**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ**

**УО «Белорусский государственный экономический университет»**

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**The United States of America and Its Economy**

**США и Американская Экономика**

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Учебно-методическое пособие содержит лексический материал, тексты для чтения и комплекс упражнений и заданий для формирования англоязычных коммуникативных навыков студентов в рамках темы, предусмотренной типовой программой по дисциплине «Иностранный язык». Предназначено для студентов БГЭУ дневной формы обучения.

**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ITS ECONOMY**

**PART I. THE USA TODAY**

***GETTING STARTED***

*1. Comment on the quotation, express your opinion:*

"Americans are a nation born of an idea; not the place, but the idea, created the United States Government" (Theodore H. White, an American political journalist and historian)

*2. Collect examples of American influences (products, images, expressions, ideas, etc.) in your daily life. Analyze their effect on your view of the United States.*

*3. Check how well you know the United States of America by choosing the correct variant from the alternatives below:*

1. The capital of the USA is:

a) Philadelphia

b) New York

c) Washington D.C.

2. The United States of America is …

* 1. a constitutional republic
	2. a monarchy

c) a federal republic

d) a commonwealth

3. The Independence Day is on the:

a) 4th of February

b) 14th of September

c) 4th of July

4. The home of the President of the USA is:

a) the White House

b) the Capitol

c) the Pentagon

5. The national anthem of the USA is called:

a) “Long Lives the Queen”

b) “The Star-Spangled Banner”

c) “America the Beautiful”

6. The Statue of Liberty serves as a symbol of American:

1. foreign policy
2. independence
3. women rights

d) abolition of slavery

7. What is the longest river in the USA?

a) Rio Grande

b) Mississippi

c) Colorado

d) Missouri

***USEFUL VOCABULARY***

**access** (n) – доступ

**adopt** (v) – утверждать, принимать

**amendment** (n) – поправка

**appoint** (v) – назначать

**bicameral** (adj) – двухпалатный (о законодательной системе или о парламенте)

**Commander-in-Chief** – Главнокомандующий вооруженными силами

**contest** (v) – участвовать в выборах, добиваться выборного места

**convention** (n) – собрание, съезд

**Department of Defense** – министерство обороны

**Department of Justice** – министерство юстиции

**Department of State** – государственный департамент, министерство иностранных дел

**descendant** (n) – потомок

**designate** (v) – объявлять, называть

**diversity** (n) – разнообразие, несходство

**earthquake** (n) – землетрясение

**elective** (adj) – выборный, избирательный

**employee** (n) – сотрудник, работник

**executive** (adj) – исполнительный, принадлежащий к структурам исполнительной власти

**foreign trade** – [международная торговля](http://www.multitran.ru/c/m.exe?t=1481265_2_1)

**hazard** (n) – риск, опасность

**House of Representatives** – Палата представителей

**inherit** (v) – наследовать

**judicial** (adj) – судебный

**legislative** (adj) – законодательный

**melting pot** – “плавильный котёл”

**mudslide** (n) – обвал, оползень

**prairie** (n) – прерии

**public holiday** – официальный нерабочий день

**Secretary of State** – государственный секретарь, министр иностранных дел

**Supreme Court** – Верховный суд

**valley** (n) – долина

***READING***

*1. Read the text and say:*

* *What makes the USA the leader of the western world?*
* *In what way do the geographical position and physical features of the USA influence the development of the country?*

The USA is the most powerful and highly developed country in the world. It is situated in the central part of the North American continent. Its western coast is washed by the Pacific Ocean and its western coast is washed by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

The USA is separated from Canada in the north by the 49th parallel and the Great Lakes and from Mexico in the south by the Rio Grande River and continuing across the highlands to the Pacific Ocean. The total area of the USA is over 9 million square kilometers.

The country consists of three separate parts. They are the Hawaiian Islands, Alaska and the rest major part of the USA. There are fifty states and District of Columbia. The states differ very much in size, population and economic development. The geographical position of the country is extremely favourable for its development. It makes the USA a sea power, provides easy access to the country and stimulates foreign trade.

The enormous size of the country influences the diversity of landscape, climate and people. The USA is the third largest country in the world in population (after China and India). The population of the United States is about 280 million people. They are the people of all races and nationalities, either descendants of immigrants or immigrants that have come to the United States from all the countries of the world in search of independence and self-realization.

The continental part of the USA consists of the highland regions and two lowland regions. The highest mountains are the Rocky Mountains, the Cordilleras and the Sierra Nevada. The high­est peak is Mount McKinley (6193 m), which is located in Alaska. The central lowlands are called the prairie, the eastern lowlands are called the Mississippi valley.

The principle rivers of the USA are the Mississippi, the longest river in the world (7330 km) and the Hudson river.

The climate of the USA differs greatly from one part of the country to another. The coldest climate is in the northern part, 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 temperature as high as 49 degrees in summer. Hot winds blowing from the Gulf of Mexico often bring typhoons. Among other natural hazards are tsunamis, volcanoes, and earthquake activity around Pacific Basin; hurricanes along the Atlantic coast; tornadoes in the Midwest; mudslides in California and forest fires in the west.

