

Spot on facts

LISTENING © L4/2 **1** Listen to the dialogue about the role of the frontier ... → S12.2

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG Chasing the frontier

Soon after the first European settlers arrived on the East Coast of North America, they moved westwards. They were constantly looking for more favourable conditions and claimed new land to live better lives than before. People felt the urge to discover the unknown, to meet new challenges in new places and to exploit the resources at their disposal.

At the same time people soon felt destined to ensure that the US covered the area on the North American continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, thereby fulfilling the idea of Manifest Destiny, which served partly as a kind of religious justification for the positive and negative impact of westward expansion. The westward movement was intensified by the California Gold Rush starting in 1849, reaching new dimensions in the number of people going west this time for gold, later for oil, grazing land for cattle, farmland etc.

The movement was also fostered by various politicians, especially during the presidency of Andrew Jackson, who drove the Native Americans off their land and sent them on a Trail of Tears across the continent, a process which started in 1830. Railroads and roads were also built to aid transportation to the West. The Homestead Acts followed from 1863, which changed with the requirements of the times but guaranteed private ownership of land.

According to Frederick Jackson Turner who wrote his *Frontier Thesis* in 1893, this development has shaped American people and the values they live by such as optimism, striving for independence, the pursuit of happiness, self-reliance, creativity, ingenuity, equality, individualism and democracy, just to name a few. When the frontier was closed in 1890, politicians referred to the denotation of the term because they had run out of free land by that time. However, its connotation has remained alive ever since: It still unites people of all creeds and social standing, friends and former enemies. (313 words)

SPEAKING **2** Choose one of these topics or one of the other abstract ideas from ...

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG Individual answers expected.

RESEARCH **3** Create a timeline of the US based on the dates and events ...

Year	Event	Additional information from individual research
1492	Christopher Columbus encountered America.	As an Italian he started colonising the New World for the Spanish crown and spreading Catholicism. He landed in the Bahamas instead of finding the sea route to the Orient. Altogether he undertook four voyages to the Americas.
around 1600	European colonialists arrived.	Colonialists were looking for better lives or were on a mission, e.g. to spread religious values as the justification for westward expansion.
1775–(1783)	The War of Independence from Great Britain was fought.	A treaty was signed, granting the 13 former British colonies independence.
4 July 1776	The Declaration of Independence (Thomas Jefferson) was announced. It is a national holiday today and created the values of the 'American Dream'.	
1787	The American Constitution was worked out; a system of checks and balances was established.	

Year	Event	Additional information from individual research
1791	The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution; basic human rights were guaranteed.	The first 10 amendments to the American Constitution is called Bill of Rights; as of 2014 it comprised of 27 amendments.
1829–1837		Andrew Jackson was the seventh president of the US, known for driving the Native Americans off their lands and strengthening the power of the federal government (Jacksonian Democracy).
since 1830		The Indian Removal Act enforced by Andrew Jackson sent almost 50,000 Native American Indians from the South on a Trail of Tears to live on reservations; this way land for white settlers/ expansion was provided.
1845–1852	Waves of Irish immigrants came to the US to escape famine. Immigrants from the Northern and Northwestern Europe immigrated too, many on account of political unrest.	Ireland was a British colony at that time, and many farmers were obliged to grow potatoes for export to Britain. The Irish lived on potatoes too. When the potato bug destroyed the harvest, Irish farmers had to meet British requirements for potatoes, and many of them starved to death.
1848		The California gold rush began and attracted thousands of people; California became a federal state (31st) in 1850.
1861–1865	The American Civil War, in which the North fought the South, ended with the abolition of slavery and maintaining the Union.	Abraham Lincoln, 16th president, was assassinated after he had saved the Union.
1864	Yosemite was established as a national park, the first of its kind, under President Lincoln.	
1872		Yellowstone National Park was established on 1 March 1872.
1893		Revival of <i>Manifest Destiny</i> and the <i>Frontier Thesis</i> by historian Frederick Jackson Turner.
around 1900	Waves of immigrants came from Southern and Eastern Europe.	
since 1902		There was a gold rush in Alaska after Felix Pedro discovered gold north of Fairbanks; Alaska became an organised US territory in 1912 and, finally, the 49th federal state in 1959.
1920	American women received the right to vote.	The Seneca Falls Declaration of 1848 paved the way for general suffrage for women.
1931	James Truslow Adams coined the term 'the American Dream' in his book <i>The Epic of America</i> .	Americans united in their fight to overcome the impact of Great Depression.
1950s–1960s	The Civil Rights Movement took place.	Martin Luther King delivered his "I have a dream" speech in Washington on 28 August 1963.
after 1965	Immigration laws were changed; more non-European immigrants were granted permission to immigrate to the US.	

