

SERIES CONSULTED BY
PROF. DARIUSZ WÓJCIK



Let's Visit

THE UNITED STATES

Photocopiable Resource
Book for Teachers



FULLY
PHOTOCOPIABLE

POLONSKY

Roman OCIEPA

Let's Visit the United States

Roman Ociepa

PHOTOCOPIABLE

RESOURCE BOOK FOR TEACHERS

POLONSKY

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UNIT 2

Animals and Plants of the United States

TASK 2.1

Let's see what you know

Answer the following questions.

1. What type of climate does the United States have?
2. What did the United States look like before the first colonists reached it?
3. What is the largest animal living in the United States?
4. Where are subtropical wetlands located in the United States?
5. What are the Great Plains occupied by?



The American bison can weigh over 1000 kg and run over 60 kph.

TASK 2.2

Vocabulary strip

Read the definition and choose the best answer.

1. to cut down trees and prepare them for building
a) swamp b) lumber
2. to eat grass in a field
a) carnivore b) graze
3. a very large quantity of something
a) abundance b) coniferous
4. a large area of land covered with sand or rocks, which is hot and dry
a) lumber b) desert
5. land that is always soft and wet
a) swamp b) graze
6. any warm-blooded animal of which the female gives birth to babies
a) mammal b) carrion
7. a large, flat area of land that is high above sea level
a) abundance b) plateau
8. relating to trees that bear cones and evergreen leaves
a) coniferous b) desert
9. the dead and rotting body of an animal
a) carrion b) mammal
10. an animal that eats meat
a) plateau b) carnivore



5
10
15
20
25
30

Due to its vastness, the area of the United States includes most climate types, from arctic to tropical. Its ecology is considered 'megadiverse,' which means that it is characterised by an **abundance** of different animal and plant species. Many of them are endemic, i.e. they do not live outside the United States.

Originally, the eastern United States was one complex deciduous forest consisting of spruce, fir, hemlock, pine and oak. However, colonists managed to clear most of it, mostly for farming and **lumbering**. The last subtropical wilderness in the US is the Everglades in Florida. These wetlands are a world of sloughs, marshes, **swamps** and mangrove forests. The Great Plains are occupied mainly by grasslands which extend westward to the Rocky Mountains. Here, the plant cover is made up of many kinds of herbs and grasses.

The Southwest **deserts** are vast expanses of sage, scrub, agaves, yuccas and cacti. The Joshua tree and the giant saguaro cactus are among the largest of the desert plants. The mountains and high **plateaus** of the Rockies, Cascades and Sierra Nevada are covered with **coniferous** forests, and the main trees here are pine trees, redwood trees, and varieties of firs and cedars. The redwood is an evergreen tree that lives 1200–1800 years or more. The current tallest tree in the world is Hyperion, a coast redwood measuring over 379 feet (over 115 meters). It was discovered in Redwood National Park, in the summer of 2006.


The variety of wildlife existing in the United States is also enormous. One of the animals traditionally associated with this country is the American buffalo, also known as the American bison. The buffalo once **grazed** in large herds on the prairies of North America and were essential for the survival of the early Native Americans.

Black bears, grizzly bears and polar bears are large **carnivores** which can be found in the western regions of North America. Among other large **mammals** are native deer such as the mule deer, moose, caribou and American elk. The American caribou is another animal historically associated with the earliest days of North America. It is a member of the deer family adapted to survive in harsh winter conditions.

Perhaps the two best known bird species of North America are the Californian condor and the American black vulture. The former is the largest flying land bird in North America, whereas the latter is probably the world's most hated scavenger that feeds on **carrion**. Other birds of prey are hawks, owls and eagles.

Key facts


- The climate in the United States ranges from arctic to tropical.
- The American bison is the largest land animal in the Americas.
- The Californian condor is the largest flying land bird in North America.

TASK 2.3 

Comprehension Questions

Decide whether the following sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The climate of the United States is not varied. | T | F |
| 2. American animal and plant life is scarce. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. All the original forests were cleared by the colonists. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Wetlands can be found in the south-east of the US. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The largest desert plant is the agave. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The Rockies, Cascades and Sierra Nevada are covered with evergreen forests. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. The buffalo live in big groups. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Grizzly bears eat meat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. The American caribou can tolerate low temperatures. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. The American black vulture eats only fresh meat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

TASK 2.4 

Word-building

Use the word in brackets to form a new word that fits in the gap. Then go back to the text and find six words from this exercise. Which words do not appear in the text?

