# American History (2)



## The Louisiana Purchase

The new "United States of America" expanded. In 1803 it bought 2 million square kilometres of land from France for $ 27 million. The territories gained by this "Louisiana Purchase" stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and doubled the size of the young nation.

**to expand**: to grow, to spread out
**square kilometre**: $km^2$
**to gain**: to win, to get, to obtain
**to purchase**: to buy

## The California Gold Rush

After winning a war against Mexico in the 1840s, America gained even more territory. This included California, which had a population of 14,000 in 1848. The same year, however, gold was discovered near San Francisco. Thousands of pioneers rushed across America to make their fortune, and by 1860 California's population had grown to 380,000. The era of the "Wild West" had begun.

**to make one's fortune**: to become rich and happy

## The Civil War

Between 1860 and 1865 America fought a bitter Civil War in which over 600,000 men were killed. The cause of the war was slavery. Thirteen southern states (the Confederacy) depended on slave labour, but the northern half of the country (the Union) wanted to make slavery illegal. Victory for the Union and its leader, President Abraham Lincoln, was a turning point in American history. But Lincoln was assassinated at a theatre in Washington only one week after the surrender of the south.

**cause**: reason
**to surrender**: to give up

## Immigration

Over 13 million immigrants arrived in the United States between 1815 – 80. Most were trying to escape poverty and religious persecution. For them, the Statue of Liberty in New York harbour (a present to America from the people of France) represented their first glimpse of a new life.

**to escape**: get away, to flee
**glimpse**: look

## The Indian Wars

During the 19th century, there were hundreds of battles between American pioneers and the people they called *Red Indians.* Some – for example the battle of Little Big Horn in 1876 – were won by the Indians. Mostly, though, the pioneers defeated and humiliated America's native people. The last major battle of the "Indian Wars" was fought at Wounded Knee in 1890.

**to defeat**: to overcome
**to humiliate**: to offend, to hurt
**major**: large

## *Multiple choice questions:*

**Who sold Louisiana to the USA?**
O Lincoln
O Napoleon
O The Sun King Louis XIV

**Reason for leaving Europe in the 19th century:**
O poverty
O studies
O pollution

**Who won the Civil war?**
O the North
O the South
O the West

**In 1835 California was a part of**
O the United States.
O Spain.
O Mexico.

**A Forty-niner was**
O a gold seeker.
O an Indian warrior.
O an immigrant to the USA.

**Little Big Horn was**
O an Indian chieftain.
O a Civil War general.
O a battlefield of 1876.

**The Statue of Liberty is also called**
O the Lady in the Harbor.
O the Golden Goose.
O Manhattan Queen.

**Abraham Lincoln**
O died in a car accident.
O was murdered in a theatre.
O fell in the battle at Wounded Knee.