

example of the imperative clause or the Present Subjunctive? May the structure be considered analogous to ‘*Let the king live long!*’ or ‘*May the king live long!*’? What pragmatic function is realized by the use of that structure –

- (a) a command or request;
- (b) (an unreal) wish or something imaginative and desired;
- (c) an emotional attitude to real facts;
- (d) a strong volition of the speaker?

- Discuss the form and function of the imperative “*God save our gracious Queen!*”. Is the addressee (*God*) identified by a subject or a vocative? What can you say about its position in the structure? Does the word occur in a fixed initial position or can it be movable? What effect is achieved by that?

- Does the song sound like a pray (‘solemn appeal to deity’)?
- What does the national anthem ‘God Save the Queen’ imply about the national character and values of the British people?

2.3 GEOGRAPHY, NATURE AND NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES: THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CANADA

OBJECTIVES

This unit provides factual information and assignments on the geography, nature and cultural symbols of the English-speaking countries in North America. It also sheds light on the history of the countries through the history of their place-names.

IN THIS UNIT, YOU WILL LEARN

- about the origin of some place-names in the USA and Canada;
- what national symbols and emblems are used to represent the USA and Canada.

OUTLINE

- Geography of the USA.
- Geography of Canada.
- National symbols and emblems of the USA.
- National symbols and emblems of Canada.



COMMENTARIES

The name **America** (/ə'merikə/ AmE; /ə'merikə/ RP) commemorates the Italian explorer and friend of Christopher Columbus, *Amerigo Vespucci*, who made several voyages to the Western Hemisphere and, perhaps more important, described his travels there in letters to friends in Italy. One of these letters, published in 1504, he used the term *Mundus Novus* ("New World") in referring to South America. The letter circulated from hand to hand, and a copy reached the German cartographer Martin Waldseemuller, who was apparently unaware of Columbus' voyage of 1498, during which he had discovered the continent of South America. Waldseemuller included some of Vespucci's writings in his *Cosmographiae introductio* (*Introduction to Cosmography*, 1507) and observed that "another fourth part [of the inhabited earth] had been discovered by Americus Vespucius", and he suggested that the new land be called *America*, in recognition of that explorer's voyages. Waldseemuller's book was widely read, and the new appellation was eventually universally accepted.

The capital city **Washington** (/ˈwɒʃɪŋtən/ AmE; /ˈwɒʃɪŋtən/ RP) took its name from *the Farther of the Country*, George Washington (b. Feb. 22, 1732, d. Dec. 14, 1799). He was the American general and commander in chief of the colonial armies in the American Revolution (1775 – 1783) and subsequently the first president of the United States (1789 – 1797).

Descriptions of life in early Washington reveal many of the shortcomings resulting from establishment of a capital city by fiat amid what was essentially a wilderness. What was conceived as a "city of magnificent distances" or, in Washington's words, "the Emporium of the West" was referred to by various statesmen and congressmen as "wilderness city", "The Capital of Miserable Huts", "A Mud-hole Equal to the Great Serbonian Bog", and similar epithets.

The official name of the country **Canada** (/ˈkænədə/ CnE; /ˈkænədə/ RP) is spelt the same in the country's two official languages, English and French. It is a derivation of *kanata* which means "a village, settlement, or land" in an extinct (before 1600) Iroquoian /irə'kwöiən/ language of the lower St. Lawrence River valley.

The explorer Jacques Cartier /zak ˌkarti'eɪ/ used the name *Canada* to refer to the area around the settlement which is now Quebec city (/kwə'bek, kə-, kei-/ CnE; /kwɪ'bek/ BrE). Later, *Canada* was used as a synonym for *New France*, which included all the French possessions along the

St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes. After the British conquest of New France, the name *Quebec* was used instead of Canada. The name *Canada* was restored after 1791, when Britain divided Quebec into the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. In 1867 the British North America Act created a confederation of colonies called *the Dominion of Canada*. The word *Dominion* fell into disuse, but the name *Canada* has stood the test of time.

In 1800 an American, Philemon Wright, began timbering across the **Ottawa** (/ˈɒtə,wɒ, -wə/ CnE; /ˈɒtəwə/ RP) River in what became the *city of Hull*. During the War of 1812 between Britain and the United States, the Rideau provided the British with a safe shipping route from the Ottawa River to Kingston, on Lake Ontario, thus spurring settlement of Ottawa. It was hastened by the arrival in 1826 of Lieutenant Colonel *John By* of the Royal Engineers to work on canalizing the river, and the town became *Bytown*. Ottawa might still be a modest city that had not political quarrels between Quebec city and Toronto (/təˈrɒntəʊ/ CnE, BrE) and between Montreal (/mʌntriːˈɒl/ CnE; /ˌmɒntriˈɔːl/ BrE) and Kingston induced leaders to call upon Queen Victoria to designate a capital for United Canada. In 1855 *Bytown* was incorporated and rechristened *Ottawa*, named for the Ottawa Indians.