- Before we decided to buy new bookcases we took _____ of the room. (MEASURE)
- Karen's boyfriend is a dedicated _____. (MOUNTAIN)
- It took them five days to cross the _____ terrain. (MOUNTAIN)
- The doctor gave Mike a one-in-six chance of _____. (SURVIVE)
- Our company has been in _____ for over seventy years. (EXIST)
- We followed the _____ path for about six hours. (ROCK)
- The _____ began by clearing land and erecting simple huts. (COLONY)
- They grow many _____ of roses here. (VARY)
- Although some characters are real, this TV series makes no attempt to be _____ accurate. (HISTORY)
- Many _____ can survive in extremely dry environments. (CACTUS)

The words which do not appear in the text are _____, _____, _____ and _____.

TASK 2.5 

Collocations with mountain

Complete each sentence with one word. Use its plural form if necessary.

- We could see the climbers high up on the mountain_____.
- A vehicle with two wheels made for riding on hills and rough ground is called a mountain _____.
- The states of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and Montana are called Mountain _____.
- The standard time in the US in the Rocky Mountains is called Mountain _____.
- Mountain _____ is illegally distilled alcohol, such as whisky or rum.
- Mountain _____ is the informal name for West Virginia.
- The mountain _____ is a large, brown, wild cat also known as puma or cougar.
- An animal with thick, white hair and horns that lives in the Rocky Mountains is called a mountain _____.
- The mountain _____ is the highest part of the mountain.
- A mountain _____ is a series of mountains or lines of mountains.



How to read numbers

Dates

19th c. – **the** nineteenth century
2006 – two thousand **and** six

Numbers

1200 – twelve hundred / one **thousand** two hundred
1800 – eighteen hundred / one **thousand** eight hundred
20-30 million – twenty **to** thirty million

Weight

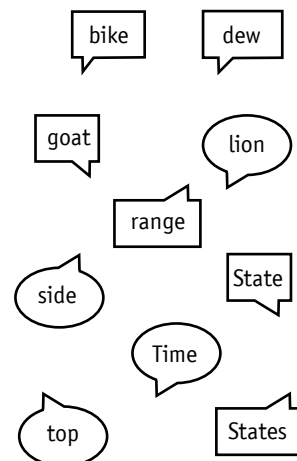
1000 kg – one **thousand** kilograms

Height

115 m – one hundred **and** fifteen meters
379 ft – three hundred **and** seventy nine feet

Speed

60 kph – sixty kilometers **per** hour



TASK 2.6 

Over to you

Think about the animals and plants of your country and make notes under those headings. Then tell your partner/group about your country. Alternatively, write a short description.

Name of the country:	_____	Popular plant(s):	_____
Typical landscape(s):	_____	Largest tree(s):	_____
Largest land animal(s):	_____	Popular fruit(s):	_____
Largest bird(s):	_____	Dangerous animal(s):	_____
Typical wild animal(s):	_____	Rare animal(s):	_____

TASK 2.7 

Let's retell the story

Use the words and expressions to make meaningful sentences. Modify the words and add articles, auxiliaries, connectors and prepositions if necessary. Do not change the order of the words given.

1. area / United States / include / most / climate / type

2. many / animal / plant / species / not / live / outside / United States

3. originally / eastern / United States / be / one complex deciduous forest

4. Everglades / Florida / be / world / slough / marsh / swamp / mangrove forest

5. plant cover / Great Plains / be / make up / many / kind / herb / grass

6. desert / Southwest / be / vast / expanse / sage / scrub / agave / cactus

7. Rockies / Cascades / Sierra Nevada / be / cover / coniferous forest

8. redwood / be / evergreen tree / that / live / 1200–1800 / year

9. bear / be / large / carnivore / which / can / be / find / western / region / North America


10. American caribou / be / member / deer family / adapted / survive / harsh / winter condition

11. Californian condor / be / largest / flying / land bird / North America


12. American / black / vulture / feed / carrion




Writing hints

 **Hint 1**


When you talk or write about a country in general, use **Present Simple**, e.g. *The United States lies between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.*

 **Hint 2**


When you talk or write about regions connected with parts of the world, put **the** before them, e.g. *the West, the Southeast.*

 **Hint 3**

When you talk or write about mountain ranges, put **the** before the name, e.g. *the Rocky Mountains, the Andes.*

 **Hint 4**

When you want to introduce some variety into your writing, use **passive voice with can**, e.g. *This plant can be found near lakes.*

 **Hint 5**

When you talk or write about species of plants or animals in **singular**, put **the** before the name, e.g. *The porcupine eats leaves, herbs, twigs and green plants.*

TASK 2.8  

Highlight

Read the text and circle the correct article. If no article is necessary, circle -.