The USA is a federal republic that is made up of 50 states and the District of Columbia, a special area where the capital of the country, Washington, D.C., is situated. The capital was founded in 1790 and was named after the first President George Washington. The name of the capital always goes with the abbreviation D.C. (District of Columbia) not to be mixed with another Washington, one of the states. Washington, D.C. is the residence of the President and the Congress of the USA.

The basic law of the United States is the Constitution, adopted in 1787. By the Constitution the government of the nation is entrusted to three separate authorities: the Executive, the Legislative and the Judicial.

The *executive power* is vested in the President, who holds his office during the term of four years, and is elected together with the Vice-President. Other than succeeding a President who is unable to finish his term, the Vice-President’s only official duty is to preside over the Senate. The Vice-President rather tends to be the forgotten man of American politics, because of his lack of power. The President is the head of the state and the Government; he is also the Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces and has a wide range of responsibilities, from external affairs, such as negotiation of treaties, to internal affairs, such as preparation of an annual executive budget and economic report. The President may also veto any bill passed by the Congress.

The administrative business of the nation is conducted by secretaries who form the Cabinet. Cabinet secretaries are heads of different departments (the Department of State, the Department of Defense or the Pentagon, the Department of Justice, the Department of Commerce, etc.) and are responsible to the President who appoints them for an indefinite time.

*Legislative authority* is exercised by the Congress of the United States which has two elective houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate has 100 senators, two for each state regardless of population, serving six-year terms. Senators’ terms are staggered, so that one third of the Senate stands for election every two years. Members of the House of Representatives are elected for two-year terms. The House has 435 members, apportioned among the states on the basis of population. The most populous states are allowed more representatives than the smaller ones, some of which have only one. The main task of the Congress is to make laws. The US Constitution also gives the Congress the power to control the nation’s currency, to impose taxes, to distribute funding to every government organization, to make rules for trade with other countries and between states, to put foreign treaties into effect, to organize the Armed Forces, to declare war, etc. Another power possessed by the Congress is the right to propose amendments to the Constitution whenever two thirds of both Houses consider it necessary.

The *judicial power* is the third branch of the US Federal Government. It consists of a system of federal courts and is headed by the Supreme Court of the United States.

In the United States there exist two major political parties: the Democratic and the Republican. The present-day Democratic Party was founded in 1828, repre­senting Southern slave owners and part of Northern bourgeoisie. The Republican Party, established in 1854, united those who opposed the expansion of slavery. The Democratic Party is considered to be more liberal, and the Republican is more conservative.

At an election time parties contest presidency and the majority of seats in the Congress. Every four years the American parties come together as national bodies in the Presidential nominating conventions and make up the party programs. But once a President is chosen, the parties again be­come amorphous bodies. One of the reasons of the stability of the two-party system is family tradition. Each new generation of Americans inherits its politics and party loyalty from their fathers.

There are other, smaller parties in the United States besides the two major ones. None of these smaller parties has enough popular support to win a presidential election.

There are some federal holidays in the United States. In addition, each of the 50 states has jurisdiction over its own holidays. In practice, however, most states observe the federal public holidays. Ten holidays per year are proclaimed by the federal government. They are as follows: New Year’s Day (January 1), Martin Luther King’s Day (third Monday in January), George Washington’s Birthday (third Monday in February), Memorial Day (last Monday in May), Independence Day (July 4), Labour Day (first Monday in September), Columbus Day (second Monday in October), Veteran’s Day (November 11), Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November), Christmas (December 25). There are also traditional holidays, observed by a large number of Americans, which are neither legal nor official. Among these are St. Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day, Mother’s Day, Easter and Halloween (the last day of October).

The United States of America has inspired many names – ‘Land of Opportunity’, ‘Melting Pot’, ‘God’s Country’ where economic and social pressures have forced non-English speaking immigrants to drop their native tongue and habits and to assimilate into the American way of life.

1. *Complete the sentences using information from the text:*
	1. The US shares borders on ….
	2. The geographical position of the USA ….
	3. The USA is the third largest country in the world in ….
	4. The climate of the USA ….
	5. The capital of the USA ….
	6. The basic law of the country is ….
	7. The Government is divided into three branches: …
	8. The President is ….
	9. The Congress of the United States has two elective houses: ….

10. There are traditional holidays in the country, observed by a large number of Americans, which are ….

*2. Scan the text about the USA one more time and answer the questions below:*

1. Where is the US situated?
2. What is the USA washed by in the east and in the west?
3. What is the USA separated from Canada by?
4. What natural hazards are common in the USA?
5. What are the principal rivers of the country?
6. Does the climate differ from one part of the country to another? What are the climatic conditions of the country determined by?
7. Are there many mountains in the USA?
8. Where is the capital situated?
9. How many states are there in the USA?
10. How many branches is the Government divided into?
11. Who is the executive power in the USA? What duties and powers of the President are listed by the Constitution?
12. Who forms the Cabinet?
13. What is the Congress? What houses are there in the Congress?
14. What power is called the third branch of the US Federal Government?
15. How many political parties are there in the country?