Year	Event	Additional information from individual research
since 1970	The percentage of Europeans decreased among the foreign population (1970: 60%). The idea of a 'salad bowl' replaced the one of a 'melting pot'.	This demographic process was called 'the browning of America'. It occurred partly on account of the influx of Hispanics to the US and intermarriage between people of different races.
2000	Due to increasing immigration from Latin America and Asia, as well as the increasing difficulty in determining/reporting ethnicity, Europeans account for only 15% of the US population.	For the first time in US history African Americans were no longer the largest ethnic minority. At 12.5% of the population Hispanics comprised the largest minority.

Spot on language

1 👤 Write down rhetorical devices that you would use in a statement ...

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG	Introduction	Main part	Conclusion
	directly addressing the audience rhetorical question making a joke giving an example/describing an incident quotation using anything to grab the listeners' attention	using personal pronouns 'we', 'our', 'us' repetition (of a key word/phrase) enumeration, anaphora, parallel structures etc. contrast, clear cut alternatives examples	emotive language exclamations statements quotations repetition directly addressing the audience

2 The text below is the beginning of a speech that is relatively ...

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

(Changes are printed in bold, other solutions are possible.)

Do you know that for most people the American Dream consists of owning your home and a car? **Who does not dream** of having a decent job and the prospect of a better future for their children? **But today** many Americans wonder if achieving this dream is still possible **because** many of the cornerstones of the American Dream are **either** under pressure **or** gone. **Even** the middle-class, which best embodies the ideals of the American Dream, is **shrinking, whereas** the number of poor and super-rich are **increasing**. **Apart from this** many Americans are too afraid to dream at all **due to the fear** of terrorism, cheap immigrant labor and crazed gunmen. **Naturally, this has resulted in** the country being divided to such an extent that there can be no one-size-fits-all American Dream any more.

Hopefully, the dream may be tough enough to withstand the challenges of our times **and** lives on in every citizen, **citizens like you and me**, who work hard to provide for their family.

Surely, the Dream is still alive in every soldier who fights abroad to protect his fellow Americans and in every citizen who speaks out for freedom and equality. **Finally**, the Dream lives on in every American who brings up his children to cherish and perpetuate the values that have made this country, **our country**, great. **Let us keep the American Dream alive.**

3 a)-c) 👤 Write the beginning of a speech about how the unit ...

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

Individual answers expected.

4 Copy the table below and fill it in with four useful phrases for ...

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG	Optimism	The future	Intention and initiative	Toward solving problems
	I am very confident that	in the near/foreseeable future	tackle a pressing problem	are working hard
	my hope for the future is that	in the short/long term	gain the support of	to overcome resistance
	there is no doubt that	first we should	have to ensure that	are prepared to
	I am cautiously optimistic	as a first concrete measure	will make every effort to	to convince sceptics

5 Imagine you are being interviewed for a new job or you have just arrived ...

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG Individual answers expected.

