

Before you watch**1 SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Answer the questions.

- 1 What's the tallest building in your country?
- 2 What do you know about New York City?
- 3 Do you know any famous buildings there?

Comprehension check**2**  Watch the DVD clip. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 What can you find in Central Park?
a a zoo b a museum c a theatre
- 2 When did they build the Empire State Building?
a in the 1980s b in the 1940s c in the 1930s
- 3 What is on the 102nd floor of the Empire State Building?
a a restaurant b a viewing platform c a cinema

3  Watch again. Complete the sentences with the things or places below.

Central Park Empire State Building Guggenheim Museum King Kong
One World Trade Centre Times Square

- 1 You can see lots of modern art at the _____.
- 2 _____ is in the middle of Manhattan.
- 3 There are lots of theatres in _____.
- 4 The _____ is on the corner of Fifth Avenue.
- 5 The _____ is the tallest building in New York.
- 6 _____ is a famous movie monster that climbed to the top of the Empire State Building.

4  Watch again. Are the sentences true or false?

- 1 The Guggenheim Museum is a modern white building. **true / false**
- 2 There are lots of cheap restaurants near the Empire State Building. **true / false**
- 3 Some people call New York the Empire State. **true / false**
- 4 The Empire State Building is 383 metres tall. **true / false**
- 5 King Kong looked like a very large bird. **true / false**
- 6 There are 1,860 steps to the top of the Empire State Building. **true / false**
- 7 There are 360 floors in the Empire State Building. **true / false**

Round up**5 SPEAKING** Work in groups. Answer the question.

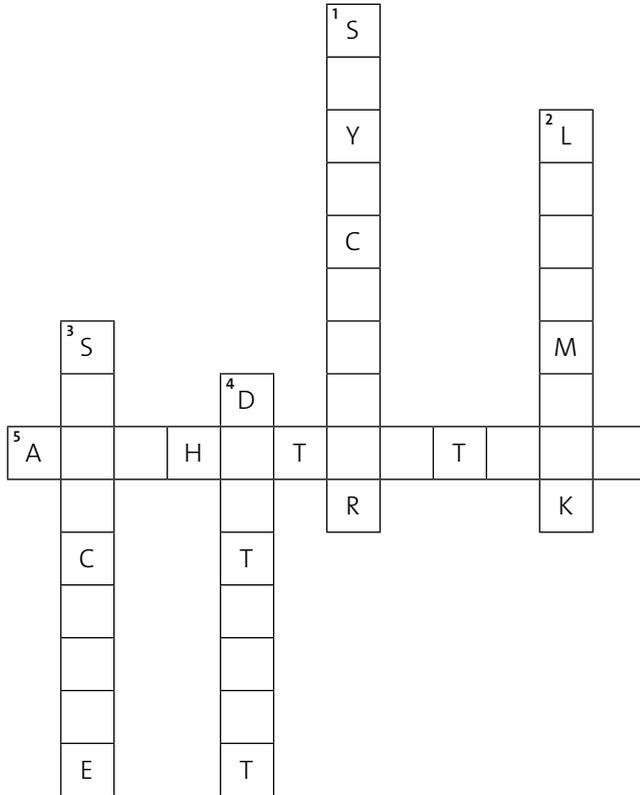
Where would you most like to go in New York City?

Vocabulary

6 RECYCLE Complete the sentences with the correct places in a city. The first letter of each place is given.

- 1 My friends and I often go for a walk or play tennis in the p_____.
- 2 You can always see lots of interesting animals in the z_____.
- 3 My favourite m_____ has got lots of very old things from Egypt and Greece.
- 4 We always sleep in the same h_____ when we visit London.
- 5 You can buy everything from clothes to mobile phones in the s_____ c_____.

7 Read the clues and complete the crossword.



DOWN

- 1 a very tall building
- 2 something you can see from far away
- 3 something that you build with different parts
- 4 a part of a city

ACROSS

- 5 the study of designing buildings

Extension

8 Work in groups. Imagine you are going to present your town or city to a group of foreign students who are coming to visit. Find some photos on the internet and write a presentation. Think about the following:

- the location and population of the town or city
- the main tourist attractions
- the best places to go for entertainment
- any special events they should see

9 Give your presentation. Remember to use a variety of adjectives.

Adjectives to describe towns and cities

attractive
clean
crowded
exciting
historic

DVD clip summary

This DVD clip is about New York City and its most famous building, the Empire State Building.