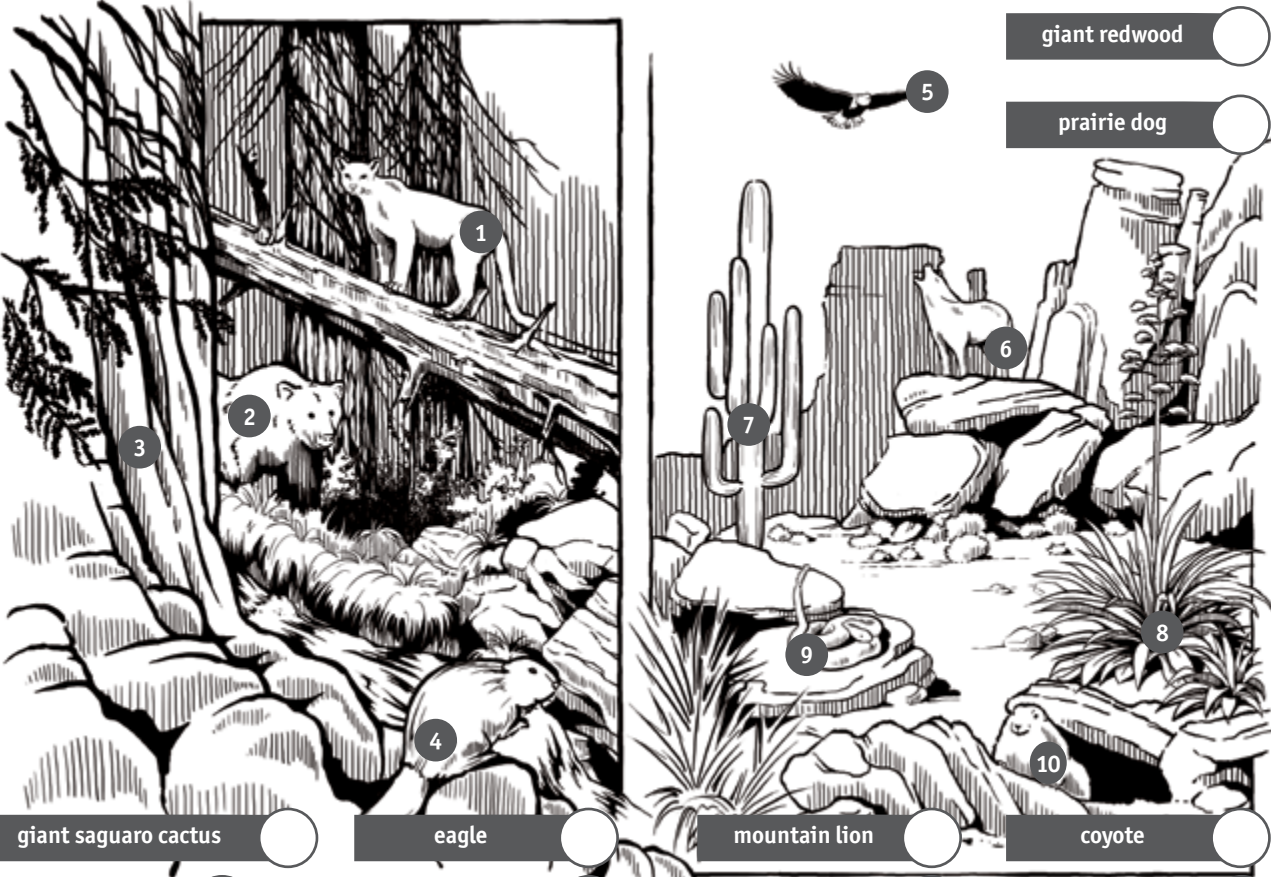
The American Bison

The American bison, also known as the American buffalo, is one of **1. - / the** largest animals found in **2. - / the** North America. It is **3. a / the** strong animal that is characterized by a massive frame, short legs and a large shoulder hump. It has **4. a / the** broad forehead and up-curving horns. The front part of the bison's body is covered with very thick and shaggy fur. However, on **5. the / a** rear part the fur is noticeably shorter and lighter in color. An adult bison can weigh over one thousand kilograms, and it can run over sixty kilometers per hour. It is estimated that **6. - / the** original population of the bison was 20-30 million. However, over the course of **7. - / the** 19th century, it was reduced to fewer than one million captive and wild animals. **8. The / -** reasons for this rapid decrease were **9. a / -** commercial hunting, domestic cattle diseases and slaughter. Nowadays, the bison population is growing again, thanks to **10. the / an** efforts of wildlife conservation groups.

