

What You Must See!

American tourist hot spots

The USA is a country of many contrasts, covering a very large territory (it's the 3rd largest country in the world). You can visit anything from crowded metropolises to vast prairies and breathtaking national parks.

If I could spend some time in the New World, I would try to see a bit of everything. Ideally, I would rent a car and take a road trip to the West, stopping at the most interesting places.

Starting in the East, I would stop on the US-Canadian border where I would enjoy the view of the picturesque 1..... that go down 61m into a rocky gorge³.

From there I would continue to the two major East Coast cities that attract crowds of tourists.

2....., nicknamed the Big Apple, is the centre of the financial and art world and is admired for its modern high-rise⁴ architecture. I would definitely take an elevator up the currently tallest building in town, the Empire State Building, built in the 1930s, or walk through the Theatre District along Broadway.

3..... is a relatively modern capital established only in 1800. When visiting, one should see the seat of American Congress and the Senate on Capitol Hill, or one of the many monuments, e.g. the 4....., where Dr Martin Luther King gave his famous speech about racial equality⁵, "I have a dream".

Besides these tourist highlights⁶, I would drop by 5....., Virginia, where the first permanent English settlement was founded in America in 1607. It was here that the

TASK Fill in the missing place names in the article. Then try to locate the places on the map.

- A) Mount Rushmore
- B) New Orleans
- C) Grand Canyon
- D) Jamestown
- E) Kennedy Space Center
- F) Sequoia National Park
- G) New York
- H) Graceland
- I) Colorado
- J) Lincoln Memorial
- K) Washington DC
- L) Los Angeles
- M) San Francisco
- N) Niagara Falls
- O) Everglades National Park
- P) Las Vegas
- Q) Silicon Valley

Solution on p. 3

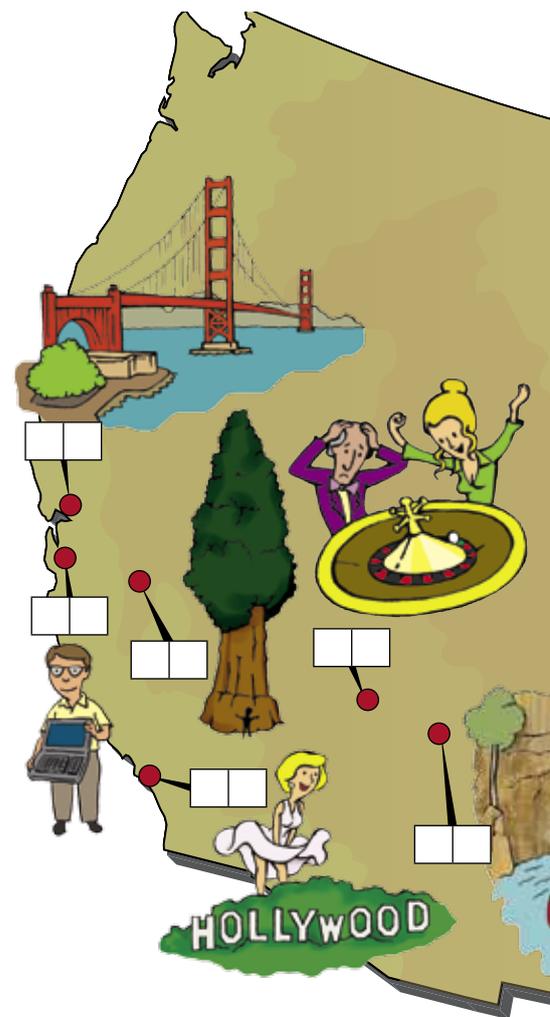
English settler John Rolfe met Pocahontas, the daughter of the local Indian chief. I could visit the recreated model of the colony and learn how the first American settlers lived.

From Virginia it is only a stone's throw away⁷ to Tennessee, the state of the blues and country music and the birthplace of Elvis Presley. I would visit 6....., the home of the king of rock'n'roll, in which you can relive his times and music.

