



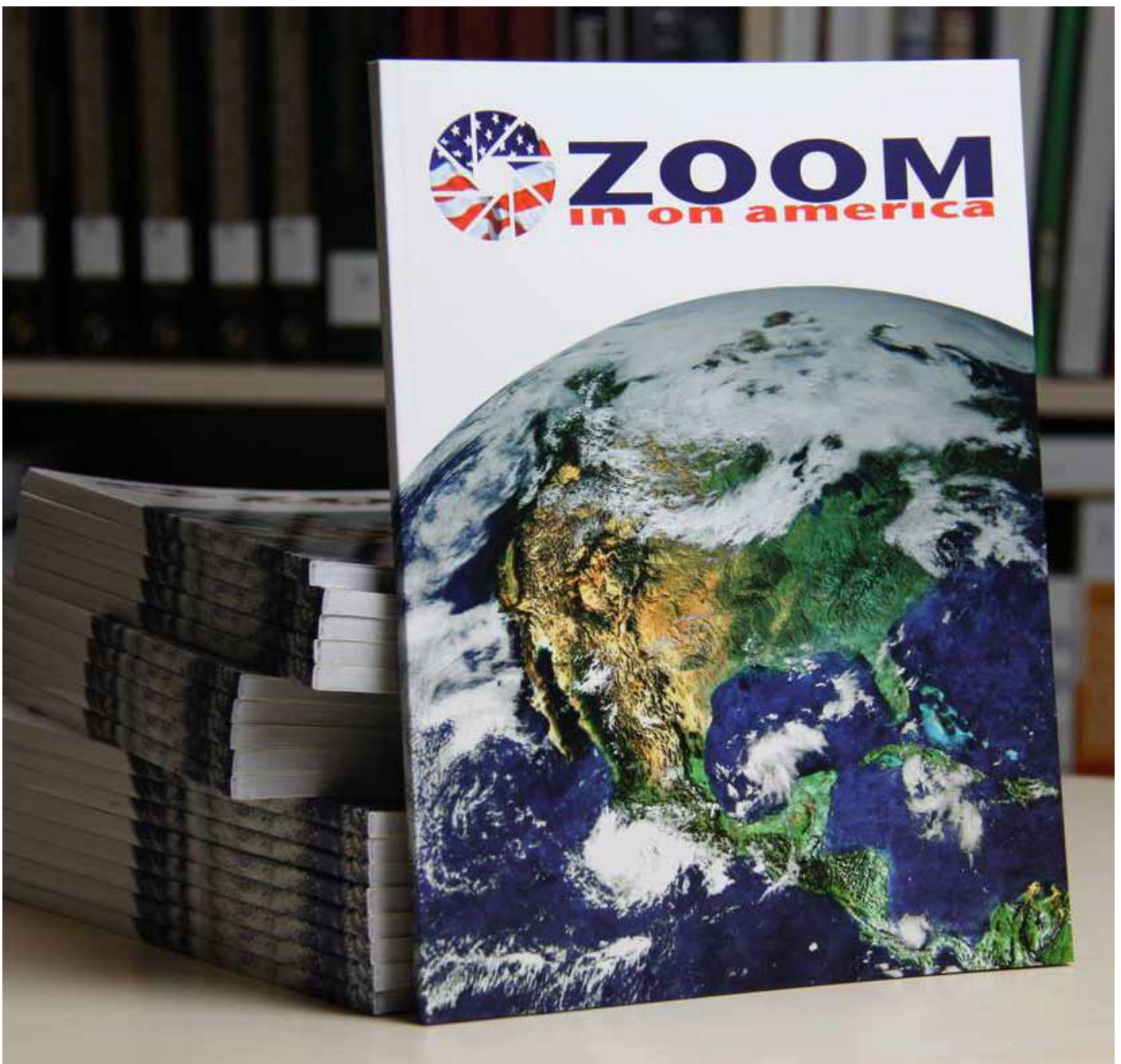
March-April 2021

# **ZOOM** in on america

A Bimonthly Publication of the U.S. Consulate Krakow

Volume XVII. Issue 171

## ZOOM IN ON ZOOM IN ON AMERICA



*The cover of the 2014 The Best of Zoom in on America book*

In this issue: Challenge Yourself – Test Your Knowledge

Zoom in on America

## Challenge Yourself – Test Your Knowledge

For over 170 issues, 17 years of publishing and 2 books, *Zoom in on America* has been your companion in learning English and acquiring information about the United States. Some of our readers have been with us since the beginning in February 2004, and many have jumped on board as the time went by. In this issue we would like to ask you to challenge yourself and answer some questions based on the materials in our previous issues. If you don't have the answer immediately, don't worry. Check the issue linked to the question, where you can find the answer. So, get comfortable, relax and have fun testing your knowledge!

### QUESTION 1

1. This is a recipe writing task. On the right you have a list of ingredients needed to bake a cake, which is one of the most popular cakes on the Thanksgiving table.

What is the name of this cake?

When is Thanksgiving celebrated in the United States?

Now, take a piece of paper or use a notebook and write the recipe :)

Check your answer here:  
<https://bit.ly/3sa42ai>



Ingredients for ...

- 2 oz. butter
- 1 cup light-brown sugar
- 1 cup white corn syrup
- 3 eggs
- pinch of salt
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell
- 2 cups pecans

### QUESTION 2

2. We have a few questions related to this issue of Zoom. Please answer the questions on the right.

You might want to listen again to the listening exercise we had "At a Horse Auction."

You can find the link to the listening exercise and check your answers here:  
<https://bit.ly/3a3Mo1L>



What are Assateague and Chincoteague?

What is the biggest tourist attraction on the islands?

What does a fence running right across the islands mark?

Why do some ponies bought at the auction stay on the island with the rest of the herd?

### QUESTION 3

3. These are a few famous idiosyncrasies that made this series so beloved and so memorable: the beat-up raincoat of the main character, an old vehicle that refuses to start, the wife who never shows, but about whom he talks constantly, his searching for matches to light a cigar, his attempts to locate where he put his notebook, his dachshund dog...