TASK 2.9 

Fun corner

Use the words below and label each element of the picture.



giant redwood

prairie dog

giant saguaro cactus

rattlesnake

eagle

beaver

mountain lion

grizzly bear

coyote

agave

TASK 2.10 

What do you remember?

Answer the following questions.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What kinds of climate does the United States have? 2. What happened to the original forests of the East? 3. Where is the last subtropical wilderness located in the US? 4. What plants can be found in the desert areas of the Southwest? 5. What type of forests is present in the Rockies, Cascades and Sierra Nevada? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. What kind of native deer can be found in the US? 7. What type of animals are black bears, grizzly bears and polar bears? 8. What is the American black vulture famous for? 9. What was the size of the original bison population? 10. Why was the number of American bison reduced? |
|---|--|

UNIT 1

Task 1.1

1. The United States is situated in North America, between Mexico and Canada. 2. The 'lower forty-eight' states are the forty-eight states which lie between Canada and Mexico. 3. Alaska and Hawaii are the two states that are geographically separated from the continental United States. 4. The Mississippi is the largest river in the United States. 5. Lake Superior is the largest lake in the United States.

Task 1.2

1. b) hemisphere 2. b) valley 3. a) rugged 4. a) diversity 5. a) hurricane 6. a) capital 7. b) flatlands 8. a) contiguous 9. b) arid 10. b) tornado

Task 1.3

1. F 2. T 3. T 4. T 5. F 6. F 7. T 8. T 9. T 10. T

Task 1.4

1. continental 2. hugeness 3. hilly 4. remaining 5. vastly 6. diversity 7. coldness 8. inseparable 9. directly 10. length

The words which appear in the text are *remaining, directly, diversity* and *continental*.

Task 1.5

1. state's attorney 2. state visit 3. state university 4. state secret 5. stateroom 6. state of emergency 7. state-of-the-art 8. prisoner of state 9. state house 10. state of mind

Task 1.7

- The United States is a country on the continent of North America in the western hemisphere.
- The United States is bordered by Canada to the north and Mexico to the south.
- The state of Alaska does not directly border on any other US state.
- The state of Hawaii occupies an archipelago in the mid-Pacific.
- The total area of the United States is over 9.83 million square kilometers.
- Hurricanes are common occurrences in the states bordering the Gulf of Mexico.
- In the east of North America, there is a long range of hills and low mountains called the Appalachians.
- The Rocky Mountains extend from Alaska through Canada to New Mexico.
- The Sierra Nevada separate the state of California from the rest of the country.
- Washington is located on the Potomac River in the District of Columbia.
- The longest river is the Mississippi River at 3,780 kilometers.
- Lake Superior is largest lake in the US and the world's largest freshwater lake.

Task 1.8

1. in 2. of 3. to 4. as 5. to 6. in 7. with 8. as 9. of 10. from

Task 1.9

1. Appalachian Mountains 2. Atlantic Ocean 3. Sierra Nevada 4. Mexico 5. Hawaii 6. Alaska 7. Rocky Mountains 8. Canada 9. Mississippi 10. Gulf of Mexico 11. Pacific Ocean 12. Great Plains

Task 1.10

- Mexico and Canada border the continental United States.
- The United States borders on the Atlantic Ocean in the east and the Pacific Ocean in the west.
- Forty-eight states constitute the continental United States.
- The state of Alaska situated in the northwest part of the North American continent.
- The state of Hawaii is an archipelago in the Pacific Ocean.
- The Appalachians are a mountain range in the east of the United States.
- The Rocky Mountains are located in the west of the United States.
- Washington, D.C. is the capital of the United States.
- Yosemite National Park is located in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California.
- Half Dome and El Capitan are the most famous rock formations in Yosemite National Park.

UNIT 2

Task 2.1

1. The United States has many different types of climate. 2. The eastern part of the United States was one huge forest. 3. The buffalo, also known as the American bison, is the largest animal living in the United States. 4. Subtropical wetlands are located in Florida. 5. The Great Plains are occupied mainly by grasslands.

