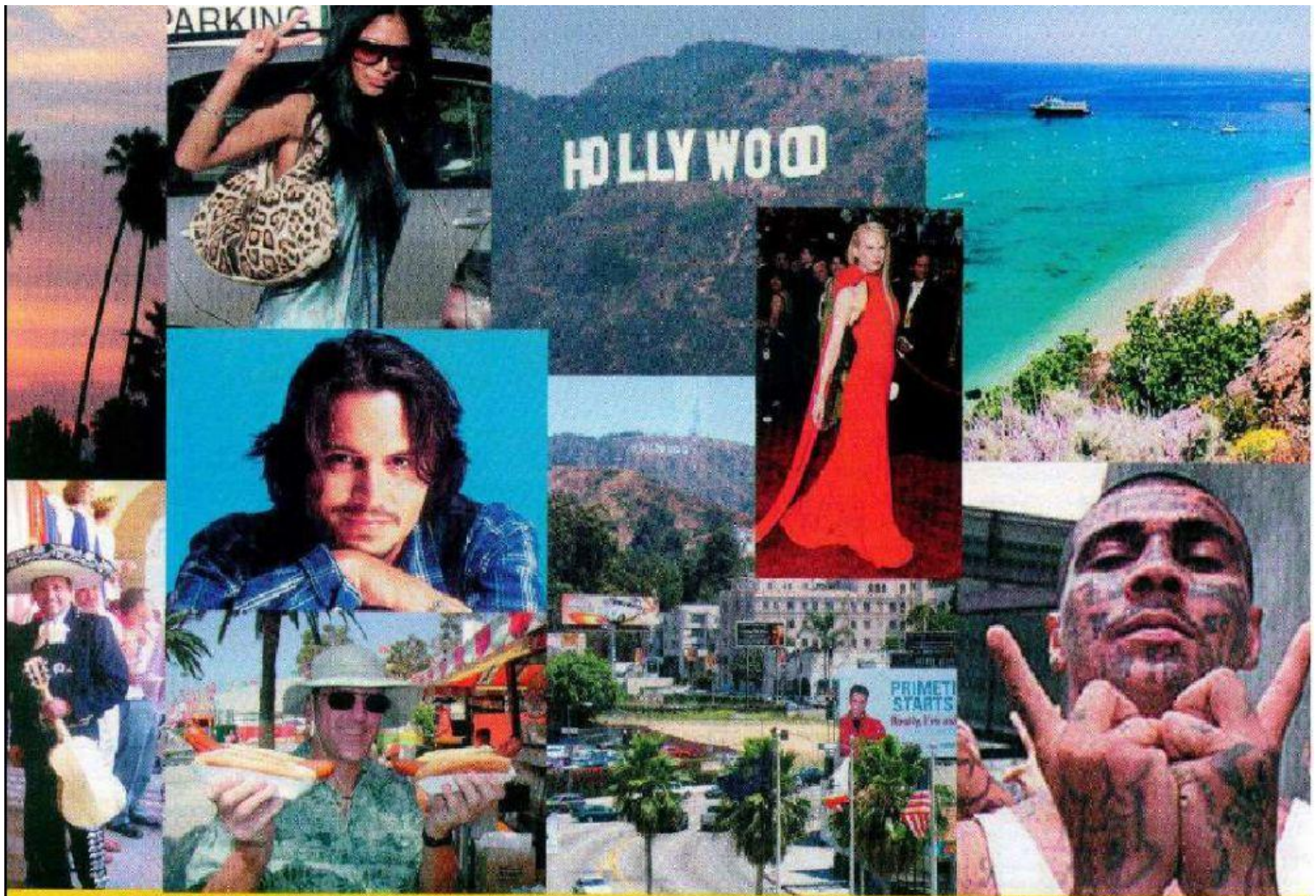


# Los Angeles

- Los Angeles is the largest city in the state of California and the second most populous city in the United States. The Los Angeles area, which includes the city itself and its suburbs, has a population of 13.6 million.
- Los Angeles's nicknames are LA and the City of Angels. Some people also call it 'La-La Land' because they think the city is full of strange and crazy people.
- The inhabitants of Los Angeles are called Angelenos.
- Los Angeles is often called 'the entertainment capital of the world.' The largest and most famous entertainment industries in LA

are television and film production, so the city is full of celebrities and wannabe actors who come here hoping to attract attention of some Hollywood big shot.

