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«Ростовский государственный университет»

Кафедра английского языка естественных факультетов

Методические указания

по развитию навыков чтения и устной речи на английском языке
по теме «Соединенные Штаты Америки» для студентов 1-2 курсов

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Данные методические указания обсуждены и утверждены на заседании кафедры английского языка естественных факультетов РГУ.

Протокол № от

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Методическая записка

Настоящие методические указания предназначены для аудиторной и самостоятельной работы студентов 1-2 курсов.

Основная цель указаний - расширение страноведческих знаний студентов по теме «Соединенные Штаты Америки» и совершенствование навыков изучающего и ознакомительного чтения с выходом в устную речь. Методические указания также способствуют накоплению тематического словарного запаса в пределах данной темы.

Данные методические указания состоят из трех основных разделов, включающих следующую тематику:

- Географическое положение США;
- Политическое устройство США;
- Вашингтон.

В каждый раздел входит текст, предназначенный для изучающего чтения, ряд заданий и тренировочных упражнений для работы в аудитории. Под рубрикой «Supplementary Reading» предлагаются тексты для самостоятельного чтения, относящиеся к тематике раздела. Под рубрикой «Discussion Points» приводятся творческие задания, которые побуждают студентов к обмену мнениями, комментированию и высказыванию личного отношения к полученной информации.

Методические указания также содержат ссылки на сайты формата Hotlist (информационно-аналитические сборник) по изучаемым темам. Данные сайты имеют своей целью обеспечение широкого спектра обязательного и дополнительного аутентичного материала по теме, обеспечивая возможность личного выбора тематики, индивидуальный график подготовки, а также способствуют развитию аналитических и поисково-исследовательских навыков студентов

Методические указания могут использоваться в работе со студентами с различным уровнем знания английского языка, как для групповой, так и для индивидуальной работы.

GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Before you start

1.1 Answer the following questions:

1. Is the USA a big country?
2. What is the capital of the USA?
3. How many states does the USA consist of?
4. What oceans is the USA surrounded by?
5. Where is it situated?
6. What are the largest cities in the USA?
7. Have ever been to the USA?

2. Pronunciation

2.1 Read and practice the pronunciation of the following words.

Diverse

[ˈdaɪvɜ:s]

The Pacific Ocean

[pəˈpɪsɪfɪk ˈoʊən]

The Bering Strait

The Hawaiian Islands

[haːˈwaɪən ˈaɪləndz]

The Gulf of Mexico

[pəˈgɪlf ʊv meksɪkənu]

The Cordillera

ˈkɔːdɪljəˈrɪə

The Sierra Nevada

[ˈsiərə niˈvɑːdə]

The Appalachian Mountains

[pəˈleɪtʃən ˈmaʊntənz]

Lake Superior

[leɪk sjuːˈpiəriə]

Lake Huron

[leɪk ˈhjuːrən]

Lake Michigan

[leɪk ˈmiʃɪɡən]

Lake Erie

[leɪk ˈiəri]

Lake Ontario

[leɪk ɒnˈtɔːriə]

The Niagara River

[niˈɑːɡɪərə]

Colorado Plateau

[ˈkɒləˈrɑːdɔː pləʊ]

Ridge

[rɪdʒ]

The Rio Grande

[ˈriːoʊ ɡrɑːndi]

equatorial

[ˈekwəˈtɔːriəl]

Prairie

[ˈpreəri]

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3. Reading

3.1 Read the text to know more about the geography of the USA.

Geography of the USA

The United States of America is a large and diverse country. It is one of the world's largest countries, both in territory and in population, and the leading industrially developed country in the world. The USA has inspired many nicknames: for example "Land of opportunity", "Melting pot", "God's Country". The geography of the USA greatly influenced its history and way of life. It has changed immigrants from all over the world into Americans.

The USA is the fourth-largest country in the world. Its total area is 9.4 mln square kilometers; the population is about 280 mln people. The USA consists of 50 states and the District of Columbia. They differ very much in size, population and economic development.

The USA is situated in the central part of the North American Continent, between two oceans: the Atlantic Ocean to the East and the Pacific Ocean to the West. It includes the states of Alaska, near the Bering Strait, and the Hawaiian Islands in the central part of the Pacific Ocean, halfway between the continents of America and Asia. The southeastern part of the USA is surrounded by the Gulf of Mexico. The state of Alaska is separated from the rest of the USA by Canada and its Western end is only 80 kilometers from Russia. Hawaii became the fiftieth state in 1959. The other 48 states stretch across the North American continent for about 3,000 miles (4,800 km) from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The USA borders on Canada in the North and Mexico in the South.

The continental part of the USA consists of two highland regions and two lowland regions. The Rocky Mountains, "the backbone of the continent", the Cordillera, the Cascade Range and the Sierra Nevada, the highest mountains in the USA, are in the west. The Appalachian Mountains are in the east. Much of the north-eastern Atlantic coast is rocky but the middle and southern Atlantic coast rises gently from the sea. The Appalachian Mountains run parallel to the Atlantic coast almost from the Gulf of Mexico into Canada. Their highest peak is 2,000 meters high. The Cordillera stretches along the Pacific coast with the Sierra Nevada in the south and the Rocky mountains continuing into Canada and Alaska in the north. Their highest point in the USA is 4,418 meters in the Sierra Nevada.

The areas in the middle, or the Midwest, as it's called, are the central lowlands which are called prairie (or rolling prairies) and the eastern lowlands called the Mississippi valley. North off the Central Lowland, extending for almost 1,600 kilometers, are the five Great Lakes, which the USA shares with Canada. The lakes are estimated to contain about half of the world's fresh water. The Five Great Lakes – Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario – are joined together by short rivers or canals, to the Atlantic Ocean by the Saint Lawrence River and to the Hudson River by a canal. The Niagara River which leads into the famous Niagara Falls flows into Lake Erie. In the west of the USA there is another lake called the Great Salt Lake.

West off the Central Lowland are the Great Plains, likened to the flat top of a table which is slightly tilted upward to the west. The land west of the Rockies is made up of quite distinct and separate regions, shaped by different geological events. The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River in the high Colorado Plateau is 1.6 kilometers in depth. The high Columbia tableland is to the north. Volcanoes

built the Cascade Mountains. At the border of the Pacific Ocean lie the Coast Ranges, relatively low mountains, in a region where occasional earthquakes show that the process of mountain-building has not yet stopped.

