



Picture: pixabay

Englisch

Kompetenzstufe D (Year 8+)

Exploring the Unlimited Opportunities in North America

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Liebe Schülerinnen und Schüler, Herzlich willkommen!

Wenn Ihr diesen Text lieber auf Englisch hättet, fragt Eure Kursleitung nach der englischen Fassung!

Oft werden die USA als *Land of Unlimited Opportunity* bezeichnet. In diesen Aktivitäten begleitet Ihr einen Austauschschüler in den USA und eine Austauschschülerin in Kanada.

Hier findet ihr einige Tipps für das Lesen der Texte:



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- Überfliegt einen Text am Anfang. Das nennt man **SKIMMING**. Konzentriert Euch darauf, was ihr versteht.
- **Unterstreicht, markiert und macht Notizen** über die Informationen, die ihr für die jeweilige Aufgabe braucht. Vielleicht könnt ihr eine Mindmap für die Texte erstellen?
- Wenn ihr einige Wörter nicht versteht, versucht **aus dem Zusammenhang** zu erschließen, was diese **Wörter in dieser Situation** bedeuten könnten. Nutzt auch Wortschatzaufgaben und Fußnoten¹ oder fragt eure Kursleitungen nach Wörterlisten.

Für das Schreiben:



Picture: Pixabay

- Fangt mit kurzen Sätzen oder Wörtern in Lückenaufgaben an.
- Richtet euch nach den Beispielsätzen (**example**) und nach ähnlichen Sätzen in den Texten, wenn euch noch keine eigenen Ideen einfallen.
- Macht zunächst einen Plan mit Stichwörtern, die ihr im Text nutzt.
- Überlegt Euch einen guten ersten Satz. Vielleicht findet Ihr Ideen in den Lesetexten.

Nach den Übungen findet ihr eine „Ampel“ zur Selbsteinschätzung *Self-assessment*. Kreuzt an wie die Aufgabe war. ☒☒☒☒☒☒☒☒☒

Wendet euch an eure Kursleitungen, wenn ihr Fragen habt und wenn ihr fertig seid.

Have fun with English!

↪ Self-assessment

For me, this task is...

- 😊😊😊 easy and fun
- 😊😊 good, but not quite sure
- 😞 difficult

¹ *footnote* = Fußnote. Tipp: wenn es für euch zu viele Fußnoten sind, deckt den unteren Abschnitt einfach ab!



The English Version

Dear students, Welcome!

The USA is often referred to as the *Land of Unlimited Opportunity*. In these activities, you will accompany an exchange student in the USA and take a detour to Canada.

Here are some tips for reading the texts:



- ⇒ First **read the text** one time from beginning to end. Concentrate on what you understand. This is called **SKIMMING**.
- ⇒ **Underline, highlight and make notes** about the information you need for the task at hand.
 - ⇒ If you don't understand some words, try to use the context in order to work out what the English words might mean. You can also use the footnotes¹ and ask your teachers for word lists.

For writing:



Picture:
Pixabay

- start with short sentences in the guided exercises and fill the gaps.
- use the **examples** and similar sentences from texts.
- before you start writing, you might want to make a plan with key words you want to mention.
- Think of a good first sentence.

After the exercises, tick how easy it was for you in the *Self-assessment box*. ☒☒☒☒☒☒☒☒☒

Let your teachers know when you are done. They might have some more help for you.

Have fun exploring the unlimited opportunities!

↪ Self-assessment
<i>For me, this task is...</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> 😄 😄 😄 easy and fun
<input type="checkbox"/> 😊 😊 good, but not quite sure
<input type="checkbox"/> 😞 difficult

P.S.: It's really great that you chose the English version of these instructions!

