An aerial, sepia-toned photograph of the New York City skyline. The Chrysler Building is the most prominent feature on the left side of the image. The city is densely packed with skyscrapers of various architectural styles, including Gothic Revival and Art Deco. The sky is hazy, and the overall tone is historical and educational.

Geography Lesson
North America
New York City

Where is New York?

New York City is the 2nd largest city in the continent of North America. It is situated in The United States of America (USA) and it is their largest city with a population of over 8.5 million.



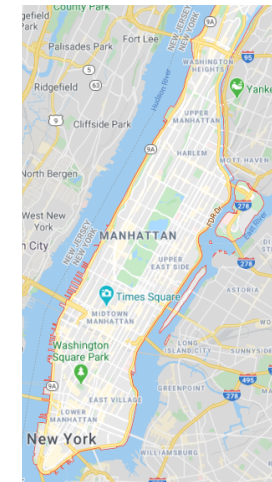
The city is on the east coast of USA, adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean. It is part of New York state and is made up of five boroughs; Manhattan, The Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island.

Manhattan

Manhattan is the borough that most people refer to when they discuss New York City. Most of Manhattan is built on a grid system; the avenues run from north to south, while the streets run from east to west. Fifth Avenue separates the east and west sides. The southern most street is 1st Street located downtown in the East village. Below this streets have names such as Canal Street. This was the original part of the city before the grid system was designed.



New York City



Rivers & Bridges

Manhattan is surrounded by two rivers. The East River separates Manhattan from the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. The Hudson river is on the west and divides New York from New Jersey and Staten Island.

Brooklyn Bridge



Brooklyn Bridge spans the East River to connect the boroughs of Brooklyn and Manhattan. It was opened in 1883 and was, at that time the largest suspension bridge in the world at 486.3m long. The bridge has separate sections for vehicular traffic and pedestrians and bicycles. It is constructed from timber, galvanised steel, limestone and granite.

East River Bridges

There are a number of bridges spanning the East River. Most tourists enter Manhattan from JFK airport over the Queensboro Bridge (completed 1909) in Midtown. The Manhattan Bridge (completed 1909) connects Lower Manhattan at Canal Street with Brooklyn, as does the Williamsburg Bridge (completed 1903) which links Delancey street with the Jewish neighbourhood of Williamsburg in Brooklyn.



Queensboro Bridge

George Washington Bridge



The George Washington Bridge is the only bridge to span the Hudson river linking Manhattan to New Jersey. It was opened in 1931, when it had the longest main bridge span in the world at 1,100m. It is an important travel corridor carrying over 103 million vehicles each year.

History of City

New York City was established in 1613 by the Dutch East India Company, with the original settlement on Manhattan island. It was first called “New Amsterdam”, but when the British government took control in 1664, it was renamed “New York” after the Duke of York.

In the late 1800’s and early 1900’s the city became the gateway to the USA for millions of immigrants via Ellis Island which was the busiest immigration inspection station in the USA, processing 12 million immigrants between 1892 and 1954.

In 1898, the five boroughs- which had previously been independent cities- were brought together under one city government. The opening of the New York subway in 1904 further united the boroughs and hastened the growth of the city. The famous high rise skyline of New York began to take shape in the early 20th century, early notable buildings were; the Flatiron Building (1902), Met Life Tower (1909) and the Woolworth Building (1912). Some of New York’s most famous landmarks were completed in the 1930’s

Ellis Island



Flatiron Building



Construction Craze

Some of New York’s most famous landmarks were completed in the 1930’s. The Chrysler Building on Lexington Avenue, is one of the most recognised skyscrapers in the world.

