

Los Angeles

Los Angeles covers more than 450 square miles, and it is one of the largest city areas in the world. It is twice the area of Chicago, and about 10 times that of San Francisco! In terms of population L.A. is the second most populous city in the USA after New York City, with a population of 3.8 million people.

A Multicultural Identity

The Spanish founded the city in 1781, naming it El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles, but the city lost the first part of its name when it became a Mexican city in 1835. Today,

Los Angeles is often called The City of Angels and its inhabitants call themselves *Angelenos*. Los Angeles is in a region with a temperate climate and rich land, so thousands of people from the USA, Europe and Asia soon migrated there.

Its population reached 1.5 million by 1940, while oil production contributed to its

expansion in the 1950s. When cars became the main means of American transport, Los Angeles became the first major city of the car age.



Hollywood

Hollywood is a north-western suburb of Los Angeles. It has become famous worldwide because it is the centre of the film and music industry. All over the world people watch American movies and most of these are filmed in **Hollywood**, where all the major film studios are located.

Hollywood also produces many of the most popular TV programmes. A large number of famous actors and actresses live nearby in the luxurious houses of **Beverly Hills**.

The Studios

Visitors to **Universal Studios** in Hollywood can go 'behind the scenes' and see people making films and stuntmen performing dangerous stunts, or discover the tricks used to create special effects. You can also visit movie sets constructed inside the studios, such as space stations or Wild West towns.

Disneyland

It's the oldest theme park in the world and kids simply love it, but even adults have a great time there! Designed by Walt Disney himself and located in the Anaheim District, **Disneyland** is a major attraction for everyone and even presidents, royalty and heads of state have visited it over the years.

"Los Angeles is 72 suburbs in search of a city."

Dorothy Parker

"In Los Angeles, by the time you're 35, you're older than most of the buildings."

Delia Ephron

1 Now answer these questions.

- 1 Which are the largest American cities?
- 2 Who are the 'Angelenos' and what is the City of Angels?
- 3 Why does Los Angeles have such a name?
- 4 What had happened in L.A. by 1940?
- 5 Who lives in Beverly Hills?
- 6 What is Hollywood and why is it so famous?

- 7 What are the Universal Studios and what can you do inside them?
- 8 Where is Disneyland and what can you do there?
- 9 Why was Los Angeles founded where it was?
- 10 Everyone loves movies: what is your favourite? Was it filmed in Hollywood? Explain its plot and why you like it so much.