*3. Decide whether the following statements are True or False.*

1. The USA is a vast country of different landscapes and climates.

2. The process by which the people choose between the Republican and Democratic candidates for President is very simple.

3. The United States shares land borders with Canada and Mexico, and a water border with Russia in the northwest, and two territorial water borders in the southeast between Florida and Cuba, and Florida and the Bahamas.

***DEVELOPING VOCABULARY***

*1. Complete the table with missing words, the first has been done for you:*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Noun** | **Verb** | **Adjective** |
| stability | stabilize | stable |
|  | socialize |  |
| population |  |  |
|  |  | governmental |
|  | stabilize  |  |
| executive |  |  |
|  |  | authoritarian, authoritative |
| access |  |  |
|  |  | responsible |
|  | elect |  |

*2. Find the words in the text with similar meanings to these:*

1. be located

1. reserves
2. chief, main
3. language
4. power
5. adapt, become similar
6. home, headquarters
7. greater part, more than half

*3. Match the verbs on the left with a suitable object on the right to make correct word-combinations. Say in what connection these collocations are mentioned in the text.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. to be washed | a. states |
| 2. to provide | b. a President |
| 3. to be made up of | c. by the oceans |
| 4. to be entrusted to | d. two elective houses |
| 5. to succeed | e. easy access to |
| 6. to have | f. separate authorities |
| 7. to control  | g. presidency |
| 8. to contest | h. the nation’s currency |

*4. Read the text and use the suggested words to fill in each of the blanks. Make up a summary of the text.*

|  |
| --- |
| supreme; [federation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federation); bicameral; plurality; the [House of Representatives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives); judges; the Senate; approval; democracy; the Cabinet |

The United States is the world's oldest surviving [**…**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federation) **(1)**. It is a [constitutional republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_republic) and [representative **…**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representative_democracy) **(2).** The government is regulated by a system of [checks and balances](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Separation_of_powers) (система сдержек и противовесов) defined by the U.S. Constitution, which serves as the country's **… (3)** legal document. In the [American federalist system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federalism#United_States), citizens are usually subject to [three levels of government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_divisions_of_the_United_States), federal, state, and local; the [local government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_government_in_the_United_States)'s duties are commonly split between [county](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_%28United_States%29) and municipal governments. In almost all cases, executive and legislative officials are elected by a [**… (4)** vote](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plurality_voting_system) of citizens by district. There is no [proportional representation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proportional_representation) at the federal level, and it is very rare at lower levels.

The federal government is composed of three branches:

* [*Legislative*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legislature): The [**… (5)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameralism) [Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress), made up of **… (6)** and [**…**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives) **(7)**, makes [federal law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_law), [declares war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_of_war), approves treaties, has the [power of the purse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_of_the_purse), and has the power of [impeachment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impeachment), by which it can remove sitting members of the government.
* [*Executive*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_%28government%29): The [president](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) is the [commander-in-chief](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commander-in-chief) of the military, can veto [legislative bills](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_%28proposed_law%29) before they become law, and appoints the [members of **… (8)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Cabinet) (subject to Senate approval) and other officers, who administer and enforce federal laws and policies.
* [*Judicial*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judiciary): The [Supreme Court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_the_United_States) and lower [federal courts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_federal_courts), whose **… (9)** are appointed by the president with Senate **…(10)**, interpret laws and overturn those they find [unconstitutional](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutionality).

***DISCOVERING LANGUAGE***

***Modal Verbs***

*1. Here is some information for visitors to New York City. Fill in the missing words. Use one word only in each space. In some gaps you will have to use “be allowed to” and “be supposed to”.*

Before you travel to the USA, you must find out what documents you need. British people do not (1) … to get visa, but there are different rules for different nationalities. For example, you (2) … need to show that you have enough money with you. But there’s one rule you can be sure about: everyone (3) … to show their passport. The roads in New York are very busy, but don’t worry – you (4) … get around cheaply and easily by subway. Remember that you are not (5) … to smoke on public transport or in shops. And don’t forget either that you are (6) … to tip taxi drivers and waiters. New York is not the most dangerous city in the US, but you really (7) … not walk along empty streets at night. And it is safer if you are (8) … to travel in a group.

*2. Write a second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use the word in brackets.*

1. Perhaps Susan knows the address. (may)
2. I managed to finish all my work. (able)
3. The report must be on my desk tomorrow morning. (has)
4. It is possible that Joanne did not receive my message. (might)
5. It was not necessary for Nancy to fill in this form. (didn't)
6. The best thing for you to do is to check all the figures. (better)
7. I’m sure she discussed this problem with the manager. (must)
8. It’s not necessary for you to promise – I know I can trust you. (need)
9. Persuading Adrian to order these goods was a bad thing to do. (should)
10. We should consult an expert before we make a decision. (better)

***FOCUS ON FUNCTION***

**Discovering similarities and differences**

Comparison and contrast are ways of looking at objects and thinking about how they are alike and different. In comparison and contrast, transition words show that a speaker is changing from talking about one item to the other.