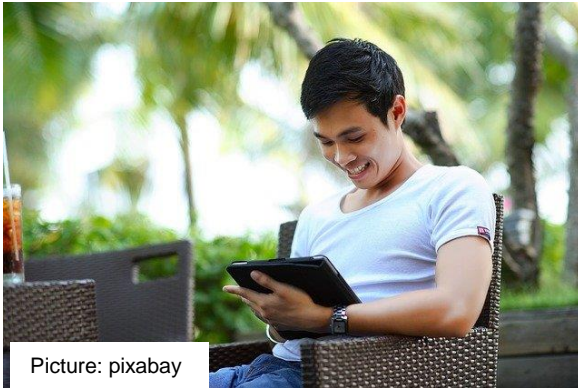
Your PL RLP Team



Picture: pixabay

¹ footnote = Fußnote.

TOPIC 1: Spending a Year at an American High School



Picture: pixabay

Jonas has just arrived in the USA from Germany for his high school exchange year. He promised to stay in touch with his English teacher and to keep him posted. This is the first e-mail he writes to his English teacher.



- 1 Hi Mr. Eisele:
- 2 Well, I'm now in Charleston, South Carolina, and I must say it is very strange
- 3 and exciting.¹ The journey took a long time, but I really enjoyed travelling. I
- 4 flew for the first time in my life. There were ten students in our group on the
- 5 flight² to North Carolina, Charlotte, and it was great fun. We spoke German all
- 6 the way, of course. When we arrived at Charlotte airport, I had to wait three
- 7 hours for the next flight to Charleston. Only two of my mates traveled to
- 8 Charleston, too.
- 9 When we finally arrived in Charleston, the families weren't waiting for us at
- 10 the airport. The guidance counselor³ welcomed us and took us directly to the
- 11 new school, where the families were waiting.
- 12 There I met my host family. I liked them at once, as they are really friendly.
- 13 My host parents are really young and have a six-year-old son, Tony. Tony

¹exciting= aufregend, spannend • ²flight= Flug • ³guidance counselor (American High Schools)= Schullaufbahnberater, der Schüler*innen bei Fragen rund um ihre Schulausbildung unterstützt



14 was very excited to meet me and immediately¹ started to ask me millions of
15 questions. He is a kid, but he knows all my favorite bands!
16 My host father is a teacher at my school and my host mother works in an
17 office. Tony attends an elementary school² and would like me to visit his
18 class, too. So I went there and had a look. They are always making jokes and
19 laughing with each other. They told me a lot about themselves on the way to
20 the parking lot³ and in the car, but I didn't understand everything, as they
21 speak very fast.
22 We went back home and had pizza. I was very tired when I finally went to
23 bed. Although I was very tired, I still woke up at seven in the morning.
24 Sunday! I suppose I was excited and very nervous. I'm going to spend a
25 whole year without my parents and my friends, that's weird!
26 Tomorrow my host father is taking me to school to get my schedule. School
27 officially begins on Wednesday. Now they are calling for breakfast! I must put
28 the right sweater⁴ on. We want to talk about our plans after school now.
29 Maybe we're going to the movie theater.⁵ I have to go now.
30 I'll write again soon and tell you more.
31 Best wishes
32 Jonas

¹ *Immediately*= sofort, unmittelbar • ² *elementary school*= Grundschule • ³ *parking lot*= Parkplatz • ⁴ *sweater* (AE)= Pullover • ⁵ *movie theater* (AE)= Kino



Task 1.

Welcome to America! Can you tick (☑) which is American English (AE) (as opposed to British English)?

1. Starting a letter

A. Dear Mr Eisele,

B. Dear Mr. Eisele:

2. Spelling: ll and l

A. traveling

B. travelling

3. Those who go to school to learn

A. students

B. pupils

4. The word for somebody who is not yet

13 years old:

A. child

B. kid

5. A difference in spelling (o / ou)

A. favorite

B. favourite

6. Places in the city

A. car park

B. parking lot

7. Places where you can go (if there is no lockdown)

A. cinema

B. movie theater

8. Clothes

A. pullover

B. sweater

Jonas will learn a lot more of these differences...

→Self-assessment

For me, this task was...

