

I.F.15

The Development of Modern States

“The American Dream” – The USA at a glance

nach einer Idee von Gus Simons



© RAABE 2023

@calaurbox

In dieser Unterrichtseinheit erhalten die Schülerinnen und Schüler einen Überblick über die Entstehung der Nation, die Schlüsselprobleme der Gesellschaft und des politischen Systems. Die Lernenden werden überdies dazu angeleitet, Sachverhalte kritisch zu hinterfragen, erworbenes Wissen auf die eigene Lebenswelt zu übertragen und Werturteile zu fällen. Dabei trainieren sie, ihre eigene Meinung in der Fremdsprache wiederzugeben.

KOMPETENZPROFIL

Klassensstufe: 10

Dauer: 5 Unterrichtsstunden

Kompetenzen:

- Grundwissen zur Geschichte, Kultur, Gesellschaft und Politik der USA erwerben
- US-amerikanische Sitten und Verhaltensweisen richtig interpretieren

Thematische Bereiche: Political System, Economy

Vocabulary – USA: History, inequality and politics

M1

English expression	Phrase	German expression
to arrest so.	The police arrested the criminal.	jdn. festnehmen
citizen	He is a citizen of two nations.	der/die Bürger/in
civil rights	The law protects our civil rights.	die Bürgerrechte
colonist	The colonists came on ships.	der Kolonist/in
to commit a crime	He committed murder.	ein Verbrechen begehen
confident	He felt very confident about his abilities.	selbstbewusst
constitution	The founders of the USA wrote the constitution.	die Verfassung
death penalty	The worst criminals may get the death penalty.	die Todesstrafe
to escape sth./so.	Many immigrants came to America in order to escape poverty.	etw./jmd. entfliehen
descendant	Almost all US-Americans are descendants of immigrants.	der/die Nachfahre/in
to enslave so.	Many people were enslaved in American history.	versklaven
feature	A feature is an important characteristic or component of something.	das Merkmal
founder	The founders of the USA wrote the constitution.	die Gründer/in
government	A government should represent the people.	die Regierung
gun	It is dangerous to keep guns at home.	die Schusswaffe
health insurance	If you go to the hospital, your health insurance will pay.	die Krankenversicherung
independence	Getting your own independence means independence.	die Unabhängigkeit
influence	Politics has an influence on economy.	der Einfluss
to imprison so.	She was imprisoned for the crime.	jmdn. inhaftieren
law	Driving drunk is against the law!	das Gesetz
lynching	Racist mobs lynched many black people in the USA.	außergesetzliche Hinrichtung
Native American	Native Americans became US citizens in 1924.	der/die Ureinwohner/in Amerikas
population	The USA has a population of 320 million.	die Bevölkerung
poverty	There is a lot of poverty in rural areas of the USA.	die Armut
to raise awareness	The organization raises awareness for people living in poverty.	auf etw. aufmerksam machen
resistance	There is a lot of resistance against the new laws.	der Widerstand

M 2



How well do you know the USA? – Getting into the topic

Compare your knowledge of the USA to your classmates'. Then learn more about it!

1. _____
This city was French, but Napoleon sold it to the USA in 1803. It has Caribbean influences because of its location on the Gulf of Mexico. Jazz music began here. Many people still speak French dialect.
2. _____
This Californian city is famous for its film industry. Many famous actors, actresses and musicians live here. It is very warm, so you can go swimming in the Pacific Ocean.
3. _____
This northern Californian city was the center of the hippie movement² in the 1960s. Since the 19th century there has been a large Chinese community, and in many neighborhoods Cantonese³ is the main language. In recent years, the region has become a center of new tech industries.
4. _____
This group of islands in the Pacific Ocean was an independent nation until the USA took control of it in 1893. People from here often speak a language called Pidgin, which is a mixture of English and various Pacific languages. The ukulele is from here.
5. _____
This state is a large peninsula⁴ in the Southeast United States. It is very warm and is called the "Sunshine State". In its second largest city, Miami, there is a large Cuban population, so most people can speak Spanish. It became a state of the USA in 1845 after the USA forced out⁵ the Seminole Native Americans⁶.
6. _____
This state on the east coast was one of the original 13 British colonies. Here you can find some communities of Amish people. The Amish are descendants⁷ of Swiss and Germans who immigrated in the 18th century. They still speak an old dialect of German. They don't use cars, electricity or modern technology.