*1. Study the language of comparing information:*

* ... compared to ...
* Similarly / moreover / likewise / on the contrary / conversely / however
* On the one hand / on the other hand …
* Both … and …
* If you compare ... and ...
* ... I consider it to be greatly inferior / superior to ...
* I don’t consider ... to be in any way more complicated / attractive than ...
* All in all, ... / By and large, ...
* On the whole, ...
* I don’t see how you can talk about ... and ... in the same way.
* You just can’t compare ... and ...
* There’s absolutely no comparison between ... and ...
* ... is incomparably more interesting than ...
* ... is less valuable than ...

*2. Study the tables containing the results of the survey of mobile phones (models A and B). Then compare the models using expressions from task I.*

*E. g. Both models have colour display screen.*

 **Model A Model B**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **good** | **satisfactory** | **poor** |  |  | **good** | **satisfactory** | **poor** |
| Price / quality ratio |  | *V* |  |  | Price / quality ratio |  |  | *V* |
| WAP service | *V* |  |  |  | WAP service |  |  | *V* |
| Voice mail service |  | *V* |  |  | Voice mail service | *V* |  |  |
| Battery life |  |  | *V* |  | Battery life |  | *V* |  |
| Colour display screen |  | *V* |  |  | Colour display screen |  | *V* |  |
| Digital camera | *V* |  |  |  | Digital camera |  |  | *V* |
| Voice recorder |  | *V* |  |  | Voice recorder | *V* |  |  |
| Text messages |  | *V* |  |  | Text messages |  | *V* |  |

*3. Perform a comparative analysis of the state structure of the USA, the UK and Belarus, make use of the functional vocabulary.*

***Watching***

***“North America – Natural Resources”***

**A. Pre-watching**

*1. You are going to watch the video**about the natural resources of North America. What countries are situated on the continent? What are the largest and the smallest ones? What oceans is the continent surrounded by?*

*2. Before watching the video, express your opinion on the following question; give examples, if possible:*

*Does North America benefit from its soils, freshwater, oil and other natural resources?*

*3. Here are some words that might seem unfamiliar to you:*

To mine – добывать

Fuel – топливо

Steel industry – сталелитейная промышленность

Coniferous forests – хвойные леса

Timber – древесина

Lumbering – лесоразработки

Maize – кукуруза

Barley – ячмень

Oats – овес

Sugar beet – сахарная свекла

Cattle-rearing – животноводство

Revenue – доход

*4. Make up sentences of your own with the following expressions. Mind the use of prepositions!*

|  |
| --- |
| to be rich in, to abound in, to form the base of, to have huge reserves of, to be found in the area, to be very important for the industry |

**B. First Watching**

*1. Answer the questions:*

1. What is one of the most important sources of power that is used by modern means of transportation?

2. Is the USA the second largest producer of iron ore?

3. Is Mexico the world’s third producer of silver?

4. In what industries do forests provide occupation for millions of people?

5. In what way are conditions for growing cotton favorable?

6. What are the chief dairy products?

7. Which industry is developed on a commercial scale in the seas around the continent?

8. Is North America rich in water resources?

*2. Complete the sentences using the information given in the video:*

1. The USA and Canada are two of the most

2. Large deposits of iron ore are found in the area around ………… and in the eastern part of the Canadian Shield.

3. Copper is used in the …….. of copper and is ……. around the Great Lakes and …….. .

4. Gold is mined in ……

5. With the help of scientific methods of cultivation and widespread use of fertilizers ……………

6. Cattle-rearing has now become one ………..

**C. Second Watching**

*1. As you have seen, North America is richer than any other continent in natural resources. As you watch the video film for the second time, complete the following table. Note that some boxes will not be filled. Discuss the information in groups first.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Industries* | *Resources* | *Location* | *Usage*  | *Additional information* |
| * *manufacturing*
 |  |  |  |  |
| * *lumbering*
 |  |  |  |  |
| * *agriculture*
 |  |  |  |  |
| * *cattle-rearing*
 |  |  |  |  |
| * *dairy farming*
 |  |  |  |  |
| * *fishing*
 |  |  |  |  |

***SPEAKING***

*1. Share your opinions with a partner or a group on the following:*

1. What do many people seek in the USA?
2. What makes the USA the leader of the western world?
3. What do you know about the most popular holidays in the USA?
4. What do you consider to be the symbol of American way of life?

*2. Role-play the situations:*

- A Belarusian journalist interviews an American politician about the state structure of the USA.

- An American student exchanges information about national holidays with his Belarusian friend.

***WRITING***

*Write an essay in which you discuss your ideas about America. Use examples to support your opinion. Here are possible titles:*

* America is so vast that almost everything said about it is likely to be true, and the opposite is probably equally true.  (James T. Farrell)
* This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.  (Theodore Roosevelt)

**PART II. THE ECONOMY OF THE USA**

***GETTING STARTED***

*1. Discuss the following in pairs or small groups:*

* How does the geographical position of the USA influence economy?
* Is the USA rich in natural resources?
* What can you say about the US economy today?

