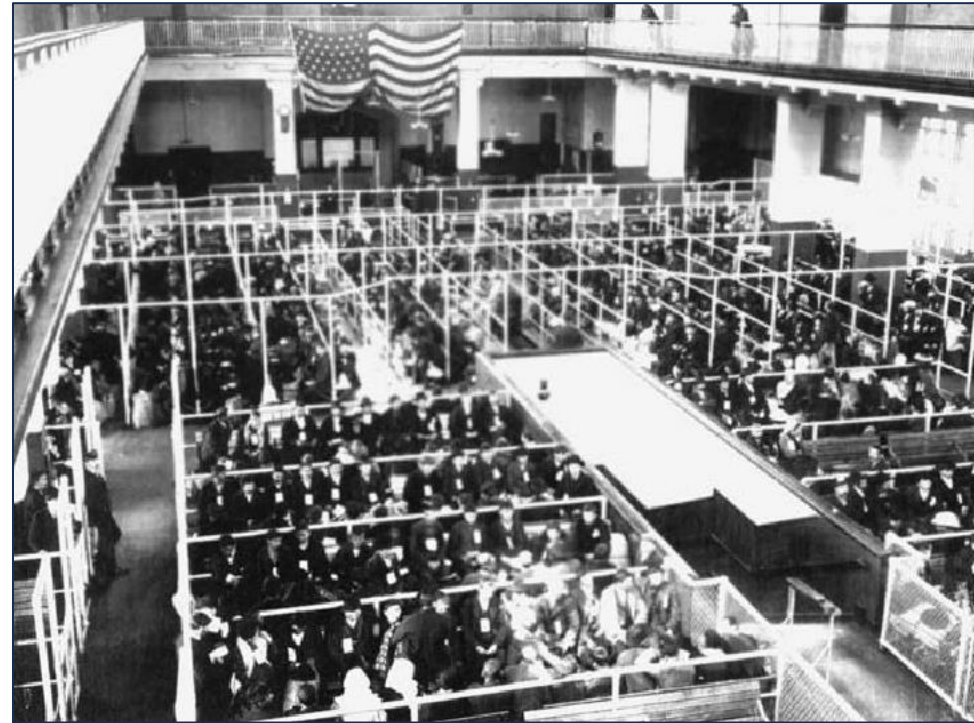


- The USA is across the Atlantic Ocean from Britain, in North America between Canada and Mexico.
- It's made up of 50 states, 48 connected, plus Alaska and Hawaii, which are separate from the main bit.
 - There are also five "territories" which belong to the USA, but aren't states, and have no representation in the country's government.
- It has the world's 3rd largest population. About 330,000,000 people live there.
- It's the world's fourth largest by area. It's about 9,834,000 square kilometers.



- Michele-Christine was born in Los Angeles in California, close to Disneyland and Hollywood.
- Her mom is from Houston, Texas. Which is famous for cowboys, fossil fuels, and spaceships.
- Her dad is from Boston, Massachusetts which is famous for...bad drivers



- Like most people in the USA, Michele-Christine's family comes from many different backgrounds.
- Her background is French, Belgian, English, Indian, German, and Italian.
- The USA is a country of immigrants. It's sometimes described as a "melting pot" of people from different places.
- Most people in the USA have ancestors from different countries if you go back just a few generations. It had open borders until 1882. Anyone could move to the USA if they wanted to. Now it has strict rules about who is allowed to move there, like most countries today.



