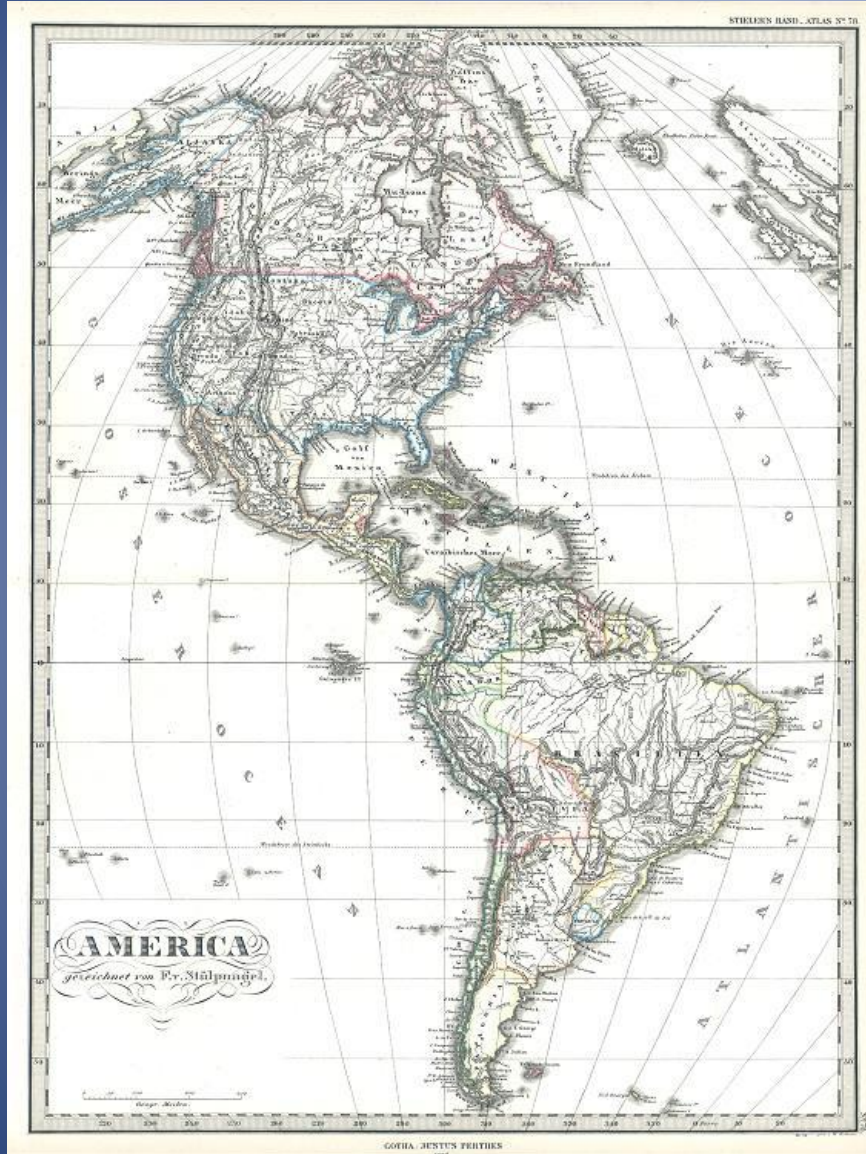


THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



THE USA

AA



30,000 years ago America was an empty land with mountains, forests, lakes, animals and fish, but no people. Around that time, the first people probably arrived in Alaska from Asia.



Native population of America



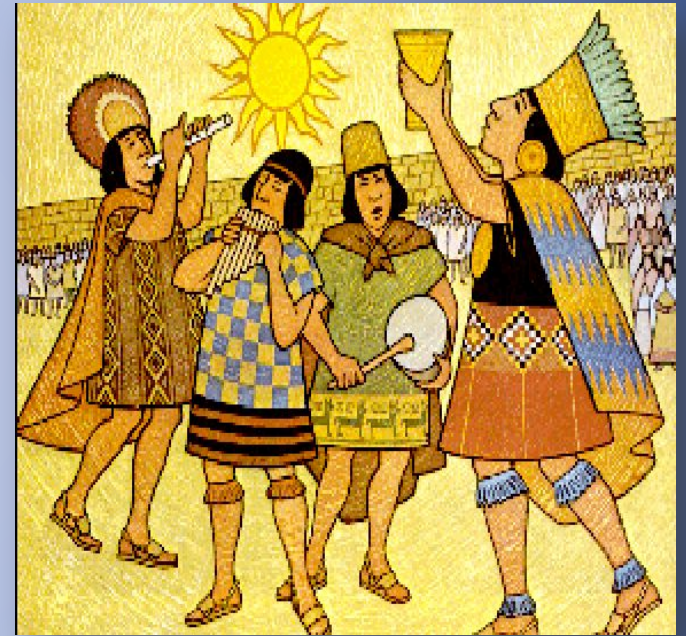
North American Indians

They travelled south and became the North American Indians, and the Aztecs, and Incas and other peoples of Central and South America.

Native population of America



Aztecs



Incas

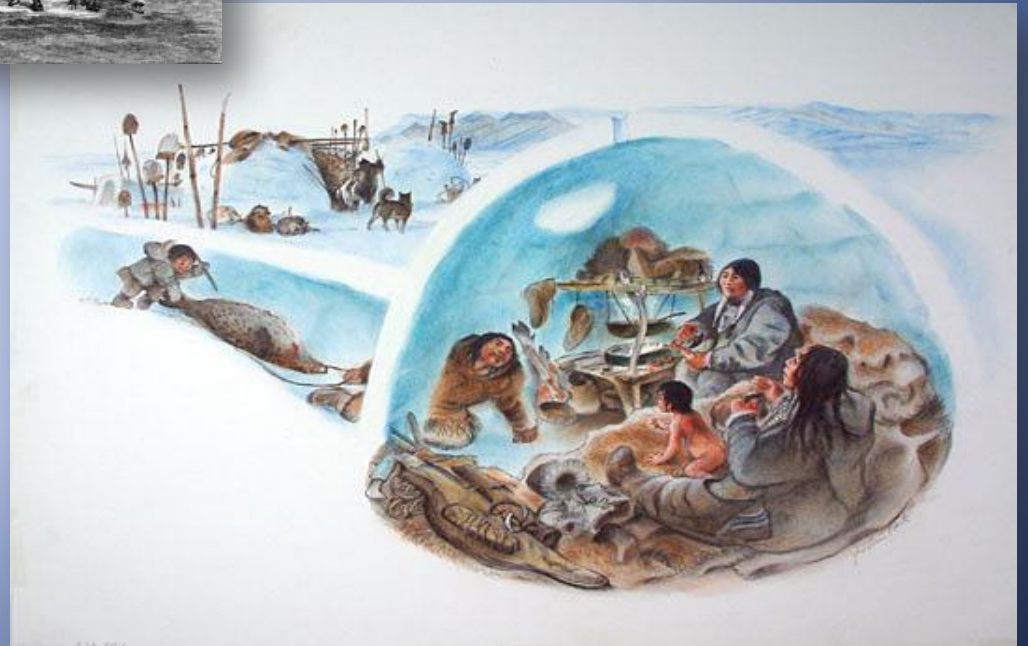


Mayas

Native population of America



Later came the Inuit (Eskimos)
of Canada and the Arctic.



Native population of America



For thousands of years, America was unknown to the rest of the world.

The Vikings visited Canada from Scandinavia around AD 1000, but did not stay there.