- The city was born as a Spanish pueblo in 1781 and it's still very Spanish in character. You hear people speaking the language wherever you go. Many signs are in English and Spanish and there are many Spanish street names.
- Los Angeles is a multicultural city. About 100 languages can be heard on its streets! It has the largest number of Mexicans outside Mexico, Koreans outside Seoul, and Iranians



# the City of Stars ... and Gangs



There are more Mexicans in LA than in Mexico. Everywhere you go you can see Mexican bands, dressed in large sombreros, performing traditional Mexican songs.

outside Teheran. There are some areas in LA where it seems that you are not in an English-speaking country at all. Little Tokyo, for example, has Japanese Buddhist temples, Japanese shops, karaoke clubs, sushi bars

and rock gardens. In Little India you can find saris and sitars. There is even Little Russia in Los Angeles where everyone speaks Russian!



A very colourful New Year's Day (Oshogatsu) celebration in Little Tokyo



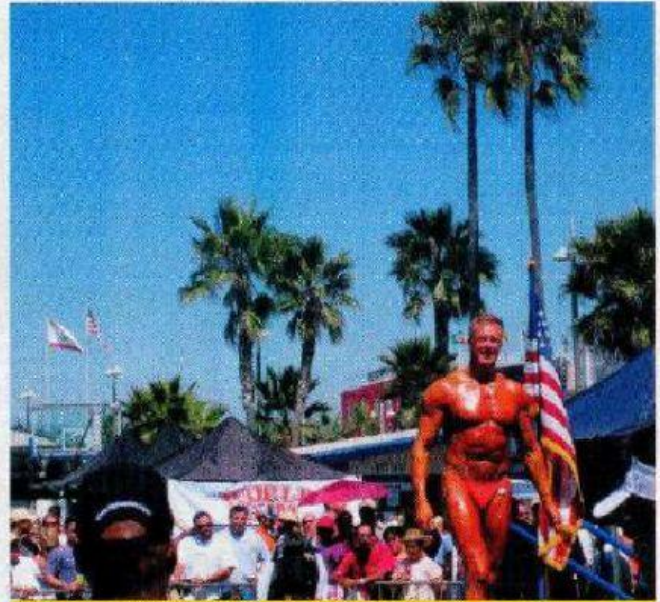
One of the most popular holidays in LA is Cinco de Mayo, Mexico's Independence Day



The entrance to LA's Chinatown



Koreatown has the largest number of Koreans living outside Seoul.

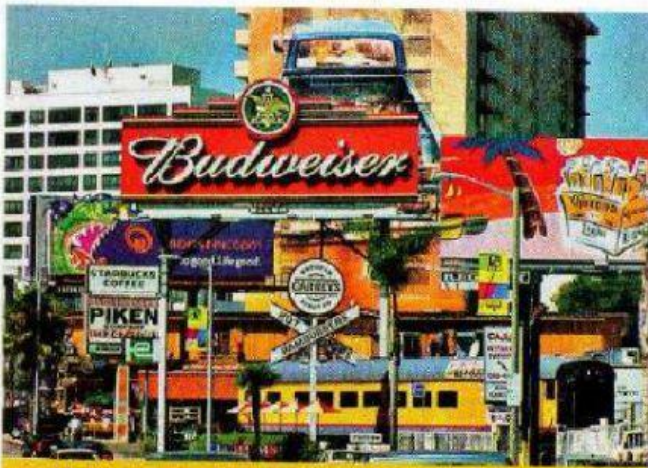


Venice Beach

- Venice Beach is the best place to see many Angelenos at once. You won't see any stars here – it's too crowded – but you'll see lots of bronzed bodybuilders, rollerskaters, street performers, belly dancers, and people just walking up and down in their swim suits waiting for you to notice their beautiful bodies. Angelenos like to be looked at.
- One striking thing about LA is that it doesn't seem to have a city at all. It keeps growing and spreading in all directions, even out into the desert!
- It seems that nobody walks in Los Angeles; there are a lot of beautiful cars driven by beautiful people. But with so many cars, LA has the dirtiest air in the US. All too often the sunshine is hidden by the smog.

