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Introducción

*Read & Think English* representa un enfoque innovador y fácilmente accesible al aprendizaje de una lengua extranjera. Se trata de un método dinámico de inmersión al lenguaje, diseñado para usar en casa y aumentar su dominio del inglés a través del estudio de la vida y cultura de los Estados Unidos.

Hemos creado *Read & Think English* con el siguiente propósito: hacer más fácil el perfeccionamiento y la fluidez de su inglés, y aumentar su conocimiento sobre la vida y cultura norteamericanas para así incrementar sus oportunidades de éxito en los Estados Unidos.

Nuestro sistema de aprendizaje ha sido diseñado para hacer uso de sus conocimientos previos del inglés y ampliarlos, presentando el vocabulario y las frases en contextos relevantes y estimulantes, que además ponen énfasis en las cuatro aptitudes del lenguaje: la lectura, la escritura, el lenguaje hablado y la comprensión del idioma.

*Read & Think English* hace del inglés una lengua viva! Lea sobre la historia de los Estados Unidos y descubra las personas que contribuyeron a su formación. Explore las tradiciones y peculiares costumbres que se asocian con este país. Y, recuerde que, mientras Ud. disfruta con los fascinantes artículos, está aprendiendo inglés.

Profesores y estudiantes de todas las edades usan *Read & Think English* para aumentar el dominio de su inglés de una manera natural y eficaz. Tanto si el programa se usa como complemento en el salón de clase o como guía privada de estudio, los resultados son los mismos: Ud. desarrollará y mejorará sus conocimientos de vocabulario y gramática.

La información provista en cada capítulo facilita la mejor comprensión de la vida en los Estados Unidos y esto, a su vez, fomenta un mayor interés y éxito en el aprendizaje del inglés. Cada artículo va acompañado de un glosario bilingüe, de manera que se puede leer y aprender sin pararse a buscar palabras en el diccionario o en un manual de conversación.
Read & Think English se ajusta a diferentes niveles de aptitud, desde el elemental hasta el avanzado:

**Elemental:** Se recomienda que el nivel de conocimiento de inglés del estudiante sea equivalente al de la escuela secundaria o al del primer semestre de universidad. Tanto si su experiencia previa con el inglés ha sido a través de estudios escolares o bien personales, Read & Think English le permitirá sumergirse en la lengua y la cultura y también aumentará su comprensión sobre la estructura de la oración y el uso de los verbos.

**Intermedio:** Como estudiante de nivel intermedio, Ud. aprenderá más vocabulario y frases nuevas y notará un aumento en su fluidez y su capacidad de comprensión.

**Avanzado:** El estudiante avanzado continuará adquiriendo información valiosa y relevante, ya que el aprendizaje de una lengua es un esfuerzo para toda la vida.

*Read & Think English* es un método eficaz, divertido y asequible, sin importar cual es su nivel actual de conocimientos.

Expermente Ud. el entusiasmo y la satisfacción que vienen de aprender un nuevo idioma y descubrir una nueva cultura. Lea, hable, disfrute... Piense en Inglés.
Instrucciones para el éxito

El programa *Read & Think English* está dividido en capítulos que guían al estudiante a través de la vida en los Estados Unidos. Al final de cada capítulo hay una sección llamada “Compruebe su comprensión.” Esta sección fomenta el desarrollo de la comprensión de lectura y favorece la comprensión del inglés escrito.

No es necesario leer *Read & Think English* de principio a fin, ni tampoco en un orden determinado. Se puede leer por capítulos o escoger un capítulo o artículo que sea de especial interés para el lector. Se pueden completar las preguntas de las pruebas artículo por artículo, o bien por capítulos. Esta flexibilidad le permite al usuario avanzar a su propio ritmo, leyendo y releyendo el material según su necesidad. Los artículos, que son de gran interés, hacen que el estudio sea más agradable y la lectura más estimulante.

En primer lugar, lea el artículo para tener una idea general del tema. No se preocupe si al principio no comprende todo el vocabulario.

Una vez que comprenda de qué se trata el artículo, léalo de nuevo fijándose en el vocabulario que no conoce. Ponga especial atención al contexto donde se usa dicho vocabulario.

Lea el artículo en voz alta.

Si tiene acceso a un sistema de grabación, haga práctica grabando los artículos o pidale a alguien que habla español que se los grabe. Luego, escuche las grabaciones y observe cómo su comprensión auditiva va mejorando con el tiempo.

¡Repita, Repita, Repita! Esto es especialmente importante cuando se trata de memorizar partes y formas de las palabras que son importantes. La repetición activa es, algunas veces, la única manera de recordar detalles difíciles de retener en la memoria. Estas frecuentes repeticiones orales ayudan a fijar las formas en su “oído interno.” Esta dimensión auditiva le ayudará a recordar las palabras más adelante. Con *Read & Think English*, Ud. tiene la oportunidad de repetir diferentes procesos de aprendizaje tantas veces como quiera y tan a menudo como lo considere necesario. Lea, escuche y hable una y otra vez: esto le será de gran ayuda para alcanzar su meta de dominar la lengua inglesa.
Glosario bilingüe a la medida

Al lado de cada artículo se encuentra un glosario bilingüe correspondiente fácilmente accesible. Entonces, como ya no es necesario interrumpir la lectura para usar un diccionario, la comprensión y la adquisición de vocabulario se producen de una manera mucho más cómoda y rápida.

Cada artículo contiene gramática nueva y también vocabulario y frases nuevas, así como repeticiones de vocabulario y frases previamente estudiados. Las repeticiones a lo largo de los artículos sirven para aumentar la comprensión de la lectura y facilitar la memorización. Los artículos están escritos desde distintas perspectivas, y, aunque la mayoría de ellos están escritos en la tercera persona, hay algunos escritos en la primera también. Este cambio de perspectiva gramatical ayuda al lector a reconocer la conjugación de los diferentes tiempos de los verbos.

Muchos profesores de inglés recomiendan “crear una imagen mental” de las palabras extranjeras o asociarlas con objetos y situaciones familiares para aumentar la memorización de las mismas. Sin embargo, con Read & Think English, no necesitará “crear” ninguna imagen. Las imágenes se crean automáticamente en su imaginación con el desarrollo de la historia. Lea sin prisas y, al leer, imagínese la historia tal y como está escrita y vaya absorbiendo el vocabulario nuevo. Si una palabra o frase es especialmente difícil, trate de asociarla con una imagen que ella representa en la historia, mientras la pronuncia en voz alta.

Los verbos están escritos en el glosario, primero en la forma conjugada con que aparecen en la historia y después en el infinitivo. Por ejemplo: looking for/to look for: buscando /buscar

Compruebe su comprensión

Las preguntas de las pruebas que hay al final de cada capítulo están diseñadas para que Ud. siga desarrollando sus destrezas de comprensión de la lectura y para asegurar su éxito en el estudio del inglés. Además, Ud. aprenderá a usar el contexto para determinar significados. Cuando se entiende el contexto en general, muchas veces se puede “adivinar” el significado de palabras desconocidas basándose en el contexto de una oración, un párrafo o un artículo. Las respuestas se encuentran al final del
Información Sobre la Autora

Los artículos contenidos en este libro fueron escritos, coordinados y recopilados bajo la dirección de Kelly Garboden, Fundadora y Editora de la editorial Second Language Publishing (SLP). SLP es una editorial educativa que publica las revistas *Think Spanish Magazine* y *Think English Magazine*. SLP se especializa en la elaboración de productos interesantes e informativos dedicados al aprendizaje de idiomas. Dichos productos tienen como objetivo superar las barreras de comunicación y fomentar el aprendizaje del idioma y la integración cultural. Para más información sobre Second Language Publishing y *Think English Magazine* visite la siguiente dirección web: www.thinkenglishmagazine.com

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Jean Garboden, Miguel Romá, Lucía Terra and LuciaTerra.com, Karen Young, Mesia Quatro and LatPro.com, Jessica Harrison, Ian Chaplin and Cleo Chaplin
Read & Think

ENGLISH
I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives.
I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.

Abraham Lincoln
Culture
The American Dream is often associated with immigration. For years, the dream of prosperity and freedom has driven immigrants to the United States. America is viewed as the land of opportunity and immigrants from all over the world have settled in the U.S. with dreams of a fresh start and a new life.

By the 1900’s, the promise of the American Dream had begun to attract large numbers of immigrants looking for work in large cities. With hard work and determination immigrants hoped to escape the class boundaries of their home countries.

The Industrial Revolution helped shape the American Dream by creating thousands of jobs. The development of big business, the Transcontinental Railroad, and the increase in oil production improved the American standard of living. “Rags to riches” stories of business tycoons led to the belief that if you had intelligence, and a willingness to work hard, you were likely to live a successful life.

When people think of the American Dream they think of a successful and satisfying life. The term usually implies financial security and material comfort, but can also mean living a fulfilling life.

It is said that James Truslow Adams coined the term “American Dream” in his book The Epic of America. However, Truslow’s coinage of the phrase had a broader meaning.

The American Dream is “that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement. It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position.”

How do you achieve the American Dream? That answer depends upon your personal definition of the term. Luckily for us, living in America—the land of opportunity, there are many dreams to choose from!
The term melting pot is strongly associated with the United States. The U.S. is a melting pot of people from different cultures and races. Throughout the U.S. you will notice differences in the way people live, eat and even talk.

While American English is generally standard, American speech can differ according to what part of the country you are in.

Certain traits and personalities are also connected with certain regions. Westerners are known as the least traditional of Americans, and the most tolerant of change and differences. Midwesterners are known for being honest, straightforward people of traditional values.

The southwest has had the least influence by European immigrants. Much of its culture has been defined by native Americans and by the Spanish.

Southerners are probably the most distinctive of all American regional groups, with more relaxed attitudes and traditional ways than their neighbors to the north. They are known for their hospitality.

The Northeast is well known for its culture with excellent theaters and museums. It is also regarded for its educational system with some of the most highly rated and respected universities in the country. This region is also known for its large mix of ethnic groups.

Every time we speak, we say volumes about where we are from; the neutral tones of the Midwest, the rapid speech of New York City, the long drawl that characterizes the South. If you say a certain word or phrase, people will most likely be able to guess where you are from.
The central character of America’s colorful ranching heritage is the cowboy. The American cowboy has played an important part in American culture and history. The cowboy influence is embedded in stories, songs, legends, movies, art and fashion.

Although the cowboy is generally considered an American icon, the traditional cowboy actually comes from a Hispanic tradition, which originated in Central Mexico, known as “charro.”

At the end of the Civil War, many soldiers had no home, and no place to go. They started drifting to the West. Cowboys roamed and worked throughout the Wild West. To many, this term means guns, cattle, horses and gunfights. It was a rugged country with few amenities and a lot of danger. The Western territories were appealing to the adventurous, and they were open and untamed. Many of these men only owned what they could carry on horseback. Ranchers hired these hard-working men as ranch hands. The ranch hands tended to the herd and did work around the ranch. When the time came to sell the beef, the ranch hands would round up the herd from the open prairie and drive the cattle miles to market.

Popular stories about the cowboys depicted them as rustlers or professional gunfighters. While this is true in some cases, the average American cowboy was often lonely, lived in harsh conditions, and was frequently exposed to danger. Despite this, the cowboys always kept their sense of humor and joked about everything. They did not make much money and enjoyed the simple way of life.
Tough as nails, but generous and hospitable, these were the true Wild West American cowboys. The cowboy was the embodiment of rugged independence. Some names you might be familiar with are Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid, Buffalo Bill, Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp and Doc Holiday.

Many of these cowboys became legends in real life and later legends of the silver screen. They rode horses. They sang songs. Their horses did tricks and their guns were shiny. They became American heroes.

MODERN WORKING COWBOYS

Being a cowboy is certainly not a thing of the past. Throughout the U.S., you will find cowboys working on ranches and farms. The exact number of working cowboys is unknown. Cowboys are responsible for feeding the livestock, branding cattle and horses, and tending to injuries. They also move the livestock to different pasture locations, or herd them into corrals. In addition, cowboys repair fences, maintain ranch equipment, and perform other odd jobs around the ranch.

And last, but not least: the cowgirl! The history of women in the west is not as well documented as that of men. However, in recent years companies have dedicated time and money to researching the cowgirl tradition. The National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame has made great efforts to document the history of cowgirls.
American Jazz

Jazz is considered the most significant, influential and innovative music to emerge from the United States. New Orleans, Louisiana, is widely known as the birthplace of jazz.

Jazz can make the listener feel happy or sad, mellow or energetic. Jazz can sound loud or soft. Performers of jazz improvise and create music as they play.

Jazz has its roots in the nineteenth century. In the late 1880’s, African-Americans began to develop new forms of music. They created blues music from the gospel music and sad songs of their years in slavery. From the blues came the first true jazz music. This happened during the early 1900’s in Louisiana. Classic, traditional or Dixieland jazz came out of the music originating in New Orleans.

During the 1920’s, jazz continued to gain popularity. Louis Armstrong became famous for his performances on the trumpet and for his unusual voice. Louis Armstrong became one of the most influential and loved U.S. jazz musicians. Historians call the 1920’s the Golden Age of American Jazz.

As time passed, a jazz form called “swing” became very popular in America. People danced to swing music until after World War II. Benny Goodman led one of America’s most successful swing bands. People called Goodman “The King of Swing.” Goodman also presented black and white jazz musicians playing together for the first time.
After World War II, swing jazz became less popular. Americans began to listen to different sounds. One was bebop. Young musicians had created bebop in the 1940’s and it gained popularity slowly over the years. The music seemed harshly different to the ears of the public. Bebop appeared to sound racing, nervous, and often fragmented. Nevertheless, bebop was an exciting and beautiful revolution in the art of jazz.

In the 1950’s, cool jazz became popular. Cool jazz instruments sound softer than in bebop and the rhythm is more even.

With cool jazz came many new listeners. People went to jazz clubs and bought jazz recordings. The introduction of the long-playing record also helped the music become more popular.

In the 1960’s a new kind of music, rock and roll, grew very popular in the US. People throughout the world listened to the rock music of Elvis Presley and the Beatles. This new music cut into the popularity of jazz.

In the 1980’s, trumpet player Wynton Marsalis helped lead a return to more traditional jazz. This mainstream jazz borrows sounds from swing, bebop and cool jazz. Marsalis is one of the most well known and praised jazz musicians.

Today, jazz musicians play all types of music. Jazz can sound like swing or bebop. It can sound like rock and roll. It can sound like American Western music. It can sound like the music of several nations and ethnic groups. Or, it can sound traditional. With so many options to choose from, people of all ages and all walks of life can find enjoyment and an appreciation for American jazz.
America’s **beginnings** in music can be traced back to “the blues.” **Bar room singers** in the south, **gospel choirs**, rock and roll, pop styles and **early** jazz all have **roots** in blues music.

The blues **started** in Mississippi after the Civil War. **At first** blues were **recorded** only by memory, and **performed** only live and in person. The blues **passed down** from generation to generation through an **oral tradition** much like **storytelling**.

Mississippi produced many **leading** blues musicians, including Charley Patton, Robert Johnson, Howlin’ Wolf, Muddy Waters and B.B. King. These musicians **came out** of the area **known as** the Mississippi Delta. Three blues museums are **located** in the Mississippi Delta—the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale, the Blues & Legends Hall of Fame Museum in Robinsonville and the Highway 61 Blues Museum located in Leland.

**Because of** the early African-American experience and slavery, “singing the blues” **served as functional** music offering African-Americans a **vehicle** to **convey** their **daily** experiences. **Early forms** of the blues include the “field holler,” which **allowed laborers** in the **fields to keep in **contact** with each other, while the “ring shout” was used for **dancing**.

The blues **combined** the styles of the past with a **new type** of song. The popularity of the blues **marked a new era** for music. The result was the creation of a style of music that would eventually **contribute** to the development of jazz.

**You can** experience the blues live at festivals all **around** the U.S. For a complete listing of **legendary** rhythm and blues festivals visit: www.bluesfestivals.com
Native American Culture

The America discovered by the first Europeans was not an empty wilderness. Approximately 2 – 18 million people lived in what is now called the United States. These people, Native American Indians, were the first people to live here. The name “Indian” was first applied by Christopher Columbus. Columbus mistakenly thought America was part of the Indies, in Asia.

Indian customs and culture were extremely diverse due to the expanse of the land and the many different environments they had adapted to. Most tribes combined gathering, hunting, and the cultivation of corn and other products for their food supplies. The women cared for the children, and were in charge of farming and the distribution of food. The men hunted and participated in war. Indian culture in North America was tied closely to the land. Nature was integral to religious beliefs.

Initially, the Europeans were welcomed enthusiastically. Conflicts soon arose. The value systems were different for each group. The natives were in tune to the rhythms and spirit of nature. Nature to the Europeans was a commodity: a beaver colony was a number of pelts, a forest was timber for building. The Europeans expected to own land and claimed it. The Indians, on the other hand, were considered by the Europeans as nomadic with no interest in land ownership.

It was the Europeans’ cultural ignorance, coupled with their materialistic view of the land, that the Indians found repellent. The conflicts and wars continued until the end of the 19th century. On June 2, 1924, Congress granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S. The right to vote was governed by state law. In some states, Native American Indians were prohibited from voting until 1948.

Many Native Americans are politically and socially active, holding fast to the ancient values of their ancestors. Prayers for peace, respect for the environment, and love for all things living is a legacy that remains today.
African Heritage

Unlike other immigrants, many Africans came to North America against their will. They were caught up in a brutal system of human exploitation—the transatlantic slave trade.

African Americans waged a centuries-long battle for dignity, freedom, and for full involvement in American society. Their participation transformed the United States, and shaped the world we live in today. Our customs and daily practices have been influenced or remade by the efforts of African American workers, artists, activists, organizers, and thinkers.

More than 35 million Americans claim African ancestry. The number of African immigrants to the U.S. increases every year.

Explorers and Colonists

When Africans first came to the Americas, they came of their own free will. They arrived at the same time in history as the first Europeans. During the sixteenth century, African adventurers participated in the Age of Exploration. In the early 1500s, Africans explored Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru. The African explorer Estevanico helped the Coronado expedition open up what is now the Southwestern United States.

During the 300 years of the transatlantic slave trade, approximately 20 million Africans were transported to the Americas as slaves. Of these, more than 400,000 were sent to the 13 British colonies and, later, the United States. We may never know a precise number, but current estimates report that more than 1 million Africans died on the journey.

Today, Africans are coming to America again.

From Togo, Ghana, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria—Africans are again making their way to American shores to start new lives.
More than 500,000 Africans came to the United States in the 1990’s alone. This is more African immigrants than had come in all the 150 years before.

Today, Africans are immigrating to a country profoundly shaped by the long African experience in the United States. America is a country where people of African ancestry now hold positions of power, prestige, and influence, even as the nation continues to grapple with the aftermath of segregation and inequality. The United States is a country that has seen three of its most prominent African American citizens awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; the diplomat Ralph Bunche, the civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., and the novelist Toni Morrison.

Perhaps most important, America is a country that continues to be enriched by and to recognize its African heritage.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was the most famous leader of the American civil rights movement, a political activist, a Baptist minister, and was one of America’s greatest orators.

In 1964, King became the youngest man awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work as a peacemaker, promoting nonviolence and equal treatment for different races.

On April 4, 1968, King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1977, he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Jimmy Carter.

In 1986, Martin Luther King Day was established as a United States holiday. Martin Luther King is one of only three persons to receive this distinction (including Abraham Lincoln and George Washington), and of these persons the only one not a U.S. president, indicating his extraordinary position in American history.

In 2004, King was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. King often called for personal responsibility in fostering world peace. King’s most influential and well-known public address is the “I Have A Dream” speech, delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1963.
Early American literature began with the myths, legends, and songs of Indian cultures. There was no written literature during this time. Perhaps the first documented written literature is historical literature in journals recounting the exploration of early settlers of the United States.

Topics of early American writings were prompted by discussions of religion. John Winthrop wrote a journal discussing the religious foundations of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The War of 1812 prompted an increasing desire to produce unique American work. From this emerged a number of key literary figures, including Edgar Allan Poe, Washington Irving, and James Fennimore Cooper.

In 1836, Ralph Waldo Emerson published a shocking nonfiction work called Nature. In it, he claimed it was possible to do away with organized religion and reach a spiritual state by studying and responding to the natural world.

Emerson's friend was Henry David Thoreau. Thoreau was a nonconformist. After living alone for two years in a cabin by a wooded pond, Thoreau wrote Walden, a memoir that urges resistance to organized society.

Mark Twain was the first major American writer to be born away from the East Coast—in the state of Missouri. His masterpieces were the memoir Life on the Mississippi and the novel Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Twain's literary style was direct, highly evocative, and irreverently funny. Mark Twain's literature changed the way Americans write.

John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California, which set the scene for many of his stories. Steinbeck wrote about poor, working-class people and their struggle to lead a decent life. The Grapes of Wrath, considered his masterpiece, is a novel that tells the story of a family's journey to California.

At universities across the United States, students entering a class in American literature will find that their studies will include books that are stunningly diverse. Future American writers will write of a new experience. New American literature will chronicle the experiences of different ethnic groups and immigrants that make up the United States.
Artistic Expression

The artistic expression of Americans is as diverse as the people who live in America. Two famous American artists who believed that art belonged to the people are featured in this article; Norman Rockwell, whose work represented life in America; and Andy Warhol, who sparked a revolution in art during the 1960’s.

NORMAN ROCKWELL (February 3, 1894–November 8, 1978)
Rockwell is most famous for the cover illustrations he created for The Saturday Evening Post magazine.

In 1943, during the Second World War, Rockwell painted the Four Freedoms series. The work was inspired by a speech by Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had declared that there were four principles for universal rights: Freedom from Want, Freedom of Speech, Freedom to Worship, and Freedom from Fear. Rockwell considered “Freedom of Speech” to be the best of the four.

Norman Rockwell was very prolific, and produced over 4000 original works, most of which have been either destroyed by fire or are in permanent collections. Original magazines in mint condition that contain his work are rare and are worth thousands of dollars.

ANDY WARHOL (August 6, 1928–February 22, 1987)
Warhol was an American artist associated with the definition of Pop Art. Warhol was a painter, a commercial illustrator, an avant-garde filmmaker, music industry producer, writer and celebrity.

Warhol studied commercial art at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He showed an early artistic talent. He moved to New York City in 1949 and began a career in advertising and magazine illustration.

During the 1960s Warhol began to make paintings of famous American products such as Campbell’s Soup Cans and Coca-Cola, as well as paintings of celebrities like Marilyn Monroe. Warhol sparked a revolution in art—his work quickly became very controversial, and popular. Warhol became one of the most famous American artists of the day.
The Birthplace of Broadway

New York City is the birthplace of Broadway, which began in the early 1900s. **Characterized by simplicity and charm**, Broadway soon became the cultural center of New York. The theatre district fascinated large groups of middle-class people in search of music, excitement, and romance. The best seats in the house cost only $2.00.

The relationship between audience and actors was lively and high-spirited. Audiences became caught up in the plays, talking to the actors, hissing and booing, or clapping and cheering.

To escape the reality of World War II, many used Broadway plays as an entertaining getaway. However, the Broadway community became especially active in assisting the war effort. The play *Yip, Yip, Yaphank* at the Century Theatre helped raise money for war relief.

After World War II ended, Times Square was filled with crowds of enthusiastic citizens carrying flags and celebrating. Since that day, Times Square has continued as a gathering place for the people of New York City.

Broadway reached its prime during the 1920s. Fresh ideas and hope filled the theatre. Lawrence Langner, organizer of the Theatre Guild, helped Broadway become a dazzling performing arts center that influenced the theatre of the world.

After the stock-market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression, Broadway plunged. The number of productions declined and put many theatre people out of work. Ironically, this became a creative period. Established writers organized themselves into the Playwrights Company, and continued to write interesting plays that were concerned with the state of affairs in America.

Many off Broadway theatres now included dramas of social protest, using the slogan “Theatre as a Weapon.” Many playwrights used the theatres to make social commentary.
Broadway began to compete with television and movies during the 1940s. Most theatres on Broadway were being turned into film houses. Movies were beginning to take over the entertainment business. Also by this time, television was becoming a competitor. Television was providing the public with free entertainment.

In the 1950’s Broadway had become less of an industry and more of a loose array of individuals. This period in America was one of increasing intolerance and political persecution, but Broadway was not afraid to express nonconformist opinions. Broadway did not fear the government. Although Broadway theatre had lost some of its range, it still retained its liveliness and joyfulness. In a country that now required conventionality, Broadway held onto a sense of freedom of speech and action. These were the ideals on which the nation was founded.

Many memorable musicals emerged in 1950-1970. Some of these included West Side Story, My Fair Lady, The Sound of Music, Fiddler on the Roof, Man of La Mancha, and Hair.

Modern day Broadway is alive and well and Broadway theatre is considered the most prestigious form of professional theatre in the United States, as well as the most well known to the general public.

Seeing a Broadway show is a popular tourist activity in New York. Some ticket booths sell same-day tickets for many Broadway shows at half price. This service helps sell seats that would otherwise go empty, and makes seeing a show in New York more affordable. Many theatres also offer special student rates, same-day “rush” tickets, or standing-room tickets to help ensure that their theatres are full.

Theatres all across America produce Off-Broadway and original plays, musicals and dance productions. American Theatre offers a diverse range of entertainment. With many themes to choose from you are certain to find a show that interests you.
If you ask Americans what the cultural values in the U.S. are, you might receive blank stares and little or no response. In a society as diverse as the United States, there is likely to be a multitude of answers. American culture has been enriched by the values and belief systems of almost every part of the world. A few select values are at the core of the American value system.

INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM — One value that nearly every American would agree upon is individual freedom. Whether you call it individual freedom, or independence, it is the cornerstone of American values.

The concept of an individual having control over his/her own destiny influenced the type of government that was established here. Individual rights are guaranteed in the United States Constitution.

While our economic system may be dominated by large corporations, the majority of American businesses are small, and many are owned by an individual or a family. It is part of the “American dream” to “be your own boss.” Being an entrepreneur is one of the most appealing ways to improve one’s economic future.

CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Education is regarded as the key to opportunity, including financial security. Americans take a pragmatic approach to learning. What one learns outside the classroom through internship and extra-curricular activities is often considered as important as what is learned in the classroom. Lifelong learning is valued which is why you will find many adult and continuing education programs.

The belief that Americans should “be all that you can be” emanates from our Protestant heritage. Since the majority of the early settlers were Protestant, they believed that they had a responsibility to improve themselves, to be the best they could be, to develop their talents, and to help their neighbors.
THE FAMILY — The main purpose of the American family is to bring about the happiness of each individual family member. The traditional family values include love and respect for parents, as well as for all members of the family.

The emphasis on the individual and his/her right to happiness can be confusing. It allows children to disagree, even argue with their parents. While in most other cultures such action would be a sign of disrespect, that is not the case in the United States. It is considered a part of developing one’s independence.

PRIVACY — Privacy is important to Americans. The notion of individual privacy may make it difficult to make friends. Because Americans respect one’s privacy, they may not go beyond a friendly “hello.”

The rugged individualism valued by most Americans stems from our frontier heritage. Early settlers had to be self-sufficient, which forced them to be inventive. Their success gave them optimism about the future, a belief that problems could be solved. This positive spirit enables Americans to take risks in areas where others might only dream. This results in tremendous advances in technology, health and science.

In addition to such basic American values as individual freedom, self-reliance, equality of opportunity, hard work, material wealth, and competition, we see a trend toward conservation. There is an emphasis on recycling and preserving the environment. Also there is a greater sensitivity to cooperation on a global scale.

No matter what changes the next century brings or whether you agree with American values, the opportunity to live in the United States is an experience well worth the effort.
Test Your Comprehension

The American Dream, page 4

1. ¿Con qué se asocia generalmente el sueño americano?

2. ¿De qué manera determinó la revolución industrial el sueño americano?

3. Además de seguridad económica y comodidad material, ¿qué otra cosa significa el sueño americano?

The American Cowboy, page 6

1. ¿Cuál es el origen del vaquero estadounidense?

2. ¿Qué hacen los vaqueros modernos hoy en día en los Estados Unidos?

3. ¿Dónde puedes aprender sobre la tradición de las vaqueras?

A Melting Pot, page 5

1. ¿Qué es el “melting pot” (crisol de culturas)?

2. ¿Qué región de los Estados Unidos es considerada más tolerante con los cambios y las diferencias?

3. ¿Qué grupo étnico influyó más en el suroeste de los Estados Unidos?

American Jazz, page 8

1. ¿Cuál es el lugar de nacimiento del jazz?

2. ¿Qué grupo étnico es la raíz del jazz?
Examina tu comprensión

Early American Literature, page 14

1. ¿Quién fue el primer escritor estadounidense de notoriedad que nació fuera de la costa este?

2. ¿Qué escritor escribió sobre las personas de clase trabajadora y su lucha?

The Birthplace of Broadway, page 16

1. ¿En que ciudad estadounidense empezó Broadway?

2. La gente iba al teatro para escapar de la realidad de la guerra, pero ¿qué esfuerzo apoyó Broadway?

Artistic Expression, page 15

1. Norman Rockwell pintó The Four Freedoms (Las cuatro libertades). ¿Cuáles eran las cuatro libertades?

2. ¿Andy Warhol fue famoso por qué tipo de arte?

