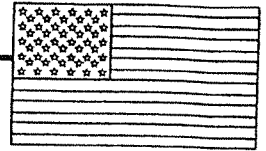


# United States of America



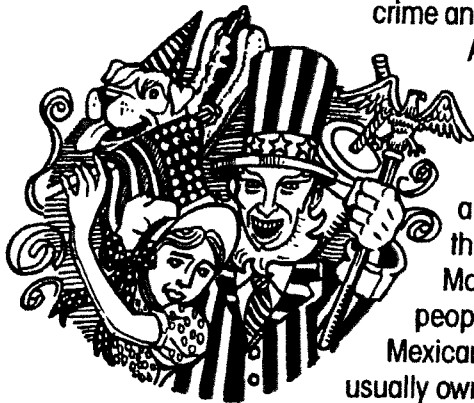
The 13 stripes stand for the original number of colonies and the 50 stars for the number of states today.



Population	278 million (2001 est.)
Capital	Washington DC
Currency	US dollar (= 100 cents)
Main Languages	English and Spanish
Area	9.6 million km <sup>2</sup>
Main religion	Christian (Protestant)
Industries	agriculture, electronics, mining (oil, coal, copper), cars, timber
Landmarks	Statue of Liberty, the Rockies, Yosemite Park, Hollywood, Golden Gate Bridge, the Grand Canyon, Alcatraz

The United States of America (the USA) is considered to be the world's richest nation. It has attracted millions of migrants, from all around the world, who valued greater opportunities and a better life for their families.

About 25% of Americans live in rural regions, but thousands of hectares of rural land are uninhabited or thinly populated. However, the USA leads the world in farm production and produces enough food for the nation, plus more for export. Beef cattle are the most important product, with millions raised on huge ranches in the west. Although large numbers of rural people have moved to the cities, in recent years the trend is reversing as city dwellers attempt to escape the overcrowding, crime and pollution in the cities. The social life of rural



Americans centres around family gatherings, church and school activities or special interest clubs like baseball, hiking and golf.

Many Americans live in the suburbs around cities. Others have moved to cities in the 'sun belt', like Los Angeles and Miami. Most cities include areas where almost all the people are from the same ethnic group, such as Mexican or Cuban. Both rural and city Americans usually own a family car, but for those without, public transport, particularly buses, plays an important role.

Americans value education highly, and in the 1990s, over 80% of students graduated from high school. Students must attend school to the age of 16 or 17 in most States. Unfortunately, many schools in the large cities have old buildings, are overcrowded and have serious discipline problems.

Many Americans spend their leisure time at sporting events and enjoy movies, live theatre and watching television. Favourite team sports to watch or play include baseball, American football (gridiron) and basketball. Americans also enjoy travelling overseas or spending weekends at holiday weekenders in the mountains or near lakes.

America's most important national holidays include 'Independence Day' on 4 July, which celebrates the declaration of independence from Britain in 1776, and 'Thanksgiving Day' in November, originally to give thanks for the harvest. Afram, an African-American festival in Maryland, recalls the traditions of the African continent for the descendants of slaves brought to America many years ago. Throughout the country, people enjoy State and County fairs.

1500s USA's south-west is colonised by Spain. Spanish is now the second commonest language.

1620 Puritans arrive from Britain on the 'Mayflower'.

1776 America becomes independent from Britain.

1861 Civil war breaks out between the north and south.

1929 The Great Depression begins and thousands of people are unemployed.

1934 A government loan scheme is introduced to provide low-rent dwellings.

1941 Japan bombs Pearl Harbor and USA enters World War II.

1954 US Supreme Court declares segregation in schools is unconstitutional.

1970s Movement of people from rural areas to the cities slows down.

