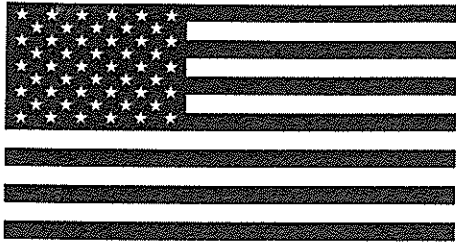


## The flag

- The U. S. national flag is known as the "Stars and Stripes".
- It has 13 white and red stripes represent the original 13 colonies.
- 50 white stars in a blue field represent the 50 states of the union.
- A bald Eagle is the national bird of the United States since 1782.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Flag\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States.svg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_the_United_States.svg)



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bald\\_Eagle\\_Portrait.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bald_Eagle_Portrait.jpg)  
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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Diamond\\_Head\\_from\\_Waikiki\\_Beach.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Diamond_Head_from_Waikiki_Beach.jpg)



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Prospect\\_Highway\\_Beyond\\_MTC\\_2-12-06.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Prospect_Highway_Beyond_MTC_2-12-06.jpg)  
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## Climate

- There are various variations of climate in the USA.
- In the north, the climate is **mild**.
- The southern part of US lies in the **subtropical** zone.
- Florida, the Gulf of Mexico and the Hawaii are situated in the **tropical** zone.
- Alaska is the coldest area and it lies in the **arctic** zone.

### Mountains

### Rivers

### Lakes

- The US's best-known mountains are the **Rocky Mountains** on the west coast.
- The **Appalachian** Mountains are on the east coast and the country between them is quite flat and low.
- The highest mountain, Mount **McKinley** (6, 194 m) is situated in Alaska. *Denali*

- The USA has many rivers, e. g.:
  - the **Mississippi** (the longest river) *6691 km*
  - the **Missouri**
  - the **Rio Grande**, the **Yukon** (the longest river in Alaska, 3000 m).

- The **Great Lakes** are located in north-eastern North America, on the Canada-United States border.
- They consist of Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario.
- They form the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth
- They contain 21% of the world's surface fresh water.

- As a land of immigrants USA is one of the world's most ethnically diverse nations.
- The first African blacks were transported to the New World in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century as slaves and they formed a large minority.
- In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the largest numbers of European immigrants were from England, Ireland, and Germany.
- Nowadays most immigrants come from Mexico, China, Philippines, India, Cuba, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Vietnam, Jamaica, South Korea, and Guatemala.

## Population

- About 300 million people live in the USA.
- It is the third most populous country in the world.
- There are many ethnic groups in the US.
- Five basic categories are: **White** (81.7%), **Black** (12.9%), **Asian** (4.2%), **Native**, these are Amerindian and Alaska native (1%), native Hawaiian and other **Pacific islander** (0.2%).
- One of the largest ethnic groups, **Hispanic**, is not an official ethnic group.
- Official language is English but in many areas people speak Spanish.

## Natural parks

- The USA is also known for its great National parks (there are 59 of them) like:
  - Arches National Park (top picture)
  - Rocky Mountains National Park
  - Yellowstone National Park
  - Grand Canyon National Park
  - Yosemite National Park (bottom p.)
  - Death Valley National Park
  - Sequoia National Park and many others.