There are many long rivers in the USA. The principal rivers of the USA are the Mississippi, which flows into the Gulf of Mexico, the Missouri and the Ohio in the central and eastern part of the USA; the Colorado and the Columbia in the west which flow into the Pacific Ocean; and the Rio Grande (3,200 km long), the foremost river of the Southwest. It forms the natural boundary between Mexico and the USA. Also there's the Hudson River in the northeast, which flows into the Atlantic Ocean. The Mississippi and the Missouri form the longest river in the world – 7.330 kilometers.

Climate

The climate in the USA differs greatly from one part of the country to another. The coldest climate is in the north, where there is heavy snow in winter and the temperature may go down to 40 degrees below zero. The south has a subtropical climate, with temperatures as high as 49 degrees in summer.

Hot winds blowing from the Gulf of Mexico often bring hurricanes. The climate along the Pacific coast is much warmer than that of the Atlantic Coast.

The heaviest rains in the country are in the Washington region, the Cascade and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The climate in the Gulf of Mexico area is also very damp. The region around the Great Lakes is known for its changeable climate. The climate is usually mild and warm all year round in California.

One of the most important geographic boundaries in the US is the 50-centimeter rainfall line, which runs north and south almost through the middle of the country. East of the line, farming is relatively large. West of the line, one finds manmade irrigation systems, dry-farming, grazing, and fewer people.

West of the Rocky Mountains, running all the way from the Canadian border to Mexico, there are vast areas where almost no trees grow. In this section of the country are the deserts which receive as little as 12.7 centimeters of rainfall a year. Yet, west of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, there are places in which 250 centimeters of rain fall annually.

In some places the average temperature difference between July and January is as little as 10 degrees Centigrade. The climate along the northern part of western coast is similar to that of England. But in the north central part of the country, summer and winter are worlds apart. The average difference between July and January is 36⁰C and more violent extremes are common.

In the eastern part of the US the difference between summer and winter is also very distinct. Near the southwest corner of the country, the climate is mild and spring like in winter, but in summer the temperature may reach equatorial intensity. In Alaska, almost continuous daylight in summer makes the short growing season an intense one.

The variations in temperature within the US have had a marked effect on the country's economy and living standards.

Population

Most of the American people are descended from settlers who came from all over the world to make their homes in the new land, which was populated by native Indian tribes. The first immigrants came from England and the Netherlands. Between 1820 and 1979 the US admitted more than 49 million immigrants – 73% of them from Europe – but many came from Latin America, Asia, Africa, Australia and Canada. Black people were first brought to America from Africa as slaves. Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation proclamation in 1863 declared the slaves free.

Today the national composition of the population is varied. Negroes in the USA form 11% of the population. The aboriginal Indians number half a million. But when the first settlers came to the USA there were as many as 845.000 Indians.

More than 700.000 men and women are of Chinese and Japanese origin. The Orientals are concentrated in the Pacific states, notably California and Hawaii. There are small Mexican minorities in the Border States. There are also millions who came from Italy, Germany and other countries.

Economy

The USA is a highly developed industrial country. It is rich in oil, gas, copper, gold, silver and other metals. The USA has rich deposits of coal and iron in the Appalachian range, and oil and gas in Texas, California and Alaska. The State of Illinois is especially rich in coal.

The greatest part of America's heavy industry depends upon three resources: iron ore from the Lake Superior area, coal from the Allegheny hills of Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia and transportation across the Great Lakes. The Cargo tonnage which passes between Lake Superior and Lake Huron about equals the combined capacity of the Panama and Suez Canals. From Pittsburg to Duluth, every urban center plays a part in the production of heavy industrial goods. Steelmaking is basic, but there are many other related industries in this area too – glass, nonferrous metals, chemicals, rubber and machinery.

Shipbuilding is developed along the Atlantic coast and also in San Francisco and Seattle on the Pacific coast.

The textile industry is concentrated in the north-east in Boston and other cities, but it is especially well developed in the Mississippi valley.

The country is divided into six broad agricultural belts. Beginning in the Carolinas and stretching across the Southern States to Texas is a broad land, known as a cotton belt. Beginning in Texas and running north through Minnesota to the Canadian border is the wheat belt. In a land just below the Great Lakes and taking in most of the North Central States the concentration is on corn production.

3.2 What new facts about the geography of the USA have you learnt?

4. Comprehension check

4.1 Answer the following questions:

1. What kind of country is the USA?
2. What nicknames has the USA?

3. What is the total area of the country?
4. Where is the USA situated?
5. Where are the Hawaiian Islands situated?
6. What seas, oceans and gulfs surround the USA?
7. What part of the country are the Great Lakes in?
8. What kind and how many regions does the USA consist of?
9. What mountains are there in the USA?
10. What are the longest rivers in the USA?
11. What are the central lowlands called?
12. How does the climate differ from one part of the country to another?
13. What is the background of American nation?
14. What are the most important branches of American industries?

4.2 Agree or disagree with the following statements:

1. The USA is the fourth largest island in the world.
2. The US consists of 48 states.
3. The state of Alaska is in the central part of the Pacific Ocean.
4. The Appalachian Mountains are "the backbone of the continent".
5. Much of the north-eastern Atlantic coast is rocky.
6. The five Great Lakes are joined together by short rivers and canals.
7. The Niagara River which leads into the famous Niagara Falls flows into Lake Ontario.
8. The heaviest rains in the country are in the Washington region.

5. Vocabulary

5.1 Give English equivalents to the following words and word combinations:

ведущая промышленно-развитая страна, сильно влиять на образ жизни, протянуться через, граничить с, высокогорный район, горный хребет, плавно подниматься, низменные районы, песчаные равнины, холмистая береговая долина, протягиваться вдоль, выдавливать, соединяться вместе, слегка склоняться вверх, неровный по форме, сформированный различными геологическими породами, вымывать, относительно низкие горы, случающиеся время от времени землетрясения, обильные дожди, изменчивый климат, близко к побережью, получать наибольшую часть осадков, ирригационная система, созданная человеком; обширные территории, в пределах, заметное влияние, быть населенным, насчитывать, иметь ... происхождение, сосредотачиваться, сельскохозяйственный пояс, быть богатым ч-л.

5.2 Fill in the gaps with the words and word combinations from the text:

1. The USA is a ... in the world.
2. The USA ... Canada in the north and Mexico in the south.
3. The continental part of the USA consists of two ... and two
4. The Appalachian Mountains ... to the Atlantic coast.
5. The Cordillera ... the Pacific coast.

6. The Rocky Mountains are made up of several regions, ... events.
7. The Great Lakes' region is known for its
8. The aboriginal Indians ... half a million.
9. Nearly 700.000 people ... Chinese and Japanese
10. The country is ... mineral resources: oil, gas, gold, coal , etc.
11. The continental part of the USA is divided into ... such as cotton, wheat, corn and others.

