

## Your turn

- 1 See if you can explain why:
  - a English is the main language of the United States
  - b the Stars and Stripes has 50 stars
  - c the Stars and Stripes has 13 stripes
  - d almost 13% of Americans are black.
- 2 The map on page 139 shows the 50 states of the USA, plus the city of Washington, DC. See if you can name:
  - a the largest state
  - b the smallest state
  - c the one furthest north
  - d the one furthest south
  - e three states that border:
    - i the Pacific Ocean
    - ii the Atlantic Ocean
    - iii any of the Great Lakes

- 3 From the map on page 139, see if you can name:
  - a three states on land bought from other countries
  - b three on land gained since 1800, through wars, conflicts, and disputes with other countries
  - c six that were part of the original 13 colonies (some have grown since then; some have split into two)
  - d the last two areas to join the United States
- 4 Now look at the USA's border with Canada. What do you notice about it? See if you can suggest a reason.
- 5 See if you can guess how the expansion of the United States affected the Native Americans.

## So who governs the USA?

### The state governments

Each state has a capital city, and a state government. The state government looks after things like education, public health, roads, and law and order, for that state.

### The Federal Government

Above them all is the **Federal Government**. It is based in Washington, DC, which is the USA's capital city. (DC stands for District of Columbia.) The Federal Government is in charge of the defence of the USA, and its relations with other countries, and the overall USA budget. The laws it passes apply to all states.

The **President of the United States** is head of the Federal Government. Note that Washington, DC is not like other American cities. It is not part of any state. It sits alone. Its main function is to be the seat of government.



▼ This white building in Washington is the seat of government. It is called the Capitol. Slaves helped to build it.



▼ Barack Obama became the first black President of the USA, in January 2009.



▼ The White House in Washington, where the president lives. Slaves helped to build it too.