

## The United States of America History, Politics and Society

### I. Geography :

- The geography of the USA is varied. In the North, winters are very cold, and sometimes there is a lot of snow (it's freezing cold). In the south, summers are known for their intense heat (very hot weather) and humidity.
- The USA is a Federal Republic of 50 states.
- Some of the highest mountains are: Alaska Range & Sierra Nevada (in California).

### II. Demography :

- The USA has a population of about 320 million people, according to the statistics of 2020.
- The capital is Washington, D.C.
- The state where there is the largest black population is Texas, Florida is the second and Georgia is the third.
- In the state of Alaska, there is the highest percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- The median age in the United States 38.5 years.

### III. Language :

- English is the main language used by the overwhelming majority of Americans. There are also other languages such as: Spanish, Chinese, French, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Arabic.
- The USA remains a melting pot of languages, there are also several dialects of American English spoken in different parts of USA.
- In the USA it's very important to be direct in communication when people communicate they need to get straight to the bottom line.

### IV. Culture:

- The American culture is individualistic, and the society is achievement oriented. What a person achieves as an individual determines his/her status in the society.
- The USA is a multi-cultured society. In the sense that there are different cultures living together.
- One of the most important aspects in the American culture is respect of time, American are generally obsessed with being on time. In the USA, time is money, because it's sacred.
- *The Amish* in America are a group of traditionalists Christians with German origin. In *Amish*, tradition children are not allowed to go to school after 8th grade. The children should help on the farm. In *Amish* tradition, it is also forbidden to pose for pictures because it seems as a show of pride which is against their religion.
- Some of the American authors are: *Edgar Allan Poe*, *Toni Morrison* & *Robert Frost*.

## V. Religion:

- The USA is famous for its religious diversity. Christianity is the major religion. There are other religions such as Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism etc.
- Freedom of religion is guaranteed in USA.

## VI. Education:

- In USA, the educational system consists of preschool education, elementary education, secondary education and post-secondary education.

## VII. Politics:

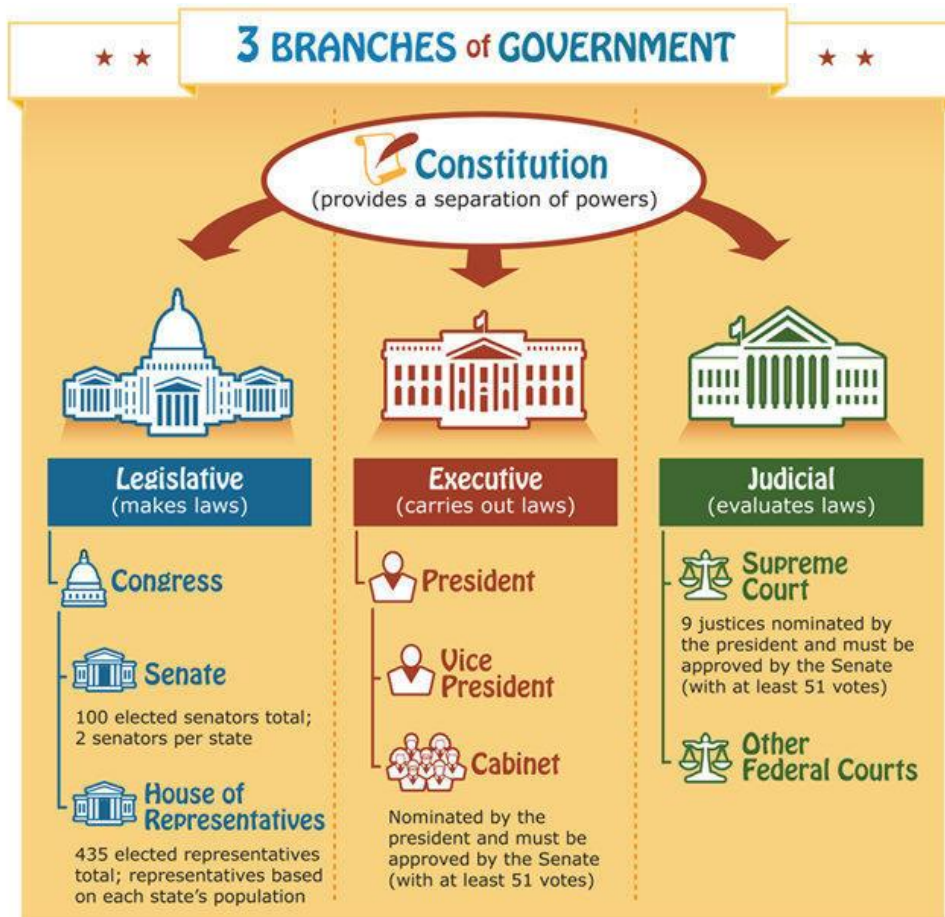
### 1) Form of government:

