

# City Life



# The Big Apple



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- 1 No other city is arrogant enough to dub itself Capital of the World, and no other city could carry it off. New York is mainly known for the skyscraper-dominated island of Manhattan which is only 20 kilometres long and 3 kilometres wide. It is densely packed with the theatres and cinemas of Broadway, the financial area of
- 5 Wall Street, with towering buildings such as the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building, many quarters all with their unique characteristics such as the artistic Greenwich Village, Chinatown and Harlem, Central Park and Times Square. In fact, New York City (not to be confused with New York State) has several districts apart from Manhattan, such as Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens.
- 10 It is the largest city in the USA, with a population of about 7.5 million people.

But why is New York City called “The Big Apple”? In the 1920s, a sportswriter for *the Morning Telegraph* overheard stable hands in New Orleans refer to the horse racing in New York as a trip to “the Big Apple”, which meant the greatest reward for any talented thoroughbred. So, he decided to name his sports column “Around the Big

15 Apple”. A few years later, jazz musicians adopted the name to refer to New York City, and especially Harlem which had become the jazz capital of the world. “There are many apples on the trees of success,” they said, “but when you pick New York City, you pick the big apple.”

## The Dutch “bought” Manhattan Island from the Indians

1 Until the Europeans started  
settling in America, the  
Indians used Manhattan  
Island and other areas along  
5 the east coast for hunting  
and fishing. They believed  
that the land was there to be  
shared by all men, and they  
only took from it what they  
10 needed for food, clothing and  
shelter. Then, in 1626, the  
Dutch “bought” Manhattan  
from the Indians in exchange  
for a few worthless trinkets.



The skyscrapers of Manhattan seen from the Hudson River.  
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15 Also, the Indians did not understand that once the island had been sold, they were no longer allowed to hunt and fish there. They had no concept of private property. Added to this, the Europeans considered them to be savages, that their way of life had little value, thus giving them every right to take over and farm what was earlier Indian land.

When the Dutch had occupied Manhattan, they called it *Nieuwe Amsterdam*, but it was  
20 not long before the British seized control in 1664 and renamed it *New York*.

### Mass immigration

Between 1892 and 1924, 12 million immigrants entered the United States. They first came to an immigration station on Ellis Island at the southern tip of Manhattan. During the 19<sup>th</sup>  
25 century, Downtown Manhattan was the shipping capital of the world. The New York Stock Exchange, which first began in Wall Street in 1792, quickly developed into the world’s largest exchange. But as late as the 1840s, thousands of pigs roamed Wall Street to consume garbage as this was the sanitation  
30 system used at that time.

In 1898, what are now the five boroughs called *The Bronx*, *Brooklyn*, *Manhattan*, *Queens* and *Staten Island* were incorporated into Greater New York. In the 1920s, Queens became the “home of jazz” as many famous jazz musicians  
35 resided here such as Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Dizzy Gillespie.

Today there are more than 10,000 kilometres of streets in New York City. Macy’s, situated at 151 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street right in the heart of Manhattan, is the world’s largest store which stocks  
40 over 500,000 different items. According to the New York Tourism Authority, 46% of all leisure visitors to the southern part of Manhattan - called Downtown - come from outside the United States.



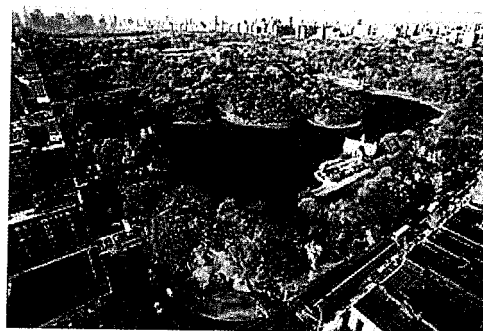
## Harlem became the promised land for African-Americans

1 During and after World War I, thousands of Southern-born African-Americans moved north to escape the poverty of sharecropping in favour of better paid manufacturing jobs in the North. Many migrated to Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit. But New York's Harlem became the promised land as no other place. Round about 1900, Harlem  
5 was a well-to-do area of Manhattan for white people. But suddenly real estate prices plummeted thus making it possible for African-Americans to move in. Soon the area became known as Black Harlem. As more and more African-Americans moved in living costs started to skyrocket. This meant that they had little left over for food and other essentials. Harlem was quickly becoming a slum and, when the Great Depression  
10 came in 1929, African-Americans once again experienced poverty.

Today, though, Harlem has begun to prosper again. Many visitors take the Subway train to 125<sup>th</sup> Street and then walk from Broadway to Lenox Avenue. A white Harlem resident said recently: "Harlem is now a boomtown. Trendy boutiques jostle with Starbucks and more than a handful of swanky soul food restaurants have opened up  
15 since I moved in, scarcely a year ago, just like many upper middle class couples – black and white. Used crack vials no longer fill Harlem's little parks; roses do."

## Navigation in Manhattan is not difficult

Central Park, which is located at the very centre of Manhattan, divides the city into  
20 sectors. The southern part of the island is called "Downtown", and the sector directly south of Central Park is called "Midtown". Everything from the middle of the park to the northern tip of the island  
25 is called "Uptown". The neighbourhoods lying on either side of Central Park are called "Upper East Side" and "Upper West Side".



Central Park is located right in the middle of Manhattan.  
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The numbered streets of Manhattan all run east-west beginning with First Street  
30 just above Greenwich Village, and extending all the way up to 218<sup>th</sup> Street at the far northern tip of Uptown. Avenues run north-south beginning with First Avenue on the East Side and extending to Twelfth Avenue along the Hudson River on the west Side. These numbered Avenues are interspersed with named Avenues such as Park Avenue, Lexington, Madison and Broadway.



## "The city that never sleeps"

New York is often called "the city that never sleeps." They say, for example, that Times Square at midnight is more vibrant and active than most other

Times Square at midnight.  
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- 1 cities at noon. New York has many tourist attractions like the Statue of Liberty, the United Nations headquarters, the Empire State Building and over 300 museums. It is renowned for its wide variety of entertainment including the world famous Broadway theatres. There are over 30,000 restaurants as well as countless bars and clubs.
- 5 The best way to see the sights of New York is from the top of a “hop on-hop off” open double-decker bus. Different routes take you to all parts of Manhattan such as Harlem, Central Park, Times Square, Madison Square Gardens, the Theatre District, Greenwich Village, Chelsea, Chinatown, Little Italy and the Financial District. You can also take a boat trip along the Hudson River
- 10 round the southern tip of Manhattan into east River. This will give you an excellent panoramic view of New York’s skyline as well as a close-up view of the Statue of Liberty.



There are 10,000 yellow cabs in Manhattan. © NYC & Company

### Check your words

<b>arrogant</b>	with an unreasonably strong belief in one’s own importance	<b>African-American</b>	An American who is descended from black Africans, especially those who were brought to American as slaves
<b>dub</b>	to name in a humorous way	<b>poverty</b>	being very poor
<b>carry off</b>	succeed	<b>sharecropping</b>	farming someone else’s land and usually paying by giving half of the crops for the use of the land
<b>skyscraper-dominated</b>	where there are mainly only tall buildings	<b>manufacturing</b>	factory production
<b>towering</b>	extremely high	<b>migrate</b>	move from one part of a country to another
<b>stable hand</b>	a person who looks after horses	<b>well-to-do</b>	rich, affluent
<b>thoroughbred</b>	a horse of good breeding for racing	<b>real estate</b>	houses, buildings
<b>the Dutch</b>	people from the Netherlands	<b>plummet</b>	drop very quickly
<b>trinket</b>	jewellery of little value	<b>skyrocket</b>	go up very quickly
<b>concept</b>	idea, understanding	<b>essentials</b>	things you need for living
<b>property</b>	something that you own	<b>slum</b>	very poor and run-down area
<b>savage</b>	wild person	<b>the Great Depression</b>	a period of greatly reduced business activity and high unemployment in the early 1930s
<b>roam</b>	wander about	<b>prosper</b>	become successful and develop in a healthy way
<b>garbage</b>	rubbish, trash	<b>boomtown</b>	town growing rapidly in economy and importance
<b>sanitation</b>	removing and treatment of waste	<b>jostle</b>	compete
<b>borough</b>	a division of a large town or city	<b>Starbucks</b>	coffee shops
<b>incorporate</b>	merge, put together		
<b>reside</b>	live		
<b>stock</b>	have available for selling		
<b>item</b>	product		
<b>leisure visitor</b>	tourist		

<b>swanky</b>	very fashionable or expensive, posh	<b>extend</b>	continue
<b>soul food</b>	food that is popular with black people in the Southern US	<b>intersperse</b>	placed here and there among other things
<b>crack</b>	a very pure form of the drug called cocaine	<b>vibrant</b>	alive
<b>vial</b>	needle for injecting drugs	<b>noon</b>	midday
<b>locate</b>	situate	<b>renown</b>	well-known
		<b>countless</b>	numerous



## Reading comprehension questions

Discuss or write short answers to the following questions:

1. What is Manhattan mainly known for, and how big is the island?
2. What is the financial area of Manhattan called?
3. What is the population of New York City?
4. Why is New York City often called *The Big Apple*?
5. How can you describe the life that the Indians led before Europeans started coming to America?
6. What was it that the Indians did not understand when they had sold Manhattan to the Dutch?
7. Where did immigrants first come to before entering the United States?
8. What was it like around Wall Street in the 1840s?
9. What are the names of the five boroughs that make up New York City?
10. What did Queens become famous for in the 1920s?
11. What is Macy's famous for?
12. Why did Southern-born African-Americans start migrating to the North in great numbers round about the time of World War I?
13. Why did Harlem become attractive to African-Americans in the early 1900s?
14. Why did African-Americans in Harlem experience poverty again round about 1930?
15. What is Harlem like today?
16. What are the names of the different sectors in Manhattan?
17. In which direction do streets run in Manhattan?
18. In which direction do avenues run in Manhattan?
19. Why is New York often called "the city that never sleeps"?
20. What are the two best ways of seeing the sights of New York?