2001 Terrorist attack on New York and Washington.

# United States of America

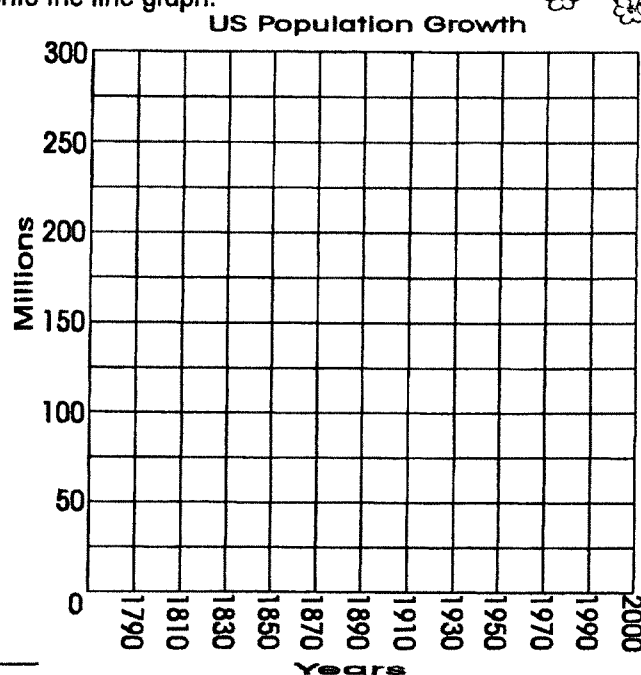
## 1 Comprehension

- (a) What is America's most important agricultural product? \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Which of the celebrations mentioned in the text do you see as the most important? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) What do the 50 stars on the American flag represent? \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Why do many Americans move to Miami? \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) What sorts of opportunities do you think migrants may have come to America for? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) Would you prefer to live in country or city America? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Graph

Enter these population figures onto the line graph.

Year	Population
1790	3 930 000
1810	7 240 000
1830	12 866 000
1850	23 200 000
1870	39 820 000
1890	62 975 000
1910	91 972 000
1930	122 775 000
1950	150 697 000
1970	203 235 000
1990	249 633 000
2000	299 000 000



*Did you know?*  
 The city of Macon in Georgia holds its famous 'Cherry Blossom Festival' in March, with fireworks, craft stalls and musical acts, as more than 50 000 cherry trees brighten the streets with their pale pink blossoms.

In which 20-year period was the most rapid growth? \_\_\_\_\_

## 3 Retrieval Chart

Person	Year born	Birthplace	Claim to Fame
Carl Lewis			
Amelia Earhart			
John Glenn			
H W Longfellow			
Louisa M Alcott			
Steven Spielberg			

- With a partner, read the jokes aloud.
- In the box next to each joke, write a code from the key to show what makes the joke funny.

## Key

hn	homonym
hp	homophone
in	invented words
lo	logical, but unexpected, answers
mi	misunderstanding

A woman wanted to book a flight from London to Lahore. She phoned a travel agent and asked how long the flight would take.

"Just a minute," said the person who answered the phone.

"Thank you," said the caller, and hung up.

What's a forum?

- Two-um plus two-um!

Why do cows wear bells?

- In case their horns don't work!

What do pigs put on cuts?

- Oinkment!

What's the Loch Ness Monster's favourite food?

- Fish and ships!

Why did the singer stand on a ladder?

- To reach the high notes!

What happens to a stone if you throw it into the Red Sea?

- It gets wet!

In which battle was Nelson killed?

- His last one.

Knock, knock

Who's there?

Major!

Major who?

- Major answer the door, didn't I?

