

## NORTH AMERICA

# USA

**W**HO are 'the Americans'? Of every 100 people in the USA, over 80 have ancestors from Europe. The first colonists came from Britain, France and Spain, but later on, people came from almost all parts of Europe to the United States.

About 12 people out of every 100 came from West Africa, brought to the USA as slaves to work in the southern states. By 1865, the slaves were free. Many black Americans now live in the north-east. More recently, many Spanish-speaking people have arrived from Mexico and Puerto Rico.

There are now fewer than 1 million American Indians in the USA, some of whom live on special reservations.



▲ **American football** is a popular sport in the USA. Two teams of 11 people compete for points by trying to get the ball over their opponents' 'end zone'. Teams travel huge distances to compete with each other.

**STARS AND STRIPES**

United States 13c

In 1776 there were only 13 states in the USA: so the US flag had 13 stars and 13 stripes. As more and more states joined

USA 15c

the USA, more stars were added to the flag. Now there are 50 states, and 50 stars.

**HAWAII**

**Hawaii** is the newest state in the USA: it became a state in 1959. The picture shows Waikiki beach in Honolulu, the biggest city. Honolulu is on Oahu island. These faraway Pacific islands are the tops of volcanoes, over 3000 km from mainland USA (see map page 63). Hawaii island itself has a very active volcano in the south. If the height of Mauna Kea is measured from the seabed, it is 10,023 metres: the world's highest mountain. The islands are the most southerly part of the USA.

**USA**

**An American** was the first man on the Moon in 1969. The astronaut is holding the USA flag. Above his head is the Earth, half in darkness.

**USA**

AREA 9,629,091 sq km  
POPULATION 313,232,000  
MONEY US dollar  
CAPITAL Washington, DC