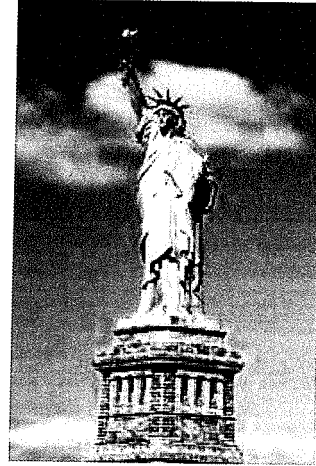
# Can you believe it?

## Here are some interesting facts about New York

### 1 The history behind the Statue of Liberty

In 1865, two Frenchmen went to a dinner party and came away with the notion of building a monument honouring the American conception of political freedom which they would then donate to New York. Twenty-one years later, on 28 October, 1886, the 45 metre statue was unveiled in New York Harbour

The Statue of Liberty.  
© NYC & Company



### Greenwich Village

New Yorkers simply call it *the Village*. It is one of the city's most popular neighbourhoods and famous for being outlandish and bohemian. In the early 1900s, artists and writers moved in, followed by jazz musicians who played at famous clubs. In the 1940s the neighbourhood was known as a gathering place for gays. Then came the beatniks and hippies in the '50s and '60s with famous names such as Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix. Even the Rolling Stones recorded some of their music here. Today the Village is still a vibrant and varied area with its cafes, shops, gay bars, etc.



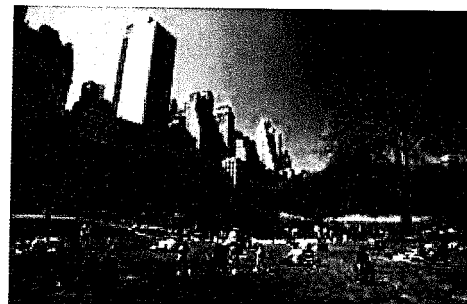
The Empire State Building.  
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### The Empire State Building

It stands 102 stories and 436 metres above 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Street. It is a limestone building that was completed in just 410 days during the Great Depression. On a clear day, you have an excellent view of the whole of New York City from the top of the building.

### Central Park

When the 337 hectare Central Park was officially opened in 1873, it was intended to be an oasis from the city's bustle. Today, though, the park is used by many joggers, skaters, musicians and tourists. You can watch or play baseball, enjoy a swimming pool or many of the open-air free performances and concerts. Elvis Costello and de La Soul were among the artists performing last year. Even the Metropolitan Opera gives free performances in Central Park.



Spending an afternoon in Central Park. © NYC & Company

## Times Square

1 Dubbed the “Great White Way” after its bright lights, Times Square has long been celebrated as New Year’s glittery crossroads when up to a million people gather. The combination of colour, zipping message boards and massive TV screens makes for quite a sight.

## 5 The Museum Mile

The Upper East Side is the home to New York’s greatest concentration of cultural centres along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue above 57<sup>th</sup> Street, and known as the “Museum Mile”. Here there is New York’s most popular tourist site, the Metropolitan Museum of Art (locally called *the Met*) with three million individual objects in its collection. Not far from  
10 *the Met* is the Museum of Modern Art (locally known as *MOMA*) with permanent collections of masterpieces by Picasso, Van Gogh and Claude Monet.

## SoHo

SoHo is a shortening of “south of Houston” and is New York’s leading area for art galleries, clothing stores and boutiques. SoHo’s beautifully restored cast-iron buildings  
15 are some of the best examples of this style in the world.

## Ground Zero

This is the site in Lower Manhattan where the twin towers of the World Trade Centre stood until the terror attack of September 11 when 2,892 people were killed. Many  
20 world-leading architects have recently submitted plans for how *Ground Zero* should be built up again.

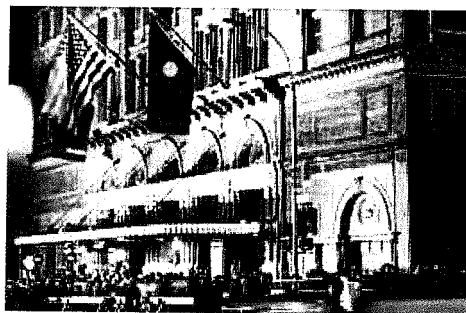
## What’s on in New York?

If you are planning a visit to New York, you can easily find out about what’s on. There are the weekly magazines called *Time Out* and *Zagat* with information about  
25 restaurants, live music, clubs and many other activities. You also have access to the following Internet information:

[www.summerstage.org](http://www.summerstage.org) for free entertainment in central Park

[Nycvisit.com](http://Nycvisit.com) which is New York’s official Tourist Information Office.

[Villagevoice.com](http://Villagevoice.com) giving information about present trends, etc. in New York.



The Metropolitan Opera House. © NYC & Company

Check your words again			
<b>notion</b>	idea	<b>storey</b>	floor, a level on which a building is built
<b>conception</b>	understanding	<b>hectare</b>	a unit for measuring area, 10,000 square metres
<b>unveil</b> first time	show to the public for the	<b>oasis</b>	a pleasant and quiet place which is different from its surroundings
<b>outlandish</b>	strange, crazy	<b>bustle</b>	busily active with a lot of noise
<b>bohemian</b>	that does not follow accepted practices, customs and standards of social behaviour	<b>glittery</b>	bright and flashing lights
<b>gay</b>	homosexual	<b>crossroads</b>	meeting point
<b>beatnik</b>	a person in the late 1950s and early 1960s who showed opposition to the moral standards and ways of life of ordinary society	<b>zip</b>	flash
<b>hippie</b>	a person in the 1960s and 1970s who opposed the accepted standards of ordinary society by dressing in unusual clothes	<b>restore</b>	bring back into its original state
		<b>cast-iron</b>	a hard but easily breakable type of iron
		<b>submit</b>	offer for consideration



## Check your knowledge – Can you believe it?

### True or false?

- |   | True                     | False                    |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Two Frenchmen came up with the idea of donating a monument to New York honouring the American conception of political freedom. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Greenwich Village is not very popular with local people because it is so outlandish and bohemian.                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. In the 1940s Greenwich Village attracted famous people such as Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix.                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The 436 metre tall Empire State Building was completed in only 410 days during the Great Depression.                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Concerts and opera performances in Central Park are free of charge.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The “Great White Way” is the name give to the New York street with the greatest concentration of cultural centres.             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Up to a million people usually gather in Times Square to celebrate the beginning of each new year.                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. <i>The Met</i> is the local name for the Museum of Modern Art.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. SoHo has taken its name from the area in London called Soho where there are many fashionable restaurants.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. <i>Ground Zero</i> is the name given to the place were 2,892 people were killed in a terror attack on September 11.           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



## Suggestions for further investigation and study

1. With the help of Internet or other sources, plan a trip to New York. Your plan should include how you intend to travel to and from New York, where you intend to stay while in New York and how much you are prepared to pay for your accommodation as well as a day-to-day itinerary of the places you intend to visit. When you have completed your plan, compare this with what others have planned for a New York visit.
2. Choose one of the New York City boroughs and prepare to give an illustrated talk about its special character and people as well as what you can do there.
3. Would you like to live and work in New York? Try to find out as much as you can about job possibilities and the working climate including working hours and holidays, possibilities for finding somewhere to live at a reasonable price, the general cost of living, what happens if you become ill and need medical treatment, etc.



## Practise your use of words

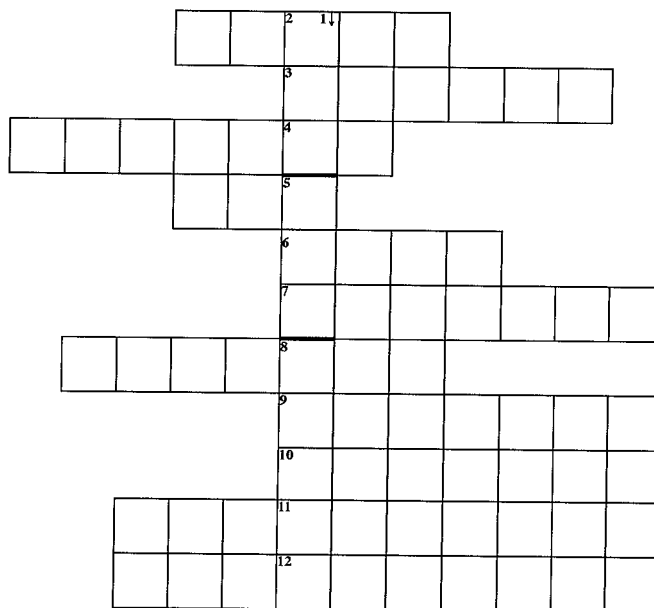
### 1. New York crossword

#### Down

1. Another name for New York

#### Across

2. People from the Netherlands
3. People who dressed in unusual clothes during the 1960s and 1970s
4. A piece of jewellery of little value
5. To name something in a humorous way
6. The same as a product
7. The same as rubbish or trash
8. Alive and active
9. When something drops very quickly
10. You suffer from this when you are very poor
11. Something crazy or very strange
12. Things you need for living



## 2. Match the words

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. concept     | a. leisure visitor |
| 2. tourist     | b. merge           |
| 3. affluent    | c. numerous        |
| 4. incorporate | d. understanding   |
| 5. reside      | e. well-to-do      |
| 6. countless   | f. live            |

## 3. Odd man out

### Which word does not fit?

- |            |           |         |               |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| 1. renown  | famous    | obscure | distinguished |
| 2. article | product   | item    | tasty         |
| 3. wander  | run       | stroll  | roam          |
| 4. travel  | rest      | migrate | journey       |
| 5. settle  | establish | locate  | emigrate      |
| 6. belief  | message   | notion  | concept       |

## 4. What do these explanations make you think of?

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Bring back something to its original state.                 | r _____           |
| 2. When you show something to the public for the first time.   | u _____           |
| 3. Removing and treatment of waste.                            | s _____           |
| 4. With an unreasonably strong belief in one's own importance. | a _____           |
| 5. An American who is descended from black Africans.           | A _____ - A _____ |
| 6. A division of a city.                                       | b _____           |

## 5. Fill in the missing words in the gaps.

Choose from the words in the box.

essentials	poverty	migrated
well-to-do	plummeted	promised
century	outlet	sharecropping
demand	soul food	

Round about the time of World War I, large numbers of African-Americans from the Southern States of America \_\_\_\_\_ north to get better paid jobs in factories instead of the badly paid \_\_\_\_\_ work they had had earlier. Harlem became the \_\_\_\_\_ land for them as prices of real estate had \_\_\_\_\_ so that they could afford to pay the rents there. But because so many African-Americans moved to Harlem, the \_\_\_\_\_ for housing increased and rents started to skyrocket. Instead of being a \_\_\_\_\_ area in Manhattan, Harlem quickly became a slum as black people living there had hardly enough money for food and other \_\_\_\_\_ when rents had become so high. When the Great Depression came in 1929, African-Americans once again experienced the sort of \_\_\_\_\_ they had escaped from in the Southern States. But today Harlem has completely recovered and begun to prosper like at the beginning of the last \_\_\_\_\_. If you visit Harlem now, you will find many \_\_\_\_\_ restaurants and fashionable \_\_\_\_\_ stores.