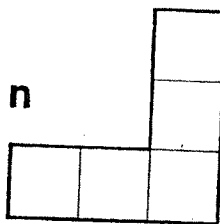
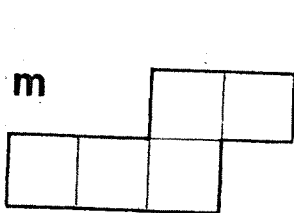
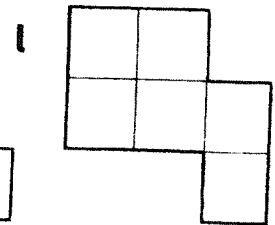
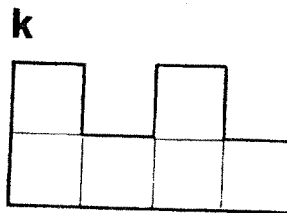
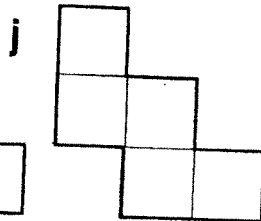
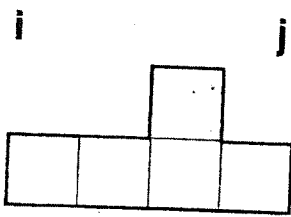
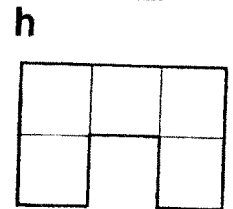
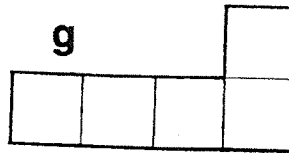
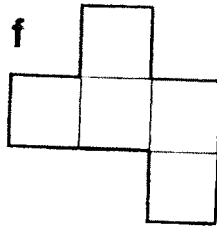
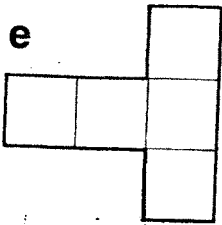
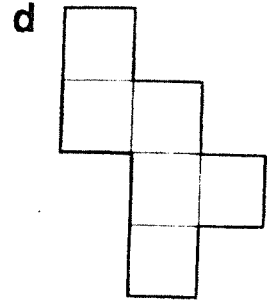
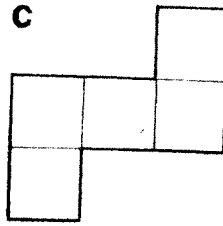
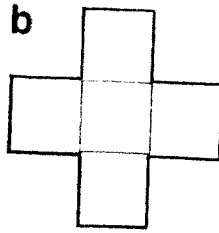
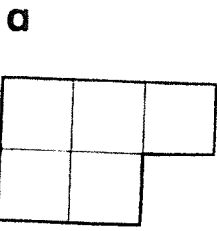


- With a partner, write six other jokes you know.
- Use the key to show what makes them funny.

**Teachers' note** For the extension activity provide books of jokes and encourage the children to look for jokes whose humour does not fit into the five categories outlined in the activity. The humour of each joke belongs to one main category, although there is some overlap. The answers are therefore open to discussion.

# Odd ones out

• Look at these shapes.



1. Eleven shapes have the same area.

Which three shapes are different? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Eleven shapes have the same perimeter.

Which three shapes are different? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which shapes are not octagons? \_\_\_\_\_



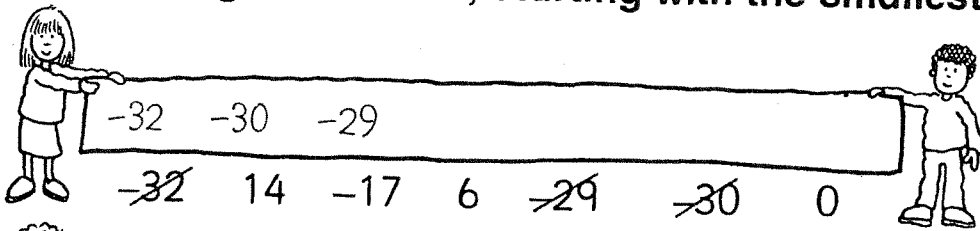
• Which five shapes have **line symmetry**? \_\_\_\_\_

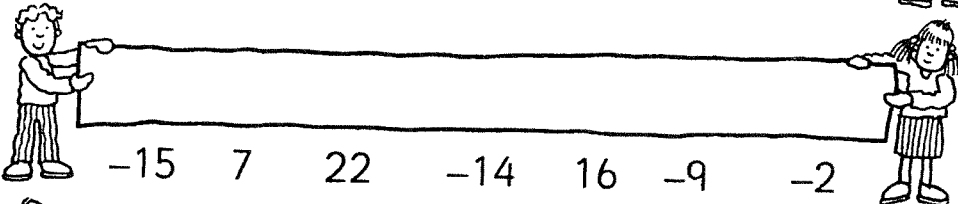
• Draw the lines of symmetry on the shapes.

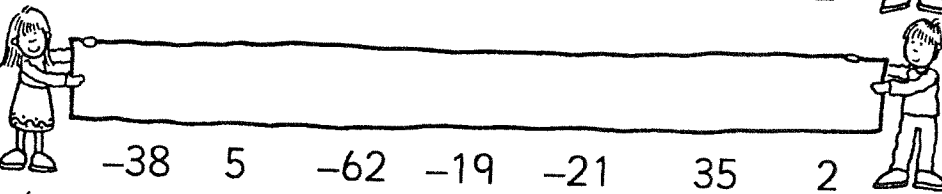
**Teachers' note** You could ask the children to create their own set of shapes like this by drawing on squared paper, using five or six squares for each shape. They can then cut them out and sort them according to their properties.