😊😊😊 easy and fun

😊😊 good, but not quite sure

😞 difficult



Task 2.

So many adventures along the way! Put Jonas's adventures into the right order:

German airport

Meeting his host parents

Having pizza

Making Plans for Monday Waking up too early

Airport in Charlotte, South Carolina

Airport in Charleston, South Carolina

1. *German airport*

2. *Airport in* _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____



Task 3. Answer the questions.

1. How did Jonas get to Charleston?

2. Who was waiting for Jonas at the airport?

3. Why did Jonas wake up so early?

4. What do you know about his host family?



5. Why is Jonas going to school on Monday?



Task 4.

Think of at least five questions you would like to ask Jonas. Write them down:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

↪ Self-assessment

For me, tasks 2, 3 and 4 were...

😄 😄 😄 easy and fun

😊 😊 good, but not quite sure

☹️ difficult



Picture: pixabay)

Jonas learned only British English at school. Help him construct sentences with some American English words.

Schools in the USA

The school system in the USA is different to the German school system.



Task 5.

Put the sentence parts into the correct order and learn about the American school system.

1. students • pupils • in the USA • are called.

2. kids • at the age of five • start school.

3. they • to elementary school • go • for the first six years.

4. then • pass on to • they • middle school.

5. middle school ages • from 10 • 14 • range.

6. after grade 8 • go • they • to high school.

7. can • at high school • some of their courses • choose • the students.



8. but all students • usually • English, History, Math • must • and P.E. (Physical Education) Sports • take. _____

9. as • we know it • from Germany • no classes • there are.

10. fixed classroom • them • for the lesson • teachers have their • and students visit

11. at • a dress code • school uniforms or • American schools • there • often • are.

12. there • a dress code • for teachers • is • too!

13. many students • often • to school • come • by car • already • as they can take • driving lessons • at the age of 15. _____

14. at 3:30 pm • at around 8:30 am • school • and finishes • starts.

15. eight classes • usually • there are • a day.

16. after school • do • some students • extracurricular activities¹

[↪ Self-assessment](#)

For me, this task is...

😊😊😊 easy and fun 😊😊 good, but not quite sure 😞 difficult

¹ *extracurricular activities*= AGs, außerunterrichtliche Aktivitäten



Some facts about the USA and its people

People ask Jonas to compare things he sees around him to what he knows. Help him construct sentences describing people and things!



Task 6.

Complete the following sentences. Fill in the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives and adverbs in brackets and add "than"

adjectives and adverbs):

Adjectives describe people and things, e.g. a short trip, an American student

*Adverbs describe verbs (and sometimes, they describe **adjectives**), e.g. to come early, incredibly easy*

Comparison of adjectives and adverbs (examples):

Adjectives: loud – louder than ... – the loudest beautiful – more beautiful than ... – most beautiful

adverbs: early – earlier than... – the earliest /long words:/ carefully – more carefully than... – most carefully

1. The Rocky Mountains are _____ mountains in the USA. (high)
2. In the USA, there are _____ big cities than in Germany. (many)
3. Death Valley is _____ and _____ place in the USA. (hot, dry)
4. Flying from coast to coast is _____ than traveling by train, but crossing the USA by train can be _____. (fast, interesting)
5. Most Native American and Afro African Americans still have to try _____ than white people to get a good job. (hard)
6. The summers in California are _____ than the summers in New York. (long)



7. Most immigrants who come to the USA learn English. Children often speak English _____ than their parents because they practice _____ (good, often).

[↪ Self-assessment](#)

For me, this task was...

- 😊😊😊 easy and fun
- 😊😊 good, but not quite sure
- 😞 difficult



Picture: pixabay

Going shopping in Charleston

Jonas has noticed that many stores were open every longer than in Germany. He bought many things. Now he tells his friends what they have bought.

Task 7. Simple past or past perfect? Fill in the right form of the verb!

Simple Past:

describes completed actions in a time before now.

