

The US election system

1. The president of Austria and the president of the USA have different roles. Watch the video and find out what the differences are and what are the main tasks and responsibilities of the president.

Austria	USA

2. There are three institutions in the USA making up the system of “Checks and Balances”. Match the institutions and the pictures:

- a) Congress (consists of Senate and House of Representatives)
- b) the White House, seat of the president, who lives and works there
- c) the Supreme Court, the highest judicial power in the USA



Quelle: fstockfoto / Fotolia)



(Quelle: TimeHacker - Fotolia.com)



(Quelle: Dorian Aerial & Architectural Photographics / iStockphoto)

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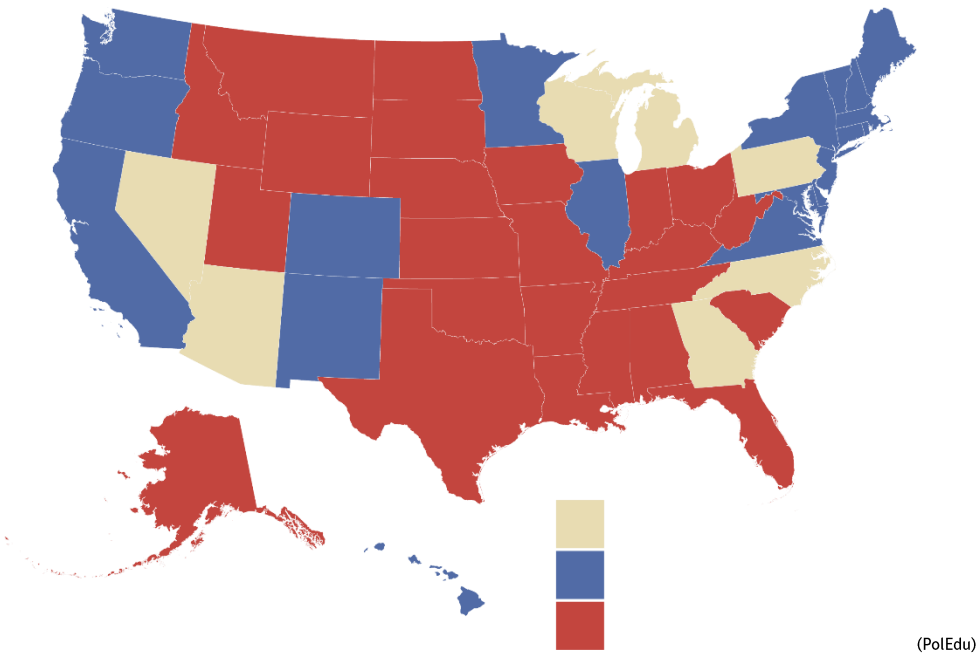
3. There are two major parties, Democrats and Republicans. Find out the main differences between the two.

	Democrats	Republicans
Colour		
Mascot		
core ideas		
former presidents		

4. Read the statements and decide if they are true or false. Put a cross in the correct box.

	true	false
Presidential elections take place every five years in the USA.		
Donald Trump, who is president at this time, is a Republican.		
Senate and House of Representatives have legislative powers.		
Every two years one third of the Senate's members are elected (or reelected).		
Republicans stand for Health Reform and protecting the environment.		

5. Explain the terms „Swing States“ or „Battleground States“.



6. Go on the internet and find a political map of the USA-

Name at least five „Swing States“ (they are light brown in the map above).
