years old, he became the youngest manager in the American major leagues.

Acta's professional baseball career began as a player in the American minor leagues from 1986 to 1991. "They told me to my face that I couldn't play," he says, so Acta became a coach and manager in the minor leagues and worked his way to coaching jobs with major-league teams in

Montreal, Canada, and New York City.

Between baseball seasons in the United States, Acta has returned to the Dominican Republic to manage teams in his homeland. He led the Licey Tigers to a Dominican Winter League Championship in 2004, and he managed the Dominican Republic's team in the first World Baseball Classic in 2006.

Manny Acta became a U.S. citizen in 1999 but retains his Dominican citizenship. On being named manager of the Nationals, Acta said, "How appropriate: An immigrant from the Dominican Republic like me comes to America, works hard, keeps his nose clean [stays out of trouble], and gets his chance to manage the capital of the United States' baseball team. God bless America. Only here."



OPPOSITE PAGE: Aimee Mullins takes her first leap in the women's long jump competition at the 1996 Paralympics in Atlanta, Georgia.

THIS PAGE: Manny Acta flashes a smile during a press conference called to announce that he was named manager of the Washington Nationals professional baseball team.



## U.S. Soccer Gaining Ground

When English settlers arrived at Plymouth Rock in 1620, according to American folklore, they found American Indians playing a form of soccer along the Massachusetts coast. The actual truth underlying the folklore is hard to measure, but the U.S. Soccer Federation does date American play at some colleges as early as 1820. The first organized soccer club, the Oneidas of Boston, was formed in 1862.

Soccer maintained some presence in American athletics over the next 100 years, but in 1975 Brazilian soccer star Pelé raised the sport's profile considerably when he came to the United States to play for the New York Cosmos. Arguably the best soccer player ever, Pelé had retired in Brazil in 1974 but came out of retirement, he said, to "make soccer truly popular in the United States." His time with the Cosmos—just over

two seasons—gave American soccer credibility and introduced millions of Americans to the sport.

Pelé's influence was perhaps greatest among children. Prior to the 1970s, young boys flocked to join baseball and American football teams, while young girls were pretty much left out of team sports. Soccer, however, was a game that all children could play, and they turned out in droves. The sport has gained in popularity over the last 30 years. The United States Youth Soccer Association (U.S. Youth Soccer) says it is the largest youth sports organization in the country. Founded in 1974, its membership has grown from 100,000 players to 3.2 million registered players and more than 900,000 coaches and volunteers. Smaller youth soccer organizations boast similar increases in membership.

U.S. soccer also has enjoyed a rebirth in the last two decades. The United States hosted the 1994 FIFA World Cup and the 1999 Women's World Cup, which the U.S. Women's National Team won. Professionally, Major League Soccer (MLS), founded in 1996, is going strong and aims to grow from 13 to 16 teams by 2010. In 2007, British soccer star David Beckham joined the Los Angeles Galaxy, and MLS anticipates that he will draw fans to the sport just as Pelé did in the 1970s.

**THIS PAGE:** Girls and boys play soccer together on U.S. youth teams.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Clockwise from top, the winning runner, center, celebrates victory in a Special Olympics race; secondary school girls compete in softball; a Special Olympian raises his arms in triumph after completing a speed roller-skating event.

## Sports and Opportunity

Sports have long offered a ticket to opportunity, a life endeavor where a boy from humble beginnings with grit, determination, and talent might find a chance for enormous success. In the United States, recognition dawned several decades ago that girls should have those opportunities, too. That realization became Title IX, a 1972 law that changed the future for girls in sports.

The law prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender at educational institutions receiving federal support, but its most notable impact has been in its influence on expanding opportunities for girls in sports activities in schools, which provide the greatest organizational structure for youth sport in the U.S. system.

In 1973, about 1.3 million girls were members of a secondary school athletic team. By the 2006-2007 school year, more than 3 million were playing sports at the secondary school level, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations. On the college level, 16,000 women were involved in athletics in 1970 in the United States. A 2008 study reports 180,000 women participating in college sports on more than 9,100 teams.

Involvement in athletics is about more than sinking a ball through a hoop or moving it over a goal line. That 2006 study, funded by the Smith College Project on Women and Social Change and the Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, underscores how participation in sports helps girls become more well-rounded adults, offering opportunities to learn about teamwork, risk, and the aftermath of both success and failure.

Special Olympics is committed to the same principle. Now a global movement, Special Olympics began when the sister of a president decided to bring the benefit of sports to intellectually disabled children. Eunice Shriver, sister of President John F. Kennedy, first brought 35 children with disabilities to her own yard to play in 1962. This small beginning led to the First International Special Olympics Games, held in Chicago in 1968, with 1,000 athletes from 25 states and Canada competing. Today, 2.5 million athletes in 165 countries are involved in the Special Olympics program, which is based on the belief that sports training and competition benefit people with intellectual disabilities mentally, socially, and spiritually. The sports program also serves as a means to broaden public understanding of people with intellectual disabilities in an environment of equality, respect, and acceptance.



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