1 **influence**: der Einfluss – 2 **movement**: die Bewegung – 3 **Cantonese**: Kantonesisch – 4 **peninsula**: die Halbinsel – 5 **to force out**: verdrängen – 6 **Native American**: der/die Ureinwohner/in Amerikas – 7 **descendant**: der Nachfahre

Task

1. What is "typical US-American" for you? Think of food, music, language, economy, free time, etc. Take five minutes in order to write down as many things as you can. Afterwards, compare your results to your classmates'.
2. Eight places are described in the box above, but the names have gone missing. Read the descriptions and write the names of the places on the lines.

An American Dream for everyone? – Role play

M 4

Not all people in the USA have had a chance for the American Dream. Here you will learn about the difficulties that African-Americans have faced in the history of the USA.

Background information

The founders of the USA declared equal rights for all men. Many did not have equal rights, however. Africans and their descendants were enslaved¹. Native Americans were forced from their homelands and were not citizens² of the USA until 1924. Women could not vote³ until 1920. Immigrants have always faced⁴ discrimination and racism, even though almost everyone in the USA has an immigrant background⁵.

Role play

Step 1: Get into six groups (three to five students per group). Each group gets a role card with information about a black civil rights⁶ figure from US-American history. One person “is” the person on the card. He/She reads the role card and prepares to play the person. The other group members are „time travelers“ who interview the person. Each group prepares an interview, which will be presented in front of the class afterwards.

1 to enslave: versklaven – 2 citizen: der/die Bürger/in – 3 vote: wählen – 4 to face sth: konfrontiert sein mit etw. – 5 background: der Hintergrund – 6 civil rights: die Bürgerrechte – 7 time traveler: der/die Zeitreisende

Interview questions

- What are the main problems for African-Americans in your lifetime?
- What have you done for black rights?
- What has improved for African-Americans in your lifetime?
- What do you hope for in the future?

Step 2: Fill out the table below for each civil rights figure while listening to your classmates' interviews.

		Main problems for African-Americans in his/her lifetime	What he/she has done for African-American civil rights
1	Elizabeth Freeman (~ 1744–1829)		
2	Frederick Douglass (1818–1895)		
3	N.E.B. Du Bois (1868–1962)		
4	Rosa Parks (1913–2005)		
5	Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968)		
6	Patrisse Cullors (born 1983)		

Card 3

W.E.B. Du Bois (1868–1963) was born three years after slavery became illegal. He studied at Humboldt University in Berlin and at Harvard University. In 1895, he was the first black American to earn a doctorate. Although slavery became illegal in 1865, there were still many problems for black people. In the southern states, the so-called "Jim Crow Laws"¹ kept black people separate from white people in schools, buses and other public places. If white people believed that a black person committed a crime², they would often murder him instead of contacting police. This is called "lynching"³. To resist⁴ this discrimination, Du Bois co-founded an organization called NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) in 1909.



1 law: das Gesetz – 2 to commit a crime: ein Verbrechen begehen – 3 lynching: die außergerichtliche Hinrichtung – 4 to resist sth: sich gegen etw. wehren

Card 4

Rosa Parks (1913–2005) grew up in Alabama, a state with laws ("Jim Crow Laws") that discriminated against black people. These laws said, for example, that black people could not go to the same schools as white people and could not sit together with them on buses. On December 1, 1955 she refused to give her bus seat to a white man. Because of this, she was arrested². This event led to black people boycotting buses in the city, which became part of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Parks became a symbol of black resistance³ to discrimination in the United States. The rest of her life was often paid to speak at civil rights events. She gave most of her money to civil rights organizations. She died very poor in 2005. Her birthday is now a holiday in some states.

