

Before you watch**1 SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Answer the questions.

- 1 What is the capital of your country?
- 2 What do you know about its history?
- 3 Would you like to live there? Why? / Why not?

Comprehension check**2** ▶ Watch the DVD clip. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 How many North American colonies did the British rule before the USA was created?
a three b eight c thirteen
- 2 What was George Washington doing during the War of Independence?
a He was the president.
b He was in the army.
c He was building the new capital city.
- 3 Where has Congress been meeting since 1800?
a in the Capitol Building b in the White House c in Philadelphia

3 ▶ Watch again. Are the sentences true or false?

- 1 There is an American flag in the top left corner of the classroom. **true / false**
- 2 Washington, D.C. is located in the west of the USA. **true / false**
- 3 There is a fountain in the front garden of the White House. **true / false**
- 4 The Capitol building is brown. **true / false**
- 5 The Lincoln Memorial is in a large white building. **true / false**
- 6 The Washington Monument is by a lake. **true / false**

4 ▶ Watch again. Match the events (a–f) with the years (1–6).

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 1 1776 | a People start to build the new capital city. |
| 2 1791 | b President Roosevelt officially calls the President's House the White House. |
| 3 1800 | c The USA is created. |
| 4 1860 | d President John Adams first moves into the President's House. |
| 5 1902 | e The Lincoln Memorial opens. |
| 6 1920 | f Abraham Lincoln is elected president. |

Round up**5 SPEAKING** Work in groups. Answer the question.

Would you like to visit Washington, D.C.? Why? / Why not?

Vocabulary

6 RECYCLE Choose the correct prepositions.

- 1 I've always been very curious **about / of / in** artificial intelligence.
- 2 The government is responsible **for / with / in** making laws.
- 3 The teacher hadn't made us aware **with / about / of** the exam until the day before.
- 4 Everyone complained because they were unhappy **for / in / with** the decision that was made.
- 5 Our company has been successful **with / in / to** the IT business for the last ten years.

7 Complete the sentences with the words below.

colonies independence settlements slavery territory

- 1 Lithuania gained its _____ from the Soviet Union in 1991.
- 2 The two neighbouring countries fought a war over the disputed _____.
- 3 India, Australia and New Zealand were once British _____, but now they are all independent countries.
- 4 There had been a number of smaller _____ here before they built the city.
- 5 _____ has been illegal in Britain since 1833.

Extension

8 Work in groups. Find a photograph that shows an important moment in your country's recent history. Find out what happened. Include the following:

- when it was taken
- a description of the photo and the people in it
- what had happened before and what happened afterwards
- why the photo is important

9 Present your findings and the photo to the class. Use the key phrases for describing photos and expressing opinions.

Describing photos

It looks to me as if ...

They look like they're ...

They don't look very ...

Expressing opinions

It seems to me that ...

In my opinion / view, ...

For me, the important thing is ...

DVD clip summary

The DVD clip is about the history of the capital of the USA, Washington, D.C.

Background

Before European settlers began arriving on mainland USA in the 16th century, the country we now know as the USA had been home to many Native American tribes for around 15,000 years. In the 16th century, people from countries across Europe, including Britain, Denmark, the Netherlands, France, Germany and Spain, began to arrive in North America. The Spanish, who had already colonised parts of Central and South America, moved north through Mexico to establish colonies in the west of North America, while the English began to colonise the eastern part of the continent, establishing their first permanent settlement in 1607.

Many of the early settlers from Europe were forced to leave their homelands for religious reasons, and came to the USA in order to practice their religions freely, while others came to make money exporting tobacco and cotton back to Europe, often using slave labour to do so.