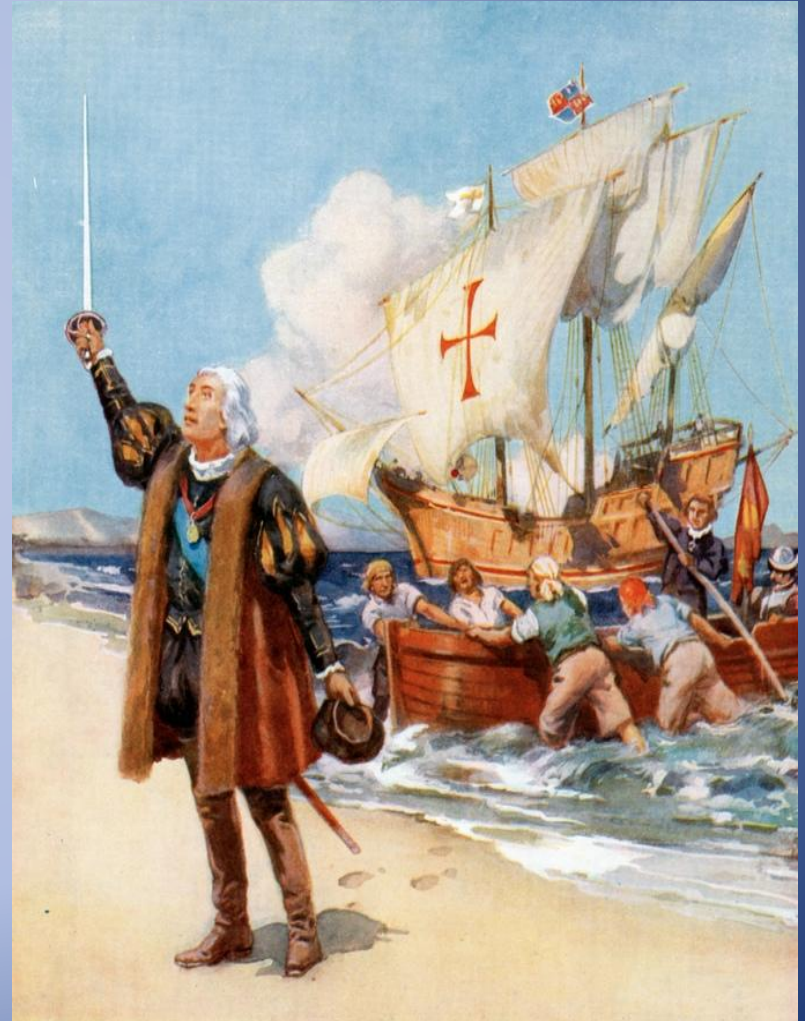
Battle between Vikings and 'Skrælings', 11th century

Discoverers of America

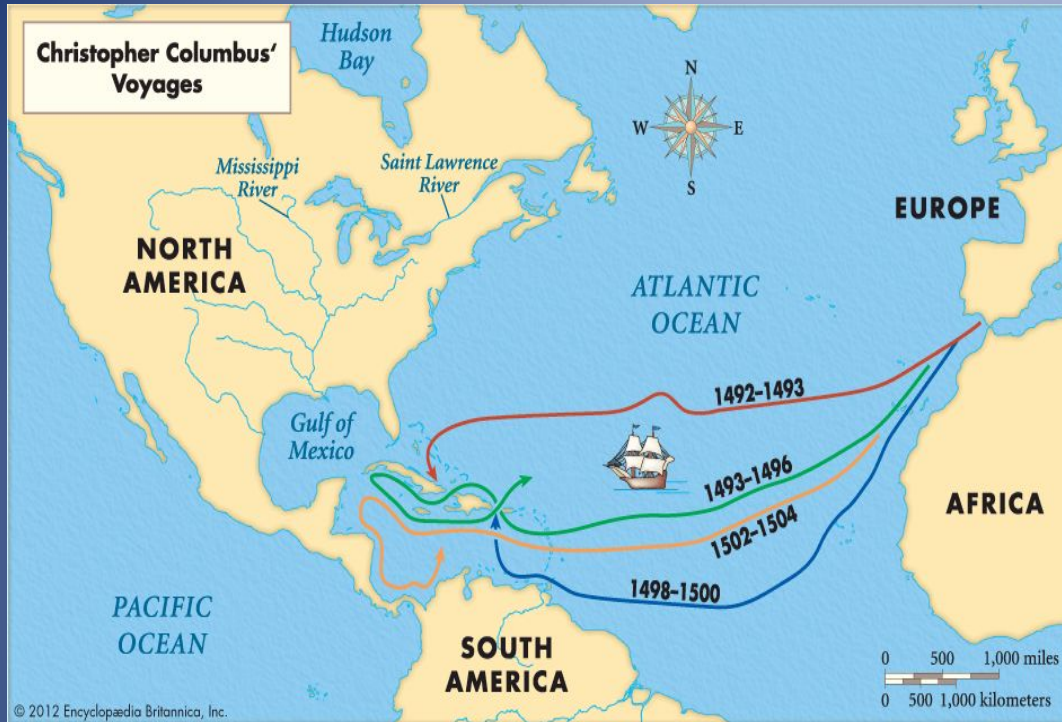


In 1492, a brave Italian sailor called Christopher Columbus reached the Caribbean, while he was looking for a sea route from Europe to India.

Columbus called the Native Americans 'Indians' because he thought that he had reached India.



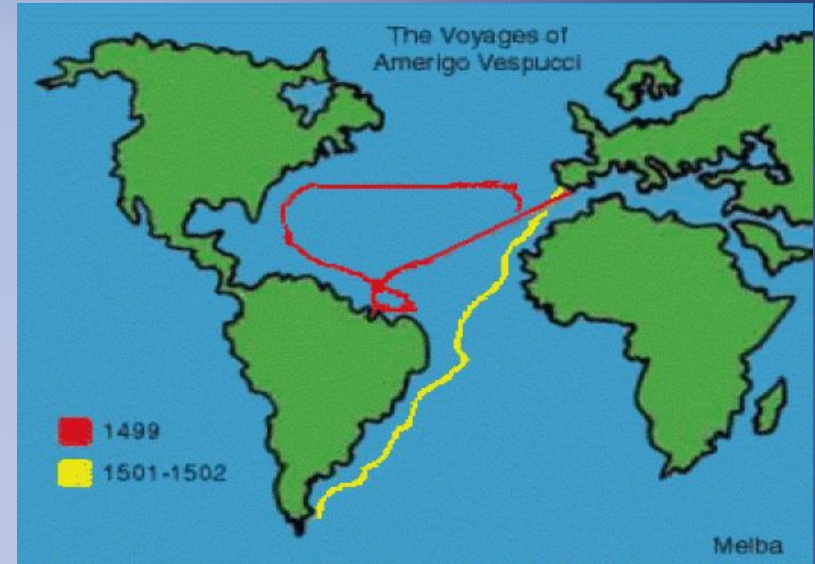
Discoverers of America



Christopher Columbus undertook four voyages to America. During the first voyage he reached only the island in the Caribbean. The continental part of the continent was reached by him during the fourth voyage.



Discoverers of America



'America' was named after an Italian businessman called Amerigo Vespucci, sailed to South America between 1499 and 1502. He proved that land discovered by Columbus was not Asia (India) but a new continent. Vespucci undertook two voyages to a new continent.



The first settlers of America



In the 16th century the French, the Spanish and the British started to come and live in North America.



The first settlers of America



Pocachontas

In 1607, a group of farmers founded the colony of Jamestown, in Virginia. They fought with the Indians and many of them died because of hunger and illnesses. But Pocachontas, the daughter of an Indian chief, became a friend of Captain John Smith and helped him and other English people. She later married a sailor called John Rolfe and went to England.

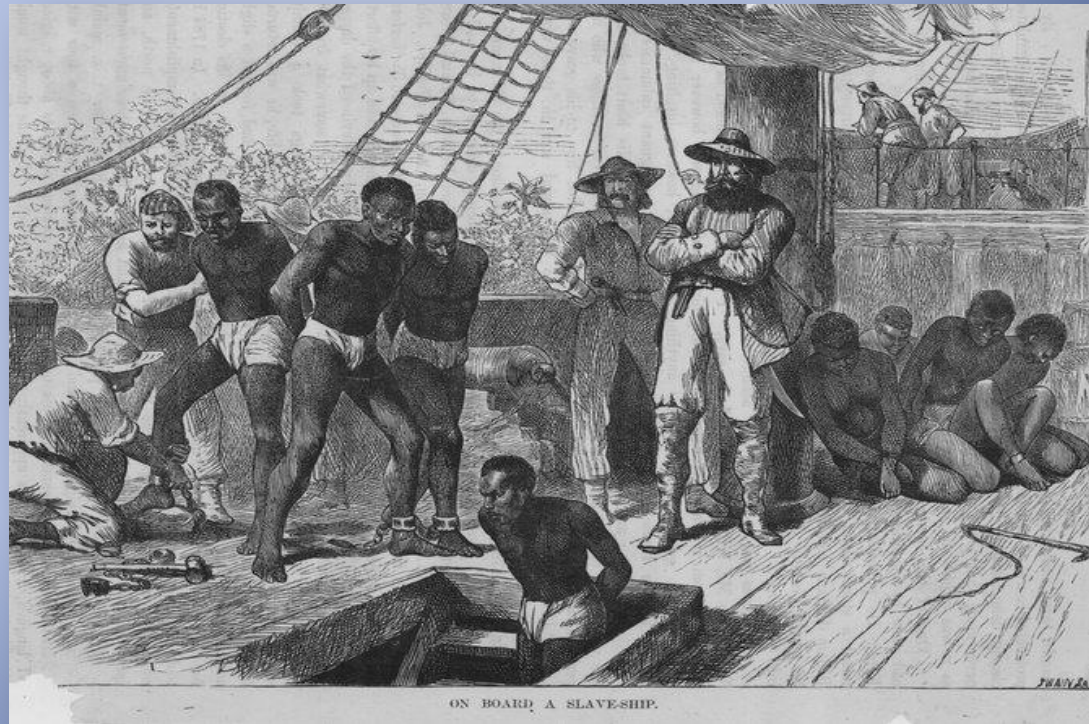


The first settlers of America



John Rolfe

John Rolfe discovered that it was easy to grow tobacco in Virginia and the settlers brought African people to work in the fields as their slaves.