- The USA is a constitutional republic. It works according to a legal system which provides rights and duties for individuals.
- Americans have a government of limited power. There is a constitution which defines and limits political power.
- American political system has forced many challenges and difficulties:
  - » The need to mobilize for the two World Wars (WWI & WWII).
  - » The depression of 1930's.
  - » The changing rule of government since WWII.
  - » The challenge of the civil rights movement.
  - » The impact of the Vietnam War.
  - » The under shock if the Watergate affair which resulted in the resignation of President *Nixon*.
- In the USA, there is a government at the national/federal level, another government at the state level and one more at the local level.
- One of the most important things cited by the American constitution is the separation of power. No branch is more powerful than another.
- The separation of power is guaranteed by a system called the Checks and Balances. This system gives the right to each branch to check and prevent them from being too powerful.

### 2) The Congress:

- In the USA, the *Congress* is made up of two parts: *The House of Representatives and the House of the Senate*. They represent the legislative branch of the USA government. There are 100 members in the *Senate* (Two members per state) and there are 450 in the *House of Representatives* (Their number of members depends on population per state).

- The *Congress* members can propose new ideas for new laws which are called “bills”. When the *Senate* and the *House of Representatives* pass a bill, they take it to the president. If he agrees and signs the bills, it become a law. But if the president vetoes the bill, the *Congress* can meet again to consider the veto or make changes to the bill and send it back to the president for approval.
- The *Congress* meets in the Capitol building.



The U.S Capitol: Legislative  
The White House: Executive  
The Supreme Court: Judicial

### 3) American Presidents:

- According to the American constitution, the President is the head of the State and the head of government.
- 46 men have occupied the position of the USA president since 1789. The first president was *George Washington* and the current is *Joe Biden*.
- In the history of the USA, the only president who served for non-consecutive terms was *Stephen Grover Cleveland*.
- In the history of the USA, the shortest serving President was *William Henry Harrison* who died after 31 days in the office.

- The longest serving president was *Franklin D. Roosevelt*. He stayed in the office for more than 12 years (from 1932 until his death in 1944). However, after the 2nd amendment which was made to the American constitution in 1951, no president can be elected for more than twice.

#### 4) Impeachment of the USA president:

- In American history, three presidents have faced impeachment: the 1st was *Andrew Johnson (1868)*, the 2nd was *Bill Clinton (1998)* and the last one was *Donald Trump (2019, 2021)*. However, none of them was removed from office, this means that impeachment is rare in the USA history.
- *Andrew Johnson* had problems with the *Congress* whose members accused him of violating an Act which limits the power of the president to remove federal appointees.
- *Bill Clinton* main charge was his sex affair with the White House intern *Monica Lewinsky*.

#### 5) The first Americans:

- European were not the first people to settle In the New World. The first Americans came from Asia.

#### 6) Columbus and European explorations:

- *Christopher Columbus*, Italian explorer and navigator, is famous for having explored the Americas under the flag of Spain in 1492. His voyage to the New World paved the way for the exploration and colonization of the Americas.
- The first Americans were the people *Columbus* called Indians.
- The Americas are called the New World for Europeans who kept saying that they were moving from the old world to the New World.

#### 7) The Name of America:

- America was named after *Amerigo Vespucci* who sailed in 1499 from Spain to the lands *Columbus* had discovered. *Amerigo* was a good writer. He wrote about his trip to the New World. Next, a German geographer named *Martin Waldseemüller* was about to publish a geography book. In this book he printed *Amerigo's* letter and he thought that the New World should be named in honor of *Amerigo Vespucci*.

#### 8) Colonies in the New World:

- The New World was the destination of many people from Europe.
- Many parts of it were colonized by people from Spain, Portugal and England.