Before you watch

Exercise 1

- Read the questions with the class and elicit answers from individual students. Encourage the students to expand on their answers and use their suggestions to start a class discussion.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Comprehension check

Exercise 2

- **Pre-watching:** Go through the questions with the students.
-  Play the whole DVD clip. The students choose the correct answers. Check their answers.
- **Answers:** 1 c 2 b 3 a

Exercise 3

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to say if the sentences are true or false before they watch the DVD clip again.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 true 2 false 3 true 4 false 5 true 6 true

Exercise 4

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to try and order the events before they watch the DVD clip again.
- **Weaker classes:** Check that the students know how to say the years before you play the DVD clip again. Then play the DVD clip and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 c 2 a 3 d 4 f 5 b 6 e

Round up

Exercise 5

- Put the students in groups. Give them a few minutes to discuss the question.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Vocabulary

Exercise 6

- Ask the students to read each sentence and decide which preposition follows the adjective.
- **Weaker classes:** Encourage the students to use a dictionary if they do not know the answer.
- **Answers:** 1 about 2 for 3 of 4 with 5 in

Exercise 7

- Ask the students to read through the sentences first, then complete them. With a **weaker class**, you could elicit the meanings of the words first.
- **Answers:** 1 independence 2 territory 3 colonies 4 settlements 5 Slavery

Extension

Exercises 8 and 9

- **Materials needed:** Computers with internet access, printer
- **Preparation:** Put the students in groups of three. Tell them that they are going to find and talk about a photo that represents an important moment in their country's recent history.
- **Language:** Find a photo of an important moment in world history (not the students' own country) and elicit the key phrases. Encourage the students to speculate about the photo as well.
- **Activity:** Give the students 5–8 minutes to find a photo and do some internet research about it. Then give them another 5 minutes to write a short presentation about the photo, making sure they include all the points. Finally, ask the groups to present their photos to the class.
- **Extension:** After all the groups have presented, ask the students to discuss how those moments have changed history and which was the most important moment. For homework, you could ask them to imagine they were there and write an eyewitness account of what they saw.

Washington, D.C.

Today, the USA is the richest and most powerful country in the world. But just over 330 years ago, it wasn't a country at all.

The land we now call the United States of America was divided into three main parts: thirteen British colonies in the east; an area called the Indian Reserve in the centre; and the Spanish territories in the west. It wasn't until 1776 that representatives from the thirteen colonies, unhappy with British rule, declared independence from Britain and created the United States of America.

Today, many of these Founding Fathers, the men responsible for building the country, are famous throughout the world. In every school in the USA, students learn about the lives of men like Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, and are made aware of what they did to build the USA.

George Washington was the commander of the American army during the War of Independence, and became the country's first president. At the time, the country didn't have a permanent capital and the United States Government could have chosen one of a few existing cities such as Philadelphia, Princeton or New York. But this new country wanted a new capital, so in 1791, work began on a brand new city: Washington, D.C. This area must have looked very different at the time. There were no major settlements here and few farms. But it quickly grew to become the home of American politics.

One of the first buildings here was the President's House. The second President of the United States, John Adams, first lived here in 1800, but it was a very different building then. In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt, unsatisfied with the size of the building, expanded it. He also officially named it the White House, a name people had informally used for almost a century. Today, this iconic building, with its six levels, 132 rooms and 35 bathrooms, is recognisable all over the world.

At the same time as the President's House was being built, construction began on the Capitol Building. The United States Congress had first met in 1774, and after the War of Independence it became an important part of the new independent government, creating the country's laws. At first, it met in various cities, such as Philadelphia and New York, but in 1800 it moved to its permanent home in the Capitol Building. Since then, Congress has continued to grow and is now the political centre of the country.

In 1860, Washington, D.C. welcomed its sixteenth president: Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was president during the Civil War, and in 1865 he was successful in making slavery illegal. He has since become a national hero, and this memorial – opened in 1920 – is one of the country's most famous landmarks. Lots of people still come here today and it is a popular location for political speeches and peaceful protests. In fact, it was here, between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, that crowds gathered to hear Martin Luther King's famous 'I have a dream' speech.

From George Washington to Abraham Lincoln to Martin Luther King, this city has always been an important part of American life. Today, a trip here is a must for anyone curious about the story of the USA. After all, a walk around Washington, D.C. is a journey through American history itself.