Cultural Values, page 18

1. ¿Cuál es el valor con el que casi todo estadounidense estaría de acuerdo?

2. ¿Qué valor es considerado la clave de la oportunidad, incluyendo la seguridad económica?
Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful,
we must carry it with us or we find it not.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Travel
There are several opportunities and options for camping throughout the United States and several different types of camping to choose from. The type of camping you choose depends on your interests and your level of experience. The different options include car camping at full-facility campgrounds, backcountry camping with limited facilities, and wilderness camping with no facilities at all and you must carry out everything you carry in.

Many of the U.S. national parks with campgrounds that accept reservations are part of the National Park Reservation Service. The official site for the National Park Service where you can make reservations is: www.reservations.nps.gov

If you prefer backcountry camping, the website www.recreation.gov offers complete information and reservations.

If you are going camping at a campground, here are some things to consider and questions to ask when making reservations:

- What facilities are available, such as water and power hookups, bathrooms, showers, picnic tables, and grills.

- What is the maximum number of people and vehicles permitted per campsite?

- Is there a limit on the number of days or consecutive days you can camp at a park? Are there other restrictions on length of stay?

- What are the restrictions regarding pets in the campground?

Whatever type of camping you choose, please help preserve the beauty of the great outdoors for yourself and generations to come by camping responsibly.
When most people think of the Grand Canyon they think of peering over the rim and admiring the beauty from up above. But what about being in the canyon and looking up? The Grand Canyon is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and a trip down the Colorado River allows you to experience the beauty and ruggedness from the heart of the canyon. Over the course of 250 miles the river runs through unruly rapids, making for a wilder ride than you’re likely to find on dry land.

A river trip down the Grand Canyon ranges from navigating through world-class rapids to swimming in the side canyons and hiking through remote areas not seen by most travelers. On this once-in-a-lifetime adventure you will experience astounding views of hidden waterfalls and you will discover ancient Indian ruins.

The diversity of Grand Canyon’s scenery is matched by the surprising diversity of its plant and animal life. There are 287 species of birds in the Grand Canyon, 88 species of mammals, 26 species of fish, and 58 species of reptiles and amphibians.

A guide for your rafting trip is highly recommended and required in some parts of the river. There are several tour companies that book weekend or weeklong trips. Some tours provide special interest trips including history, geology and photography tours.
Down by the Boardwalk

The boardwalks of American beaches are major tourist attractions. The first boardwalks were built in New Jersey in the late 1800’s. They were originally designed as walkways so beachgoers could stroll along the shore without tracking sand into the hotel lobbies. Today’s boardwalks have something for everyone; arcades, carnival rides, clothing boutiques, gourmet candy shops, restaurants and nightclubs. From sunup to sundown, boardwalks are packed with people of all ages, making the most of their summertime fun.

The boardwalk is a true American beach tradition. We celebrate the boardwalk with a list of the best America has to offer.

Atlantic City is the largest of New Jersey’s boardwalks and it is where it all started in 1870. Atlantic City has become more famous for its casinos in recent years, but the boardwalk is still packed in the summer with locals and tourists alike. A family-friendly boardwalk can be found in Ocean City. This popular promenade runs beside beautiful wide sand beaches. The boardwalk has a Victorian feel, reminiscent of the seaside resorts that once populated the mid-Atlantic coast. At all of the New Jersey coast towns you will find fresh saltwater taffy being made at family-owned shops. Saltwater taffy is another beachside tradition that started in New Jersey.
The west coast is not as well known for its boardwalks but Santa Cruz, California has a seaside amusement park that is one of the best in the nation. It is California’s oldest amusement park and the only major seaside amusement park on the Pacific Coast. Here you will find a wonderful blend of old and new carnival rides. The Looff Carousel and the Giant Dipper roller coaster are National Historic Landmarks. Virginia Beach’s famous oceanfront boardwalk has been named by many the most beautiful boardwalk in the country. Its popular three-mile walkway has recently been updated. There is also a bike path that runs alongside the boardwalk making it popular for bikes, skateboards and rollerblades. Concerts are a big attraction here at one of the three oceanfront stages.

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina was nearly empty of boardwalk attractions twenty years ago. Since that time an enormous growth of shops, amusement parks, theaters and restaurants has transformed the boardwalk at Myrtle Beach into a major tourist center. In addition to the usual boardwalk fare, Myrtle Beach also boasts an aquarium and an IMAX theater. A wonderful new addition to Myrtle Beach is a glass butterfly pavilion.

Ocean City Maryland is home to a famous boardwalk that buzzes with activity. You will find activities and events that appeal to all ages. Ten miles of white-sand beaches and three miles of world-famous Boardwalk make Ocean City picture-perfect. From the tiny train that chugs along the three-mile promenade to the antique carousel that dates back to 1902, Ocean City has kept its sense of a bygone era while keeping its attractions fresh.
Treasure Islands

The islands of Hawaii have long been considered the treasure of the United States. Gorgeous sandy beaches, spectacular sunsets and breathtaking beauty, it is no surprise that Hawaii is one of the most popular vacation spots in the U.S.

Oahu, Maui, Kauai and The Big Island are the four most popular islands. Each island is packed full of as much beauty as diversity. You will find perfect beaches on each island, but depending on your destination, you may also see miles of barren lava flow, museums and even skiing on a snow-peaked mountain!

OAHU

Oahu is often the landing spot for most visitors and home to the largest city in the state, Honolulu. Oahu is probably best known for the city and beaches of Waikiki. Waikiki hums with activity. Here you can do more than just experience the outdoor activities of the islands. It is well worth your time to visit Pearl Harbor and the Polynesian Cultural Center. And you must visit the North Shore of Oahu for world-famous surf.

MAUI

Relaxed and friendly, Maui is home to some of the most beautiful resorts and gorgeous sandy beaches in the world. Activities are spread across the entire island and you can easily find something different to do every day. Bicycling down a volcano, shopping in historic Lahaina Town, world-class golf, snorkeling in a lovely cove or camping in a tropical rain forest; the Island of Maui has a lot to offer for all ages.
KAUAI

Known also as the garden isle, Kauai is considered by many to be the most beautiful of the islands. Poipu Beach is consistently voted one of the prettiest beaches in the world. Lush tropical rain forests compete for your attention with dramatic canyons and coastline. You won’t find a great deal of night life here, but your time will be best spent hiking, exploring and kayaking during the day. Kauai is one of the wettest spots on Earth, with an annual average rainfall of 460 inches. The high annual rainfall has eroded deep valleys in the central mountain, carving out canyons and creating the many scenic waterfalls.

THE BIG ISLAND

Larger than all the other islands combined, The Big Island of Hawaii is a remarkable contrast of geography and climates. Tropical forests with beautiful waterfalls on one side, stark lava beds on the other. The landscape is dominated by mountains, particularly the twin peaks of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. Mauna Kea is the only place in Hawaii where you can strap on skis and hit the slopes.

If you can’t make up your mind about which Island to visit you can take an island-hopping cruise. Norwegian Cruise Line has seven-day itineraries visiting Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the Big Island.

By land or sea, Hawaii is a great place for your next vacation!
The National Parks in the United States offer more than just outdoor recreation—they offer a chance to learn about our nation’s diverse history, geography, and culture.

The first official national park of the United States was California’s Yosemite National Park. Inspired by the beauty of Yosemite and worried about the possible exploitation of Yosemite’s natural wonders, conservationists appealed to Senator John Conness to help protect the park. On June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill granting Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias to the State of California as an inalienable public trust. This was the first time in history that a federal government had set aside scenic lands to protect them and to allow for their enjoyment by all people. This idea was the spark that made Yosemite the first official national park in 1890.

Yosemite National Park is best known for its waterfalls, but within its nearly 1,200 square miles you will find an abundance of wildlife, spectacular scenery and vast wilderness to explore.

The best time to see waterfalls is during spring, when most of the snowmelt occurs. Yosemite Falls is one of the world’s tallest and is made up of three separate falls: Upper Yosemite Fall (1,430 feet), the middle cascades (675 feet), and Lower Yosemite Fall (320 feet). Another popular waterfall, Bridal Veil, flows all year and you can walk to the base in just a few minutes.

Ancient giant sequoias can be found in the Mariposa Grove. The Mariposa Grove is the largest group of giant sequoias in Yosemite. The General Sherman, a Giant Sequoia, is generally considered to be the largest tree in the world. This tree is located in Sequoia National Park, just south of Yosemite.
Two famous rock formations in Yellowstone are Half Dome and El Capitan. Half Dome is perhaps the most recognized symbol of Yosemite. Rising nearly 5,000 feet above the Valley floor, some people attempt the treacherous hike or rock climb to the top. Experienced rock climbers enjoy El Capitan. It rises more than 3,000 feet above the Valley floor and is the largest monolith of granite in the world.

Yosemite National Park is home to hundreds of American black bears. These bears are very curious and have an amazing sense of smell. Most bears that rely on natural food sources are active during the day. However, when hungry, they quietly sneak around and grab unattended food at night. Precautions and information on bear safety can be found at nature centers in the park.

You don’t need reservations to visit Yosemite National Park, but reservations to stay overnight in the park are mandatory. Lodging options in Yosemite National Park range from simple cabins to deluxe rooms at The Ahwahnee Hotel. Camping is the most popular way to spend the night in Yosemite National Park. There are 13 campgrounds located throughout the park and reservations are necessary for most locations. Information and reservations for Yosemite, as well as every national park in the United States, can be found online at: www.nps.gov.
When most people think of a trip to Washington, D.C. they think of visiting the White House. A trip to the White House is an experience of a lifetime; however it can be very hard to arrange. You must have a group of ten or more people and make your arrangements through your member of Congress. This requires extensive planning well ahead of time. It is, of course, well worth the effort if you are successful.

Besides the White House, Washington, D.C. is packed full of interesting, historical and educational places to visit. Taking a self-guided tour of the national monuments is a great way to explore the city while learning about the history, government and people of the United States.

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT
The most prominent landmark in Washington, D.C. is the Washington Monument. It stands 555 feet tall. An elevator takes visitors to the 500-foot landing for magnificent views of the city. A unique feature of the Washington Monument is the 193 carved memorial stones that line the interior of the monument. These stones pay tribute to the achievements of George Washington.

THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL
The Lincoln Memorial honors Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States. The memorial symbolizes Lincoln’s belief that all people should be free. The chamber inside the memorial contains a statue of Lincoln. The chamber also houses two stone tables; one engraved with Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address, and the other with the Gettysburg Address.

THE JEFFERSON MEMORIAL
The Jefferson Memorial honors Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, first Secretary of State, and third President. The structure of the building is based on the classic style of architecture Jefferson introduced into this country. In the center of the memorial is a statue of Jefferson. On the walls are four inscriptions. They describe his belief in freedom and education.
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors the men and women who served in the Vietnam War. The memorial consists of three parts: the Wall of names, the Three Servicemen Statue and Flagpole, and the Vietnam Women’s Memorial. The Memorial Wall contains the names of the 58,220 men and women who were killed and remain missing from the war.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is a reminder of the Korean War and the sacrifices and hardships of those who fought in this war. This memorial consists of a platoon of stainless steel soldiers. Engraved on a nearby wall are the total casualties of both the United States and the United Nations’ troops along with the words “FREEDOM IS NOT FREE”.

NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

The National World War II Memorial is a National memorial to Americans who served and died in World War II. The design of the National World War II Memorial incorporates many symbolic elements representing unity, sacrifice, victory and freedom.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS MEMORIAL

The Marine Corps War Memorial is a symbol of America’s gratitude to the U.S. Marines who died in combat. The statue portrays one of the most famous events of World War II: the U.S. victory of Iwo Jima.

THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNS

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located at Arlington National Cemetery. It was constructed to mark the grave of an unidentified American soldier from World War I. Three Greek figures are engraved into the marble and represent Peace, Victory, and Valor. On the back of the Tomb is the following inscription: HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD.
Ready for something different? On your next vacation skip the hotel and spend the night in a lighthouse! These romantic towers provide some of the most unique accommodations in the country. Some lighthouses allow guests to perform various keeper’s duties such as raising the flag, recording the weather, and other odd jobs to help maintain the property. All lighthouses provide spectacular scenery, historic surroundings, and an extraordinary opportunity. The lighthouses range from upscale bed and breakfasts with gourmet meals to more rugged accommodations with bunk beds and no electricity.

The lighthouse on tiny Rose Island, in Rhode Island’s Narragansett Bay, is one of the few authentic lighthouses in America that allows you to have the entire lighthouse to yourself and become keeper for a week. The island and restored lighthouse are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. But when the last ferry departs, the island becomes your own. Up to four adults can rent the second-floor apartment if they agree to do an hour’s worth of daily record-keeping and chores.

A landmark on the Hudson River, the Saugerties Lighthouse, is a red-brick lighthouse built in 1869. The lighthouse offers overnight bed and breakfast accommodations, public tours and special events. The operational light-tower offers a panoramic view of the Hudson River. On this small island you can enjoy swimming, picnicking and bird-watching. The Lighthouse can be reached by boat or the half-mile nature trail at the end of Lighthouse Drive in the village of Saugerties, New York.
The East Brother Light Station is located less than an hour from San Francisco but once you arrive, city life feels a world away. The Light Station operates as a four-room bed and breakfast and is accessible only by boat. Gourmet dinners are served with wine and breakfasts have been made popular by the Lighthouse French Toast Soufflé. The day can be spent hiking the island, bird and whale watching or learning about the history of the lighthouse.

Travel back in time with a stay at the Isle Au Haut Lighthouse in Maine. This authentic Keeper’s House is without telephones and electricity. Guests use kerosene lanterns for light and woodstoves for heat. To reach this 1907 lighthouse, take a 40-minute boat ride to the remote island of Isle au Haut. Bikes are provided to guests for transportation around the island. There are six bedrooms furnished with antiques, island crafts and coastal memorabilia.

Charity Island Lighthouse in Au Gres, Michigan, offers overnight lodging in the spring and fall. It is operational as a bed and breakfast with four bedrooms. Upon arrival guests receive a 30-minute presentation on the history of the island and the lighthouse. The island consists of almost three hundred acres of forest and is home to a multitude of wildlife including songbirds, bald eagles, raccoons, and foxes. The island is preserved as a wildlife sanctuary and is considered a bird-watcher’s paradise.
All over the United States, in cities big and small, you will find factories that give tours to the public. Why visit a factory? Factory tours are educational and entertaining. The behind-the-scenes view of how everyday things are made can be interesting to both kids and adults. If you are taking a road trip, stopping to visit a factory can make a nice break. If you are visiting a new city it can provide valuable insight into what makes that city special. At the end of the tour, the tour guide will often hand out free samples of their products. In addition, factory tours are generally free to the public, resulting in an affordable activity for you and your family.

There are more tours than we could list in one article. A great place to plan your factory tour is at Factory Tours: www.factorytoursusa.com

Jelly Belly Factory (www.jellybelly.com)  Put on a white paper hat, follow friendly tour guides through the sweet-smelling factory and watch how Jelly Bellies are made. With the interesting flavors that range from buttered popcorn to jalapeño, the Jelly Belly tour is a unique candy experience.

U.S. Department of the Treasury (www.moneyfactory.com)  Do you want to see how money is made? Here you can watch bills go from large reams of blank paper into intricately inked currency. There are two locations—one in Washington, D.C., and the other in Fort Worth, Texas.

Ben and Jerry’s (www.benjerry.com)  This favorite ice cream brand is one of the most popular tours in the United States. Samples are tasted in their FlavoRoom and tours starting at 9am give you the perfect excuse to eat ice cream for breakfast.

Gibson Guitar Factory  (www.gibsonmemphis.com)  At this factory in Memphis, Tennessee, you will watch all the phases in the guitar-making process. For over 100 years, the company has been assembling quality American guitars by hand.
Home on the Range

Have you ever wanted to live like a cowboy? Well, you can spend a weekend as a cowboy at one of the many “dude ranches” located across the United States.

The dude ranch, also known as a guest ranch, is a ranch that is open for visitors. They allow visitors to experience ranch activities first-hand on weekend or weeklong vacations. Daily activities usually include horseback riding lessons, trail rides, picnics, hiking, cook-outs, and rodeos. They often host nightly entertainment around a campfire.

Working ranches are another option for a more authentic experience. As the name implies, they are real working ranches that are in the business of raising cattle or horses and/or farming. They usually offer accommodations for a smaller number of guests, more rustic accommodations and less organized activities. Daily activities include horseback riding and sightseeing, but you also have the opportunity to work with real cowboys in their daily ranch work.

Most dude ranches are located out west in the “big sky country” states such as Montana, Idaho, Colorado and Wyoming. Part of the joy of visiting a Dude Ranch is the spectacular scenery that you get to experience. The majestic mountains, green rolling hills, beautiful rivers and lakes are a delight to view and an adventure to explore. Exploring the countryside on horseback allows you to see things at a slower pace and the chance to see more wildlife such as eagles, buffalo, deer and even wild bears.

Before you pick a dude ranch to visit, go to websites such as www.ranchweb.com and www.duderanches.com to read reviews from other travelers. And, before you go, make sure you are prepared to dress the part—don’t forget to pack your cowboy hat!
Some of the best whale watching on the continent is found in the San Juan Islands off the coast of Washington.

The Puget Sound is home to 400 islands and home to 90 orcas. The protected waters and miles of coastline are ideal for camping and kayaking, and seeing pods of orcas and other wildlife.

Orcas, also called “killer whales,” are the largest members of the dolphin family. Orcas are beautiful whales with striking black and white markings. Orcas feed almost exclusively on fish, with chinook salmon being their favorite meal. They follow migrating salmon in from the open Pacific through the waters surrounding the San Juan Islands. During certain times of the year you are guaranteed a whale sighting in this area.

The whales are predictably seen from spring until autumn, when they follow the migrating salmon through shore waters. July, August and September are the warmest and driest months and the best time to see orcas, porpoises and also gray whales.

There are many whale watching tours that will take you aboard one of their “whale-friendly” vessels. You may see the whales swimming, breaching, chasing fish—or all of the above! Orcas communicate with each other on a regular basis. Some boats have an underwater microphone so you can listen to their “conversations.” This adds another magical dimension to the experience.

For an even closer view you can kayak with orcas in the San Juan Islands. On multi-day trips, you will paddle four to five hours a day, stopping to watch wildlife or hike around the islands. As you explore, the guides will point out wildlife and explain the ecology of the area.

The best place to see orcas from land is Lime Kiln Point State Park in Friday Harbor. This park is also called “Whale Watch Park.” While you are there, don’t miss the Whale Watch Museum.
Alcatraz, which is also known as ‘the Rock’, is the famous American prison located on Alcatraz Island, in San Francisco Bay. A trip to the island offers a close-up look at a historic and notorious federal prison. More than a million visitors a year climb the steep hill from the ferry dock to view crumbling cell blocks, and the former living quarters of prisoners and guards.

Before being used as a prison it was home to the first and oldest operating lighthouse (1854) and the first US fort on the West Coast (1859).

This military fortress that had protected San Francisco Bay since California’s Gold Rush days was a federal prison between 1934 and 1963. The bay’s icy water and strong currents made “The Rock” escape-proof. However, it is reported that five prisoners tried to escape and are officially listed as missing and presumed drowned.

Between 1969 and 1971 the island was taken over by Native Americans. Today, the entire island is preserved as part of the National Park System and is a venue for tourists rather than criminals. A few former prisoners and guards can be still heard on the prison’s audio tour of the famous Cell House.

The refreshing ferryboat ride, with stunning views of San Francisco Bay, adds a very special beginning and end to this popular tour.
Test Your Comprehension

Camping Trips, page 24

1. ¿Cuáles son los tres tipos de campamento disponibles en los parques nacionales?

2. Si usted está planeando un viaje de campamento, ¿qué debería hacer primero?

3. Cuando deja un campamento estadounidense, ¿qué debe recordar para las generaciones futuras?

Down by the Boardwalk, page 26

1. ¿Cuándo y dónde fueron construidos los primeros paseos marítimos entarimados?

2. ¿Cuál es el paseo marítimo más grande?

3. ¿Cuál es la nueva adición al Camino Marítimo de la Playa Myrtle de Carolina del Sur?

Rafting the Grand Canyon, page 25

1. ¿Qué río corre por el Gran Cañón?

2. ¿Cuáles son algunos de los viajes de interés especial que se ofrecen en el Gran Cañón?

Treasure Islands, page 28

1. ¿Qué isla de Hawaii tiene la ciudad más grande?

2. ¿Qué isla, también conocida como la isla jardín, es considerada por muchos como la más bella?

3. La gran isla de Hawaii tiene diversos paisajes. ¿A qué se parece?
Examina tu comprensión

America’s First National Park, page 30

1. ¿Qué parque fue el primer parque nacional de los Estados Unidos?

2. ¿Quién firmó el proyecto de ley poniendo a este parque nacional en fideicomiso público?

3. ¿Qué dos famosas formaciones rocosas están en este parque nacional?

Made in the USA, page 36

1. ¿Cuáles son algunos de los sabores de dulces que encontrarás en una visita guiada de la fabrica Jelly Belly?

2. ¿A dónde irías para ver hacer dinero?

San Juan Orcas, page 38

1. ¿Frente a la costa de qué estadio están ubicadas las islas San Juan?

2. ¿Cuándo emigran las ballenas y pueden ser vistas?

3. ¿Cuál es la mejor manera de ver a las orcas de cerca?

Walking Tour of D.C., page 32

1. ¿Qué tan alto es el Monumento a Washington?

2. El monumento conmemorativo de Lincoln tiene dos mesas de piedras grabadas ¿con qué?

2. El diseño del monumento conmemorativo de la Segunda Guerra Mundial incorpora 4 elementos simbólicos ¿representando lo qué?
A love for tradition has never weakened a nation, indeed it has strengthened nations in their hour of peril.

Sir Winston Churchill
Tradition
People in the United States have a choice between free tax-funded public schools or tuition-based private schools.

All public school systems are required to provide an education free of charge to everyone of school age. All schools, public and private, are monitored by the Department of Education. Educational standards and standardized testing decisions are made by state governments.

People are required to attend school until the age of 16–18. If a child is not attending school the parents will be in trouble with the law and could possibly go to jail.

Education is divided into three levels: elementary, junior high, and senior high. Grade levels in each vary from area to area.

Elementary school, also known as grade school, is a school of the first six grades. The basic subjects of math, English and science are taught.

Junior high school is grades 5–8 depending upon the school structure. The basic subjects are expanded on. A foreign language is often added.

High school runs from grades 9–12. Each grade number also has a name: freshman, sophomore, junior and senior. There are a minimum number of courses students are required to complete to receive a high school diploma. Starting in ninth grade, grades become very important because they are part of a student's official transcript. In the last two years of high school students take standardized tests to apply for college. The SAT and ACT are the most common standardized tests.

Post-secondary education in the United States is known as college or university. It consists of four years, or more, of study. Students apply to receive admission into college. Admissions criteria involve the grades earned in high school, GPA, and standardized test scores. After finishing a four-year degree students may continue to a more advanced degree such as a master's degree.

As a whole, the population of the United States is becoming more educated. Post-secondary education is valued very highly by American society and is one of the main determinants of class and status.
Prom and Homecoming

“Prom” is the name for a special dance held at the end of the high school academic year.

Traditionally the prom is a special night for the junior and senior classes. Younger guests may go to the prom only if their date is a junior or a senior. Prom is a memorable and important night for most high school students. Some feel that it is the most romantic night of their lives and the highlight of their senior year!

Shopping for the prom dress can be an event of its own. Formal wear is worn by both girls and boys. Sometimes there is a prom theme and the couples dress according to the theme.

The prom festivities generally include dinner and a dance. The prom is often held at the school; however, some schools rent ballrooms or hotels or more unusual venues such as a cruise boat to host prom night. A prom king and queen are announced and crowned during the night. Traditionally the prom queen and king are chosen by their fellow students. Campaigns are held in the weeks before the prom and students cast votes for who they want to be king and queen. The king and queen are crowned and dance together to celebrate their election.

Homecoming is another annual academic tradition that happens in high school and colleges. Homecoming is largely associated with football. People, towns, high schools and colleges come together, usually in late September or October, to welcome back alumni. The activities consist of a football game played on the school’s football field, activities for students and alumni, a parade featuring the school’s marching band, and the coronation of a homecoming queen and king, similar to the prom queen and king.

name: nombre
special dance: baile especial
held/to hold: se celebra/celebrar
end: final
high school: secundaria, liceo
academic year: año académico
special night: noche especial
junior and senior classes: los dos últimos años en el sistema escolar estadounidense
younger guests: invitados más jóvenes
date: cita
some: algunos
feel/to feel: sienten/sentir
night: noche
highlight: lo más destacado
shopping: ir de compras
dress: vestido
formal wear: traje de etiqueta
worn/to wear: usada/ usar, llevar (ropa)
theme: tema
couples: parejas
dressing according: de acuerdo
festivities: festividades
include/to include: incluyen/incluir
dinner: cena
rent/to rent: alquilan/alquilar
ballrooms: salones de baile
unusual venues: locales poco comunes
boat: barco de crucero
host: ofrecer
king: rey
queen: reina
announced: anunciados
crowned: coronados
chosen/to choose: elegidos/elegir
fellow students: compañeros de estudios
campaigns: campañas
weeks: semanas
before: antes
votes: emitir votos
largely associated: en gran parte asociado
towns: pueblos
come together: se reúnen
alumni: ex-alumnos
parade: desfile
marching band: banda marcial
New Year’s celebrations begin on December 31, New Year’s Eve. New Year’s parties of all sizes are held across the United States. Friends and family gather at home and watch television as part of the festivities. As the midnight hour approaches your own time zone you are able to watch New Year’s celebrated all across the world.

Times Square in the heart of New York City hosts a very popular New Year’s celebration and is televised nationally. At one minute before midnight, a brightly lit ball begins to drop slowly from a pole perched on one of the buildings. People begin to count down the seconds as the ball drops. When it reaches the bottom, it is the New Year. People hug and kiss, confetti falls, and cheers of “Happy New Year!” are heard everywhere.

Another New Year’s tradition is to sing the song “Auld Lang Syne” at the stroke of midnight. This song is played in English-speaking countries to welcome in the new year. “Auld Lang Syne” literally means “old long ago,” or “the good old days.”

New Year’s Day

On January first, it is a tradition in many households for families and friends to spend the afternoon watching the Rose Bowl. The Tournament of Roses parade and the Rose Bowl football game are on many television sets across America.
The parade first started in 1890 and is held in Pasadena, California. In 1902, the parade committee decided to add a football game to the day’s celebrations. By 1920 the crowds outgrew the football stands. The tournament’s president envisioned a grand stadium and put his vision into action. He built a new stadium and named it the Rose Bowl.

Today the Tournament of Roses Parade is more than five miles long with thousands of people participating, marching in bands or dance troops and on floats. City officials ride in the cars pulling the floats and waving at the crowd. A celebrity is chosen to be the official master of ceremonies. The queen of the tournament rides on a special float made from more than 250,000 flowers.

New Year’s resolutions are made on New Year’s Day. Americans write down their resolutions and promise to keep them for the year to come. New Year’s resolutions usually include things like getting healthy or losing weight and generally encompass something that involves bettering your life.

Regardless of the way the New Year is celebrated, the sentiments are the same. With a new year, people hope for a fresh start. They wish each other good luck and best wishes for the new year.
Wedding traditions in the United States are some of the most flexible in the world. Due to the many religions and ethnic backgrounds, the wedding ceremonies and traditions can vary widely.

Weddings in the United States can be very elaborate, especially when it is the bride’s first wedding. Traditionally the bride wears a white wedding dress and veil. It is considered bad luck for the groom to see the bride in her wedding gown before the wedding.

It is traditional for the bride to have a bridal shower and the groom to have a bachelor party before the wedding. During the bridal shower the bride-to-be will receive gifts, usually gifts to be used on her honeymoon. A bachelor party is held for the groom in the weeks before the wedding and is intended as a “final celebration” as a single man!

Wedding ceremonies may be religious or civil. The ceremony may include vows written by the bride and the groom. The vows speak of their love and promises to each other. The newlyweds kiss at the end of the ceremony to seal their union.

After the ceremony the wedding is celebrated at a reception. The newlyweds have their first dance together as husband and wife. Toasts are given by family and friends, wishing the couple happiness. The bride and the groom make the first cut in the cake together, symbolizing their shared future. It is thought of as good luck for the bride to throw her wedding bouquet backwards over her shoulder towards the single female guests. The one who catches it is supposed to be the next one married.

Couples who do not wish to have an elaborate wedding ceremony may choose to elope. An elopement involves much less preparation and is becoming more common, especially for second weddings. The couple is quickly married at the justice of the peace. They may or may not invite a small number of friends and/or family.
April Fools!

April Fool’s Day is a lighthearted holiday that takes place on April 1st. It is a time for playful pranks and practical jokes. The history of April Fool’s Day is not well documented or clearly known. There does not seem to be a “first April Fool’s Day” that can be declared on the calendar. The closest date that can be identified as the start of this tradition was in the late 1500s, in France.

Today, on April 1, Americans play tricks on friends and strangers alike. Pranks performed on April Fool’s Day range from simple jokes, such as saying, “Your shoe’s untied!” to more elaborate pranks, such as setting a roommate’s alarm clock back an hour, making them late. School children might tell a classmate that school has been canceled. Whatever the prank, the trickster ends the joke by yelling, “April Fool!”