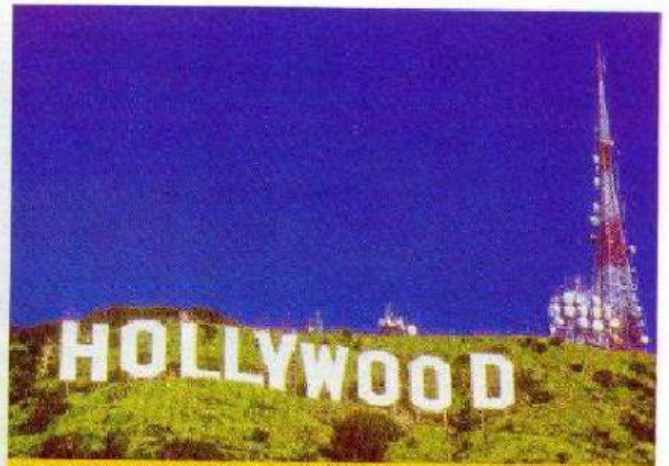


Smog in Los Angeles



The Strip is famous for its bright billboards.

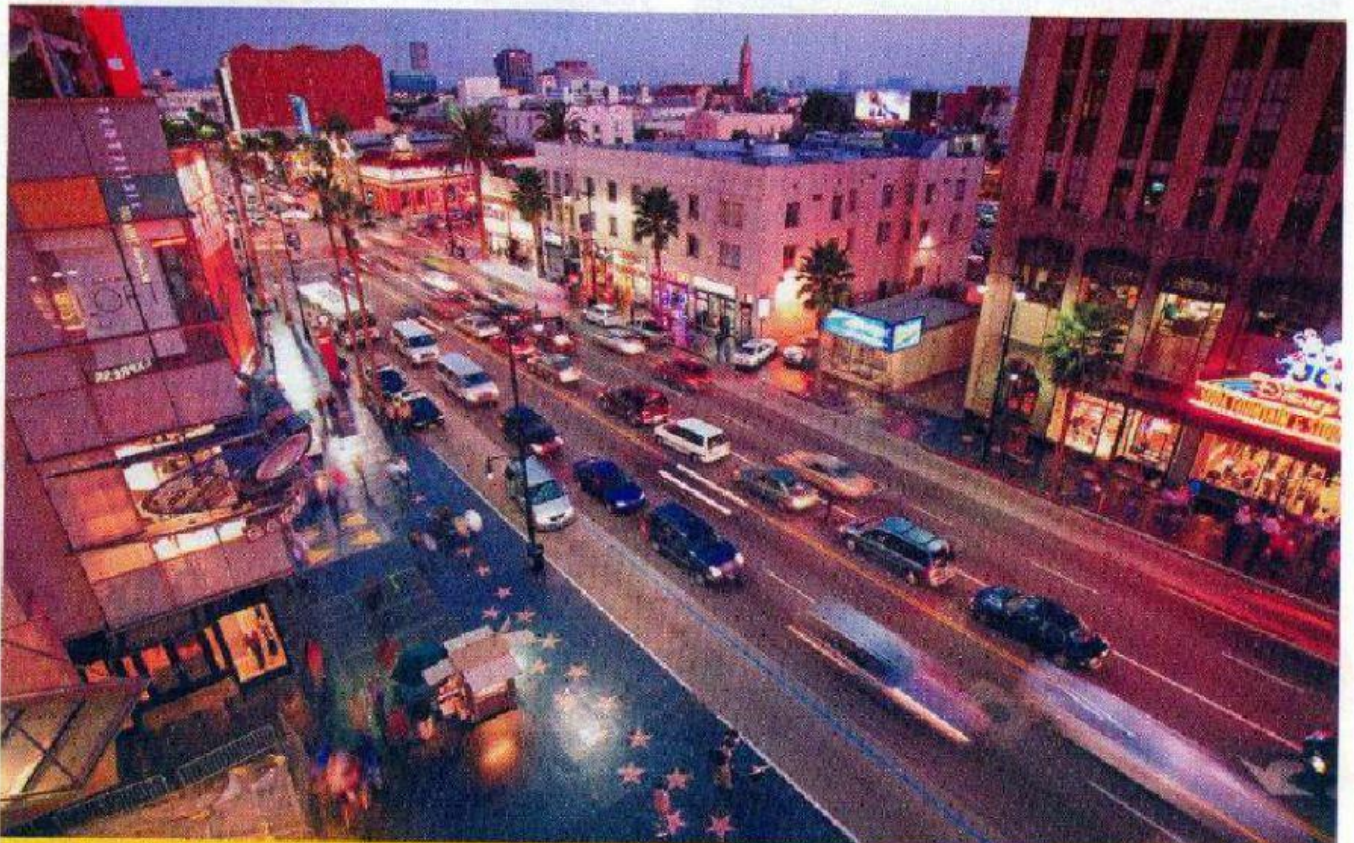
● LA's most important street, Sunset Boulevard, is about 40 km long. Its most famous stretch, the Sunset Strip, passes through Hollywood. The Strip is known for its bright billboards and chic restaurants where the waiters are really wannabe actors or singers or scriptwriters. There are also modern apartment buildings with pools and palm trees, but inside there are often six or more young hopefuls living



