



Key Concepts/Features

North America is the third largest continent in the world. It is located in the Northern Hemisphere, bordered to the west by the Pacific Ocean and to the east by the Atlantic Ocean. The continent consists of 23 countries with several other lands being dependent territories (belonging to another country). Most North Americans speak English, Spanish or French due to their European settlers. North America spans over lots of climate zones including Polar (in Greenland), Temperate (in the US and Canada) and Tropical (in the Caribbean). The longest river in North America is the River Missouri (3767km long) and the highest mountain is Mount McKinley (6168m), both located in the USA.



North America's first name was *Mundus Novus* - or the New World in Latin.

Key Vocabulary

activist	Someone who uses vigorous campaigning to bring about political/social change.
Arctic and Antarctic Circle	Two lines of latitude that show where the temperate climate zone ends and the polar climate zone starts.
blues music	Music that African-Americans introduced in the South in the 20 th Century.
hemisphere	Half of a sphere. Hemi=half. The Earth is a sphere so is split into hemispheres by the equator.
latitude and longitude	A system of lines used to describe the location of any place on Earth. Lines of latitude run in an east-west direction cross Earth. Lines of longitude run in a north-south direction.
time zone	An area on Earth that has a specific time that all citizens can set their clocks to. They allow everyone on Earth to have sunrise in the early morning and sunset at night.
Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn	Two lines of latitude that show the boundaries of tropical climate zones.
segregation	To part people for being different. Latin for <i>to separate from the flock</i> .

Key People

Martin Luther King (1929-1968) An American activist who fought for rights for all people. His most famous speech is 'I have a dream...'	
Elvis Presley (1935-1977) An American singer from the 1950s-1970s. He is the best-selling music artist in history!	
Roy Lichtenstein American pop artist.	
Rosa Parks (1913-2005) An American activist who stood up for black people's rights during the Bus Boycott of 1955.	
Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) The founder of the 'New World' while trying to discover a faster route to Asia.	

Key Locations

USA		The USA is one of the largest, most populated and most powerful countries on the planet. It has 50 states in total (shown by stars on the flag) with the biggest state being Alaska. The capital of the USA is Washington DC though the largest city is New York.
Hawaii		Located in the Pacific Ocean, Hawaii is a US state. Its capital city is Honolulu. It has 132 islands but only 7 are inhabited. The islands are volcanic.
Mexico		The capital city - and largest city - is Mexico City. The main language in Mexico is Spanish.
Caribbean	various	The Caribbean is a large group of over 700 tropical islands found in the Caribbean sea. The islands belong to many countries and some are independent. The biggest island is Cuba, but other important islands include Jamaica, Puerto Rico and St Lucia.
Greenland		The name 'Greenland' does not mean the country is green; it is actually very icy. It was founded by the Vikings and still belongs to Denmark. The capital city is named Nuuk. Only 60,000 people live there but it has a huge land mass.
Canada		Canada is the second largest country in the world after Russia. Its capital city is Ottawa and its official languages are English and French. Canada no longer belongs to Britain but our queen (Queen Elizabeth II) is still their monarch.