

Focus on the USA

A brief history

A

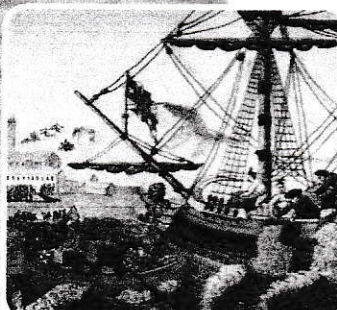
Native populations have lived in the Americas for thousands of years. People originally came from Asia across the Bering Strait, a small area of sea that separates Russia from North America, around 20,000 years ago.

These migrants developed into different societies and cultures. The Native Americans lived in North America, the Aztecs and the Mayas lived in Central America, and the Incas had their empire in South America.

C

The British colonies in North America did not want to pay taxes in Britain and there were lots of protests. In Boston on 16th December, 1773, a group of colonists **boarded** three

ships and threw hundreds of boxes of tea into the sea. The protest of the "Boston Tea Party" was the beginning of the American War of Independence. George Washington led the American army against the British soldiers until the colonies **declared** their independence from Britain in 1776. In 1787, the representatives of the thirteen original colonies **signed** the Constitution of the United States of America.



B

Europeans began to arrive in North America in the early 16th century. Spanish colonists moved from Mexico to Florida, New Mexico and California.

The French **settled** in the southern state of Louisiana along the Mississippi River and in Quebec in Canada, where people still speak French. The Dutch and the Germans created small colonies on the east coast. The British created their first **settlements** in the southern state of Virginia and in the northern region of New England. The British eventually colonised almost the entire east coast.

D

Today, the United States of America is a union of fifty states plus Washington D.C., which is the United States capital. It's a federal republic with a central government and its people are proud of their flag, nicknamed the "Stars and Stripes". The fifty stars represent the fifty states and the thirteen stripes represent the original colonies.

MYTH BUSTER

Native Americans were primitive people.

WRONG

The Native Americans had a very advanced society with medicine, trading, farming, and lots of other things in common with European culture. They were peaceful people who just did things differently.

New words

settled = si stabilirono

settlements = insediamenti

boarded = assalirono

declared = dichiararono

signed = firmarono