Regular verbs: infinitive + - ed e.g. He showed her a picture.

be ⇒ was/ were

Past Perfect:

Describes actions that happened even further in the past.

Regular verbs: had + past participle e.g. After he had finished his sandwich, he showed her the picture.

be ⇒ had been signal words for Past Perfect: before, after

- 1 Last Friday I and my new friend Alex _____ (go) to Charleston to go
- 2 shopping. I _____ (need) new jeans and Alex _____
- 3 (want) to buy a T-shirt for himself. When we _____ (arrive) at the mall,
- 4 the parking lot _____ (be) full. Alex, who does not like shopping,
- 5 _____ (begin) to wish we _____ (stay) at home.
- 6 Finally, we _____ (be able) to find a parking space. We _____
- 7 (go) first to a big department store. But I _____ (be) disappointed, I _____



8 (not like) any of the jeans in that store. After Alex _____ (buy) a T-shirt
9 for himself we _____ (go) to another store. We _____ (never be)
10 in this store before. Thomas _____ (find) cool jeans and _____
11 (take) two T-shirts, and a nice sweater. It _____ (be) then one o'clock
12 so Alex and I _____ (go) to a hamburger place in the mall. After we _____
13 (have) lunch we _____ (decide) to go to the movie theater.



Task 8.

Imagine: Jonas introduces to you a friend he met in the USA. Write an e-mail to this friend and a) introduce yourself b) describe your possible plans of travelling to the USA c) ask the person what he or she thinks about your plans d) ask this person questions in order to get to know them better.

[↪ Self-assessment](#)

For me, this task is...

😄 😄 😄 easy and fun 😄 😄 good, but not quite sure 😞 difficult



Important days and people



Task 9. Complete the following sentences. Use “who”, “whose”, “which”, or a contact clause.

who / whose for people * which for things *****

contact clause = a clause without a relative pronoun, e.g.:

Here are some people my host father told me about.

Let's talk about holidays Americans love.

1. Abraham Lincoln was the President of the USA _____ aim was to abolish¹ slavery.
2. Memorial Day is the holiday _____ Americans use for the first picnics of the year.
3. George Washington was the man _____ led the American army during the War of Independence.²
4. The War of Independence was a war _____ was fought between Britain and its American colonies.
5. The Boston Tea party was the event _____ started the War of Independence.
6. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man _____ advanced³ civil rights through nonviolence.⁴
7. Thanksgiving is a national holiday in the USA _____ costs the lives of many turkeys.⁵
8. On Halloween, kids _____ are dressed up, ring the doorbell and ask for treats gifts.⁶
9. Neil Armstrong was the first person _____ walked on the moon.

¹ abolish= abschaffen • ² War of Independence= Unabhängigkeitskrieg • ³ to advance= vorantreiben • ⁴ nonviolence= Gewaltlosigkeit, Verzicht auf Gewalt • ⁵ turkey= Truthahn • ⁶ treats gifts= kleine Geschenke (oft Süßigkeiten)



Some facts about South Carolina

Unlimited

Stars

Awesome



Task 10. Scan the texts above again. They give you a lot of information on South Carolina. Complete the acrostic!

(An acrostic = a poem in which every line starts with the letter of the word.

**S
O
U
T
H

C
A
R
O
L
I
N
A**

[↪ Self-assessment](#)

For me, tasks 7, 8, 9 and 10 were...

- 😊😊😊 easy and fun
- 😊😐 good, but not quite sure
- 😞 difficult



TOPIC 2: Travelling to Canada

Andrea, who is also from Germany, went for a school exchange to Canada. She sends home some pictures of Canada:



Pictures: pixabay

Picture: Ute Horf



Task 1.

Which photo(s) do you like best? Choose at least two photos and describe them.

