

Lesson 1: United States of America – An exploration

Locational Knowledge	Place Knowledge	Key questions and ideas	Teaching and learning activities	Resources
<p>Name and locate key features in the USA including states, lakes, rivers, mountains, deserts, and settlements.</p>	<p>Understand geographical similarities and differences of different places within USA. Interpret a range of images and sounds to be able to link places to a location on a map.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key geographical features of the USA? • How many states does the USA have? • What does the USA 'sound' like? • Where are the rivers, lakes and mountains in the USA? 	<p>Starter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils write down words associated with the USA. Class discussion. <p>Main:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Images of the USA – pupils sort into categories. • Produce a collaborative map of the USA completing missing states, adding places and features. • Use a series of sounds to explore what the USA sounds like. <p>Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch a time lapse video of the USA and return to the words at the beginning of the lesson to see what new words they have learnt to describe the USA. 	<p>Downloads: Lesson Plan PDF MSWORD USA: An exploration (PPT) Factsheet for teachers PDF MSWORD USA outline map PDF MSWORD Map Task Sheet PDF MSWORD USA Sounds Audio Files (MP4)</p> <p>Web link: USA time lapse video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tt-juyvIWMQ</p>
<p>Human and Physical Geography</p>	<p>Geographical Skills and Fieldwork</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the USA different to where you live? 		<p>Assessment opportunities</p>
<p>Understand the diversity of physical landscapes in the USA including lakes, rivers, mountains, deserts etc.</p> <p>Understand the location and features of key settlements in the USA.</p>	<p>Use an atlas to be able to locate key features on a map of the USA.</p>			<p>Class discussions to explore existing knowledge and knowledge gained during the lesson.</p>

Lesson 2: Canyons and valleys: physical landscapes

Locational Knowledge	Place Knowledge	Key questions and ideas	Teaching and learning activities	Resources
Interpreting time lapse videos to recognise key features of the landscape in the USA	Understand the different features across the USA, and the differences across the country (and to the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key physical features of the United States of America? What is the Grand Canyon? Where is the Grand Canyon? How was the Grand Canyon formed? 	<p>Starter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils watch a video and create an A to Z of words related to physical landscapes in the USA. <p>Main:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the formation of the Grand Canyon. Examine images to identify physical features. Investigate the length of the Grand Canyon. Discuss the processes of erosion. <p>Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration to explore processes of river erosion. Class discussion of the impact of erosion on physical environments. 	<p>Downloads:</p> <p>Lesson Plan PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Canyons, Valleys and Plains (PPT)</p> <p>Factsheet for teachers PDF MSWORD</p> <p>A to Z Answer Sheet for Teachers PDF MSWORD</p> <p>A to Z Worksheet PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Grand Canyon demonstration sheet PDF MSWORD</p> <p>See lesson plan for additional resources needed for this lesson.</p>
Human and Physical Geography	Geographical Skills and Fieldwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is erosion? How did erosion shape the Grand Canyon? 		Assessment opportunities
Physical geography: Describe and understand the location and formation of key physical features of the landscape in the USA including the Grand Canyon.	Geographical skills and fieldwork: Interpreting a map of the Grand Canyon.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to explain formation of Grand Canyon in plenary. Ability to accurately measure the length of the Grand Canyon.

Lesson 3: Where are all the people?

Locational Knowledge	Place Knowledge	Key questions and ideas	Teaching and learning activities	Resources
Understanding the distribution of population across the USA and factors that affect this pattern.	Describe and understand the population characteristics of different settlements in the USA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is population distributed in the USA? Where are the most densely populated places in the USA? Where are the most sparsely populated places in the USA? How do the populations of states differ? What factors affect population change? 	<p>Starter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss population distribution map of the USA. <p>Main:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore population distribution change 1790-2010. Use card sort activity to discuss why there are more people in some places than others. Use data to make a map of the USA's most populous places. Explore US Census data to find out about the features of different US states. <p>Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group discussion to encourage pupils to estimate the population of three UK cities for comparison to the population of USA cities. 	<p>Downloads:</p> <p>Lesson Plan PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Where are all the people (PPT)</p> <p>Factsheet for teachers PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Population data sheet PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Card sort activity PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Outline map of the USA PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Example of pupil work: graph (PDF)</p> <p>Example of pupil work: population map (PDF)</p>
Human and Physical Geography	Geographical Skills and Fieldwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What will happen to the population of the USA in the future? 		Assessment opportunities
Awareness of the impact physical features may have on the population distribution of the USA. Understand the distribution of the population in the USA and the characteristics of different states in the	Using census data to explore the characteristics of the population of the USA.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to describe accurately population distribution. Ability to produce detailed comparisons of the demographic characteristics of different states. Class discussions at the end of the lesson showing ability to

USA.				compare places studied with their own experiences of where they live.
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Lesson 4: Challenged by water: floods and drought