Each letter in the famous Hollywood sign is 15.2 m tall.

together in two rooms to save money on rent.

● Hollywood is still the centre of American film industry, though many studios have moved out of it. The famous Hollywood sign is known all over the world. Each letter in the sign is 15.2 m tall. In 1932, during the Great Depression, one young actress, Peg Entwistle, even jumped to her death from the sign's giant letter 'H.'



Hollywood Boulevard as taken from the Kodak Theatre (the place where the Oscar nights take place)



The famous Mann's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood is where many of the big movies are premiered.

- The famous Mann's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood is where many of the big movies are first shown. And just outside, on Hollywood Boulevard, is where all the stars leave their handprints and footprints.
- Universal Studios in Hollywood is one of the most amazing places on earth. Not only does it have a theme park, but it's also a working studio. A tram tour takes you past

film sets where movies are being filmed and you can also see a lot of Hollywood history, including Alfred Hitchcock's old studio offices, and the set where they filmed part of *Jaws* and the *Jurassic Park*. You can even bump into Steven Spielberg or Johnny Depp on their way to work... or to lunch (contrary to what their agents say, the stars are human, they have to eat).



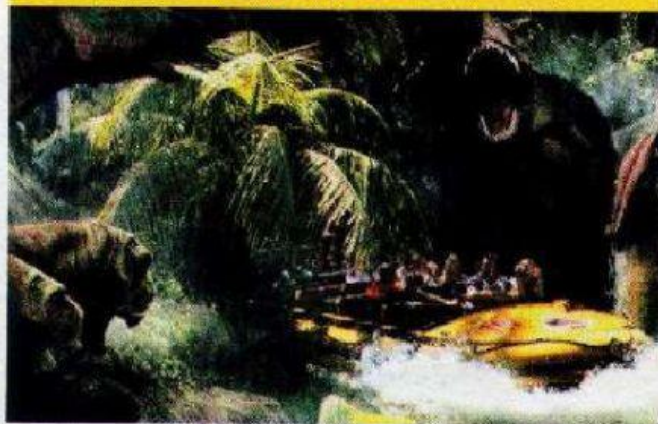
The Hollywood Walk of Fame, a sidewalk along Hollywood Boulevard, has more than 2000 bronze stars on it. The stars have the names of celebrities on them.