6 Collect useful words and phrases for making comparisons.

- LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG
- two things are different: adjectives – their comparative and superlative (revision of rules); be more/less or fewer ... than; more precise expressions by using much, slightly and far before more/less than; unlike me/you/...
 - two things are the same: as ... as; more precise expressions concerning the extend of similarity by using almost as ... as, not quite as ... as, (not) nearly as ... as, nowhere near as ... as, twice as ... as and half as ... as; the same as; like me/you/...
 - conjunction to highlight differences: whereas

7 Your American pen pal has told you about some relatives for ... → S26.1

- LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG
- The newspaper article "How dreams impact our economic activity" was published in the German weekly *Die Zeit*.
 - It is about a survey conducted by the German trend researcher Stephan Grünewald, a psychologist and business consultant.
 - He asked young adults, first-time employees between 18–21 in Germany questions about their desires, anxieties and dreams.
 - The majority of them dream of working as civil servants, bank clerks/bank employees, insurance agents, i.e. jobs having low-social status in the 1970s.
 - The German Dream is quite conservative.
 - Germans strive for security and stability in life to make life manageable.
 - They are looking for safe careers with predictable and controllable progression compatible with having both a family and a career instead of having an exciting or challenging career.
 - They would like to live in a (detached) house of their own.
 - The minority of young adults dream of self-realisation by taking risks and engaging in entrepreneurship.
 - Harvard historian Niall Ferguson states that Europeans work fewer hours on average compared with Americans and even far less than Asians, so they are considered slackers.
 - The gap between the number of working hours of Americans (1,711 hours per year) and Germans (1,437 hours per year) has been widening since 1979.
 - Dreams influence economic power and innovational ability as they reflect important character traits/necessary attitudes such as:
 - making business ventures
 - a sense of duty at work
 - the willingness to make extreme efforts
 - practising self-exploitation/devoting themselves to work.
 - The American Dream means everybody can climb the social ladder regardless of background and skin colour. They just have to work hard and play by the rules.

- Americans believe in the American Dream as their source of strength so they:
 - work extremely hard
 - sacrifice themselves for work
 - cope with setbacks/problems more easily
 - start anew after failure.
- Most Germans live by different basic values than Americans, dream different dreams and have different attitudes towards work.
- The author gets his message across by stating that economic activities in Germany will slow down in the long run if young Germans subscribe to attitudes towards life/work as described above. However, on account of the Americans' attitudes, the US economy will be more prosperous than in Germany; risk-taking and entrepreneurship are considered the key to economic prosperity.

8 Comment on Grünewald's findings and conclusions. How does your ... ?

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG Individual answers expected.

Spot on vocabulary

1 Find appropriate words to complete the text below.

LÖSUNG 1. reasons, 2. sought, 3. seeking, 4. better, 5. oppression, 6. east coast, 7. settlers, 8. opportunities, 9. size, 10. supporters, 11. frontier, 12. respect

2 a)-c) Find the missing forms. b) Form adjectives from these ...

LÖSUNG a) (Solutions are printed in bold.)

verb	noun	adjective
to theorise	a new theory about the frontier	theoretical ideas
settlers transformed the West	we saw her transformation as she grew	transformational
live long and prosper	prosperity	to run a prosperous business
to commit oneself	to demand total commitment	to be committed to the cause
equalise different groups of people	equality	equal opportunity
to separate	separation of church and state	separate but equal
they individualise production	individual	individual attitude toward one's goals

b) support – **supportive**, opportunity – **opportune**, possibility – **possible**, diversity – **diverse**, persistence – **persistent**, ethnicity – **ethnic**, intervention – **intervening**, spectacle – **spectacular**, difference – **different**

c) Individual answers expected.

3 Find the antonyms and write informative sentences with them.

LÖSUNG advocate – **opponent/adversary**, indifference – **commitment/involvement**, to discriminate against – **to accept/respect**, to reduce – **to increase**, to immigrate – **to emigrate/migrate**, minimal – **maximal**

4 Match the pairs and use them in sentences about the US.

LÖSUNG to conduct a poll, minimum wage, to offer an incentive, per capita income, assault weapon, mortgage payments, to hold a rally, election campaign

5 Compose a short essay "The American Nightmare" using ...

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG Individual answers expected.