

# Knowledge Organiser: How has American history changed?

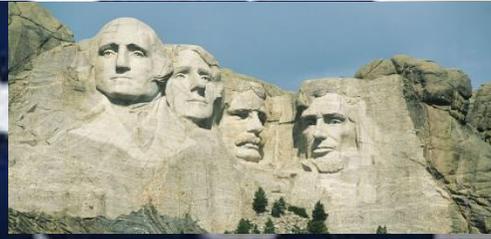


Below the USA is Mexico and below Mexico, in the bridge between North America and South America, is a group of countries that are collectively known as Central America.



There are 23 countries in the North American continent.

These countries include the Caribbean islands, such as Jamaica and The Bahamas. To the east is The Atlantic Ocean.



The carved portraits on Mount Rushmore are sixty feet in height and were completed in 1941.

Some of the many famous American landmarks are:



Statue of Liberty



The White House



The Niagara Falls



Americans celebrate Thanksgiving Day every year in November. They remember how the Pilgrim Fathers, earlier white settlers in America, were helped to farm food by native American Wampanoags.



America declared itself independent from British rule in 1776 with the Declaration of Independence. It is celebrated on July 4<sup>th</sup>.



Yosemite National Park is one of the oldest nature reserves in America. Founder John Muir was concerned by how much natural beauty was being destroyed.

Rosa Parks became famous after making a stand against racist laws of segregation in America. Black people were not allowed to use the same facilities as white people.



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## Vocabulary

**Bald eagle:** the national bird and the national animal of the United States of America.

**Civil rights movement:** the struggle for social justice in 1950s/ 1960s America for black people to gain equal rights. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks are famous figures in the movement.

**Declaration of independence:** the statement in which thirteen American states declared themselves free from British rule.

**Grand Canyon:** 277 miles of steep gorge carved by the Colorado River through the American state of Arizona.

**Hollywood sign:** a cultural symbol overlooking Hollywood, Los Angeles in California. The letters are over forty feet tall and were erected in 1923.

**Independence Day:** July 4<sup>th</sup>. The date when, in 1776, America declared itself to be free from rule by the British monarchy. Today, it is celebrated with fireworks, carnivals, family reunions and political speeches.

**Mount Rushmore National Memorial:** a sculpture carved into the granite face of Mnt Rushmore in South Dakota by sculptor Gutzon Borglum between 1927 and 1941.

**Niagara Falls:** the three waterfalls on the border of the state of New York and Ontario (Canada).

**Star Spangled Banner:** a nickname for the American flag, which features 50 stars to represent the American states and 13 lines to represent the 13 colonies which originally declared independence.

**Statue of Liberty:** 93 metre-tall statue, made from copper, started in 1875, showing the Roman goddess of freedom, Libertas.

**Thanksgiving Day:** the fourth Thursday of November, celebrated as a national holiday, as a harvest festival.

**White House:** the official home and work place of every American president since John Adams in 1800.

**Yosemite National Park:** national park in central California, visited by about 4 million people a year.