5.3 Complete the sentences:

1. The United States of America is a large...
2. The USA inspired many...
3. The geography of the USA greatly...
4. The USA consists of...
5. Much of the north-east Atlantic coast is rocky, but...
6. North of the central Lowland...
7. The Five Great Lakes -...
8. West of the Central Lowland are ...
9. The land west of the Rockies is called ...
10. Volcanoes also ...
11. At the border of the Pacific Ocean ...
12. The Mississippi and the Missouri...
13. The climate in the USA...
14. The variations in temperature within the US...
15. When the first immigrant came from Britain and the Netherlands, vast ...

6. Supplementary Reading

6.1 Read the text to know more about the states of the USA.

50 States of the USA

Those states which border one another on the continent are grouped into 7 regions:

New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont)

Middle Atlantic states (New Jersey, New-York, Pennsylvania)

Southern States (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia)

Midwestern States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin)

Rocky Mountain States (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming)

South Western States (Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas)

Pacific Coast States (California, Oregon, Washington).

In addition, Hawaii and Alaska are grouped separately.

6.2 Read the text to know more about the US cities.

Cities of the USA

Pittsburg, is the heart of coal fields, was the first of the great steel cities. Other great steelmaking centers are Chicago, Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland, Erie, Buffalo, Wheeling, Gary.

Chicago is one of the biggest industrial cities in the USA and the second largest one after New - York. Several of the cities on the Great Lakes grow up as grain milling centers. Detroit is the heart of the automobile industry.

The capital of the country is Washington, situated on the Potomac River in the District of Columbia (D.C.). It doesn't belong to any state. It is an administrative city without much industry.

The largest city is New - York with a population of over 7 million. It's a great seaport and the heart of the country's financial and business activity.

Other large cities are Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Boston, and San Francisco.

Philadelphia near the east coast produces agricultural machines and locomotives. Light industry is highly developed here. It is an important cultural centre with many fine buildings and a university.

Boston is one of the first towns which were built on the Atlantic coast of America. It's an important port and a financial and cultural centre. It has three universities.

San Francisco, on the Pacific coast, is a big port and shipbuilding centre.

Los Angeles, in California, is an important centre of many modern industries. Not far from Los – Angeles is Hollywood, the centre of the US film business.

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6.3 Read the text to know more about American population.

American Population

The American continent was peopled by 4 great migrations. First to come were prehistoric hunters from the steppes of Asia who, most anthropologists believe, crossed a bridge of land that then extended across the Bering Sea and Strait. Their descendants, the American Indians, developed scores of complex and colorful cultures before the arrival of the white man in the early 17th century.

The British and Western European settlers came to America seeking riches, land, and sanctuary. They conquered the wilderness, established the Thirteen Original Colonies. And eventually launched a new nation.

With the white settlers came a massive and unwilling immigration of Negroes and their extraordinary powers of endurance enabled them to survive the horrors of slavery and to make incalculable contributions to American civilization.

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Finally, in increasing numbers throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th, came the outpouring of immigrants from almost everywhere.

Since the birth of the United States, some 44 million immigrants have flocked to this country in search of opportunities denied them in their native lands. Among them have been men and women of very sort – seekers after land and freedom, religious and political dissident searching for sanctuary, adventurers and misfits, merchants and artists.

But most of these people have been unlettered farmers from Europe’s peasant heart, ordinary people with strong backs, hope, and a will to succeed. Through unshakeable optimism, hard work, and grit, most has made a go of it. They have carved homes from America’s wilderness, peopled cities and towns, transformed its politics, and manned its farms and factories.

With more than 245 000 000 inhabitants, the United States is the 4th country in the world in terms of population. About 75% of the population live in urban areas and there are 170 cities of more than 100 000 inhabitants, 24 of which have population of over 500 000. Most of these urban centers lie along the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes. The most populous area is the relatively small Northeast, which accounts for nearly one fourth of the nation’s population.

America’s population remains richly diverse. The majority, fully 65 per cent, are Anglo-Saxon. Almost 12 per cent of the population is black. While the most rapidly growing ethnic group is the Hispanics, who still continue to use Spanish in their homes even though the vast majority were born in the United States. There are almost 2 million Oriental Americans (predominantly from Japan, China and the Philippines), who are concentrated mainly in California. The 1.5 million Native Americans live mainly in reserves in the southwestern states.

6.46.4 Read the text to know more about history of American nation.

The Making of a Nation

The United States is a society of immigrants. Since its early days, the country has admitted more than 50 million newcomers, a larger number of immigrants than any country in history. Most people came, and still come today, for wealth, land, and freedom.

Stories of the New World’s gold attracted the first Spanish explorers, who in the 1500s established outposts in what is now Florida. Prospects of wealth also motivated French fur traders, who set up trading posts from the St. Lawrence River to the Great Lakes and down the Mississippi River. The British, who were the first to colonize on a large scale, came for profit and also for religious freedom. The first successful English colony founded at Jamestown, Virginia, was financed by a London company that expected to make money from the settlement. English Puritans, Protestants who disagreed with the teachings of the Church of England, established settlements in the northeastern region. In the New World they could worship as they pleased.

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Отформатировано: Обычный

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Отформатировано: Отступ: Слева: 0 см

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Отформатировано: Обычный

Throughout the 1600s and 1700s permanent settlements were rapidly established all along the east coast. Most of the early settlers were British. These early immigrants were soon joined by people of other nationalities. German farmers settled in Pennsylvania, Swedes founded the colony of Delaware, and the Dutch settled in New York. Africans, America's unwilling immigrants, provided slave labor in the southern colonies. Immigrants also came from France, Spain, and Switzerland.

When they settled in the New World, many immigrants tried to preserve the traditions, religion, and language of their particular culture. The language and culture of the more numerous English colonies, however, had the overriding influence. American society was predominantly English – white Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP). Those immigrants who did not want to feel separate from the dominant WASP culture learned English and adopted English customs.

6.56.5 -Read the text to know more about the climate and weather in America.

Climate and Weather

On arriving in America Europeans had to learn to cope with the variety of unfamiliar climates and vegetation. European climatic experience was not a very useful guide for survival in America. That was especially true in the subtropical South and the arid West, regions that provided unexpected opportunities but also posed obstacles for which there were no obvious analogues in the Old World.

Europeans expected America to be much the same, as America faced the Atlantic, just like Europe. The truth was quite different. America's western air comes not from the ocean, as in Europe, but from the continental interior which is extremely cold in the winter and oven like in the summer.

When one thinks of American states such as California and Florida, one usually thinks of sunshine and a "laid back" (relaxed) life style. We have to keep in mind, however, that these, and not only these states, are subject to some of the most volatile weather in the United States.