April Fool’s Day is not a serious holiday. Schools are not closed, gifts are not given and no one gets the day off from work. It’s considered a fun holiday. It is also a holiday in which you must remain alert; you never know when you might be the next April Fool!

Knock-Knock! Knock-Knock jokes are well-known jokes in the United States and a favorite “call and answer” game among children. They are the best-known format of the pun. In addition to being silly and fun, they are also helpful in children advancing their language skills. The standard format has five lines. The person telling the joke says “Knock, knock.” The other person answers accordingly, and hopefully, laughs!

Knock, knock! Who’s there?
Cow go. Cow go who?
Cow go moo!

Knock, knock! Who’s there?
Olive Olive who?
Olive you! (I love you!)
The United States is consistently referred to as a “melting pot”—a nation of cultures and traditions blended together. Christmas celebrations in the U.S. are another indication of this melting pot. Americans sing Christmas carols from England and decorate trees, a tradition that came from Germany. Santa Claus, in a red suit, originated in Scandinavia. His arrival through the chimney to fill stockings is a tradition that started in the Netherlands. His sleigh pulled by reindeer began in Switzerland. American Christmas traditions and customs range from religious symbols to the legend of Santa Claus. The origins and history are Christian and pagan.

Regions of the United States set aside their own Christmas traditions.

- In Colorado, a star is placed on a mountain symbolizing the star of Bethlehem.
- In Washington, D.C., the president presses a button and magically lights up an enormous outdoor tree.
- In Boston, carol singing festivities are more famous than anywhere else in the United States.
- In Arizona they follow the Mexican tradition, Las Posadas.

American families gather together for a special Christmas meal that consists of stuffed turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, and pumpkin pie. The majority of Americans celebrate Christmas by exchanging gifts with family and friends. Children generally believe in Santa until the age of 10. They are told that Santa has a naughty and a nice list. He checks the list before Christmas and if you are on the naughty list you might not get any presents and your stocking might be filled with coal!
Every family has different traditions during the holiday season. Some traditions are passed on from generation to generation. The following list highlights some traditions that are representative of American families celebrating Christmas.

- A Christmas Carol is a song or hymn sung during the Christmas season. Christmas Carolers can be heard at parties, malls and Christmas festivals.

- Americans send Christmas cards to their friends and family during the holiday season. Some families include letters reviewing the past year and a family photo.

- The Christmas shopping season officially begins the day after Thanksgiving. A Christmas shopping trip is made extra special by the Christmas decorations in all of the stores.

- Eggnog is a very popular holiday drink. It is made with milk, cream, sugar, beaten eggs and generally flavored with rum or brandy.

- For children and grownups alike, Christmas cookies may be the best Christmas tradition of all.

- Each Christmas season, stockings can be found throughout American homes. Children awake on Christmas morning to find their stockings full of treats.

- The brilliant colors and cheer of Christmas lights are a sight to behold. In some neighborhoods all of the houses participate in decorating their homes and allow people to take a driving tour to enjoy the lights.

Whatever your region or tradition, Christmas is one of the most celebrated and enjoyed holidays in the nation. The most important thing to remember during the holiday season is to make cherished memories with your loved ones. Celebrate deep-rooted traditions and continue to create new holiday traditions to share with your family and friends.
Thanksgiving is a time for giving thanks and sharing. Family members and friends gather together on this day to enjoy a feast and give thanks for the many good things they have. In the spirit of sharing, homeless shelters offer free meals to homeless people in their communities. Thanksgiving falls on the fourth Thursday of November, a different date every year.

Almost every culture in the world has held celebrations of thanks for an abundant harvest. The American Thanksgiving holiday began almost 400 years ago. It started in the early days of the American colonies.

In 1620, a boat sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to settle in the New World. These people were called Pilgrims. The Pilgrims settled in what is now the state of Massachusetts. Their first winter was difficult. They arrived too late in the season to grow new crops. They had limited food and almost half of their people died from disease. When spring arrived the Indians taught them how to grow corn. Corn was a new food for the colonists. The Indians showed them other crops to grow and taught them about the unfamiliar soil. They showed them how and where to hunt and fish.

In the fall of 1621, crops of corn, beans and pumpkins were harvested. The colonists were thankful for the help from the Indians and the abundance of food. They planned a feast and invited the local Indian chief and several Indians. The Indians brought deer to roast with the turkeys that had been prepared by the colonists. The pilgrims had learned how to cook cranberries and different kinds of squash from the Indians and these dishes were also served.
For years to come, the pilgrims continued to celebrate the fall harvest with a feast. After the United States became an independent country, Congress recommended that the whole nation set aside one day a year for thanksgiving. George Washington suggested the date November 26 as Thanksgiving Day. In 1863, at the end of a long civil war, Abraham Lincoln asked all Americans to set aside the last Thursday in November as a day of thanksgiving.

On dinner tables throughout the United States, the same foods eaten at the first thanksgiving are the traditional foods still served today. Turkey, corn and pumpkins are symbols that represent Thanksgiving. You will find many of these symbols on holiday decorations and greeting cards. Cranberry sauce, or cranberry jelly, was on the first Thanksgiving table and is still served today.

For millions of Americans, Thanksgiving Day traditions are closely connected to football. From football games in the backyard to watching the yearly games of the Detroit Lions and Dallas Cowboys, football is linked with the holiday season.

America’s Thanksgiving Day Parade is also an important tradition. It was first held in 1924 in Detroit, Michigan. The parade began as a small event. Its popularity grew with each passing year and so did its size. In 1952 the parade received national coverage on TV and is to this day a very popular televised event.

The most popular parade is the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. The three-hour event is held in New York City starting at 9:00 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day and is televised nationwide.

Important features of Thanksgiving parades are enormous floats, scenes from Broadway plays or TV shows, gigantic balloons of cartoon characters, and marching bands. The parade ends with Santa Claus’s image passing by the crowds. The Thanksgiving Day parade tradition is meant to celebrate Thanksgiving and American traditions and call forth the next holiday, Christmas.
Football is an important part of American life. Since 1916, when the Rose Bowl game became a famous annual event, football has developed a national following of dedicated fans. Visitors to the United States can watch a game to see for themselves the spirit and enthusiasm Americans feel for this sport. Football is the most popular spectator sport in the United States. The Gallup Poll has reported football to be America's favorite sport every year since 1972.

Professional football developed in small towns of Pennsylvania and the Midwest. The National Football League (NFL), founded in Canton, Ohio, is the largest professional American football league and consists of thirty-two American teams.

The Super Bowl is the biggest event in the football season. The first Super Bowl was played in 1967. On Super Bowl Sunday people of all ages gather for large parties in celebration of the big game. There is a noticeable lack of traffic on the roads as almost everyone is at home watching the game on TV. Traditional food at Super Bowl parties consists of beer, pizza, barbecue, and chips and dip. Super Bowl Sunday is the second-largest U.S. food consumption day, following Thanksgiving.

Tailgate parties are another tradition associated with football. Some consider the tailgate party as much or more fun than the actual game. Tailgating is a pre-game party that takes place in the parking lot or stadium where the game is held. The food is served and the party is held on and around the open tailgate of a vehicle. People still participate even if their vehicles do not have tailgates. Tailgate parties range from full kitchens set up in motor homes to pick-up trucks with hibachi grills to lawn chairs set around a cooler full of beer.
The halftime show is a very popular and important element of an American football game. During the interval between the second and third quarters, 20 minutes of entertainment is presented on the football field. A halftime show can consist of performances by cheerleaders, dance teams, marching bands, or an assortment of other performances. At high school and most college games, the bands of the two competing teams perform at halftime. For the Super Bowl game, an elaborate show involving famous musicians, dancers, fireworks and special effects is customary. The halftime show for the Super Bowl is a highlight of the event and can cost millions to create.

Football and cheerleading go hand in hand. Cheerleading first started at Princeton University in the 1880s. Surprisingly, cheerleading started as an all-male activity as a way to encourage school spirit at football games. Females started to participate in cheerleading in the 1920s. Today 97% of cheerleaders are female. In the 1960s, NFL teams began to organize professional cheerleading teams. The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders gained the spotlight with their revealing outfits and sophisticated dance moves first seen at the 1976 Super Bowl. This caused the image of cheerleaders to permanently change, as many other teams began to copy them. The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders are one of the most famous cheerleading teams in the world.

Marching bands are part of every football game. At college football games they play the college fight songs. College fight songs are songs written specifically for that college team. In professional and amateur sports, fight songs are a popular way for fans to cheer for their team. Fight songs are a time-honored tradition. In singing a fight song, fans feel like they are part of the team.

The true spirit of a football game can only be felt by attending a live game. Whether it’s a high school, college or professional game, you will feel part of this American tradition and part of America’s favorite sport—football!
The National Pastime

Baseball is one of America’s most beloved traditions. Since 1856, The United States has called baseball its “national pastime.”

Baseball appeals to a wide age range—from children just learning how to catch a ball to lifelong fans of the game. Strong ties unite Americans and baseball. Rituals and customs have developed from America’s personal connection to the game, from eating hot dogs, peanuts, and Cracker Jacks to chants and cheers in the stadium.

At the ballpark, many bring their own gloves and hope to catch foul balls. Some fans wear team jerseys with pride for their favorite player. Away from the stadium, the traditions continue by trading baseball cards, collecting autographs, and joining fan clubs.

American major league baseball is broken up into two leagues, the American League and the National League. The baseball season is 162 games, played from April through September. The best teams in these 162 games advance to the post-season. The post-season begins the first week in October with the division championship series. The first team to win three games advances to the next round of the playoffs. The first team in each league to win four games is declared league champion, and advances to the World Series for the chance to become world champion. Called the Fall Classic, the World Series is the grand finale of the sport’s postseason and takes place in October. The first World Series was held between Boston of the American League and Pittsburgh of the National League in 1903.

Baseball is more than just a game. It is part of American culture and a common social ground between strangers. At baseball games all across the nation the love for this sport turns strangers into friends. Baseball is an American tradition rich in legends and history.
Famous Names in Baseball

Babe Ruth is regarded by many historians and fans as the greatest baseball player of all time. He was the first player ever to hit 60 home runs in a season and the only player to hit 3 home runs twice in a World Series game.

Hank Aaron played from 1954 to 1976. He is best known for breaking Babe Ruth’s long-standing record of 714 home runs in a career with his own record of 755. He is regarded by many as the greatest hitter of all time. He is the first player to reach 3,000 hits and 500 home runs and the only player to hit at least 30 home runs in 15 seasons.

In 1998 Mark McGuire and Sammy Sosa battled it out for most home runs in a season with McGuire winning with 69 to Sosa’s 66.

In 2001 Barry Bonds hit the most home runs in one season with 73 home runs. On August 7, 2007, Bonds hit his 756th home run, breaking the record held for 33 years by Hank Aaron.

Baseball Lingo

Another tradition associated with baseball is the language of baseball. Paul Dickson says in his introduction to The New Dickson Baseball Dictionary, “The influence of baseball on American English is stunning and strong. No other sport has contributed so richly to American English as baseball.”

Listed below are some American idioms that derived from baseball lingo. They have dual meanings, phrases used in and out of the game.

1. curveball — A surprise. “She really threw me a curveball.” The curveball is a pitch in baseball designed to fool the batter.
2. drop the ball — To fail in one’s responsibilities, make an error, or miss an opportunity.
3. play ball — To get going, or to start. Before every baseball game, the umpire shouts “play ball” to start the game.
4. cover one’s bases; cover all the bases — Ensure safety. In baseball, a player covers a base by standing close to it.
many: muchos
symbolizes/to symbolize: simboliza/
simbolizar
freedom: libertad
pride: orgullo
country: país
public: público
government: gobierno
take/to take: toman/tomar
seriously: seriamente, con seriedad
laws: leyes
regulations: reglamentos
amended/to amend: enmendadas/
enmendar
documented/to document: 
documentadas/documentar
rules: reglas
customs: costumbres
etiquette: etiqueta
set forth/to set forth: expuestas/exponer
pertaining to: referente a
display: exposición
included: incluidas
cover: cubrir
ceilings: techos
folded: doblada
write: escribir
ships: barcos
lower: bajar
slightly: ligeramente
greeting/to greet: saludan/saludar
each other: el uno al otro
otherwise: de otra forma
customary: costumbre
fly:izar
daily: diariamente
meant/to mean: significa/significar
demonstrate: demostrar
loyalty: lealtad
honors/to honor: honra/honrar
served/to serve: sirvieron/servir
wars: guerras
died/to die: murieron/morir
also called: también llamada
pieces: piezas
fabric: tela
needed/to need: necesitan/necesitar
to complete: para completar
alternating: alternadas
stripes: rayas
stars: estrellas
background: fondo
represent/to represent: representan/
representar
states of the Union: estados de la
Unión
seamstress: costurera
credited/to credit: atribuye/atribuir
sewed/to sew: cosió/coser

The American Flag

For many Americans the American flag symbolizes freedom and pride in their country. The American public and the American government take the flag very seriously.

National flag laws and regulations were amended and documented in 1976. Rules, customs and etiquette were set forth pertaining to the display and use of the flag. Included in the regulations are such rules as the national flag cannot cover a monument or any ceilings. It must not be folded while being displayed. No one should write on an American flag. Ships can lower their flags slightly in greeting each other, but otherwise should not be lowered for any other object or person.

It is customary to fly the flag on national holidays, and many people fly the flag daily from their homes. Flying the flag is meant to demonstrate patriotism and loyalty to the United States. The flag flown on Memorial Day and Veterans Day honors the men and women who served in wars and in honor of those who died during war.

Also called “Stars and Stripes,” or “Old Glory,” the American flag is one of the most complicated flags in the world. Sixty four pieces of fabric are needed to complete its construction. The flag has 13 red and white alternating stripes and 50 stars on a blue background. The stripes represent the original 13 states of the Union. The 50 stars represent each of 50 US states. Betsy Ross, who was a seamstress, is credited as the American woman who sewed the first American flag.
In 1949, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day. Flag Day celebrates the adoption of the flag of the United States. The President announces the commemoration each year, and encourages all Americans to display the flag. Individual states determine how they will observe the day. Pennsylvania is the only state that declares Flag Day a public holiday.

The Pledge of Allegiance is an oath of allegiance to the United States as represented by its national flag. It is regularly recited at public events, and public school children across the nation recite The Pledge of Allegiance in front of the flag every morning.

The Pledge of Allegiance was written by author and Baptist minister Francis Bellamy. It appeared in the popular children’s magazine Youth’s Companion in 1892. The owners of Youth’s Companion were selling flags to schools, and asked Bellamy to write something for their advertising campaign. The Pledge was published in the September 8th issue. A few changes were made to the pledge over the years. The current Pledge of Allegiance reads: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

During the War of 1812 lawyer Francis Scott Key was transporting a prisoner abroad a ship when he saw an American flag flying in Baltimore Harbor. The flag inspired him to write a poem. This poem is the Star Spangled Banner, the national anthem of the United States. The actual flag that inspired the song now hangs in the Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. “The Star-Spangled Banner” was officially made the national anthem by Congress in 1931.

The “Star-Spangled Banner” is sung at large public gatherings and at sporting events. When the song is performed in public, it is customary for American citizens to stand and face the flag while placing their right hands over their hearts. This formality also applies to the Pledge of Allegiance. Men are encouraged to remove their hats during the performance.
In the evening of October 31st if you take a walk down a neighborhood street you might see pirates, ghosts, princesses and witches! But don’t be alarmed, these “ghosts” are costumed children knocking on their neighbors’ doors. When the door opens the children hold out a bag and yell, “Trick or Treat.” They are hoping their bags will be full of candy by the end of the night. Halloween is a popular holiday in the United States for young and old alike.

Halloween parties or masquerade parties for adults are common. At children's parties traditional games are played. One of the most popular games is “bobbing for apples.” One child at a time has to get apples from a tub of water without using hands. They do this by sinking their face into the water and attempting to bite the apple. Typical homemade Halloween treats include dried pumpkin seeds, caramel apples and popcorn balls.

Halloween started as a celebration connected with ghosts and evil spirits. Witches flying on broomsticks, black cats, ghosts, goblins and skeletons have since evolved as symbols of Halloween. Black and orange are the traditional Halloween colors. In the weeks before October 31, Americans decorate windows of houses and schools with silhouettes of the various Halloween symbols. Pumpkins are another main symbol of Halloween. Carving pumpkins into “jack-o-lanterns” is a Halloween custom that came from Ireland. Today jack-o’-lanterns in the windows of a house on Halloween night let children know that there are goodies waiting if they knock and say “Trick or Treat!”
Remembrance and Honor

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is observed on the last Monday in May. Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who were killed in war defending the United States.

Waterloo, N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day. However it’s difficult to confirm the exact origins of the day. Most people agree that it is not important where or when it first started. What is important is that Memorial Day was established. Memorial Day is about coming together to honor those who gave their lives for their country. The day is celebrated with parades, memorial speeches and ceremonies, and the decoration of graves with flowers and flags. On Memorial Day, the President or Vice President gives a speech and lays a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day. It is observed either on November 11th or on the fourth Monday of October. Veterans Day honors the men and women who served during wars with the U.S. armed forces. On November 11, 1918, a treaty was signed bringing World War I to an end. November 11, 1919 was set aside as Armistice Day in the United States, to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during World War I. In 1954 the holiday was changed to Veterans Day and declared a National holiday.

Americans still give thanks for peace on Veterans Day. There are ceremonies and speeches and, in some towns, parades. Throughout the day, many Americans observe a moment of silence, remembering those who fought for peace.

American Veterans have established support groups such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. These groups sell paper poppies made by disabled veterans to raise funds for their charitable activities. The poppy is a bright red flower that became a symbol of World War I after a bloody battle took place in a field of poppies in Belgium.
Test Your Comprehension

Choices in Education, page 44

1. ¿Hasta qué edad debe asistir a la escuela la gente en los Estados Unidos?

2. Los Estados Unidos proveen educación gratis en los tres primeros niveles escolares. ¿Cuáles son esos niveles?

3. La educación terciaria se conoce como “college” o universidad. ¿De cuántos años consiste?

April Fools!, page 49

1. ¿Qué día de abril es el “Día de los Inocentes”?

2. Según lo que sabemos, ¿en qué país comenzó esta tradición?

3. ¿Qué pasa en el “Día de los Inocentes”?

Traditions for the New Year, page 46

1. ¿Cuándo comienzan las celebraciones de Año Nuevo?

2. ¿Qué ciudad recibe el Año Nuevo con una pelota iluminada descendiendo mientras la multitud cuenta en forma regresiva?

3. ¿Qué partido de fútbol americano se mira en el día de Año Nuevo en los Estados Unidos?

An American Christmas, page 50

1. Menciona algunos de los países europeos que trajeron la celebración de Navidad a los Estados Unidos.

2. ¿Cuál es una bebida festiva popular?
Examina tu comprensión

**Giving Thanks, page 52**

1. ¿Cuándo se observa el Día de Acción de Gracias en los Estados Unidos?
2. ¿Quiénes fueron invitados al primer Día de Acción de Gracias en 1621?

**America’s Favorite Sport, page 54**

1. El fútbol americano se convirtió en una parte importante de la vida estadounidense en 1916 cuando un famoso evento anual se desarrolló. ¿Cuál fue el evento?
2. ¿Dónde se fundó la Liga Nacional de Fútbol Americano?
3. ¿Cuáles son las animadoras más famosas?

**The National Pastime, page 56**

1. ¿Qué rituales y costumbres se han desarrollado a partir de la conexión de Estados Unidos con el béisbol?
2. ¿Qué gran jugador de béisbol fue el primero en conseguir 60 jonrones en una temporada?

**The American Flag, page 58**

1. ¿Qué simboliza la bandera estadounidense?
2. ¿Quién escribió el “Juramento de Lealtad”?

**Remembrance and Honor, page 61**

1. ¿Cómo se llamaba el Día de los Caídos originalmente?
2. ¿Por qué se celebra el Día de los Caídos?
The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate.

Oprah Winfrey
Celebration
Irish immigrants brought the tradition of celebrating Saint Patrick’s Day to the United States. The first U.S. celebration of Saint Patrick’s Day took place in 1737 in Boston, Massachusetts. During this first celebration, The Irish Society of Boston organized the first Saint Patrick’s Day Parade on March 17.

Today, Americans of all ethnicities celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day on March 17. Many people wear green-colored clothing or pin a shamrock to their shirt. Traditionally, those who are caught not wearing green on Saint Patrick’s Day are pinched. The most common traditions on Saint Patrick’s Day include enjoying Irish folk music and food, and consuming large quantities of Irish beer, often dyed green.

Parades are a big part of the Saint Patrick’s Day celebration. The New York parade has become the largest Saint Patrick’s Day parade in the world.

The city of Chicago has a very unique Saint Patrick’s Day tradition of coloring the river water green. This tradition started in 1962 when 100 pounds of green vegetable dye were added to the river, and the river water stayed green for a week. The tradition still continues today!

Irish-American heritage has become an important part of American culture. Saint Patrick’s Day celebrations in the United States are a wonderful way for people to honor Irish heritage and celebrate its rich culture and traditions.
Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day, February 2nd, is a whimsical holiday in the United States. It is the day that the groundhog comes out of his hole after a long winter sleep to look for his shadow.

If he sees his shadow, he regards it as an omen of six more weeks of bad weather and returns to his hole.

If the day is cloudy and he doesn’t see his shadow, he takes it as a sign of spring and stays above ground.

The first official Groundhog Day was announced on February 2, 1886 in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, with a proclamation by the newspaper’s editor, Clymer Freas: “Today is Groundhog Day and up to the time of going to press the beast has not seen its shadow.”

The legendary first Groundhog Day celebration was made the following year by a group of spirited groundhog hunters who called themselves “The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club.” Clymer, a member of the club, used his editorial clout to name the one and only official weather predicting groundhog, Phil, the Punxsutawney groundhog.

Today a trip to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Day celebration is a weekend of action-packed events including trivia contests, dances, Groundhog Day weddings, music, food, fun and games. If you happen to be celebrating a birthday on February 2nd, then you are invited to join others who share the special day with Phil the groundhog and receive a free souvenir.
A powwow is a gathering of North America’s indigenous people. The word powwow is derived from a term which referred to a gathering of medicine men and spiritual leaders. The powwow is North America’s oldest public festival. Native Americans have celebrated with seasonal ceremonies of feasting, dancing, singing and drumming. Originally powwows were planned around seasonal changes, but as non-Native people interacted with the Native, customs were altered.

Typically, a powwow consists of people meeting to dance, sing and socialize. Native American and non-Native American alike are invited to attend. A powwow always begins with the grand entry of the eagle feather standard. All spectators remove their hats and stand as a sign of respect. The standard is followed by the tribal chiefs and the esteemed village elders, then by a procession of all of the dancers until the entire arena is filled with Indian dancers adorned in colorful and elaborate costumes.

The annual Denver Powwow in March begins the season of pow-wows. In 1990, it attracted thirty-thousand people, half of whom were not Native Americans. In the Denver Coliseum different tribes sing songs that have been passed down for thousands of years. They are accompanied by the beat of a large drum, played by five to ten drummers. Dancers of different tribes show their skills. Dancers with fancy shawls look like delicate flying birds as they raise their cloth-covered arms to the beat of the drums. Grass dancers wear costumes of brightly-colored yarn.
Native American culture comes alive at the Gathering of Nations powwow in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Over 3,000 Native American dancers and singers representing more than 500 tribes from Canada and the United States gather together in April at North America’s biggest powwow. The Indian Traders Market is also part of the celebration and offers a very special shopping experience and exhibition of Native American artifacts. Over 800 artists, crafters, and traders place their wares on display and for sale.

One of the longest-running contest powwows in the country is held each year in North Dakota. The United Tribes International Powwow typically attracts 800 dancers, more than two dozen drum groups, and over 15,000 spectators. Held annually since 1969, the four-day event is a large outdoor powwow that takes place at the end of the summer season.

Powwows mean different things to different people. They are still religious or war celebrations, but themes and goals have changed with the times. Now instead of giving thanks to their gods for a war victory, Indians honor those of their tribes who have served in the American armed forces. Young people return from the bigger cities to learn traditional dances and songs in order to keep their heritage alive. People who are not Native Americans are encouraged to participate in the activities. One thing is obvious at every powwow: they are true community events. The tribal elders are always held in high esteem and the children are cherished. Family, tribe and friendship are extolled. Everyone is welcomed in a spirit of peace and friendship.
In addition to the traditional holidays celebrated in the United States, regional holidays have originated from the seasons, geography and climate of the different parts of the country.

In the northeastern states, the main attractions are festivals that welcome the arrival of autumn and the leaves changing colors. As the leaves on the trees begin to turn red, orange and yellow people come from all over the U.S. to see the spectacular and colorful foliage. Warner, New Hampshire holds a Fall Foliage Festival which offers a wood-chopping contest and an auction. Vermont welcomes tourists who drive along the scenic mountain roads to view the impressive colors of the leaves.

The leaves turn color later in Bedford, Pennsylvania. In October the townspeople celebrate the fall foliage by demonstrating ways of cooking that have been handed down to them by their ancestors.

Winters are long and cold in many midwestern states, so winter festivals have become events for people to get out of the house and socialize. In St. Paul, Minnesota, the Winter Carnival hosts ice skating shows, ice fishing competitions and snowmobile races. In Houghton Lake, Michigan, a winter festival called Tip-Up-Town USA offers a contest for the best sculpture carved in ice.
In Washington, spring is welcomed in with a Daffodil Festival. A parade of floats rides through town made from these brilliant yellow flowers. Oregon boasts a rose festival in Portland, where bands play music in a parade of flowers and floats. Aspen, Colorado holds an annual summer Music Festival where musicians of classical and contemporary music perform and teach classes. Santa Barbara, California pays tribute to the early settlers who came from Spain by performing historical plays during the Old Spanish Days in August.

Spring in the southwest finds the townspeople of Okene, Oklahoma catching snakes in the Rattlesnake Roundup. In Houston, Texans come to the Astrodome to see cowboys ride horses and rope cattle during the Livestock Show and Rodeo. Visitors watch the Hopi Indians carry on their strong tradition of rain dancing, a combination of dancing and prayer to invoke rain in a hot, dry August.

Alaska and Hawaii have climates different from each other and the rest of the country. Nome, Alaska has daylight almost twenty-four hours a day in June, so midnight baseball games and raft races are the main events in the Midnight Sun Festival. In Kodiak, a King Crab Festival is held in May during crab harvesting season. Hawaii is warm year round, and flower and sun festivals were held there even before it became a state.

These are a small representation of the hundreds of holidays and celebrations observed throughout the United States. Each state has its own individual history and people, and the right to celebrate its own tradition. But one thing is certain—all Americans welcome you to celebrate with them!
Flavor of America

From Maine lobsters to the potatoes of Idaho, America’s regional food specialities are always worth celebrating. Big and small towns across America hold cooking competitions and celebrations of all types with one thing in common—food! Enjoy the flavor of America as you read about a few of the craziest and tastiest food celebrations throughout the United States.

AVOCADO FESTIVAL

Over 2000 avocados are used to create this phenomenon that feeds a crowd of 12,000 hungry people. Started in 1987 because Santa Barbara County is the third-largest avocado producer in the country, the Avocado Festival is free for all to enter. There is a competition for the best guacamole and various other recipes, including avocado ice cream! There’s also a photography contest and pop art show, where anything made with an avocado goes.

WHOLE ENCHILADA FIESTA

The city of Las Cruces, New Mexico celebrates its heritage every year when local chef Roberto Estrada cooks (with the help of eleven sous chefs) the world’s largest enchilada. The enchilada measures over 30 feet in diameter. The ingredients are: 750 pounds of stone-ground corn, 175 gallons of vegetable oil, 75 gallons of red chili sauce, 50 pounds of chopped onions, and 175 pounds of grated cheese. Every year since 1980, over 70,000 hungry people have polished off the whole enchilada over the 3-day event. Cold beer and mariachi music make the event complete.
THE CRAWFISH CAPITAL OF THE WORLD
Celebrate **crawfish** in the crawfish capital of the world: Bayou Teche, Louisiana. Since 1959, the **first weekend** in May **brings** people, **crazy about** crawfish, **together to join** in the festivities. Enjoy crawfish **served any way** you can **imagine**: boiled, fried, etouffée, hot dogs, jambalaya, pies, bisque, gumbo, and the **list goes on**. Make sure you **stick around** for the crawfish **races** and the crawfish **eating contest**. The **winning crustacean** of the race is always **mounted** and **framed** for posterity. Other popular activities during this event include cooking contests, **fiddle** and **accordion** music, a dance contest, and the **crowning** of the Crawfish **Queen** and **King**.

NAPA VALLEY MUSTARD FESTIVAL
Napa Valley is a **wonderful place to visit** and wine tasting **feels like** a celebration any time of year! The months of February and March are an **especially lovely time** to visit **to partake in** the celebrations **surrounding** the Napa Valley Mustard Festival. Fields, vineyards, and hillsides vibrant with **wild** mustard in **bloom** provide a **breathtaking backdrop** during this event. If you have **never experienced** the Mustard Festival **you are in for a visual and culinary treat**.

SAY CHEESE!
Each year the town of Little Chute, Wisconsin celebrates the great Wisconsin Cheese Festival **to honor** one of their **largest exports**—cheese. The town **may be little** but its cheese production is **huge**, producing **two billion** pounds, or 25% of the **nation’s** cheese per year.