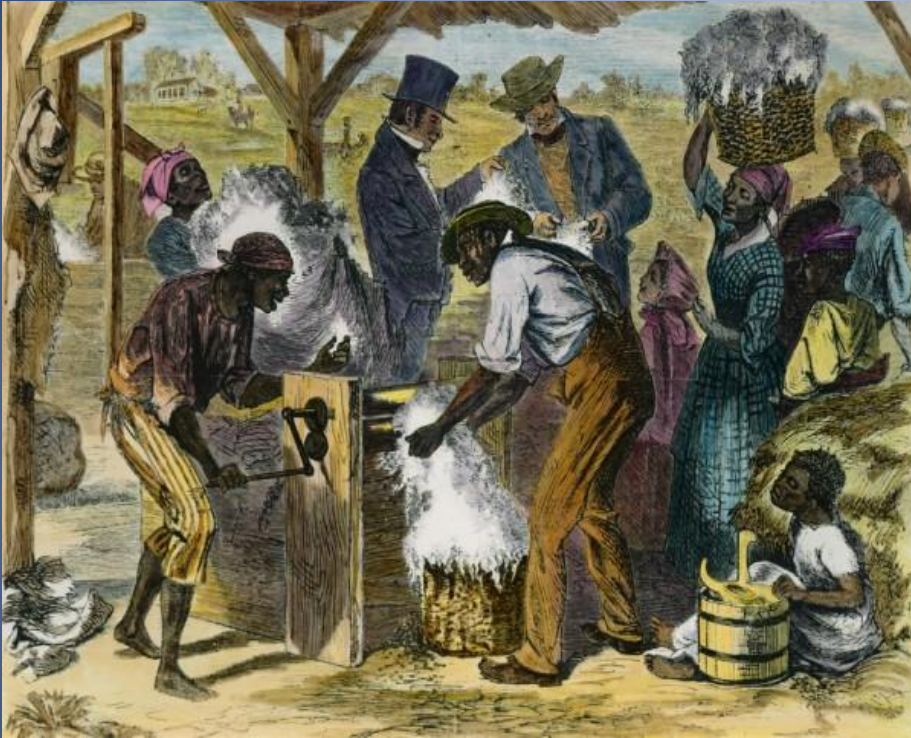


The first settlers of America



Smoking was becoming very fashionable, and the Americans found a big market for their tobacco in Europe.

The first settlers of America



Later on, the slaves were used for work on cotton fields , too.



The first settlers of America



Mayflower

In 1620, another group of 101 men, women and children arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts. We know these people as 'Pilgrims' or 'Pilgrim Fathers'. They were not agree with the Church of England, so they sailed to America in a ship called the Mayflower.



The first settlers of America

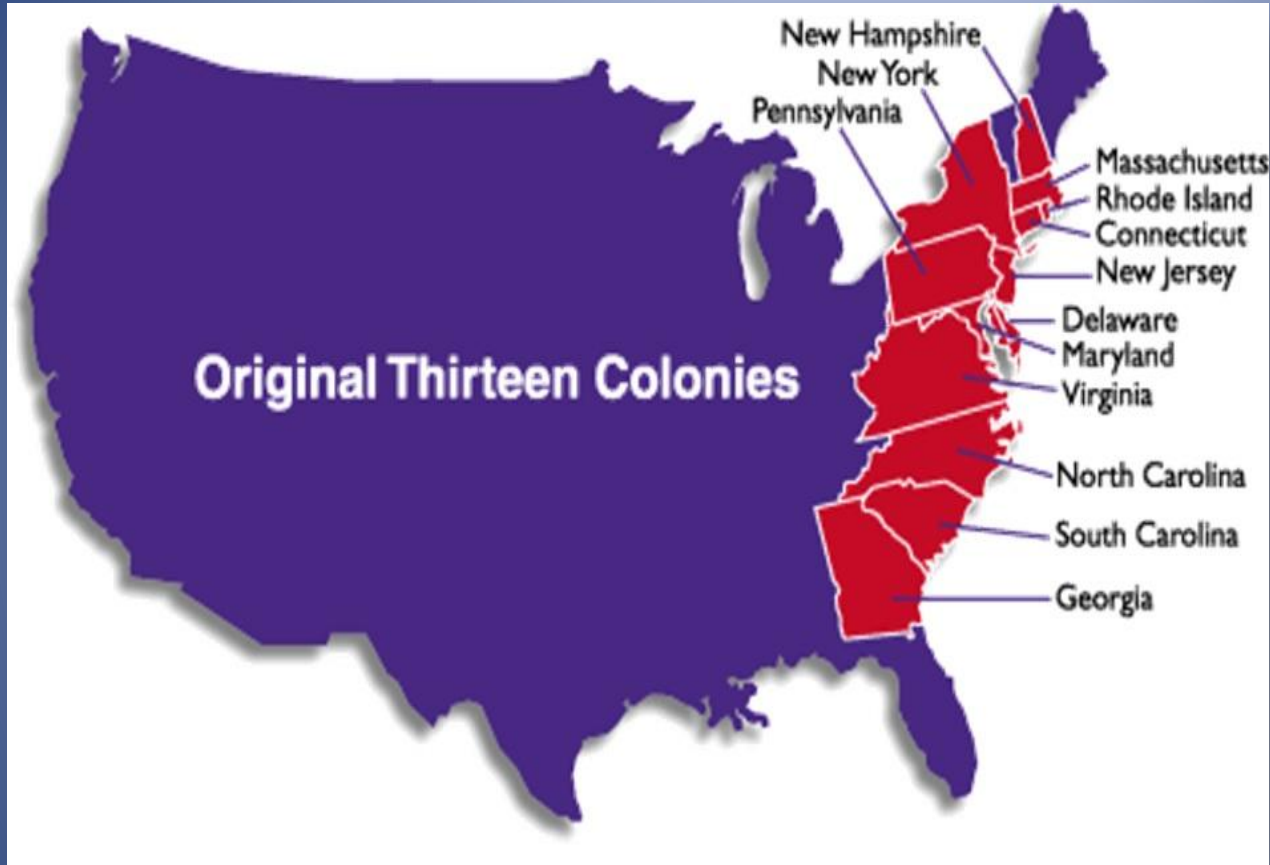


The Pilgrims did not have slaves because they thought all men were equal. They also suffered from hunger and illnesses, and nearly half of them died in the first year.

But the Pilgrims were helped by friendly Indians, who showed them how to grow corn. In the autumn of 1621, the Pilgrims had a big dinner to give thanks for the first harvest that they had grown themselves. This day became known as Thanksgiving, and Americans still celebrate it every year.



The War of Independence



By 1770, there were 13 colonies along the east coast of North America, all governed by Britain.

But Britain was a long way away, and the people of the colonies became angry at the high taxes of the British government.

The War of Independence



In December 1773 a group of men threw 342 boxes of tea into the sea at Boston because they did not want to pay the British tax on it. This was the 'Boston Tea Party'.

The Boston Tea Party

The War of Independence

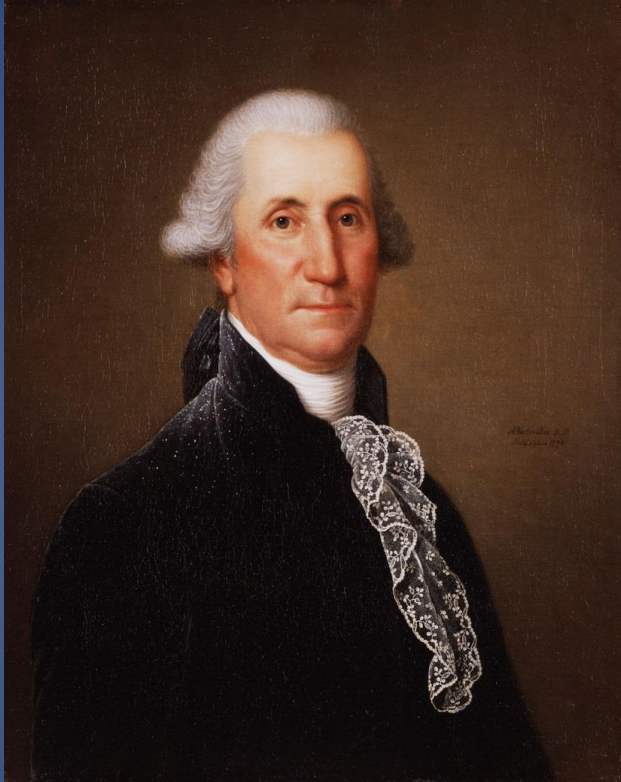


In April 1775 some Americans fought a group of British soldiers at Lexington and Concord, in Massachusetts.