RECOMMENDED READING

- Ощепкова В. В. Язык и культура Великобритании, США, Канады, Австралии, Новой Зеландии. – М., СПб : ГЛОССА, 2006. – P. 229-240, 301-315.
- Ощепкова В. В. The USA. – М. : Лист, 1997. – С. 4-42.
- Леонович О. А. Топонимы США. – М. : Высшая школа, 2004. – С. 29-44, 192-237.
- Англо-русский лингвострановедческий словарь “Американа”. – Available at: http://www.rubricon.com/americana_1.asp
- Canada Facts: 34 Facts about Canada. – Available at: <http://www.factslides.com/s-Canada>
- Canada. Culture, history, etc. – Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/culture.html>
- Coyne A. Debate over *O Canada* lyrics is about language, not gender equality? Andrew Coin // National Post, 2017. – Available at: <http://news.nationalpost.com/full-comment/andrew-coyne-debate-over-o-canada-lyrics-is-about-language-not-gender-equality>

• *O Canada Goes Gender-Neutral // The Atlantic.* – Available at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/news/archive/2016/06/o-canada-gender-neutral/487298/>

Assignment 1. Fill in the fact files:

The United States of America

washed by	
the most important river/s	
the largest lake/s	
the longest mountain range/s	
the highest peak	
the key representatives of flora	
the key representatives of fauna	
natural disasters	

Canada

washed by	
the most important river/s	
the largest lake/s	
the longest mountain range/s	
the highest peak	
the key representatives of flora	
the key representatives of fauna	
natural disasters	

Assignment 2. Read about the great lakes and choose the correct alternative:



Source: <http://www.great-lakes.net/teach/chat/answers/greatlakesmap.html>

The Great Lakes is a group of five large interconnected lakes in *northern / central / southern* North America that consist of lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, and constitute the largest area of *fresh / salty* water in the world.

Lake *Superior / Michigan / Huron / Erie / Ontario* is wholly within the *US / Canada*, and the others lie on the Canada-US border.

Connected to the *Atlantic / Pacific* Ocean by the St. Lawrence *Channel / Canal / River / Seaway*, the Great Lakes form an important commercial waterway.

Assignment 3. What historical and cultural forces motivated the following place-names, their poetic and jocular equivalents?

Uncle Sam; Washington; New York, New Amsterdam, The City That Never Sleeps; Canada, The Great White North; Ottawa, Bytown.

Assignment 4. Answer the following questions:

- What do the names *the Stars and Stripes*, *the Old Glory*, and *the Star-Spangled Banner* refer to?
- What is *the Maple Leaf*?
- What are the symbolic meanings of the stars and stripes on the US flag?
- What elements are included into the flag of Canada? What are their symbolic meanings?
- What is *the The Great Seal of the United States*?
- What floral and faunal emblems represent the USA?
- What do you know about the floral and faunal emblems of Canada?

Assignment 5. Read the lyrics of the US anthem and do the tasks. *You can find some help with this link:* “The Star-Spangled Banner” as a poem by Eli Siegel at <http://www.aestheticrealism.net/poetry/StarSpangledBanner-ES.pdf>

The Star-Spangled Banner

O! say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?

Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
 In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
 'Tis the star-spangled banner, O! long may it wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.
 And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
 That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
 A home and a country, should leave us no more?
 Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
 No refuge could save the hireling and slave
 From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave,
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
 Between their loved homes and the war's desolation.
 Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land
 Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
 Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
 And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust.'
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

- Did the lyrics of the song *The Star Spangled Banner* find a place in American history? Where and when was *the Star Spangled Banner* written?
 - What time of the day is described in the song?
 - What is a *rampart*?
 - Why are *the glare* and *the bursts* important (“*the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air*”)? What kind of fight can be described as *perilous* (“...*Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight...*”)?
 - Does the song answer the question ‘*O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, / O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*’ ? What answer do you suggest?
 - What is the meaning of capitalization in the verse “*Blest with vict'ry and peace, may **the Heav'n** rescued land / Praise **the Power** that hath made and preserved us a nation!*”?
 - What effect is produced by the inversion “*In God is our trust*”?

- Do you agree that the lyrics of *the Star Spangled Banner* reflect patriotic feelings of the author and the whole nation? What verbal means are used to manifest the concept of *patriotism*?

Assignment 6. Read the lyrics of the Canadian anthem and do the tasks. *You can find some help with these links:*

Coyne A. Debate over *O Canada* lyrics is about language, not gender equality? Andrew Coin // National Post, 2017. – Available at: <http://news.nationalpost.com/full-comment/andrew-coyne-debate-over-o-canada-lyrics-is-about-language-not-gender-equality>;

O Canada Goes Gender-Neutral // The Atlantic. – Available at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/news/archive/2016/06/o-canada-gender-neutral/487298/>

O Canada

O Canada! Our home and native land!
 True patriot love in all thy sons command.
 With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
 The True North strong and free!
 From far and wide
 O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
 God keep our land glorious and free!
 O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
 O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

- Why are there different versions of *O Canada* – the English-language, the French-language and the bilingual versions?
 - Why do you think the bar “*True patriot love in all thy sons command*” could have caused some debates about the national anthem of Canada?
 - What images of Canada and its people are created in the song? What verbal means are employed to manifest these images?
 - What does the national anthem *O Canada* imply about the national character and values of the British people?