

# **Culture: The USA**

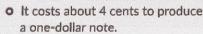
# Check it out!

- The US Congress adopted the character Uncle Sam as a national symbol in 1961.
- We sometimes call the one-dollar note a greenback because the back of the dollar is green.
- The USA bought Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000 in 1867.



#### Facts & Figures

#### The USA



- There are 50 stars on the US flag one for each
- The lowest point of the USA is in Death Valley. at 86 metres below sea level.
- The highest point of the USA is Mount McKinley, at 6,194 metres above sea level.
- There are more than 14,000 airports in the USA.

#### **American Independence**

1607

1775–1783 July 4th, 1776

September 17th, 1787

The US Constitution was adopted.

George Washington became the first president of the USA.

The first British settlers arrived in America. Soon there were 13 British colonies. They paid taxes to the British government, but they couldn't vote.

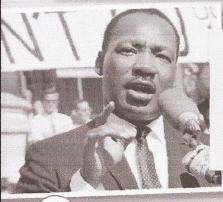
In the American War of Independence, George Washington led the Americans against the British.

The 13 colonies declared their independence from Great Britain, Thomas Jefferson wrote most of the Declaration of Independence.

### **Celebrating Independence Day**

On July 4th, people all over the USA celebrate Independence Day. It is one of the country's biggest celebrations and everybody has a holiday. Every town and city organises parades, fireworks, barbecues and picnics. Sometimes there are concerts, sporting events and other celebrations, at which people sing the national anthem (The Star-Spangled Banner).





## **Martin Luther King Day**

Americans celebrate Martin Luther King Day (MLK Day) on the third Monday in January. Dr King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1929, and became one of the USA's most famous campaigners for civil rights and racial equality. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and was assassinated in 1968. His most famous speech contained the words I have a dream.

#### **TEST YOUR MEMORY!**

- O How many airports are there in the USA?
- Who was the first president of the USA?
- What's the name of the American national anthem?
- How did Martin Luther King die?

#### **WEB QUEST**

Send an e-card to somebody to celebrate Independence Day. Go to: www.deenestfeelings. com/holidavs/4th of july