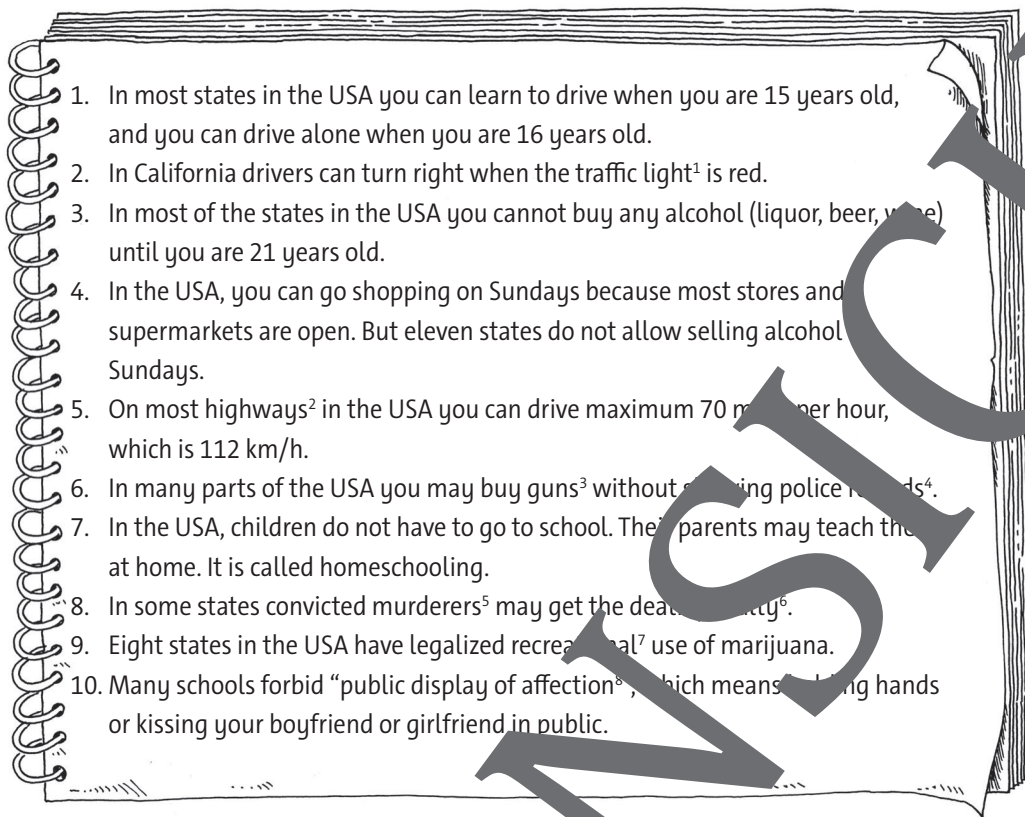


1 to refuse to do sth.: v. weigern etw. zu tun – 2 arrest so.: jmdn. festnehmen – 3 resistance: der Widerstand

Land of the free? – Laws in the USA

M 5

Some American laws are very different from German ones. What do you think of them?



1 **traffic light**: die Ampel – 2 **highway**: die Autobahn – 3 **gun**: die Wusswaffe – 4 **police record**: das Vorstrafenregister – 5 **convicted murderer**: der verurteilte Mörder – 6 **death penalty**: die Todesstrafe – 7 **recreational**: Freizeit-, der Erholung dienend – 8 **States**: die Zuneigung

Tasks

1. Read the ten US-American laws printed above and compare them to laws in your country. Say which one is better in your opinion and explain why. For example: "In the USA, teenagers can drive a car when they are 15 years old, in Germany ... I think that the American law is better because teenagers have more freedom and are more independent than in Germany."
2. Give your opinion: Do people often call the USA "the Land of the Free". Do people there have more or less freedom than in your country? Give examples.

Sie wollen mehr für Ihr Fach?

Bekommen Sie: Ganz einfach zum Download im RAABE Webshop.



Über 5.000 Unterrichtseinheiten
sofort zum Download verfügbar



Webinare und Videos
für Ihre fachliche und
persönliche Weiterbildung



Attraktive Vergünstigungen
für Referendar:innen
mit bis zu 15% Rabatt



Käuferschutz
mit Trusted Shops



Jetzt entdecken:
www.raabe.de