Task 2.2

1. b) lumber 2. b) graze 3. a) abundance 4. b) desert 5. a) swamp 6. a) mammal 7. b) plateau 8. a) coniferous 9. a) carrion 10. b) carnivore

Task 2.3

1. F 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. F 6. T 7. T 8. T 9. T 10. F

Task 2.4

1. measurements 2. mountaineer 3. mountainous 4. survival 5. existence 6. rocky 7. colonists 8. varieties 9. historically 10. cacti/cactuses

The words which do not appear in the text are *measurements, mountaineer, mountainous* and *existence*.

Task 2.5

1. mountainside 2. mountain bike 3. Mountain States 4. Mountain Time 5. mountain dew 6. Mountain State 7. mountain lion 8. mountain goat 9. mountain top 10. mountain range

Task 2.7

- The area of the United States includes most climate types.
- Many animal and plant species do not live outside the United States.
- Originally, the eastern United States was one complex deciduous forest.
- The Everglades in Florida are a world of sloughs, marshes, swamps and mangrove forests.
- The plant cover of the Great Plains is made up of many kinds of herbs and grasses.
- The deserts of the Southwest are vast expanses of sage, scrub, agaves and cacti.
- The Rockies, Cascades and Sierra Nevada are covered with coniferous forests.
- The redwood is an evergreen tree that lives 1200–1800 years.
- Bears are large carnivores which can be found in the western regions of North America.
- The American caribou is a member of the deer family adapted to survive in harsh winter conditions.
- The Californian condor is the largest flying land bird in North America.
- The American black vulture feeds on carrion.

Task 2.8

1. the 2. – 3. a 4. a 5. the 6. the 7. the 8. The 9. – 10. the

Task 2.9

1. mountain lion 2. grizzly bear 3. giant redwood 4. beaver 5. eagle 6. coyote 7. giant saguaro cactus 8. agave 9. rattlesnake 10. prairie dog

Task 2.10

- The US climate varies from arctic to tropical.
- The original forests of the East were cleared for farming and lumbering.
- The last subtropical wilderness in the US is the Everglades in Florida.
- Sage, scrub, agaves, yuccas and cacti can be found in the desert areas of the Southwest.
- Coniferous forests are present in the Rockies, Cascades and Sierra Nevada.
- The mule deer, moose, caribou and American elk can be found in the US.
- Black bears, grizzly bears and polar bears are large carnivores.
- The American black vulture is a scavenger that feeds on carrion.
- The original bison population was around 20–30 million.
- The number of American bison was reduced due to hunting, domestic cattle diseases and slaughter.

UNIT 15

Task 15.1

1. The first TV station in the US started in 1928. 2. The Big Three Television Networks are NBC, ABC and CBS. 3. Ted Turner founded Cable News Network (CNN). 4. MTV was launched in 1981. 5. Around 4,000 TV stations operate in the United States.

Task 15.2

1. b) satellite 2. a) authority 3. a) broadcast 4. a) channel 5. b) major 6. b) committee 7. a) network 8. b) profit 9. a) found 10. a) launch

Task 15.3

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. F 5. F 6. T 7. T 8. T 9. F 10. F

Task 15.4

1. constantly 2. non-profit 3. domination 4. entertainment 5. unpaid 6. viewers 7. originality 8. unencrypted 9. operation 10. initially
The words which do not appear in the text are *operation*, *originality* and *unpaid*.

Task 15.5

1. hot-air balloon 2. air freshener 3. air ambulance 4. off the air 5. air mattress 6. air shows 7. air rage 8. open-air 9. air force 10. air raids

Task 15.7

- For almost a century, television has served as one of the main sources of information and entertainment in the US.
- On July 2, 1928, the first TV station started broadcasting in Washington, DC.
- Initially, the quality of broadcast was low but it constantly improved.
- Nowadays, viewers may access television using over-the-air broadcast or satellite broadcast.
- NBC, ABC and CBS are the original three major television networks in the US.
- The domination of the Big Three was broken when Fox Broadcasting Company was established in 1987.
- Currently, Fox is considered to be the fourth major television network.
- In 1975, HBO became the first cable network to be broadcast nationwide by satellite transmission.
- In 1980, Ted Turner founded Cable News Network.
- In 1981, Music Television was launched.
- MTV's purpose was to play music videos 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Surprisingly, there is no public or federally operated broadcasting authority in the US.