So the large variety of geographic and climatic environments in America guaranteed that people in America would find both opportunities and challenges that would be denied to people in less favored parts of the earth. The country's riches rewarded luck and hard work, and its geographic and climatic variety rewarded those who were capable of adapting to new circumstances.

6.66.6 Work in groups of 3-4. Summarize the information you have read about the USA and prepare short presentations on the following topics:

- geographical position of the USA;
- climate and weather in the USA;
- diversity of US population;
- administrative divisions;
- economy of the USA.

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6.7 For further information about the geography of the USA use Hotlist –
The United States of America. The Geographical Position
<http://wizard.hprtec.org/builder/worksheet.php3?ID=43256>

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7. Discussion Points

7.1 Look at the maps of the USA, the United Kingdom and Russia. Fill in the chart to compare these countries (common features and geographical peculiarities):

	The United Kingdom	The USA	Russia
area			
parts, regions, states			
surrounding waters			
neighbouring countries			
population			
highlands (peaks)			
lowlands			
rivers			
lakes			
climate			
natural resources			
natural beauties			
capital			
biggest cities			

7.2 Comment on the statements.

1. The geography of the USA greatly influenced its history and the way of life.
2. The US consists of 50 states and the District of Columbia.
3. The continental part of the USA consists of two highland regions and two lowland regions.
4. There are many long rivers in the USA.
5. The climate in the USA differs greatly from one part of the country to another.
6. Most of the American people are descended from settlers who came from all over the world.

POLITICAL SET-UP OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Before you start

1.1 Answer the following questions:

1. What kind of state is the USA?
2. Is there a Constitution in the USA?
3. Who is the head of the state?
4. What branches does the US government consist of?
5. How many states is the country comprised of?

2. Pronunciation

2.1 Read and practise the pronunciation of the following words:

Senate	[ˈsenɪt]
supreme	[sɪjʊpˈri:m]
treasury	[ˈtreʒəri]
government	[ˈgʌvnmənt]
legislative	[ˈledʒɪslətɪv]
executive	[ɪgˈzɛkjʊtɪv]
judicial	[dʒuˈdʒiəl]
presiding	[priˈzɑɪdɪŋ]
majority	[məʊdʒərɪti]
trial	[ˈtraɪəl]
court	[kɔ:t]
justice	[ˈdʒʌstɪs]
tribunal	[traɪˈbjʊ:nəl]
associate	[əˈsəʊʃiət]

3. Reading

3.1 Read the text to know more about the political system of the USA.

The Political System of the United States of America

The United States of America is a federal Union and it consists of 50 states and a District of Columbia. The form of the federal government of the country is based on the Constitution adopted on September 17, 1787. A constitution in American political language means a set of rules, laws and regulations that provide the norms for conducting the work of the government. It is also a document outlining the structure of the three branches of the federal state and relations to the states that form the Union. The federal government headed by the President deals with international problems and national matters. Every state has its own constitution and the state government, headed by the Governor, manages its local affairs. States' laws and decisions must not contradict the federal Constitution. The federal government is divided into three branches: the legislative, the executive and the judicial.

The legislative power belongs to the US Congress. It is composed of 2 Houses: the Senate and the House of the Representatives. The upper house is the Senate. It is made up of 100 members (2 from each state) who are elected for a term of 6 years. One third of the Senate is elected every 2 years. The presiding officer of the Senate is the Vice-President, who is elected together with the President for the same term. The Senators represent the states. The House of Representatives represents the population of the country – each state has at least one representative in the House. There are about 450 members in it. The Congressmen are elected for a term of 2 years. The presiding officer of the House of Representatives is the Speaker who is elected by the House. The job of the Congress is to make laws. If the President vetoes a bill, the Congress can pass the law if it gets a two-thirds majority vote. The House of Representatives can also impeach the President. This means that the House can charge the President with a crime. In this case, the Senate will put the President on trial.

According to the American Constitution the executive power belongs to the President, his administration, namely the Cabinet, and the Vice-President. The President is elected by indirect elections. He/she must be a natural-born citizen, at least 35 years old, for at least 14 years a resident of the USA and a civilian. The President is elected every 4 years and can not serve more than 2 terms. As the head of the executive branch of the government, the President appoints the members of the Cabinet who must also be approved by the Senate. The Cabinet advises the President on many matters and is composed of the heads of 10 (12) executive departments: Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of Defense and others. The executive branch of the government puts the country's law into effect. The President is the central figure of American foreign policy. He can even ask the Congress to declare war but the final responsibility is his.

The judicial branch of the government is the system of courts in the United States. The highest tribunal is the Supreme Court. It consists of 9 justices: one Chief Justice and 8 associate justices appointed by the President with the approval of the Senate. The justices are appointed for life. The Supreme Court settles disputes between the states. It may veto any law passed by the Congress if it contradicts the Constitution of the USA. The judicial branch works together with the legislative and executive branches to protect the Constitution and the rights of people.

3.2 What new facts about the political system of the USA have you learnt from the text?

4. Comprehension check

4.1 Answer the following questions:

1. When was the Constitution of the USA adopted?
2. What does a Constitution in American political language mean?
3. What body does the legislative power belong to?
4. Who are the heads of the Senate and the House of Representatives?
5. What is the executive branch of the state headed by?

6. Who can be elected the President of the USA?
7. How does the executive branch function?
8. What body does the judicial power belong to?
9. How are the justices of the Supreme Court appointed?
10. What are the functions of the state governments?

4.2 Agree or disagree with the following statements:

1. The USA Constitution establishes the basic structure of the national government.
1. Each state has its own Constitution which can contradict the Federal Constitution.
2. If the President disagrees with the bill he has the right to veto it and the Congress can't pass it.
3. If the President commits a crime the House of Representatives can impeach him/her.
4. The Supreme Court protects the right of people.

5. Vocabulary

5.1 Give English equivalents to the following word combinations:

законодательная власть, наложить вето на законопроект, провести закон, получить большинство в две трети голосов, подвергнуть президента импичменту, обвинить президента в совершении преступления, судить президента, утвердить судей, исполнительная власть, приводить в исполнение законы страны, судебная власть, верховный судья, судья (помощник судьи), назначаться пожизненно, принять конституцию, председатель (чего-либо), избираться, срок полномочий, давать рекомендации президенту по вопросу, решать спор между штатами, противоречить конституции, заниматься местными вопросами, свод законов и правил, министерство, трибунал.