Now, you are sure to answer the questions on the right:

Check your answer here:  
<https://bit.ly/3dZYutX>



What is the name of the actor and the title of the series he is most remembered for?

How long did the series continue?



**QUESTION 4**

4. This award is the dream of (nearly) all people who made the film industry their career. This issue of Zoom asked and answered some of the most popular questions about the prestigious Academy Awards.

See if you can answer the questions on the right.

Check your answer in this issue:  
<https://bit.ly/3x8ZQey>



What are the origins of the nickname “Oscar”?

Where is the Oscars ceremony held?

What is the Oscar statuette made of?

What famous phrase is used when Oscar winners are announced?

**QUESTION 5**

5. April is Jazz Appreciation month. Look at the quotes in the right column and match the quotes with their authors:

- a. Miles Davis
- b. John Philip Sousa
- c. Chick Corea
- d. Louis Armstrong

Check your answer in this issue:  
<https://bit.ly/3s6JcbN>



“Jazz will endure just as long as people hear it through their feet instead of their brains.”

“I’ll play it first and tell you what it is later.”

“If you have to ask what jazz is, you’ll never know.”

“Only play what you hear. If you don’t hear anything, don’t play anything.”

**QUESTION 6**

6. What is the building in the picture on the right?

Where is it?

What architectural style does it represent?

Check your answer here:  
<https://bit.ly/3seGcKm>



**QUESTION 7**

7. In the segment from Zoom about Route 66 (on the right), fill in the names of states through which the famous road runs.

Check your answer here:  
<https://bit.ly/3wMAI2o>



...Beginning in Chicago, one could drive 2,400 miles (3,862km) and pass through eight states...

The highway started in Chicago, ....., headed down south to Springfield in the same state and St. Louis in the bordering state of ..... . Route 66 then ran all the way west, through ....., then via Tulsa and Oklahoma City in ....., Amarillo in ....., Santa Fe and Albuquerque in ....., Flagstaff in ....., and finally to Los Angeles in .....

### QUESTION 8

8. In this issue of Zoom you read about car racing in the United States, monster truck shows and drag racing. Look at the description of the electronic starting system. How is it called? Can you remember the whole starting procedure?



