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GRADUATE WORK

# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SCHOOL YEAR 2016-2017

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9. A

# **I INTRODUCTION**

## **II THEORETICAL PART**

### **1 BASIC FACTS**

- 1.1 Location
- 1.2 Size
- 1.3 Population
- 1.4 Currency
- 1.5 Flag

### **2 HISTORY**

- 2.1 Discovery
- 2.2 The First English Colony
- 2.3 The War of Independence
- 2.4 The Civil War

### **3 PRESIDENTS**

- 3.1 George Washington
- 3.2 Thomas Jefferson
- 3.3 Abraham Lincoln
- 3.4 Barack Obama
- 3.5 Donald John Trump

### **4 Geography**

- 4.1 Landscape
  - 4.1.1 Rivers

- 4.1.2 Lakes
- 4.2 Climate

## **5 INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE**

## **6 NATIONAL PARKS**

- 6.1 Mount Rushmore
- 6.2 Yellowstone
- 6.3 Grand Canyon
- 6.4 Crater Lake
- 6.5 Badlands

## **7 PLACES OF INTERESTS**

- 7.1 Disneyland
- 7.2 New York City
- 7.3 Austin
- 7.4 Las Vegas

## **8 STANDARD OF LIVING**

- 8.1 Laziness
- 8.2 Property
- 8.3 Differences in Law
- 8.4 Temperament

<b>III</b>	<b>PRACTICAL PART</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Survey</b>
<b>IV</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>
<b>V</b>	<b>LIST OF USED LITERATURE</b>
<b>VI</b>	<b>LIST OF ANNEXES</b>
<b>VII</b>	<b>ANNEXES</b>
<b>VIII</b>	<b>LIST OF USED IMAGES</b>

# **I INTRODUCTION**

When it came to choose an acceptable theme for my graduate work I was not sure which one I should choose. I was thinking a lot about some other themes but they were kind of classic. After some time I have decided to choose the theme which is the United States of America, about people who live there, some differences in their system or differences in style of living. Are you asking, if it is the right one for me? Well.... I am interested in English for some time, even more in the United States and also about people who live in this awesome country. So, this is the reason, why I chose this theme.

The goal of my graduate work is to find out as many interesting facts about this country as possible and to see if other people know at least something about the United States.

Then I will try to show them some really interesting things which this country has, for example how it was created, presidents who have done something good for this country and some facts about the country.

I will use some materials which I found on the internet, by watching some American people or by reading some stories which you can find there. I will also use a magazine called Gate as a source of information.

## II THEORETICAL PART

### 1 BASIC FACTS

#### 1.1 Location

The United States lies in North America, at borders on Canada in the North and on Mexico in the South. The U.S.A. is politically divided into 50 states and 1 federal district. Washington D.C. is its capital city.

The state of Alaska and Hawaii islands are the only two states that are not connected to the main part of the country.



img. n. 1

#### 1.2 Size

The size taken by United States is 9 631 000 km<sup>2</sup>. About 472 000 km<sup>2</sup> is taken by water surface. It is the third largest country in the world by its size.

#### 1.3 Population

About 325 800 000 people live in the United States (35p./km<sup>2</sup>) in the 50 states. It is also the third country in the world by its population.

#### 1.4 Currency

Currency in the United States is called "United States dollar" (USD). People have been using the USD since 6th July, 1985.



img. n. 2

#### 1.5 Flag

The flag of the United States is made of 13 stripes which represent the thirteen British colonies. There are 7 red and 6 white stripes. Then there are 50 five-pointed stars which represent 50 states of the country.



img. n. 3

This is how the first flag of the United States looked like. There are only thirteen stars with thirteen stripes. It looks differently from today's version.



img. n. 4

## **2 HISTORY**

### **2.1 Discovery**

America was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492 when he was searching for a western way to India but he landed in the Caribbean.

The original inhabitants of America are Indians who came from Siberia through the Bering Strait.

### **2.2 The First English Colony**

Jamestown is the town where the first British colony in the United States was created in 1607 in Virginia. They grew tobacco that increased their position in the world. After some time it was a main income for their colony.

There was the first mention of independence because they had their own income.

### **2.3 The War of Independence**

One of several steps that caused start of the war was a decree which limited the ability to move across the Appalachian Mountains for the 13 British colonies.