***USEFUL VOCABULARY***

**consumer** (n) - потребитель

**consumption** (n) – потребление

**copper** (n) – медь

**costs** (n) – затраты, издержки

**crude oil** – неочищенная нефть

**depreciate** (v) – обесцениваться, падать в цене

**discourage** (v) – препятствовать, мешать

**downturn** (n) – уменьшение, спад

**enterprise** (n) – предпринимательство, промышленное предприятие, предприимчивость

**entrepreneurship** (n) – предпринимательство

**erode** (v) – разъедать, разрушать

**extraction** (n) – добывание, извлечение

**grain** (n) – зерно, хлебные злаки

**layoff** (n) – <http://www.multitran.ru/c/m.exe?a=110&t=99064_1_2&sc=0>приостановка или прекращение производства; увольнение из-за отсутствия работы; приостановка производства

**lead** (n) – свинец

**leasing service** – лизинговая услуга

**lumber** (n) – (Am.) пиломатериалы, бревна

**maize** (n) – кукуруза, маис

**mining** (n) – горное дело

**overlap** (v) – частично совпадать

**overtake** (v) – догонять, перегонять

**petroleum** (n) – нефть, бензин

**pork** (n) – свинина

**poultry** (n) – домашняя птица

**profit** (n) – польза, выгода; прибыль, доход

**rapid** (adj) – быстрый, скорый

**soybeans** (n) – соевые бобы

**stagnation** (n) – застой, застойность

**threefold** (adj) – утроенный, тройной

**timber** (n) – лесоматериалы, строевой лес

**warehousing** (n) – хранение, размещение на складе

**wheat** (n) – пшеница

***READING***

*1. Read the text and focus on the following points:*

* the way the US economy works and the role and functions of the government;
* the major sectors of the economy;
* the reasons why the country is one of the most significant nations in the world.

The American economy is a dynamic, free-market system constantly evolving out of the choice and decisions made by millions of citizens who play multiple, often overlapping roles as consumers, producers, investors and voters. The country has the world’s largest and most technologically powerful economy in the world. Its GDP is $17, 914 trillion (2015).

Despite the country’s position as the most powerful economy, it faces many serious economic problems. Some of these are short-term, but some of them reflect an underlying weakness. Long-term problems include inadequate investment in economic infrastructure, rapidly rising medical and pension costs of an ageing population, sizable trade and budget deficits, and stagnation of family income in the lower economic groups.

The American economy is better described as a *‘mixed’ economy*, with government playing an important role along with private enterprise. The American free enterprise system emphasizes private ownership. Private businesses produce most goods and services, and almost two thirds of the nation’s total economic output goes to individuals for personal use (the remaining one third is bought by government and business). The consumer role is so great, in fact, that the nation is sometimes characterized as having a ‘consumer economy’.

Producers decide which goods and services to make and sell, and how much to ask for those products. At the same time, consumers decide what they will purchase and how much money they are willing to pay for different goods and services. The interaction between competing producers, who attempt to make the highest possible profit, and consumers, who try to pay as little as possible to acquire what they want, ultimately determines the price of goods and services.

In a market economy, government plays a limited role in economic decision making. However, the United States does not have a pure market economy, and the government plays an important role in the national economy. It provides services and goods that the market cannot provide effectively, such as national defence, assistance programs for low-income families, and interstate highways and airports. The government also provides incentives to encourage the production and consumption of certain types of products, and discourage the production and consumption of others; sets general guidelines for doing business and makes policy decisions that affect the economy as a whole; establishes safety guidelines that regulate consumer products, working conditions, and environmental protection.

**Sectors of American Economy**

The US natural advantages and resources are probably greater than those of any other area of equal size. The land is as varied as it is huge. There are plains and mountains, grasslands and forests, sandy soil, clay and rich, dark loams.

The USA is rich in natural resources, the main being iron ore, coal and oil. The nation produces more than 100 million tons of iron a year. Four fifths of the ore mined in the USA comes from the Great Lakes region. Though a great deal of the ore has been used up, its resources have not been exhausted. Most of the coal mined in the USA is used by power plants to produce electricity. Coal is also used in the chemical industries for the manufacture of plastics and other synthetics. The production, processing and marketing of such oil products as petrol (called gasoline or gas in the USA) make up one of America’s largest industries.

 The basic metals and minerals mined in the United States are zinc, copper and silver.

The United States is an industrial country with various branches of heavy industry prevailing: mining, metallurgical, automobile and chemical industries as well as engineering. Many branches of light industry are also developed, among them are textile, food and woodworking industries. A great deal of attention in American industry is devoted to raising labour productivity, improving the working conditions, the employment of labour-saving machines, management training. The US by is the world’s leading manufacturer by value of goods produced.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector comprises establishments primarily engaged in growing crops, raising animals, harvesting timber, and harvesting fish and other animals on a farm, ranch, or from their natural habitats.

[Agriculture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture) is a major industry in the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States), which is a net exporter of food. The American major crops and products are wheat, corn, other grains, fruits, vegetables, cotton; beef, pork, poultry, dairy products; fish; forest products.

The US remains the leading world exporter of wheat, maize and soybeans and its meat exports grow steadily. The EU and the US are the world’s biggest cheese producers, accounting for almost 70% of production. The US is the largest producer and consumer of poultry and meat products. Grains and animal products account for two thirds of the export gains.

