

Knowledge Organiser Year 4 Geography: North America – United States of America

Tier 3 Vocabulary	
Canyon	A deep narrow valley with steep sides.
Plateau	A large region that is higher than the area around it and is fairly flat.
Erosion	Earth being worn away by water, wind or ice.
Prairie	A large, relatively flat area of grassland.
Population distribution	The pattern of where people live – sparsely populated places contain few people; densely populated places contain many people.
Population density	The number of people living in a unit of area.



Key facts and figures	
Borders	The USA shares land and maritime borders with Mexico and Canada and maritime borders with Russia, Cuba and the Bahamas.
Population	340 million – third largest country in the world
Governance	The USA is a federal republic made up of 50 states. The capital city is Washington D.C.
Largest states (population)	California (largest), Texas, Florida
Smallest states (population)	Wyoming (smallest), Vermont, Alaska
Largest cities (+ state they are in)	New York (New York) – 8 million, Los Angeles (California) – 4 million, Chicago (Illinois) – 3 million
Main agricultural products	Corn, soya beans, wheat and cotton. Most crops are grown in a large area called The Great Plains, located in the centre of the USA.

Key Physical Features	
Oceans / bodies of water bordering USA	Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Bering Sea.
Mountain ranges	Appalachian Mountains, Cascade Mountains, Rocky Mountains, Sierra Nevada
Five Great Lakes	Fresh water lakes in the northeastern USA on the border with Canada: Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.
Great Plains	Grassland and prairie region between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River.
Major rivers	Missouri River, Mississippi River, Yukon River, Rio Grande. All between 3000 and 4000 km - the Missouri River is the longest river in the USA.

Related prior knowledge: Y1/2 - Overview of the continents

Related future learning: Y6 – South America