Here's some help:

You say

- what kind of place you can see
- where the things, people, animals are
- what is happening, what they are doing (present progressive: be + -ing form of the verb)
- give reasons for your ideas

Expressions of place:

- In the background on the left
- In the sky
- In the foreground on the right
- In front of
- In the middle
- Next to
- Between
- Behind

Verbs:

I can see
there is, there are

Example:



1 This is a picture of Canada.
2 In the middle of the photo I can see a
3 huge fish, it is a tuna. It is longer and
4 bigger than one of the fishermen in the
5 picture. In the foreground there is
6 water and on the left I can see a boat
7 with three fishermen who are all
8 looking at the big fish.

9 There must be a crane that is holding the fish but you cannot see it completely. The fish is
10 probably weighing many tons. It must be really heavy. It is twice the size of the child that is
11 standing on shore. The fish is silvery and you can see its tail and fins very well.

12 One adult who is on the right side is taking a photo of the child and its mother. They are all
13 wearing thick winter jackets and it seems to be very cold in Canada. The mother is
14 wearing a woolen hat on her head and she is holding her child and making herself smaller.
15 She is smiling happily.

16 Most fishermen are wearing caps on their heads. On the boat you can read "Tide Time
17 Charlottetown, Pei. (Prince Edward Island, a Canadian province)" In the background there
18 are silvery poles on a trailer or a porch. Behind the people on shore you can see a part of
19 the crane holding the fish.

20 Everyone seems to be very satisfied because of the good catch. The orange of the clothes
21 and buoys creates a positive atmosphere.

Don't worry if your description is shorter. Please write at least 10 sentences about your pictures.

[↪ Self-assessment](#)

For me, this task is...

- 😊😊😊 easy and fun
- 😊😐 good, but not quite sure
- 😐😞 difficult

By the way, what do you already know about Canada?



Task 2. Make a mindmap!



For example:

Now you can compare your mindmap with the following facts. Add some of these facts to your mindmap or re-structure your mindmap including these facts.

Canada's national winter sport is ice hockey.

They have long winters in Canada, about 5 months.

Canada has fewer inhabitants than Germany (about 33 m. Canadians compared with about 83 million Germans)

Canada is big. It is the second largest country of the world. There are large forest areas & endless landscapes.

About 50% of Canadians have French or British roots, but today it is a multicultural place.

Canadians love to go camping, canoeing, hunting, snowshoeing, fishing ...

↪ Self-assessment

For me, this task is...

- 😊😊😊 easy and fun
- 😊😊 good, but not quite sure
- 😞 difficult

Picture of the maple leave: pixabay



Rhineland Palatinate has a cooperation with the province of British Columbia.



Task 3.

Read the following blog entry written by Andrea, who is from Germany and went to Canada. Unfortunately, the computer mixed up some of her verb forms. Put the verbs in brackets into the simple past.

- 1 “Some years ago, I _____ (spend) three months in beautiful Canada, a country
2 where I had never been before. I _____ (be) lucky to get accepted for a school
3 exchange program. When representatives of the Ministry of Education _____
4 (choose) me to participate in the exchange program I _____ (be) so happy and very
5 excited.
- 6 My guest host family has lived in Vernon for many years, British Columbia, which is on the
7 west coast of Canada. I _____ (write) an email to them to present myself and ask
8 for information about my exchange partner and host sister Taralynn.
- 9 Finally, at the end of August, my parents _____ (take) me to Frankfurt Airport where
10 all German exchange students from Rhineland Palatinate _____ (meet). The plane
11 _____ (fly) to Vancouver (where we were supposed to meet our host families). We
12 all _____ (stay) with host families in the province of British Columbia. But this
13 province is so huge, it is as large as the combined area of Germany, France, Belgium, the
14 Netherlands and Austria. So, I _____ (have) to take a connecting flight to Kelowna
15 where my host parents _____ (pick) me up. Then we _____ (drive) to the
16 neighboring city, Vernon. When we _____ (arrive), my host family _____
17 (show) me their house and my room for the next ten weeks. Besides my host sister I also



18 _____ (have) a host brother called Justin. I very much _____ (like) the
19 house and my new family for the upcoming months.