Locational Knowledge	Place Knowledge	Key questions and ideas	Teaching and learning activities	Resources
Using a range of evidence to recognise the different climates experienced across the USA.	Understand the different climatic features of California and Mississippi and the impact this has on the different stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does climate vary across the USA? Where is the Mississippi river? Why does the Mississippi river flood? What impacts do floods have? What is drought? What causes drought? What are the impacts of drought in California? 	<p>Starter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch video to explore how climate varies across the US. <p>Main:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore features of a climate graph. Pupils to investigate US climate data to find out how climate varies across the US. Two further activities explore the causes and impacts of flooding in Mississippi and drought in California. <p>Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a class discussion at the end of the activity pupils can then consider which events or issues had the biggest impacts on 	<p>Downloads:</p> <p>Lesson Plan PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Challenged by Water: Floods and Droughts (PPT)</p> <p>Climate Worksheet PDF MSWORD</p> <p>California Worksheet PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Example of Pupil's Work: Florida Postcard PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Example of Pupils Work: Mississippi Storyboard PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Example of Pupil's work: New York postcard PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Mississippi Storyboard Activity PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Postcard Template PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Factsheet for Teachers PDF MSWORD</p>

Key Stage 2: United States of America

			farmers (positive or negative)	
Human and Physical Geography	Geographical Skills and Fieldwork			Assessment opportunities
Investigation of different physical features and processes related to climate. Understand the impact of the environment on humans, particularly drought and floods.	Interpreting climate graphs to understand changes in climate across the USA.			Successful completion of case study worksheets and the ability to discuss the causes and impacts of the drought and flood events.

Lesson 5: Food and farming

Locational Knowledge	Place Knowledge	Key questions and ideas	Teaching and learning activities	Resources
Understanding the wide variety of agricultural	Understanding the different regional dominance of different products across the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What foods come from the USA? 	Starter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils bring in foods associated 	Downloads Lesson Plan PDF MSWORD Food and Farming (PPT)

products from the USA.	USA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of agricultural products does the USA produce? • Where in the USA do different types of farming take place? • What factors affect farming? • What challenges face farmers in the USA? • How important is food and farming for the USA? 	<p>with USA. Discussion of foods associated with USA.</p> <p>Main:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of US Agricultural census data to explore the distribution of different farming practice in the USA. • Role play activity where pupils take on the role of farmers and go through different 'scenarios' to understand the different factors that affect farming in the USA. <p>Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class discussion about the factors that affect farming. 	<p>Factsheet for teachers PDF MSWORD Scenario Cards PDF MSWORD Bean Tokens PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Web links: US Agricultural Census data: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Ag_Census_Web_Maps/</p>
Human and Physical Geography	Geographical Skills and Fieldwork			Assessment opportunities
<p>Knowledge of the impact of physical features and processes on agricultural production.</p> <p>Human geography: Understanding of the different factors that affect farming livelihoods in the USA.</p>	Working with data at local and national level.			Ability to explain the factors that affect farming productivity based on the role play activity.

Lesson 6: New York through time

Locational Knowledge	Place Knowledge	Key questions and ideas	Teaching and learning activities	Resources
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Key Stage 2: United States of America

<p>Understanding the location of New York City, recognising key features and characteristics of the city.</p>	<p>Investigation of the development of New York City, its functions and characteristics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is New York City? • What happens in New York? • How has New York City changed over time? • What factors have affected the development of New York City? 	<p>Starter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class discussion ask pupils to think of people, places and space they associate with New York. How do they know this about the city? Perhaps they have visited, or recognise the city as it is represented on television, or in films <p>Main:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study maps of New York through time to examine how the city has changed. • Compare photographs of New York City at different time periods to examine how the city has changed. <p>Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York Fact Tennis: in pairs pupils take it in turns to say, "Did you know that..." and then give one piece of information, one fact, or one place, or landmark discussed within the lesson. 	<p>Downloads:</p> <p>Lesson Plan PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Factsheet for Teachers PDF MSWORD</p> <p>New York: Then and Now Investigation Sheet PDF MSWORD</p> <p>Lesson Six: New York Through Time (PPT)</p> <p>Web links:</p> <p>Introduction to New York: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-XVScEAXhY</p> <p>How New York has changed since 1836: http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/interactive-map-compares-new-york-city-1836-today-180947939/?no-ist</p> <p>How New York has changed over time: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOrgslc1-Ek</p>
<p>Human and Physical Geography</p>	<p>Geographical Skills and Fieldwork</p>			<p>Assessment opportunities</p>
<p>Physical geography: Understanding of how the location and features of this area of the country made it conducive for development.</p> <p>Human Geography: Understanding how New York City as a settlement developed over time.</p>	<p>Geographical skills and fieldwork: Analysis of historical maps to examine urban change.</p>			<p>Descriptive language used to compare photographs and describe how the city has changed.</p> <p>Ability to discuss findings of what New York was like in different time periods.</p>

Assessment: Quiz and 'The new Ambassador' activity

The assessment for this unit has two parts:

- 1) Multiple choice quiz
- 2) Activity: Pupils take on the role of a British Ambassador in the United States of America. They need to prepare a guide for a new Ambassador arriving explaining the top 10 things they need to know about the USA based on what they have learned during the unit.