

Y3/4 Year A Summer Term 1

Topic: Let's Explore the USA

Subject: Geography– The USA

National Curriculum Objectives

- locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities
- understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America
- describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle
- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied
- use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world

Links to school values:

Respect

Texts to support learning:

Fiction:



Little House in the Big Woods/Little House on the Prairie - Laura Ingalls Wilder

The Matchbox Diary – Paul Fleishman

Non-fiction:



Grand Canyon – Jason Chin

The 50 States – Gabrielle Balkan

National Parks of the USA – Kate Siber

Key Knowledge and Vocabulary

Know that the **USA** is a **country** in the **continent** of **North America**

Know how to locate the USA on a world map

Know that the USA is split into **fifty states**

Identify and locate some of the fifty states

Know how to use the 8 **compass points**, **north**, **east**, **south**, **west**, **north east**, **north west**, **south east**, and **south west** to describe where some of the states are located in relation to each other

Compare some of the states of the USA

Know that there are six main **regions** that make up the USA

Know which states belong to each region

Identify and describe a variety of different **landscapes**

Identify geographical features of the USA including **mountains**, **coasts**, **prairies**, **forests** and **deserts**
Compare landscapes and explain similarities and differences

Identify links between **climate** and landscapes

Know the difference between a **village**, a **town** and a **city**

Identify and locate some of the major **cities** in the USA

Know that **Washington DC** is the **capital city** of the USA

Describe some American cities

Compare American cities by identifying similarities and differences

Know that a **national park** is a protected area of land

Name and locate some American national parks including **Yellowstone**, **Yosemite** and **Grand Canyon**

Know that national parks help to preserve wildlife
Describe the features of some American national parks

Know what **earthquakes**, **tornados**, **blizzards** and **hurricanes** are

Understand the impacts of these **natural phenomena** on the USA

Identify areas of the USA where these phenomena are most likely to occur.

Name some of the USA's most popular **tourist destinations**

Suggest where in the USA they would most like to visit based on their knowledge of the country

Describe some of the things they could see and do in the USA

Use their knowledge of the culture of America to help describe a visit