A few months later, after the Battle of Bunker Hill, near Boston, it was clear that Britain was at war with Americans colonies.



The War of Independence



George Washington



A farmer from Virginia, George Washington, became the leader of the American Army.

The War of Independence



But the colonies did not say that they wanted to be fully independent until the summer of 1776.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the famous 'Declaration of Independence'.

The day of the Declaration of Independence is another important American holiday, celebrated each year on July 4.

The War of Independence



The Americans finally won the war five years later, in October 1781, and two years after that they were free to govern themselves.

In 1788 George Washington was elected by Americans as their first president.

The names 'United States of America' and 'Americans' were first used at the time of the War of Independence.

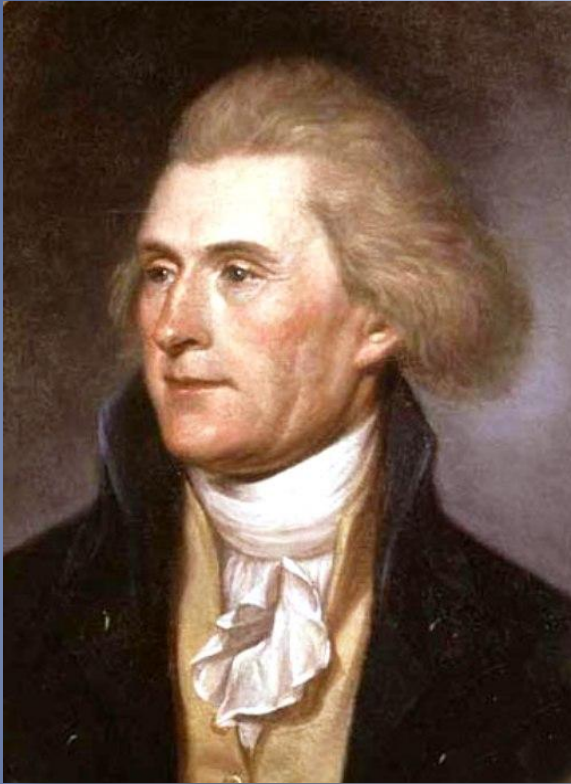
The War of Independence



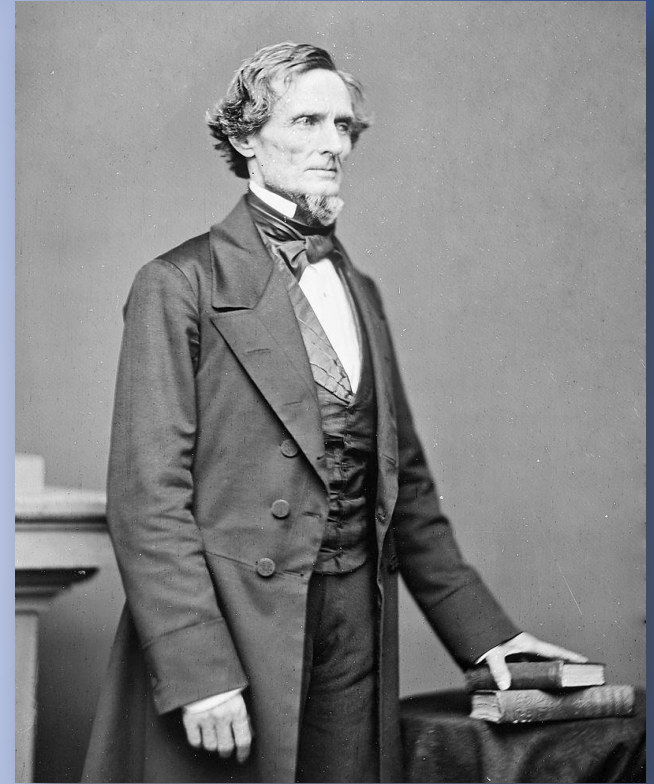
The first American flag

The American flag, the Stars and Stripes, also first appeared at that time. It has a stripe for each of the first thirteen states and a star is added when a new state joins, so there are now fifty stars.

Territorial acquisitions of the USA

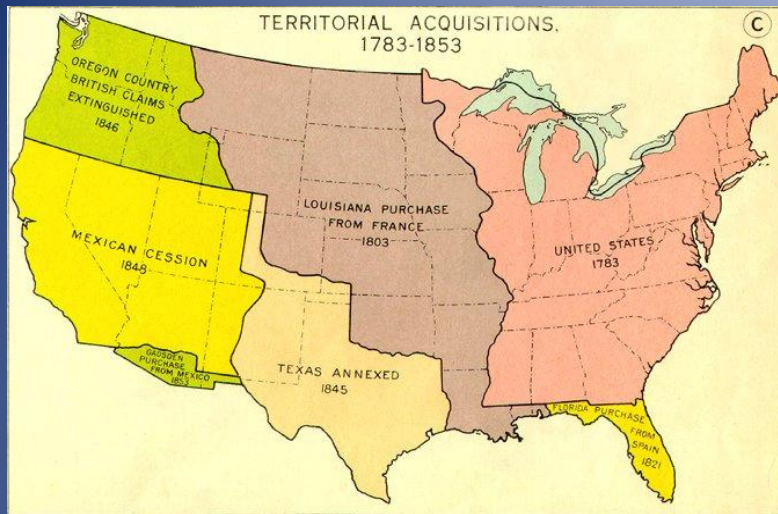


Thomas
Jefferson



The thirteen colonies, or states grew by adding land to the south and west. In 1803, Jefferson, the third president, bought a piece of rich farmland Louisiana in the mid-west from France. It was five times as big as France itself, and it only cost 15 million dollars.

Territorial acquisitions of the USA



In 1819, the USA bought Florida from Spain. And by 1848, after winning Texas and the West from Mexico, it had reached all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific, over 5,000 kilometres.



The Civil War



The great country of 31 million people was known as the Union, but in fact there were deep differences between the North and the South.

The Civil War



And in 1861 the Civil war broke out. At least 600,000 people died in the fighting or from illness. The war began because the southern states kept slaves to work in the cotton fields. Slaves were not allowed in the North, and the two sides argued about whether they should be allowed in the new lands of the West.

