

# New York City

The City of New York is the most populous city in the USA and one of the largest urban areas in the world. With 10 million inhabitants, New York is one of the major centres of commerce and finance in the world.

## The Five Boroughs

New York City, also called The Big Apple, is formed by five districts called 'boroughs'.

- **The Bronx**, home to the Yankee Stadium, and the only section of the city which is located on the US mainland. Rap and hip hop were born here.
- **Brooklyn**, the city's most populous borough, famous for its cultural and ethnic diversity.
- **Manhattan** is the heart of the city and the most densely populated. It is home to the famous New York skyline which includes skyscrapers such as the Chrysler and Empire State Buildings. Wall Street, at the lower end of the island, is the world's biggest financial centre but Manhattan is also famous worldwide for Broadway theatres, Central Park and Harlem.
- **Queens**, the largest borough and home to New York City's two major airports.
- **Staten Island**, connected to Brooklyn by the Giovanni da Verrazzano Bridge and to Manhattan by the Staten Island Ferry.

1: Manhattan, 2: Brooklyn, 3: Queens, 4: The Bronx, 5: Staten Island



## The Statue of Liberty

Located at the entrance to New York Harbour, Lady Liberty has been welcoming visitors, immigrants, and Americans for over a century. The **Statue of Liberty** was donated to the USA by France to commemorate their mutual friendship during the American War of Independence.

As it was the first thing that immigrants saw when they approached NYC, it has become the symbol of immigration to the States. The statue is covered with copper on a framework of steel, and its interior can be visited by tourists who can climb the 354 steps to the top.

Lady Liberty holds a tablet with the date July 4th, 1776 (the Declaration of Independence) in her left hand and a flaming torch in her right. She stands on a pedestal which hosts the Museum of Immigration and is 46.9 m tall.

The Statue functioned as a lighthouse from 1886 to 1902. Nowadays, it is one of the most famous symbols of the USA.

## The Melting Pot

European settlement began in 1626 when Dutch merchants bought the island of Man-ha-tin from the natives and called it 'New

Amsterdam'. Finally, in 1664 the English conquered the city and renamed it New York in honor of the Duke of York.

The city was then radically transformed by the immigration of thousands of people, mainly from Europe. The arrival of Germans, Italians, Irish, Jews, Poles and Russians changed the city's identity forever.



The city comprises many quarters famous for the ethnic cultures of the people who first lived there: Chinatown, Harlem and Little Italy, for example.

On September 11th 2001 nearly 3,000 people died in the destruction of the **World Trade Center** as a consequence of a terrorist attack.

"New York City, it is a place apart. There is not its match in any other country in the world."

*Pearl S. Buck*

"When it's three o' clock in New York, it's still 1938 in London."

*Bette Midler*

### 1 Now answer these questions.

- 1 What are boroughs in New York?
- 2 List all the most famous districts of NYC and explain their peculiarities.
- 3 Where were rap and hip hop created and what are they?
- 4 What happened in 1626?
- 5 How did the city get its name?
- 6 Who radically transformed the city?
- 7 Why is the Statue of Liberty considered a symbol of immigration?
- 8 What places does the Verrazano Bridge connect?
- 9 Why do you think so many people immigrated to NYC? Explain.