Task 15.8

1. and 2. who 3. who 4. With 5. At first 6. eventually 7. also 8. and 9. which 10. also

Task 15.9

Horizontally:

1. actress 2. profit 3. award 4. adult 5. satellite 6. broadcast 7. century 8. comedy 9. channel 10. viewer 11. authority

Vertically:

12. icon 13. direct 14. station 15. cable 16. theme 17. nationwide 18. struggle 19. network

Task 15.10

- The first TV station started broadcasting in Washington, DC.
- The TV standard across the US is a 525-line broadcast.
- The original three television networks are called the Big Three Television Networks.
- Fox Broadcasting Company was established in 1987.
- HBO started broadcast by satellite transmission in 1975.
- Cable News Network (CNN) was established in 1980.
- The purpose of MTV is to play music videos 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- The most-trusted national institution in the US is the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).
- The NBC network produced *Friends*.
- Friends* is about six young adults who live in Greenwich Village in New York City.

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Regardless of everything, all mistakes and faults in this book remain the sole responsibility of the author.

How to use *Let's Visit the United States*

The material in each unit provides enough input and practice for students to cover during a 90-minute lesson. The tasks are arranged in the order in which they should be carried out, but the teacher should feel free to omit and/or adapt any task to match the level and needs of her students, as well as to meet the limitations of time and space in the classroom.

The following points should be kept in mind while using this book:

- The two primary purposes of this book are to focus on providing factual information about the United States and to expand students' vocabulary range through a series of reading, listening, speaking, writing and lexical activities.
- Although grammar is neither presented nor practiced in the form of separate tasks, the Writing Hints boxes do contain some grammatical advice. It is up to the teacher to decide whether she wants to expand it or not.
- While it may seem that there is a lot of repetition of factual material in each unit, it was the author's deliberate decision. Typically, the factual material presented in the texts will be new to students, so they should be given enough time to process and digest it.
- All texts in this book are recorded, so Tasks 3 and 8 may also be done as listening activities or a combination of reading and listening. For example, the teacher may ask students to solve Task 8 individually or in pairs, and then play the recording for the students to check their answers.
- Task 7 is designed as guided writing but the teacher may choose to use it as a speaking activity with more proficient students. In such case, the clues given become a plan for a short oral presentation.
- Conversely, Task 6 (i.e. Speaking) may be used as a writing activity to be done in class or set as homework.

However, these points should be treated only as suggestions. Approaching this book in a flexible and creative way is strongly encouraged by the author.

Those interested in updates on the author's current ventures may follow his blog at www.onamor.pl.

For extra activities, quizzes and vocabulary lists, please visit www.polonsky.pl

Good luck and enjoy exploring the United States!

	Unit	Collocations	Over to You	Highlight		Fun Corner
1	The Geography of the United States	state	Geography	<i>Yosemite National Park</i>	prepositions	Map of the United States
2	Animals and Plants of the United States	mountain	Animals and Plants	<i>The American Bison</i>	articles	Pictures of American Animals and Plants
3	The Symbols of the United States	law	National Emblems	<i>Uncle Sam</i>	collocations	Pictures of American Symbols
4	The American People	world	Minorities	<i>Native Americans</i>	collocations	Pictures of Native Americans Camp
5	The History of the United States	ice	History	<i>Prohibition</i>	articles	Word Snake
6	America's Writers and Poets	death	Famous Writer	<i>Emily Dickinson</i>	articles	Odd-Man Out
7	American Sports	game	Famous Sportswoman or Sportsman	<i>Marcin Gortat</i>	prepositions	Word Search
8	New York City	center	Large City	<i>The World Trade Center</i>	articles	Word Snake
9	American Presidents	ground	Famous Leader	<i>Ronald Reagan</i>	prepositions	Crossword Puzzle
10	American Inventions	sale	Important Invention	<i>Adobe Photoshop</i>	linkers and adverbs	Crossword Puzzle
11	Cultural Icons	screen	Cultural Icons	<i>Robert Downey Jr.</i>	collocations	Crossword Puzzle
12	American Food	food	Traditional Dish	<i>The American Hamburger</i>	linkers and adverbs	How to Make a Classic All-American Burger
13	The Music of America	age	Music Band	<i>Metallica</i>	linkers and adverbs	Odd-Man Out
14	The American Automobile Industry	car	Cars	<i>The Chevrolet Corvette</i>	prepositions	Labeling Parts of Corvette Stingray Coupe
15	The TV Culture of America	air	Popular Television Program	<i>Friends Television Series</i>	linkers and adverbs	Word Search

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B1/B2

About the author



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About the series consultant



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