The most important part of the race is the start, which is also electronically ignited. The competitors first drive slowly to a “pre-stage” line where they briefly stop, and then move on to the starting line where they “stage” their cars. When the front tires of the first staged car break the laser beam on the lane, the starting procedure is triggered for all lanes. The so-called ..... system is ignited. The lights are lit in sequence. The blue light comes first followed by a series of three amber lights. Finally, a green light marks the start of the race.

Check your answer in this issue:  
<https://bit.ly/3a3YqIt>

### QUESTION 9

9. In this issue of Zoom we featured some of the four-legged inhabitants of the White House as nearly all American Presidents had pets. On the right you have names of some of these first pets. Do you remember which president has/had them?



1. Spot
2. Pushinka
3. Freckles
4. Socks
5. Fala
6. Bo
7. Champ and Major

Check your answer in this issue:  
<https://bit.ly/3dnBUN4>

### QUESTION 10

10. Pony Express was an incredibly efficient mail delivery system at its time (1860-1861). This iconic service was “killed” by the construction of the telegraph. Can you answer the questions on the right?

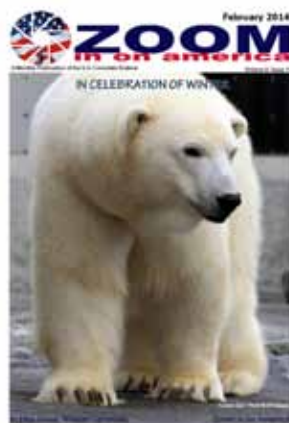


1. How many riders and horses were in the service at the start of the Pony Express?
2. How long was the trail?
3. What was the delivery time from start to finish?
4. How much did it cost to send a letter via Pony Express?

Check your answer here:  
<https://bit.ly/3dPXI84>

### QUESTION 11

11. Americans love winter and snow though of course some states never or rarely have it. There are many winter carnivals across the country with ski races, ski jumping competitions, and slalom mountain biking as well as contests for building ice palaces. Look at the question on the right and see if you remember some of the ones mentioned in this issue.



Which of the places listed below organize winter carnivals or festivals:

- a. St. Paul, Minnesota
- b. Saranac Lake, New York
- c. Washington, D.C.
- d. Steamboats Springs, Colorado
- e. Anchorage, Alaska

Check your answer here:  
<https://bit.ly/3gaTcy6>

## QUESTION 12

12. In this issue we looked at the American military forces: U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Air Force.

There was an overview of American military ranks as well as an article about West Point Academy. See if you can answer the questions on the right.

Check your answer in this issue:  
<https://bit.ly/3mEBjZW>



1. What is the highest possible rank in the United States Armed Forces?

2. Which American President selected West Point as the site for a military academy?

## QUESTION 13

13. Each American state has its own symbols including flags, emblems and seals. In addition, the states have their mottos, nicknames, birds, animals and flowers. In this issue we took a look at some bird species selected by particular states as their state symbols.

Check your answer in this issue:  
<https://bit.ly/3dWc0yz>



Can you name any state bird that you read about in this issue?

## QUESTION 14

14. Who and on what occasion wrote the words on the right in his diary?

Check your answer here:  
<https://bit.ly/32dRvYx>



*"...from this point I beheld the grandest and most pleasing prospects which my eyes ever surveyed, in my front a boundless Ocean, [...] the niches and points of high land which forms this Corse for a long ways aded to the inoumerable rocks of emence Sise out at a great distance from the Shore and against which the Seas brak with great force gives this Coast a most romantic appearance."*

## QUESTION 15

15. To the list of American Nobel Prize winners in Literature, which was presented in the January-February 2020 issue of Zoom, we added Louise Glück, who was awarded got the prize later in 2020.

Link to the issue:  
<https://bit.ly/3tzS0IJ>



Here is a list of Americans who were awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. Have you read any of their books/poetry?

Sinclair Lewis, Eugene Gladstone O'Neill, Pearl Buck, William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck, Saul Bellow, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Joseph Brodsky, Toni Morrison, Bob Dylan, and Louise Glück.