The private non-good producing industries account for approximately 70% of total economic activity in the US. These industries include financial services, retail trade, wholesale trade, and the service industries, government services, transportation, entertainment, tourism, etc.

The US service sector is the largest sector in the economy and accounts for an increasingly significant share of GDP. Both in the US, as well as in other industrialized nations, the service sector is a dynamic component of economic activity and growth. It includes a wide variety of businesses: Truck Transportation, Messenger Services and Warehousing; Securities, Commodities, and Other Financial Investments; Rental and Leasing Services; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Health Care and Social Assistance, etc. Government services play a major role in the economy.

The United States is one of the most significant nations in the world when it comes to international trade. For decades, it has led the world in imports while simultaneously remaining as one of the top three exporters of the world.

The leading US exports are industrial machinery, electronic equipment, grain, oil products and chemicals. Exports-partners are Canada, Mexico, China, Japan, the UK and Germany.

Major imports are agricultural products, industrial supplies, capital goods, consumer goods (automobiles, clothing, medicines, furniture, toys). China, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Germany are chief trading partners.

**Notes:**

loam (n) – глина

missile (n) – ракета

*1. Complete the suggested statements using the information from the text above:*

1. … pushed the United States into a recession.
2. The American free enterprise system emphasizes ….
3. The interaction between competing producers and consumers ultimately determines … .
4. The United States of America is rich in natural resources such as ….
5. The American major crops and products are ….
6. The USA is an industrial country, with various branches of heavy industry prevailing, namely ….
7. A great deal of attention in American industry is devoted to ….
8. The US service sector is the largest sector in the economy and accounts for …
9. America’s leading exports are ….

*2. Re-read the text, paying more attention to the details so as to answer the questions that follow:*

1. What are the current problems the United States faces nowadays?
2. What measures have been taken to help the economy recover?
3. What system is the US economy based on?
4. Why is the nation’s economy sometimes called a ‘consumer economy’?
5. What is the role of the government in the US economy? Does it provide any services and goods?
6. Is the country rich in mineral resources?
7. What are the key sectors of American economy?
8. Does the US remain the world’s leading manufacturer by value of goods produced?
9. What are the American major crops and products?
10. What services do the private non-good producing industries include?
11. What are the country’s exports and imports?
12. What countries are the US chief trading partners?

***DEVELOPING VOCABULARY***

*1. Look through the text again and find the words which correspond to the definitions below:*

a) the act or process of buying, selling, or exchanging commodities, at either wholesale or retail, within a country or between countries;

b) the science, art, or occupation concerned with cultivating land, raising crops, and feeding, breeding, and raising livestock; farming;

c) to send or transport (a commodity, for example) abroad, especially for trade or sale;

d) the natural wealth of a country, consisting of land, forests, mineral deposits, water, etc.;

e) a person or an organization that uses a commodity or service;

f) the amount of money or its equivalent received during a period of time in exchange for labor or services, from the sale of goods or property, or as profit from financial investments;

g) one that produces, especially a person or organization that produces goods or services for sale.

*2. Consult a dictionary to fill in the missing parts of speech in the table below:*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Noun** | **Verb** | **Adjective** |
|  |  | employable |
| import |  |  |
|  | economize |  |
|  |  | industrial |
|  | produce |  |
| export |  |  |
|  | supply |  |
|  |  | distributive |
| competitiveness |  |  |
|  | extract |  |

***DISCOVERING LANGUAGE***

***Passive Voice***

*1. Complete the sentences about the Statue of Liberty in Active or Passive Voice. You must either use Simple Present or Simple Past.*

1. The Statue of Liberty (give) … to the United States by France.
2. It (be) … a present on the 100th anniversary of the United States.
3. The Statue of Liberty (design) … by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi.
4. It (complete) … in France in July 1884.
5. In 350 pieces, the statue then (ship) … to New York, where it (arrive) … on 17 June 1885.
6. The pieces (put) … together and the opening ceremony (take) … place on 28 October 1886.
7. The statue (represent) … the goddess of liberty.

*2. Rewrite the sentences in Passive Voice.*

*E.g. Mr Smith* writes *the delivery notes. - The delivery notes* are written *(by Mr Smith).*

1. I confirm the reservation.
2. We will deliver the goods immediately.
3. We arranged a meeting.
4. You can cancel the contract within five business days.
5. They execute all orders carefully.
6. She did not sign the contract.
7. We are processing your order.

*3. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.*

1. They made me wait for over 20 minutes on the phone! KEPT

I ……………for over 20 minutes on the phone!

2. Although people consider Ashley to be very busy, she is always friendly towards everyone. CONSIDERED

Despite ……………………, Ashley’s always friendly towards everyone.

3. We have had reports that the Prime Minister is making a surprise visit to our country. BE

The Prime Minister ……………………… a surprise visit to our country.

4. The manager provided the staff with extra training. BY

The ……………………… the manager.

5. Call Lionel and ask him to send the reports up to my office. HAVE

Call Lionel and ………………………… the reports up to my office.

***SPEAKING***

*1. Use the following expressions to tell about the economy of the USA:*

a dynamic, free-market system; powerful economy; consumer role; encourage production and consumption; largest industries; major crops and products; leading world exporter; account for; international trade; leading exports / imports.

