

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE TO AUSTRALIA 2014/2015 D.9820



ELIZABETH HOLZ

History of The United States of America



- Europeans started moving to America once discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492
- Christopher Columbus set out on an expedition with his ships the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria aiming to cross the Atlantic to go to China (It took too long to cross the silk road so they set out by sea) but ran into what is now the Bahamas islands under Florida

- The first colony was Roanoke Colony, which is today Dare County NC, it was started in 1585 by Sir Walter Raleigh. It mysteriously disappeared sometime between 1587-1590. It's called the "Lost Colony" because nobody knows what happened to the people who were living there.

- The first successful colony was Plymouth colony, founded by the Pilgrims

- By 1752, the 13 original colonies were colonized by the British

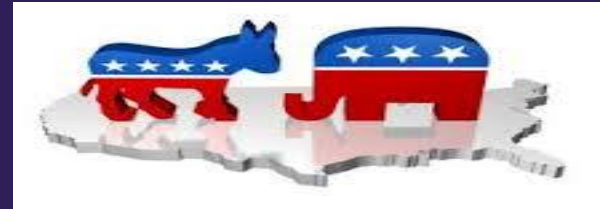




NATIVE AMERICANS

- Before Europeans arrived in North America, Native people inhabited every region
- 27 states derive names from Indian languages, the native Americans turned wild plants such as corn, potatoes, pumpkin, yams and lima beans into farm crops
- When the British first settled, they brought in diseases the natives never encountered before, which caused mass death within tribes. Columbus even purposefully gave blankets laced with smallpox to Indians to try to kill them off and get more land. When the Indians stopped trading with the English, the English started to attack and killed over half the population of Indians
- Today, more than half a million native Americans live on reservations in distinct tribes and ethnic groups. Many have assimilated into white culture.

Politics!

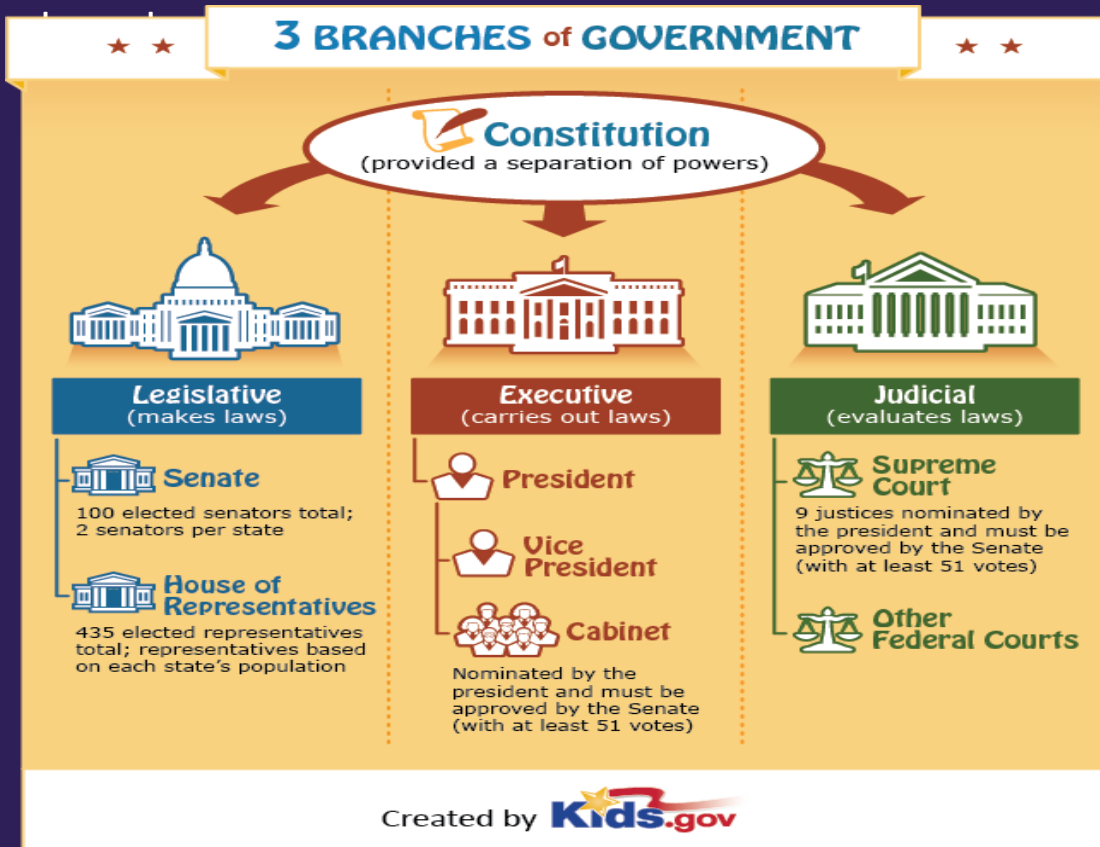


- The American political system is centered around the 3 branches of government; The Legislative, Executive, and Judicial
- We have separation of powers so one branch does not overpower another
- The Legislative branch makes the laws. We have the Senate, which assigns two senators per state, so we have 100 senators. There is also the House of Reps, the representatives are

based on each states' population, so as of now there are 435 elected.