The Great Wisconsin Cheese Festival is a three-day event the first weekend in June. The festival is a **family event** that **features** music, the Big Cheese parade, cheese tasting, a cheese **carving** demonstration, a cheese eating contest, **games** and entertainment.
In 1962 Gaylord Nelson, a United States senator from Wisconsin, became concerned about the state of the environment. Over the next eight years he turned his concerns into a solution and called for an environmental teach-in, or Earth Day, to be held on April 22, 1970. He wrote letters to all of the colleges and newspapers urging people to join together on this special day to teach everyone about the things that needed changing in our environment. Over 20 million people participated that year, and Earth Day is now observed each year on April 22.

Earth Day became very popular in the United States and later around the world. The first Earth Day had participants and celebrants in two thousand colleges and universities, ten thousand primary and secondary schools, and hundreds of communities across the United States. The focus of the first Earth Day was to "bring together Americans out into the spring sunshine for peaceful demonstrations in favor of environmental reform."

Earth Day is now celebrated in communities worldwide. Celebrations include educational fairs and festivals that promote environmental awareness. People gather together to plant trees and participate in beach and river cleanups.

Many important laws were passed by the Congress thanks to continued efforts of the 1970 Earth Day. These significant laws include the Clean Air Act, laws to protect drinking water and the ocean, and the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The Earth Day Network reports that Earth Day is now the largest secular holiday in the world, celebrated by more than a half billion people every year.
Parents Appreciation Day

On the second Sunday in May, Americans of all ages treat their mothers to something special. It is the one day out of the year when children, young and old, express how much they appreciate their mothers.

Celebrating Mother’s Day is a tradition that came from England and became an official holiday in the US in 1915.

On Mother’s Day morning some American children follow the tradition of serving their mothers breakfast in bed. Other children will give their mothers gifts which they have made themselves or bought in stores. Adults give their mothers red carnations, the official Mother’s Day flower. If their mothers are deceased they may bring white carnations to their grave sites. This is the busiest day of the year for American restaurants. On her special day, family members do not want Mom to cook dinner.

The United States is one of the few countries in the world that has an official day on which fathers are honored by their children. On the third Sunday in June, fathers all across the United States are given presents, treated to dinner or otherwise made to feel special.

The origin of Father’s Day is not clear. Some say that it began with a church service in West Virginia in 1908. Others say the first Father’s Day ceremony was held in Vancouver, Washington.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson approved of this idea, but it was not until 1924 when President Calvin Coolidge made it a national event to “establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations.” Since then, fathers had been honored and recognized by their families throughout the country on the third Sunday in June.
The **French expression** ‘Mardi Gras’ **literally translates to** ‘Fat Tuesday’. It was called this **because of the feasting** that **took place** on this day. It is a celebration that is held **just before** the **beginning** of the Christian liturgical season of **Lent**.

By far the largest, most **lavish** Mardi Gras celebration in the U.S. is in New Orleans, Louisiana. Mardi Gras has been celebrated in New Orleans **since as early as** the 1700s. Festivities included **masked balls** and **bawdy street processions**, which by 1806 **had become so rowdy** that they were **forbidden**. In 1817 it became illegal **to wear** masks. These **laws** were **more or less ignored**. Both the festivities and masks became legal again by 1827, when New Orleans came under American control.

French **royals**, **feather-covered showgirls**, **painted clowns**, masked **lions**—**you can find** them all in the **streets** of New Orleans at Mardi Gras. By **dawn** on that most famous Tuesday, people have **claimed** the **best spots** on the streets **to watch** fabulous **floats**, outrageous **performers**, and **visiting celebrities** go by. Many **travel hundreds of miles** to be a part of the excitement.

**Marching bands**, some of them **founded** more than a **century ago**, also **take to the streets** with music and festive **dress**. They **open** the day by **spreading** jazz music through the city before more than 350 **floats** and 15,000 **costumed** people **take over** the **scene**. Crazy costumes and **wild make-up** are the **order of the day**.
KREWES: NEW ORLEANS ROYALTY

Mardi Gras has long combined wild street activities open to everyone with events organized by private clubs known as krewes. Today, thousands of people belong to about 60 krewes that plan the parades and balls of New Orleans’ Mardi Gras. The oldest krewe, the Krewe of Comus, was founded in 1857 by men who feared the outrageous antics of Mardi Gras would lead to the holiday being outlawed. They hoped that secret societies could keep the celebrations alive.

In 1872 the Russian grand duke Alexis Romanoff visited New Orleans at Mardi Gras. A group of businessmen organized the Krewe of Rex to host a parade for the occasion, and appointed a “king for the day” so that the grand duke could have a royal reception. Naming kings and queens at Mardi Gras balls has been a tradition of the krewes ever since. Today, the Rex parade is the main event on Mardi Gras. The King of Rex is the King of Carnival.

CATCHING BEADS

The millions of colorful beaded necklaces thrown from floats are the most visible symbols and souvenirs of Mardi Gras. In addition, millions of cups and toy coins known as “doubloons” are decorated with krewe logos and thrown to parade-watchers. Some “throws” are especially prized and people do outrageous things to catch the most goodies. Some dress their children in eye-catching costumes and seat them on ladders that tower over the crowds. Others give up on the costume altogether, finding that the tradition of taking clothes off can be the quickest attention-getter!
People in the United States celebrate Easter according to their personal and religious beliefs. Christians commemorate Good Friday as the day that Jesus Christ died and Easter Sunday as the day that he was resurrected. Protestant settlers brought the custom of a sunrise service, a religious gathering at dawn, to the United States. All, in some way or another, are a salute to spring, marking re-birth.

On Easter Sunday children wake up to find that the Easter Bunny has left them baskets of candy. Children hunt for eggs around the house that they decorated earlier that week. Neighborhoods hold Easter egg hunts. The child who finds the most eggs wins a prize.

Traditionally, many celebrants bought new clothes for Easter which they wore to church. After church services, everyone went for a walk around the town. This led to the American custom of Easter parades all over the country.

In the early nineteenth century, Dolly Madison, the wife of the fourth American President, organized an Easter egg roll in Washington, D.C. She had been told that Egyptian children used to roll eggs against the pyramids so she invited the children of Washington to roll hard-boiled eggs down the lawn of the new Capitol building! The event has grown, and today Easter Monday is the only day of the year when tourists are allowed on the White House lawn. The egg-rolling event is open to children twelve years old and under. Adults are allowed only when accompanied by children.
Celebrating Workers

Every year, on the first Monday in September, Labor Day commemorates workers in America. The timing of the holiday makes it an ideal bridge between summer vacations and the autumn season and new school year. It is a federal holiday and all banks, schools, post offices and government offices are closed on Labor Day throughout the country.

First celebrated in New York City in 1882 with a parade of 10,000 workers, Labor Day was made a legal holiday in all states in 1894 under President Grover Cleveland. Although the U.S. government was encouraged to change the date and adopt May 1st along with the majority of the world, the September date stuck, and remains to this day.

It is now celebrated mainly as a day of rest and even more so as the unofficial end of the summer season. Popular resort areas are packed with people enjoying one last three-day weekend of summer vacation.

Forms of celebration include picnics, barbecues, fireworks, and camping. Families with school-age children take it as the last weekend to travel before the school year begins.

Leaders of the American Federation of Labor called the day a national tribute to the huge contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of the United States. The principles behind this holiday are as important today as they were 112 years ago, as we continue to honor the workers of America’s past, present and future.
Shakespeare Festivals

William Shakespeare was an English poet and playwright. He is widely regarded as the greatest writer of the English language and as the world’s preeminent dramatist. He wrote approximately 38 plays and 154 sonnets, as well as a variety of other poems.

In the United States, small and large communities celebrate the works of Shakespeare through festivals. Both profit and non-profit groups strive to provide playgoers a stimulating festival atmosphere where they can watch, participate in, and become immersed in experiences that entertain, enrich, and educate.

The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival brings Shakespeare's greatest works to over 30,000 people in the Bay Area each summer with Free Shakespeare in the Park.

Free Shakespeare in the Park has become a welcome tradition in the Bay Area, bringing professional, free performances of Shakespeare’s greatest works to diverse audiences for over 20 years.

In addition, each year The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival reaches a new audience of over 120,000 kids throughout the state with unique arts education programs—Shakespeare on Tour, Midnight Shakespeare, and Bay Area Shakespeare Camps.

Non-profit groups rely on the kind assistance of friends and supporters who share a belief that the power and beauty of William Shakespeare’s work should be accessible to everyone.
Martin Luther King Day

All through the 1980s, controversy surrounded the idea of a Martin Luther King Day. Members of Congress and citizens had petitioned the President to make January 15, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, a federal holiday. Others wanted to make the holiday on the day he died, while some people did not want to have any holiday at all.

On Monday, January 20, 1986, in cities and towns across the country people celebrated the first official Martin Luther King Day. It is the only federal holiday commemorating an African-American. A ceremony which took place at an old railroad depot in Atlanta, Georgia was especially emotional. Hundreds had gathered to sing and to march. Many were the same people who, in 1965, had marched for fifty miles between two cities in the state of Alabama to protest segregation and discrimination of black Americans.

Today, Martin Luther King Day is observed on the third Monday of January each year, around the time of King’s birthday, January 15. Schools, offices and federal agencies are closed for the holiday. On this Monday there are quiet memorial services as well as elaborate ceremonies and parades in honor of Dr. King. Speeches are given reminding everyone of Dr. King’s lifelong work for peace.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is not only for celebration and remembrance, education and tribute, but also a day of service. All across America people perform service in hospitals and shelters and prisons and wherever people need some help. It is a day of volunteering to feed the hungry, rehabilitate housing, tutor those who can’t read, and a thousand other projects for building the beloved community of Martin Luther King’s dream.
Ethnic Celebrations

Various ethnic groups in America celebrate days that carry special meaning for them. Jews, for example, observe their high holy days in autumn, and most employers show consideration by allowing them to take these days off. Irish Americans celebrate the patron saint, Saint Patrick, on March 17. In May, the townspeople of Holland, Michigan celebrate their Dutch ancestry through a yearly Tulip Festival. Folk fairs in the American Midwest offer foods of ethnic diversity, because people of so many different nationalities have settled there. Many different ethnic celebrations take place, at different times, all across the United States.

In January and February large crowds gather in the narrow streets of Chinatown in New York, San Francisco, and other cities where Chinese have settled, to celebrate Chinese New Year. A huge cloth dragon sways back and forth through the streets. Following the dragon are people playing drums and dancers carrying paper lion heads on sticks. As they dance, store and business owners come outside to give them money. New Year is the most important holiday in China, and Chinese people all over the world actively observe it.

For over 700 years Portuguese people have celebrated the Feast of the Holy Spirit. In San Diego, this is the oldest ethnic religious celebration, dating back to the time when the first families settled here in 1884. This 3-day event is San Diego’s oldest festival and is hosted by the Portuguese community. The celebration includes traditional music and dancing, and food and games for adults and children. The festival is held each year on Pentecost Sunday, seven weeks after Easter. It honors Queen Isabel, the Portuguese royal who was known for serving the poor and feeding the hungry with bread from her own table.
The festival begins with an elaborate parade. Girls wear crowns and Renaissance-style gowns to symbolize Queen Isabel, while the boys escorting them wear tuxedos. The finely dressed kings and queens march to St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church, where the new queen is crowned. The crown is the same one used since the first festival in 1910.

On May 5, Los Angeles, California is alive with color, laughter and dancing. More than 500,000 Mexicans and Americans of Mexican origin are celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

The celebration takes place in the streets outside City Hall where Mexican orchestras and local bands play Mexican patriotic songs. The streets are colored in red, white and green - the colors of the Mexican flag. Young boys are proud to be seen in Mexican clothing and girls wear red and green ruffled dresses with wide skirts. Famous musicians play popular tunes on their guitars while dancers spin around and click their castanets.

A temporary stage at the steps of City Hall is decorated with a picture of General Zaragoza, flanked by Mexican and American flags. Mexican dignitaries are guests of honor, pleased to hear the mayor of Los Angeles making a speech in Spanish. Later, celebrants stroll through the streets to the old section of the city. Others go to city parks where sports events, dances and picnics featuring Mexican food are taking place.

It is an occasion which Mexicans and Americans share to emphasize the friendship between their two countries.
Test Your Comprehension

Luck of the Irish, page 66

1. ¿Cuándo y dónde tuvieron lugar las primeras celebraciones estadounidenses del Día de San Patricio?

2. ¿Qué le pasa a la gente que es sorprendida sin estar usando verde en el Día de San Patricio?

Seasonal Celebrations, page 70

1. ¿Cuáles son los principales festivales de otoño en la región noreste?

2. En el Lago Houghton, Michigan, un festival de invierno ofrece un concurso ¿para qué cosa?

3. La primavera en el suroeste encuentra a los ciudadanos de Okeene, Oklahoma, ¿haciendo qué cosa?

Flavor of America, page 72

1. ¿Qué les pasa a los crustáceos que ganan en la carrera de cangrejos?

2. ¿Dónde encontrarás la enchilada más grande del mundo?

3. ¿Cuánto queso se produce cada año en Little Chute, Wisconsin?

Powwows, page 68

1. La palabra powwow se deriva de un término que se refiere ¿a qué cosa?

2. Típicamente, ¿en qué consiste un powwow?

3. ¿Verdadero o Falso? A la gente que no es Nativa Americana no se le permite participar en las actividades de un powwow.
Examina tu comprensión

Parents Appreciation Day, page 75

1. ¿Cuál es la flor oficial del Día de la Madre?

2. ¿Cuál es el origen del Día del Padre?

Shakespeare Festivals, page 80

1. ¿Quién era William Shakespeare?

2. ¿Qué es Shakespeare en el Parque?

3. ¿Cómo es posible que los grupos sin fines de lucro sean capaces de presentar obras de Shakespeare?

Celebrating the Worker, page 79

1. ¿Cuándo es el Día del Trabajo?

2. ¿Cuándo y dónde se celebró el Día del Trabajo por primera vez? ¿Cuándo fue legalizado como día festivo en todos los estados?

3. El Día del Trabajo se celebra en forma no oficial como el fin ¿de qué cosa?
Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all!
By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall.

John Dickinson
People
Meriwether Lewis and William Clark are best known for their expedition from the Mississippi River to the West Coast and back. The expedition, called the Corps of Discovery, was President Thomas Jefferson’s visionary project to explore the American West. It began in May of 1804 and ended in September 1806. The expedition traveled over 8,000 total miles over a period of 2 years, 4 months and 10 days.

The main achievements of the expedition include:

- The U.S. gained extensive knowledge of the geography of the American West in the form of maps of major rivers and mountain ranges.
- 178 plants and 122 species of animals were discovered and described.
- Diplomatic relations and communications with the Indians were opened.
- A precedent for Army exploration of the West was established.
- The U.S. claim to Oregon Territory was strengthened.
- A large body of literature about the West was established: The Lewis and Clark diaries.

Sacagawea was the only woman to travel with the Corps of Discovery. Two months after the birth of her son, Sacagawea left her village to journey west with Lewis and Clark. Sacagawea is often credited as the guide who led the Corps across the plains. She contributed significantly to the success of the journey. Simply because she was a woman, Sacagawea helped with the journey. The explorers met many tribes along the way and her presence dispelled the notion that the group was a war party. William Clark wrote, “A woman with a party of men is a token of peace.”

Today, the Expedition’s path can be retraced by following the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The Trail stretches through 11 states and winds over mountains, along rivers, through plains and high deserts, and ends at the shores of the Pacific Oregon coast. Visitors to the Trail experience and learn first hand about the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
Mother of Civil Rights

Rosa Parks is called “The Mother of the Civil Rights Movement.” She is considered one of the most important citizens of the 20th century. By not giving up her seat to a white passenger on a city bus, Rosa Parks started a protest that redirected the course of history.

In the fifties, segregation laws were prevalent in the South. Black and white people were segregated in almost every aspect of daily life. Buses enforced seating policies that stated there were separate sections for blacks and whites. White people were given preferential treatment.

On December 1, 1955 Rosa Parks refused to obey bus driver James Blake and would not give up her seat to a white man. She was arrested, tried and convicted of violating a city law. Her actions prompted the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This boycott lasted for over a year and was one of the largest movements against racial segregation in history. Her actions also brought Martin Luther King, Jr. to the forefront of the civil rights movement. In 1956 the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed segregation on city buses.

For the next forty years Rosa Parks dedicated her life to civil rights and continued the fight for equal rights for all people. She received many awards, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Her role in American history earned her an iconic status in American culture.

Rosa Parks died on October 24, 2005 at age 92. Her life and the positive changes she made in America remain an inspiration to people everywhere.
The Founding Fathers of the United States, also known as the Fathers of our country, are the political leaders who signed the Declaration of Independence or the United States Constitution, and were active in the American Revolution. The American Revolution refers to the period when the original thirteen colonies gained independence from the British.

The 55 delegates who make up the Founding Fathers were a distinguished group of men who represented American leadership. Everyone in the group had extensive political experience and practiced a wide range of occupations. Some men continued on to become an important part of American history.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington is called the “Father of the nation.” His devotion and critical role in the founding of the United States earned him this title. Washington led America’s army to victory over Britain in the American Revolutionary War. In 1789 he was elected the first president of the United States. He served two four-year terms from 1789 to 1797. His dedication and honorable reputation made him an ideal figure among early American politicians.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Thomas Jefferson was an influential Founding Father for his promotion of the ideals of Republicanism in the United States. He was the third president of the United States and the principal author of the Declaration of Independence. Major events during his presidency include the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
JAMES MADISON

James Madison is also considered one of the most influential Founding Fathers. He is referred to as the “Father of the constitution” because he played a bigger role in designing the document than anyone else. In 1788, he wrote over a third of the Federalist Papers, still the most influential commentary on the Constitution. James Madison was the fourth President of the United States (1809–1817). He drafted many basic laws and was responsible for the first ten amendments to the Constitution. For this, he is also known as the “Father of the Bill of Rights.”

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Benjamin Franklin is one of the best-known Founding Fathers of the United States. He is the only Founding Father who is a signatory of all four of the major documents of the founding of the United States: the Declaration of Independence, the Treaty of Paris, the Treaty of Alliance with France, and the United States Constitution. Most people think of him primarily as a scientist. The famous kite experiment, which verified the nature of electricity, is told and retold throughout American history. It is just one of many amazing accomplishments made by Benjamin Franklin during his lifetime.

Franklin was noted for his diversity of talents. He was a leading author, politician, printer, scientist, philosopher, civic activist, and diplomat. Franklin was an extraordinary inventor. Among his many creations were the lightning rod, the glass harmonica, the Franklin stove, bifocal glasses, and swim fins.

In 1776, he was a member of the Committee of Five that drafted the Declaration of Independence, and made several small changes to Thomas Jefferson’s draft.

At the signing, he is quoted as stating: “We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.”
Pepe Stepensky, from Mexico City, has been living in San Diego for the past twenty years. He is a driving force in the San Diego Latino community as the founder and director of the award-winning theater group “Teatro Punto y Coma.” In addition to being a published author of poetry and short stories, Pepe, along with his wife Deborah, own and operate two fast food restaurants and the Cerveza Store in Seaport Village. Maximizing his bilingual talents, Pepe is a successful voice-over artist performing Hispanic characters and voiceovers for big and small companies nationwide. Deborah and Pepe have three children—Jessica 18, Alejandra 16 and Fernando 9 years old.

Think English (TE): Tell us about your journey to the United States.

Pepe Stepensky (PS): I met my wife in May of 1986 and asked her to marry me three weeks later. We got married in August of 1986 and moved to San Diego after our wedding. I was 28 years old. I had a job offer and decided to take the chance. I had one brother living here but the rest of my family, including my parents, stayed in Mexico.

TE: What were the biggest challenges for you bridging your culture with your newly adopted American culture? What was most exciting to you about bridging these cultures?

PS: I feel that the American culture is more individualist. Each one cares more for themselves. The Mexican culture is about people, friends, family. You stay at home until the day you get married. Your parents are not counting the days until you go to college so they can remodel your room! On the other hand, America is the land of opportunities. Here, the different social classes are not so far away like in Mexico. In the United States anybody can have the same things as others.
TE: How has being bilingual benefitted you?

PS: Being bilingual has opened many doors for me. Being a voiceover talent for the Hispanic market was a great adventure for me when I started almost 15 years ago.

TE: Are your children bilingual? How do you maintain and keep your Hispanic heritage alive with your children growing up in America?

PS: We are having a hard time making our kids talk to us in Spanish, but we are proud that we did it, and my kids are perfectly bilingual. The official language in our house is Spanish. Now that our first daughter is going to college, she finally thanked us because she realized how important it was to know two languages. We maintained our heritage because every summer we go to Mexico to visit uncles and grandparents and the kids were able to stay with them for a couple of weeks.

TE: What are your thoughts on the incredible growth of the Hispanic population in the US?

PS: The Hispanic market is the fastest growing market in the U.S. We can’t disregard or ignore it. We need to know about it, learn about it and work towards considering them a very important part of the American culture.

TE: What advice would you give to a fellow Hispanic American starting out in this country?

PS: Integrate. Try to understand your new country, but never forget your roots. Make sure your children know where they come from, and teach them your language.

TE: What are you most proud of as a Hispanic American?

PS: I’m proud of being binational, bilingual and bicultural. What else can I ask for? I have the best of two worlds!
Frank Lloyd Wright is considered the most influential architect of his time. He influenced the entire course of American architecture and he remains, to this day, America’s most famous architect.

Frank Lloyd Wright designed about 1,000 structures and over 400 of these were built. He described his architecture as one that “proceeds, persists, creates, according to the nature of man and his circumstances as they both change.”

As an independent architect, Wright became the leader of a style known as the prairie house. Prairie houses had sloping roofs, clean skylines and extended lines that blend into the landscape. These designs were considered to complement the land around Chicago where they were built. Wright practiced what is known as organic architecture, an architecture that is designed to naturally fit into the surroundings. Houses in wooded regions, for instance, made heavy use of wood. Desert houses made use of stone, and houses in rocky areas were built mainly of cinder block. He was also well known for making use of innovative building materials. Wright often designed furniture as well. Some of the built-in furniture remains in the houses today.

Wright built 362 houses, about 300 of which are still standing. Oak Park, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, has the largest collection of Wright houses, as well as Wright’s home and studio. Some of the houses are open for public tours. Walking tours are a wonderful way to experience Wright’s architecture and see the houses as they fit into the surrounding landscape.
Andrew Carnegie's life was a true “rags to riches” story. He was born to a poor Scottish family that immigrated to the United States. Carnegie was devoted to hard work from a young age. At age thirteen, Carnegie went to work in a cotton mill. He then moved quickly through a series of different jobs with Western Union and the Pennsylvania Railroad.

By the 1870s Carnegie had become a powerful businessman and founded the Carnegie Steel Company. By the 1890s, the company was the largest and most profitable industrial enterprise in the world. In 1901 he sold his company to JP Morgan's U.S. Steel and retired as the world's richest man. Carnegie devoted the remainder of his life to philanthropy.

Today, he is remembered as an industrialist, millionaire, and philanthropist. He believed in the “Gospel of wealth,” which meant that wealthy people were morally obligated to give their money back to others in society.

In 1902 he founded the Carnegie Institution to fund scientific research and with a $10 million donation established a pension fund for teachers.

When Carnegie was a young man he lived near Colonel James Anderson, a rich man who allowed any working boy to use his personal library for free. At that time, free public libraries did not exist. Carnegie never forgot Colonel Anderson's generosity. Carnegie used his money to support education and reading. He gave money to towns and cities to build more than 2,500 public libraries. He also gave $125 million to a foundation called the Carnegie Corporation to aid colleges and other schools.

By 1911, Carnegie had given away 90 percent of his fortune. During his lifetime, he gave away over $350 million.
Orville and Wilbur Wright are credited as the two Americans to build the world's first successful airplane. On December 17, 1903, the “Wright flyer” flew for 12 seconds and 120 feet.

The Wright brothers did not go to college; however they had intuitive scientific and technical abilities. They built their own bicycles and operated a bicycle repair and sales shop. The profits from their bicycle business funded their airplane-building venture.

The brothers flew their test planes in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. It was a small town that had steady winds. They could glide and land safely on the area's sand dunes.

The brothers continued to develop more complicated planes over the next few years. The Wright Company was formed to build and sell their airplanes.

You can see the famous airplane, the “Wright flyer,” at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

Another famous American aviator is Amelia Mary Earhart. Amelia Earhart was a renowned American aviation pioneer and women's rights activist. In addition to breaking many aviation records, she wrote best-selling books about her flying experiences and helped form the women's pilot organization, The Ninety-Nines.

In 1928, she was the first woman to fly as a passenger across the Atlantic Ocean. In 1932, she became the first woman to fly solo across that same ocean. For this flight, she became the first woman to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In 1937, while attempting a flight around the world, Earhart disappeared over the central Pacific Ocean. Her disappearance is considered, to this day, to be a mystery.

Amelia Earhart’s actions have inspired generations of women to follow their dreams and do things never done by women before.
Dr. Seuss helped millions of kids learn how to read. He entertained children and adults alike. His books were famous for their silly rhymes and whimsical characters. Dr. Seuss wrote and illustrated nearly 50 books during his lifetime.

Dr. Seuss was born, as Theodore Geisel, in Springfield, Massachusetts, on March 2, 1904. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1925 and continued his education at Oxford University.

During World War II, Geisel joined the Army and was sent to Hollywood where he wrote documentaries for the military. During this time, he also created a cartoon called Gerald McBoing-Boing. This cartoon won him an Oscar.

In the spring of 1954, a report was published discussing illiteracy among schoolchildren. The report suggested that boring books were causing children to have trouble reading. This news prompted Geisel's publisher to send Geisel a list of 400 words important for children to learn. The publisher asked Geisel to shorten the list to 250 words and use them to write an entertaining children's book. Using 220 of the words given to him, Geisel published The Cat in the Hat. The book was an instant success.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1984 and three Academy Awards, Theodor Geisel is considered the 20th century's most famous author for children.

Theodor Geisel died on September 24, 1991, but Dr. Seuss lives on, inspiring generations of children of to explore the joys of reading.
John Muir was born in Scotland in 1838. His family immigrated to Wisconsin in 1849. He briefly attended college but did not finish. Instead he began 40 years of walking and exploring the wilderness of North America. His journals produced some of the best nature writing in the English language. His works include The Mountains of California, Our National Parks, My First Summer in the Sierra, Steep Trails, and others. His letters, essays, and books telling of his adventures in nature have been read by millions and are still popular today.

However, Muir’s writing was not just for enjoyment. John Muir was one of the first modern environmental activists and preservationists. His direct activism and the attention his writings received helped protect the Yosemite Valley and other wilderness areas. His articles and books describing Yosemite’s natural wonders inspired public support establishing Yosemite as the first national park in 1890.

Another great accomplishment is the Sierra Club, which he founded. The Sierra Club is one of the most important conservation organizations in the United States. His writings and philosophy were a driving force in the creation of the modern environmental movement.

For John Muir, sleeping outside under the stars was one of life’s great pleasures. He kept track of his experiences by recording them in his journals. Here is what he wrote on July 19, 1869, when he woke up in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California:

“Watching the daybreak and sunrise. The pale rose and purple sky changing softly to yellow and white, sunbeams pouring through the peaks and over the Yosemite domes.”
Dr. Jonas Salk

Jonas Salk was born on October 28th, 1914, in New York City. His parents were Russian-Jewish immigrants who fled their home country for a new life in the United States. After graduating high school at the age of 15, Salk went to college to pursue a law degree. Somewhere along the way, he changed his mind and decided to pursue a degree in medicine. Luckily for the world, Jonas Salk chose medicine!

Salk enrolled in the medical school at New York University. He began research on the flu virus, gathering knowledge that would lead to his discovery of the polio vaccine. In 1947, Salk accepted an appointment to the Pittsburgh Medical School. He started working with the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and saw the opportunity to develop a vaccine against polio. He devoted the next eight years to this work.

In 1955, Jonas Salk’s years of research finally paid off. The summertime was a time of fear and anxiety for many parents. Summer was the season when thousands of children became infected with the disease of polio. Parents’ worst fear was forever eliminated when it was announced that Dr. Jonas Salk had developed a vaccine against the disease. Salk was hailed as a miracle worker and he became famous overnight. He refused to patent the vaccine, which made him even more loved by the people. He had no desire to profit personally from the discovery. His ultimate wish was to see the vaccine distributed as widely as possible, to as many people as possible. In countries where Salk’s vaccine has remained in use, the disease has nearly been eliminated.

In 1963, Salk founded the Jonas Salk Institute for Biological Studies, a center for medical and scientific research. He died on June 23, 1995. His legacy lives on forever and his contributions to the world of science and health are still utilized today.
Clara Barton is best known as being the founder of the American Red Cross and for serving as a nurse on Civil War battlefields. Her compassionate work during the Civil War would inspire praise of her as “the true heroine of the age, the angel of the battlefield.”

During the early years of the Civil War, she and a few friends began to distribute first-aid supplies to field hospitals, camps and battlefields. In addition to distributing supplies, she worked tirelessly taking care of injured soldiers.

At the end of the war, Barton assisted the government in finding information on missing soldiers. She helped identify and mark almost 13,000 graves at Andersonville, Georgia.