*2. Comment on the quotation:*

Over the years, the U.S. economy has shown a remarkable ability to absorb shocks of all kinds, to recover, and to continue to grow. Flexible and efficient markets for labor and capital, an entrepreneurial tradition, and a general willingness to tolerate and even embrace technological and economic change all contribute to this resiliency. (Ben Bernanke, Federal Reserve Chairman (January 2006))

*3. Act out with your groupmates a round-table conference on the topic “The USA: Economic Priorities Today”. Possible roles: a foreign journalist, an economic reviewer, an American economist, an entrepreneur, a politician, etc. Prepare questions and reports on the topic.*

***WRITING***

*1. Write an essay describing the role of the government in the development of the US economy.*

*2. Write an article to the “Guardian” about the current economic situation of the country.*

***SUPPLEMENTARY READING***

*1. Read the text about American symbols and check your understanding by answering the questions that follow:*

**American Symbols**

The American flag is often called “The Stars and Stripes”, it is also called “Old Glory”. It represents the growth of the nation. It has 13 horizontal stripes, 7 red and 6 white which stand for the original 13 states. In the top left hand corner there are 50 white stars on a blue background: one star for each state.

The flag of today evolved out of many earlier flags raised in days gone by. For several centuries after European explorers first sailed to North America, the flags of Spain, Holland, France, England and Sweden flew over different parts of the continent. An English flag known as the Red Ensign waved over American colonies from 1707 until the beginning of the Revolutionary War. It was the merchant flag of England. When the revolution started in 1775, the colonies wanted a flag of their own. That new flag, the Grand Union, was raised over George Washington’s headquarters outside Boston on January 1, 1776. On June 14 of the following year, the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia chose a design for the first official flag of the USA. Today Americans celebrate June 14 as “Flag Day”. When two more states joined the Union in 1795, the flag gained two stars and two stripes, bringing to 15 the total of each. The Star Spangled Banner flew above Fort McHenry during the British bombardment in 1842, inspiring Francis Scott Key to write American national anthem.

As more states joined the United States, Americans realized the flag would become an awkward shape of additional stripes sewn to it. The Congress restored the design to the original 13 stripes, and decided that a star would be added to the blue field for each new state. The 50-th star – for Hawaii – was added on July 4, 1960.

The national anthem of the USA is the “Star Spangled Banner”. The words written during the Anglo-American war of 1812-1814 and set to music of an old song. Every state has its own flag, its own emblem and its own anthem too.

The eagle became the national emblem of the country in 1782. It has an olive branch (a symbol of peace) and arrows (a symbol of strength). You can see the eagle on the back of a dollar bill.

The Statue of Liberty is the symbol of American democracy. It stands on Liberty Island in New York. It is one of the first things people see when they arrive in New York by sea. This National Monument was a present from France to the USA. France gave the statue to America in 1886 as a symbol of friendship. Liberty carries the torch of freedom in her right hand. In her left hand she is holding a tablet with the inscription “July 4, 1776” – American Independence Day.

**Notes:**

1. glory (n) – слава, триумф
2. stripe (n) – полоса
3. background (n) – фон
4. gain (v) – получить, приобрести
5. restore (v) – восстанавливать, вернуть на прежнее место
6. anthem (n) – гимн
7. torch (n) – факел

*Answer the following questions using the information given in the text:*

1. How do people often call American flag?
2. What are the colours of the American flag? How many stripes are there on the flag?
3. What facts from the history of the flag have you learned?
4. What is the national emblem of the country?
5. Where is the Statue of Liberty placed? What country presented it to the USA?
6. What does the Statue of Liberty symbolize?

*2. Scan the text and entitle it. What is the main idea of the text?*

More than 1 million international students at universities and colleges in the USA added $32.8 billion and more than 400,000 jobs to the US economy during the 2015-2016 academic year. Those numbers come [from economic data compiled by](http://www.nafsa.org/Policy_and_Advocacy/Policy_Resources/Policy_Trends_and_Data/NAFSA_International_Student_Economic_Value_Tool/) the Association of International Educators (NAFSA). NAFSA is the world’s largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education, with 10,000 members in 150 countries.

“This is a 7.4 percent increase in job support and creation, and a 7.5 percent increase in dollars contributed to the economy from the previous academic year,” NAFSA reported.

International students and their families spent money on living expenses, tuition and fees most in California, New York and Massachusetts. Three US jobs are created for every seven international students who enroll. Spending is highest in the sectors of higher education, accommodation, dining, retail, transportation, telecommunications and health insurance.

The bad news for the USA is that it lags behind “in the global competition for talent,” NAFSA said. While in the past 15 years, the number of students traveling abroad for higher education has doubled, 6 percent less of them are coming to America.

“NAFSA attributes this decline to the urgent need for the United States to develop proactive government policies and strategies to ensure the country remains globally competitive,” the association said. “They continue to bring billions of dollars to our nation’s economy and hundreds of thousands of jobs for the American people,” said Marlene M. Johnson, NAFSA executive director and CEO. “If our campuses and communities are to continue to benefit from both the academic and economic benefits these students bring, we must ensure that our government policies encourage them to choose the United States as their first choice for higher education.”