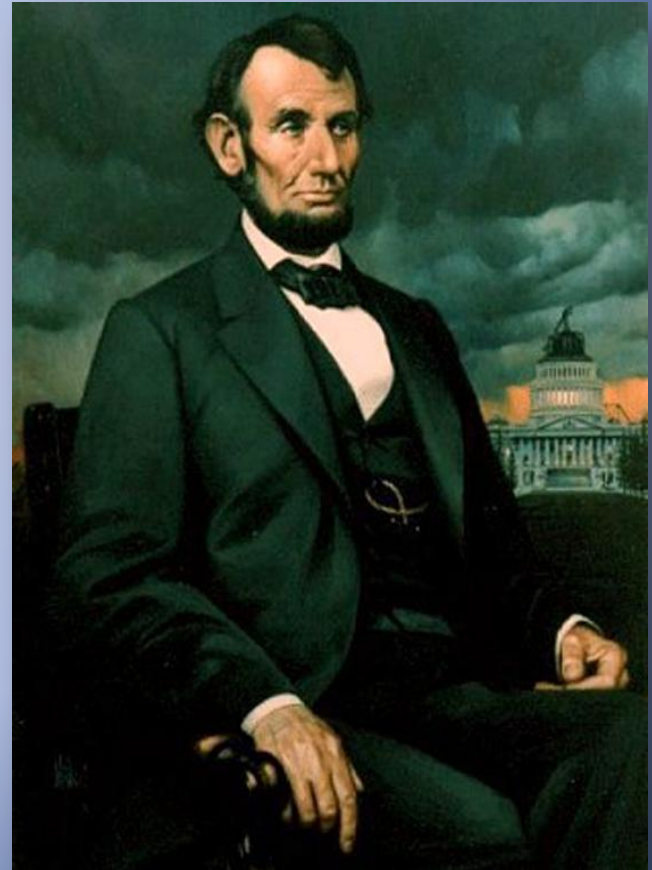


The Civil War

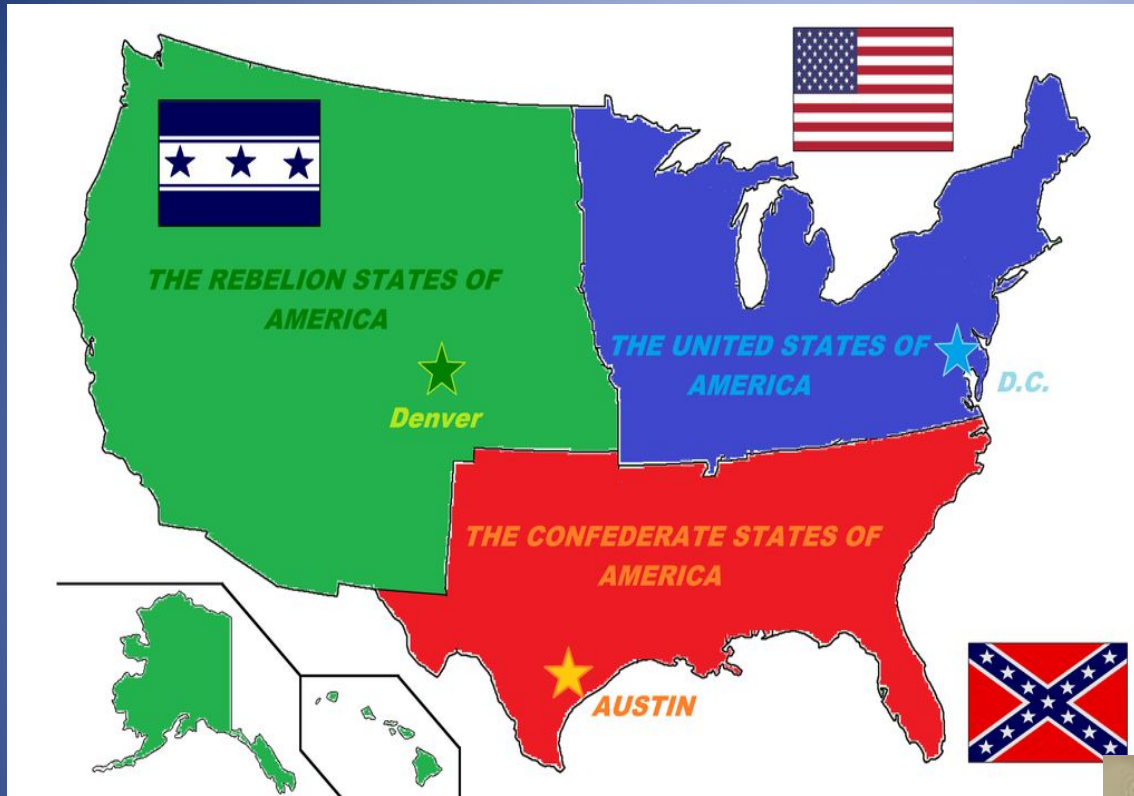
In 1860, Abraham Lincoln, who belonged to the Republican party, which was against keeping slaves, was elected president.



Abraham
Lincoln



The Civil War



On December 24, 1860 South Carolina said it wanted to be independent and the other southern states soon followed. They called themselves the 'Confederate States of America'.



The Civil War



The Civil War began on April 12, 1861, at Fort Sumter.

The Civil War

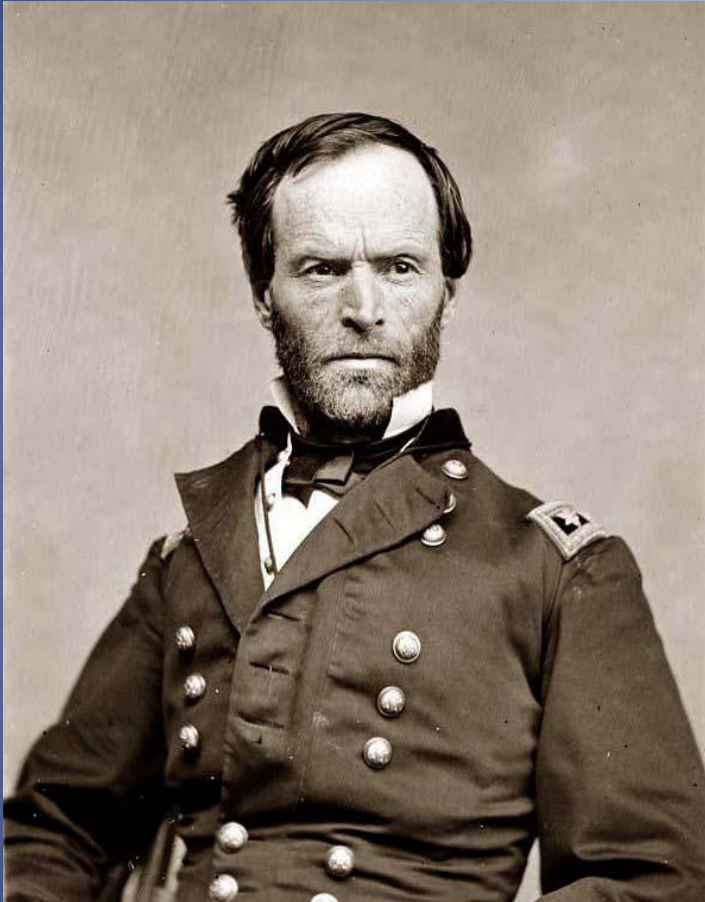


Robert E. Lee

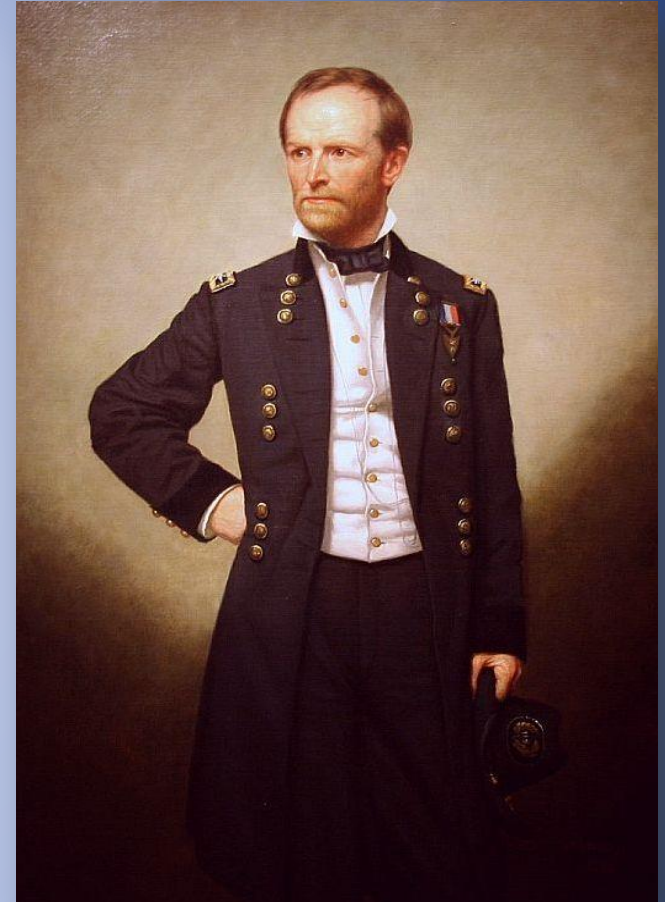


The South had some of the best generals – one of the great Robert E. Lee – and they had plenty of money from selling their cotton to England.

