

Las Vegas (B1)

Last April, John took a trip to Las Vegas, Nevada. Las Vegas is a popular destination in the western portion of the United States. The town is most popular for its casinos, hotels, and exciting nightlife.

In downtown Las Vegas, John spent a lot of time on The Strip, which is a 2.5 mile stretch of shopping, entertainment venues, luxury hotels, and fine dining experiences. This is probably the most commonly visited tourist area in the city. The Strip at night looks especially beautiful. All of the buildings light up with bright, neon, eye-catching signs to attract visitor attention. A stay in Las Vegas can feel similar to a visit to many popular cities worldwide. Many of the hotels have miniature versions of important international sites and monuments. These famous landmarks include the Eiffel Tower, Venice, and even ancient Rome.

One day, John took a side trip outside of the city to visit the Grand Canyon, one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World. The canyon offers a breathtaking view of Nevada's ridges and natural landscape. John especially liked the canyon because it was removed from all of the noise and movement in downtown Las Vegas.

John had a great time during his trip to Las Vegas. He did not win a lot of money in the casinos. However, he managed to see a lot of amazing sites during his visit to this city that never sleeps.

Did you understand the text?

1) When did John travel to Las Vegas?

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|---|--|
| ☐ a) Yesterday | ☐ b) Last weekend |
| ☐ c) Last spring | ☐ d) Last summer |

2) What is an activity that a tourist cannot do on The Strip?

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| ☐ a) Eat | ☐ b) Stay overnight |
| ☐ c) Shop | ☐ d) Visit the Grand Canyon |

3) Which best describes the purpose of the Las Vegas Strip?

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| ☐ a) It is a 2.5 mile stretch. | ☐ b) It offers a lot of activities for tourists. |
| ☐ c) There are too many neon lights. | ☐ d) It keeps tourists safe. |

4) Explain why John liked his visit to the Grand Canyon.

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| ☐ a) The setting was very different from downtown Las Vegas. | ☐ b) It is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. |
| ☐ c) John does not enjoy spending time in cities. | ☐ d) The Grand Canyon offers a breathtaking view. |

5) What does it mean that Las Vegas is a "city that never sleeps?"

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|--|---|
| ☐ a) A lot of people here have sleep disorders. | ☐ b) There is too much noise here for people to sleep. |
| ☐ c) Las Vegas offers exciting activities at all hours. | ☐ d) The neon lights keep people awake at night. |

The Statue of Liberty (B1)

The Statue of Liberty, arguably one of New York City's most iconic symbols, is a popular tourist attraction for first-time visitors to the city. This 150-foot monument was gifted to the United States from France in order to celebrate 100 years of America's independence. The statue is located on Liberty Island, and it is accessible by taking a ferry from either Battery Park in New York City or Liberty State Park in Jersey City.

When Claire visited the Statue of Liberty for the first time, she instantly admired it as a symbol of freedom. Claire made sure to make reservations before her visit because only 240 people are permitted to climb the staircase to the top of the statue every day. After climbing almost 400 stairs, Claire received spectacular views of the city from the statue's crown.

During her visit, Claire learned that the Statue of Liberty was not always the color that it is now. She found out that because the statue's exterior is made of copper, the statue oxidized over time, giving it the greenish appearance it has in present day. When it was first constructed, the statue was the same color as a shiny penny! After touring the Statue of Liberty, Claire spent the rest of the day in New York City visiting other important monuments and historic landmarks. Claire left New York hoping to have had the time to explore more sites, but she can't wait to return to the city in the future.

Did you understand the text?

1) Who gifted the Statue of Liberty to the United States?

- ☐ a) The British
- ☐ b) The French
- ☐ c) The Spanish
- ☐ d) The Dutch

2) What was the Statue of Liberty intended to celebrate?

- ☐ a) Open immigration to the United States
- ☐ b) The end of the Civil War
- ☐ c) Economic recovery from the Great Depression
- ☐ d) A century of American independence

3) How many people are permitted to climb the statue's stairs per day?

- ☐ a) 100
- ☐ b) 150
- ☐ c) 240
- ☐ d) 400

4) From which part of the statue did Claire receive spectacular views of the city?

- ☐ a) The mouth
- ☐ b) The nose
- ☐ c) The eyes
- ☐ d) The crown

5) Why has the Statue of Liberty changed color over time?

- ☐ a) Its copper exterior oxidized.
- ☐ b) It was painted green during restorations.
- ☐ c) The statue is poorly maintained by the city.
- ☐ d) New York's poor air quality has eroded the statue.