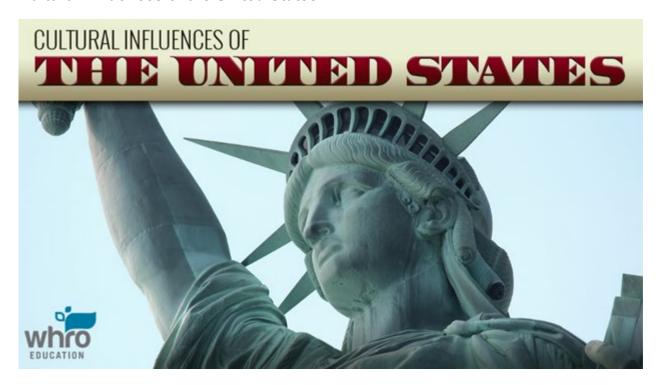
Cultural Influences of the United States



Click next to begin.



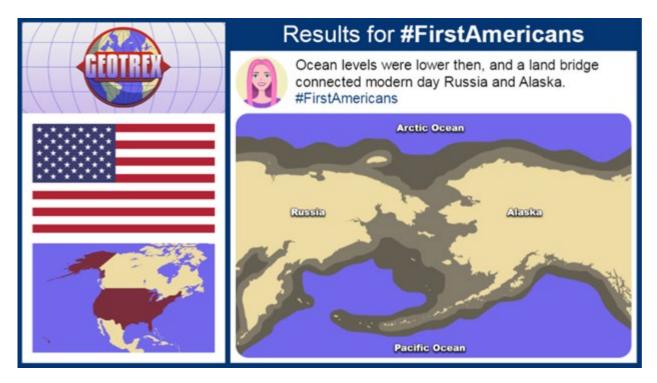
Introduction



In this interactivity, you will learn about the cultural influences of the United States by following different social media conversations. Click next to search the hashtag first Americans.



#FirstAmericans



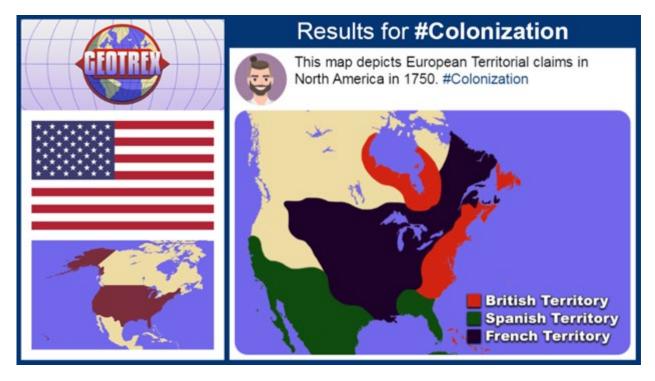
Many archaeologists believe North America's first inhabitants arrived 16,000 years ago, during Earth's last ice age. Ocean levels were lower then, and a land bridge connected modern day Russia and Alaska.

Humans were able to cross the land bridge from Asia, and settle throughout North and South America. Over thousands of generations, a variety of unique cultures and languages developed in the Americas.

Click next to search the hashtag colonization.



#Colonization



The arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1492 marked the beginning of European exploration and colonization in the Americas. By 1750, Great Britain, France, and Spain had claimed and colonized vast areas of North America and the modern day U.S.

The British claimed land around the Hudson Bay and along the Atlantic coast, including the original 13 American colonies. Spanish territorial claims included modern day Mexico, Florida, and the American Southwest from Texas to California. French lands stretched from Canada's North Atlantic coast to Louisiana in the south and Washington state in the west.

This map depicts the British, Spanish, and French territorial claims in North America in 1750.

Click next to search the hashtag immigration.



#Immigration



The United States has always been home to a variety of cultures, religions, and ethnic groups. It is a multicultural society that has become more diverse over time due to immigration.

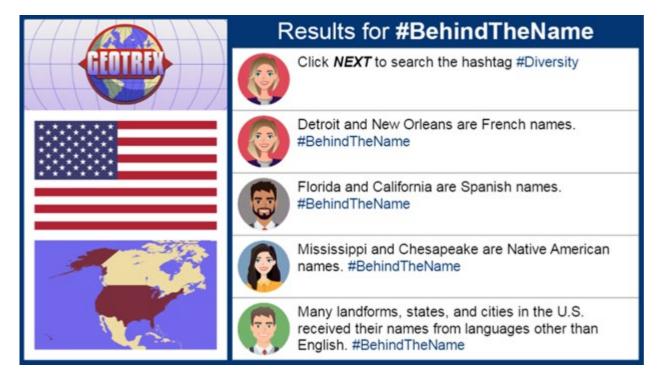
By 1776, the population included European settlers, indigenous Americans, and Africans who were forcibly brought as slaves. Early American immigrants were mainly from Western European nations like Britain, France, Spain, and Germany.

Economic opportunities attracted large numbers of immigrants from Eastern Europe and China in the late 1800s. Immigration expanded after the end of WWII, as more and more people came to the U.S. from around the world.

Click next to search the hashtag behind the name.



#BehindTheName



Many landforms, states, and cities in the U.S. received their names from languages other than English.

Mississippi and Chesapeake are Native American names.

Florida and California are Spanish names.

Detroit and New Orleans are French names.

Click next to search the hashtag diversity.



#Diversity



Diversity is a major part of American culture. This is reflected in the nation's cultural landscape. Ethnic urban neighborhoods with names like Chinatown, Germantown, and Little Havana can be found in most major American cities.

A variety of religious structures can be found across the country, including churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples.

American music, dance, literature, entertainment, and visual art pull inspiration from a variety of cultures. The end result is the creation of something new and uniquely American.

