



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Country Fact File

- **Capital city:** Washington D.C.
- **Population:** 341 million as of March 2024
- **Government:** Federal republic, constitutional democracy
- **Currency:** US dollar (\$, USD)
- **Main languages:** English, Spanish
- **Main religions:** Christianity, Judaism, Islam

The United States, commonly referred to as America or the USA, consists of 50 states and several overseas territories. The nation declared its independence from Britain in 1776 and gained recognition as an independent entity in 1783, culminating in the adoption of its constitution in 1787.

Since that time, the USA has experienced remarkable growth, evolving into the world's economic leader and a significant political influence.

Culture

Rooted in principles of equality and individual rights, America is often seen as the land of opportunity.

The allure of social mobility and a classless society has drawn vast numbers of immigrants, contributing to the USA's rich ethnic diversity, although some critics argue that better integration among communities is needed.

While officially secular, America retains a strong religious identity, with Christianity being the predominant faith.

Popular Activities

Despite its vastness, the USA boasts a strong sense of national identity, and many of its recreational activities are distinctly American.

Sports play a vital role in social life, with baseball, American football, basketball, and ice hockey attracting large crowds to events. Those who may not attend games often gather with friends to watch and enjoy food and drinks together.

Geography also shapes leisure pursuits; for instance, rodeos and country music are popular in the Southern states, while regions with cold winters embrace a variety of snow sports.

Food and Drink

When you think of American cuisine, images of hamburgers, fried chicken, pizza, and donuts likely come to mind. While the USA is known for its fast food chains worldwide, its culinary heritage is as diverse as its population.

Each state showcases its unique dishes influenced by local produce and community backgrounds, incorporating common indigenous ingredients like pumpkin, sweet potato, and corn into many regional menus.

Americans generally favor coffee or iced tea over hot tea, and the country is home to a wide array of soft drinks, commonly referred to as sodas.

Languages

Although the USA has no official language, English is the most widely spoken. Spanish is also prevalent, especially in the southern and western states with significant Mexican immigrant populations.

Most official documents are available in Spanish, and it is the most commonly taught foreign language in schools. Additionally, at least five other languages have over a million native speakers residing in the USA.

Accents

Despite its vast size and large population, America has relatively few regional accents. However, the sounds and dialects can vary significantly, with noticeable differences between East Coast, West Coast, and Southern accents.