In 1881 her most enduring work began, the establishment of the American Red Cross. She convinced the government to identify the Red Cross as a governmental agency that would provide aid for natural disasters. Throughout the 1880s, victims of fire, earthquake, drought, tornado, and flood received aid and assistance from the Red Cross. Clara learned the importance of educating victims to take care of themselves so they would be able to rebuild their lives again after Red Cross workers had left. This concept of teaching first aid would later be realized in the formation of first-aid classes. First-aid classes are a very important part of the American Red Cross’s service today.

Miss Barton continued to work in the field until she was well into her 70s. She died in 1912 at age 90 in her home. The mission of her life can be summed up in her own words, “You must never so much as think whether you like it or not, whether it is bearable or not; you must never think of anything except the need, and how to meet it.”
Thomas Alva Edison is considered one of the greatest, most prolific inventors in history. He has over 1,093 U.S. patents in his name. His inventions and devices greatly changed and influenced life all over the world.

The invention that first made him famous was the phonograph in 1877. The cylinder phonograph was the first machine that could record and reproduce sound. Its invention created a sensation and brought Edison international fame.

In 1877 and 1878, Edison invented and developed the carbon microphone used in all telephones along with the Bell receiver until the 1980s. The carbon microphone was also used in radio broadcasting through the 1920s.

Edison is most famous for the electric light bulb. Contrary to popular belief, he didn’t invent the light bulb, but rather he improved upon a 50-year-old idea.

The problem other inventors had encountered was the ability to make it work for long periods of time. Edison solved this problem and created a light bulb that sustained light for 40 straight hours. More importantly, he created a system that allowed homes and businesses to be supplied with electricity.

The success of electric light brought Thomas Edison to new levels of fame and wealth. His electric companies continued to grow and in 1889 they merged to form Edison General Electric. In 1892 Edison General Electric merged with its competitor, Thompson-Houston. Edison was dropped from the name, and the company became General Electric.

Thomas Alva Edison died in West Orange, New Jersey on October 18, 1931. After his death, Edison became a folk hero of legendary status. His inventions have profoundly affected and shaped the modern society that we know today.
Hispanic Americans’ Famous Firsts

Hispanics are becoming the largest minority group in the United States. Hispanic Americans are adding great value to American society and enriching U.S. government and culture. Throughout this article are listed some of the “famous firsts” made by Hispanic Americans. These people have made great contributions to the United States and the world.


Joseph Marion Hernández was the first Hispanic American to serve in the United States Congress. He served from September 1822 to March 1823. From 1990 to 1993, Antonia Coello Novello served as the U.S. Surgeon General. She was first Hispanic and the first woman ever to hold this position. During her tenure as Surgeon General, Novello focused her attention on the health of women, children and minorities. A workshop that she organized led to the creation of the National Hispanic/Latino Health Initiative.

The world of science and medicine is another area where Hispanic Americans have greatly contributed. In 1986 Franklin Chang-Díaz became the first Costa Rican astronaut. Chang-Díaz is also the director of the Advanced Space Propulsion Laboratory at NASA’s Johnson Space Center, where he has been developing a plasma rocket. The first female Hispanic astronaut was Ellen Ochoa, whose first of four shuttle missions was in 1991.
Luiz Walter Alvarez is the first Hispanic American to receive a Nobel Prize in physics. He received this award in 1968, for discoveries about subatomic particles.

Since the 1950s, a number of Hispanic American musicians and performers have gained widespread popularity, including Julio Iglesias, Jennifer López, Gloria Estefan and the group Los Lobos.

Lucrezia Bori, a Spanish soprano, became the first Hispanic American to debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1912. After 1935 she was a director of the Metropolitan Opera Association. She was distinguished for her stage presence as well as her singing voice.

The first Hispanic American to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was Carlos Santana in 1998. Santana is considered a guitar-playing legend and he has been a leader in the music industry for over 30 years.

Many Hispanic athletes have made their mark in American sports. In 1973 Roberto Clemente of Puerto Rico became the first Hispanic American inducted into the Hall of Fame. He was also the first Hispanic player to serve on the Players Association Board and to reach 3,000 hits. John Ruiz became the first-ever Hispanic heavyweight boxing champ. He won the title defeating Evander Holyfield in 2001.

A number of painters and writers have further enriched American culture, such as Hispanic artists John Valadez, Martín Ramírez, Frank Romero and Arnaldo Roche. Oscar Hijuelos is the first Hispanic to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Hijuelos earned the Pulitzer for his book, The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love. In this book he tells the story of Cuban musicians in New York in the early 1950s.

As more and more Hispanic Americans are rising to the ranks and making their mark in their preferred fields, the 21st century will observe even greater Hispanic contributions to U.S. society and culture. September 15 to October 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States. Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates and recognizes past and present achievements of Hispanic Americans and encourages future ones.
Trail of Discovery, page 88

1. ¿Por qué quería Thomas Jefferson que Lewis y Clark salieran de expedición?

2. ¿Quién fue la única mujer que viajó con los Cuerpos de Descubrimiento?

3. ¿Cómo ayudó y contribuyó al viaje?

Founding Fathers, page 90

1. ¿Qué son los padres fundadores?

2. ¿A quién se le llama el Padre de la Patria?

3. ¿Quién fue el autor principal de la Declaración de la Independencia?

4. ¿Qué experimento científico hizo famoso a Benjamín Franklin?

Mother of Civil Rights, page 89

1. ¿Qué se rehusó a hacer Rosa Park?

2. ¿Cuándo se prohibió la segregación en los autobuses urbanos?

Frank Lloyd Wright, page 94

1. ¿Por qué estilo de casas era famoso Wright?

2. Describe este estilo.
Rags to Riches, page 95

1. ¿Qué significaba el “evangelio de la riqueza” para Carnegie?

2. ¿Qué inspiró a Carnegie a construir y financiar las bibliotecas públicas gratuitas?

3. ¿Cuánto dinero regaló Carnegie a lo largo de su vida?

Dr. Jonas Salk, page 99

1. ¿Qué descubrió Jonas Salk?

2. ¿Cuál fue su “máximo deseo” con referencia a esta vacuna?

Angel of the Battlefield, page 100

1. ¿Por qué le llamaba el “Ángel del campo de batalla” a Clara Barton?

2. ¿Qué trabajo hizo Clara Barton al final de la guerra?

America Takes Flight, page 96

1. ¿Cómo pagaron los hermanos Wright sus aventuras construyendo aviones?

2. ¿Por qué los hermanos Wright probaban sus aviones en Kitty Hawk, Carolina del Norte?

3. En 1928 y 1932 Amelia Earhart se volvió famosa, ¿por qué razón?
The successful man will profit from his mistakes and try again in a different way.

Dale Carnegie
Business
How does the United States pay to operate our government?

The United States must pay for all of the things needed to run a government. The government must pay for our national parks, schools, roads, the military, government employees, and much more. The government has a system where people and companies pay a percentage of their income to the government. This is called the income tax.

Who is responsible for collecting the taxes?

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) enforces the tax laws. The Internal Revenue Service is also responsible for processing our tax returns, collecting taxes, and for giving the money collected to the U.S. Treasury.

To whom does the Internal Revenue Service give our tax dollars?

The IRS gives the money collected to the U.S. Treasury, who pays various government expenses. The President of the United States and the Congress are responsible for the federal budget. The budget is how much the government plans to spend on various programs and services. When the government spends more money, it must raise more money through taxes. When the government spends less money, it can afford to lower taxes.

Who must pay taxes?

1. Every organization, person, non-profit, or company, must report their income and calculate their tax. Some organizations do not have to pay tax, but they still have to report to the government that they have tax-exempt status.

2. You are taxed on any money you earn. This includes salary from an employer, interest on savings, profits on investments, pensions, and other income.
3. Everyone must pay taxes throughout the year. This is called “pay as you go.” This usually means your income taxes are taken out of your paycheck and sent directly to the federal government by your employer. At the end of the year, if you paid more than what you owe, the government refunds the amount paid over what you owed. This is called a tax refund. If you have not paid enough to cover what you owe, you must pay the amount due by April 15th of the following year. If you don’t pay the taxes due, the government will charge you interest and penalties.

4. People who make more money have a higher tax rate, and people who make less money have a lower tax rate. Your tax rate will change depending on how much money you made that year. This system is called a progressive tax system.

5. People are free to arrange their financial affairs in order to get tax benefits. For example, you can reduce your total income if you contribute money to retirement accounts, such as a 401(k) or IRA plans. There are many other types of tax benefits. Tax benefits are how Congress rewards people for making certain types of decisions. The goal of tax planning is to choose which tax benefits make the most sense for you.
Entrepreneurship

Many immigrants move to the United States to work towards a better life for themselves and their families. Entrepreneurship is often the route they take, or hope to take.

It is often said that starting a business is an American dream. With the right product or service, the U.S. is the best place in the world to launch a new company. The trouble is that many new entrepreneurs lack the language, business skills, and start-up money to successfully manage and grow their businesses.

STARTING OUT

Fortunately, there is help to get you started. There are numerous organizations helping Spanish-speaking immigrants who have an entrepreneurial drive.

In many other cultures, you can start a business at any time and worry about the planning later. In the U.S. culture, you need to get all the planning and permits done first.

Some of the best places to start are SBA, SCORE and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

- Small Business Association (SBA). www.sba.gov The SBA is a governmental agency that offers all levels of assistance, business loans and grants for small businesses. The SBA is a strong advocate of minority audiences.

- SCORE - SCORE is a subdivision of the SBA. SCORE offers free online or face-to-face business counseling and low cost seminars and workshops. Online you will find a list of resources specifically for minority entrepreneurs. To make it even easier, all of their information is offered in English and Spanish.

- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce www.ushcc.com To advocate, promote and facilitate the success of Hispanic businesses. They provide technical assistance to Hispanic business associations and entrepreneurs.

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START-UP COSTS

Access to capital can be a concern for Hispanic business owners.

In addition to loans through governmental agencies, more and more banks are setting up divisions that focus entirely on loans for the Hispanic/Latino communities in the U.S.

Wells Fargo has a long tradition of providing financial services to Latinos. On their website it states: “Wells Fargo is committed to helping Latino owned businesses grow and prosper.” In 1997, Wells Fargo launched Latino Business Services to support and build relationships with the Latino-owned businesses in our communities. Wells Fargo also celebrates outstanding Latino entrepreneurs with award grants.

Smaller community banks also offer small business loans for minority businesses. Do some research to learn about banks in your area that pride themselves on their relationships with the Latino community.

LOW OVERHEAD

Many people decide to start businesses that don’t need a lot of startup money.

Miguel Peña began selling custom boots and hats after a construction injury. He sold his boots and hats at swap meets and to friends. Success on that level gave him the desire to open a tiny store in 1989. Today, he operates stores in Arizona.

Lucy Acedo tested interest in an antique shop by having frequent garage sales to sell her treasures. She invested around $500 to acquire collectible dishes and knick-knacks at estate and garage sales. She’s managed to keep the business running for 4 ½ years.

The United States truly is a land of opportunity. With the abundance of business resources offered, it is possible to start your own business. Make the most of what is offered to you and memorize this American idiom: “Where there’s a will, there’s a way!”
The nation's Hispanic population is integrating into the social and cultural systems. However, many people say they are not using banks and cash is the preferred method for managing their finances.

Cash remains popular because of a lack of identification for new or undocumented immigrants. Also, cultural differences make banking a foreign concept to many.

For some laborers without documentation, all their income is in cash. Some are reluctant to set up an account because they might not have legal residency, while others are simply unsure about how the banking process works.

Another reason the Hispanic community has not started using banks is that they often come to the United States from rural areas in Latin American countries. In these small villages access to banking is limited or nonexistent. Many immigrants haven’t established a banking relationship even in Mexico. It is difficult for them to start their banking in a new country where they don’t fully speak the language.

Living in a cash-only world has its risks. Law enforcement officials say criminals view Hispanics as easy targets because they are known to often carry cash.
Banks across the nation are welcoming the Hispanic population and setting up programs specifically for Hispanics and new immigrants.

Bank of America started a pilot program in the Los Angeles area late last year that issues credit cards in California to non-citizens who don’t have Social Security numbers. The goal of the card is to introduce customers to banking and help build a credit history.

Citigroup has had a similar program for years and Wells Fargo & Co. officials have said they are considering such a card.

Community banks are tapping the Hispanic market by offering video tapes that explain topics such as insurance, investing, public schools and starting a business.

Many banks are offering cost effective alternatives for money wires and making it easier and cheaper to wire money home. Mitchell Bank in Milwaukee caters to an increasingly Mexican customer base. The bank offers the first two wire transfers free, and then charges $2.50 for each additional wire. This is a significant savings compared to private wire services.

Many immigrants don’t realize that you can open a bank account without a Social Security number. Banks nationwide accept identification issued by Mexican consulates to customers who want to open an account but don’t have Social Security numbers.

All throughout the U.S. banks have been working very hard in order to promote their services and let the Hispanic population know there are many possibilities besides cash. The Latin American Council is working to educate people on the value of building a credit history, having a savings account and making investments. These are things that will help new immigrants assimilate into their community.
Negotiating Your Salary

For many job seekers, salary negotiation can be the most intimidating part of the employment process. It can be even more nerve-wracking if you happen to be a foreign professional who is unsure about the rules of salary negotiation in the United States.

While it may feel like an uncomfortable situation, U.S. employers are prepared for potential hires to negotiate compensation. People often have the tendency to be grateful for that first offer and fail to negotiate, says psychology professor Melanie Domenech-Rodriguez.

By using some simple negotiating techniques, you can increase your annual salary.

- **Research** your market value — Before your interview, gather information about the current market value for similar positions.

- **Reach out** to current employees at the company or colleagues in the same field for information on pay ranges.

- **Check** comparison websites like www.Salary.com that allow you to search salary ranges by profession and location.


Remember, many companies pay a premium for bilingual employees. Depending on the industry, you could earn as much as 20 percent more than colleagues who don’t speak Spanish.

Never be the first one to discuss salary — During the interview process, always let the employer be the one to bring up compensation. If you broach the subject first, you risk looking as though you are more interested in your paycheck than the job itself. If you propose an amount before hearing the employer’s offer, you could price yourself well below what they were willing to pay.

Once you hear their initial offer, stay silent — When the employer does propose a salary amount, you shouldn’t rush to respond. This simple tactic lets the employer know you are not overly enthusiastic about the offer.
4. Consider (and negotiate!) other types of compensation — Ask about other aspects of the offer such as medical and life insurance, 401(k) plans, vacation time, moving expenses, flex time and other benefits. These extras may effectively increase your compensation, or they can be used as additional points of negotiation later.

5. Take time to think — You shouldn’t feel pressured to accept or decline an offer on the spot. Thank the recruiter for the offer and request a day or two to consider it.

6. Ask for more than you expect to get — Negotiators around the world know the concept of meeting in the middle. By asking for a higher salary initially, you are creating a win-win situation — one where both parties are able to give up something and still win. This is called a win-win situation.

It is always best to negotiate in person, so make an appointment to meet with the company representative. Briefly remind them:

- That you are excited about the opportunity
- How you plan on contributing to their success
- The special skills you bring, including bilingualism/biculturalism

You are then ready to make your counter-offer. Although you will be asking for more than you actually expect, make sure that the amount is within the realm of possibility based on your market research.

If you have another offer on the table, it’s okay to mention it, as long as you are tactful. Never pretend that you have other offers if you don’t.

If you have gauged the market accurately, the employer should suggest a “meet in the middle” figure or at least improve their initial offer. In cases where the salary figure is firm, suggest additional perks or benefits that would make the offer more appealing to you.

7. Get it in writing — Once you’ve come to an understanding, your last step is to make sure the company provides a written employment agreement covering not just salary, but all the points you negotiated. Do not skip this step—the person you negotiated with could leave the company or later forget exactly what they agreed to verbally.

Congratulations, you just negotiated your way to a higher salary!
Retirement Plans

In the United States, many employers offer a company-sponsored retirement plan for employees called a 401(k) plan. Knowing some basic information about the 401(k) plan will help you do further research to make the best decision for you and your family.

What is a 401(k) Plan?

A 401(k) plan is a company-sponsored qualified retirement plan for employees. Your contributions will be deducted from your paycheck before taxes are withheld.

You will have the option to decide how much you want to contribute to the plan each payday. The money you contribute to the plan is not subject to federal and most state income taxes until you withdraw the funds.

Once you are eligible to start participating in your company's 401(k) plan, you will be given a list of stocks, bonds and/or money market funds in which you can invest. There are limits regarding the amount you can invest.

Your contributions will be deducted from your paycheck before taxes are withheld. Depending on your income and tax bracket, this pretax deduction can be like getting a 25-percent rate of return on your investment. These contributions are then invested into the funds you select.

Your company matches your contribution to the 401(k) plan.

If you are lucky enough to work for a company that provides the benefit of a company match, it’s like earning free money. For example, if you choose to contribute 2% of your salary, your company also contributes 2%. Your employer will match a maximum amount.
Withdrawing Money from a 401(k)

For people 70½ years old or older, the law currently requires that you begin withdrawing money from your 401(k). You can defer this withdrawal rule if you are still a full-time employee with the company sponsoring your 401(k). If you are 59½ or older, you may begin withdrawals without any early withdrawal penalty. You are also exempt from this penalty if you are over age 55 and have been terminated by your company or if you become totally disabled.

About 85 percent of 401(k) plans allow employees to take loans against the money in their account, up to a maximum of 50 percent of their savings. The money you borrow is not subject to the 10 percent penalty as long as you pay it back (with interest) within the time established by your employer’s plan.

If you do take a loan from your 401(k), you will have up to 5 years to repay the loan. But if you leave your job, it must be repaid within 30 days. Any amount that you fail to repay is subject to the 10 percent early withdrawal penalty and taxes. And the interest? The interest you pay goes directly into your account—you are paying it to yourself!

Get Started

A 401(k) plan is an important part of retirement planning. You should learn everything you can from your employer about the plan that is offered. Gather information on vesting, contribution limits, and matching funds. Research all available information on the funds offered for investing. Track your investments regularly and ask for assistance if you feel your investment options aren’t performing satisfactorily.
Mastering the Interview

There are some subtle—and some not-so-subtle—differences between the way employment interviews are conducted in the United States and in Latin America.

Here are the top ten tips from Hispanic job board LatPro.com to help you avoid possible misconceptions and cultural pitfalls so you can get the job you want!

Top Ten Tips for Acing your U.S. Job Interview

1. Take Credit for your Professional Accomplishments
   An employer expects you to “toot your own horn,” says Graciela Kenig, founder and president of LatinoWorkforce.com. This can be awkward for Latinos, who are more community and group-oriented, but it’s a crucial part of the U.S. interview.

   Discussing your individual accomplishments won’t be viewed as arrogant or egotistical. In fact, if you don’t point out your solo successes, employers will assume you don’t have significant contributions to talk about.

2. Make Eye Contact
   Interviewers will be picturing you as a potential co-worker during the interview. They expect you to look them in the eye and act like a colleague. In the U.S. making good eye contact shows confidence; failing to look your interviewer in the eye will not only make them uncomfortable, it could be interpreted as a sign that you are being evasive or untruthful.

3. Be Direct
   In the U.S. interview you should get to the point quickly and focus only on the relevant facts. Getting directly to the matter at hand may seem rude or abrupt to a Latino, but it won’t to the person doing the interview. They are busy, time is short, and you need to shine during the brief time you have in front of them.

4. Focus on Professional, not Personal Issues
   Interviewers may ask a question just to break the ice, says Nelson De Leon, bilingual recruiting consultant and the owner and founder of America At Work.com. When an interviewer asks you to “tell me something about yourself,” they are not asking about your childhood, your dogs or your family. They want to hear about you in relation to the jobs you’ve had in the past and the job you want.
5. Get Rid of the “Yes Syndrome”
The Yes Syndrome is something De Leon identifies as an idiosyncrasy of Hispanic culture. As an interviewer is talking, the recruit may be nodding his head, saying yes over and over, but that doesn’t necessarily mean they’ve understood everything. It does mean they’ve heard; they are listening, and they won’t interrupt for fear of seeming rude. “It’s okay to ask questions,” says De Leon. It does not make you look stupid, as some fear. It makes you look and sound engaged in the interview.

6. Don’t Be Passive
If you are too humble or too reserved, you may appear uninterested in the job, warns De Leon. Once you start asking questions, it shows you have a good grasp of the job at hand. The smartest people don’t give the best answers, they ask the best questions, showing potential employers they can identify problems.

7. Beware Tú versus Usted
Latinos are aware of the formality of “usted,” but because English only uses “you,” be conscious that you don’t get too familiar with your interviewer. While a recruit should not be subservient, there should still be respect. If you happen to be interviewing in Spanish, stick with “usted” during the interview. Don’t lapse into using “tú” for the entire corporate culture.

8. Dress Conservatively
Even if the day-to-day dress of regular employees is casual, you should choose conservative business attire for your interview. A professional appearance shows that you respect the interviewer and are serious about the available position. Avoid anything that will detract from the interview, including too much jewelry, perfume or aftershave.

9. Don’t be Discouraged if the Interviewer Seems Impersonal
Employers who don’t ask about your background, your family, your kids and your church are not being rude, and it does not mean they don’t like you as a potential employee. In the U.S., many personal questions like these are prohibited during an interview.

10. Research the company before your interview – and don’t forget your Hispanic connections!
It’s a big world, but cultural connections can make the world seem smaller. In addition to more traditional research methods, reaching out to fellow Latinos can give you valuable insight into a company. Within the close-knit Hispanic community, chances are good that you can find someone who has already interviewed with or worked for a particular company. All you have to do is ask!
### Introduction to Taxes, page 108

1. ¿Quién es responsable de recaudar los impuestos?

2. ¿A quién da el Servicio de Impuestos Internos nuestro dinero de los impuestos?

3. ¿Qué pasa si no pagas impuestos?

### Banking in America, page 112

1. ¿Por qué muchos inmigrantes prefieren dinero al contado en vez de usar un banco?

2. ¿Por qué es riesgoso vivir en un mundo sólo al contado?

3. El Banco de América empezó un programa que emite tarjetas de crédito en California a no-ciudadanos que no tienen número de seguridad social. ¿Cuál es la finalidad de esta tarjeta?

### Entrepreneurship, page 110

1. ¿Qué le hace falta a muchos empresarios nuevos para hacer crecer su negocio?

2. Además de préstamos a través de agencias gubernamentales, ¿a dónde más puedes obtener un préstamo?

3. ¿Qué son los gastos generales bajos?

### Negotiating Your Salary, page 114

1. Dependiendo de tu industria, ¿cuánto más podrías ganar como un empleado bilingüe?

2. Una vez que el empleador te da su oferta inicial de salario, ¿qué sugiere el artículo que hagas?

3. Una vez que te has puesto de acuerdo en un salario, ¿cuál es el último paso que no debes saltearte?
Examina tu comprensión

Retirement Plans, page 116

1. ¿Qué es un Plan 401(k)?

2. ¿A qué no está sujeto el dinero que contribuyes al plan?

3. ¿Cuál es una parte importante del planeamiento para la jubilación?

Mastering the Interview, page 118

1. ¿Verdadero o falso? Discutir tus logros personales se verá como arrogante o egotista.

2. Hacer un buen contacto con la mirada, ¿qué demuestra?

3. Hacer preguntas durante la entrevista, ¿qué hace?

4. ¿Si estás teniendo la entrevista en español, debes usar “tú” o “usted”? 

5. ¿Por qué no se hacen muchas preguntas personales durante una entrevista?

¡Información Importantes!
Los artículos Negotiating Your Salary y Mastering the Interview fueron proporcionados por LatPro.com, el sitio más visitado por hispanos y profesionales bilingües en busca de trabajo. Desde 1997 LatPro ha ayudado a hispanos en busca de trabajo a encontrar empleo en las mejores compañías a lo largo de los Estados Unidos y América Latina. Además de avisos de trabajo actuales, este sitio de empleo (ganador de varios premios y disponible en inglés, español y portugués) ofrece amplio asesoramiento para hispanos que buscan trabajo. Visite LatPro.com por más artículos relacionados a su carrera, consejos para su curriculum vitae y recursos para profesionales latinos.
The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Eleanor Roosevelt
Citizenship

With the exception of Native Americans, the United States is a nation of people who left their home country looking for a better life. The population of the United States is made up of a mixture of people from different countries and is sometimes called a “melting pot.” Although your neighbor or co-worker may have been born in the United States, at some point, that person’s family left their home country and came to the United States.

Living in the United States doesn’t automatically make one an American citizen. Residents of the United States can be aliens, nationals, or citizens.

- **Aliens**: Aliens are people who have left a foreign country to live in the United States. They have some of the same freedoms and legal rights as U.S. citizens, but they cannot vote in elections.

- **Nationals**: American nationals are natives of American territorial possessions. They have all the legal protections which citizens have, but they do not have the full political rights of U.S. citizens.

- **Citizens**: Persons born in the U.S. are citizens of the United States. Persons born in other countries who want to become citizens must apply for and pass a citizenship test. Those who become citizens in this manner are naturalized citizens.

Over time, most immigrants become U.S. citizens. The process, however, is not an easy one. It involves learning how to speak, read, and write ordinary English; learning about the history and government of the United States and patiently wading through a bureaucratic process.

Community-based organizations and local government agencies have developed materials and techniques to help immigrants become full participants in our society.
Civic Participation

Participation in America’s civic life is something that may at first seem like a luxury for immigrants. As people become rooted in their adopted country, most immigrants become citizens. Beyond that, voter registration, voting, and other forms of civic participation vary. Even as they become a larger portion of our population, new Americans are under-represented in our civic life.

This is beginning to change! There are a number of groups around the country who help immigrants understand our civic culture and help them get involved. Some groups regularly hold voter registration drives. In the process, they are helping to transform our civic culture. As the number of new citizens continues to grow, our civic culture will grow as well—adapting to desires and needs of immigrants who have become Americans by choice.

The following organizations provide outstanding civic participation programs and information:

- National Association of Latino Elected Officials: www.naleo.org
- Democracy Collaborative: www.democracycollaborative.org

QUICK FACTS
Hispanic Immigrants and the Electorate

- Over 5.9 million Latinos participated in the presidential election in 2000.
- In the last decade, the number of voting-age Latinos rose by 47%. Latinos as a percentage of the voters nationwide went from 5% in 1996 to 7% in 2000.

Immigrants as Volunteers and Philanthropists

- Hispanic Americans 45 and older volunteer the most hours per month. They are the most likely to provide help to immigrants in this country and send money to help people in other countries.
- In 2001 Hispanic Americans sent remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean totaling $23 billion.

Immigrants in the Military

- 1.1 million—the number of Latino veterans of the U.S. armed forces.
- About 63,000 people of Hispanic origin were on active duty in 2002 in the U.S.
Empowerment with Education

Latinos are one of our nation’s largest ethnic minorities and the fastest-growing segment of our population.

Between 2000 and 2005 the Hispanic population in the United States grew from 12.5 percent of the overall population to about 14 percent. All indications are that this trend will continue. As of 2005, there were over 42 million Hispanics living in the United States. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that number will increase to 63 million by 2030.

As the Hispanic population continues to increase, education is a key issue. Although a growing segment of the Hispanic population is achieving educational excellence, reports from the U.S. Census Bureau reveal a startling discrepancy in the educational attainment of Hispanics compared to other groups:

- In 2000, 36 percent of Hispanic high school graduates ages 18 to 24 enrolled in colleges and universities, compared to 44 percent of non-Hispanic whites.
- In 2000, Hispanic students accounted for 7 percent of students enrolled at 4-year institutions.
- About 12 percent of Hispanic adults currently have a bachelor’s degree, compared with 30.5 percent of non-Hispanic whites.

There are several organizations that might help you in your search for scholarships or financial aid. In order to most effectively plan your search, you should contact the necessary organizations up to a year in advance. Your first step should be to decide on a few schools and contact their financial aid offices, asking about any scholarships or financial aid they offer to minority students.
Be sure to explore all financial aid and scholarship possibilities, not just those opportunities targeted specifically towards minorities. The federal government has several major financial aid packages, work-study programs, and grants. You may contact their educational hotline at 1-(800) 433-3243.

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) is the nation’s leading organization supporting Hispanic higher education. HSF was founded in 1975 with a vision of strengthening the country by advancing college education among Hispanic Americans. In support of its mission to double the rate of Hispanics earning college degrees, HSF provides the Latino community with more college scholarships and educational outreach support than any other organization in the country. In addition, HSF launched the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Institute to create public partnerships in support of its work. During its 31-year history, HSF has awarded more than 78,000 scholarships to Latinos from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. HSF scholars have attended more than 1,700 colleges and universities. To read more, go to www.hsf.net.

The Hispanic College Fund provides talented and underprivileged Hispanic youth with mentors, resources and scholarships. For more information, go to www.hispanicfund.org.

The Hispanic Bar Association of D.C. is a separate non-profit entity. First- and second-year law students attending D.C.-area law schools are eligible to apply for the fellowship. To read more, go to www.hbadc.org.

The Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA) provides many programs and benefits to aspiring Latino students interested in accounting, finance or related career professions. To learn more, go to www.alpfa.org.
There is a world of opportunity at community colleges across the United States. You can choose from specialty career training, college-credit classes, English as a Second Language, non-credit classes, and a host of fun personal enrichment options.

