YEAR 4 KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Across America: A Journey of Discovery

Hook: Passport USA | **Class reads:** King Kong – Anthony Browne; Kidnap on the California Comet – M. G. Leonard & Sam Sedgman

Big question: How are the USA and the UK similar and different?

London Gatwick → New York JFK

Learning this term:	History:	Geography:	Science:	French:	PSHE / No Outsiders:	DT:	RE:	Games:	PE:	Computing:	Music:
	Native American peoples	UK and USA; human and physical features	Electricity	Weather and Christmas	Valuing Difference; Dogs Don't Do Ballet	Electrical systems – torches	What did God promise his people?	Invasion skills and ball control	Dance – unison, canon and expression	Creating media – Audacity; online relationships	Kaboom rhythms; Christmas production

USA FACT FILE

- The USA is a country in North America.
- It has 50 states. Its capital is Washington, DC.
- Its landscapes include mountains, deserts, forests, lakes and cities.
- New York City has five boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island.
- The USA declared independence from Britain in 1776.





LANDMARKS TO DISCOVER

Physical features (natural)	Human features (made by people)
Grand Canyon	Statue of Liberty
Niagara Falls	Golden Gate Bridge
Redwood forests	Hoover Dam
Denali (Alaska)	Mount Rushmore

Physical features are natural. Human features are made or changed by people.

NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLES

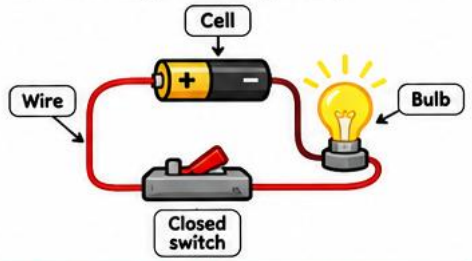
- Indigenous peoples lived in North America long before Europeans arrived.
- There are many different Native American nations, each with its own history and culture.
- European colonisation brought disease, conflict and loss of land. Many communities were forced to move.
- Native American peoples and cultures continue today.
- The Haudenosaunee (also called Iroquois) are a confederacy of six nations: Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora.



A traditional Haudenosaunee longhouse

SCIENCE: ELECTRICITY

- Appliances use mains electricity or batteries.
- A simple circuit needs a cell, wires and a component, such as a bulb.
- A bulb lights when the circuit forms a complete loop.
- A switch opens or closes the circuit.
- Conductors let electricity pass through; metals are good conductors.
- Insulators, such as plastic and rubber, do not let electricity pass through easily.



⚠ Use cells for classroom circuits. Never experiment with mains sockets or water.

KEY VOCABULARY

Capital	City where a country's government is based.
Climate	Usual weather over many years.
State	Part of a country with its own government.
Indigenous	Belonging to the original peoples of a place.
Landmark	An easily recognised feature.
Physical feature	A natural landscape feature.
Human feature	A feature made or changed by people.
Circuit	A complete path for electric current.

WE WILL BE ABLE TO...

- ✓ Locate the USA and compare it with the UK.
- ✓ Use maps and keys to plan a three-week road trip.
- ✓ Identify human and physical features.
- ✓ Describe the diversity of Native American peoples.
- ✓ Build a series circuit and explain when a bulb will light.



LEARNING LINKS

Before: **Year 2** – Secrets on Our Doorstep: maps, keys, settlements and features.

Next: **Year 4** – Secrets Beneath the Waves: latitude, longitude and hemispheres.

Later: **Year 6** – At the Ends of the Earth: biomes, polar landscapes and human impact.