

English Plus Options

CULTURE ■ The USA in numbers

I can talk about a European country.

- 1 2.40 Complete the text with the numbers in the box. Read, listen and check your answers.

115 2 50 8 3,365 56



The USA is an enormous country, more than ¹___ times the size of the European Union. There are ²___ states and six different time zones across the country. Its longest road, US Route 20, starts in Boston, Massachusetts, on the east coast and finishes in Newport, Oregon, on the west coast, only a mile from the Pacific Ocean. That's ³___ miles (5,415 kilometres) in total!

The USA is a land of extremes. It's both one of the hottest and coldest places in the world – with temperatures from ⁴___ °C in California to –64°C in Alaska. It's also one of the wettest and driest places in the world – parts of Hawaii have 12,000 millimetres of rain a year, compared to only 67 millimetres a year

in the Mojave Desert, Arizona! You can see the tallest trees in the world in Redwood Forest, California – up to ⁵___ metres tall!

The USA has a population of about 304 million, and it's the third largest country in the world. About eighty per cent of the population live in towns and cities, and more than ⁶___ million people live in New York City, the country's largest city. More than ten per cent of people in the USA speak Spanish as their first language, and that number is growing. Experts think that in the middle of this century, the population of the USA will be about 420 million!



- 2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 Which is bigger, the USA or the European Union?
- 2 How long is US Route 20?
- 3 What are the wettest and driest places in the USA?
- 4 What's special about the trees in Redwood Forest?
- 5 How many countries are bigger than the USA?
- 6 Does everyone in the USA speak English as their first language? Explain your answer.

- 3 **YOUR CULTURE** Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions.

- 1 How many regions are there in your country?
- 2 What's the longest road in your country?
- 3 What are the hottest and coldest places in your country?
- 4 What is the population of the largest city in your country?
- 5 What language(s) do people in your country speak?

- 4 **TASK** Find out about a country in the European Union and complete the table. Then design a tourist information poster and present your information to the class.

Country	
Size	
Geographical location	
Typical weather	
Population	
Languages	
The future	