



Previous knowledge

- The United States of America (often called the US or USA) is a large country in North America.
- The United States of America is split into 50 states, and California is one of them; it is the third-largest U.S. state in terms of land area.
- It also has long coastlines on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and the Caribbean Sea.
- California is bordered by the Pacific Ocean in the west, Oregon in the north, Nevada and Arizona in the east, and Mexico in the south.
- Can you locate California on the map of the USA and a world map?



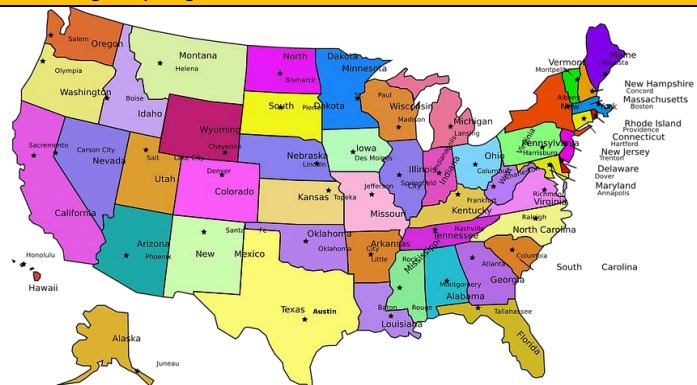
Human Geography

The United States was settled for many hundreds of years by indigenous peoples. The population of the United States is around 327 million people. In its more-modern history, it has been ruled over by the British, but is now an independent nation. It is often considered as the world's leading 'super-power.'

Population		The population of California is growing at an above-average rate - one of the most culturally diverse states. Its population is over 35 million.
Settlements		California is home to many different people from different parts of the world.
Economic Activity		The USA has the largest economy in the world, but there are disparities in wealth in the USA. California is now the world's fifth-largest economy above the United Kingdom.
Resources/Trade		There's a good chance that piece of fruit you're eating was grown in California. The state is the top U.S. producer of lemons, apricots, avocados, dates, figs, grapes, kiwi, nectarines, peaches, raspberries, strawberries, and many others. The state also produces timber, cement, natural gas, and petroleum.

Physical Geography

- Due to its vast size, the physical geography of The United States is extremely varied. Much of the country contains large plains, with rolling hills further inland.
- Parts of the south-western area of the US contains desert, whilst northern areas of the country can have very cool winters.
- California is situated at the latitude and longitude of 37.0° N, 120.0° W.
- California's Death Valley is North America's hottest desert, with an average daily high in the month of June of 115.5°F..
- California is home to the highest point (Mt. Whitney) and the lowest point - Death Valley.
- Most of California's climate is considered Mediterranean with warm to hot dry summers and mild wet winters



- The United States of America is split into 50 states. There are 48 mainland states, in addition to Alaska (to the northwest of Canada) and Hawaii (an island) archipelago in the Pacific Ocean).
- California's largest cities: Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco, Long Beach, Fresno, Sacramento (capital city) and Oakland.

Comparison with the UK

- California is about 1.7 times bigger than United Kingdom.
- The United Kingdom is approximately 243,610 sq km, while California is approximately 403,882 sq km, making California 66% larger than United Kingdom. Meanwhile, the population of United Kingdom is ~65.8 million people (28.5 million fewer people live in California).
- California's economy is so large, and has grown so quickly, that it is now the fifth-biggest in the world all by itself, according to US government data.



- Key Vocabulary
- USA
 - North America
 - California
 - Desert
 - Climate
 - State
 - Sacramento
 - New York City
 - Los Angeles
 - Death Valley
 - Economy
 - Population
 - United Kingdom