## Check your use of grammar

### I. Using different verb tenses

Look at these sentences:

Different bus routes *take* you to all parts of Manhattan. **Present tense**  
The Indians *believed* that the land was there to be shared by all men.  
**Past tense**  
Today, Harlem *has begun* to prosper again. **Perfect tense**  
A boat trip along the Hudson River *will give* you an excellent panoramic view of New York's skyline. **Future tense**

Now, put the verbs in the following sentences into the correct tense, and afterwards state which tense you have used.

1. In 1626, the Dutch \_\_\_\_\_ (*buy*) Manhattan from the Indians in exchange for a few worthless trinkets. Tense used: \_\_\_\_\_
2. As late as the 1840s, thousands of pigs \_\_\_\_\_ (*roam*) Wall Street to consume garbage as this \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) the sanitation system used at that time. Tense used: \_\_\_\_\_

3. 46% of all leisure visitors \_\_\_\_\_ (*come*) from outside the United States. Tense: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Today, Harlem \_\_\_\_\_ (*begin*) to prosper again.  
Tense: \_\_\_\_\_
5. In New York there \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) 30,000 restaurants as well as countless bars and clubs. Tense: \_\_\_\_\_
6. In 1865, two Frenchmen \_\_\_\_\_ (*go*) to a dinner party and \_\_\_\_\_ (*come*) away with the notion of building the Statue of Liberty. Tense: \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Empire State Building \_\_\_\_\_ (*stand*) 436 metres above 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Tense: \_\_\_\_\_
8. The Rolling Stones \_\_\_\_\_ (*record*) some of their music in Greenwich Village. Tense: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Names of places with and without *the*.

Look at these names:

*The* Big Apple  
*The* United States  
*The* Dutch  
 Times Square  
 Greenwich Village

Now, underline which of the following names are with *the*:

1. Broadway
2. New York City
3. British
4. Manhattan
5. New York Stock Exchange
6. Wall Street
7. Statue of Liberty
8. Black Harlem
9. Upper East Side
10. Hudson River

# Empire State Of Mind

Alicia Keys

Ohhhh, New York Ohhhh, New York  
*(Fill in the gaps)*

Grew up in a \_\_\_\_\_  
 That is famous as a place of \_\_\_\_\_ scenes,  
 Noise is always loud  
 There are sirenes all around,  
 And the \_\_\_\_\_ are mean  
 If I can make it \_\_\_\_\_,  
 I could make it \_\_\_\_\_,  
 That's what they say  
 Seeing my face in \_\_\_\_\_,  
 Or my \_\_\_\_\_ in marquees found down \_\_\_\_\_  
 Even if ain't all it seems  
 I got a pocket full of dreams



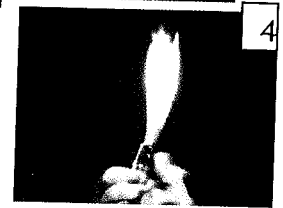
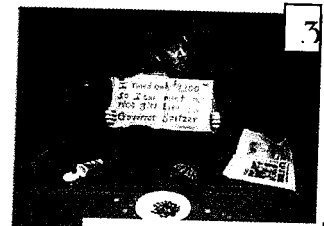
## CHORUS *(Match the two parts)*

Baby I'm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Concrete jungle \_\_\_\_\_  
 There's nothing \_\_\_\_\_  
 Now you're \_\_\_\_\_  
 These streets will \_\_\_\_\_  
 Big lights will \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hear it \_\_\_\_\_  
 (New York, New York, New York)

1. where dreams are made of,
2. you can't do
3. from New York!
4. make you feel brand new,
5. in New York!
6. inspire you,
7. for New York!

## *(Unscramble the words)*

On the avenue,  
 There ain't never a **wufrc** \_\_\_\_\_, ladies work so hard  
 Such a **gltemni** \_\_\_\_\_ pot  
 On the corner selling rock  
**rhcepare** \_\_\_\_\_ pray to God,  
 Hail a gipsy cab,  
 Takes me down from **mrllhea** \_\_\_\_\_ to the Brooklyn Bridge  
 Someone sleeps tonight  
 With a **gunerh** \_\_\_\_\_ for more than an empty fridge...  
 I'm going to make it by any means,  
 I got a pocket full of dreams,

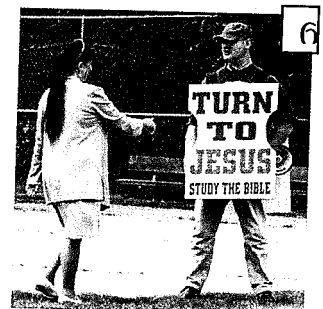


## CHORUS

### *(Put in the right order)*

\_\_\_\_ No place in the world that can compare  
 \_\_\_\_ Everybody say Yeah, Yeah, Yeah!  
 \_\_\_\_ Street lights, big dreams, all looking pretty  
 \_\_\_\_ One hand in the air for the big city,  
 \_\_\_\_ Put your lighters in the air,

## CHORUS



- A. Look at the video clip and listen carefully to the lyrics. Would you say the song is rather positive or negative about New York? Justify.
- B. Listen to the song again and do the exercises about the lyrics.
- C. Associate each image to lyrics of the song.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

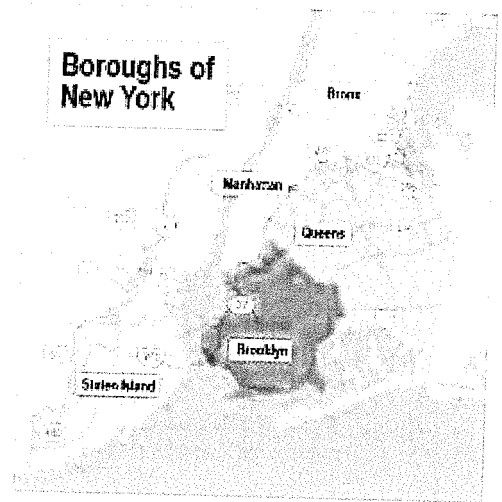
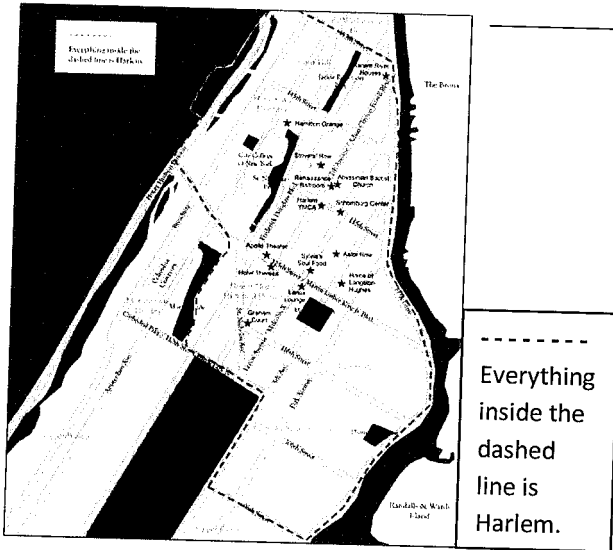
D. Find the words corresponding to the following definitions.

1. The contrary of nice. \_\_\_\_\_
2. A heavy, rough building material made from a mixture of broken stone or gravel, sand, cement, and water. \_\_\_\_\_
3. A regulation requiring people to remain indoors between specified hours, typically at night. \_\_\_\_\_
4. A place where different peoples, styles, theories, etc., are mixed together. \_\_\_\_\_

E. Alicia Keys uses the word "dreams" several time. What does she refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

F. What do you know

1. About Broadway? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About Harlem? \_\_\_\_\_
3. About the Brooklyn Bridge? \_\_\_\_\_



G. Make a list of the positive and negative aspects of New York given in the song.

Positive aspects	Negative aspects

H. Sum up in one sentence.

Alicia Keys praises New York for \_\_\_\_\_  
 but she reproaches it for \_\_\_\_\_

"Empire State of Mind" Feat. Jay Z.