There are over 1200 public and independent community colleges in the United States educating over 11.6 million students. Through open admissions policies and low tuitions, the students represent the rich diversity of the United States. Classes include a mix of ages along with a variety of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Numerous community colleges have entire departments focused on English as a Second Language. These classes are provided as a service to the community for a low cost, or free.

For example, in the San Diego Community College District all ESL classes are free. Classes are offered in all levels from morning to the evening. As an added bonus, they also provide free babysitting through the Community-Based English Tutoring Program. In addition, a Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL) series is offered for job training or finding a job. The San Diego district also offers citizenship classes to assist in filling out application forms and passing the citizenship test and interview.
College and Workforce Training Credits

Attaining credits that transfer for a baccalaureate degree continues to be the goal for a large segment of the community college population. Many success stories got their start at community colleges, including members of Congress, astronauts, actors, scientists, business leaders and philanthropists.

Many others receive an Associate Degree, which is a two-year certificate. The five hottest community college programs are registered nursing, law enforcement, licensed practical nursing, radiology, and computer technologies.

Personal Enrichment
Have you ever wanted to learn about photography or wines? How about mastering using your personal home computer, or feeling more savvy with your personal finances? Community colleges offer an exciting range of non-credit classes to enrich your life and world.

So what are you waiting for? Contact your local community college today, and ask them to mail their course listing to find your personal goldmine of opportunity.

Go to www.aacc.nche.edu or call 202-728-0200 to find a location in your neighborhood.
When parents are involved in their children's education, kids do better in school. In numerous studies, researchers report the importance for parents to be actively involved in their child’s education. Why is parental involvement important?

- The family makes critical contributions to student achievement from preschool through high school. A home environment that encourages learning is more important to student achievement than income, education level or cultural background.

- Reading aloud to children is the most important activity that parents can do to increase their child’s chances of reading success.

- When children and parents talk regularly about school, children perform better academically.

- Three kinds of parental involvement at home are consistently associated with higher student achievement: actively organizing and monitoring a child’s time, helping with homework and discussing school matters.

- The earlier that parent involvement begins in a child’s educational process, the more powerful the effects.

- Positive results of parental involvement include improved student achievement, reduced absenteeism, and improved behavior.

COMMUNICATING WITH TEACHERS

Good communication between parents and teachers has many benefits. When parents and teachers share information, children learn more and parents and teachers feel more supported. Good communication can help create positive feelings between teachers and parents.
Parent-teacher communication can be hard when parents feel uncomfortable in school and don’t speak English well. Fortunately, both parents and teachers have developed ways to make communication easier.

Here are some ideas to help overcome the language barrier.

- **Spend time** at the school. A mother speaks Spanish and her child’s teacher does not. The mother feels comfortable at the school, but uncomfortable working in the classroom. She still helps with school events by doing things like decorating the school. Helping out in the school lets everyone see that she cares about her child and the school. She stays involved and knows what is going on.

- **Find someone** who speaks your language. Find another parent or teacher in the school who speaks Spanish and is bilingual. They can listen to parents’ concerns or translate during parent-teacher conferences. Another option is to bring a bilingual friend or family member to school to help with translation.

- **Ask** about language classes at the school. Sometimes schools can help parents learn the new language. One parent took English as a Second Language (ESL) lessons right in her child’s school.

- **Volunteer** at home. At some schools, you can help with a class project at home. Teachers will appreciate your involvement and your children will see that you care about their school.

Teachers agree with the importance of parent’s participation with their schools. Teachers have suggested that greater support from parents and the community would make education a high priority.

One teacher said, “If every family valued education and let their children know that, there would be a completely different attitude towards education. Parents are their child’s first teachers and should never stop playing that role.”
Requests for bilingual employees are growing in the United States. The greatest need for bilingual employees is in the consumer services industry in such areas as retailing, communications, and banking. Bilingual employees are needed to fill positions as call center staff, medical and legal administrative staff, and receptionists.

The need for bilingual employees can vary depending on what area of the country a company serves. In general, Spanish is the most highly requested language, due to the 40 million-plus Hispanic population, which is still growing. However, there is an increasing need for Chinese and Vietnamese on the West Coast and for French and Portuguese on the East Coast, due to increasing populations from these immigrant groups.

Spanish is usually the first choice for companies requesting a bilingual employee. As the Hispanic population grows, there is, and will continue to be, a need for Spanish-speaking employees.

FINDING THE BILINGUAL EMPLOYEE

To find employees who have a business background and are fluent in Spanish, some recruiters have become resourceful. Employers have joined and now participate in such organizations as the Latin American Association, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the National Society of Hispanic MBAs.
All of these organizations are a valuable resource since they not only have fluent Spanish speakers, but candidates with the required educational background and business skills needed.

TESTING FOR LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Many employees say they are bilingual, but are they bilingual in financial transactions or technical terminology? To verify that a bilingual employee not only speaks a second language fluently but also speaks with knowledge of the proper vocabulary for the position, many recruiters test candidates during the interview process.

Even though a prospective employee might be fluent in the language needed, it does not mean they have the necessary skills required for the position. Prospective employees not only have to be fluent in Spanish, but they also must speak English, along with having previous work experience.

THE FUTURE

As the purchasing power of immigrants across the United States grows, companies are recognizing that they must have a workforce that reflects their consumer bases. Bilingual employees must have both language and cultural awareness. Employers are looking for the best talent they can for any position that is open, and they know that the employee that is fluent in a second language does create an advantage.
Legal Resources

During the immigration process, you or someone in your family may need help understanding the many immigration laws. While the process can feel overwhelming and daunting, with the proper research you will find there is an abundance of legal resources and organizations to help you along the way.

An immigration lawyer has studied the immigration laws of the United States and has graduated from law school. He or she is licensed to practice law and is regulated by the State and Federal Government. He or she can help you obtain legal status from the Department of Homeland Security or represent you in Immigration Court.

An immigration lawyer can help you in the following ways:

• Analyze the facts of your case thoroughly.
• Explain all the benefits for which you may be eligible.
• Recommend the best ways to obtain legal status.
• Complete and submit your applications properly.
• Stay current on the new laws that affect you.
• Avoid delays and problems with your case.
• Discuss the status of your case with you.
• Speak for you and represent you in court.
• File necessary appeals and waivers.
• Utilize the system to your advantage.

How do you find an immigration lawyer or the necessary resources to assist you?

Visit www.ailalawyer.com, the online directory of attorneys who are members of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

On this web site you will find free legal services provided by state. You will also find national and community resources and self-help materials. http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/probono/probono.htm

Used with the permission of the American Immigration Law Foundation
Many immigrants, even when eligible for public benefits, do not apply for fear that accepting benefits will have consequences for their immigration status or that of someone in their family. Even when immigrants are aware of their rights, local agencies sometimes mistakenly deny benefits to immigrants who are entitled to them, or ask for information that may discourage an applicant from obtaining the benefit. Immigrants with limited English proficiency face additional barriers when service provider agencies fail to make appropriate language translation services available to their clients.

National and local organizations and advocacy groups have been filling the gap in assisting immigrants to navigate the various and continuously changing public benefits laws and policies. Immigrants come to this country ready to work, and many work in low-wage, undesirable jobs that native-born Americans take for granted but will not do. Immigrants should have access to public benefits that they pay for with their taxes.

Today and throughout history, immigrants contribute far more to the American economy and culture than they receive in benefits.

The following organizations provide outstanding public benefit programs, activities, and information.

- Center for Public Policy Priorities: www.cppp.org
- Coalition on Human Needs: www.chn.org/issuebriefs/immigrants.asp
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: www.cbpp.org/pubs/immmpub.htm
- The Finance Project: www.financeprojectinfo.org
- National Immigration Law Center: www.nilc.org

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Owing Your Own Home

Since a large number of immigrants have come to the United States in the last 10 years and because many of them begin their working careers in low-paying jobs, many do not yet own homes. The cost of housing presents a significant financial barrier for many people. Yet, as a group, immigrants steadily pursue homeownership.

Financial institutions are beginning to realize the huge potential immigrants represent for the housing market. In the last few years, many have made commitments to reach out to immigrant populations and are providing immigrants with the skills they need to gain access to the housing market.

These efforts are beginning to pay off, as immigrants are increasingly achieving the American dream of homeownership.

According to recent reports, Hispanics still face significant barriers to achieving the American dream of owning a home. In response to this problem, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), the leading non-profit and non-partisan Hispanic educational organization, launched the National Housing Initiative (NHI).

The NHI benefits areas with large Hispanic populations and will employ up to 4 mid-career professionals to create and implement specialized housing initiatives for the purpose of increasing homeownership opportunities for Latinos across the country.

Homeownership is one of the best ways we have to help empower families to achieve financial security and help communities attain greater stability. For this reason, CHCI reports that they are proud to launch this exciting and important endeavor to help address the housing needs of Latinos everywhere. It is through an initiative such as this that Hispanics will continue to assume greater leadership roles in all sectors of society.

For more information on CHCI and its leadership development programs and scholarship awards, please visit www.chciyouth.org or call toll-free 1-800 EXCEL DC.
Parent-Teacher Association

As the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation, the National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) reminds our country of its obligations to children. The PTA provides parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child while providing the best tools for parents to help their children be successful students.

The National PTA does not act alone. Working in cooperation with many national education, health, safety, and child advocacy groups and federal agencies, the National PTA collaborates on projects that benefit children and that bring valuable resources to its members.

The PTA is the nation’s original parent group in schools, influencing millions of parents, past and present, to get involved in their children’s education. A national, nonprofit organization, neither the organization nor its leaders receive any financial benefit from PTA activities. The PTA is composed of 6 million volunteers in 23,000 local units. Run by volunteers and led by volunteers, the PTA is accountable to parents and schools. The PTA gives parents what they want—a way to help their children succeed.

JOIN THE PTA

The PTA is open to all adults who care about children and schools. The main thing parents want from schools is to help their child succeed academically, emotionally, and personally. The PTA bridges the gap between homes and schools. By getting involved with the PTA, the child who benefits most is one’s own. They work hard to bring mothers, fathers, teachers, school administrators, grandparents, mentors, foster parents, other caregivers, and community leaders into the association.

Talk with the school principals in your town to find out how you may partner with the schools and be one of the caring members of a powerful organization that makes a difference every day.
Being involved in your community has benefits on many levels. On a local level it allows you to get to know your neighbors and integrate better into your immediate surroundings. It also helps you identify and utilize the many resources available for you and your family. On a national level your involvement helps to build a society that values diversity and respects the dignity and rights of all people.

Local Communities

- **Libraries**—Many libraries offer free internet access and computer classes. They also offer ESL classes, wonderful children’s programs, magazines and books in Spanish, as well as citizenship test preparation books and resources.

- **Church**—Local churches often offer free ESL classes as well as other classes designed to help immigrants adjust to life in the United States.

- **Community Centers**—Community Centers, also called Parks and Recreation departments, are found in most medium-sized cities and offer an abundance of resources for you and your family. Here you can find adult and children’s programs, childcare, summer programs, local concerts and community festivals.
• Volunteer—A great way to meet new people and make a difference in your community is to volunteer. Even if you are not yet fluent in English, this is a great way to practice your English. Volunteer options include: working at local homeless shelters, assisting adults or children to learn to read with literacy programs, litter patrol with environmental programs, or helping out at local festivals or fundraisers.

National Communities
• National Council of La Raza is a nonprofit organization established in 1968 to reduce poverty and discrimination and improve life opportunities for Hispanic Americans.

• LULAC—The Mission of the League of United Latin American Citizens is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States.

There are many options for community involvement right outside your door. Take a class, listen to a concert in the park, help organize the next Cinco De Mayo festival. Take the time to be involved and make the most of your community.
Hispanics in the Workplace

Because the Hispanic population is growing so rapidly in the U.S., there are opportunities for graduates across many fields. Employers are recognizing the need to hire individuals who understand the language and culture of this growing segment of the population, and there are opportunities in many professions. Unfortunately, individuals of Hispanic heritage may still have to overcome negative stereotypes during their job search, but it is important to remember that being bicultural is a definite competitive advantage. Job seekers should highlight the unique benefits their background can provide to an employer, including international experience, language skills and cultural insight.

What Are Employers Doing?

To make the most of their minority recruiting efforts, the most successful employers use a variety of methods and diligently work to promote these initiatives on campus.

Many employers are reaching out to Hispanic students by sponsoring career fairs and other events on campus, attending recruiting events and even offering scholarships to Hispanic students. Companies are also connecting with students through professional societies such as the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting.

Where to Look for Your First Job

Students should be searching the Internet job boards, both the big ones as well as niche boards that match either their career functions, locations or ethnic background. LatPro.com, for example, is a niche diversity job board for Hispanic and bilingual professionals.

Industries Where Hispanics Are Under-Represented

Despite promising advances in many areas, Hispanics continue to be under-represented in a variety of professions. The fields we hear employers mentioning most include science, information technology, engineering and healthcare (especially nurses and physicians with Spanish language skills).
The reasons are varied and complex, but multicultural students are not entering these fields in great enough numbers. We can encourage students to pursue these fields by increasing scholarships to ease the financial burden of advanced education, as well as promoting mentorship opportunities to expose young Latinos/Latinas to these career options early on.

What are employers looking for?

Many employers want to see that students are involved in organizations related to their profession, especially those focused on supporting Hispanic professionals within a specific field. For example, accounting students and graduates should consider joining the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting. Other organizations include the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, and many others. These organizations are an excellent source for networking opportunities and job leads. An online listing can be found at: http://www.latpro.com/network.

Another source of networking opportunities would be Hispanic Chambers of Commerce. Every resource should be used, especially for newly graduating students in search of their first jobs.

It is important for Hispanic students to learn how organizations value a diverse workforce. Employers can better inform students about corporate diversity initiatives by using multiple strategies such as promoting employee referral programs and affinity organizations within the company, sponsoring scholarships for Hispanic students, advertising on diversity job boards, and supporting Hispanic professional organizations within their field.

Recruiting Hispanic employees requires the employer to understand the benefit that a diverse workforce brings to the business bottom line. Minority candidates want to know that they are being recruited for their skills and the value they will bring to an organization, versus being a number in a diversity hiring effort.
Citizenship, page 124

1. Los residentes de los Estados Unidos pueden ser extranjeros, nacionales o ciudadanos. ¿Quiénes son extranjeros y cuáles son sus derechos?

2. ¿Quiénes son los nacionales y cuáles son sus derechos?

Community Colleges, page 128

1. ¿Cuántas instituciones terciarias comunitarias hay en los Estados Unidos?

2. ¿Qué es un associate degree?

3. ¿Cuáles son los programas de instituciones terciarias comunitarias más populares?

Empowerment with Education, page 126

1. ¿Cuál es la minoría étnica más numerosa de la nación y el segmento de más rápido crecimiento de nuestra población?

2. Cuando busques ayuda financiera o becas, ¿cuál debería ser tu primer paso?

3. Durante sus 31 años de historia, ¿HSF ha otorgado cuántas becas a latinos?

Helping Children Succeed, page 130

1. Verdadero o Falso - Cuando los padres están involucrados en la educación de sus hijos, ¿a los hijos les va mejor en la escuela?

2. ¿Qué pasa cuando los padres y maestros comparten información?

3. ¿Cuáles son algunas ideas para ayudar a superar la barrera del idioma y participar de manera más activa en la escuela de tu niño/a?
Bilingual Resources, page 132

1. ¿Qué industrias tienen mayor necesidad de empleados bilingües?

2. ¿Cómo verifica un empleador que el empleado bilingüe habla con fluidez y conoce el vocabulario adecuado para el puesto?

3. Los posibles empleados necesitan hablar español con fluidez así como ¿qué otra cosa?

Legal Resources, page 134

1. ¿Qué es un abogado de inmigración?

2. ¿Cómo puede ayudar un abogado de inmigración a un nuevo inmigrante a los Estados Unidos?

Owning Your Own Home, page 136

1. ¿Cuál es la tasa de propiedad de vivienda para hispanos en los Estados Unidos?

2. Ser propietario de vivienda está considerado como una de las mejores formas de ayudar a posibilitar ¿el qué?

You and Your Community, page 138

1. ¿Cuáles son algunos de los beneficios de estar involucrado con tu comunidad?

2. ¿Qué puedes encontrar en los Departamentos de Parques y Recreación?

3. ¿Cuál es una gran forma de hacer nuevas amistades y crear un cambio en tu comunidad?
A page of history is worth a pound of logic.

Oliver Wendell Holmes
History
There are 50 states in the Union. The first 13 states were Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Georgia, Delaware, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The last state to join the Union was Hawaii.

Congress voted for the United States to become independent from Great Britain on July 2, 1776. However, we celebrate Independence Day on July 4th. This is because it took two days for Congress to vote to accept an official Declaration of Independence. This document was written by Thomas Jefferson and edited by Congress. It explained why the American colonies were separating from their British ruler. The 4th of July is now considered the birthday of America. We celebrate with parades, fireworks, patriotic songs, and live readings of the Declaration of Independence.

The decision to break from the British was not an easy choice for many colonists. However, Great Britain’s “repeated injuries” against the Americans convinced many to join the rebellion. After years of difficult fighting, the colonists went on to win their freedom.
We call the American flag the “Stars and Stripes.” Congress chose the stars and stripes design for our flag on June 14, 1777. Congress explained the colors: red stands for hardiness and valor, white for purity and innocence, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

The white stars on the flag represent the United States as being like “a new constellation” in the sky. The nation was seen as a new constellation because the republican system of government was new and different in the 1770s. In the republican system of government, leaders work to help all of the country’s people. They do not act to help only a few special citizens. Since the people themselves choose these leaders, the people hold the power of government.

Each star represents a state. This is why the number of stars has changed over the years from 13 to 50. The number of stars reached 50 in 1959. In that year, Hawaii joined the United States as the 50th state.

The stars represent the Founding Fathers’ view of the American experiment in democracy. To them, the goal of a republic based on individual freedom was a noble idea. Stars are considered a symbol of the heavens and the high, ambitious vision of the Founding Fathers.

In 1818, Congress decided that the number of red and white stripes on the flag should always be 13. This would honor the original states, no matter how many new states would join the United States later.
The Electoral College is not a place or a school. The Electoral College is a process that was designed by the writers of the Constitution to select presidents. It came from a compromise between the President being elected directly by the people and the President being chosen by Congress. Combining these ideas, the American people vote for a “college” of electors, who then meet to choose the President. Today, the people of each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia vote for the electors in November. The electors then officially vote for the President in December.

The Vice President is first in line to take over as President. This has happened nine times in U.S. history. Four presidents died in office, four presidents were killed in office, and one president, Richard Nixon, resigned from office.
The U.S. Constitution has lasted longer than any other country’s constitution. It is the basic legal framework establishing the U.S. government. Every person and every agency and department of government must follow the Constitution. This is why it is called the “supreme law of the land.” Under this system, the powers of the national government are limited to those written in the Constitution. The guiding principle behind this system is often called the rule of law.

It is not easy for the Constitution to be changed. Changes to the constitution are called Amendments. First, two-thirds of the Senate and two-thirds of the House of Representatives must vote to approve an amendment. Then, three-fourths of the states must approve the amendment.

The first amendments to the Constitution were added in 1791. These original ten amendments are called the Bill of Rights. Since the Bill of Rights passed, 17 more amendments have been added. The 27th amendment is the most recent addition. It was added in 1992 and addresses how Senators and Representatives are paid. Interestingly, Congress first discussed this Amendment back in 1789.
Divisions of Power

The writers of the Constitution created a process that divides the government’s power among three branches: Executive, Judicial, and Legislative. These branches operate under a system of checks and balances. This means that each branch can block, or threaten to block, the action of another branch. This way, no one branch can grow too powerful and harm the liberties of citizens.

Congress is a legislative branch. The main job of Congress is to make federal laws. Congress is divided into two parts—the Senate and the House of Representatives. By dividing Congress into two parts, the Constitution put the checks and balances idea to work within the legislative branch. Each part of Congress makes sure that the other does not become too powerful. These two “check” each other because both must agree for a law to be made.

Specific powers are assigned to each of these chambers. Only the Senate has the power to reject a treaty signed by the President. Only the House of Representatives has the power to begin considering a bill that makes Americans pay taxes. Also, only the House of Representatives has the power to make a President go to trial for a crime against the United States.
A federal law is a **rule** that all people **living** in the United States **must follow**. Every law begins as a **proposal** made by a member of Congress. Tax proposals must begin in the House of Representatives. Other types of proposals can be made by any senator or representative. When the Senate or House begins **to debate** the proposal, it is called a **bill**. If the President **signs** the bill, it becomes a federal law.

The nation is **divided** into 435 Congressional **districts**. The people of each district are **represented** by a **member** of the House of Representatives.

The **people** of each state also **vote** for two U.S. senators. There are 100 senators (two from each state). The **term of office** for members of the House of Representatives is two years. The term for senators is six years.

**One reason** the Senate was **created** was **to make** states with **fewer** people equal in power to states with many people. With two senators representing each state, states with **small populations** have the same Senate representation as states with **large** populations.

The writers of the Constitution **wanted** senators to be **independent** of **public opinion**. A **longer**, six-year term **would give them** this **protection**. The Constitution **puts no limit** on the number of terms a senator may **serve**.
The President’s **official home** is the White House. The first White House was built between 1792 and 1800 in Washington, D.C. President George Washington helped choose its exact location and supervised its construction, but never actually lived there. America’s second president, John Adams, was the first to live in the White House. Fourteen years after construction, the White House was burned by British troops during the War of 1812. Another destructive fire took place there in 1929, when Herbert Hoover was president.

When the Constitution established our nation in 1789, the city of Washington, D.C. did not exist. At that time, the capital was New York City. Congress soon began discussing the location of a permanent capital city. Within Congress, representatives of northern states fought bitterly against representatives of southern states. Each side wanted the capital to be in their region. Finally, with the Compromise of 1790, the North agreed to let the capital be in the South. In return, the North was relieved of some of the debt that they owed from the Revolutionary War.

The building was not officially known as the White House until 1901, when Theodore Roosevelt was president. Before then, it was also called the “President’s Palace,” the “President’s House,” and the “Executive Mansion.” The current look of the White House comes from a renovation that happened when Harry Truman was president.
Freedom of speech is a very important civil liberty. The very first section of the Bill of Rights, the First Amendment, guarantees this freedom. Speech can mean writing, performing, or other ways of expressing yourself. Americans have the basic right to express their views on any subject. This is true even if the government disagrees with these views.

When the Constitution was first written, it did not focus on individual rights. The goal was to create the system and structure of government. Many Americans wanted a specific list of things the government could not do. James Madison responded with a list of individual rights and limits of government. Some of these included citizens’ rights to practice their religion freely, to speak and publish freely, and to complain publicly about anything they wanted. The list was in the form of changes, or amendments, to the Constitution. These amendments were ratified in 1791. They soon became known as the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights guarantees the rights of individuals and limits government power. The first eight amendments set out individual rights, such as the freedom of expression; the right to bear arms; freedom from search without warrant; freedom to not be tried twice for the same crime; the right to not testify against yourself; the right to trial by a jury of peers; the right to an attorney; and protection against excessive fines and unusual punishments.

One reason that millions of immigrants have come to America is this guarantee of rights. The Fifth Amendment guarantees everyone in the United States equal protection under the law. This is true no matter what color your skin is, what language you speak, or what religion you practice.
The writers of the Constitution argued over how much power the new President should have. They decided that the President’s powers should be limited in many ways, but that the President should be Commander-in-Chief of the military. During the Revolutionary War, George Washington, known as the “father of our country” had been Supreme Commander of the military. From this position, he led the U.S. forces to victory. This helped make him a unanimous choice to be the first President and Commander-in-Chief.

Washington was a brave military general, a respected leader of the American Revolution, and our first President. His leadership was very important during America’s transition from war and revolution to stability under the new government. After his victory over the British army, Washington retired. He reluctantly left retirement and helped lead the effort to create a Constitution for the United States.

The President is both the head of state and the head of the Executive branch of the government. Presidential powers include the ability to sign treaties with other countries and select ambassadors to represent the United States abroad. As head of the executive branch, the President names the top leaders of the federal departments. However, the Senate has the power to reject the President’s choices. This limit on the power of the President is an example of checks and balances.
Early American leaders felt that the head of the British government, the king, had too much power. Because of this, they limited the powers of the head of the new U.S. government. They decided that the President would have to be elected by the people every four years.

The writers of the Constitution wanted the President to be an experienced leader with a strong connection to the United States. The eligibility requirements make sure that this happens. A candidate for president must be a native-born, not a naturalized citizen, be at least 35 years old, and have lived in the U.S. for at least 14 years. The youngest person in American history to become president was Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt entered the White House when he was 42 years old.

The first U.S. President, George Washington, only ran for president twice. Washington felt that one person should not serve as president for a very long time. Following this tradition, no future president served for more than two terms until Franklin Roosevelt. Roosevelt was elected to four terms. Not long after he died, the Constitution was amended so that a president could only serve two full terms.
European countries began taking control of areas of America in the 1500s. These European-controlled areas were called colonies. England’s first successful American colony was Virginia. Virginia began in 1607 as a small camp at Jamestown. Later, Pennsylvania was founded as a home for a religious group, the Quakers. The Dutch colony of New Netherlands was captured by British forces in 1664 and renamed New York. The 13 American colonies would later unite into one country, but the history of each one was quite distinct.

The Mayflower left from Plymouth, England, on September 6, 1620. After 65 days crossing the ocean, the ship landed in what is now the state of Massachusetts. Soon after, the Pilgrims signed an agreement called the Mayflower Compact. In it, the Pilgrims agreed to unite into a “Civil Body Politic.” The Compact did not set up a governing system, as the Constitution later would. It did contain the idea that the people freely agreed to live under the government. The power of this government came directly from the people.

In 1774, representatives from 12 of the colonies met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the First Continental Congress. They protested British laws that treated them unfairly. They also began to organize an army. After fighting began between the colonists and the British army, a Second Continental Congress met. This group appointed Jefferson and others to create the Declaration of Independence.

This document stated that if a government does not protect the rights of the people, the people can create a new government. Following this idea, the colonists broke from their British rulers and formed a new country.
The Declaration of Independence, adopted July 4, 1776, is based on ideas about freedom and basic individual rights that all men and women are created equal and have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Thomas Jefferson and the Founding Fathers believed that people are born with natural rights that no government can take away. Government exists only to protect these rights. Because the people voluntarily give up power to a government, they can take back that power. The British government was not protecting the rights of the colonists, so they took back their power and separated from Great Britain.

The American colonists’ anger had been building for years before the Revolutionary War began. The Americans fought this war because they wanted freedom from British rule. The fighting of the war ended in 1781, after the Battle of Yorktown. The Americans, with French help, won this battle. It was not until 1783 that the British fully accepted United States independence.

Patrick Henry was a fiery leader of the American Revolution. Before U.S. independence, he spoke out for colonial rights within the Virginia legislature. He is famous for his commitment to the cause when he said “Give me liberty or give me death.” Henry represented Virginia in both the First and Second Continental Congresses. He helped push the colonies toward independence. In 1775, when the Revolutionary War began, Henry convinced Virginia to join the colonists’ side. Later he became the first governor of Virginia.
In 1786, George Washington noted the existence of an invisible train that ran without tracks. This railroad transported slaves to freedom through a network of “stations” led by secret “conductors.” By 1831, this growing freedom network was called the “Underground Railroad.” Thousands of slaves found freedom through this human train in the 1800s.

Runaway slaves from the South sought refuge in states where slavery was prohibited. Conductors on the railroad would hide escaped slaves in their homes and teach them secret codes and phrases to help them find the next safe house along the railroad. This continued until they reached freedom.

One of the most famous conductors along the Underground Railroad was Harriet Tubman. Harriet was born into slavery, but through her strength of character, she was able to help herself and hundreds of others obtain freedom. After living in Maryland for 25 years as a slave, Harriet learned she was going to be separated from her family and sold, so she planned her escape. A neighbor told her of two houses where she would be safe. She traveled to the first house in the back of a wagon covered with a sack, and then made her way to Philadelphia on her own. Harriet described freedom as “heaven.”

In Philadelphia, Harriet cooked and sewed to save enough money to rescue her family. She eventually helped 300 slaves gain freedom. Harriet used music, Bible verses, and folklore to alert escaped slaves of danger and give them directions to safe houses.

During the Civil War, Harriet was a nurse to sick and wounded Union soldiers. She also taught newly freed men and women how to care for themselves. In World War II, a ship was named in her memory, and in 1995, the federal government honored her accomplishments with a postage stamp.
October 29, 1929, “Black Tuesday,” was a dark day in history, officially setting off the Great Depression. The stock market crashed and unemployment skyrocketed. Many people became homeless. In 1932, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected president and he promised a “New Deal” for the American people. Congress created The Works Progress Administration (WPA), which offered work relief for thousands of people.

The end to the Great Depression came about in 1941 with America’s entry into World War II. America sided with Britain, France and the Soviet Union against Germany, Italy, and Japan. The loss of lives in this war was staggering.

President Franklin Roosevelt called December 7, 1941, “a date which will live in infamy.” On that day, Japanese planes attacked the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The bombing killed more than 2,300 Americans. The attack took the country by surprise.

“AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR THIS IS NOT A DRILL.”

The ranking United States naval officer in Pearl Harbor sent this message to all major Navy commands and fleet units. Radio stations receiving the news interrupted regular broadcasts to announce the tragic news to the American public. Most people knew what the attack meant for the U.S. even before Roosevelt’s official announcement the next day. The U.S. would declare war on Japan.

