

5 Question: What natural features currently stop Mexicans entering the USA?

6 Question: How long will the wall be?

10 Question: Why are people against building a wall?

1 Question: What Does Donald Trump want to build ?

2 Question: Why does he want to build it?

3 Question: Where does he want to build it?

4 Question: What will the wall look like?

## NEWSROUND: Why does Donald Trump want to build a wall?

### Brief summary

**"We're going to build a wall"** - it's something we have heard US President Donald Trump say many times since he launched his presidential campaign. The president wants a physical barrier along the border between Mexico and the US to prevent people from crossing over it illegally.

The border wall has proved to be a controversial topic, with many people disagreeing about whether or not it's a good idea.

Some of the existing border barriers have been replaced since Mr Trump entered the White House, but by March 2019, work to extend what is there had only just begun.

Newsround has been to the US-Mexico border to find out more about Mr Trump's proposed wall and how it affects people's lives.

### **Why is a wall at the border so important to Donald Trump?**

Building a wall was one of Donald Trump's key promises when he was campaigning to become US president. It was an idea that divided the country, but it won Donald Trump many supporters.

It is over two years into his presidency but he still wants to deliver on that promise.

A wall at the border between the US and Mexico would be designed to prevent people from entering the US illegally.

"I would build a great wall, and nobody builds walls better than me, believe me, and I'll build them very inexpensively. I will build a great great wall on our southern border and I'll have Mexico pay for that wall." President Donald Trump, Presidential Announcement Speech

Currently, there is a total of 650 miles of barrier along the border, which is 1,900 miles long.

President Trump wants to build a 1,000-mile wall made out of steel to prevent people from crossing the US-Mexico border.

He believes the rest of the terrain along the border - including mountains and forests - should be enough to prevent people from attempting to cross.

But building a wall of this size is going to cost a lot of money.

### **Who agrees with building the wall?**

Polling has showed that most US citizens don't agree with building the wall.

A mid-November CBS poll found that 59% disagreed with it.

However, those that agree with the wall being built are working hard to make their opinions heard.

Immigration - particularly illegal immigration - is a very important issue to many Americans.

Those who agree with the wall being built believe that the US is overwhelmed by illegal immigration.

Their opinion is that people who come to live and work in the country, without official permission from the government, are taking advantage of the country's privileges and freedoms. Many feel the wall will prevent illegal immigrants from coming into the country as easily.

### **Who disagrees with building the wall?**

The majority of US citizens believe that the wall is a bad idea or that it shouldn't be a priority for the president.

The Democratic Party who are in opposition to President Trump, believe that building the wall is wrong.

Currently, there is an average of 400,000 arrests at the border each year, compared to more than a million arrests in the early 2000s.

Aside from the questioning of the facts, many Democrats feel that building a wall would send the wrong message about US immigration.

Senator Schumer referenced the Statue of Liberty as a better symbol for the country, as it was seen as a representation of hope and welcome to the millions of people who immigrated to the US through New York more than a century ago.

But this does not mean that the Democrats are completely against more security at the border between the US and Mexico. They have stated they would support increased security, but not in the form of a wall and not in the form of a budget of \$5.6 billion.

11 Question: Why do you think the wall has caused lots of tensions in the USA?

12 Question: Should Mexicans be stopped from entering the USA?

9 Question: How many people disagree with building the wall?

7 Question: How much will the wall cost?

8 Question : Why do people want Donald Trump to build a wall?