They did not care about complaints colonies had at all. These colonies stopped taking respect for decree and knew there was a danger of the war.

Boston Tea Party was a protest where Americans threw about 340 crates of pressed tea into the water.

When the war started the Americans had some help from France. France contributed ammunition but also launched a naval battle against the Great Britain and helped Americans a lot in this war.

After Americans won this war they concluded peace treaty with Great Britain and became an independent state.

### **2.4 The Civil War**

Union states fought against Confederation states from 1861 to 1865 in this war. This war is also known as "North against South". The goal of Confederation states was to leave the Union. The reason was to cancel slavery.

The war had million sacrifices because of the fact that there were used new machine guns. Union states were defeated and the slavery was successfully canceled.

## 3 PRESIDENTS

### 3.1 George Washington

George Washington was the first American president. He was a farmer and also a soldier.

He devoted his time growing tobacco. In the beginning he had about 400 slaves and he leased some fields. After some time he increased his area of these fields, so he lived quite a peaceful life.

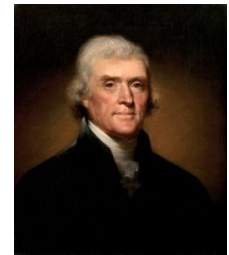
After 20 years he returned to voluntary army. That army was very backward, so he decided to change it. Under his leadership the army won many battles and also participated in the process of the independence of the United States.



img. n. 5

### 3.2 Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson ran for the second president of the United States but he lost and became a vice-president. His next attempt was successful and he became the third president of the United States and also was the main author of the Declaration of American Independence. He was the first foreign minister in the government of a president George Washington.

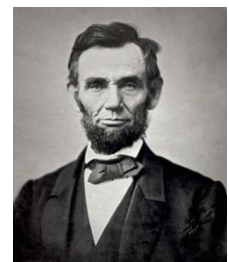


img. n. 6

### 3.3 Abraham Lincoln

The sixteenth president of the United States but the first president from Republican Party. In the America Civil War he was a leader of Northern states.

As a kid he tried many jobs and from there he saw people who were slaves. He did not like conditions they had, so he wanted to cancel the slavery.



img. n. 7

### 3.4 Barack Obama

He was democrat and also the 44th president but the first African American who was elected twice in a row. In 2009 he got Nobel Peace Prize and became a personality of the year. His primary goal was to make our world without atomic weapons and make the world peaceful.

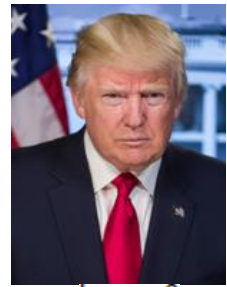


img. n. 8



### 3.5 Donald John Trump

The newly elected republican president Donald John Trump is the oldest and richest president that was ever elected in the United States of America. He also does not have that much experience with politics. He is also very known from his own television programs called "The Apprentice"



Many people believe that he can make America "a great place" by giving people jobs and that he can improve American's economy because of his business skills.

img. n. 9

## 4 Geography

### 4.1 Landscape

The western side at Pacific Ocean in the United States is mountainous. Denali National Park is located in Alaska with its highest mountain of the U.S.A called Mount McKinley. The other part of the U.S.A. is full of lowlands.

#### 4.1.1 Rivers

The longest river in the United States is called Mississippi (6212 km) which pours into the Atlantic Ocean. This river has a known tributary Missouri.

#### 4.1.2 Lakes

There are thousands of different lakes, both natural and man-made. Probably the best known are "the Great Lakes."

These important lakes are of glacial origin which means they are deep and long. These lakes are the world's biggest supplies of drinking water. They are on borders between the U.S.A. and Canada. They are called: Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Erie. There you can also find Niagara Falls between Erie and Ontario Lake.

### 4.2 Climate

The climate is different in various parts of the country where you can find mountains to deserts.

The climate is humid continental, humid subtropical, tropical, Alpine, oceanic and subarctic. As you can see I would say they have all climate that can even exist.

The lowest temperature that has been measured was  $-62.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  in Northern Alaska. The Highest temperature that has been measured was  $56.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  in Death Valley which is in California. It was the highest temperature in the world.



img. n.10

## **5 INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE**

USA position in economy is the best in the world. The USA is number one in oil and natural gas extraction. But all that oil and natural gas is used for their own needs and it is not enough, so they have to import oil from other countries.