Yeah, I'm out that Brooklyn, now I'm down in Tribeca  
Right next to De Niro, but I'll be hood forever  
I'm the new Sinatra, and since I made it here  
I can make it anywhere, yeah, they love me everywhere  
I used to cop in Harlem – hola, my Dominicanos (Dinero!)  
Right there up on Broadway, brought me back to that McDonald's  
Took it to my stash spot, 560 State Street  
Catch me in the kitchen, like a Simmons whipping pastry  
Cruising down 8th Street, off-white Lexus  
Driving so slow, but BK is from Texas  
Me? I'm out that Bed-Stuy, home of that boy Biggie  
Now I live on Billboard and I brought my boys with me  
Say what up to Ty Ty, still sipping Mai Tais  
Sitting courtside, Knicks and Nets give me high fives  
Nigga, I be spiked out, I could trip a referee  
Tell by my attitude that I'm most definitely from

In New York (Ay, aha) (Uh, yeah)  
Concrete jungle (Yeah) where dreams are made of  
There's nothing you can't do (Yeah) (OK)  
Now you're in New York (Aha, aha, aha) (Uh, yeah)  
These streets will make you feel brand-new (New)  
Big lights will inspire you (Come on) (OK)  
Let's hear it for New York (You welcome, OG) (Uh)  
New York (Yeah), New York (Uh) (I made you hot, nigga)

Catch me at the X with OG at a Yankee game  
Shit, I made the Yankee hat more famous than a Yankee can  
You should know I bleed blue, but I ain't a Crip though

But I got a gang of niggas walking with my clique though  
Welcome to the melting pot, corners where we're selling rock  
Africa Bambaataa shit, home of the hip-hop  
Yellow cab, gypsy cab, dollar cab, holler back  
For foreigners, it ain't fair, they act like they forgot how to add  
Eight million stories out there in the naked  
City, it's a pity half of y'all won't make it  
Me? I gotta plug Special Ed, "I Got It Made"  
If Jeezy's paying LeBron, I'm paying Dwyane Wade  
Three dice cee-lo, three-card Marley  
Labor Day Parade—rest in peace, Bob Marley  
Statue of Liberty, long live the World Trade  
Long live the king, yo—I'm from the Empire State, that's

In New York (Ay) (Uh, yeah)  
Concrete jungle where dreams are made of  
There's nothing you can't do (That boy good) (OK)  
Now you're in New York (Welcome to the bright lights, baby) (Uh, yeah)  
These streets will make you feel brand-new  
Big lights will inspire you (OK)  
Let's hear it for New York (Uh)  
New York (Yeah), New York (Uh)

Lights is blinding, girls need blinders  
So they can step out of bounds quick, the side lines is  
Lined with casualties who sip the life casually  
Then gradually become worse – don't bite the apple, Eve!  
Caught up in the in-crowd, now you're in-style  
Into the winter gets cold, en vogue with your skin out  
City of sin is a pity on a whim  
Good girls gone bad, the city's filled with them  
Mami, took a bus trip, now she got her bust out

Everybody ride her, just like a bus route  
"Hail Mary" to the city, you're a virgin  
And Jesus can't save you, life starts when the church end  
Came here for school, graduated to the high life  
Ball players, rap stars, addicted to the limelight  
MDMA got you feeling like a champion  
The city never sleeps, better slip you're a Ambien

In New York (Ay, ow) (Uh, yeah)  
Concrete jungle where dreams are made of  
There's nothing you can't do (OK)  
Now you're in New York (Uh, yeah)  
These streets will make you feel brand-new  
Big lights will inspire you (OK)  
Let's hear it for New York (Uh)  
New York (Yeah), New York (Uh)

One hand in the air for the big city (Oh)  
Street lights, big dreams, all looking pretty (Oh)  
No place in the world that could compare (Nah)  
Put your lighters in the air, everybody say  
"Yeah, yeah" (Come on, come on)  
"Yeah, yeah" (Come on)

In New York (Uh, yeah)  
Concrete jungle where dreams are made of  
There's nothing you can't do (OK)  
Now you're in New York (Uh, yeah)  
These streets will make you feel brand-new  
Big lights will inspire you (OK)  
Let's hear it for New York (Uh)  
New York (Yeah), New York (Uh)

## IN GIL'S OWN WORDS

by Gil C. Alicea with Carmine DeSena

**G**il Alicea, 16, from South Bronx in New York has had a hard life, but he is a very special boy, who thinks more than most grown-ups do. After a period in prison his father worked at a health club, where Gil often turned up and talked to the visitors. One of them, Barbara Zitwer, a book-agent, was fascinated by him and asked him to write down the story of his life. Carmine DeSena helped him to get his story on paper, but everything is in Gil's own words.

My school is mostly boys – there's not even a girls' bathroom. So there's too much boys. Too much boys have a lot of arguments. So, like 60-something percent, that I know of, bring stuff. There's some I don't know of. That's the quiet ones. They really carry mostly because they're scared. ... They fear the other person, cause there are no fair fights now. They could get jumped, or maybe the other person is stronger or has a weapon. So even if you don't want to carry something, you carry something.

I used to fight a lot cause I liked to fight. I don't know why. I didn't even think about it. I just wanted to fight 'cause I didn't have anything better to do.

I used to have kids I made a "regular". I'd pick some kid, and every time I saw them outside, I would fight them. Like if I had an argument with the kid before, he'd become a regular. It was like I was confused. I didn't know what to do with myself or who to be. It was something I did, but now I don't know why.

Today this kid said, "You want to fight? Come out to the hall." I didn't know why. Some kids just shout you out. So he went to the hall to wait for me. I had to go. But when I went out I put on this big Kool-Aid smile like Eddie Murphy in *Harlem Nights*.

When the kid saw me, he smiled and didn't want to fight, but the class was watching, so we just wrestled. You know, to keep respect. It's the audience thing.

I never had a friend die, but I lost a lot of kids 'cause they got into something I was not interested in. Or they're not interested in the things I do, 'cause it doesn't go to their level. They're into, like, more daring things. They criticize me, saying I'm just living an everyday life, that I have to be in at a certain time. I'm not doing drugs, I can't go to parties and I'm not having sex.

We don't have anything in common. I don't want to do what they do, and they don't want to do what I do. They feel that my life isn't exciting enough, while I feel theirs is just unnecessary.

Sometimes I imagine I could fall victim to stuff. ... I've seen kids that I thought were strong fall victim to drugs. The other day, I was with two kids coming home from basketball practice. We saw some other kids we know. The next thing, the two kids I was with were sitting down smoking blunts with



Bronx

the others. My friends offered me, but I said no. The other kids said, "he won't. He wants to be a basketball player. Hasn't used it yet." It made me feel kind of good. ...

I talk to girls about whatever they want to talk about. I don't try to talk about only what I want to talk about, like sports. Girls are good at talk. They talk, talk, talk. They talk about everything, like clothes and music. They know about everything. They can talk about one subject for hours. Like if they're saying a match fell on the floor, they mention how it fell, if it flipped, or did it bounce off the floor. You know, they tell you all the details.

Today, if you're a virgin at 16, they ask what's wrong with you. The average kid I know is having sex at 13, 'cause it's when you first become a teen and you think you know it already. The kids say, "I'm a teenager, I'm cool. I know what I'm doing." ... I think kids are scared about sex 'cause they're just kids. They're scared of death or catching a disease. So they're going to use a condom. But if they don't have it and it's right there and then and they been going out with the person, they won't use protection.

Many people I know have this new problem. Their parents are HIV-positive. I have one friend with both parents being HIV-positive. It doesn't really bother him, 'cause he says they're not sick now. So a lot of the kids are not affected till they see their parents suffering and going through the stages. ... I'm not scared to say my parents are sick, 'cause a lot of people around my block know it already. I'm open to it. The best advice I have is to love your parents as much as you can, 'cause they could be okay one day and the next day you could lose them. Be prepared for it so later you don't say, "I should have done this. I should have done that."

My dad said Mom was getting sick. I had figured it out on my own, but I didn't say nothing. I was hoping it would go away, but she was losing weight and not doing things the way she used to. She liked the house to be perfect. Now she needed everything done for her. It made me grow up. ...

I know now about the silent thing that happens when I help my mother get dressed. I don't feel it's the time to talk. It's like something I had to do for her. She can't do it on her own. I have to help her and all that. She must be thinking, "I should be doing this. The littlest thing, getting dressed is something that I want to do but can't." A lot of stuff is being taken away, which hurts her. What could we say while I'm dressing her?

I try to make my mother happy. I tell her not to worry and I talk about God. She likes that. I say, "Don't worry, Jesus is with you at all times and will be with you no matter what. He's coming, but some people who love him have to suffer." I kiss her. I make her feel that she's loved. I do faces or dances to make her laugh. Like I lip-sync to old songs: "I found love on a one-way street and lost it on a lonely highway." Then I do these movements. But I worry that if, God forbid, she passes away, she won't be ready.

There's times that I think to myself, "If they haven't stopped all the bad things happening in my neighbourhood, when are they going to stop it?" How bad do they want it to get? It's so bad now, I can't imagine how much worse it's going to be. What new disease and how much more drugs are going to kill people.

She's not doing well. She had to pee, and a nurse had to come and take her to the bathroom. I stayed with her. I help her out, make her happy if I can.

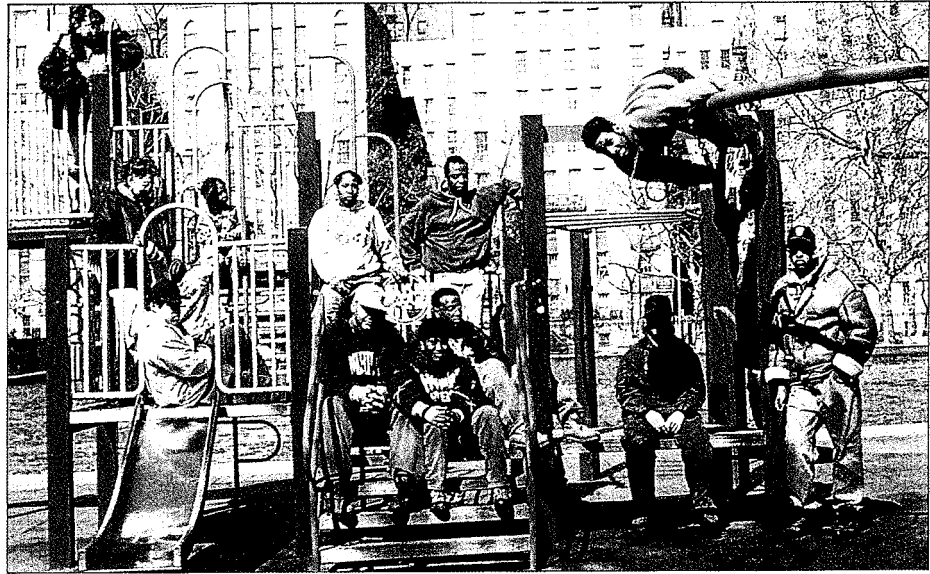
I'm so sad.