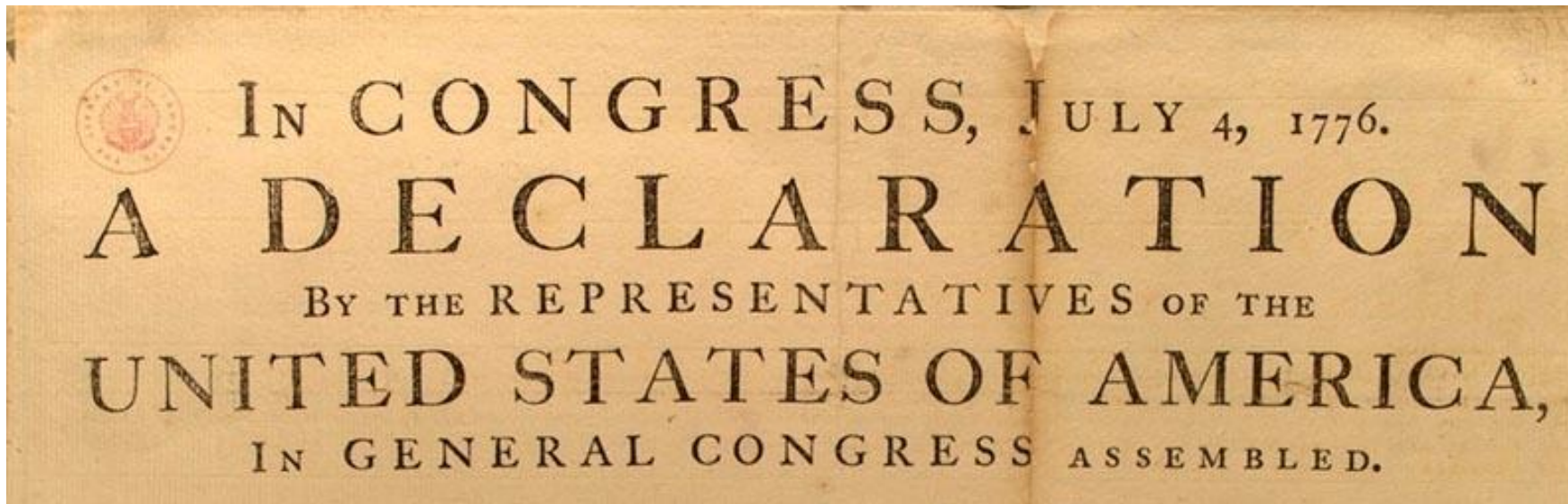
- The history of the USA is closely connected to Britain's history.
- The USA started out as a British colony. People from Britain took over the land from the indigenous American peoples who were living there, putting that land under the authority of the British government.
- Many of the British Colonists were "Puritans." They believed in a kind of Christianity that was very strict and which was also opposed to "bosses" in the Church, like Bishops and Popes.
- Part of their reason for leaving Britain was so that they could live in a society that fit their religious ideas. They were also interested in making money.



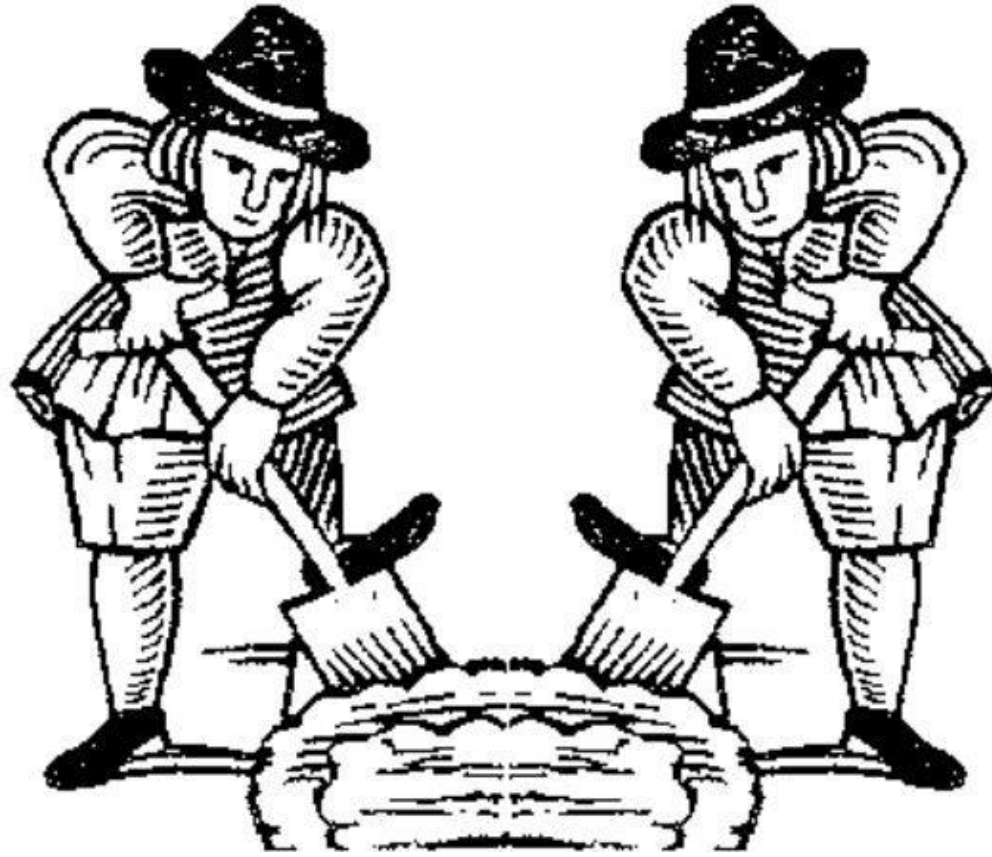
- The initial British colonists organised themselves into 13 different colonies. The 13 red and white stripes in the USA's flag represent those thirteen colonies. The 50 stars represent the 50 states.