### QUESTION 16

16. The language families of Alaska's indigenous people include: Eskimo-Aleut, Tsimshianic, Haida and Athabascan-Eyak-Tlingit, which are further divided into individual languages, whose number exceeds 20. On the right you can see the greetings in some of these languages. Take a look and cherish the diversity of languages, which adds to the wealth of culture in our world.

Link to the issue:  
<https://bit.ly/3d9hTJn>



These are six greetings meaning "Hello, how are you?" in the indigenous languages of Alaska: CENTRAL YUP'IK, INUPIAQ, HAIDA, TLINGIT, KOYUKON ATHABASCAN and TANANA ATHABASCAN.

"Cama-i", "Quanuq itpich", "Sán uu dáng giidang?", "Wáa sá iyatee?", "Dzaanh ne-zoonh", "Do'eent'aa?"

### QUESTION 17

17. In 1977, twin spacecraft Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 left planet Earth and began their space missions. They will turn 44 this year (2021). They are now billions of miles from the sun. If all goes well, in about 40,000 years from now Voyager 1 will drift some 1.6 light-years, towards the constellation Ophiuchus, and in about 296,000 years, Voyager 2 will pass a "mere" 4.3 light-years from Sirius - the brightest star in the sky. On board, of them there is a Golden Record with the messages from the Earth (link is on the right.) <https://bit.ly/3dYkpRV>



Greetings to the Universe are recorded in 55 different languages and it is thrilling to listen to them. You may visit the NASA JPL website for that experience: <https://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/golden-record/whats-on-the-record/greetings/>

### QUESTION 18

18. Check what you remember about the women pioneer pilots presented in this issue of Zoom. Look at the sentences on the right and decide if they are true or false.

Check your answers here:  
<https://bit.ly/326MvVJ>



1. Jacqueline Cochran's real name was Bessie Lee Pittman.
2. Harriet Quimby was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.
3. Blanche Stuart Scott applied, but was rejected by a number of aviation schools.
4. Aida de Acosta established the first eye institute in the U.S.
5. Amelia Earhart was the first woman to break the sound barrier.
6. Bessie Coleman wanted to become a pilot because she needed money for piano lessons.

### QUESTION 19

19. The penname Mark Twain came from a term used in navigation. A "mark" was an impression on a line which was used to measure the depth of the river. "Twain" denoted a number: 2 fathoms, or 12 feet. "Mark twain" referred to the depth at which it was safe for steamboats to travel on the river. At shallower depths, the steamboats risked getting stuck on the river bottom. Now answer the questions on the right.

Link to the issue:  
<https://bit.ly/3dy1ezJ>

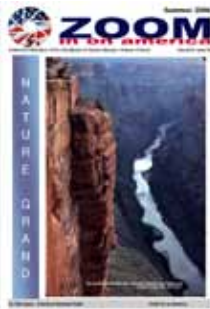


What was Mark Twain's real name?

Have you read any of Mark Twain's books?

# Zoom's Guidebook

Throughout the years Zoom in on America has transported our readers to many places in the United States. If you were to compile all these places, you would have quite a thick guidebook of scenic spots and special attractions in America. Here are some of the places we covered:



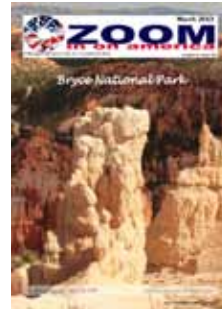
GRAND CANYON



HIGHWAY ONE



CANYON DE CHELLY



BRYCE NP



GOLDEN GATE BR.



