

## 8. The USA

The United States of America is the world's third largest country in size and nearly the third largest in terms of population. Located in North America, the country is bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean and to the east by the Atlantic Ocean. The northern border is Canada and the southern border is Mexico.

The capital of the USA is Washington DC. It has a population of more than half a million. New York City is a major port in south-eastern New York State. With its population of about 8.3 million people, it is the most popular city in the US. It consists of Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island boroughs. The second most populous city is Los Angeles with its 3.8 million inhabitants. You can find Hollywood, the centre of US film and television industry here. The third largest town is Chicago, an industrial city on Lake Michigan with about 2.8 million inhabitants.

The United States is a federal presidential republic. The executive power lies in the hands of the president and the cabinet.

In the US the biggest lake is Lake Superior, which is also the the world's biggest freshwater lake. The longest river is the Mississippi, which flows 6,400 km from the Rocky Mountain to the Gulf of Mexico.

The East Coast is the oldest and most urban part of the country. Millions of Europeans moved to this industrial area, bringing with them European cultures and traditions.

The West Coast is famous for big cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles. You can also find Hollywood here.

The largest religions in the US are Protestant, followed by Roman Catholic and Jews.

Sources: Bajnóczi Beatrix, Haavisto Kirsi: Kérdések és válaszok angol nyelvből. Maxim Kiadó, 2003.