Some famous Americans

**John Muir** was born in Scotland in 1838, but went to live in America. He loved the fantastic American landscapes. His campaigns for national parks were very important, and his books about nature and the environment are still popular today.

**Sally Ride** was a very successful tennis player when she was young. But she was interested in science too. She informed herself about space travel. In 1977 she became Dr Sally Ride. In 1983 she was the first American woman astronaut. She worked for NASA. She has written some books about space for young people too.

**Rosa Parks** lived in Alabama. When she was a young woman, black people on buses only sat at the back of the bus. One day in 1955 Rosa Parks sat on a seat for white people. The police came and they arrested her.

A bus boycott began as a protest. After a year, the black customers won. Rosa Parks helped black people get the same rights as white people. When she died in 2005 people all over America remembered her.

**Lewis and Clark** made the first journey across America to the Pacific coast. They traveled from 1804–1806. They went along the rivers and over high mountains. The long journey across the country, with its strange animals, was hard and often dangerous. They had many adventures and met Native Americans who often helped them.

**Betsy Ross** is famous as the woman who made the first American flag.

A new country needed a new flag.

George Washington drew one. Betsy Ross made a flag but cut different, easier stars with her scissors. In 1777 the first Stars and Stripes was born.

**Steve Jobs** (left) was born in California in 1955. His parents didn’t have much money, but after high school Steve Jobs went to college. He was bored there and left after only a few months. But he was interested in computer programs and games. With two friends he made a small computer in his parents’ garage. Then they started making computers for a local shop. They became a very big and successful American company. Steve Jobs became famous as a pioneer of the personal computer. The company has been very successful with a popular MP3 player too.
READING – From a book for young people

Look at page 69. Is it from a story book or an information book?

1 Basic reading
1 Which people are living now?  2 One American wasn’t born there. Who?

2 Who are these people? They’re all on page 69.

A  Fact box
1752 born in Pennsylvania; had 16 brothers and sisters
1775 started a shop
1776 George Washington visited her shop; made a flag

B  Fact box
1951 born in California; became interested in science
1978 started work at NASA
1983 was the first American woman in space

C  Fact box
1913 born in Alabama
1955 started a protest; worked for the rights of black people
2005 died as a famous woman

3 Find the English sentences in the text.
1 Sie hatten viele Abenteuer.
2 Sie interessierte sich auch für die Naturwissenschaft.
3 Die Polizei kam und verhaftete sie.
4 Dann begannen sie Computer für ein örtliches Geschäft herzustellen.

4 Dictionary work
1 Look up these words. Find them in the text: Umwelt, Schere, Weltraum, Sitz.
2 Are these words singular or plural in English: police, scissors?