



Activity 1: True or False

With a partner, see if you know if these statements about the USA are true or false!

1. The Americas were colonized by Europeans in the 16th century.
2. Indigenous people lived in the Americas for thousands of years before Europeans arrived.
3. In the beginning, there were 20 original colonies.
4. The last state to join the USA was Texas.
5. Black people were kidnapped and enslaved for hundreds of years for free labor in the USA.
6. George Washington was the first president of the United States and he abolished slavery.
7. The United States won their independence from France.
8. There are 50 states and 4 territories in the USA.
9. US Presidents may serve a maximum of 2 terms, or 8 years.
10. All US citizens could vote once the US became a country.



Activity 2: Modal Verbs

Modal verbs can be very useful for giving advice and your opinion! Let's learn how to use these modal verbs:

Can Could Would Should Have to

Use this structure: subject + modal verb + verb (without 'to')

Can = ability

I **can** vote once I'm 18 years old.

Anyone born in the USA **can** run for President.

Could = possibility

If you were President, you **could** try to help the environment.

Could you handle the stress of being an elected official? I **couldn't**.

Would = theoretical/hypothetical situation

If I **would** travel back in time, I **would** protest in the Civil Rights Movement.
I **would** like to make a difference.

Should = advice

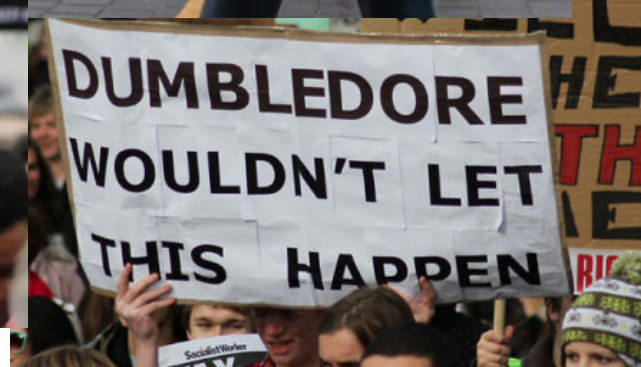
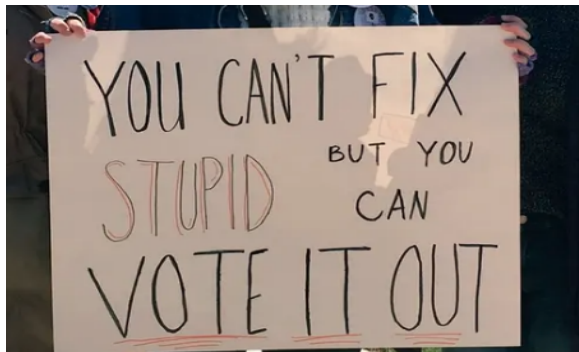
You **should** run for President! I would vote for you.
The USA **should** be welcoming to immigrants, it is a melting pot!

Have to = obligation / advice

I **have to** work hard if I want to become President.
Immigrants **have to** learn American History to become a citizen.

Activity 3: Protest is Patriotic

Protest is a part of any democracy. The USA may not protest in the same ways that France does, but people take to the streets to make their voices heard on many issues they find important. Have a look at these protest signs. What do you think they are protesting for?




If you were going to a protest with a sign, what would you be protesting? What would your sign say? Get with a partner and create your sign!


Activity 4: Vote for me!


The American election process is a bit complicated, but it is part of the oldest democracy in the world! The same system of electing officials has been in place for almost 240 years!

1. United States of America

 **Date of Current Constitution:** June 21, 1788

 **Official Form of Government:** Federal presidential constitutional republic

 **Current Leader(s) (as of 2021):** President Joe Biden

 **Legislature:** Congress (Senate and House of Representatives)



With a partner, choose who is running for President and Vice President. Create your platform:

- What **would** you do as President?
- What **could** you do in your first 100 days?
- Why **should** people vote for you?
- What do you think you **have to** do first for the country?

Activity 5: The American Flag

The American flag is a major symbol of US History and patriotism. Have a look at the evolution of the flag over almost 200 years... What do you think the next flag should look like? Create a design with a partner and tell the class why we should choose your flag!

1777 - FIRST U.S. FLAG

The 13 Star Flag became the first official U.S. Flag on June 14th, 1777 as a result of an act of Congress. Much evidence points to congressman Francis Hopkinson for designing the Flag (not Betsy Ross)

The image shows the 13 Star Flag, which features 13 stars arranged in a circle on a blue canton and 13 horizontal stripes (7 red alternating with 6 white).

1795 - 15 STAR FLAG

The 15 Star Flag became our official Flag on May 1st, 1795 when two stars were added representing Vermont and Kentucky.

The image shows the 15 Star Flag, which features 15 stars arranged in two rows of five on a blue canton and 15 horizontal stripes (7 red alternating with 8 white).

1818 - OUR THIRD FLAG

The 20 star Flag saw a return to tradition as Congress decided to return to the thirteen stripes, but added stars for five new states. This Flag was also known as the "Great Star Flag" as the 20 stars were sometimes arranged to form a star.

The image shows the 20 Star Flag, which features 20 stars arranged in two rows of ten on a blue canton and 13 horizontal stripes (7 red alternating with 6 white).

1851 - 31 STAR FLAG

Introduced in 1851, this flag added the state of California and was used for seven short years. Millard Fillmore, James Buchanan and Franklin Pierce were the only presidents to serve while the 31 star flag was used

The image shows the 31 Star Flag, which features 31 stars arranged in three rows of ten, one row of eleven, and one row of ten on a blue canton and 13 horizontal stripes (7 red alternating with 6 white).

1896 - 45 STAR FLAG

In 1896, the 45 star flag represented the country with Utah as an official state. This flag was used for 12 years and saw three presidents during its use.

The image shows the 45 Star Flag, which features 45 stars arranged in five rows of nine on a blue canton and 13 horizontal stripes (7 red alternating with 6 white).

1867 - 37 STAR FLAG

The 37 Star Flag was first used on July 4th, 1867. An additional star was added for the state of Nebraska and it was used for ten years.

The image shows the 37 Star Flag, which features 37 stars arranged in four rows of ten, one row of seven, and one row of ten on a blue canton and 13 horizontal stripes (7 red alternating with 6 white).

1912 - 48 STAR FLAG

On July 4, 1912, the U.S. flag saw 48 stars with the addition of New Mexico and Arizona. An Executive Order by President Taft established the proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward.

The image shows the 48 Star Flag, which features 48 stars arranged in six rows of eight on a blue canton and 13 horizontal stripes (7 red alternating with 6 white).

1960 - 50 STAR FLAG

Our modern day flag was first introduced in 1960 when Hawaii was added as an official state and has been our nation's symbol for over 50 years. It has seen eleven presidents so far.

The image shows the 50 Star Flag, which features 50 stars arranged in nine rows of six, one row of seven, and one row of six on a blue canton and 13 horizontal stripes (7 red alternating with 6 white).