The U.S. was already close to joining the war, but had committed to neutrality, only committing to sending war supplies on loan to Great Britain, France, and Russia. Within days, Japan, Germany, and Italy declared war on the United States. December 7, the “date which will live in infamy,” brought us into World War II.
When Cuban rebels began a violent revolution against Spanish rule in 1895, and a mysterious explosion sunk the U.S.S. Maine in the Havana harbor, the U.S. entered into a war with Spain. The war took place from April to August 1898. Only 113 days after the outbreak of war, the Treaty of Paris, which ended the conflict, gave the United States ownership of Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam.

The war served to further cement relations between the American North and South. The war gave both sides a common enemy for the first time since the end of the Civil War in 1865. Many friendships were formed between soldiers of both northern and southern states during their tours of duty. This was an important development since many soldiers in this war were the children of Civil War veterans on both sides.

The Spanish–American War is significant in American history because it enabled the U.S. to emerge as a power on the world stage. The war marked American entry into world affairs. Over the course of the next century, the United States had a large hand in various conflicts around the world. The United States entered a lengthy and prosperous period of rapid economic growth, population growth, and technological innovation which lasted through the 1920s.
Women’s Right to Vote

Presidents Andrew Jackson, James Polk, and John Tyler, like many Americans of the Western Expansion era (1829 – 1859), embraced the notion of enlarging the “empire for liberty.” In other words, they wanted to expand the borders of America westward.

While some pioneers headed west to California, others attempted to expand the idea of what “liberty” in America meant. Abolitionists opposed laws that kept African Americans enslaved, and advocates of women’s suffrage argued that wives, mothers and daughters should play a more significant role in society by voting, holding office, and working outside the home.

During this time, the right of women in the United States to vote was debated.

Today, women in the United States can vote, own property, and hold political office, but it was not always this way. 150 years ago, women did not have the same privileges as men in many ways, and they had to fight for their rights. In July of 1848, a group of women and men interested in discussing the position of women in American society met at the Seneca Falls Convention in New York.

The assembled group also considered and voted on a number of resolutions. The one point that was met with strong opposition, but was eventually passed, was the following: “Resolved, That it is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to vote.”

The fight for women’s equal rights was a long, hard battle. After the signing of “The Declaration of Rights and Sentiments” in 1848, it took 72 years of organized struggle before most women won the right to vote when the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed in 1920.
Test Your Comprehension

Independence Day, page 146

1. ¿Cuántos estados hay en los Estados Unidos?

2. ¿Qué celebramos el 4 de Julio?

Electoral College, page 148

1. ¿Quién es eligen al presidente de los Estados Unidos?

2. ¿Quién se convierte en presidente si el presidente muere o renuncia?

Stars and Stripes, page 147

1. ¿Cuáles son los colores de nuestra bandera?

2. ¿Qué significan las estrellas de la bandera?

3. ¿Cuántas estrellas hay en nuestra bandera?

4. ¿Cuántas barras hay en nuestra bandera y de qué color son?

5. ¿Qué representan las barras de la bandera?

Supreme Law of the Land, page 149

1. ¿Qué es la Constitución?

2. ¿Cómo se llaman los cambios en la Constitución?
Examina tu comprensión

Divisions of Power, page 150

1. ¿Cuáles son las tres ramas de nuestro gobierno?

2. ¿Cuál es la rama legislativa de nuestro gobierno?

3. ¿Quiénes hace las leyes federales en los Estados Unidos?

4. ¿Quiénes eligen a los miembros del Congreso?

5. ¿Cuántos senadores hay en el Congreso?

United States Presidency, page 154

1. ¿A qué presidente se le llama el “Padre de la Patria”?

2. ¿Por cuánto tiempo se elige al presidente?

3. ¿Cuáles son algunos de los requisitos para ser candidato a presidente?

4. ¿Cuántos mandatos completos puede ejercer un presidente?

The Bill of Rights, page 153

1. ¿De dónde proviene la libertad de expresión?

2. ¿Qué es el Bill of Rights?

3. ¿Los derechos de quiénes están garantizados por la Constitución y el Bill of Rights?
The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness.

John Muir
Geography
World Heritage Sites

A UNESCO World Heritage Site is a specific site that is listed by the international World Heritage Program. The program works to conserve places of cultural or natural importance and preserve each site for future generations.

In the United States, there are 22 world heritage sites. Seventeen of these are natural geographical areas of particular interest or importance.

CARLSBAD CAVERNS, NEW MEXICO: Carlsbad Caverns National Park is home to more than 80 limestone caves. The nation’s deepest cave, at 1,597 feet, is found here.

CHACO CULTURE, NEW MEXICO: The Anasazi, or “Ancient Ones,” built large multistory stone villages and an impressive 400-mile road system in Chaco canyon. Chaco canyon houses the densest and most exceptional concentration of pueblos in the American Southwest.

TAOS PUEBLO, NEW MEXICO: Pueblo de Taos is the best preserved of the pueblos in the U.S. Taos is a great example of the traditional architecture of the pre-Hispanic period. Today Taos is inhabited by the Taos Pueblo Indians, and it is still an active community.

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK, FLORIDA: The Everglades are formed by a river of fresh water 6 inches deep and 50 miles wide that flows slowly across marshes, pine forests, and mangrove islands. More than 300 species of birds live in the park as well as alligators, manatees, and Florida panthers.

GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA: The Grand Canyon, created by the Colorado River, is 277 miles long, ranges in width from 0.25 to 15 miles and attains a depth of more than a mile.

SMOKY MOUNTAINS, NORTH CAROLINA/TENNESSEE: “Place of Blue Smoke” was the name given by the Cherokee Indians to these Appalachian Highlands. The forest here exudes water vapor and oily residues which create a smoke-like haze that surrounds the peaks and fills the valleys.
HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK: It is thought that the Hawaiian islands were created when molten rock pushed through Earth's crust, forming volcanoes. The park's two most impressive volcanoes are Kilauea and Mauna Loa.

MAMMOTH CAVE, KENTUCKY: Mammoth Cave is the world's most extensive cave system, with 345 miles of passages. Water seeping into the cave creates stalactites, stalagmites, and white crystal formations. Rare and unusual animals are found here, such as blind fish and colorless spiders. They demonstrate adaptation to the total darkness and isolation.

CAHOKIA MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE, ILLINOIS: The Cahokia site was the regional center for the Mississippian Indian culture. Cahokia features the largest prehistoric earthen constructions in the Americas. This site is a testament to the sophisticated engineering skills of Mississippian culture.

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK, COLORADO: The Anasazi established villages on the high, flat land of southwestern Colorado. In the late 1100s they began constructing multistory stone apartment houses, tucked on ledges and under rock overhangs.

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK, WASHINGTON: The park encompasses not only snow-capped Mount Olympus, glaciers, alpine meadows, and rocky Pacific Mountain coastline, but also one of the few temperate rain forests in the world.

WATERTON-GLACIER INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK, MONTANA: The two parks sustain a surprisingly diverse habitat, including wolves, bears, and mountain lions. It features a wide variety of wild flowers and wildlife.

REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA: Redwood National Park contains the tallest living things on Earth: evergreen trees that grow to 350 feet.

GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE, ALASKA: The park is made up of a huge chain of tidewater glaciers and a dramatic range of landscapes, from rocky terrain covered by ice to lush temperate rain forest. Brown and black bears, mountain goats, whales, seals, and eagles can be found within the park.

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Majestic Mountains

The highest mountains in the U.S. are located in four states: Alaska, California, Colorado and Washington. Alaska is home to 19 of the 20 highest peaks in the U.S. and Colorado is home to 16 of the 50 highest peaks in the U.S.

Mount McKinley or Denali in Alaska is the highest mountain peak in North America. At its peak it reaches a height of approximately 20,320 feet.

The United States is home to the world’s highest mountain, from its base on the ocean floor. Mauna Kea, on Hawaii is 33,474 feet high but only 13,796 feet are above sea level. Heights of mountains are generally given as heights above sea level.

The Great Smoky Mountains are a hiker’s paradise with over 800 miles of trails ranging from short walks to strenuous treks that are long enough to require overnight camping. Sixteen-hundred bears live in the park as well as deer and elk.

Stone Mountain Park is Georgia’s most popular attraction. The mountain is 825 feet tall. It is the world’s largest known free-standing piece of exposed granite. The 1.3-mile trail to the top of the mountain allows spectacular views. There are also 15 miles of nature trails for hiking.

At 7962 feet, Mount Olympus is the tallest and most prominent mountain in the Olympic Mountain range of Western Washington. Mount Olympus has eight glaciers and is the main feature of Olympic National Park.
Mountains play an important role in our lives! Climbers and tourists visit mountains for the scenery. Farmers graze their animals on them. Water authorities make reservoirs and pump the water to towns and cities. Forestry companies grow coniferous forests and harvest wood from them.

Tourism has many advantages; however, it can have a serious impact on the environment. As more and more people visit the mountains, the chances of the environment being permanently damaged become ever greater.

When hiking, check to make sure the trail you have chosen is open for use. Make sure it is dry and you always stay on the trail. Mountain biking and even hiking on wet trails causes damage that can be irreparable. You should also have proper footwear so you can hike through puddles. Walking around a puddle widens the trail and causes erosion.

If you are camping on or near a mountain, camp on a durable surface such as rock, sand or dry grass. This minimizes impact and doesn’t scare away wildlife.

Finally, don’t pick the flowers! Leaving flowers and plants in place is very important for seeding. If it’s blooming, and you take the seed away it won’t get pollinated, it’s no longer a food source for bees. Draw it, photograph it or smell it, but don’t pick it!
Four **desert regions** make up the North American Deserts: the Great Basin, the Mojave, the Sonoran, and the Chihuahuan.

**GREAT BASIN DESERT**

The Great Basin Desert is the **largest** desert in the U.S. and **covers over** 190,000 **square** miles. It covers the **northern three-quarters** of Nevada, **western** and **southern** Utah, the **southeastern corner** of Oregon and the southern **third** of Idaho.

The Great Basin is **considered** a **cold** desert. A cold desert is one with **daytime** temperatures **below freezing** for part of the year. **Sagebrush** covers vast areas of the Great Basin Desert. This is mainly a **shrub** desert with few **cacti**. **Compared with** the other deserts of North America, the Great Basin Desert has a limited **range** of plants and animals.

**SONORAN DESERT**

The Sonoran desert is considered the biologically **richest** desert in the world. It **receives** much of its **moisture** during the **summer** “monsoon” **season**, **making** it a subtropical desert. **Freezing** conditions can be **expected** for a few nights in **winter**.

The northern part of this desert is in Arizona and California, but it pushes far down into Mexico on both sides of the Gulf of California. It is **broken up** by numerous **mountain ranges**. In the Southwest these mountain ranges are **referred** to as “**sky islands**” due to their **isolation** by valleys.

**MOJAVE DESERT**

The Mojave is the **smallest** of the North American deserts. It **occupies** a **large portion** of southern California and smaller parts of southwestern Utah, southern Nevada, and northwestern Arizona. It is **named after** the Mojave tribe of Native Americans. The Mojave Desert’s **boundaries** are usually **defined** by the **presence** of Joshua Trees. These are the most popular and **well known** plant of the Mojave Desert.
The Mojave Desert receives less than 6 inches of rain a year, which makes it the driest of the North American deserts. A small California community located in the Mojave Desert once went 767 days without rain! The Mojave Desert is home to the Mojave National Preserve and the hottest place in North America: Death Valley. The all-time record high was recorded here at 134 degrees.

ANIMALS OF THE DESERT

Animals that live in the desert have to adapt to lack of water, extreme temperatures, and shortage of food. To avoid daytime heat, many desert animals are nocturnal. They burrow beneath the surface or hide in the shade. Many desert animals do not drink water at all; they get water from their food or the moisture in the plants. The most commonly known animals in North American deserts are the coyote and the jackrabbit.

The coyote is a member of the dog family and closely related to the wolf. The coyote is a fast-running carnivore and feeds mainly on small mammals. The coyote is one of the few wild animals whose communication is frequently heard. At night, coyotes howl and emit a series of short, high-pitched yips. Howls are used to keep in touch with other coyotes in the area.

Jackrabbits are large, long-legged, long-eared hares. Hares are similar to rabbits, but larger. The fur on their long ears is marked with black spots. They are very fast-moving mammals and can run up to 45 miles per hour. Jackrabbits are strict vegetarians. They eat a great variety of herbs and shrubs. It is estimated that nearly 2 million jackrabbits are hunted each year in California.

Other animals found in American deserts include rattlesnakes, bighorn sheep, roadrunners, and antelope.
The Great Lakes

The Great Lakes—Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario—are a group of five lakes on the U.S.-Canadian border. They are the largest fresh water system on Earth.

Covering more than 94,000 square miles, the Great Lakes hold about one-fifth of the world’s fresh water supply and nine-tenths of the U.S. supply.

The geography of the Great Lakes shoreline flourishes with diverse plant and animal life. The shoreline systems include sandy beaches, sand dunes and wetlands.

The most common shoreline in the Great Lakes region is the sand beach. The beaches are a great place for humans to swim and a great place for birds and other small other animals to find food. Beaches are rich feeding grounds for shorebirds. A variety of beetles, spiders, and birds like to feed upon the driftwood and other debris that collects on the beach.

The sand dunes of the Great Lakes are the largest freshwater coastal dunes in the world. The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore ranks seventh among national parks in plant diversity. Dunes are also the home of many endangered animals and plants. The piping plover, a small shorebird, nests in the shoreline dunes.

The freshwater wetlands of the Great Lakes are ecologically unique. They range from small wetlands in bays to extensive wetlands along the shoreline. Wetlands are an important part of duck and geese migration. They provide food, resting stops and habitats. Wetlands also improve water quality by slowing runoff, and processing organic waste before it reaches open water. This process protects aquatic life and sources of drinking water.

The shorelines of The Great Lakes are threatened by human impacts, such as housing developments, tourism, and erosion. We need to ensure that we don’t destroy this diverse and beautiful area that took nature years to create.
The natural resources available to people—for food and other production, maintaining healthy lives, and the pleasure of a beautiful landscape—can seem boundless. But growing populations are placing increasing pressure on the resources. Many of these resources, once used, are not renewable.

Fresh water supplies are essential for agricultural production, for drinking, and for maintenance of important habitats of animals. Fresh water supplies are projected to be inadequate to meet the needs of one-third of the world’s population by 2025, unless better use is made of this precious resource. In many coastal areas, pollution has reduced the quality of the water, affecting the quality of water and aquatic life. Forests are being cut down faster than they are being regenerated or planted.

USAID takes an integrated approach to natural resources management. Land and water must be managed skillfully so that they are able to maintain our basic ability to produce food. Water supplies must be used more efficiently—and water quality must be maintained or even improved—if people are to remain healthy.

Forests must be protected by those who live in or close to them. New approaches to involving these people in the wise management of a resource important to everyone in the world are being developed and applied in many areas. Sound methods for harvesting trees for timber and management of forest trees are being implemented. These kinds of programs promise to slow the rate of deforestation. However, illegal and destructive logging remains a threat to biodiversity conservation. Once lost, it will be impossible for the world to recover that diversity of our natural resources.

USAID is an outstanding organization that works to protect the environment in more than 100 countries worldwide. The work they do provides a better future for all.

For more information visit: www.usaid.gov.
Land of Waterfalls

America’s outstanding waterfalls can be found hiking through forests, alongside rivers or even in scorching deserts. Whether a trickle, a stream or a cascade, the delight and serenity of a waterfall is enjoyed by people of all ages.

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

Niagara Falls is a group of massive waterfalls located on the Niagara River on the border between the United States and Canada. The Falls are comprised of three separate waterfalls: Horseshoe Falls, American Falls, and the smaller, adjacent Bridal Veil Falls. Niagara Falls is very wide, and the most voluminous waterfall in North America. Niagara Falls is not only renowned for its beauty. The Falls are a valuable source of hydroelectric power for both Ontario and New York.

Calf Creek Falls, Utah

The Calf Creek Recreation Area in south central Utah offers a little-known treasure in one of the American deserts, the Calf Creek Falls. While a year-round creek is relatively rare in the desert, a year-round 126-foot waterfall is rare and stunning. It is 5.5 miles roundtrip to hike into the falls. Most of the trail is sandy and the walk can become very tiring, especially in warm weather. However, once you reach the falls you will find a cool, shady haven well worth the effort.

Yosemite Falls, California

Yosemite Falls is the highest waterfall in North America. Located in Yosemite National Park in California, it’s a major attraction in the park, especially in late spring when the water flow is at its peak. At 2425 feet, Yosemite Falls is the sixth-highest waterfall in the world.
MULTNOMAH FALLS, OREGON
Multnomah Falls is the tallest waterfall in Oregon and also the second-highest year-round waterfall in the United States. The water of the falls plummets 620 feet from its origin on Larch Mountain. Unusually cold weather can turn this waterfall into a frozen icicle! The frozen falls are a sight to behold.

AMICALOLA FALLS, GEORGIA
Amicalola Falls is derived from a Cherokee word meaning “tumbling waters.” The falls reach the height of 729 feet, which makes it the highest waterfall east of the Mississippi. In addition, the falls are just a hike away from Springer Mountain, famous for being the southern end of the Appalachian Trail.

NORTH CLEAR CREEK FALLS, COLORADO
The unusual setting for these waterfalls sets them apart from others and makes them even more spectacular. North Creek Falls are surrounded by flat lands covered with prairie grasses. Located above the Rio Grande, these falls crash more than 100 feet to the canyon below and are believed to be the most photographed waterfall in Colorado.

SHOSHONE FALLS, IDAHO
Shoshone Falls are the most well known falls in Idaho, and the most powerful falls in the Northwest. The falls are controlled by the Milner Dam and they are turned off during the agricultural season by diverting the water to the farmlands. They let them flow freely in the winter and spring, completely covering the cliff. These falls are 212 feet high and 1200 feet wide.

PUNCH BOWL FALLS, OREGON
Punch Bowl Falls is spectacular and is the most photographed waterfall in the Pacific Northwest. The falls occur where Eagle Creek cuts through a narrow channel flanked by cliffs, and drops powerfully into a large bowl. The falls’ name comes from the resemblance of the area to an actual punch bowl.
Hawaii is the only state with a true tropical rain forest. Hawaiian tropical forests are home to a large diversity of species. The isolation of the Hawaiian Islands from the rest of the world has resulted in an incredible diversity of fungi, mosses, snails, birds, and other wildlife. This diversity makes Hawaii’s tropical forests some of the most spectacular places on Earth.

The world’s wettest rain forest is found in Hawaii on Mount Waialeale. This forest averages 450 inches of rainfall per year.

An incredible variety of plants and animals live in the tropical forests of Hawaii. Birds native to the forest are hawks, crows, thrushes, and honeycreepers. The honeycreepers have developed diverse bills formed for feeding on the different plants in these wet forests. Rare carnivorous caterpillars are native to Hawaii. When triggered by touch, these caterpillars snatch their prey. The caterpillars mimic twigs and grab prey that comes too close.

The native plants in the Hawaiian islands are found nowhere else on Earth. In turn, most native plants are defenseless against introduced species such as pigs. Pigs were brought to Hawaii from Polynesia and Europe. Over the years the pigs have escaped and turned feral. These wild pigs are very destructive to the Hawaiian forests. They have destroyed vegetation, caused soil erosion, spread weeds and diseases, and polluted water supplies. Other introduced plants and animals are crowding out the native plants and animals. Hawaii has lost two-thirds of its original forests to agriculture, clearing, and fire, and half its native birds through habitat loss and disease. Saving Hawaii’s remaining native species is now a race against time.
Temperate rainforests are much younger than tropical rainforests. The soil in temperate forests contains more nutrients than that of the tropics. Temperate rainforests are located along the Pacific coast of the United States. Temperate rainforests are much more scarce than tropical rainforests. Some of the best forests are found in Olympic National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, Tongass National Forest, Mount St. Helens National Monument and Redwood National Park.

Olympic National Park is located on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington state. The western side of the park is home to a temperate rain forest and the wettest area in the continental United States. Because this is a temperate rainforest it contains dense timber, including spruce and fir.

The Tongass National Forest in southeastern Alaska is the largest national forest in the United States. It spans over 17 million acres. It is a northern temperate rain forest, home to rare flora and fauna that are endangered elsewhere. The Tongass National Forest is also home to about 70,000 people who depend on the national forest for their livelihood. Several Alaska Native tribes live throughout Southeast Alaska. 31 communities are located within the forest; the largest is Juneau, the state capital, with a population of 31,000. The forest is named for the Tongass group of the Tlingit people, who inhabited the Alaska panhandle.
All of the volcanoes in the United States are found in the western states, including Alaska and Hawaii. There are 169 volcanoes in the United States. Eighteen of them have been designated as “very high threat” volcanoes. These high-threat volcanoes are located in Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. Most of them haven’t erupted for a very long time, as far back as the 1700s.

Listed below are some of the most famous volcanoes in the United States.

Mauna Loa is considered the “monarch of mountains.” It is the largest volcano and the largest single mountain of any kind in the world. It is 60 miles long, 30 miles wide, and rises 28,680 feet from its base on the sea floor. Mauna Loa’s last major eruption was in 1984. It ended a 9-year period of silence. Mauna Loa remains an extremely dangerous volcano that can erupt in many different directions.

Historically, Mauna Loa has erupted at least once in every decade of recorded Hawaiian history. It has, however, slowed its pace with eruptions in 1950, 1975 and 1984. Scientists and residents of the Big Island constantly monitor Mauna Loa in anticipation of its next eruption.
Kilauea Volcano, on the southeast side of the Big Island, is one of the most active on earth. Its current eruption started in January 1983 and continues to this day. During this eruption over 500 acres have been added to the Big Island’s shoreline. In the course of the eruption, lava flows have destroyed a famous 700 year-old Hawaiian temple, overrun many houses, and permanently blocked highways.

There are no indications that the current eruption will come to an end anytime soon. Visitors to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park have a unique opportunity to see lava in action. Near the southwestern edge of the caldera is the “fire pit,” known as Halemaumau (House of Everlasting Fire), which has at times contained a lake of boiling lava.

Mount St. Helens is an active volcano in Skamania County, Washington. It is most famous for its disastrous eruption on May 18, 1980. This was the deadliest and most economically destructive volcanic event in the history of the United States. Fifty-seven people were killed, and 250 homes, 47 bridges, 15 miles of railways and 185 miles of highway were destroyed. The eruption caused a massive debris avalanche, reducing the elevation of the mountain’s summit from 9,677 feet to 8,365 feet and replacing it with a mile-wide horseshoe-shaped crater. The debris avalanche was the largest in recorded history.
Test Your Comprehension

World Heritage Sites, page 166

1. ¿Cuál es el propósito de un Sitio de Patrimonio Histórico de la UNESCO?

2. ¿Dónde se encuentra la cueva más profunda del país?

3. ¿Qué animales raros y poco comunes se encuentran en el Parque Nacional de la Cueva del Mamut?

4. ¿Qué contiene el Parque Nacional Redwood?

North American Deserts, page 170

1. ¿Qué es un desierto frío?

2. ¿Qué desierto se considera como el desierto biológicamente más rico del mundo?

3. ¿Cuál es el lugar más caliente en América del Norte?

4. ¿Por qué aúllan los coyotes en la noche?

Majestic Mountains, page 168

1. ¿Cuál es el pico de montaña más alto en América del Norte?

2. ¿Cuál es la atracción más popular en Georgia y por qué es famosa?

The Great Lakes, page 172

1. ¿Cuál es el tipo de costa más común en la región de los Grandes Lagos?

2. ¿Por qué son importantes los humedales?

3. ¿Qué está amenazando a las costas de los Grandes Lagos?
Examina tu comprensión

Land of Waterfalls, page 174

1. Las Cataratas del Niágara son renombradas por su belleza y ¿qué otra cosa?

2. ¿Cuál es la catarata más alta de América del Norte?

3. ¿Dónde están las cataratas más poderosas del noroeste?

Temperate Rain Forests, page 177

1. ¿Qué hace que los bosques pluviales templados sean diferentes de los bosques pluviales tropicales?

2. ¿Qué bosque pluvial es el área más húmeda de los Estados Unidos continentales?

3. ¿Cuál es el bosque nacional más grande de los Estados Unidos?

Tropical Rain Forests, page 176

1. ¿En qué ha resultado el aislamiento de las Islas de Hawai del resto del mundo?

2. ¿Dónde está el bosque pluvial más húmedo del mundo?

3. ¿Qué cosas están destruyendo o dañando los bosques hawaianos?

Volcanoes of the U.S., page 178

1. ¿Cuántos volcanes de los Estados Unidos están designados como de muy alto riesgo?

2. ¿Cuál es el volcán y la montaña más grande de cualquier tipo en el mundo?

3. En el curso de la erupción del Volcán Kilauea, ¿qué fue destruido?
One cannot think well, love well, sleep well,
if one has not dined well.

Virginia Woolf
Gastronomy
You may have heard the expression, “as American as apple pie,” in conversation. Apple pie has remained an iconic part of American culture through the years. Apple pie is considered a “comfort food” for many from coast to coast.

The dessert has also been used in the phrase, “for mom and apple pie,” said to be the popular answer that World War II American soldiers used when they were asked why they were going to war.

APPLE EXPRESSIONS

Apples have been a favorite fruit for generations of Americans and have become part of many common sayings.

1. The Big Apple: Nickname for New York City

2. Apple of my eye: Object of my affection or my darling.

3. The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree: A child is displaying similar traits to his or her parents.


5. An apple a day keeps the doctor away: Eating fruits like apples will keep you healthy.

6. It’s like apples and oranges: Comparing two things that are completely different and difficult to compare.

7. Apples for the teacher: Apples are associated with going back to school and children giving apples to the teacher as a present.
BASIC APPLE PIE RECIPE

8 servings

CRUST:
2½ cups white flour
2 tablespoons sugar
¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup cold butter
5 tablespoons cold vegetable shortening
8 tablespoons ice water

Measure flour, sugar and salt. Stir to combine. Add the chilled butter pieces and shortening to the bowl. Cut them in with a pastry cutter or knife. Do not overmix. Add ice water. Mix until the dough holds together. Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface, knead together, and then divide in half. Flatten each half into a disk, wrap in plastic wrap and chill for at least half an hour.

Roll out one of the disks on a floured surface until you have a circle that is 12 inches in diameter. Place the circle of dough into a 9" pie plate, trimming any extra dough from the edges with a sharp knife. Return it to the refrigerator until you are ready to make the pie. Add filling (see below). Roll out the second ball of dough and cover. Pinch the edges of the crust together. Cut two or three slits on top.

FILLING
⅓ to ⅔ cup sugar
⅔ cup all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
Pinch of salt
8 medium-sized apples (a medium apple = about 1 cup)
2 tablespoons margarine

Heat oven to 425 degrees. Peel and slice the apples. Mix sugar, flour, nutmeg, cinnamon, and salt in a bowl. Stir in apples. Pour into pastry-lined pie plate and dot with margarine. Cover with top crust and seal the edges. Cut slits in the top. Bake 40 to 50 minutes or until crust is brown and juice begins to bubble through slits in crust.

Serve warm with ice cream for “apple pie a la mode”!
The United States is a diverse and multicultural nation. Diversity is found among people, places and food. America is a land of good eating. Delicious regional cuisine is found from coast to coast. Neighborhoods, cities and states pride themselves on their regional food and some locations have been made famous by the food they best prepare.

BOSTON BAKED BEANS

Beans slow-baked in molasses have been a favorite Boston dish since colonial days. The beans are so popular that Boston was nicknamed “Beantown.” The Pilgrims learned how to make baked beans from the Native Americans. They substituted molasses and pork fat for the maple syrup and bear fat used by the Natives. The navy bean is the official vegetable of Massachusetts, and in 1993 the state declared it the original bean of Boston baked beans

FLORIDA KEY LIME PIE

Key West, Florida, is famous for its key lime pie, one of America’s best-loved regional dishes. Every restaurant in the Florida Keys serves this fabulous pie. Key lime pie is described as “An American pie containing a lime-flavored custard topped with meringue.” Key limes are very sour, and key lime juice is used to make a perfect custard filling. Nestled in a sweet graham-cracker crust, this official desert of the Florida Keys is tart, refreshing and delicious.

NEW ORLEANS GUMBO

Gumbo has been called Louisiana’s greatest contribution to American cuisine. Gumbo is classic Cajun food and can be found throughout the South but is served at its best in Louisiana. When the first French settlers came to Louisiana, they brought their love for bouillabaisse, a fish soup. They substituted local ingredients because they were missing ingredients they normally used at home. The Spanish, Africans, and natives of the area offered their contributions of food and the stew was no longer recognizable as bouillabaisse. It became gumbo.
HOT DOGS
Hot dogs are considered by some the favorite American food. Charles Feltman, a German butcher, opened up the first Coney Island hot dog stand in Brooklyn, New York in 1867. Harry Magely is credited for putting the hot dog into a bun and topping it with condiments. He reportedly instructed his vendors to shout, “Red hots! Get your red hots!”

Some people say there is one place where a hot dog always tastes best—at a baseball game! The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council reports that baseball fans will consume over 27 million hot dogs at major-league parks just this year!