Afterwards I would head down to Florida with its many beaches along the coastline. An interesting point of attraction is 7..... from which NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) space shuttles⁸ and rockets are launched⁹ into space. You can see IMAX films about space exploration or learn what it takes to be an astronaut.

It must be interesting to visit 8..... on the tip¹⁰ of the Florida Peninsula. This special wetland¹¹ is a habitat¹² for many animal and plant species, and you will definitely see some alligators there.

Going west from Florida, I would make 9..... in Louisiana my next stop. It's located in the delta* of the largest American river, the Mississippi. The city stands out



because of its mixed cultural heritage – the French Creole* influences. This is most noticeable in the architecture of the city's French Quarter. It's also the city of jazz and Dixieland music and in February the festival Mardi Gras takes place here. However, recently the town has been coping with two major disasters: Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the oil spill in 2010.

The most spectacular¹³ sight in the US is the 10..... in Arizona, a symbol of the Wild West. This bright red canyon about 1,500 m deep was carved¹⁴ by the Colorado River cutting through the Colorado Plateau. You can follow different trails¹⁵ that offer breathtaking views.

I can never get enough natural beauty, so to admire the impressive American mountains, called the Rockies, I would pass through 11..... the state famous for its ski resorts¹⁶ such as Aspen.

From there I would set out to South Dakota's Black Hills to see a monument to the four American presidents, sculpted into the rock, 12..... You can feel very small looking at the huge heads of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt.

No trip to the US would be complete without seeing the West Coast, particularly California. This state is known for its natural beauty, relaxed lifestyle and celebrity buzz¹⁷.



13 represents the American film industry, hosts the Academy Award Ceremony every year and tourists can step on the Hollywood Walk of Fame among the stars. The other popular city, 14, built on hills over a bay, gives off a different feel. I would love to take a ride on the town's typical means of transport – the cable car* through the city's many neighbourhoods, e.g Chinatown,

or to pop into the Beatnik bookstore (City Lights bookshop founded by the beat poet Ferlinghetti). And of course, I couldn't forget to see the most famous landmark, the Golden Gate Bridge.

15 near this city is the center for **cutting-edge**¹⁸ computer technology, where companies like Google, Apple and Intel have their headquarters.

Then, I would like to hike in some American national parks. California can boast 16 where you can find huge sequoia trees and even the largest known tree, the General Sherman Tree. Finally, I would want to see the American entertainment capitol 17 with all its casinos and fancy hotels. And the list could go on and on...

Zuzana Mensch (Canada)

VOCABULARY

- ¹ **vast prairies** – rozlehlé prérie
- ² **brehtaking** ['brɛθtɜ:kɪŋ] – úchvatný
- ³ **gorge** [gɔ:dʒ] – strž
- ⁴ **high-rise** – výškový
- ⁵ **racial equality** ['reɪʃ(ə)l r'kwɒlɪtɪ] – rovnost ras

- ⁶ **highlight** ['haɪlaɪt] – významné místo
- ⁷ **it is only a stone's throw away** – je to co by kamenem dohodil.
- ⁸ **space shuttle** ['ʃʌt(ə)] – raketoplán
- ⁹ **to launch** [lɔ:n(t)] – vypustit
- ¹⁰ **tip** – výběžek
- ¹¹ **wetland** – mokřina

- ¹² **habitat** ['hæbɪtæt] – domov
- ¹³ **spectacular** [spek'tækjʊlə] – působivý
- ¹⁴ **was carved** – byl vytvořen
- ¹⁵ **trail** – stezka
- ¹⁶ **skiing resorts** ['rɪ'zɔ:ts] – lyžařská střediska
- ¹⁷ **buzz** [bʌz] – šum
- ¹⁸ **cutting-edge** [kʌtɪŋ edʒ] – špičkový

GLOSSARY*

- delta** – an area where a river divides into branches and flows into the sea
- Creole** – related to white people of French and Spanish descent living in Louisiana
- cable car** – a vehicle similar to a tram pulled by a cable