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New York in 1900



electric light



candle



microwave



cooker



carriage



underground train

Reading

1 08 Read and listen.

What was New York like in 1900? It was very different to New York today. Let's see!

In 1900 New York was a very big city. There were more than three million people. It was the biggest city in the USA. In New York today there are lots of very tall buildings, called skyscrapers. In 1900, there weren't any very tall skyscrapers, but there were some big buildings. There was the Statue of Liberty in New York harbour. You can still see the Statue of Liberty in New York today.

The biggest houses had electric lights, but lots of houses and flats had candles. Some people had phones, but there weren't any computers so people didn't have email. There weren't any microwaves. People had big cookers.

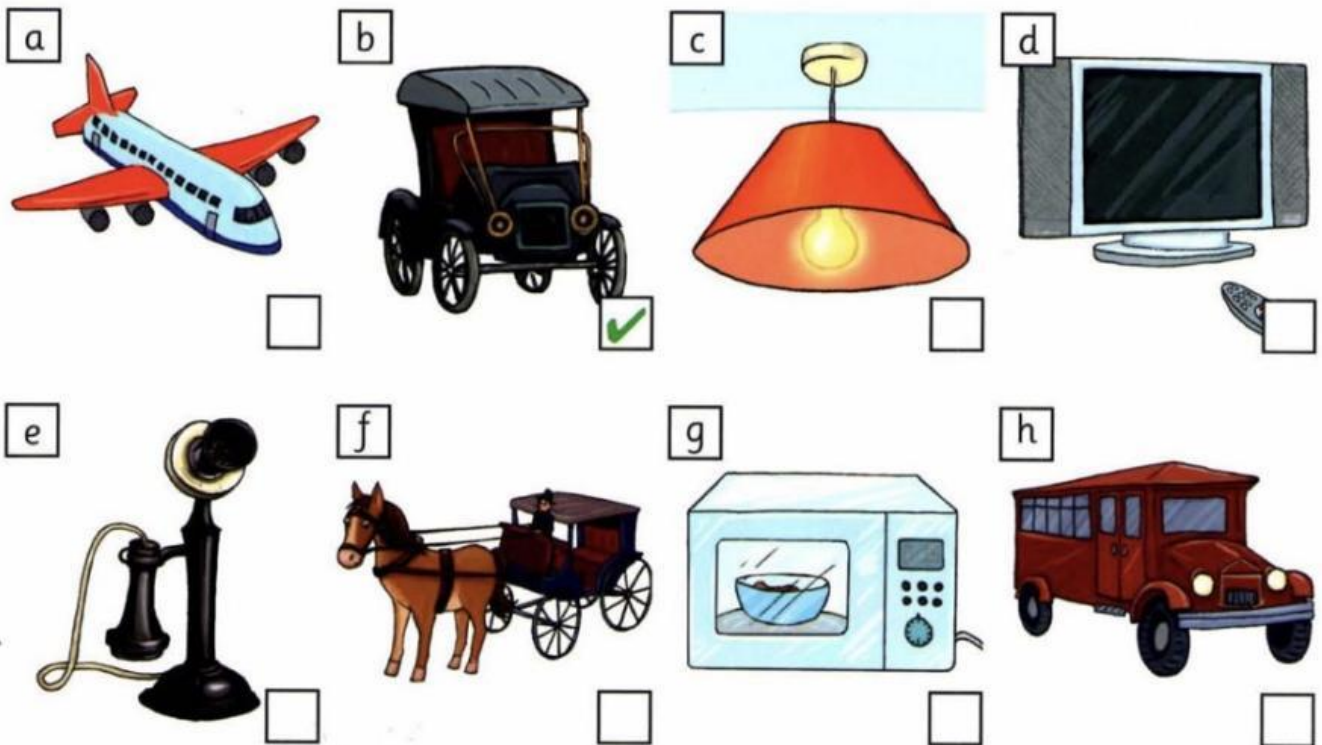
There were lots of theatres in New York, but there weren't any cinemas. People didn't have TVs, but they had books.

Lots of people had horses and carriages, but some people had cars. There were taxis in New York in 1900, and buses and even underground trains. There weren't any planes and there wasn't an airport. There were big boats that came to New York from Europe.