-The Executive branch carries out the laws. It consists of the president, vice president and cabinet. The Cabinet is nominated by the president and must be approved by the Senate.

-Lastly, the Judicial branch evaluates laws. This is made up of the Supreme court and other Federal Courts.



Stereotypical American Things



America is NOT the most obese country, Mexico tops the list!



We're as passionate about NFL as the Aussies are with AFL



No one owns a pet eagle



We're all a bit patriotic, but not to the extremes as we're sometimes portrayed

A lot of us do own guns



Our portion sizes are a bit bigger



Popular American Foods

S'mores



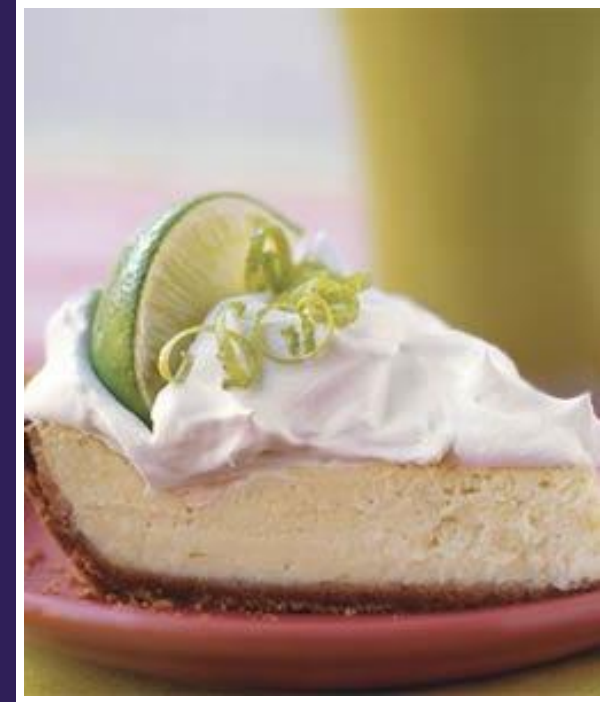
If you go to a bonfire, chances are there's always someone making a s'more. All it is is a roasted marshmallow with chocolate and graham crackers!

New York Style Pizza



New York style pizza is known for its large, wide, thin and foldable yet crispy shape. Popular in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

Key Lime Pie



Key Lime pie is an American dessert made of key lime juice, egg yolks and sweetened condensed milk. It is tart and sweet.

“The Empire State”

New York State

- one of the first 13 states
- popularly known for New York City
- Although NYC is the largest city in New York, Albany is the capital
- NY has 62 counties; I’m from Niagara county, which includes Niagara Falls
- Niagara Falls is one of the 7 wonders of the world
- Many towns are named after Iroquois tribe names, such as Tonawanda NY



- At the site of Niagara Falls, the Niagara River spills over 40 million gallons of water 180 feet downward each minute





Where I'm From

Lockport, New York

- Lockport is a historic city in Niagara County, New York
- Established in 1824, many workers came to build the canal locks (flight of 5= 5 locks)
- The name is derived from a set of Erie canal locks within the city
- Population around 21,000 in 2010, now about 18,000 due to highest taxes in the state
- Lockport locks and Lockport caves are what attracts many tourists
- Home of the fire extinguisher
- Lockport holds many community events such as cruise nights and craft markets on main streets.
- Our weather is temperate like the Mornington Peninsula, but our summers get to about 30C and winters are an average -15C. Although it got down to -40C last winter and we didn't have school for a week



Lockport Rotary

- Part of district 7090

- Lockport Rotary has about 40 members

- A lot of new and younger members are joining

- Active in youth services

- Our immediate past president looks like the Grandpa in the movie "Up"



About me!

My name is Elizabeth Holz and I became involved with rotary in September 2013 when Lockport rotary came to my school to give a speech. From then on is when I got involved with exchange. I love the outdoors, hiking, swimming, running, cycling, and being with friends. I play in orchestra and wind ensemble back at home along with working as a lifeguard for the rotary community pool.



Questions? Comments?