Industry is formed by electrical energy and mineral wealth. The ability industry has is to adapt market requirements. 40% of industry in USA is taken by engineering which makes cars, planes or space ships. Then there is iron extraction and oil extraction.

The USA's agriculture is one of the best. Of course, they have to import some foodstuffs but it is just a small amount. However, the most typical crop is cotton, corn wheat and tobacco which is one of the crops that grows longest in the U.S.A. Then there is wood extraction and cattle breeding.

## 6 NATIONAL PARKS

When we are talking about national riches in the United States of America we usually mean national parks because almost all riches come from these national parks. I have decided to present at least some of them.

### 6.1 Mount Rushmore

The park's location is in South Dakota. This park shows four important presidents of the United states of America. From the left is George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodor Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. These statues were made in 14 years (1927-1941).



img. n.11

### 6.2 Yellowstone

The park's location is in Wyoming and a small part in Montana and Idaho. Yellowstone is the oldest park in the world and it belongs to UNESCO World Heritage Site. This park is famous for geysers and many kinds of animals who live there.



img. n.12

### 6.3 Grand Canyon

The park's location is in Arizona. It is the longest canyon in the world. His length is about 450 km. The interesting thing is that the park is made by the river Colorado and it took six million years to make the canyon. The canyon is about 1 600 meters deep.



img. n.13

### 6.4 Crater Lake

The park's location is in Oregon. This lake is made of desolated volcano called Mazama. The depth of this lake is 595 meters and it is the deepest lake in the United States of America.



img. n.14

### 6.5 Badlands

The park's location is in South Dakota. As the name of the park says, it is one big dry unusable desert. There are just weird shapes of this ravine and that is all you can see.



img. n.15

## 7 PLACES OF INTERESTS

In this part I will present some interesting places to visit. These places were chosen by me. And they are interesting for me. There are way more places but I want to mention at least some of them.

### 7.1 Disneyland

Disneyland is the most famous amusement park in the world. This is a good but an expensive choice for spending your time in the U.S.A. Disneyland in California is opened since 1955. This park is run by The Walt Disney Company.

### 7.2 New York City

New York City is the most populated city in the U.S.A. This city is also world trade and financial center. New York City has many nicknames and the most used are "The city that never sleeps" or "Big Apple."

New York City consists of five counties: The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island.

There are many places to be seen. Famous Statute of Liberty that was created in honor of the Declaration of Independence. The statue is 93 meters high.

Central Park is kind of weird park in nicely meaning because it looks like it is inserted into the Manhattan. It is the most visited park in the U.S.A.

Times Square represents the nickname "The city that never sleeps". There are many theatres, billboards and restaurants that make this place the symbol of night life.

New York is also a place with many skyscrapers. Empire State Building as the oldest one in the world offers splendid view from its lookout tower.

In the U.S.A there is the streets / avenues / roads system. In each state this system may be different, so I will explain the one used in New York. The system we should know is simple: the avenues are the ones from North to South. Streets go from West to East. And that is why it is very easy to get where you need. Streets or avenues are used in the cities. Ways that connect two cities or states are called roads. Many people use subways in New York City.

### **7.3 Niagara Falls**

Niagara Falls can be found at the border on the U.S.A and Canada. One half is in the U.S.A. and the other one in Canada. This fall pours to Ontario Lake from Eire and has a horseshoe form.

You can buy a tour on the ship that takes you right into this fall. You will get a raincoat.

### **7.4 Las Vegas**

Las Vegas is famous for the night life. There are many casinos where people try their luck to make some money, but they also increase the criminality. All these light billboards make the city incredible.

A business trick is that most of these casinos are run by Indians because they do not have to pay taxes in the U.S.A. This is the reason why many American people buy casinos through Indians.

Another interesting thing is that casinos inside are made of dark materials, so people in them may not notice what time it is. They do not have the concept of time they spent there, so they play till morning and spend huge amount of money.

## **8 STANDARD OF LIVING**

### **8.1 Laziness**

As it is said that all Americans are fat. Is it really true?