One day, will I have a place to go to? I'm so sad, so sad, so sad – I wish that I had someone to talk to.

When I thought about how my mom was suffering in the hospital, ... I was scared and worried and I couldn't think about other things. I tried to keep myself busy, but I still couldn't stop thinking about it. I knew what was going to happen to my mom. That's why it was so extreme. I knew she had to pass away. It was a long time that she was sick, so in a way I was ready. If she had just died, it might have been harder. But

if you see someone sick for months and months and months, you are already coping with it. You get to understand and think about the consequences. But sometimes, even knowing what will happen and having dealt with it for a long time, you still get depressed.

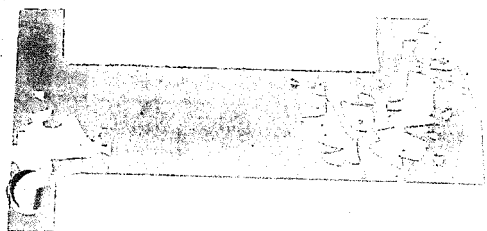
Suicide is always on somebody's mind, people thinking that "I should kill myself and everything would stop" – but it's not that way. When all these bad things were happening to me I thought about it. ... Then I just pushed it out of my mind. I didn't allow myself to think about it. You can't dwell on it. ... I have learned that even the most horrible things change.



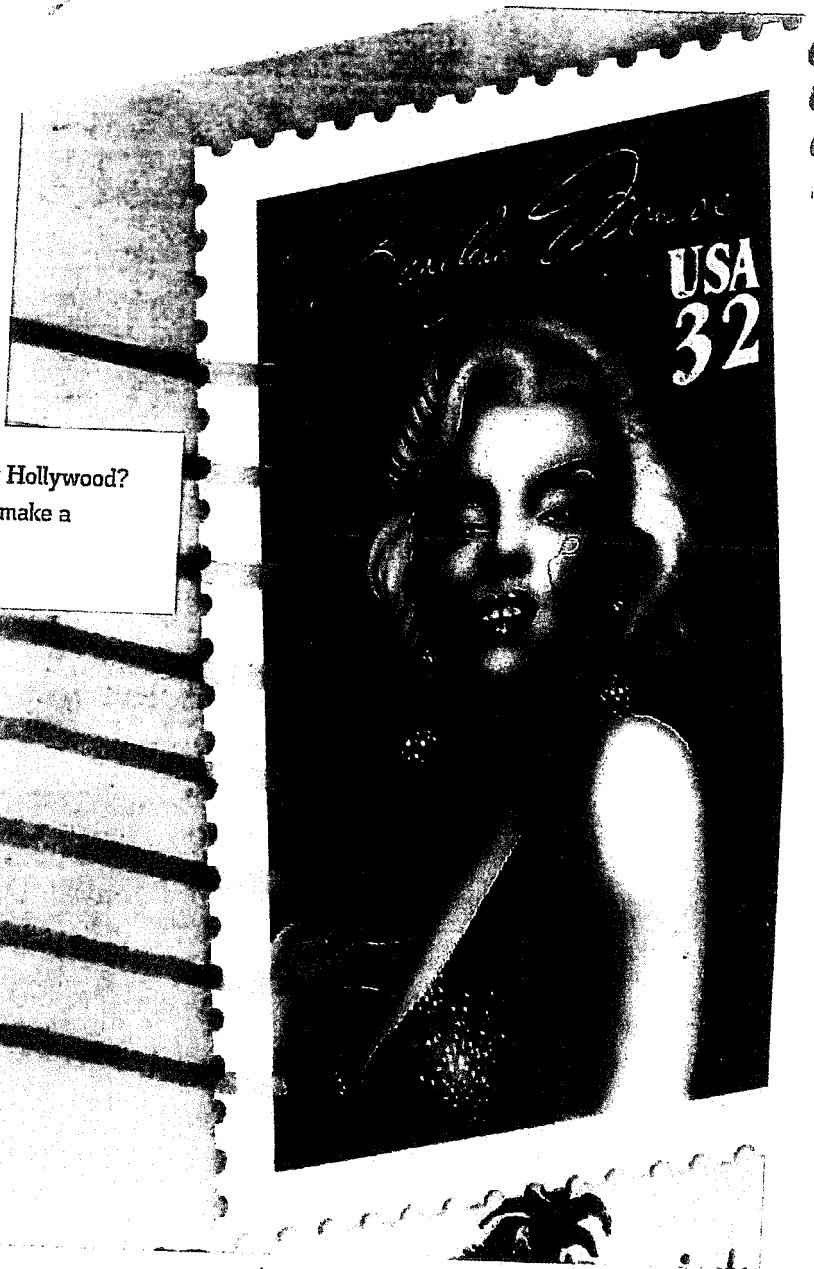
*After Gil's mother died his father got back on drugs and was put in jail for armed robbery. Then Barbara Zitwer, the book agent, sent Gil to a military academy in Pennsylvania, but it didn't work out. He was dismissed after beating another cadet with a baseball bat. Now he is at a boarding school in New York for troubled kids. He has a lot of problems to conquer, but he also has a great many people who believe in him. His book has made him famous. But will that help him or create yet another problem for him? Nobody knows.*

# WELCOME TO HOLLYWOOD

*— the City of Dreams*



What do you know about Hollywood?  
Look at the pictures, and make a  
Hollywood mind map.



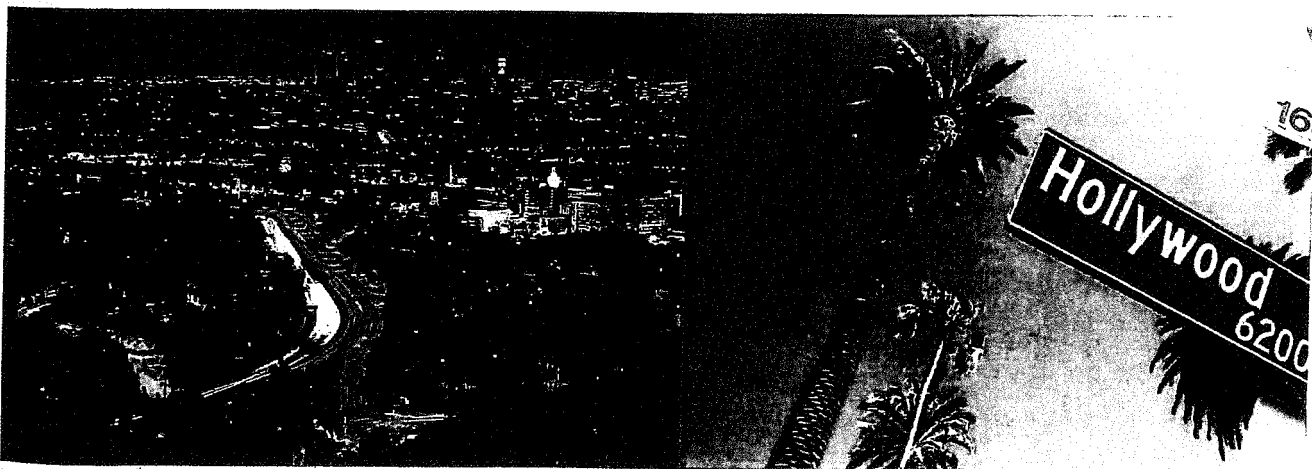
## HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

Everybody loves Hollywood! As you probably know, Hollywood is a district in the city of Los Angeles, and it is also known as the Entertainment Capital of the World. Hollywood is synonymous with glamour, glitz, money, and fame – in this captivating city, dreams come true.

The pizzazz of Hollywood attracts all kinds of visitors, whether it is the general tourist or an aspiring star who dreams of a life in the limelight. As a consequence, millions of people flock to Hollywood, every year, hoping to get a glimpse of the celebrities or to become a star. But under the surface, you will find a different side to Hollywood that you don't read about in the glossy magazines.

In this book, you will learn about fascinating Hollywood, its history, and its legendary landmarks. But the journey doesn't end here. You will go behind the scenes of the film industry, and meet people who have made it in Hollywood. Also, you'll get the opportunity to audition for a leading role in a blockbuster movie, and if you follow the advice on how to launch an acting career, you may end up on the red carpet next to the dazzling celebrities on Oscar Night. But you can't be faint-hearted – Hollywood is haunted and later on in this book, you will find real ghost stories from the City of Dreams. But you will also get an insight into the less glamorous aspects of Hollywood, as only a few actually make it in Tinseltown. Some end up disappointed with broken dreams, and others end up forlorn as prisoners of Hollywood in their pursuit of the American Dream.

**synonymous with** the same as  
**glitz** showiness  
**fame** recognition  
**captivating** attractive  
**pizzazz** glamour and energy  
**aspiring** hopeful  
**limelight** spotlight  
**flock** gather  
**under the surface** if you look more closely  
**glossy** shiny  
**legendary** famous  
**landmarks** historical or notable sights  
**opportunity** chance  
**blockbuster** very successful  
**launch** begin  
**dazzling** stunning  
**faint-hearted** timid  
**haunted** visited by ghosts  
**Tinseltown** nickname for Hollywood, referring to the glitter and tacky aspects of the city  
**forlorn** hopeless  
**pursuit** search



If you are looking for glamour, stardom, and expensive mansions, you should go to Beverly Hills and its nearby neighborhoods of Bel-Air and Brentwood. Or you could head to the coast and take a stroll along the beach at Malibu.

Even during the Golden Age of Hollywood, from the 1930s to the 1950s, movie stars did not live in Hollywood. The neighborhood was then mainly a place for filmmaking, but today only a few movie studios remain in Hollywood as the motion picture industry has become scattered throughout the city of Los Angeles.