The Civil War

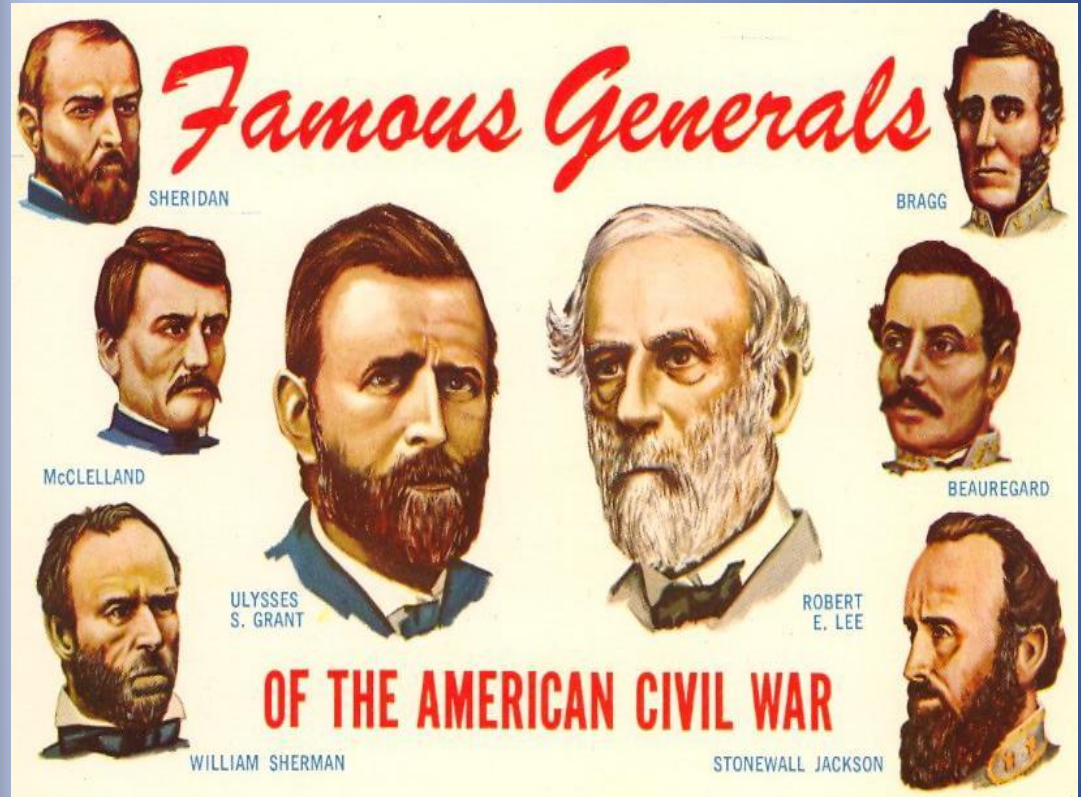
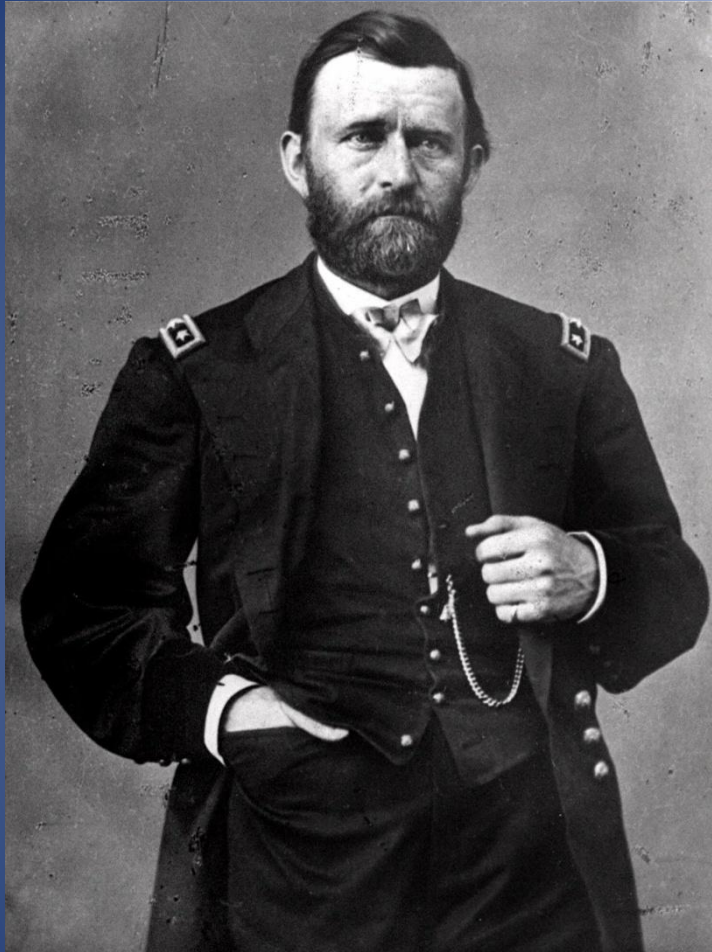


William Sherman



The North also had great generals. One of them was William Sherman. He took 60,000 of his soldiers on a journey from Atlanta, in Georgia, to the Atlantic coast and broke the Confederate states in two; after the war he became head of the American army.

The Civil War



General Ulysses S. Grant was one more great general who helped the North to win the war.

The Civil War



The North had more men, more factories and also A. Lincoln, one of the best presidents that the USA has ever had.

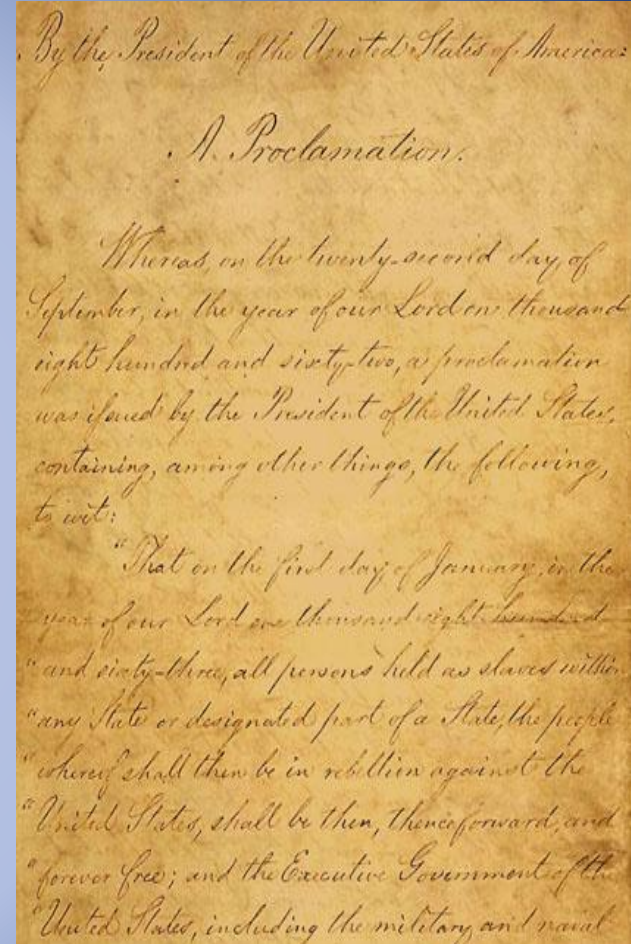
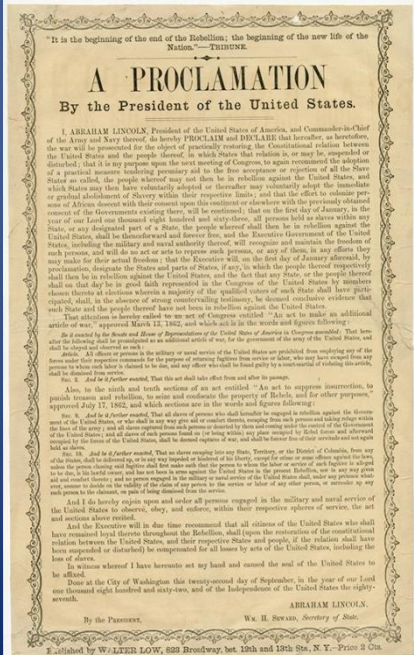
General Ulysses S. Grant represented the North at Appomattox in 1865, when the South, under Lee, accepted that they had lost the war. In 1868, Ulysses S. Grant became the 18th president of the USA.



The Liberation of slaves



On January the first, 1863, the Proclamation of Emancipation which gave freedom to Negro slaves in the US was signed by its author A. Lincoln.



The Liberation of slaves

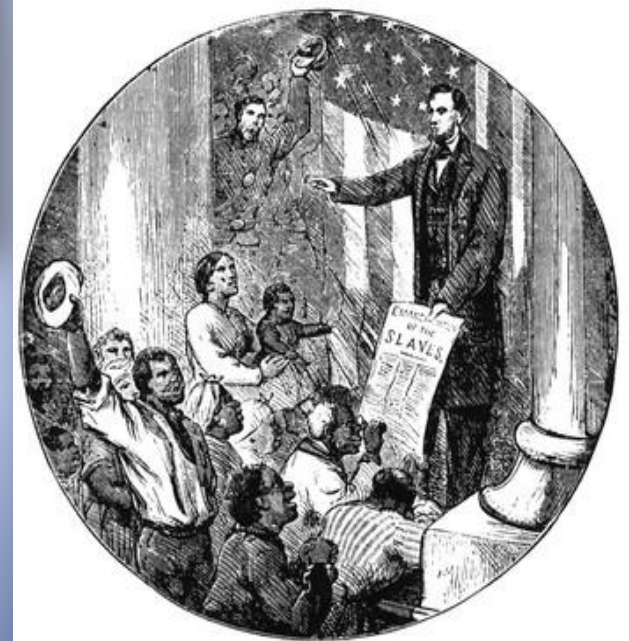


There were about 4 million slaves in 15 southern states. And they were liberated from the bondage.