This opinion may depend on the state they live in. In the United States we can find many states with different style of living. The poor, less educated or comfortable ones may prefer fast food or junk food way of living. They may not pay attention to food they buy, so they buy some non quality goods and they do not exercise at all.

Then there are states with more educated people who care about the way they look. Many of these people are hardworking, they get up early because they want to exercise before they go to work and they spend some of the free time exercising. They also buy fresh and good quality goods to eat.

So, we should not summarise and say: “They are all fat and lazy”.

### **8.2 Property**

American people are not that attached to houses they live in. It is known that they can move easily from state to state according to job they get.

They also change their car soon after they had bought it.

### **8.3 Differences in Law**

In the U.S.A. there are many differences in law system but not everything is interesting, so I have decided to explain how it is with drinking alcohol in public.

If you want to buy alcohol or cigarettes in the U.S.A you must go to special shops. You cannot go to the supermarkets. You must show your ID before they let you buy it (you must be over 21 years old).

You can be prosecuted for drinking some alcohol drinks in public. You must not drink alcohol in public. And that is why you can sometimes see a person drinking beer in a sachet to hide it in public.

### **8.4 Temperament**

What are Americans like? Difficult question. If you are European you think that Americans behave like “the best ones” on the planet.

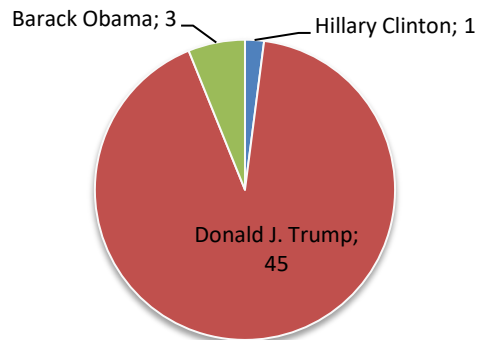
I think every person on the planet is different in temperament. There are the good and bad ones in each nationality. But we have to admit that Americans are definitely friendly and helpful to foreigners.

### III PRACTICAL PART

#### 1 Survey

The survey was answered by 49 pupils from 8th and 9th classes.

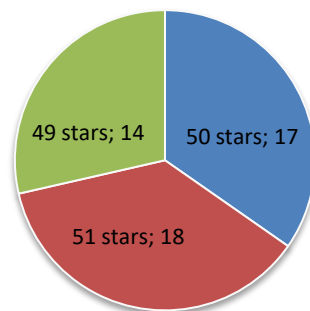
**Question 1: Do you know the name of newly elected President?**



The right answer: Donald J. Trump (45/49).

Conclusion: We can see that students are well informed about newly elected President.

**Question 2: How many stars are there on American Flag?**

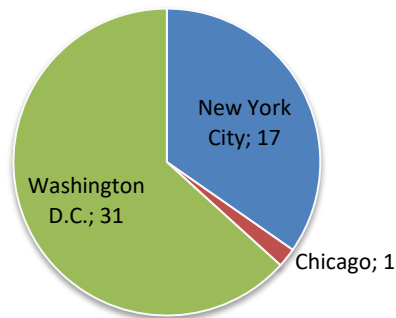


The right answer: 50 stars (17/49).

Conclusion: A lot of people are confused by the number of stars on American Flag. And my classmates as well.



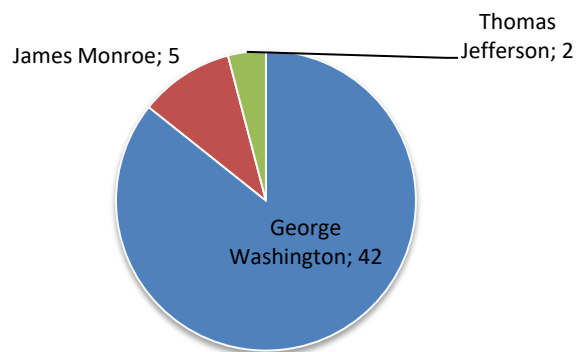
**Question 3: What is the capital city of the USA?**



The right answer: Washington D.C. (31/49).

Conclusion: New York City can be often considered as a capital city of the U.S.A. I am happy that most of my classmates know the right answer.

