

Výukový materiál v rámci projektu OPVK 1.5 Peníze středním školám

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Název výukového materiálu:	USA
Druh výukového materiálu:	Pracovní list s výkladem k tématu USA s otevřenými i uzavřenými otázkami.
Čas:	45 minut
Využití:	Získávání a zjišťování faktických údajů k tématu USA.

USA

Basic facts

The USA is a **federation** of 50 states.

The country spreads from the Atlantic coast on the east to the Pacific coast on the west and occupies almost 9,400,000 km².

It **neighbours on** Canada in the north and on Mexico in the south.

Alaska is the largest American state. It is situated west of Canada. The country is not much populated because of the long **severe** winters. Alaska is very **rich in mineral resources**.

Mountains

The West is quite **mountainous** – the mountain ranges include Sierra Nevada, the Cascade Range and the Cordilleras.

In the middle of it, there are the **Interior Plains** that make up two thirds of the country.

The East contains **plateaus** or **lowlands** such as the Mississippi Lowland.

The highest peak is **Mt McKinley** (6194m).

Rivers

The longest river is **Mississippi**, called “the father of water”.

Its **tributaries** are the Missouri, the Ohio and the Arkansas, like the St Lawrence and the Rio Grande, they flow into the Atlantic Ocean.

Other American rivers are the Colorado, Columbia and Niagara with the famous **Niagara Falls**.

The **Great Lakes** are situated on the border with **Canada**. There are five of them altogether - **Lake Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario**.

Climate

In the north the climate is **mild**.

The southern part of the US lies in the **subtropical zone**.

Florida, the Gulf of Mexico and the Hawaii are located in the **tropical zone**.

Alaska which is the coldest area lies in the **arctic zone**.

National parks

The USA has established many national parks, for example **Death Valley Desert** - the name stands for its severe climate. It is covered with sand and sand dunes and it is the hottest and driest place in the USA.

Other **well-known** national parks include: **Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Sequoia, Everglades**.

Typical American animals are.....
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.....

Population

The number of **inhabitants** is over **311** million.

As a land of immigrants, the American **population** is very **diverse**.

Less than 1% of the people in the US are actually **true natives**, including **Aleuts, Eskimos** and **Native Americans** of different tribes.

More than 80% of the population is white with European ancestry, 13% is African American, then Hispanic, Asian and Pacific Islanders.

Nicknames

There are many nationalities mixed together so the States are sometimes called as a great “**melting pot**”, but “**salad bowl**” is more precise as each nationality keeps its colour and particularity.

National language

Official language of the US is English. In states with a high percentage of Hispanics (such as California, Texas, New York) a growing number of people speaks Spanish.

The currency is American dollar.

Most common religion

Most religious people are protestant (60%) including Episcopalians, Baptists, Mormons and members of other wings of Christian fundamentalists. Catholics make up 21%, next there are atheists, Jews and smaller number of Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims.

Sports

The Americans like playing American football, baseball, basketball and ice hockey. Sport is very important in US universities.

Well-known American sportsmen are.....
.....
.....

Symbols of the country

The national flag consists of 2 **oblongs**. It is smaller blue oblong with 50 white stars symbolizing 50 states and one larger oblong consisting of 6 white and 7 red stripes symbolizing the original 13 colonies. It is often called “Old Glory” or “Stars and Stripes”. The **national anthem** is called “The Star-Spangled Banner”.

Economy

The US has one of the strongest economies in the world.

The American dollar is used for trade in countries across the globe.

The US is a leading country in **agriculture**, in the **chemical, car and machinery industries, minerals and raw materials**.

Agriculture

Agriculture plays a major role in the US economy.

The quality of soil in North America is excellent.

The US produces **corn, soybeans, tomatoes, oranges, apples and tobacco**.

In the Hawaii there are famous **sugar cane** and **pineapple** plantations.

Mineral resources

There are vast deposits of gold, silver, platinum, petroleum, natural gas.

It has one of the world's largest resources of coal.

Political system

The head of state is the president..... .

In the American **democratic system**, rights and powers are divided between the **individual states** and **federal government**.

The capital

Washington D.C. is the capital of the US and the seat of the federal government.

Washington is a federal district under the direct jurisdiction of the Congress.

The President works and lives nearby in the White House.

Other famous cities

San Francisco is located in the state California and overlooks a **bay**. Unfortunately there are many **earthquakes**. The most important sight is the **Golden Gate Bridge**.

Los Angeles is the capital of the **film world**. Famous people often live in suburbs such as **Beverly Hills** or **Hollywood**. It is the second largest city in the USA. Its name comes from the Spanish which means "the City of Angels".

Chicago is situated on the shores of Lake Michigan. O'Hare Airport is **the busiest airport in the world**.

New Orleans is an important **port town** in USA, home of **jazz** and the birthplace of **Louis Armstrong**.

Las Vegas is famous for **gambling**, hotels and casinos.

Atlanta is the seat of **Coca-Cola**.

Nashville is considered the capital of **country music**.

Detroit and **Michigan** are the centers of the **car industry** in the US.

History

Original inhabitants

The Icelandic Vikings were probably the first to arrive but they didn't establish any permanent settlements; so until the fifteenth century the only inhabitants were the "Indians", more precisely the Native Americans. They arrived from Asia across the Bering Strait. In winter the water was frozen so it was possible to cross it.

Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus was an Italian navigator serving the Spanish King and Queen, who arrived to America in 1492. He thought that it was the Indian Coast of Asia. His name was given to the federal district - District of Columbia known as the D.C.

Amerigo Vespucci

Amerigo Vespucci, another Italian explorer, who made many voyages to South America.

His detailed vivid description of the New World won him fame in Europe and the new continent was named after him.

Homework

1) Prepare a presentation about USA (use POWER POINT).

2) What problems is the country facing nowadays?

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3) Have you ever been to the USA?

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4) Would you like to go there, where and why?

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5) Would you like to live there and why?

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6) Do you like / dislike watching American films and why?

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7) Name famous Americans:

American writers are

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American singers or music groups are

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American actors and actresses are

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Other American famous people are

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