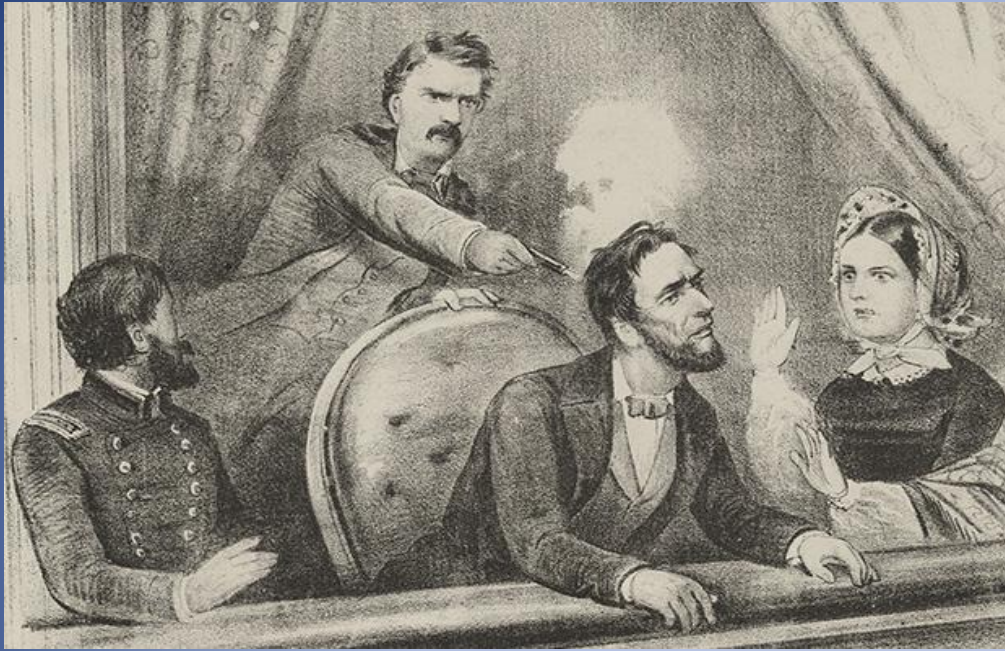
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF A Proclamation.

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our I
eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President
es, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand
sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part
le whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be t
, and forever, free; and the Executive government of the United States
ary and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom



The Liberation of slaves



There were many dissatisfied with this proclamation people. Sadly, in April 1865, just after the end of the war, Lincoln was shot at Ford's theatre by a man called John Wilkes Booth.

Lincoln died the next day.

After Lincoln's death the new president was not strong enough to bring the North and the South together. Anger and arguments, mostly about the rights of black people, continued.

Lincoln's funeral



The Wild West



During the 19th century , more and more people went to live in the West.

In fact there were few cowboys there – no more than 40,000 – and real cowboys did not shoot each other very often. A quarter of the cowboys were black or Mexican.



The Wild West



The cowboys took cows from Texas up to the railway towns in Kansas and Missouri to be killed for meat. They existed about 30 years from 1862 till 1900. Then this land was given by the government to farmers and their families.

The Wild West



There were about 2,000,000 Native Americans (or Indians) in America in the 15th century, when the Europeans started to colonize the country.

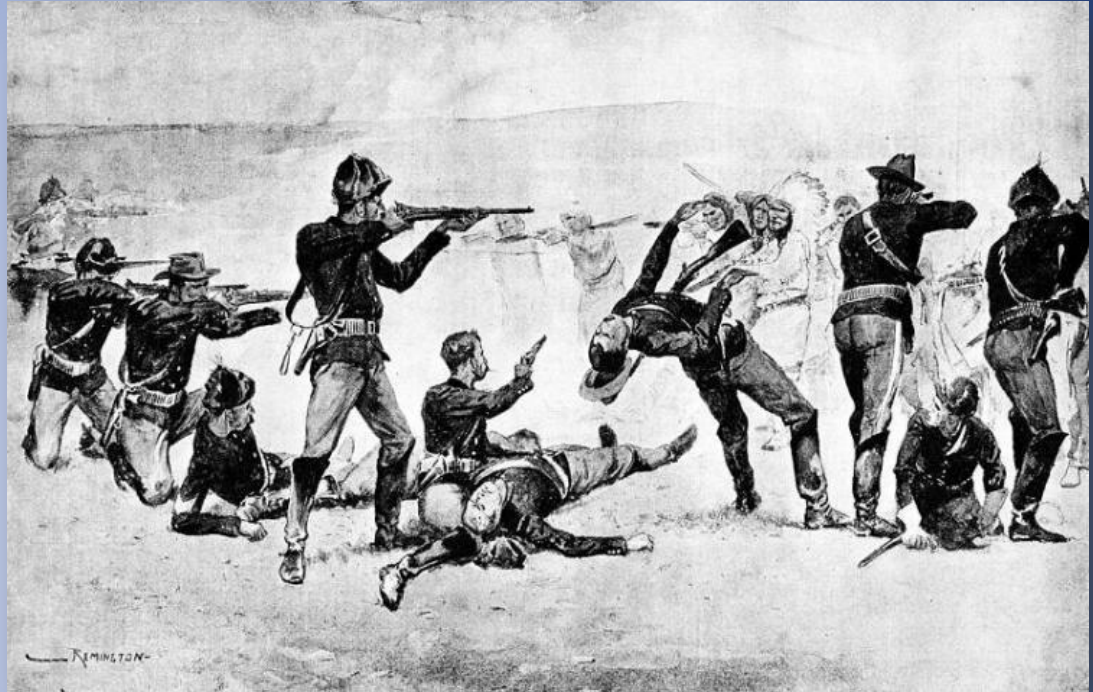
Sadly, the Europeans brought diseases which killed the Indians. They fought and killed the Indians, because they wanted to take their land for farms and railways.

By the 1900 there were less than 250,000 Native Americans.

The Wild West

The Indian wars ended in 1890 with the battle of Wounded Knee, when many Sioux men, women and children were killed by American soldiers. After this, Indians had to live in special places called 'reservations'.

Even today, many of the two million Native Americans live on reservations; they are often very poor and a lot of them do not have jobs.



The Wild West

Before the Europeans came to America there were about 60 million buffalo there. The Europeans shot millions of buffalo, so that it is said that by 1900 there were less than a thousand animals left in all of the USA.

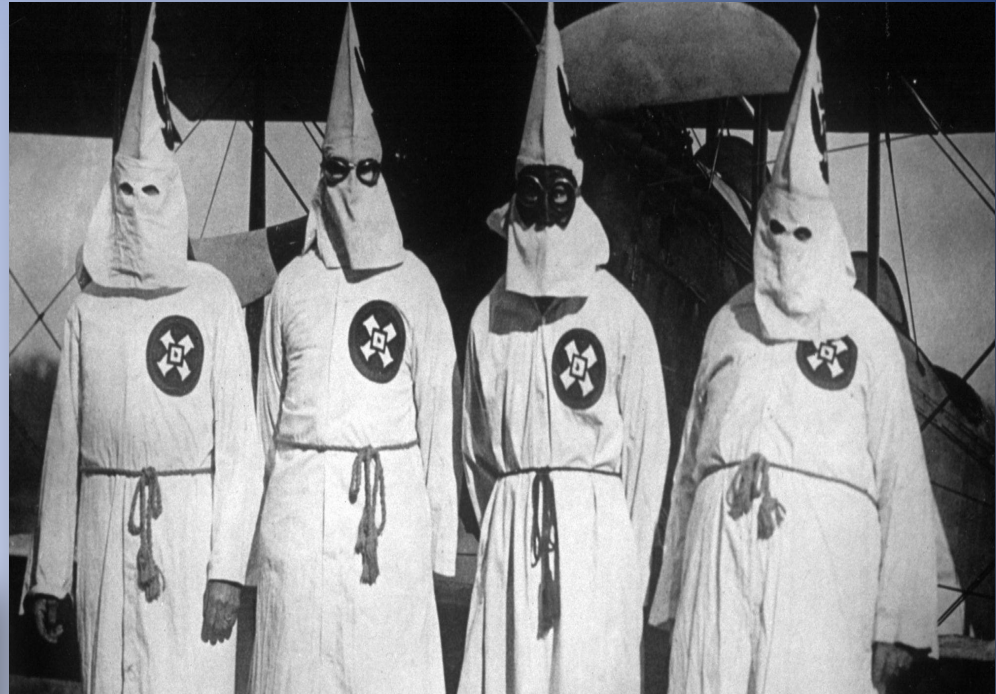


One very well-known hunter was Buffalo Bill Cody. They say that he shot 4,280 buffalo in one year!

Buffalo Bill

Discrimination of black Americans

After the Civil war the Southerners were angry that they had lost the war and angry that the slaves were free. They showed a lot of prejudice against black people.