5.2 Fill in the gaps with the words and word combinations from the text:

1. The US government is divided into 3 branches: .., ... and
2. A Constitution is a
3. The US Constitution was ... on September 17, 1787.
4. ... of the Senate and the House of Representatives are the Vice-President and the Speaker respectively.
5. The Senate can ... the President ... if the House of Representatives impeach him.
6. The President and the Vice-President ... together ... 5 years.
7. The Supreme Court is headed by
8. The Supreme Court can ... any law if it ... the federal Constitution.
9. The Supreme Court is ... of the USA.
10. Every state has its own constitution and the state government which

5.3 Match the parts of the sentences:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. The President | a) settles disputes between the states. |
| 2. The Senate | b) advises the President on many national and international matters. |
| 3. The Congress | c) is elected by indirect elections. |
| 4. The House of Representatives | d) can charge the President with a crime. |
| 5. The Cabinet | e) is composed of two Houses. |
| 6. The Supreme Court | f) votes to approve the justices to the Supreme Court. |
| | g) is the highest legislative body in the country. |
| | h) can ask the Congress to declare a war |
| | i) consists of 100 members. |
| | j) is composed of 12 secretaries, the heads of the government departments. |
| | k) consists of the Chief Justice and 8 associate justices. |
| | l) consists of about 450 members. |

5.4 Complete the sentences:

1. The form of the US government is based on ...
2. The US constitution outlines ...
3. The Senate represents ...
4. The House of Representatives represents ...
5. The Speaker is elected ...
6. The Congress can pass the law vetoed by the President if ...
7. The members of the Cabinet are appointed ... and must be ...
8. The President may be impeached if ...
9. The members of the Supreme Court are ...
10. The executive branch puts ...

6. Supplementary reading

6.1 Read the text to know more about the US Constitution.

The Constitution of the USA

The Constitution of the United States of America, the foundation of all law of the USA, was adopted September 17, 1787. The US Constitution is a relatively brief document outlining the structure of the three departments of the federal government and relation to the states which form the Union. However, the Constitution provides a method of amendment, in fact, it has been 26 times amended since its adoption.

The Constitution sets up a federal system of government by dividing powers between the national, state and local governments. Two characteristics of this

three-tier system of American government are fundamental. First, citizens elect officials to serve in the national, state and local governments. The authority of each level rests with the people. Second, each level of government raises money through taxation from the citizens living in the area it serves. Unless each level of government can raise its own fiscal resources, it cannot act independently. The Constitution is a relatively brief document which sets forth the nation's fundamental laws. It establishes the basic structure of the national government and defines the rights and liberties of the American people. No laws, regulations, or changes in the electoral process can be implemented if they conflict with the fundamental concepts of the Constitution.

The idea of separating powers among the various elements of government was designed to restrict governmental power and prevent its abuse. Wherever possible, the Founding Fathers built a system of "checks and balances" into the Constitution so that no one part of the government could supplant the other. And each branch can check the power of either of the others by amending or voiding certain of their acts. Examples include the President's veto power and the congressional power to override the veto; judicial review of legislative and executive actions; presidential appointment of Secretaries and judges with senatorial approval, and the congressional power to impeach.

Article I of the Constitution begins as follows: "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives". "Upper" and "Lower" are commonly applied to the two branches of a bicameral legislature, the upper being the less numerous and higher in rank of the two. A member of the Senate is usually referred to as a Senator, and a member of the House as a Congressman. The function of the legislative branch of the government is to make the laws and to finance the operation of the government through levying taxes and appropriating money requested by the executive branch of the government.

Article II of the US Constitution runs: "The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America." The executive branch, which includes the President, and the President's Cabinet, is responsible for administering and executing the laws. The President must be a natural-born citizen, at least thirty five years old, and for at least fourteen years a resident of the United States.

By tradition the Cabinet (the President's Cabinet) is composed of the President and the heads (Secretaries) of the Government departments. It consists of: 1) Secretary of State, 2) Secretary of the Treasury, 3) Secretary of Defence, 4) Attorney-General (Department of Justice), 5) Postmaster-General, 6) Secretary of the Interior, 7) Secretary of Agriculture, 8) Secretary of Commerce, 9) Secretary of Labour, 10) Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, 11) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 12) Secretary of Transportation.

When the President addresses Congress in person, as when reading the State of the Union Message at the opening of a session, he speaks in the Hall of Representatives at the Capitol, before a joint session of the Senate and the House. He speaks from the middle dais of three. At the desk above him sit the Speaker of

the House and the presiding officer of the Senate, the Vice-President. This is the only occasion when the Vice-President is seated higher than the President.

The State of the Union Message is the traditional annual address of the President in which beside other business he deals with the economic state of the country and lays down the principal line of future development.

According to Article III of the Constitution “ the judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish”. The US Supreme Court is the highest tribunal in the United States. It includes the Chief justice and eight associate justices. The Court’s function is to interpret the Constitution, not to alter or modify it.

The structure of American government is really a mosaic composed of thousands of interlocking units. In addition to the federal government, there are 50 state governments and the government of the District of Columbia, and further down the ladder of smaller units that govern counties, cities, towns and villages.

The federal government is of course the largest, but the governments of the 50 states and thousands of smaller units are no less important. The drafters of the Constitution created this multilayered system of government. They made the national structure supreme and assigned it certain specific functions, such as defense, currency regulation and foreign relations; yet they wisely recognized the need for levels of government more directly in contact with the people, and so they left many other responsibilities in the hands of state and local jurisdictions.

State and local governments are, however, forbidden from passing any law that denies or erodes the fundamental rights guaranteed to all U.S. citizens in the Constitution.

6.2 Read the text to know more about the Executive Office of the President.

The Executive Office of the President

The major staff agencies in the executive branch belong to the Executive Office of the President (EOP). Their basic function is to formulate and coordinate policies and programmes and to advise the President. These agencies show the expansion of power and jurisdiction of the President which have brought about such an immense apparatus, which is still growing today. The EOP is more significant than the committees of Congress or the Cabinet.

The National Security Council (NSC) is one of the most important agencies within the EOP, whose chairman is the President himself, with the Chief Adviser for National Security as Secretary. Strategic issues of military, political and economic importance are discussed and planned there. This is where the aggression against the people of Indo-China was initiated without the constitutionally stipulated approval of Congress. By the Act of National Security (1947) the wartime Office of Strategic Services was reshaped as the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Originally, it was created as an agency of counter-intelligence for gathering military information but it functions chiefly as an instrument for fostering subversion, sabotage, political assassination and armed

intervention in other countries. The CIA coordinates the intelligence activities of all other US spy-organizations and analyses the information of all government offices. For its open or covert operations and vast expenditure it is accountable to no one, except the President. The so-called watch-dog committees of Congress controlling its activities are virtually of no importance. The CIA has even been called the invisible government. "Radio Liberty" and "Radio Free Europe" are financed and supported by the CIA. The same applies to different news agencies and papers. Though it is expressly forbidden, the CIA carries on intelligence and police activities within the USA. It has become evident that the Agency keeps files on thousand of individuals, among them senators and representatives, not to speak of the compilation of other special dossiers on "suspicious person" at various times. The use of telephone taps, break-ins and other unlawful measures helps to compile this material.