*http://blogs.voanews.com/student-union/2016/11/14/international-students-add-32-8-billion-to-us-economy/*

*3. Read the text about large corporations in the USA and prepare different questions for your groupmates.*

Although there are many small and medium-sized corporations, bigger business units are needed to perform certain services in the vast economy. Large corporations can supply goods and services to a greater number of people across a wider geographic area than small businesses. They serve consumers across the nation and across the world. Corporate products tend to cost less per unit sold. Moreover, consumers benefit from the availability of corporate “brand names”, which they recognize as guaranteeing a certain level of quality wherever purchased.

Large corporations also have the financial strength to research, develop and produce new goods. Their scientific know-how, innovation and technical capability are critical to maintaining the nation’s competitiveness and productivity.

In the USA, a corporation is a specific legal form of organization of persons and resources chartered by one of the 50 states for the purpose of conducting business. When people and resources are brought together, the result in the eyes of the law – is a person (Indeed, the Latin word “corpus” means “body” or “person”). A US corporation, distinct from any individual human being, may own a property, sue or be sued in the court and make contracts. For this reason, a corporation is an ideal vehicle for the conduct of business by many smaller enterprises as well as larger ones.

The corporate form of business is a more flexible instrument for large-scale economic activity than the sole-proprietorship or partnership.

First, the corporation itself has legal standing, it safeguards its owners. Second, the owners of shares of stock have limited liability; they are not responsible for debts. Third, corporate stock is transferable. An owner of stock can sell his or her holdings at any time or pass the stock along to heirs.

**Answer Key**

**The USA Today**

**DEVELOPING VOCABULARY**

**I.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Noun** | **Verb** | **Adjective** |
| stability | stabilize | stable |
| society | socialize | social |
| population | populate | popular, populous |
| government | govern | governmental |
| stability | stabilize | stable |
| executive | execute | executive |
| authority | authorize | authoritarian, authoritative |
| access | access | accessible |
| responsibility, response | respond | responsible |
| election, electorate | elect | electoral |

**II.**

1. be situated
2. resources
3. principle
4. tongue
5. authority
6. assimilate
7. residence
8. majority

**III.** 1-c, 2-e, 3-a, 4-f, 5-b, 6-d, 7-h, 8-g

IV. 1- federation, 2- democracy, 3- supreme, 4- plurality, 5- bicameral, 6- the Senate, 7- the [House of Representatives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives), 8- the Cabinet, 9-judges, 10- approval

**IV.** 1. Canada in the north and Mexico in the south.

1. is favourable for its development / makes the USA a sea power, provides easy access to the country and stimulates foreign trade.
2. population
3. differs greatly from one part of the country to another
4. was founded in 1790 and was named after the first President George Washington.
5. the Constitution
6. legislative, executive, judicial
7. the head of the state and the Government; he is also the Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces and has a wide range of responsibilities
8. the Senate and the House of Representatives.
9. neither legal nor official

**Watching**

*1. Answer the questions*

1. Fuel

2. Yes, it is

3. It’s the largest

4. Lumbering and related industries

5. Warm summers, frequent rainfall, fertile soil

6. They are milk, cheese, butter

7. Fishing is developed on a commercial scale in the seas around the continent

8. Yes, except for the desert regions of the USA and Mexico

*2. Complete the sentences using the information given in the video:*

1. advanced and modern countries.

2. Lake Superior

3. manufacturing, mined, the Rocky Mountains

4. the Rocky Mountains

5. North America is the world’s largest producer of maize, wheat and soybeans.

6. of the most popular industries.

**The US Economy**

**I. Look through the text again and find the words which correspond to the definitions:**

h) a business venture or company; h) enterprise d) resources e) consumer f) income g) producer

a) trade b) agriculture c) export

**II. Consult a dictionary to fill in the missing parts of speech in the table below:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Noun** | **Verb** | **Adjective** |
| employment / employee / employer / employ  | employ | employable |
| import | import | importable |
| economy | economize | economical |
| industry / industrialization / industrialist | industrialize | industrial |
| productiveness / producer / product / production / productivity | produce | productive |
| export | export | exportable |
| supply | supply | supplied |
| distribution / distributor | distribute | distributive |
| competitiveness | compete | competitive |
| extraction / extractor | extract | extractive |

**III. Finish up the suggested statements using the information from the text above:**

1. The global economic downturn, the sub-prime mortgage crisis, investment bank failures, falling home prices, and tight credit
2. private ownership
3. the price of goods and services.
4. copper, uranium ore, oil, zinc, silver, gold, iron ore, nickel, platinum
5. wheat, corn, other grains, fruits, vegetables, cotton; beef, pork, poultry, dairy products; fish; forest products
6. mining, engineering, shipbuilding, the automobile industry, the metallurgical industry, the textile industry, the woodworking industry
7. raising labour productivity, improving the working conditions, the employment of labour-saving machines, management training
8. an increasingly significant share of GDP
9. electrical machinery, gold, uranium ore, grain, oil products, textiles, ships, chemicals, iron, coal, copper, electronic equipment, industrial machinery