

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The maps show the 50 states of the USA. The first 13 states were on the east coast. They were settled by Europeans who had sailed across the Atlantic Ocean. As the Americans moved westwards, so more states were formed. The western states are bigger than the states in the east. You can see their straight boundaries on the map: those boundaries were drawn before the settlers arrived.

DISTANCE CHART

Read the chart just like a tables-chart, or a graph. The distance chart shows how big the USA is. How far is it from Seattle to Miami? Or from New Orleans to Chicago?

(Answers on page 97.)

Road distances in km	New York	Miami	Chicago	New Orleans	Seattle
Miami	2138				
Chicago	1346	2198			
New Orleans	2131	1406	1488		
Seattle	4613	5445	3288	4211	
San Francisco	4850	4915	3499	3622	1352

ALASKA



Alaska is the biggest state of the USA – but has the fewest people. It was bought from Russia in 1867 for \$7 million: the best bargain ever, particularly as oil was discovered a hundred years later.

Oil has helped Alaska to become rich. Timber and fish are the other main products. Much of Alaska is mountainous or covered in forest. In the north, there is darkness all day in December, and months of ice-cold weather. But in the short summer, visitors love the long days and short nights. Farming is not possible in most of Alaska – except in the far south.

DID YOU KNOW? The Bering Strait is the only sea route from the Pacific to the Arctic Ocean, but it is often frozen over.



STATES OF THE USA
These are 48 of the 50 states. The other two are Alaska (map above) and Hawaii (map opposite)

ABBREVIATIONS
CONN. = Connecticut
D.C. = District of Columbia
MASS. = Massachusetts
N.H. = New Hampshire
RHODE I. = Rhode Island
VT. = Vermont