THREE THINGS TO DO IN ... NEW YORK

There are so many things to see and do in New York, sometimes it's difficult to know where to start. In this week's guide, we look at three things you can't miss when you visit the city.

Start by spending some time in Central Park. With over 25,000 trees and lots of different types of birds, it's easy to forget you're in a big city. Relax and enjoy the fresh air or go for a tour in a horse and carriage. In summer you can go out on the lake in a boat or kayak, and in winter you can go ice-skating! After all that activity you'll be hungry, so have lunch at the famous Tavern on the Green. Great concerts take place in Central Park, too. Every year the New York Philharmonic Orchestra gives a free open-air concert and there's also the New York Shakespeare Festival at the theatre in the park.

They say that Paris has the Eiffel Tower, London has the London Eye and New York has the Empire State Building. But many people think the best views of the city are from the 'Top of the Rock' – the top floor of the GE (General Electric) building, a skyscraper in the middle of the city. At 260 metres high, it's the fourteenth tallest building in New York, and from the top you can have a fantastic view of the city.

Many people visit the famous Statue of Liberty by ferry, but also on the way is the Immigration Museum on Ellis Island. This was the place where people first arrived from 1892 to 1954, many after a long and difficult journey from other countries. Most of the island is closed to the general public, but you can visit the museum and find out about the many people who arrived here. You can also go on a tour with a guide to visit some of the old, unused buildings on the island. A very interesting day out for everyone.

READING

4 A Read the article and complete the sentences with a name or a number.

1 There are more than _____ trees in Central Park.
2 The famous restaurant in Central Park is called the _____.
3 Every year, the New York _____ Festival has plays in the park.
4 The top floor of the GE building is called the '_____'.
5 On Ellis island you can visit the _____ Museum.
6 People from other countries started arriving on Ellis Island in _____.

B Read the article again and answer the questions.

1 Why is it 'easy to forget you're in a big city' when you visit Central Park?
_____
2 What can you do in Central Park in winter?
_____
3 What is the GE building?
_____
4 How do you get to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty?
_____
5 What else, apart from the museum, can you visit on Ellis island?
_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

MORE THAN A HOBBY

Gordon Ramsay Winston Churchill Woody Allen

1 When Wallace Stevens walked into his office every morning, his colleagues didn't know about his secret: Stevens lived a double life. By day he worked for an insurance company. The rest of his life was spent becoming one of the greatest American poets of the twentieth century.

2 Secret talent is more common than we think, even with people who are already famous in one area. Take Luciano Pavarotti, who was one of the world's greatest classical singers. Not many people know that before he became a singer, he was an outstanding football player. The same is true of TV chef Gordon Ramsay, who is now well-known for his brilliant cooking and his bad language. Ramsay played professional football for Glasgow Rangers, one of Scotland's best teams.

3 A number of politicians first made their name in other jobs. Most people know that Arnold Schwarzenegger had a very successful acting career before becoming Governor of California. Winston Churchill, prime minister of Great Britain, also had another talent: he wrote great history books. Churchill's books won him the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953. Vàclav Havel, who was the first president of the Czech Republic, was also a great writer.

4 There are also musicians and actors who have secret talents. Paul McCartney and David Bowie are both painters, Paul Newman was a racing car driver and actor Colin Farrell is a professional line dancer. And only those who go to a little hotel bar in New York City every Monday would know that one of the best clarinet players in town is actor and film director Woody Allen. He certainly plays the clarinet better than Bill Clinton plays the saxophone!

5 A Do you recognise any of the people in the photos? Why are they famous? What else are/were they good at? Read the article to find out.

B Read the article again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1 The people in the text are famous for one thing, but also good at another thing. _____
2 Wallace Stevens' colleagues didn't know he was a poet. _____
3 Gordon Ramsay was a chef before he became a famous footballer. _____
4 Churchill and Havel were both actors and politicians. _____
5 Woody Allen plays the clarinet and the saxophone. _____

C Circle the correct meaning for the words and phrases from the text.

1 lived a double life (paragraph 1)
   a) had two very different lifestyles
   b) had a difficult life
2 the same is true of (paragraph 2)
   a) this situation is very different from
   b) this situation is very similar to
3 bad language (paragraph 2)
   a) speaking badly about another person
   b) saying bad words
4 made their name (paragraph 3)
   a) became famous
   b) learnt to do something

LIVEWORKSHEETS