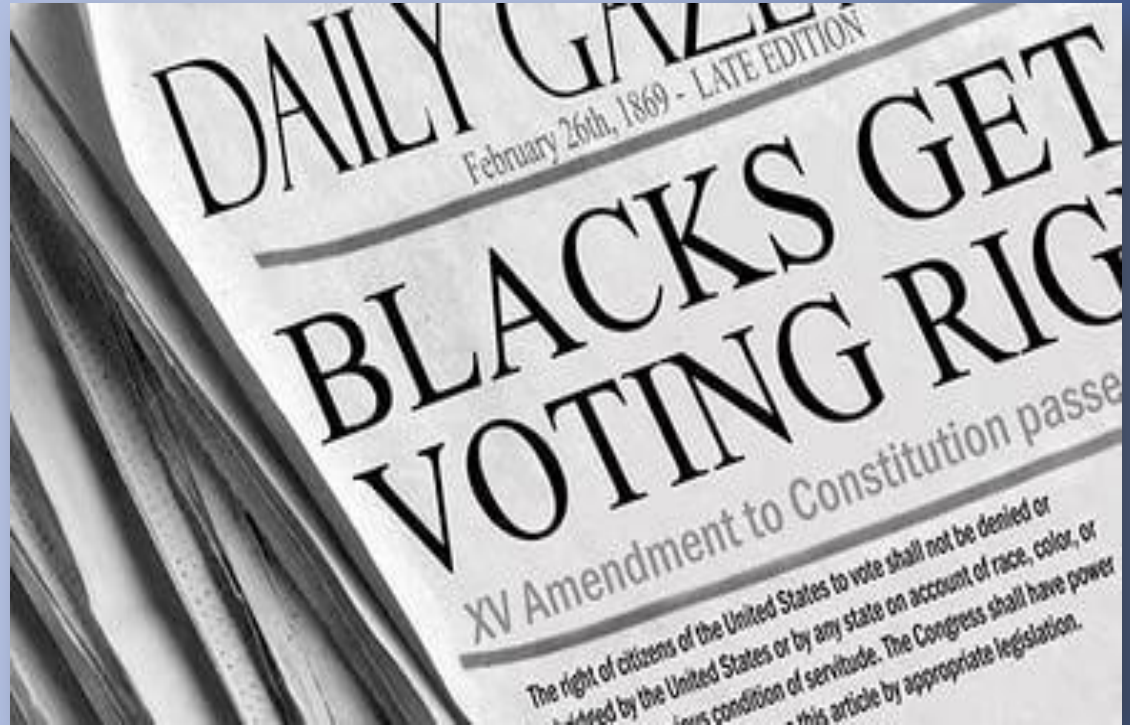


Some whites joined the Ku Klux Klan, groups of men who dressed in white and went out to beat and murder black people.

Discrimination of black Americans

Black men could not vote until 1870 and even later they often did not this right because they were frightened.

In the 20th century black people began to travel to the cities of the North to look for work, so there are now more black people in the North than in the South.



Discrimination of black Americans



But even in the North the black and white people lived separately.

Discrimination of black Americans



And in the South they had to sit separately on buses and eat in separate parts of restaurants. Until 1954, they also had to go to separate schools.



Discrimination of black Americans

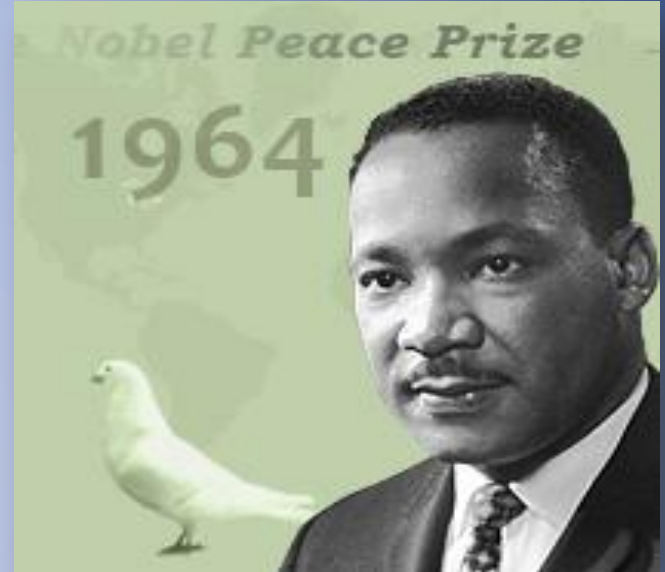


Groups of black people started to break the law, but not in a violent way; they refused to use buses, so that the bus companies lost money. They also went into 'whites only' restaurants. And in 1964, a law was passed giving black people their civil rights.

In 1950s, a churchman called Dr Martin Luther King began to fight for the civil rights of black people.



Discrimination of black Americans



In the same year Dr Martin Luther King was given the Nobel Peace Prize. Sadly, in 1968 Dr king was murdered.

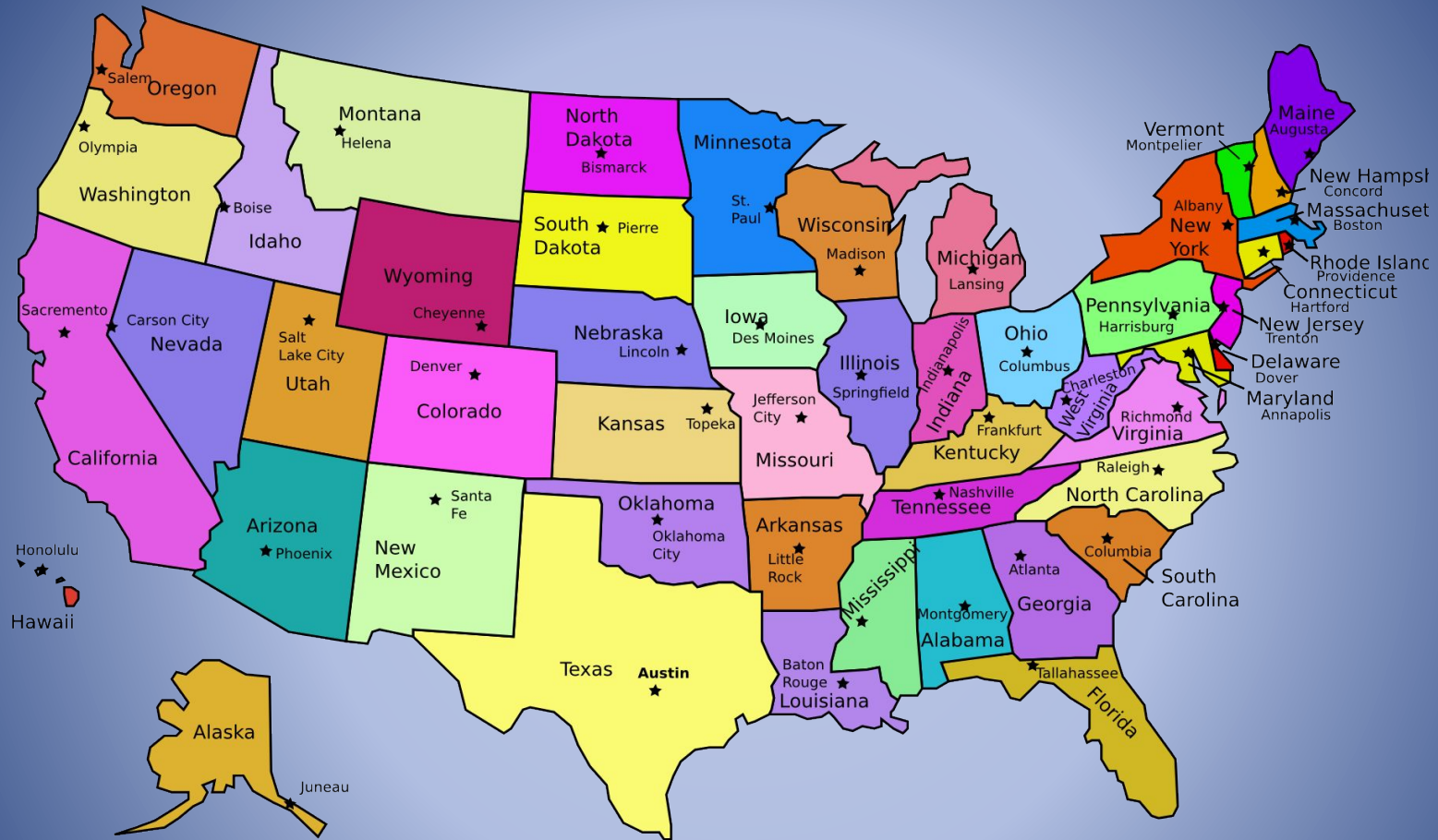
During the 1970s and 1980s, prejudice against black people slowly began to become less important, and many black people now have good jobs in business and government.

The present day USA



The United States of America economically is the most powerful country of the world.

The present day USA



The USA consists of fifty states, including Alaska and Hawaii, and the District of Columbia where the capital of the country (Washington D.C.) is situated. Each state has its own legislature. Head of State is President who is elected for a 4-year term and not more than two times.

The symbols of the states