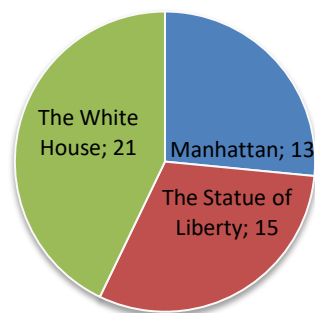
**Question 4: Do you know the name of the first American President?**



The right answer: George Washington (42/49).

Conclusion: George Washington is well known personality of the U.S.A.

**Question 5: What is the typical symbol of New York City?**



The right answer: The Statue of Liberty (15/49).

Conclusion: This was a very tricky question for students. They were not sure at all.

## **IV CONCLUSION**

It was nice experience for me to get to know something new about the United States of America. I also hope that everybody who has read it has found it interesting.

I hope one day I will have an opportunity to visit the United States of America myself.

I was the first student in this school who has written the graduate work in English language. The reason for that was my curiosity if I am able to complete it in English. And I have to admit I was.

I hope that I will encourage somebody one day to write this graduate work in different language as well.

## V LIST OF USED LITERATURE

Keyword: "United States of America" In an open internet encyclopedia of Wikipedia on:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States)

Key word: "National Parks USA" on:  
<https://www.nps.gov/index.htm>

Keyword: "USAs Presidents" In an open internet encyclopedia of Wikipedia on:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Presidents\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_the_United_States)

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<http://www.u-s-history.com/>

Keyword: "Economy in USA" In an open internet encyclopedia of Wikipedia on:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_United_States)

Keyword: "New York City" In an open internet encyclopedia of Wikipedia on:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_York\\_City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City)

Keyword: "New York City tourist" on:  
<http://www.planetware.com/tourist-attractions-/new-york-city-us-ny-nyc.htm>

Keyword: "Niagara Falls" on:  
<https://www.niagarafallsstatepark.com/>

Magazine Gate - 08 November 2015 vol. 08

## **VI LIST OF ANNEXES**

1. Map of National Parks
2. Disneyland
3. Niagara Falls
4. New York City Central Park
5. Las Vegas

## VII ANNEXES

### 1. Map of National Parks:



There you can see the position of each park I have mentioned.

(Keep in mind that green points represent the rough position of each park.)

### 2. Disneyland:



img. n.16

### 3. Niagara Falls:



img. n.17

### 4. New York City - Central Park:



img. n.18



## 5. Las Vegas:



img. n.19



## VIII LIST OF USED IMAGES

1. [https://mapasveta.info/amerika/severni\\_amerika\\_mapa.html](https://mapasveta.info/amerika/severni_amerika_mapa.html)
2. <http://www.mypivots.com/dictionary/definition/437/united-states-dollar-usd>
3. [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/a/a4/Flag\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States.svg/300px-Flag\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/a/a4/Flag_of_the_United_States.svg/300px-Flag_of_the_United_States.svg.png)
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7. [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1b/Abraham\\_Lincoln\\_November\\_1863.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1b/Abraham_Lincoln_November_1863.jpg)
8. [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/8d/President\\_Barack\\_Obama.jpg/220px-President\\_Barack\\_Obama.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/8d/President_Barack_Obama.jpg/220px-President_Barack_Obama.jpg)
9. [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/56/Donald\\_Trump\\_official\\_portrait.jpg/225px-Donald\\_Trump\\_official\\_portrait.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/56/Donald_Trump_official_portrait.jpg/225px-Donald_Trump_official_portrait.jpg)
10. [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d3/Average\\_precipitation\\_in\\_the\\_lower\\_48\\_states\\_of\\_the\\_USA.png/270px-Average\\_precipitation\\_in\\_the\\_lower\\_48\\_states\\_of\\_the\\_USA.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d3/Average_precipitation_in_the_lower_48_states_of_the_USA.png/270px-Average_precipitation_in_the_lower_48_states_of_the_USA.png)
11. [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/10/Mount\\_Rushmore\\_National\\_Memorial.jpg/1200px-Mount\\_Rushmore\\_National\\_Memorial.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/10/Mount_Rushmore_National_Memorial.jpg/1200px-Mount_Rushmore_National_Memorial.jpg)
12. <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/content/dam/kids/photos/articles/History/M-Z/YELLOWSTONE%20LAKE.jpg.adapt.945.1.jpg>
13. <https://www.canyontours.com/grand-canyon-floor-landing-helicopter-tour/>
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