The White House Office is another institution of the EOP. It is loosely organized and comprises about 50 personal advisers, assistants, special assistance, etc. and their staffs.

6.2 Read the text to know more about political parties in the USA.

Political Parties in the USA

There is no mention of political parties in the Constitution. But they started to appear during George Washington's term of office. On one side were the Federalists, who wanted a strong federal government. On the other side were the Democratic-Republicans, who believed that the power of the federal government should be limited. Their leader was Thomas Jefferson, who became the third President of the country.

Washington, however, was opposed to political parties. He feared that they would divide the American nation. In this farewell address, he warned that "the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of a party ... agitate the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindle the animosity of one part against another."

Nevertheless, political parties have continued to exist. They have proven to be an effective way for people with similar ideas about public issues to work together. It is hard to imagine how an election would work without them. Political parties hold the nominating conventions and select the candidates. Their members raise money and work hard to get votes for their candidates.

Several of the early political parties have long disappeared-like the Federalists and the Whigs. Since 1854, the two major parties have been the Republican party and the Democratic party. (The Democratic party grew out of Jefferson's Democratic-Republican party.) Throughout the history, there have also been a number of small parties, which have usually lasted only a short time. These are known as third parties. Many of them have had colorful names, like the Greenback party, the Free Soil party, the Know-Nothing, and the "Bull Moose" party. A few third-party candidates have attracted a number of voters.

Anyone can join a political party. When people register to vote, they tell their party preference. Millions of Americans register as Democrats or Republicans, but many say they are independent. Only a small number of the people who are registered as members of a party take an active role in the party's activities. In most primary elections, party members must vote for their party's candidates. In general elections, they can vote for candidates of any party. When the member of one party votes for the candidate of another party, it is called a crossover vote.

Each party is organized into committees at the neighborhood level, at the city level, at the county level, at the state level, and at the national level. These committees work to get their party's candidates elected to office. At election time, rank-and-file members work in their party's headquarters to get out the vote. They call neighbors to promote their candidate. They hand out flyers about their candidate. They even drive people to polling places so they can vote.

6.4 Read the text to know more about the political symbols of the USA.

The Political Symbols of the USA

The flag the USA. Flag Day: June 14, is the birthday of the American flag. On this date in 1777, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution stating that the flag of the new nation should contain thirteen horizontal stripes (seven red ones and six white ones) to symbolise the thirteen colonies, and thirteen white stars arranged in a circle to symbolize the unity and equality of these colonies. In 1776, after the colonies had declared their independence from Great Britain, George Washington and two other revolutionary leaders were assigned the task of designing a national flag. The colours they chose were red for courage, white for liberty, and blue for loyalty. According to American legend, they brought their design to Betsy Ross, a young widow who was an excellent seamstress. She followed their sketch exactly, except for suggesting that the stars be five-pointed rather than six-pointed. Because she made the first American flag, Betsy Ross' name is still well-known to Americans. Her little home in Philadelphia has been preserved as a monument and tens of thousands of tourists visit it each year. The American flag has been redesigned many times since Betsy Ross made the original. Today, the flag still consists of thirteen horizontal stripes alternately red and white equal to the number of the original states with a blue union marked with white stars equal in number to 50 states today. The red stripes proclaim courage, the white stripes proclaim liberty, the field of blue stands for loyalty.

The Coat-of-Arms of the US represents an eagle with wings outspread, holding a bundle of rods-the symbol of administering-in the left claw, and an olive twig - the emblem of love - in the right claw. The motto on the coat-of-arms is "E Pluribus Unum" (One out of many). It was in 1812 when the nickname of the US "Uncle Sam" appeared. Uncle Sam Wilson of New York supplied beef to the US army during the war of 1812 stamping his barrels with the letters "U.S.". The beef became known to the army as Uncle Sam's and later on this familiar name became associated with the U.S. Government.

~~6.5~~ Work in groups of 3-4. Summarize ~~all~~ information ~~you have read on~~ the -US political system and

~~6.6~~ ~~6.5~~ —prepare short presentations of the following topics:

- the Constitution of the USA;
- the legislative power and political parties in the USA;
- the executive power and President Administration in the USA;
- the judicial power in the USA.

6.6 For further information about the political system of the USA use Hotlist The United States of America. Political System
<http://wizard.hprtec.org/builder/worksheet.php3?ID=43270>

7. Discussion Points

7.1 Draw a scheme of the US political system and compare it with the political systems in the UK and Russia? Find similarities and differences in these political systems.

7.2 Comment on the statements:

1. The US President is the central political figure in the country.
2. The USA has the most stable and efficient political system in the world.
3. The political set-up of the USA is similar to that in Russia.
4. The USA like other countries has its own political symbols.

WASHINGTON

1. Before you start

1.1 Answer the following questions:

1. What kind of city is Washington?
2. Where is it situated?
3. What places of interest in Washington do you know?

2. Pronunciation

2.1 Read and practise the pronunciation of the following words:

honor	[ˈɒnə]
administrative	[ədˈmɪnɪstrətɪv]
diagonal supreme	[sjuːprɪm]
statuary	[ˈstætʃuəri]
atomic	[əˈtɒmɪk]
fascinating	[ˈfæsɪneɪtɪŋ]
tomb	[tuːm]
archive	[ˈɑːkaɪv]
sanctuary	[ˈsæŋktʃuəri]
quadrant	[ˈkwɒdrənt]

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compromise
 Memorial
 the Smithsonian Museums
 Arlington National Cemetery

3. Reading

3.1 Read the text to know about the US capital in more detail.

Washington

The capital of the USA is Washington. The history of Washington dates back to the 18th century when in 1789, eight years after the victory over the British in the Revolutionary War, General George Washington was elected first president of the new republic of the United States. He was soon busily engaged in the task of planning and building a new permanent national capital, the great city that now bears his name and occupies the federal District of Columbia (D.C.).

The District of Columbia was named in honor of Christopher Columbus who discovered America. It stretches for 10 square miles and it is not part of any state.