CHARLESTON



DEATH VALLEY



COASTAL STATES



ARCHES NP



HAWAII



LAS VEGAS



BEACHES



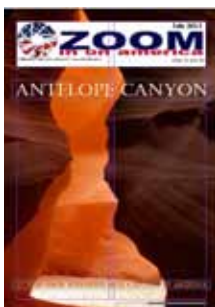
NATIONAL MALL



ALASKA



ZION NP



ANTELOPE CANYON



COLORADO RIVER



BUILDINGS



YOSEMITE



SAN FRANCISCO



January-February Quiz Answer: Spot

The winners are: Pawel from Rymanow, Barbara from Wiatowice and Julia from Blachownia

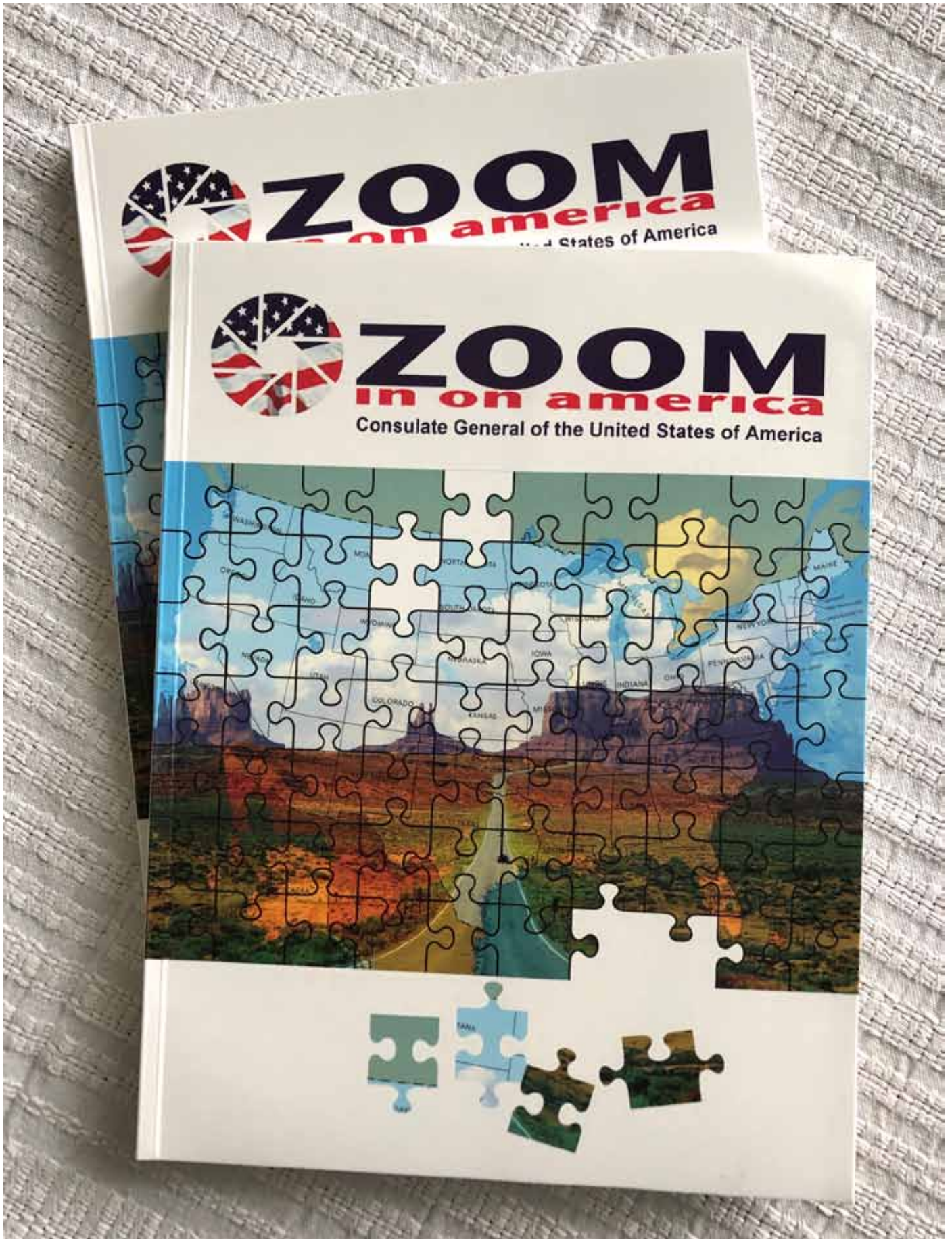
**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
The prizes will be sent to you by mail.

Zoom is online at [www.usinfo.pl/zoom/](http://www.usinfo.pl/zoom/)

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The cover of the 2019 The Best of Zoom in on America book