The word "Hollywood" has become a common term for the Los Angeles movie and television industry. But it's very important to distinguish between Hollywood the town and "Hollywood" the term. They are certainly not two of a kind. The entertainment industry lives up to the expectations of glamour, glitz, and fame, whereas the city of Hollywood is in reality nothing like its rosy image. What was once a mecca for the movie industry has now become a mecca for drug dealers, homeless people, prostitutes, and runaway teens, who loiter around the gritty side streets of Hollywood Boulevard. To most of us, Hollywood will always be the Entertainment Capital of the World, but to people living in the Los Angeles area, it's "Hollyweird".

### HOLLYWOOD FACTS

- State: California
- Climate: subtropical
- Income per capita: \$33,409
- Population: 210,777
- 47% White
- 34% Hispanic
- 9% Asian
- 4% African-American
- 6% other races

- mansions big houses
- head go
- stroll walk
- The Golden Age a time when the movie industry blossomed
- scattered spread out
- common term widespread name
- distinguish tell the difference
- two of a kind the same
- loiter hang out
- gritty dirty



# THE OTHER HOLLYWOOD



Read the headline of the article. What do you think this article is about?

## The Paradise of Hollywood

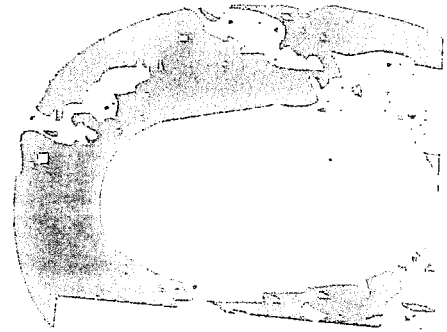
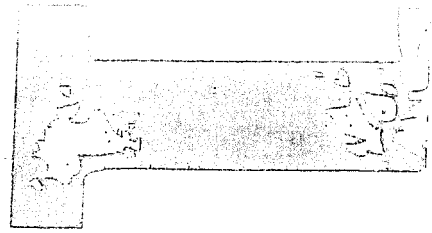
BY RICHARD GEIB

To cut travel time to work, I decided to move to Hollywood. From the very beginning, I knew this was going to be different. As Martin and I drove up to my new apartment building, a couple of LAPD officers across the street were preparing to tow away an obviously stripped and stolen car. "Quick! Let's start unloading the van while the cops are still here!" Martin exclaimed. As I got out of the truck and looked down into the street, something shiny attracted my attention. I bent down to examine it and then shouted in surprise, "Marty! There is a live bullet lying here in the gutter! What the hell is a bullet doing in the middle of the street?" This discovery symbolized well the next eight months I spent as a resident of downtown Hollywood.

The apartment building into which I moved was relatively comfortable and safe with an armed security guard at night.

Hollywood then was a mix of mostly Latino immigrants, homeless, struggling musicians and actors. I had never lived in an area so heavily populated by immigrants and I had much to learn. The first thing that jumped out at me was the incredible amount of noise in the neighborhood. The noise mostly began to settle down as the evening progressed except for the sirens in the distance and the sudden "WOPWOPWOPWOP!" of the LAPD helicopter during its frequent visits to the area. But all too often, just as everything quieted down and I was finally in bed, relaxed with sleep approaching, gunshots would explode in the street outside, "BAMN! BAMN! BAMN!" This brings me to what was perhaps the biggest problem of living in Hollywood: gangs. Well, drugs were probably the biggest problem, but the two were closely related.

One might have a dislike for violent street gangs in general,



Richard Geib is a high school teacher at Foothill Technology High. He used to live in L.A. but grew tired of the city. In this article, you can read about the other side of Hollywood with crime, gangs, and runaways. In the end, all these problems made Richard leave the L.A. area for good.

**LAPD** Los Angeles Police Department  
**tow away** remove  
**stripped** robbed  
**exclaimed** cried out, shouted  
**resident** inhabitant  
**Latino** someone of Latin-American or Spanish-speaking descent  
**populated** inhabited  
**progressed** moved on



despise hate  
sketchy vague  
baggy loose  
community neighborhood

but to have them as neighbors is to learn to truly despise them. The Highland set of the 18th Street gang (the biggest gang in Los Angeles) dominated the streets and were the single most powerful influence in the area. After dark, the gangsters hung out on the street corners and dealt drugs openly. The street corner from my apartment was particularly bad. When gunshots were fired and the sirens eventually followed, the chances were excellent that this corner was the site of whatever violence had just

occurred. On a busy evening, one could hardly sneeze without knocking down a gangster, homeless, tourist, prostitute, or other such sketchy characters.

I sometimes would watch the gangsters with shaved heads, white T-shirts, gold chains, tattoos, and baggy pants in their cars and with loud stereos, and I would wonder if they actually wanted someone to shoot them. The gang members weren't hard to identify! These gang members were like a cancer and affected the community in a negative way.

Residents of our block simply tried to survive the best they could by ignoring, collaborating, and/or simply putting up with them. Yet with the gangsters, there ultimately could be no doubt: the neighborhood was theirs! The police might come, but then they would leave. The gangsters were present 24/7, as they would say. You cross the gang members and/or get in their way, they would either beat and/or kill you.

I would sit there on the corner watching all this and wonder what the hell I was doing living in bozo land. I was learning what it meant to live in a gang-infested neighborhood. It was a very overwhelming experience to know right around the corner some hard working father was robbed of \$15 right in front of his kid and then murdered in cold blood; to have heard the fatal gunshots; to know nobody would be brought to justice for this crime.

The very few times I walked around there at night, I seriously thought of carrying a weapon. The gangsters would look at me and tell me with their eyes, "There you walk on my sidewalk - only with my permission." I had always resisted carrying a weapon in Los Angeles despite pressure from my friends, but I was not a fool. To walk around there at night without a gun was pure stupidity, but going around armed was no wiser. So I minded my own business and was careful not to challenge any of

the gangsters, and they pretty much left me alone.

I learned that it is a strange thing to live in fear. This fear for one's personal safety unquestionably degrades the quality of life. I sometimes thought how it must be even worse for the gangsters! Think about the fear a gang member lives with, walking the streets, knowing that at any moment he might be shot at, wounded or killed. Think about that kind of stress and how exhausting it would be! Imagine the horrible dreams and nightmares that come to a gangster in the middle of the night. One wonders if gang members - when getting shot - don't breathe a sigh of relief, "Finally, it's over! Now I can relax at last!"

And then there was the second major Hollywood problem: the thousands of teenage runa-

residents inhabitants  
 block section of a street  
 collaborating cooperating  
 putting up with living with  
 ultimately in the end  
 24/7 at all hours  
 bozo somebody who does  
 something unwise  
 gang-infested full of gangs  
 fatal deadly, lethal  
 brought to justice receive  
 punishment  
 unquestionably without a  
 doubt  
 degrades reduces  
 sigh deep breath





**drug-sodden** full of drugs  
**predatory** greedy  
**utterly** completely  
**fleeing** running away from  
**embrace** accept  
**cholo** a young Mexican-American, especially one belonging to a gang or someone in trouble with the law  
**obnoxious** annoying  
**omnipresent** all over  
**abandoned** deserted

ways living on the Hollywood streets. Begging for money or drinking from a bottle in a paper bag. I always felt sorry for these lost kids – especially the girls, many of whom seemed to stumble drug-sodden through life being led around by some arrogant boy in a leather jacket and predatory look. Dirty and poor, these young women seemed to have “VICTIM” tattooed across their foreheads and looked utterly lost. All these teenage runaways from all over the country flocking to Hollywood as if it were the Promised Land! Hollywood would be the last place I would go if I were fourteen years old and fleeing an unsafe home. Right there, arriving at the bus terminal, there are people just waiting to chew you up and spit you out. But so many of these

kids seemed to embrace self-destruction and the sad lifestyle that Hollywood would offer. They had that nothing-is-serious-everything-is-a-joke attitude; you could tell many just did not give a shit: “Let us drink tonight, for tomorrow we may die!” Like their Hollywood cholo cousins, these street kids seemed to walk the earth with one foot already in the grave. And like the cholos, they made remarkably poor neighbors: they were loud, obnoxious, and omnipresent on Hollywood Blvd. at all hours. They also helped add to the crime problem. One night a band of homeless youth attacked some other homeless person, and dragged him into an abandoned building across the street from where I lived. They tortured him there for eight hours – they beat

him, burned him with candles, and urinated on him - before they murdered him by bashing his head in with a brick. As opposed to the more ordinary Hollywood murders and other cruelties like abandoned babies found in dumpsters, and prostitutes lit on fire that never make the news, this one even got air-time on the evening newscasts.

And then there was Kevin. Kevin was the boyfriend of one of my best friends who had run away from his home in Massachusetts when he was thirteen, and had come to Hollywood to become a drug addict/writer and die in Hollywood. These were his exact words. He managed to scrape by for years on the street as a male prostitute and by the time I met him, he was already nineteen years old. Kevin was a tallish-thin young man, and I could tell he was lost from the first time I saw him. He had major drug and alcohol problems as well as being HIV-positive. He finally overdosed on cocaine - his heart exploded and blood came out of his mouth as my friend burst into the bathroom where he was shooting up. Kevin died in my friend's arms.

When I heard the news, I was sorry for my friend, but not terribly surprised. I could see the stamp of death on Kevin almost from the start. You can see that same kind of drugged-out, wasting away look on so many of the walking dead of Hollywood that you find on Santa Monica and Highland or La Brea.

