

YOU and the U.S.



September 2013

Hi! Welcome to your Fall edition of the U.S. Embassy newsletter. We hope you find it entertaining and full of interesting information. Welcome back and we hope you had a wonderful Summer break!

Did you know...? The US Embassy in London, and the Ambassador's residence at Winfield House, are home to some amazing art work. From paintings to donated sculptures and statues, American art is well represented throughout the embassy and the residence.



Winfield House

QUICK TRIVIA:

- What is the National bird of the U.S.A?
- Which U.S state is the largest?
- Name the two countries that border the U.S.A.

More information for teachers can be found on our blog - [Education Matters!](#)

A Tale of Two Cities

How do cities in the U.S compare with cities in the UK? Is school different in Boston? What sports are popular on either side of the Atlantic? What makes these two cities unique in their own right? Check out our fact file below!



BOSTON, USA

Food - Boston is known for seafood, including cod, haddock and New England clam chowder - milk based broth consisting of clams, potatoes and onions. Yum! It is also known for its baked beans!

Sports - The city is known for the famous Red Sox baseball team, other popular sports include football, basketball, and ice hockey.

Entertainment - Boston is known for producing many different types of music and many bands formed in the city. From boy band pop to full on rock - there's entertainment for everyone in this city!

Culture - Theatre is popular in the city and the Boston Children's Museum celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, with a weekend of birthday events in October.

School life - The school year in Boston starts in August and finishes in June, and children are at school, on average, for six hours a day. However, they tend to start earlier than British primary schools - most begin their day at 8:30am! The schools have semesters or trimesters (two or three terms) and in Boston they take a recess for Thanksgiving (November), winter (Christmas), February and spring (May).

Historical Fact - The Boston Tea Party occurred in 1773, when a group of protesters spoke out against the tax imposed by the British government on the importing of tea. Members of the Sons of Liberty, in Boston, climbed on board ships and threw tea into the water.



LONDON, UK

Food - Specific London dishes include pie, mash and liquor (a parsley sauce, not alcohol!), fish and chips, and an array of foreign-inspired foods.

Sports - Who could forget London 2012? The UK is most famous for the game of soccer, but also netball, field hockey, rugby, tennis and cricket are popular sports in the Capital and around the UK.

Entertainment - There are some fantastic entertainment venues in London, from huge music arenas and a wonderful variety of restaurants, to one of the biggest toy shops in the world - there really is something for everyone!

Culture - Theatre! London's West End is known for its high-end productions, including some of the world's longest running musicals. London also has a vast amount of free museums and exhibitions, including the Science and Natural History museums.

School life - For most children, the school year starts in September and finishes in July with a similar school day to Boston of 6 hours (between 9am and 3pm). The year is broken down into three terms, each lasting approximately 12 weeks, with a week's break in the middle (half-term).

Historical Fact - The Great Fire of London occurred in 1666, starting in Pudding Lane on September 2nd and lasting until September 5th. The fire devastated huge parts of London, including St Paul's Cathedral, but many were rebuilt in the same way as they were before the fire.

Thanksgiving Day – November 28th 2013



Traditionally celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks for the Harvest. It is in recognition of the first harvest shared between the colonists (Pilgrims) from Plymouth and the Wampanoag Indians. The Pilgrims arrived in America in 1620 aboard a ship called the Mayflower that travelled from Plymouth, England to Massachusetts. After a successful harvest in November 1621, they celebrated with a feast. This became known as Thanksgiving and President Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving Day an official holiday that was to be celebrated every November. Today, a Thanksgiving dinner traditionally consists of roast turkey, cranberry sauce, corn on the cob, butternut squash, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy and desserts such as pecan pie and pumpkin pie.

Quick Trivia answer: a) The Bald Eagle; b) Alaska; c) Canada and Mexico

Happy Halloween



Pumpkin	Carve	Witch	Treat
Pie	Ghost	Party	Candy
Games	Costume	Trick	Scary

B	F	D	W	I	T	C	H	F	T
S	C	A	N	D	Y	P	Y	O	R
Z	K	I	S	V	G	N	R	B	I
P	U	M	P	K	I	N	A	G	C
I	C	E	J	Y	F	H	C	E	K
E	L	N	E	M	U	T	S	O	C
G	H	O	S	T	M	X	T	I	U
C	P	W	R	J	P	A	R	T	Y
S	D	Q	L	G	A	M	E	S	A
T	R	E	A	T	E	V	R	A	C
X	D	T	P	K	D	G	O	P	K