PHILLY CHEESE STEAK
Philadelphia is home to the cheese steak. The cheese steak is a sandwich prepared on a long roll and filled with sliced pieces of steak and melted cheese. The cheese steak is a comfort food for natives of Philadelphia. It was invented in the city in 1930 and is considered a city icon. It is said by most Philadelphians that if a restaurant offers something called a “Philly cheese steak” then it is not authentic. According to Philadelphians, you cannot make an authentic Philadelphia cheese steak sandwich without an authentic Philadelphia roll. The rolls must be long and thin, not fluffy or soft, but also not too hard. They also say that if you are more than one hour from South Philly, you will not find an authentic sandwich!

TEXAS RED
Texans take chili seriously, and as a result, chili became the Texas State Dish in 1977. Chili originated in San Antonio in the 1880s. The essential ingredients are ground beef, garlic, cumin, and chili peppers. The public environment used to celebrate chili is called a “cook-off.” At a cook-off, thousands of people gather to create their version of Texas red. You can attend a cook-off throughout the year in Texas and taste for yourself some of the best chili in the United States.
American diners are popular neighborhood restaurants that attract a cross-section of America, from factory workers to Wall Street executives and from senior citizens to teenagers. Americans of all walks of life and all ages love diners! The function of the diner has always been to provide a delicious and inexpensive, home-style meal in a comfortable atmosphere.

Diners first evolved from mobile lunch wagons. The first dining wagons with seating appeared in the late 19th century. The dining wagon owners were able to serve busy locations without buying expensive real estate. As the lunch wagons became more popular and more customer seating was needed, the diners were converted to buildings. The same manufacturers who had made the wagons constructed the buildings. Like the lunch wagon, these diners allowed owners to set up a food service business quickly using the preassembled equipment.

By the early 1900s, the downtown centers of New England became so crowded with mobile lunch wagons that city ordinances began limiting their service to only daylight hours. However, owners worked around this ruling. They would find a busy location by the side of the road, take off the wheels, hook up to power, and set up business in a permanent location.

The term “diner” originated with Patrick J. Tierney, who called his prefabricated restaurants “dining cars.” His salespersons later shortened it to “diners.” A common myth was that diners were converted railroad cars. In reality, the streamlined locomotives of the 1930s inspired manufacturers to copy their sleek appearance.
By 1937, one million people ate at least one meal a day at a diner. In the 1940s, there were almost 10,000 diners across the U.S. Today, fewer than 3,000 remain.

“Blue plate special” refers to a special low-priced meal. This meal usually changes daily. It typically consists of meat and three vegetables on a single plate. During the Depression, a manufacturer started making plates with separate sections for each part of a meal. For a reason that has never been determined, the plates were only available in the color blue. Because they were inexpensive and saved on dishwashing, diners began using them for their low-priced daily specials.

The term “blue plate special” was very common from the 1920s through the 1950s. As of 2007 there are still a few restaurants and diners that offer blue-plate specials under that name. Sometimes they offer the special on blue plates, but it is a vanishing tradition. The phrase itself is still a common American expression.

Do you have a craving for American diner food? Check out Diner City web site: www.dinercity.com. Here you will find diners throughout the United States and an interesting photo collection. Also, visit The Roadside at www.roadsidemagazine.com. This site is dedicated to the preservation of the American diner.

People who frequent diners know diner lingo. Employees use it to name meals. It is truly a language unto its own!

- "One on the city" (a glass of water)
- "Make it moo" (coffee with milk)
- "Bird seed" (a bowl of cereal)
- "Cockleberries" (eggs)
- "Breath" (onions)
- "Frog sticks" (french fries)
- "Shivering Liz" (Jello)
- "Bossy in a bowl" (beef stew)
- "Sweep the kitchen" (a plate of hash)
- "Skid grease" (butter)
It may be hard for cookie aficionados to believe, but before the 1930s, no one had ever had the culinary pleasure of biting into a chocolate chip cookie. Why? This chocolate delight had not yet been invented.

Ruth Wakefield is the woman responsible for creating the chocolate chip cookie. In 1930, Ruth and her husband Kenneth purchased a Cape Cod-style tollhouse located between Boston and New Bedford, Massachusetts. The house had originally served as a haven for travelers. Tired passengers stopped here to pay tolls and eat home-cooked meals.

The Wakefields decided to revive and continue the house’s tradition. They turned their home into a hotel and called it the Toll House Inn. Ruth cooked homemade meals and baked for guests of the inn. Her incredible desserts began attracting people from all over New England.

Ruth’s favorite recipe was Butter Drop Do cookies. As she prepared the batter one day she realized she had run out of baker’s chocolate. She decided to use the chocolate she had on hand, a semi-sweet chocolate bar, given to her by Andrew Nestle. She cut it into tiny bits and added them to the dough. She expected the chocolate bits to melt as the cookies baked in the oven. However, the chocolate did not melt. Instead, it held its shape and softened to a creamy texture. As you can imagine, the cookies Ruth had created became very popular with guests at the inn. Her recipe was published in a Boston newspaper, as well as other papers in the New England area.
Meanwhile, Nestle saw sales of its Semi-Sweet Chocolate Bar jump dramatically because so many people were using the bits of chocolate in Ruth’s recipe. Ruth and Nestle agreed that Nestle would print the “Toll House Cookie” recipe on its packaging. Part of this agreement included supplying Ruth with all of the chocolate she could use for the rest of her life.

Nestle began to package their chocolate bars with a special chopper designed to easily cut the chocolate into small morsels. Eventually, Nestle came up with a better idea, and began offering Nestlé Toll House Real Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels.

The rest is “chocolate-chip” history. Ruth continued to cook and published a series of cookbooks. In 1966, she sold the Toll House Inn to a family that tried to turn it into a nightclub. The Saccone family, who restored its original form, bought it in 1970. Sadly, fourteen years later, the Toll House burned down on New Years Eve.

Ruth Wakefield passed away in 1977 but her legacy lives on, enjoyed by millions of people nationwide. Still, to this day, you can find her Toll House recipe on the back of Nestlé’s chocolate chip cookie packages.
Buffalo wings are chicken wings deep-fried and coated in a spicy sauce. Buffalo wings are named after the city of Buffalo, New York where they originated.

This tasty and popular side dish was created on October 3, 1964 and first prepared at the Anchor Bar in Buffalo, New York. Teressa Bellissimo, owner of the Anchor Bar with her husband Frank, had the brilliant idea of deep-frying chicken wings and combining them with her husband’s spicy red-hot sauce. Typically, chicken wings were thrown away or used only for making stock.

Teressa created this deep-fried and sauced creation, served it to her son and his friends, and they were an instant hit.

In the Southern United States, wings are often called “hot wings” and come with many different sauces. There are local variations all over the United States in how they are prepared and served and they are most often found on bar menus as bar food.

Buffalo wings are usually served with celery sticks, carrot sticks and blue cheese dip. Some restaurants serve their wings with ranch dressing as an alternative to blue cheese.

For a truly authentic experience, order the original sauce directly from the Anchor Bar that made Buffalo chicken wings famous!
Saltwater Taffy

Taffy has been an American **beachside** tradition for more than 100 years. The exact history of how taffy **came to be** is still a mystery. Some **candy companies** **state** that David Bradley, a **shopkeeper** in Atlantic City, was the **first seller** of the candy. In 1883, a **huge** storm **hit the beaches**. Bradley’s store was **filled with** the ocean water and his **entire stock** of taffy **was soaked**. A young girl asked if the store **still had** taffy **for sale**. As a joke, Bradley told the girl to **grab some** “saltwater taffy.” This is believed to be the first reference to “saltwater taffy.”

Joseph Fralinger is recognized as **the person who** made saltwater taffy popular. Fralinger observed **sunbathers** and **visitors** and came up with the idea to **package** saltwater taffy as a **treat** for **beachgoers** to take home with them. He thought tourists would want a reminder or **souvenir** of their vacation in Atlantic City. As an experiment, Fralinger **boxed the candy** and sold it one weekend. It was a huge **success**!

As Fralinger’s success grew, competition was sure to follow. Shops would **compete** with new and different recipes to **entice** the visitors and **boost** their sales.

By the 1920s, everyone was **buying** and **enjoying** saltwater taffy after a day at the beach. Just as Fralinger **had predicted**, it was the perfect beach souvenir to **bring home** to family and friends.

Saltwater taffy can be found at boardwalks and in beach communities and is still a popular treat for people to bring home after visiting the beach. Traditional **flavors** include peppermint, cinnamon and chocolate. More adventurous **taste buds** can enjoy flavors like rhubarb, banana and marshmallow.
Waldorf Salad

Waldorf salad was created at New York’s Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in 1896 not by a chef, but by the maître d’hôtel, Oscar Tschirky. After serving the Waldorf Salad to patrons and guests, the Waldorf salad became an instant success.

The original version of this salad contained only apples, celery and mayonnaise. Chopped walnuts later became a common part of the dish. Waldorf salad is usually served on top of a bed of lettuce.

CLASSIC WALDORF SALAD

Ingredients:

1 cup apples, chopped (Granny Smith or a sweet tart apple or a combination of different tart apples)
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 cup celery, chopped
¼ cup mayonnaise
¼ cup raisins (optional)
¼ cup walnuts (optional)

Sprinkle apples with lemon juice after they are cut.
Add all other ingredients.

Toss to coat all pieces with mayonnaise.

Another option for a modern Waldorf salad is to add meat to the recipe. Some popular choices include strips of chicken breast, turkey, cubed smoked pork loin, or grilled salmon. Layer the meat on top of the Waldorf salad, or lightly toss to make a delicious entree.
Clam Chowder

Clam Chowder is a popular soup containing clams and broth. In addition to the clams, the chowder may contain potato chunks or onions. Small carrot strips might occasionally be added for color.

Chowder has its roots in the Latin word “calderia,” which originally meant a place for warming things, and later came to mean cooking pot.

New England clam chowder is white and contains milk or cream. Some people say that New England clam chowder has become creamier over the years as a result of tourism. Allegedly, tourists visiting New England, squeamish of clams and seafood, prefer the creamier chowder. At one time, some restaurants served clear chowder, and let customers add cream to taste.

Manhattan clam chowder has clear broth and lots of fresh tomato for red color and flavor. This tomato-based clam chowder started with the increased popularity of the tomato in the mid-1800s and the large population of Italians in New York. Originally, this chowder was called “Coney Island clam chowder,” most likely because of the many restaurants on Coney Island that served it. By the 1930s the popular name became “Manhattan clam chowder.”

Clam chowder is usually served with saltine or oyster crackers. Throughout the United States, creamy New England-style clam chowder is served in sourdough bread bowls. You will find warm chowder in fresh sourdough bread bowls all over San Francisco, where sourdough is popular with tourists and has been considered a signature dish since 1849.
America’s first farmers’ markets were modeled after similar markets in Europe. Wagons filled with produce from local farms rolled into town ready to sell their goods to the city folk. Most markets took place in empty lots on a major street. This is where the term “market streets” came from.

The first market in the history of the United States was in Boston in 1634. Twenty-eight years later, the city built a wooden building for the market to create a more permanent presence.

Philadelphia had the best-designed and regulated markets. William Penn’s city plan included a market along the main artery, High Street, later named Market Street. The market opened twice a week with the ringing of bells.

One of the most famous daily markets today is the Pike Place Market in Seattle, Washington. The market opened August 17, 1907 and is the third-oldest farmers’ market in the country. The market’s major attraction is the Pike Place Fish Market, where employees throw fish to each other rather than passing them by hand. The “flying fish” are famous worldwide.

Farmers’ markets are good for consumers, farmers, and for the community. Markets create gathering places to bring customers downtown, where they shop at local businesses as well as at the market. Farmers can provide the community with food and produce that may not be available at other stores in the area. Farmers’ markets can also provide extra income for community workers and possible employment for local youth.

There are 4500 markets in the U.S. today, nearly twice as many as a decade ago. People visit the farmers’ markets for many reasons: for the wonderful produce they cannot find anywhere else; for the benefits of eating seasonally; for the beauty and smells of the fresh herbs and produce and flowers; and of course, to support their local farmers and to come together with their community.
Soul Food

Soul food is a term associated with food created by African-Americans of the Southern United States. In the mid-1960s, “soul” was a familiar adjective used to describe African-American culture.

African-Americans working as slaves would make the most of what ingredients they had at hand. The fresh vegetables they had used in Africa were replaced by the throwaway foods from the plantation house. Their vegetables were the tops of turnips and beets and dandelions. They were cooking with greens they had never tasted before: collards, kale, cress, mustard and pokeweed. African-American slaves developed recipes that used discarded meat, such as pigs’ feet and ears, beef tongue or tail, tripe and skin. Cooks added onions and garden herbs such as garlic, thyme, and bay leaf to enhance the flavors.

The slave diet began to change when slaves started working in the plantation houses as cooks. They had access to a wider variety of food and started to share their favorite meals with the families they were cooking for. Fried chicken began to appear on the tables; sweet potatoes accompanied the white potato. Local foods like apples, peaches and berries were transformed into delicious puddings and pies.

Nothing was ever wasted in the African-American kitchen. Bread pudding was created out of stale bread, and each part of the pig had its own special dish. Even the liquid from the boiled vegetables was made into gravy or turned into a drink.

The slaves’ cuisine became known as “good times” food. The evening meal was a time for families to come together after long days and hours of hard work. Songs and stories were shared and dinnertime became a meal for both body and soul.

Soul food originated in the South, but this cooking tradition has since spread all throughout the United States. Today, soul food restaurants exist in nearly every African-American community in the U.S.
Barbecue is a great American tradition and pastime. It has become so popular that barbecue festivals are popping up all across the nation and statewide cook-offs are turning it into a sport!

The popular tradition of “barbecuing” is to gather with your friends in the back yard to enjoy food prepared over a hot grill.

Barbecue experts state that the tradition of barbecue began in the south. However, the taste, ingredients used, and sometimes even the method of cooking may vary from state to state; so some people argue that its history is unknown.

In the South, the meat is not what is traditional or even the most popular for today’s barbecues. They usually use beef cooked only by the slow cooking method. The full range of barbecue sauces they produce remains popular. The sauces can vary between sweet to fiery red-hot.

In the central South, the primary meat used in barbeque is pork and ribs, but the way it is cut differs. It is pulled rather than chopped. The meat is slow cooked, shredded by hand and covered with large amounts of sauce. The ribs are coated with sauce or covered with a mix of sharp spices before pit cooking.
The sauce is a sweet tomato sauce with a hint of pepper and molasses. It is traditionally served with coleslaw, French fries, baked beans and cornbread. In the western United States, beef gets preference over pork.

The East Coast is true to its original beginnings and uses pork and vinegar sauces. Common side dishes are coleslaw and hushpuppies. The main variations are tasted in the vinegar sauces, such as rich tomato or tangy yellow mustard-based sauce.

The history and origin of how barbecue came to the United States is under dispute. The Barbecue Association states that barbecue first came to California with Franciscan friars who brought it from the Caribbean.

Another theory is that barbecue originated in the late 1800s during the western cattle drives. The cowboys would slowly cook the tough meat over a fire. This was a way to tenderize the meat and make it tastier. Some say German butchers brought barbecue to Texas in the mid-1800s. What is certain is that barbecuing has been an American pastime for hundreds of years. Today almost everyone barbecues at one time or another, whether it’s a small grill on an urban patio or a complete pig roast in your own backyard. As time marches on, Americans continue to perfect this culinary delight and tradition.
**American Apple Pie, page 184**

1. ¿La tarta de manzana es considerada como qué para muchas personas?

2. ¿La Gran Manzana es el apodo de qué ciudad estadounidense?

**Blue Plate Special, page 188**

1. ¿Cuál es la función de un restaurante económico?

2. ¿A qué se refiere el “blue plate special”?

3. Si alguien en un restaurante económico pide “frog sticks” (bastones de rana), ¿qué está pidiendo?

**Taste of America, page 186**

1. ¿Cuál es la verdura oficial de Massachussets?

2. ¿Dónde tienen mejor sabor los perros calientes, según la opinión de alguna gente?

3. ¿Cuáles son los ingredientes esenciales para el chili texano?

**Chocolate Chip Cookies, page 190**

1. ¿Quién creó la galleta con pedacitos de chocolate?

2. Cuando a Ruth se le acabó el chocolate para hornear, ¿qué hizo?
Examina tu comprensión

**Buffalo Wings, page 192**

1. ¿Qué son las “buffalo wings” (alas de búfalo)?

2. ¿Por qué se llaman “buffalo wings”?

**Saltwater Taffy, page 193**

1. ¿Quién popularizó el “saltwater taffy”?

2. ¿Por qué pensó que sería popular?

**Clam Chowder, page 195**

1. Describe la sopa de almeja estadounidense.

2. ¿Por qué la sopa de almejas de New England se ha vuelto más cremosa con el pasar de los años?

**Farmers’ Markets, page 196**

1. ¿Cuándo y dónde fue el primer mercado de agricultores en los Estados Unidos?

2. ¿Qué es famoso a nivel mundial en el mercado de Pike Place?

**American Barbecue, page 198**

1. ¿Dónde afirman los expertos en barbacoas que empezó la tradición de la barbacoa?

2. ¿Qué carne se usa principalmente en el sur central y cómo se cocina?

3. ¿Cuáles son las tres teorías sobre cómo la barbacoa llegó a los Estados Unidos?
Culture  The American Dream page 4  1. Inmigración – el sueño de prosperidad y libertad.  2. Creó miles de trabajos y mejoró el estándar de vida.  3. Vivir una vida satisfactoria.  A Melting Pot page 5  1. Gente de diferentes culturas y razas viviendo juntos.  2. En los años 1880 los afroamericanos desarrollaron nuevas formas de música.  Early American Literature page 14  1. Mark Twain nació en Missouri.  2. John Steinbeck escribió The Grapes of Wrath (Las uvas de la ira)  Artistic Expression page 15  1. Estar libre de necesidad, libertad de expresión, libertad de credo, y estar libre de temor.  2. pop art  The Birthplace of Broadway 16  1. En la ciudad de Nueva York.  2. La comunidad de Broadway fue especialmente activa apoyando la guerra.  3. chapines  Cultural Values 18  1. libertad individual  2. educación


Tradition  Choices in Education page 44  1. 16-18  2. Elementary, Junior High y Senior High  3. 4 o más  Traditions for the New Year page 46  1. 31 de diciembre  2. La ciudad de Nueva York  3. el Rose Bowl  April Fool’s page 49  1. Primero de abril  2. en Francia en los 1500  3. es tiempo de bromas  An American Christmas page 50  1. Inglaterra, Alemania, los Países Bajos  2. eggnog  Giving Thanks page 52  1. el cuarto jueves en noviembre  2. Los nativos americanos y los colonos, quienes fueron los primeros inmigrantes a los Estados Unidos.  America’s Favorite Sport page 54  1. el partido del Rose Bowl  2. Canton, Ohio  3. las animadoras de los Dallas Cowboys  The National Pastime page 56  1. comer frankfurters y Cracker Jacks; cánticos y ovaciones en los estadios, coleccionar autógrafos, hacerse miembro de clubes de fanáticos.  2. Babe Ruth  The American Flag page 58  1. libertad y orgullo  2. Francis Bellamy  Remembrance and Honor page 61  1. Día de la Decoración  2. Para honrar a aquellos que dieron sus vidas por nuestro país.
Respuestas

Celebración  Luck of the Irish page 66  1. 1737 en Boston, Massachusetts  2. son pellizcados  Seasonal Celebrations page 70  1. dar la bienvenida a la llegada del otoño y el cambio de color de las hojas  2. la mejor escultura esculpida en hielo  3. atrapando serpientes en el Rattlesnake Roundup  Flavor of America page 72  1. Se lo monta en un marco para la posteridad  2. Las Cruces, New Mexico  3. dos mil millones de libras, o el 25% del queso del país, por año  Parents Appreciation Day page 75  1. clavel rojo  2. No está claro. Algunos dicen que empezó en un oficio religioso en Virginia Oeste o en Vancouver, Washington.  Celebrating the Worker page 79  1. la ciudad de Nueva York en 1882, 1894  2. de la temporada de verano  Shakespeare Festivals page 80  1. un poeta y dramaturgo inglés  2. un festival gratis celebrado en San Francisco  3. por donaciones de quienes apoyan la belleza de la obra de William Shakespeare

People  Trail of Discovery page 88  1. para explorar el oeste americano  2. Sacagawea  3. Al ser una mujer ella ayudó a disipar la noción de que el grupo era una banda de guerreros  Mother of Civil Rights page 89  1. Dar su asiento a una persona blanca en un autobús urbano.  2. 1956  The Founding Fathers page 90  1. Los líderes políticos que firmaron la Declaración de la Independencia o la Constitución de los Estados Unidos, y que fueron activos en la Revolución Americana.  2. George Washington  3. Thomas Jefferson  4. Su experimento con la cometa, el cual verificó la naturaleza de la electricidad.  Frank Lloyd Wright page 94  1. casas de la pradera  2. techos inclinados, perfiles limpios, líneas que se extienden y se confunden con el paisaje  Rags to Riches page 95  1. Las personas ricas estaban obligadas moralmente a devolver su dinero a otras personas en la sociedad.  2. Cuando Carnegie era un hombre joven, el coronel James Anderson, un hombre rico, le permitió usar su biblioteca personal de forma gratuita.  3. más de $350 millones  America Takes Flight page 96  1. Las ganancias de su negocio de bicicletas pagaron sus operaciones construyendo aviones.  2. Era un área que tenía vientos constantes. Podían planear y aterrizar de forma segura en las dunas de arena del área.  3. En 1928 fue la primera mujer en volar sobre el Océano Atlántico como pasajera. En 1932 se convirtió en la primera mujer en volar sola sobre el Océano Atlántico.  Dr. Jonas Salk page 99  1. la vacuna contra la polio  2. Que la vacuna fuera distribuida tan ampliamente como fuera posible, para tantas personas como fuera posible.  Angel of the Battlefield page 100  1. Por su trabajo compasivo durante la guerra civil, ayudó a muchos soldados heridos en el campo de batalla.  2. Ayudó al gobierno a buscar información sobre soldados desaparecidos.

Business  Introduction to Taxes page 108  1. El Servicio de Impuestos Internos  2. A la Tesorería de los Estados Unidos, que paga varios gastos gubernamentales.  3. El gobierno te cobrará intereses y penalizaciones.  Entrepreneurship page 110  1. lenguaje, habilidades en los negocios, y dinero para comenzar  2. bancos  3. Montar un negocio que no necesita mucho dinero para montarse.  Banking in America page 112  1. Falta de identificación para abrir una cuenta bancaria, diferencias culturales.  2. Los oficiales que hacen cumplir la ley dicen que los criminales ven a los hispánicos como blanco fácil porque se los conoce por llevar dinero al contado a menudo.  3. La finalidad de la tarjeta es introducir a los clientes al sector bancario y ayudar a crear una historia de crédito.  Negotiating Your Salary 114  1. 20 por ciento más  2. quédate callado  3. obtenlo por escrito  Retirement Plans page 116  1. Un plan de jubilación calificado patrocinado por una empresa para empleados.  2. Impuestos federales a la renta y la mayoría de los impuestos estatales a la renta.  3. 401k  Mastering the Interview page 118  1. falso  2. confianza  3. Hace que te veas y suenes comprometido o interesado en la entrevista.  4. usted  5. están prohibidas
Empowerment

Citizenship page 124 1. Gente que ha dejado un país extranjero para vivir en los Estados Unidos. Tienen algunas de las mismas libertades y derechos legales de los ciudadanos de Estados Unidos, pero no pueden votar en las elecciones. 2. Nativos de las posesiones territoriales de los Estados Unidos. Tienen todas las protecciones legales que tienen los ciudadanos, pero no tienen todos los derechos políticos de los ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos.

Empowerment with Education page 126 1. Latinos 2. Elegir algunas escuelas y ponerte en contacto con sus oficinas de ayuda financiera 3. más de 78,000

Community Colleges page 128 1. más de 1200 2. un certificado de dos años 3. enfermería registrada, cumplimiento de la ley, enfermería práctica registrada, radiología, y tecnologías en computación

Helping Children Succeed page 130 1. verdadero 2. Los niños aprenden más y padres y maestros se sienten más apoyados. 3. pasa tiempo en la escuela, busca a alguien que hable tu idioma, pregunta acerca de clases de idiomas, trabaja como voluntario desde tu hogar

Bilingual Resources page 132 1. industrias de servicio al consumidor, venta, comunicaciones, y la banca 2. Muchos de quienes recultan ponen a prueba a los candidatos durante el proceso de entrevista. 3. Hablar inglés, tener experiencia previa de trabajo.

Legal Resources page 134 1. Un abogado que ha estudiado las leyes de inmigración de los Estados Unidos y se ha graduado de una escuela de abogacía. 2. Pueden ayudarte a obtener estadus legal del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional o representarte ante la Corte de Inmigración.

Owning Your Own Home page 136 1. 46% 2. Lograr seguridad económica y ayudar a las comunidades a lograr mayor estabilidad.

You and Your Community page 138 1. conocer a tus vecinos, integrarte a tus alrededores cercanos, ayudarte a identificar y utilizar los recursos disponibles 2. Programas para adultos y niños, cuidado para niños, programas de verano, conciertos y festivales locales. 3. trabajar como voluntario/a

History

Independence Day page 146 1. 50 estados 2. el día de la independencia

Stars and Stripes page 147 1. rojo, blanco y azul 2. una por cada estado

Electoral College page 148 1. el colegio electoral 2. el vicepresidente

Supreme Law of the Land 149 1. la ley suprema del país 2. enmiendas

Divisions of Power page 150 1. ejecutivo, judicial y legislativo

Bill of Rights page 153 1. del Bill of Rights 2. Las primeras 10 enmiendas a la Constitución de los Estados Unidos.

United States Presidency page 154 1. George Washington 2. cuatro años 3. haber nacido en los Estados Unidos, no ser un ciudadano naturalizado, tener por lo menos 35 años de edad, y haber vivido en los Estados Unidos durante 14 años por lo menos 4. dos mandatos completos

204 answer key
Geography

World Heritage Sites page 166 1. Conservar los lugares de importancia cultural o natural y preservar cada sitio para las generaciones futuras. 2. en el Parque Nacional de las Cavernas de Carlsbad 3. peces ciegos y arañas sin color 4. Los seres vivos más altos del planeta, árboles de hoja perenne que crecen hasta 350 pies.

Majestic Mountains page 168 1. el Monte McKinley o Denali en Alaska 2. El Parque de la Montaña de Piedra, es el pedazo de granito expuesto suelto que se conoce más grande del mundo

North American Deserts page 170 1. Un desierto con temperaturas diurnas bajo cero durante parte del año. 2. el desierto de Sonora 3. el Valle de la Muerte 4. Para mantenese en contacto con otros coyotes en el área.

The Great Lakes page 172 1. la playa de arena 2. son parte de la migración de patos y gansos y proveen comida, paradas de descanso y hábitats 3. impactos humanos, tales como construcción de viviendas, turismo, y erosión

Land of Waterfalls page 174 1. Una fuente valiosa de energía hidroeléctrica para Ontario y Nueva York. 2. las Cataratas Shoshone en Idaho

Tropical Rain Forests page 176 1. una diversidad increíble de hongos, musgos, caracoles, pájaros, y otra vida silvestre 2. en Hawai, en el Monte Waialeale 3. los cerdos salvajes, plantas y animales introducidos, agricultura, corte, fuegos

Temperate Rain Forests page 177 1. Los bosques pluviales templados son más jóvenes, el suelo de los bosques templados contiene más nutrientes, los bosques templados son más escasos. 2. el Parque Nacional Olympic 3. el Bosque Nacional Tongass en el sureste de Alaska

Volcanoes in the United States page 178 1. 18 2. Mauna Loa 3. un famoso templo hawaiano de 700 años, casas, autopistas

Gastronomy

American Apple Pie page 184 1. na comida que te hace sentir bien 2. la ciudad de Nueva York

Taste of America page 186 1. el frijol o poroto blanco 2. un juego de béisbol 3. carne molida, ajo, comino, y chiles

Blue Plate Special page 188 1. Proveer una comida deliciousa y barata, de estilo casero en un ambiente cómodo. 2. un Plato especialmente rebajado 3. papas fritas

Chocolate Chip Cookies page 190 1. Ruth Wakefield 2. Usó el chocolate que tenía a mano – una barra de chocolate semi-dulce, que Andrew Nestle le había dado.

Buffalo Wings page 192 1. alitas de pollos fritas y cubiertas con una salsa picante 2. Se les llama así por la ciudad de Buffalo, Nueva York, donde se originaron.


Clam Chowder page 194 1. Una sopa popular que contiene almejas y caldo y a veces pedazos de papa, cebollas y palitos de zanahorias. 2. A los turistas les daba aprensión comer mariscos y preferían una sopa más cremosa.

Farmers’ Markets page 196 1. Boston en 1634. 2. El “pescado volador” donde los empleados se tiran los pescados unos a otros en vez de pasarlos de mano en mano.

American Barbecue page 198 1. en el sur 2. cerdo y costillas - la carne se desmenuza en vez de picarla, la carne se cocina lentamente, se desmenuza a mano y se cubre con grandes cantidades de salsa 3. Frailes franciscanos la trajeron del Caribe, se originó durante las conducciones de ganado cuando los vaqueros cocinaban la carne sobre el fuego, carniceros alemanes trajeron la barbacoa a Texas a mediados del 1800.
¿Está buscando algo más para leer? ¿Quiere seguir aprendiendo? Mantenga su inglés con ...

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