

1 Introduction to the USA: A few quick facts

Hi there, this is Jamie, and today I'm going to tell you some interesting facts about my home country, the USA. Well, at least I hope you find them interesting and stay tuned.

First of all, the USA, or America as it's often called, is a very big country. In fact, it's 28 times bigger than Germany. With its 9.8 million square kilometers, it's the third biggest country in the world – right behind Russia and Canada.

If you wanted to travel from coast to coast, let's say, from Portland on the West Coast to New York on the East Coast, it would take you two days in a car or six hours on a plane.

And our country isn't just very big, it has also got ten different climate zones. That means you have parts in the US where it's extremely hot and dry but also places with ice and snow. So in America you can have everything, a beach holiday under palm trees and a skiing trip in the mountains.

There are now about 335 million people living in the USA; only China and India have more citizens. Actually, a lot more, as there are now about 1.4 billion people living in India and China each.

To sum up, the USA is the third largest and the third most populated country in the world.

The US is made up of 50 states – and that is why there are 50 stars in the American flag. One star for each state. Now what about the white and red stripes which you can also see in our flag? Well, they represent the first thirteen states of America.

As I mentioned before, America is a country of contrasts, not only when it comes to the climate, but also when you look at the population. There are big cities, like Los Angeles in the west, Chicago, sort of in middle, and New York in the east, but there are also many places and areas with almost no population, where you can go hiking for days without seeing anyone. But to me, the most fascinating fact about the USA is that almost all Americans come from all over the world because we are a nation of immigrants. For hundreds of years, people have come from all across the globe to find a better life in America. Did you know that in the 1880s alone – which is about 140 years ago – some 1.5 million Germans went to live in America? In fact, in 2019 there were 43 million Americans who said that they had German roots – that's almost 13 percent of all Americans. So there has always been quite a strong connection between Germany and the USA.

Anyway, that's all for today. Next week I'll give you some facts about schools in the US. Take care, guys!