The location of the city on the Potomac River was the result of a political compromise between the wishes of the northern and the southern states, the actual site being chosen in 1791 by Washington himself. At the invitation of the president, the French engineer Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant devised an impressive plan for the city. It incorporated a rectangular grid of streets, overlaid with a pattern of broad avenues radiating diagonally from evenly spaced squares and circles. And today locating addresses and places of interest in Washington becomes simpler when you realize that the city is divided into geographical quadrants-N.W., N.E., S.W., and S.E.- centered on the unmistakable Capitol, around which the north-south streets are designated by numbers and east-west streets by letters. Most of the diagonal avenues, which are interconnected at the circles, are named after states of the Union.

Washington is a political, administrative and cultural centre. It is the seat of the US Government. The White House, the Supreme Court, the capitol are all in Washington, D.C. The White House is the best known residence in the country, the US President lives and works here. The Capitol is the home of the US Congress. The building was named for the temple in Rome. Inside the Capitol there is a lot for the visitor to see – House and Senate chambers, committee meetings, statuary, inscriptions and the Senate subway.

Washington is the center of atomic, electronic, light and food industries. Washington is a fascinating city. The places of interest in Washington are the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the White House, Vietnam War Veterans Memorial, the Library of Congress and many museums and theatres.

The best advice to the visitor is to walk down the Mall from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial. The Mall is the famous green stretch of lawns where many of the city's favourite museums, monuments and celebrated buildings are found. It includes the Capitol, the Smithsonian Museums, the Supreme Court, the Library of

Congress and the Pentagon. The Library of Congress has over 100 million items and is housed in numerous buildings. Its reference service - established for the convenience of Congress, but available to all – has no equal. Within the building the rococo marble staircase and the central reading room are indoor landmarks.

Dominating the east end of the Mall is the National Gallery of Art, one of the world's most important art museums.

The Smithsonian is a complex of fourteen museums and galleries, offering 140 million objects of broad appeal. Two of the museums are devoted to science and industry and the others to the arts and history. The Smithsonian Institution is a part museum, part archive, art gallery, publishing house, science lab, theatre, concert hall and much more. For most visitors the red stone headquarters building, the Natural History, and History and Technology Museums, and the National Air and Space Museum are the heart and soul of the Smithsonian and the Mall.

The Washington Monument is the most visible landmark in the capital area. The Monument is the tallest masonry structure in the world.

From the Monument the obvious place to visit next is the Lincoln Memorial, located at the other end of the Reflecting Pool. The Memorial has become one of the unofficial sanctuaries of the nation.

Across the Potomac is Arlington National Cemetery, where many of the nation's honored dead are buried, including John and Robert Kennedy. Nearby are the famous Iwo Jima Monument, which commemorates the World War II action, and huge Pentagon, headquarters of the Department of Defense.

3.2 What new facts about Washington have you learnt from the text?

4. Comprehension check

4.1 Answer the following questions:

1. Where is Washington located?
2. Who was the District of Columbia named after?
3. What kind of city is Washington?
4. What administrative offices are situated in Washington?
5. What industries are developed in Washington?
6. What are the famous sights of Washington?
7. What is the first place to visit in Washington? Why?
8. What is the Smithsonian Institution?
9. What museums make up the Smithsonian Institution?
10. What sight is the landmark of Washington?

4.2 Agree or disagree with the following statements:

1. The District of Columbia is a large state.
2. Everything in Washington seems to have relation to the Capitol.
3. There's a lot for visitors to see in Washington.
4. The Mall is the famous lawn in Washington.
5. The Library of Congress is available to everyone.

6. The Smithsonian Institution is a large complex which displays millions of exhibits.

5. Vocabulary

5.1 Give English equivalents to the following words and word combinations:

называть в честь кого-либо; скульптура; надпись; красивый город; достопримечательности; могила; знаменитые здания; размещать; справочная служба; доступный; мраморная лестница; достопримечательности интерьера; святилище.

5.2 Match the words in the left column with the definitions on the right:

1. discover	a) something that can be seen
2. temple	b) the quality of being suitable for a particular purpose
3. relate	c) a building where people go to worship
4. lawn	d) the main building or offices used by a large organization
5. convenience	e) clear
6. headquarters	f) to find something that was hidden
7. visible	g) an area of ground in a garden or park that is covered with short grass
8. obvious	h) to show or prove a connection between two or more things

5.3 Fill in the gaps with the words from the text:

1. It is established for the ... of visitors.
2. Everything in the city ... to this building.
3. The Monument is clearly ...
4. There are a lot of ... in the city.
5. The ... of the Institution are of red colour.
6. The building resembles a ...
7. The continent was ... by explorers.
8. It's ... we should go sightseeing.

6. Supplementary Reading

6.1 Read the text to know more about the Capitol.

The United States Capitol

The best recognized symbol of democratic government in the world, the United States Capitol has housed Congress since 1800. The Capitol is where Congress meets to write the laws of the nation and where presidents are

inaugurated and deliver their annual State of the Union messages. For nearly two centuries, the Capitol has grown along with the nation, adding new wings to accommodate the increasing number of senators and representatives as new states entered the Union. Its halls are lined with statuary and paintings representing great events and people in the nation's history.

The Early Capitol

The original Capitol was designed by Dr. William Thornton, and the cornerstone was laid by President George Washington on September 18, 1793. Benjamin Henry Latrobe and Charles Bulfinch among other architects, directed its early construction. In 1800 when the government moved from temporary quarters in Philadelphia to Washington, DC, the Capitol that awaited them was an unfinished brick and sandstone buildings. The Congress moved into the small, cramped north wing. At first the House met in a large room on the second floor intended for the Library of Congress, the Senate in a chamber on the ground floor. Today on the second floor is the chamber that the Senate used between 1810 and 1859.

In 1807, the south wing of the Capitol was completed for the House of Representatives. A wooden walkway across the vacant yard intended for the domed centre building linked the House and Senate wings. This was how the Capitol appeared in August 1814, during America's second war with Great Britain, when British troops burned the Capitol and other public buildings in Washington. The exterior walls survived, but much of the interior was gutted. In 1819, the reconstructed wings of the Capitol were reopened. The center building, completed in 1826, joined the two wings. A low wood and copper dome covered the Rotunda.

Capitol Extensions and Dome

By 1850, so many new states had been admitted to the Union that the House and Senate had outgrown their chambers. Congress decided to enlarge the Capitol by adding grand wings to the ends of the old building. In 1851, Daniel Webster, who had served in both houses of Congress, delivered one of his famous orations at the laying of the cornerstone for the new wings. The House occupied its current chamber in 1859.

The Old Hall of the House was later dedicated as National Statuary Hall. Congress invited each state to contribute two statues of its most famous citizens. Today, these statues are displayed in Statuary Hall and in corridors.