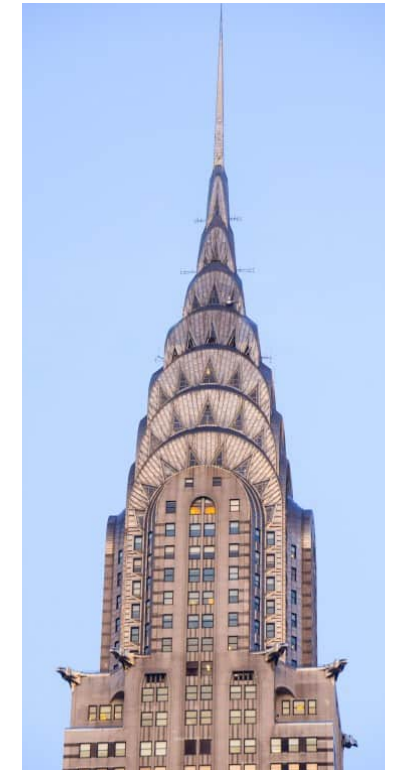
Completed in 1930 and built in an Art Deco style, it held the title of the world’s tallest building until it was usurped by the Empire State Building on Fifth Avenue in 1931.

The Empire State Building held this title for the next 40 years and remains a popular attraction, offering panoramic views over the city and beyond from its observation deck on the 102nd floor. On a clear day it is possible to see five states; New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

Constructing the Empire State



The Empire State Building



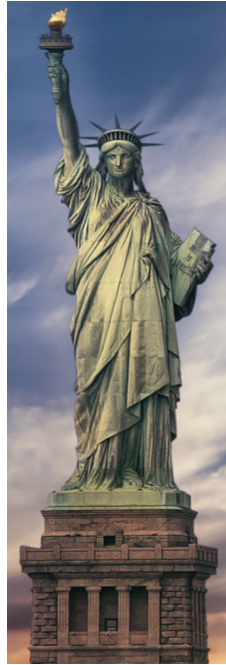
The Chrysler Building

Landmarks of New York

Statue of Liberty

Located on Liberty Island in New York Harbour, the Statue of Liberty was a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States. It was designed by the sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, its metal framework was built by Gustave Eiffel, the civil engineer and architect famous for the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

The statue depicts a Roman goddess of Liberty holding a torch in her right hand and a tablet featuring the date of the US declaration of independence in her left. She is seen as symbol of American freedom and has become a welcome sight for immigrants to the states arriving in New York by sea.



Neighbourhoods

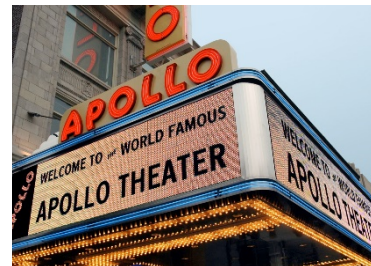
New York has many famous neighbourhoods, each with their own unique characteristics. **Greenwich Village** was the centre of the bohemian movement in the 1960's and maintains a relaxed, social feels with its brownstone houses and numerous bars.

Harlem has a grittier reputation.



It has a rich Hispanic and African American heritage. It is located in upper Manhattan, bordered by the Harlem River and the East River. It is home to the famous Apollo Theatre and Columbia University.

Greenwich Village



Apollo Theatre, Harlem

Central Park

Most of New York's residents get their fresh air and exercise in Central Park.



The park is 843 acres (3.4 square km) of green space situated between the Upper West and Upper East sides of Manhattan.

It has its own zoo, lake, nature sanctuary, reservoir and public ice rink and is the most visited urban park in the USA.

Your Task

Questions

1. On which coast of the United States of America is New York?
2. Name the five boroughs that make up New York City.
3. Name the two rivers that surround Manhattan island, explain which side they are on and name a bridge that spans one of the rivers.
4. What materials is the Brooklyn Bridge constructed from?
5. When was New York City founded? What was its original name?
6. Where were 12 million immigrants processed on their entry to the USA?
7. What opened in 1904 and how did it change the city?
8. Name the art deco skyscraper on Lexington Avenue. How long did it hold the title of “the world’s tallest building”?
9. What is the connection between The Statue of Liberty and The Eiffel Tower?
10. What does liberty hold in her left hand and what is written on it?
11. Describe the cultural heritage of the New York neighbourhood of Harlem.
12. Where would like to visit in New York? Explain your reasons.

Extension

Design a poster to attract tourists to visit New York City entitled “Come to New York!”

Be sure to include the following features:

- Images of tourist attractions
- Famous landmarks
- Facts and accurate information about the city.
- Consider mentioning the climate, food and culture (art, museums, music etc.)
- Make it bright and eye-catching!