- About 250 years ago, the colonists fought a war to separate from Britain and become their own country.
- The main reason was that the British government imposed taxes on the colonists.
- They imposed taxes mainly to pay for a war against the French, to expand their colonists' territory.
- Because the French had been Britain's enemy, they helped pay for the colonists to fight their war for independence from Britain.



- When the United States became its own country, representatives of the colonies agreed on a declaration of independence and a constitution.
- A constitution is a set of basic rules for how a country's government will work.
- Those two documents expressed a commitment to equality, freedom, and democracy that was very different from the ideas that the kingdoms in Europe were based on.
- Here is a statement of those important ideas, from the USA's declaration of independence:
- "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..."



- These ideas for the country were influenced by a civil war in England about 125 years earlier, where people became interested in the idea that all people are equal. Especially two political groups called the Levellers and the Diggers.



- At that time, the United States was a very long way from being true to those beautiful ideas, though.
- The country depended on an awful system of slavery. Slaves were used most of all to grow cotton, which their owners sold mainly to cloth makers in England.
- The USA had been formed by stealing land from Native Americans, and would go on to destroy their societies almost completely.
- Women were basically the property of their husbands, and had few rights.
- Though ordinary men could vote (if they weren't slaves), the country was governed almost entirely by rich people.
- It's much better now! But, like every place on earth, still has lots of serious problems.



- Many popular movies come from the US.
- All but 3 or 4 of the top 50 biggest money-making movies were made in the USA

Top 10 Pop Singers 2010 - 2020



- Lots of popular music comes from the US, including Beyoncé, Katy Perry, and Taylor Swift.



- There are lots of beautiful places in the USA.



- One of those beautiful places is yellowstone, which has a huge volcano underneath, which if it erupts would be 1000 times more violent than an ordinary volcanic eruption.



• Lots of important things have been invented in the USA---often by immigrants---many good, some horrible.

- a light bulb that could be mass produced
- cheap, mass produced cars
- sky scraper buildings
- airplanes
- telephones
- the internet
- napalm bombs
- nuclear bombs





- There are lots of very rich and famous companies from the USA
 - Amazon
 - Apple
 - Google
 - Ebay
 - ExxonMobil
 - Lockheed Martin
 - Disney
 - Microsoft
 - Facebook



- The USA is the second richest country in the world after China. That's if you add up how much everyone in the country can buy with the money they make in a year.
- The USA is the 98th most equal country in the world. Not as impressive!
- The USA is the 15th happiest country in the world. That's pretty good. The UK is number 19. Finland is number 1. Yay Finland!



Thank you for listening

And thank you...



Michele-Christine and your family for a wonderful assembly