During the Civil War, work continued on the new cast-iron dome, designed by Thomas U. Walter. On December 2, 1863, the statue of Freedom, by American artist Thomas Crawford was placed at the top of the dome, 287 feet above the East Plaza.

In the 1870s, the landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted designed the terraces that run across the north, south, and west elevations of the Capitol. These terraces provided extra rooms as well as a grand pedestal for the building perched on the brow of the Capitol Hill.

20th-Century Changes

By the opening of the twentieth century, the need for more space again became acute. The first House and Senate office buildings were finished in 1908 and 1909 respectively. Tunnels and electric subway cars connect these buildings with the Capitol.

Severe deterioration of the original sandstone walls prompted major renovations of the Capitol's exterior. Between 1958 and 1962 the East Front was extended some thirty-two feet and the original facade replicated in marble. Portions of the old outside walls can still be viewed inside the East Front corridors. In the 1980s, the West Front was carefully repaired and restored; it is the only portion of the original exterior not covered by marble additions.

The Rotunda

Unlike the Senate and House chambers, the Rotunda serves no legislative function. It is, however, the very heart of the Capitol. It is a ceremonial center where state funerals have been held for presidents from Abraham Lincoln to Lyndon Johnson, distinguished members of Congress, military heroes, and eminent citizens. Visiting heads of state have been received in the Rotunda, and memorable individuals and events celebrated.

Hanging in the Rotunda are four giant canvases painted by John Trumbull, an aide-de-camp to General Washington, who recorded scenes of the American Revolution. Four other artists added paintings depicting events associated with the discovery and settlement of the United States. On the canopy, hovering 180 feet above the Rotunda floor, the Italian-American artist Constantio Brumidi painted "The Apotheosis of Washington surrounded by symbols of American democracy and technological progress. Brumidi painted and decorated many of the rooms and corridors of the Capitol, and was painting the frieze that rings the Rotunda when he died. Other artists completed his work, which illustrates major events in the nation's history. The events portrayed at the end of the frieze took place years after Brumidi's death, an appropriate suggestion of the continuity of history.

6.2 Read the text to know more about the White House.

The White House

The White House is the oldest public building in the District of Columbia, and 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is the most famous address in the United States. Here every President, except George Washington, has conducted the government of the Nation. In the past 200 years, the White House has become symbolic of the American Presidency throughout the world. While the Capitol represents the freedom and ideals of the Nation, the White House stands for the power and statesmanship of the chief executive.

The White House itself has been altered, adapted, or enlarged to suit the needs of the residents and the demands of a growing Nation and of a more complicated world. Throughout all the changes, the basic structure has been honored. Following

the British burning in 1814, the house was rebuilt between 1815 and 1817 within the same walls. The State Dining Room was enlarged and space for presidential staff was created in a new West Wing in 1902. A greatly weakened structure was completely rebuilt within its original walls in 1948-52. Yet it has remained recognizable for more than 200 years. Engravings and photographs show alterations, additions, and landscape features since the White House was first built, but what remains is a structure that George Washington would recognize should he come upon it today.

6.3 Read the text to know more about National Museum of American History.

National Museum of American History

The National Museum of American History is devoted to the exhibition, care, and study of artifacts that reflect the experience of the American people. The Museum also offers a variety of scholarly and public programs which interpret that experience.

Among the objects on view are national treasures such as the original Star-Spangled Banner; scientific instruments; inventions; implements of everyday life, from spinning wheels to steam locomotives; memorabilia of our national pastimes; coins; musical instruments; and a selection of first ladies' gowns. Together they illustrate America's ethnic, cultural, scientific, technological, and political history.

In addition to its collections, the Museum offers such scholarly resources as the Dibner Library, a collection of rare books relating to the history of science and technology; the Afro-American Communities Project, researching the history of antebellum free black communities; Technology and Culture, the international quarterly of the Society for the History of Technology; and the American Quarterly, the journal of the American Studies Association.

One of the Museum's largest installations – "1876: A Centennial Exhibition" – is located in the Arts and Industries Building (across the Mall). This exhibition revives the spirit and ambience of the 1876 Philadelphia centennial fair.

6.4 Read the text to know more about National Gallery of Art.

National Gallery of Art

The National Gallery of Art was created for the people of the United States of America by a joint resolution of Congress, accepting the gift of financier and art collector Andrew W. Mellon. During the 1920s, Mr. Mellon began to collect with the intention of forming a national gallery of art in Washington. His collection was promised to the nation in 1937, the year of his death. Funds for the construction of the original (West) building were provided by The A.W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust. On March 17, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt accepted the completed building and the collections on behalf of the people of the United States of America.

Andrew Mellon's hope that the newly created National Gallery would attract gifts from other collectors was soon realized in the form of major donations of art from Samuel H. Kress, Joseph Widener, Chester Dale, Ailsa Mellon Bruce, Lessing J. Rosenwald, and Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch, as well as individual gifts from hundreds of other donors.

The paintings and sculpture given by Andrew Mellon have formed a nucleus of high quality around which the collections have grown.

The Gallery's newer East Building, located on land set aside in the original Congressional resolution, was planned to accommodate the Gallery's growing collections and expanded exhibition schedule as well as to house an advanced research center, offices for curatorial, education, and administrative purposes, a great library and an increasingly large collection of drawings and prints. The building opened on June 1, 1978, and was accepted for the nation by President Jimmy Carter. Funds for construction were given by Paul Mellon and the late Ailsa Mellon Bruce, the son and daughter of the founder and by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

As the Gallery expands its interest into twentieth-century art, the Collectors Committee, an advisory group of private citizens, has given funds to acquire paintings and sculpture of our time.

Key works of art have also come to the Gallery through the Patrons' Permanent Fund. In addition, membership in the Circle of the National Gallery of Art provides funding for special programs and projects.

The Gallery is supported in its daily operations by federal funds. All works in the collections of the National Gallery of Art have been given by private donation.

6.5 Work in groups of 3-4. Summarize the information you have read about Washington and prepare short presentations on the following topics:

- history of the US capital;
- political sights in Washington;
- cultural places of interest in Washington.

6.6 For further information about Washington use Hotlist – Washington D.C. History, Sights, and Culture
<http://wizard.hprtec.org/builder/worksheet.php3?Id=37901>

7. Discussion Points

7.1 Discuss these questions about Washington:

1. In what ways do you think Washington differs from other American cities?
2. Why do you think the capital of the USA is a great tourist attraction?
3. Would you like to visit Washington? Why/Why not?
4. What is the first sight you would like to visit in Washington? Why?

7.2 Comment on the statements:

1. Washington is a political and administrative centre of the country.
2. Washington is an exciting city.

3. Washington is like no other city of the USA.
4. While in Washington you can visit numerous museums.