Background

When the Eiffel Tower was built in Paris in 1889, it inspired engineers and architects in the USA to start building taller and more impressive buildings. By the 1920s, this had turned into a competition to build the tallest building in the world, with two other buildings under construction in New York at the time – 40 Wall Street and the Chrysler Building – hoping to win. In March 1930, when work started on the Empire State Building, it was initially meant to be an 80-storey building. But after seeing the Chrysler Building go higher, the architects increased the size of the Empire State to 85 storeys, and then decided to add a mast to it to ensure that it would become the tallest building in the world. Construction only took 410 days and the building was officially opened on 1 May 1931.

When the building was opened, the USA was just entering the Great Depression and the owners of the Empire State Building found it very difficult to rent out all the office space. It was nicknamed the 'Empty State Building' during its first few years and only started to make money for its owners in 1950.

Today, the building has 85 storeys of office space and houses thousands of businesses. Over 21,000 people work in the building and there are 73 lifts, or 'elevators', that can take you from the bottom to the 80th floor in less than a minute.

Before you watch

Exercise 1

- Read the questions with the class and elicit answers from individual students. Encourage the students to guess the answers they do not already know and use their suggestions to start a class discussion.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Comprehension check

Exercise 2

- **Pre-watching:** Go through the questions with the students.
-  Play the whole DVD clip. The students choose the correct answers. Check their answers.
- **Answers:** 1 a 2 c 3 b

Exercise 3

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to try and complete the sentences before they watch the DVD clip again.
- **Weaker classes:** Play the DVD clip first and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 Guggenheim Museum 2 Central Park 3 Times Square 4 Empire State Building
5 One World Trade Centre 6 King Kong

Exercise 4

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to say if the sentences are true or false before they watch the DVD clip again.
- **Weaker classes:** Play the DVD clip first and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 true 2 false 3 true 4 false 5 false 6 true 7 false

Round up

Exercise 5

- Put the students in groups. Give them a few minutes to discuss the question.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Vocabulary

Exercise 6

- Ask the students to complete the sentences with the correct words. With a **weaker class**, you could go through the sentences together.
- **Answers:** 1 park 2 zoo 3 museum 4 hotel 5 shopping centre

Exercise 7

- Ask the students to read the clues and complete the crossword. With a **weaker class**, you could give them more of the missing letters.
- **Answers:** **DOWN** 1 skyscraper 2 landmark 3 structure 4 district **ACROSS** 5 architecture

Extension

Exercises 8 and 9

- **Materials needed:** None
- **Preparation:** Put the students in groups of three or four. Tell them that they are going to talk to a group of foreign visitors about their town or city.
- **Language:** Encourage them to use as many adjectives to describe their town or city as they can.
- **Activity:** Ask the students to nominate one note-taker in the group. Ask them to talk about the most important things that they would want to show foreign visitors in their town or city. Give the students 5–6 minutes to talk about all the points and make notes. Then ask them to present their ideas to the class, the pretend visitors from Britain. Set a time limit for each presentation of 2–3 minutes.
- **Extension:** Ask the students to write a plan for a guided tour of their town or city for a group of foreign students.

The Empire State Building

Manhattan is one of the best-known places in the world. It appears in thousands of films and TV shows, and there are famous locations all over the city.

There's Central Park, a huge park with a zoo in the middle of Manhattan. There's the Guggenheim Museum, a world-famous modern art museum. And there's Times Square, the centre of Manhattan's theatre district.

Many of New York's incredible landmarks are in Manhattan, including the Empire State Building. The Empire State is in Midtown Manhattan, an area full of luxury hotels and expensive shopping centres. It's on the corner of 5th Avenue and 34th Street. It's over 85 years old and it's an excellent example of the Art Deco style of architecture popular during the 1930s. It takes its name from the nickname for the State of New York – the Empire State – and today it is the best known skyscraper in the city.

But it isn't the biggest building. There are several taller structures in New York City. The Empire State is 381 metres high – 443 metres with the radio tower at the top. So it's 100 metres shorter than the tallest building in New York, the One World Trade Centre. However, it is one of the oldest buildings – and it's certainly the most iconic.

A lot of movies feature the Empire State and one of the most famous is *King Kong*. The film ends with the famous movie monster on top of the Empire State – one of the most famous scenes in cinema history.

Today, the building is one of the city's most popular tourist attractions and every day thousands of tourists come here. They take the elevator to the top. It's easier than the 1,860 steps and it takes less than a minute.

At the top, there are two viewing platforms – one on the 86th floor and one on the 102nd floor. They have 360-degree views of the entire city. The only thing tourists don't see from here is the building itself, but that's OK. There are great views of the Empire State from all over the city.