

Year 4 Topic

Road Trip USA



Buckle up and put your sunglasses on – this half term we're going on a road trip across the USA!

We'll start by 'visiting' the states where Native American tribes settled. We'll use travel brochures and the internet to research New York and write postcards to family members. Using maps, we'll locate the USA and find the names of the states. We'll look at the amazing lights of Times Square, make circuits and create a program for a tourist trip around New York. The story, *The Indian in the Cupboard*, will inspire us to write diaries. We'll explore Native American myths and write our own. After learning about their cultural significance, we'll weave beautiful dreamcatchers. Looking at aerial views of natural landmarks, we'll think about how they might have been formed. We'll create travel brochures and make illuminated models of different landmarks. Then we'll cook delicious dishes – would anyone like a corn dog?

At the end of the project, we'll make a 'journey stick' so we can remember where we have visited. We'll use this to explain our learning journey.

Help your child prepare for their project

The USA is an incredible place, with a varied landscape and culture. Why not choose a state to research together and create a scrapbook of exciting locations? Alternatively, visit the supermarket together to see if you can identify any foods associated with the USA. You might even try some of them!

What will you choose to do?

- Use online sources to research and create a timeline of Native American history. Decide which events are most important, and write a caption to go with each date, explaining what happened.
- Native American symbols can vary in meaning from one tribe to another and across different regions. Symbols were used for a variety of reasons and are depicted on numerous objects. What can you find out about this mysterious language?
- Find out about the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Why is it such an important historic event?
- What were the Beaver Wars? Write a historical account that includes who fought, why beaver fur was so important and what happened.
- There have been many U.S. presidents over the last 100 years. How many can you find? Write a short biography about one of them.
- Write a speech for a tribal chief to make to his tribe. It could be to get them ready to fight against another tribe or to announce a forthcoming marriage.
- Create an advertisement to sell the cupboard that makes toys come to life in the story *The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks.
- Make a playlist of different American songs you could listen to on your road trip. Make sure you include songs from a range of genres, such as blues, jazz, country, rock, hip hop and rock and roll.
- Plan a second road trip, this time around South America. Plan your route on a digital map and write an itinerary.
- Help prepare a United States-themed evening meal by writing a shopping list for parents and carers. Report back to others using video or photographic evidence. What did you have to eat?
- Research the significance of words and phrases (such as harmony, nature, spirit, natural, soul, force of nature, orenda, dream and vision) to the Iroquois culture. Use drawings, photographs and text to create a digital presentation to record and share your findings.