After living in downtown Hollywood for eight months, I was more than eager to move. I thoroughly canvassed the area, and moved to the one nice block I could find in the area. In fact, as soon as I saw the apartment I said to myself, "That's it! I'm out!" Two weeks later I was signing the lease and moving in. I lived there quietly for almost two years until I finally left Los Angeles for good.

bashing smashing  
brick stone  
abandoned left behind  
dumpsters trash cans  
air-time time on the news  
scrape by survive  
tallish kind of tall  
major huge  
burst ran  
shooting up doing drugs  
stamp mark  
drugged-out under the  
influence of drugs  
thoroughly in detail  
canvassed researched  
the lease the contract  
encounter meeting



- What does the title mean?
- What is Richard Geib's first encounter with Hollywood like?
- According to Richard Geib, what are the problems in downtown Hollywood?
- Why don't you read about Geib's version of Hollywood in the glossy magazines?

# G'day, mate! Welcome to Sydney



Overlooking Sydney Harbour  
© Tourism New South Wales

- 1 **This is the greeting you will often hear on arrival in Sydney after a long flight. Situated in New South Wales on a breathtaking natural harbour, Sydney is one of the world's most attractive and exciting cities. Recreation, exploration, adventure and relaxation await the visitor from abroad in a multicultural city bursting with**  
5 **unique attractions, heart-racing adventure and a diverse range of entertainment.**

Tourist guides describe Sydney like this, and it is no wonder that Australia has become so popular among visitors from all over the world. According to a local tourism official Sydney, with its population of about 3.5 million, has also become a magnet for backpackers, many of whom have taken a year off from studies or work to travel  
10 "down under".

So, let's take a closer look at some of those Sydney attractions that the locals recommend.

## **Sydney's most popular icon**

One of the first attractions you will want to visit is  
15 The Opera House, possibly Sydney's most popular icon, and as much a symbol of Australia as the Eiffel Tower is of France. It is situated on Sydney Harbour at Bennelong Point and is considered by many to be one of the wonders of the modern architectural  
20 world. Designed by a famous Danish architect and inaugurated in 1973, it is the home of the Australian Ballet, Chamber Orchestra as well as several theatre and music companies.



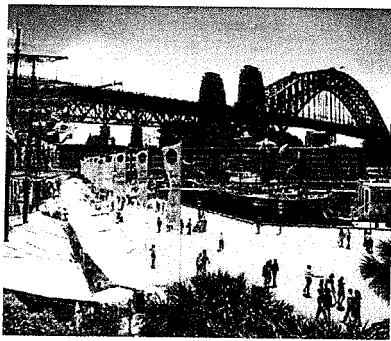
The Sydney Opera House  
© Tourism New South Wales

## A twist, a turn and a spin or two on the Ozjet

1 When you come and see Sydney Harbour, you will understand why they say it is the  
most beautiful natural harbour in the world. It has a 240 kilometre long shoreline which  
encompasses about 54 square kilometres of water. There are many ways of seeing the  
harbour but, if you are looking for an adrenaline kick, the most thrilling way is to ride  
5 the Ozjet, Australia's most powerful tourist jet boat, which will take you around "with  
twist, a turn and a spin or two".

## The "Coat hanger" – one of Sydney's famous landmarks

The "Coat hanger" is the popular local name given to the Sydney Harbour Bridge  
which links the city centre in the south with the residential north. Completed in  
10 1932, it was considered an economic feat as well as an engineering triumph with its

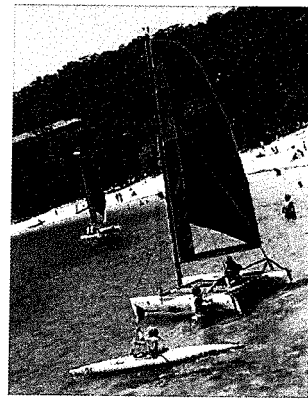


15 The "Coat hanger" - Sydney Harbour Bridge  
© Tourism New South Wales

main span from tower to tower being 500 metres  
long. As Australia is among the first countries  
to celebrate the beginning of each New Year, it  
has become a tradition to televise to the world  
an impressive firework display from the Sydney  
Harbour Bridge. The "Coat hanger" is so big that  
painting it has become an endless task. About  
80,000 litres of paint are required for each coat.  
Before Paul Hogan (from the movie *Crocodile  
Dundee*) became famous, he worked on the  
Sydney Harbour Bridge as a painter.

## Sand, surf and sun at Christmas

At Christmas time you hardly think of sand, surf and sun  
unless you are "down under". But Christmas – being  
25 midsummer there - is the best time to visit Bondi Beach,  
a suburb of the city of Sydney and one of Australia's most  
famous beaches. This is the place to come to for kite  
flying and surfing competitions, festivals, markets and  
galleries. There are coffee shops all along the beach and  
30 many trendy places to eat. Or you can walk from Bondi  
Beach to other popular beaches such as Tamarama and  
Bronte. Bondi first became world famous in the year 2000  
when the Olympic Beach Volleyball Games were held here.



Activities at Bondi Beach  
© Tourism New South Wales



35 Nightlife in Sydney  
© Tourism New South Wales

## How "the other half" live and play

40 If you can't resist a sleazy part of Sydney with its  
tacky nightclubs, then you must visit what used to be  
the red light and drugs district called King's Cross,  
if only for a look at how "the other half" live and  
play. However, in recent years, this part of Sydney  
has started attracting a different type of visitor with

1 its small, fashionable cafes from where you can enjoy all the colour and richness of the Cross without getting too much caught up in it. But if you are really looking for excitement, come along in the evening when the bright lights come on and the action  
hots up.

### 5 **A day in the Blue Mountains**

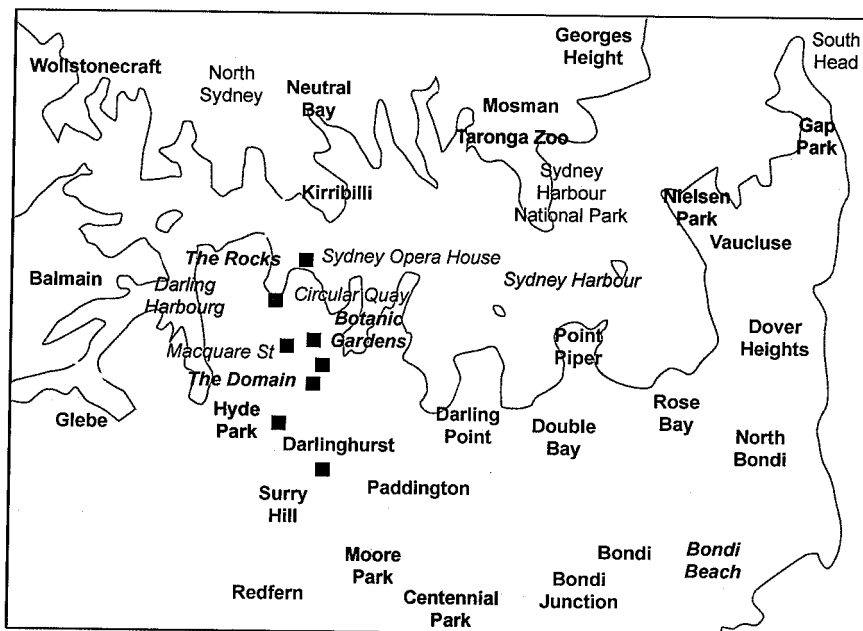
When you have spent a few days experiencing the attractions of Sydney, you will want to explore nearby destinations like Broken Hill, Byron Bay, Katoomba, or the  
10 famous Blue Mountains. They have been given their name because of their bluey-green eucalyptus hue as well as pink and rust-coloured sandstone cliffs. Here you can visit quaint mountaintop towns, ride on the  
15 Skyway Cable Car and Scenic Railway as well as learn about Aboriginal legends and stories of early European explorers.



Picnic in the Blue Mountains  
© Tourism New South Wales

### **Local cuisine 300 metres above Sydney**

To finish off your stay in Sydney, a good way to celebrate a once-in-a-lifetime dining  
20 experience is to visit Australia's tallest attraction, Sydney Tower. Whilst enjoying the best local cuisine over 300 metres above sea level, you will be treated to spectacular 360 degree panoramic views of Sydney and the superb Harbour.



### Check your words

<b>G'day</b>	Good day. Australian greeting. The same as hello	<b>residential</b>	area where people live
<b>mate</b>	a friendly way of addressing a man	<b>feat</b>	something difficult and needing a lot of skill
<b>brehtaking</b>	something impressive that takes your breath away	<b>triumph</b>	success
<b>recreation</b>	way of spending your free time	<b>span</b>	the distance between two points
<b>await</b>	wait for	<b>endless</b>	never ending
<b>multicultural</b>	with many different cultures	<b>suburb</b>	living area outside the city centre
<b>burst</b>	full to capacity	<b>"the other half"</b>	people you do not normally have contact with
<b>heart-racing</b>	exciting	<b>sleazy</b>	not desirable
<b>backpacker</b>	a person who travels only with a rucksack	<b>tacky</b>	of bad taste
<b>down under</b>	the other side of the world (Australia)	<b>red light district</b>	an area where you will find prostitutes
<b>icon</b>	symbol	<b>hot up</b>	become lively
<b>inaugurate</b>	open, launch	<b>bluey-green</b>	a mixture of blue and green
<b>Oz</b>	short for Australian	<b>eucalyptus</b>	a tree found in Australia that produces strong-smelling oil
<b>shoreline</b>	the edge of a sea, lake or harbour	<b>hue</b>	colour
<b>encompass</b>	include	<b>quaint</b>	picturesque, attractive
<b>spin</b>	turn around very quickly	<b>legend</b>	stories from the past
		<b>cuisine</b>	style of cooking



## Reading comprehension questions

Discuss or write short answers to the following questions:

1. What is a common greeting that you will often hear in Australia?
2. In which part of Australia is Sydney situated?
3. What awaits the visitor from abroad when coming to Sydney?
4. What is characteristic of many backpackers visiting Australia?
5. Why is the Sydney Opera House one of the main attractions?
6. What can you expect if you take an Ozjet ride?
7. What is the "Coat hanger", and why is it shown on television each New Year?
8. Who was the "Coat hanger" painter who later became world famous?
9. What is Bondi Beach particularly famous for?
10. When and why did Bondi Beach first become famous?
11. What can you expect to find if you visit King's Cross in Sydney?
12. In what way is King's Cross changing?
13. Why do the Blue Mountains have that name?
14. What can you do if you visit the Blue Mountains?
15. What is spectacular about having a meal at Sydney Tower?