The entrance to the Universal Studios



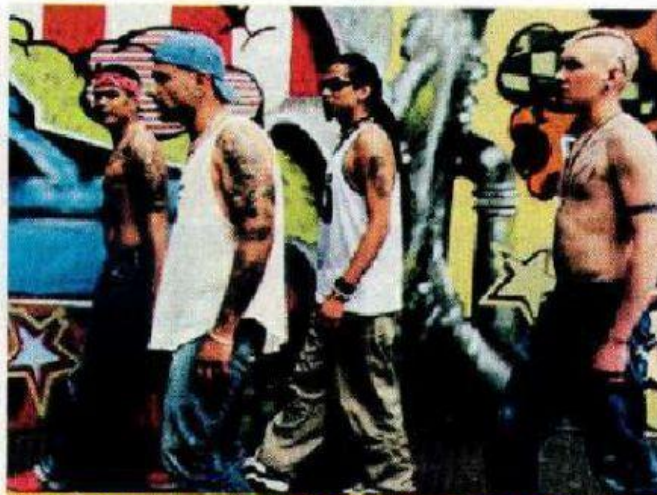
Universal Studios in Hollywood is still a working studio. As well as seeing the sets where movies are being filmed, there are a lot of spectacular shows for tourists to watch.



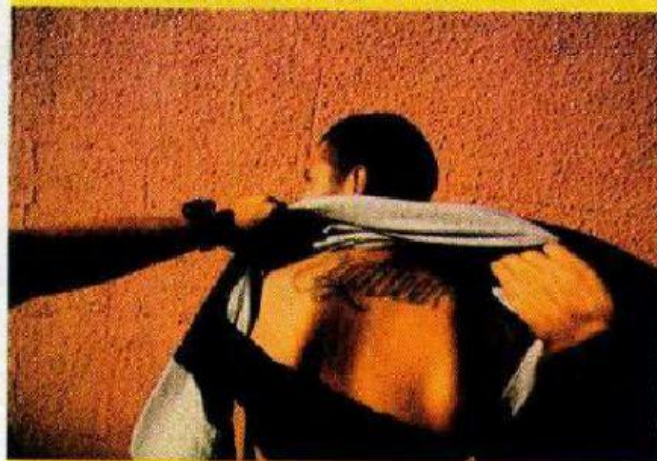
● Many famous movie stars live in or near Hollywood, especially in Beverly Hills and Malibu.

● LA is an exciting city, but it's also a dangerous place to live in. There are over 1,300 street gangs in LA with over 160,000 members. Most gangs exist in poor, rundown areas (however, not everyone who is poor joins a gang, and not every gang member is poor) and most gang members are young people.

Teenagers join gangs because they want to have money and because there's nothing else to do where they live. Joining a gang gives them a sense of belonging and being a part of something important. Gangs are responsible for such crimes as theft, vandalism, drug smuggling and even murder. The biggest gang in LA and the whole US is the 18th Street Gang.



There are over 1,300 street gangs in LA with over 160,000 members.



A member of the 18th Street Gang

## HOLLYWOOD WORDS QUIZ

Many new words were invented in Hollywood. Can you guess what the following movie terms mean?

- 1) tearjerker
- 2) western
- 3) baddie
- 4) cliffhanger
- 5) spine-chiller

- a) a film that makes you feel very excited or nervous because you do not know what will happen next
- b) a film that is very sad and makes you cry
- c) a film that is very frightening, but in a way that people enjoy
- d) a film about the lives of cowboys in the American West
- e) a bad guy in a film, a villain



Fill in the sentences with the words from the text

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of LA is 13.6 million. (Page 1)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a place near the city itself. (Page 1)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who wants to be famous, but usually unsuccessfully. (Page 1)
4. LA is a \_\_\_\_\_ city. It includes people who have different customs and beliefs. (Page 1)
5. LA is \_\_\_\_\_ people who are famous. These people we call \_\_\_\_\_. (Page 1)
6. People who live in LA we call \_\_\_\_\_. (Page 1)
7. Countries in which people speak English are called \_\_\_\_\_. (Page 2)
8. LA is a \_\_\_\_\_ city. On the streets there are a lot of people! (Page 3)
9. Angelenos like to be \_\_\_\_\_. (Page 3)
10. In LA a huge problem is \_\_\_\_\_. Because of it the sunshine is hidden. (Page 3)
11. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who writes a plot, calls script, for the film. (Page 4)
12. There are modern apartments with pools and \_\_\_\_\_. (Page 4)
13. On Hollywood Boulevard famous stars leave their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (Page 5)
14. You can \_\_\_\_\_ Johnny Depp who is going to lunch. (Page 5)
15. Teenagers often \_\_\_\_\_ street \_\_\_\_\_. (Page 6)