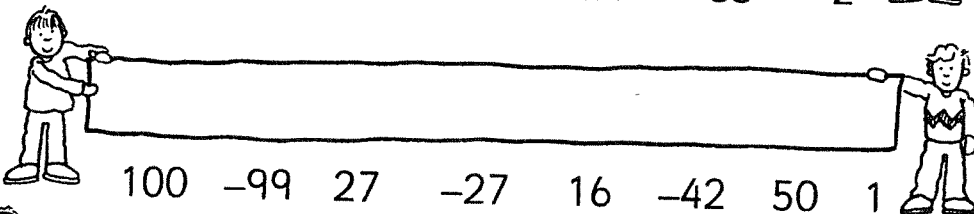
# From smallest to biggest

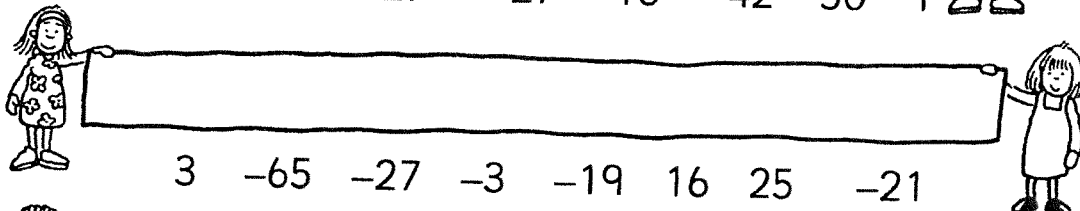
• Write these integers in order, starting with the smallest.

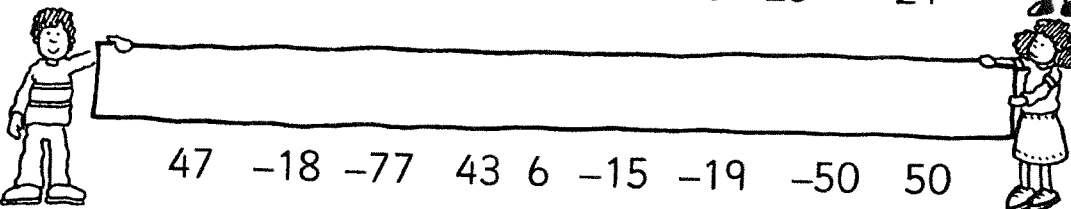
1.   $-32$   $-30$   $-29$   
 ~~$-32$~~   $14$   $-17$   $6$   ~~$-29$~~   ~~$-30$~~   $0$

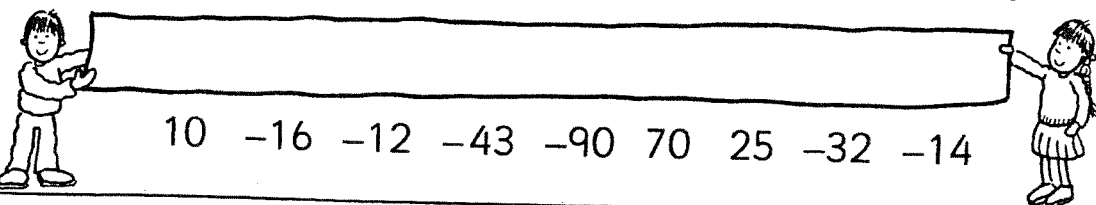
2.   
 $-15$   $7$   $22$   $-14$   $16$   $-9$   $-2$

3.   
 $-38$   $5$   $-62$   $-19$   $-21$   $35$   $2$

4.   
 $100$   $-99$   $27$   $-27$   $16$   $-42$   $50$   $1$

5.   
 $3$   $-65$   $-27$   $-3$   $-19$   $16$   $25$   $-21$

6.   
 $47$   $-18$   $-77$   $43$   $6$   $-15$   $-19$   $-50$   $50$

7.   
 $10$   $-16$   $-12$   $-43$   $-90$   $70$   $25$   $-32$   $-14$



• Write eight pairs of negative integers with

a difference of 18.

