

CULTURE

NEW YORK CITY

1 Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 Have you ever been to a big city like New York?
- 2 What do you think people can see and do there?

2 Do the New York City quiz.

- 1 About ... people live in New York.
A 2.5 million B 8.5 million C 40 million
- 2 New York City is also called the Big ...
A Apple B Easy C Borough
- 3 New York's Central Park is in ...
A Brooklyn B Coney C Manhattan
- 4 Around ... different languages are spoken in New York.
A 8 B 80 C 800
- 5 New York's taxis are typically ... in colour.
A black B white C yellow

NEW YORK, NEW YORK



New York is one of the most exciting cities in the world. It's the capital of New York State and the largest city in the USA, with a population of about 8.5 million. The city's **nickname** is the Big Apple and people also call it 'the city that never sleeps' because it's busy day and night.

History

Over the past two centuries, many millions of people have moved to the United States. In the 19th century the immigrants were mainly Europeans. By 1850, about 25% of New Yorkers were Irish.

The **population** of New York grew from 2.5 million in 1890 to 7 million in 1930. Since the 1960s, the immigrants have been mostly from Latin America and Asia. This incredible mix of people has made New York City one of the most multicultural cities in the world. Today, about 30% of all New Yorkers were born in another country and it's estimated that you can hear over 800 languages in the city. Some immigrants have created their own **neighbourhoods**, like Little Italy, Chinatown, and Spanish Harlem, each of which offers a different experience of New York culture.



New York life

There are five main areas in the city, called boroughs: Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island. Manhattan is the most famous of these, with its tall **skyscrapers**, like the Empire State Building. The tallest is One World Trade Center, which is 541 metres tall.

New Yorkers call Times Square 'the crossroads of the world'. It's where New Yorkers come together to celebrate special events, to go to the movies and the theatre, and to enjoy street food from every corner of the world. People that are more interested in shopping, fashion or music hang out in trendy SoHo in the south of Manhattan.

Manhattan has plenty of green spaces, including the famous Central Park. About 40 million people, New Yorkers as well as tourists, visit the park every year to enjoy walking, cycling, skating and picnics.

From Manhattan, it's a short walk over Brooklyn Bridge to get to the borough of Brooklyn. Here, people visit the **varied** street markets or chat with friends in the borough's fashionable coffee shops. At weekends, thousands of New Yorkers go to an area of Brooklyn called Coney Island. Here, they escape the stress of city life by relaxing on the three-kilometre long beach or by having fun at the famous Luna Park theme park.

When it's time to go home, New Yorkers can either take the 24-hour **subway** or catch one of the city's famous yellow taxi cabs.

3 Read the text. Find the answers to the quiz.

1 About ... people live in New York.
A 2.5 million B 8.5 million C 40 million

2 New York City is also called the Big ...
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4 Answer the questions with information from the article.

- 1 How big was the Irish community in New York in the 1850s?
- 2 What are the names of the five main areas of the city?
- 3 How tall is the tallest building in the city?
- 4 Which area of New York is good for shopping, according to the article?
- 5 How can you get from Manhattan to Brooklyn?
- 6 Why do people visit Coney Island?

5 Match the **highlighted** words in the text to the meanings.

- 1 very tall buildings, usually in a city
- 2 an informal name for something or someone, used instead of a real name
- 3 consisting of many different types
- 4 the number of people living in a particular area
- 5 a system of trains that mainly travel underground
- 6 areas of a town or city that people live in

neighbourhoods

nickname

population

skyscrapers

subway

varied

6 What are these sights? Which ones would you like to see?



7 Listen to Fiona talk about her trip to New York. Tick (✓) the places that you hear.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 ☐ the Statue of Liberty | 6 ☐ Empire State Building |
| 2 ☐ JFK Airport | 7 ☐ Central Park |
| 3 ☐ Chinatown | 8 ☐ Coney Island |
| 4 ☐ Times Square | 9 ☐ MoMA |
| 5 ☐ Bronx Zoo | 10 ☐ Yankee Stadium |



8 Listen again. Are the sentences true or false?

- 1 Fiona went to Coney Island on Sunday morning.
- 2 They didn't have enough time to see a baseball game.
- 3 Fiona went to Times Square before lunch on Saturday.
- 4 Fiona's parents didn't want to visit the art museum.
- 5 They didn't visit the Statue of Liberty this time.
- 6 Fiona had dinner in Chinatown on Sunday.

9 Look at the phrases in the *Useful language* box. Change the words in brackets with your own ideas.



USEFUL LANGUAGE

Describing a visit to a city

- 1 First, we went to (the park).
- 2 Next, we visited (Times Square)
- 3 After lunch, we decided to (visit a museum).
- 4 I loved the (second-hand clothing) shops there.
- 5 I learned a lot about (the history of New York).
- 6 We had (good) weather, too.

PROJECT

**A report about
a famous city**

Write about an interesting visit to a famous city. Think about your answers to the questions.

- What city did you visit? When did you go?
- Did you go there with your family or friends?
- What was the weather like during your visit?
- What famous places and sights did you see?
- Did you go shopping for anything special?
- What did you learn about the city's history?
- What was your favourite part of the visit?

Present your work to the class, using the phrases from the *Useful language* box.

 **05 NOW WATCH THE CULTURE VIDEO**

PREPARE SECOND EDITION LEVEL 4

CULTURE: NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORK CITY 05

1 Work in groups and answer the questions.

- 1 What can you remember about New York?
 - What is the population of New York?
 - What nicknames does New York have?
 - What can you do on Coney Island?
- 2 Have you ever been to New York? What did you visit?
- 3 Would you like to visit New York? Why? / Why not?



 **LIVEWORKSHEETS**

2 Match the words to the definitions. Which ones might you hear in a video about New York City? Why?

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 ☐ skyscraper | a people who enter another country to live there |
| 2 ☐ subway | b groups of people that live in certain areas |
| 3 ☐ immigrants | c very tall buildings |
| 4 ☐ history | d a lot of cars on the road that are moving very slowly |
| 5 ☐ famine | e a train that often travels underground |
| 6 ☐ traffic jam | f a large group of people moving together often wearing costumes |
| 7 ☐ parade | g when there is no food in one place for a long time |
| 8 ☐ communities | h the study of the past |

3 05 Watch the video and tick [✓] the words in Activity 2 you hear.



4 05 Watch the video again and choose the correct option.

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 One of New York City's nicknames is | a the city of dreams. | b dream city. | c the city for dreamers. |
| 2 Many Irish people left Ireland because they | a thought it was a great opportunity. | b didn't have enough food. | c didn't have a great job. |
| 3 St Patrick's Day is celebrated on | a 7th March. | b 17th March. | c 27th March. |
| 4 The St Patrick's Day parade goes along Fifth Avenue from | a 40 – 79 Street. | b 44 – 77 Street. | c 44 – 79 Street. |
| 5 In Brooklyn you can find Mexican food which is popular and | a expensive. | b tasty. | c a good price. |
| 6 You can eat freshly made tacos | a as a treat. | b on the street. | c in the park. |
| 7 You can find Korea Town in Manhattan. | a midtown | b the south of | c the east of |
| 8 A lot of people enjoy eating Korean BBQ | a in the afternoon. | b for lunch. | c at night. |

5 Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

- Did you learn anything new about New York from the video?
- Would you like to live in New York? Why? / Why not?
- Is the place where you live similar or different to New York? What things are the same and what things are different?