

Geography Year 6 Spring 1 —the USA

Key knowledge to know and use

North America, the third largest of the world's continents, laying for the most part between the Arctic Circle and the Tropic of Cancer. The United States is 2,800 miles wide when measured from east to west and 1,582 miles from north to south.

The United States of America , also known as the USA or the US , is a vast nation located on the continent of North America. Mexico borders it to the south and Canada to the north. It is made up of a total of 50 states, plus the District of Columbia or Washington D.C.

The U.S. is typically grouped into five different regions: the Northeast, the Southwest, the West, the Southeast and the Midwest. Being a huge country, the United States experiences a wide variety of climates.

The United States is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. Every state is exposed to one or more of a host of hazards: earthquakes, droughts, floods, hurricanes, landslides, tornadoes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and wildfires. (See the map)

By population, the United States of America (332 million) is the 3rd largest country in the world, behind China (1.4 billion) and India (1.4 billion). California is the most populated state and New York is the most populated city.

The Grand Canyon in northwest Arizona was formed by the immense, erosive power of the Colorado River It is millions of years old and has carved itself from the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf of California, deep into the Colorado Plateau (see picture below).

Many districts and landmarks in New York City have become well known, and the city received a record 66.6 million tourists in 2019. Famous landmarks include The Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, Brooklyn Bridge, Central Park, and the 9/11 Memorial and Museum.



Key vocabulary to remember and use in your learning

Word	Definition
geology	The study of the origin, history, and structure of the earth.
topography	The study of the shape of the surface features of an area.
canyon	A deep, narrow valley with steep sides.
population distribution	The pattern of where people live. Places which are sparsely populated contain few people. Places which are densely populated contain many people.
natural disaster	Violent events that are outside the control of humans, including avalanches, droughts, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornados, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and wildfires.

A sightseeing map helps tourists find the major landmarks.



Here is a map showing some of the natural disasters that have occurred in the USA in 2023.