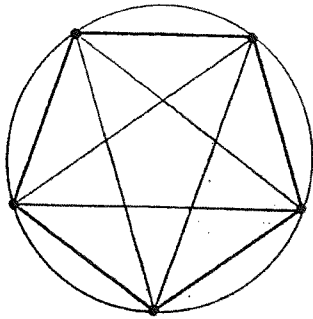
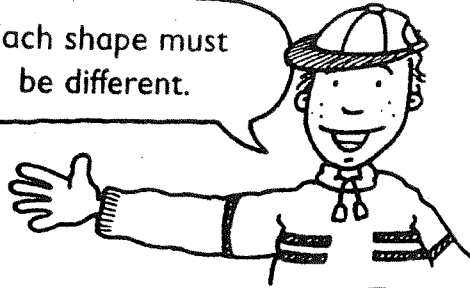
Example:  $-20$ ,  $-2$

Teachers' note If the children need additional help to complete the extension activity, encourage them to draw a number line.

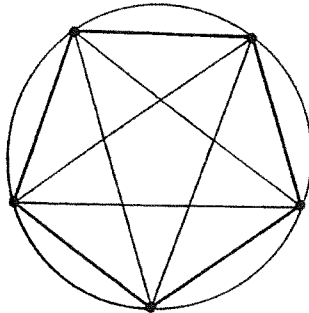
# Shady shapes

- Shade part of each pentagon to create these shapes.

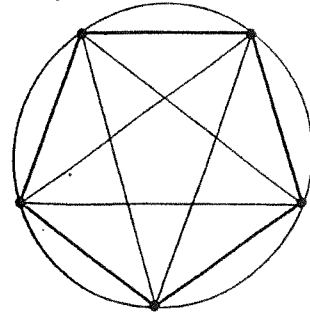
Each shape must be different.



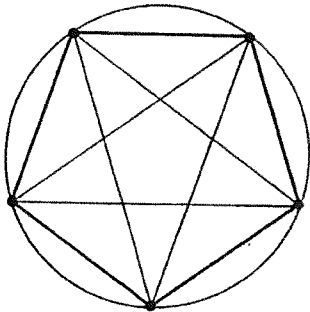
trapezium



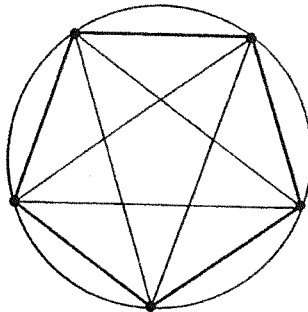
trapezium



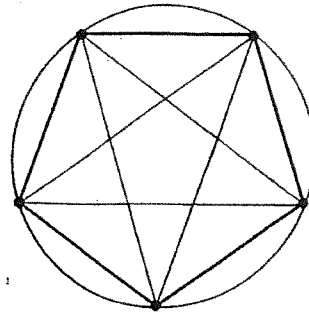
isosceles triangle



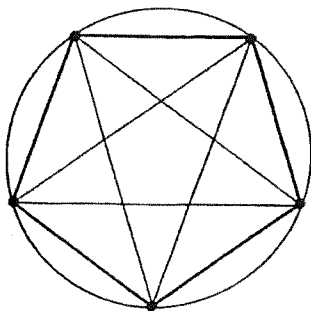
isosceles triangle



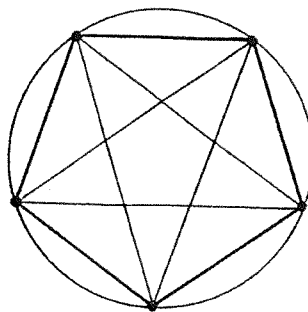
isosceles triangle



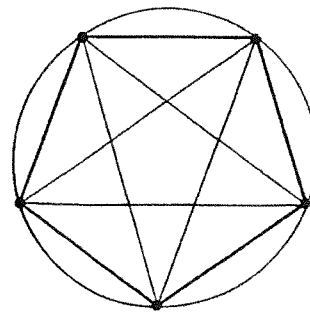
isosceles triangle



parallelogram



kite



arrowhead



- How many different triangles can you shade inside the pentagon?

Teachers' note Emphasise that each shape must be different, i.e. not congruent. For the extension activity children may need more copies of the sheet.