Comprehension

2 Tick (✓) the things that New York had in 1900.



3 Read and (✓) or (X).

- 1 New York was a very big city in 1900.
- 2 Some people had electric lights in their houses.
- 3 There was a big airport.
- 4 People had computers and TVs in their houses.
- 5 Lots of people had horses and carriages.
- 6 There were buses and taxis.

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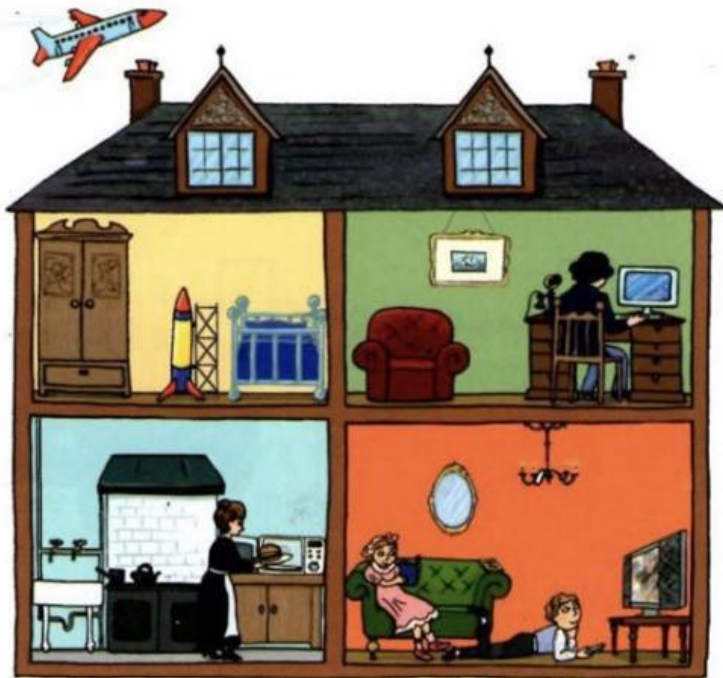
4 Write *There was / were* or *There wasn't / weren't*.

- 1 There were theatres in New York in 1900.
- 2 _____ telephones in the houses.
- 3 _____ an airport.
- 4 _____ any cinemas in New York.
- 5 _____ underground trains.

Vocabulary

5 Find five mistakes in the picture. Write.

cookers	planes	microwaves	rockets
computers	candles	TVs	books



In 1900 they had ...

1 books

2 _____

3 _____

In 1900 they didn't have ...

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

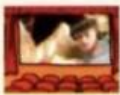
6 Complete the sentences.

In 1900 they didn't have  1 microwaves, but they did have

 2 _____. There weren't any  3 _____; people

had  4 _____. There were some  5 _____.

There were  6 _____ in the cities, but there weren't any

 7 _____. Some houses had  8 _____, but

there were lots of  9 _____.

Writing

cinema	☒
theatre	☒
airport	☒
bikes	☒
computers	☒
email	☒
books	☒

My Grandpa's Village

This is Valebury in 1948. There wasn't a cinema or a theatre in the village. It was too small.

There weren't many cars, but people had bikes. There wasn't an airport and there weren't any planes.

People didn't have computers or email, but there were telephones in some houses. Many houses had electric lights, but people also had candles.

People had cookers in their kitchens, but they didn't have microwaves. Most people didn't have TVs, but they had lots of books.

My grandpa had lots of friends in Valebury. It was a nice village.



7 Write *and*, *or* or *but*.

- 1 People didn't have electric lights or telephones in their houses.
- 2 In 1900 there was a library _____ a school in my town.
- 3 There was a train station, _____ there wasn't an airport.
- 4 This town didn't have a swimming pool _____ a shopping centre.
- 5 There was a river, _____ there wasn't a bridge across it.
- 6 There were lots of big buildings _____ busy roads.

8 Find a picture of your town in the past. Look and (✓) or (X). Write about it in your notebook.

horses ☐ buses ☐ cars ☐ café ☐ theatre ☐
 school ☐ swimming pool ☐ electric lights ☐

Use these words and phrases:

- *This is (name) in (year).*
- *There wasn't ...*
- *People had ...*
- *Some houses had ...*
- *There weren't any ...*
- *They didn't have ...*