20 Every weekend we _____ (go) to the mountains. Sometimes we just
21 _____ (go) hiking. Other times we _____ (go) fishing and I _____
22 (try) fly fishing and we _____ (eat) the fish for supper. Or we _____ (have)
23 barbecues on the veranda of the house in the evening. We also _____ (go) by boat
24 on Okanagan Lake and Kalamalka lake. Here we also _____ (go) on a banana
25 boat ride which _____ (be) a lot of fun.

26 There _____ (be) one mall in the city which we also _____ (visit) from time to
27 time to buy new hoodies and eat ice cream or burgers.

28 One weekend we _____ (go) up all the way north to Prince George, which
29 _____ (be) about an eight-hour-drive, to visit the grandparents. Unfortunately, we
30 _____ (see) a dead bear on the road which had been hit by a car. That _____
31 (be) pretty sad.

32 At school, I _____ (have) four subjects: English, French, PE which stands for
33 physical education, and Band, which means doing music with an orchestra I _____
34 (join) with my flute. We _____ (play) movie themes of *Star Wars*, *Jurassic Park* and
35 *Lord of the Rings*. That _____ (be) a lot of fun. And we _____ (give) a
36 concert on Remembrance Day in November in the big ice hockey stadium of the city and
37 e.g. _____ (play) the Canadian National Anthem and. In PE we _____
38 (play) American football, baseball or soccby, which is a mixture of rugby and soccer. You
39 use the foot when the ball is on the ground, but you can also catch the ball with your hands
40 and run like you do in a rugby game. In English class we _____ (read) and



41 _____ (analyze) short stories, e.g. by Ernest Hemingway and Edgar Allan Poe.
42 That _____ (be) super interesting. My host mum _____ (help) me when I
43 had difficulties with vocabulary or understanding and analyzing the meaning of the stories.
44 I really _____ (enjoy) this class. In French class it _____ (be) always funny
45 because we _____ (try) to learn vocabulary by doing pantomime.

46 I _____ (have) a great time in Canada and with my host family, and I _____ (be)
47 sad to leave them in November and go back to Germany. But I _____ (come) back
48 with a lot of very good, happy and exciting memories which I am very thankful for. Then,
49 half a year later, I _____ (be able to) welcome my host sister in Germany and she
50 _____ (stay) with my family and attended my school in Hermeskeil for three months
51 as well. So far we are still in contact and I'm sure I will visit them again one day. I hope
52 that more people can experience something like this as I _____ (can) during my time
53 at school.“

↪ Self-assessment

For me, this task is...

- 😊😊😊 easy and fun
- 😊😊 good, but not quite sure
- 😞 difficult



Imagine that you are chosen to stay with a Canadian family and you have to write your first letter to introduce yourself and talk about facts that are typical of German teenagers.



Task 4.

Try to use the following modals and their substitutes in your letter. Write at least 150 words.

Modals and their substitutes:

1. „können“ = can – **to be able to**

Last.../ Next week...

I can hear you well you can / cannot he, she, it can we can you can they can	I am able to hear you you are able to hear me he, she, it is able to we are able to you are able to they are able to	I was able to ... you were able to he, she it was able... I will be able to ... you will be able to...
---	---	--

2. „dürfen“ = can, may – **to be allowed to**

Ich darf nicht: I am not allowed to = I mustn't go to her party.

I may go to the party you may he, she, it may we may you may they may	I am allowed to go to ... You are (not) allowed to ...	I was allowed to I will be allowed to
--	---	--

3. „müssen“ = must – **to have to**

Last.../Next week...

I must be back by ten You must be... he, she, it must be... we must be back by ten you must they must	I have to be back by ten you have to be ... he, she, it has to be ...	I had to be at home by.. I will have to be...
--	--	--



Task 5.

