

My Home in the United States

Home Sweet Home

There is no place like home

Make yourself at home

Welcome home

It is my home away from home

People have different ideas of home. For you, home might mean where you grew up, or where your family and friends live now. For other people, home might mean the place where they live right now and would like to stay in the

future. Because the idea of home is so important to people, there are many expressions or sayings about it. Read the popular sayings in the box above and think about what they mean. Do you have similar sayings in your native language?



Discuss the following questions with a partner and make some notes about your ideas. Share your ideas with the whole class.

What are the best things about the place where you live?

What are some things that you would like to change about where you live?

Map of the United States



★ Represents a capital city
Courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Find your state and label it. Mark where your city or town is located. Find the star for your state capital and label that. Write in the names of the states that border your home state.

Geography of the United States

The United States is one of the largest countries in the world. It is located in North America between the Atlantic Ocean on the East Coast and the Pacific Ocean on the West Coast. As of 2013, the estimated population of the United States was more than 315 million people, the third largest population in the world after China and India.

The United States is divided into 50 states and the District of Columbia. Washington, D.C., is the capital of the United States. In size, the largest state in the country is Alaska and the smallest one is Rhode Island. Besides the 50 states, there are five major territories. Two U.S. territories, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, are in the Atlantic Ocean. Three other territories are in the

Pacific Ocean: Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Each state and territory has its own capital. Sometimes the state capital is not the largest city in the state. What is your state capital? What city has the largest population in your state?

Mexico is to the south of the United States. There are four states that border Mexico: Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. Canada borders the United States to the north. Thirteen U.S. states border Canada: Alaska, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Washington.



Look at the map on page 2.

First, label the oceans, the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Then label the states that border Canada and Mexico. Find the star for Washington, D.C., and label it.

Answer these Civics Test questions.

1. What is the capital of your state? _____
2. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States? _____
3. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States? _____
4. Name one U.S. territory. _____
5. Name one state that borders Canada. _____
6. Name one state that borders Mexico. _____
7. What is the capital of the United States? _____



To look at state maps and learn more about each state, visit www.americaslibrary.gov/es/index.php.

America the Beautiful

The landscape of the United States has great variety. The country has deep canyons, vast forests, and active volcanoes. There are long rivers and coastlines, beautiful deserts and islands, and huge plains and lakes. For example, the two longest rivers in the United States are the Mississippi River and the Missouri River. Two major mountain ranges are the Rocky Mountains in the west and the Appalachian Mountains in the east. To the north, near Canada, there are the five Great Lakes.

There are national and state parks all over the country. These are good places to enjoy

magnificent scenery and learn about nature and historical events. Have you ever visited a national or state park?



Mississippi River.



Look at the wall map of the United States and find the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

Answer this Civics Test question.

1. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States. _____



Write a paragraph.

To describe a place or a person, we use adjectives such as *cold, beautiful, or tall*. Think about a famous place in your native country. Make a list of adjectives to describe it. Then write a paragraph about that place.

Civics Test Questions—U.S. Geography

Read the test questions and write the answers. Take turns practicing them with your partner.

1. What is the capital of your state? _____
2. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States. _____
3. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States? _____
4. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States? _____
5. Name one U.S. territory. _____
6. Name one state that borders Canada. _____
7. Name one state that borders Mexico. _____
8. What is the capital of the United States? _____



To find more information about the United States and other countries around the world, visit www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html. To learn about national parks, visit www.nps.gov.