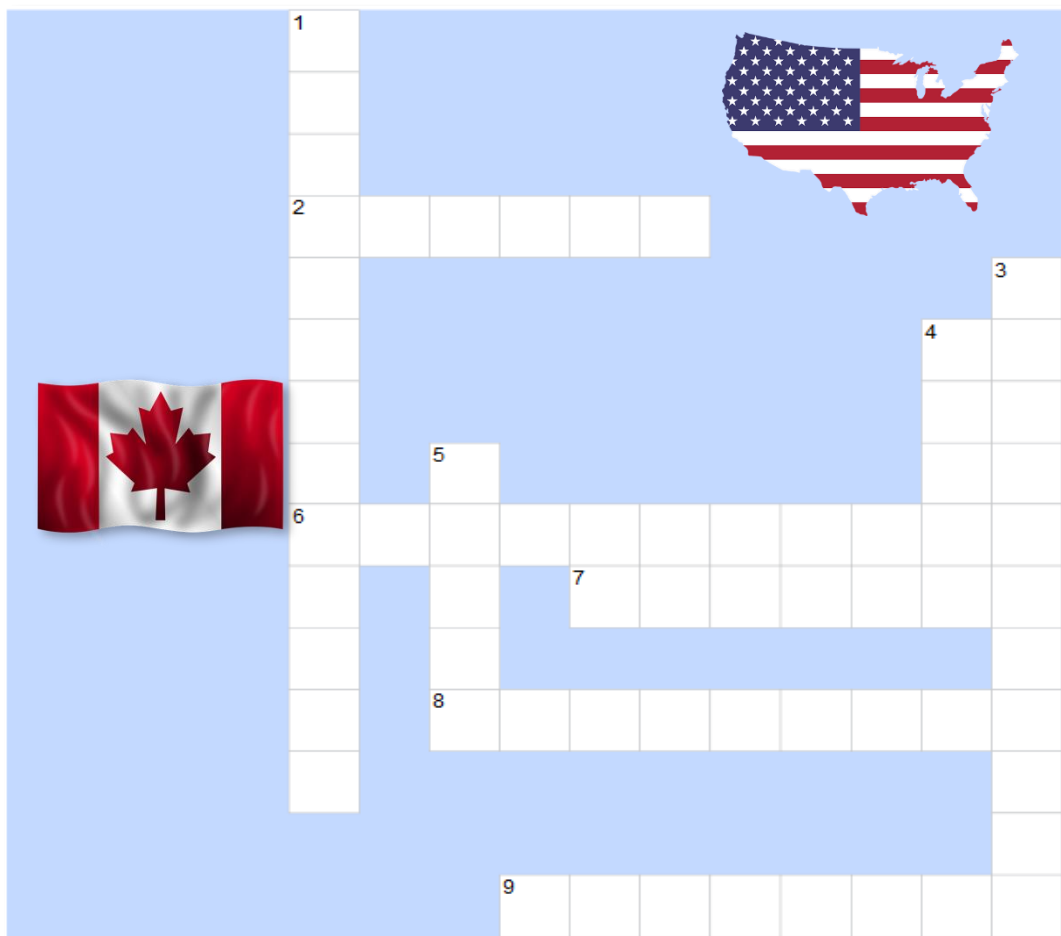
Solve the crossword! You can scan the texts about the USA and Canada again for the right words.

Horizontal¹

2) Thanksgiving meal 6) the gifts that children ask for on Halloween 7) another word for “to end”
slavery 8) rules for the clothes you have to wear 9) water sports Canadians love

Vertical²

1) An adjective for many cultures living close to each other 3) a winter activity to enjoy Canadian
landscapes 4) another word for “origin” to say where you come from; trees have them, too
5) another word for ‘crazy’, “strange” or ‘bizarre’



Erstellt mit www.kreuzwortraetsel.net (frei verfügbare Software)

¹ *horizontal* = waagerecht

² *vertical* = senkrecht



Task 6.

Write an e-mail to a new online friend from Canada a) summarizing something you find interesting about North America b) asking him / her at least five questions.



→ Self-assessment

For me, this task is...

😄 😊 😊 easy and fun

😊 😊 good, but not quite sure

😞 difficult