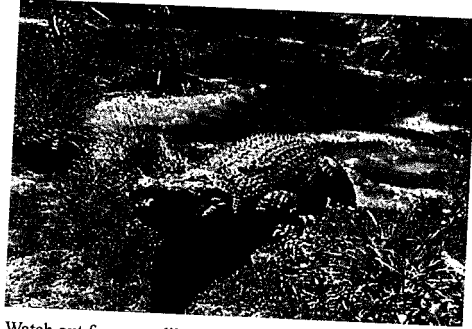
## Can you believe it?

**Here are some interesting facts about Sydney and Australia.**

### 1 **An astonishing array of natural surroundings and wildlife**

Australia is 4,000 km from east to west, and 3,750 km from north to south.

It has a land area of 7.6 million square kilometres; it is the world's sixth largest country and its largest island. This corresponds to 30 times the size of Great Britain. About 40 percent of the country - covering Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland - in the northern part of the Continent has a typically tropical desert environment where it is very warm and dry all through the year. The southern part of the country is greener and more temperate, rather like the climate in the Mediterranean.

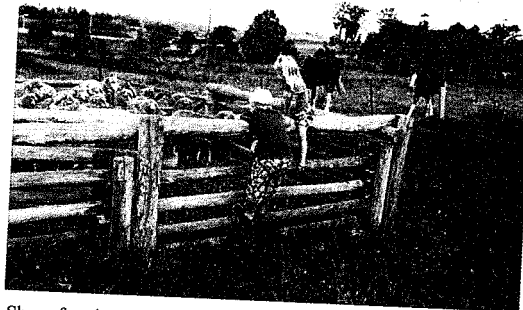


Watch out for crocodiles! © Tourism New South Wales

Wildlife is extremely diverse with more than 530 local species of birds, 230 species of mammals, 140 different types of snakes many of which are deadly poisonous, at least 300 species of lizard, both fresh water and salt water crocodiles, poisonous spiders, jellyfish and stingrays as well as aggressive sharks. In fact, Australia has more things that can kill you in a very nasty way than anywhere else!

### 20 **The perfect dumping ground for a penal colony**

One of the lesser tourist attractions of Sydney is to be found in the Rocks area where barracks were built in 1819 to house 600 convicts. Originally, England had got rid of convicts by sending them to its colonies, mainly to America. But after American independence in 1783, Australia became the new dumping ground for convicts. The first European settlers to arrive in what is now known as Sydney Harbour in 1788 included about 1,000 convicts. Between 1788 and 1860, 160,000 convicts were sent to Australia. When set free, many ex-convicts decided to stay in Australia where they cleared the interior of the country, called the outback, and started sheep and wheat farming. Today, there are some 150 million sheep in Australia while it is the third largest wheat-exporting nation in the world.



Sheep farming in the Outback © Tourism New South Wales

## G'day, mate!

1 Both Australian English – called *strine* – and the people are well-known to be informal and friendly. The way people speak dates back to the original settlers and convicts who mostly came from the London area but also from Ireland. This is why you will often hear informal, friendly greetings like “D’day, mate”. The American bestselling author, 5 Bill Bryson, recently wrote a book about Australia called “Down Under” and summed up his experienced as follows: “The people are cheerful, extrovert, quick-witted and unfailingly obliging; their cities are safe and clean and nearly always built on water; the food is excellent; the beer is cold and the sun nearly always shines. Life doesn’t get much better than this.”

## 10 “Australian rules” football

Sport plays a central role in Australian life. We have all heard of leading Australian tennis and golf players. As most Australians live near the coast, water sports are particularly popular such as surfing, sailing, water skiing, swimming and scuba diving. Other leading sports that Australia has inherited from Britain include cricket, 15 soccer, rugby, field hockey, squash and horse-riding. A particularly fashionable sport is “Australian rules” football. This originated from Gaelic football that is still played in Ireland and which is a mixture between soccer and rugby. In 1984, the first international contest between Australia and Ireland took place – and Australia won. Since then “Australian rules” football has grown in popularity.

## 20 The plight of the Aborigines

The Aborigines had survived in Australia for more than 50,000 years until the European settlers started coming in 1788. They lived as nomads and knew how to survive in different climates and conditions. Their diet was rich and varied. Today, though, after being driven away from their lands, hunted and killed, many Aborigines 25 live in huts on the edge of outback towns and suffer the effects of unemployment, alcoholism and poverty. Until very recently, Australian school children were taught that “Aborigines are ignorant, barbaric creatures with dirty habits and inferior in 30 all mental and spiritual processes to the white man.” The few remaining Aborigines still keep to their deeply-felt beliefs which can be seen in their art and rock paintings. They also have their “Dreaming” which 35 is the concept of their way of life. This is about their creation, when the land, sea, sky and all creatures started to exist



An Aborigine playing his didgeridoo  
© Tourism New South Wales

### Check your words again

<b>astonishing</b>	surprising	<b>extrovert</b>	outgoing, cheerful, confident
<b>array</b>	mixture	<b>quick-witted</b>	clever
<b>stingray</b>	a large sea fish with several sharp poisonous points on its back at the base of its tail	<b>unfailing</b>	always present
<b>dumping ground</b>	a place to get rid of what do not want to keep	<b>obliging</b>	helpful
<b>barracks</b>	buildings that soldiers (or convicts) live in	<b>scuba</b>	an instrument used for breathing when swimming under water
<b>convict</b>	a person found guilty of a crime and sent to prison	<b>Gaelic</b>	originating from Ireland or Scotland
<b>independence</b>	freedom (becoming a free country)	<b>hut</b>	primitive small building
<b>interior</b>	inland areas	<b>poverty</b>	being poor
<b>wheat</b>	a plant from whose grain flour is made	<b>creature</b>	animal
		<b>spiritual</b>	belief in religious matters
		<b>concept</b>	understanding, belief
		<b>creation</b>	when all living things started to exist



### Check your knowledge – Can you believe it?

#### True or false?

- |  | True                     | False                    |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Australia is 20 times the size of Britain.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. About 40 percent of Australia has a typically tropical desert environment.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Australia has more things that can kill you in a very nasty way than anywhere else.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The Rocks in Sydney housed 600 soldiers in its barracks.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The first European settlers arrived in what is now Sydney in 1783.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. A total of 160,000 convicts were sent to Australia.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Ex-convicts started sheep and wheat farming in the outback.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. The way Australian people speak dates back to the original settlers and convicts who came from northern England and Scotland. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. According to Bill Bryson, Australian and British cuisine is very similar.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Being an American, Bill Bryson did not like Australia.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Many types of sports played in Australia have originated from Britain.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

12. Gaelic football originated from Scotland where it is still played.
13. Aborigines have lived in Australia for 30,000 years.
14. Aborigines have always suffered the effects of alcoholism and poverty.
15. Australian children were taught that Aborigines are quick-witted, cheerful and unfailingly obliging.



## Suggestions for further investigation and study

1. In 1988, Australia celebrated its bicentenary. Make a survey of the major events in the history of Australia during the period after 1788. Consider in particular the conditions under which both the European settlers and convicts had to live. Why did the European settlers drive away and even slaughter the peace-living Aborigines?
2. Find out what you can about the convict barracks in the Rocks area of Sydney and the Port Arthur settlement for convicts in Tasmania. Make a description of these and also of the conditions under which the convicts had to live.
3. Find out what you can about "Dreamtime" and Aboriginal beliefs. In what way do you think Aborigines have had an influence on life in modern Australia?
4. Bill Bryson has been mentioned as a bestselling American author who has travelled extensively throughout Australia and written a vivid description of the country in his book called "Down Under". Try to borrow this book from your library. What are the main impressions you get as a result of reading "Down Under"?
5. If you could spend a "gap year" in Australia, how would you plan this? Make up an itinerary showing the places you would visit, how you would travel there, how you would finance your stay in Australia, and what you would expect to gain from this experience.



## Practise your use of words

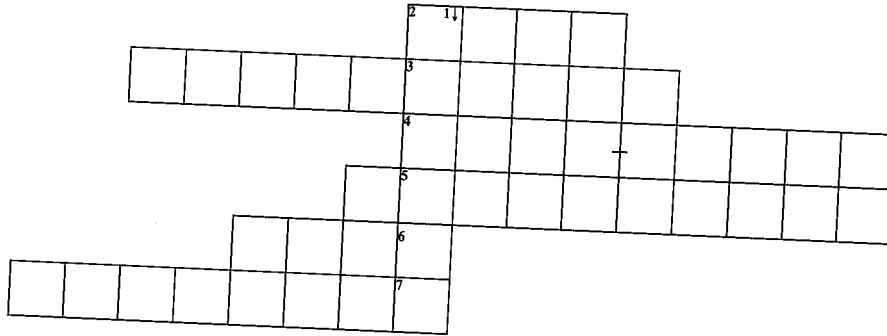
### 1. Australian crossword

**Down:**

1. You will find a coat hanger in this city.

**Across:**

2. The distance between two points
3. A tree found in Australia that produces strong-smelling oil
4. The other side of the world
5. The same as to open or start something.
6. A friendly way of addressing a man
7. A large sea fish with sharp poisonous points on its back



### 2. Match the words

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. array        | a. clever      |
| 2. heart-racing | b. include     |
| 3. icon         | c. colour      |
| 4. encompass    | d. picturesque |
| 5. hue          | e. exciting    |
| 6. quaint       | f. symbol      |
| 7. quick-witted | g. mixture     |

### 3. Odd man out – Which word does not fit?

- |                 |           |               |               |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Gaelic       | Irish     | Scottish      | English       |
| 2. concept      | fact      | belief        | understanding |
| 3. outgoing     | extrovert | shy           | confident     |
| 4. co-operative | helpful   | inconsiderate | obliging      |
| 5. colour       | noise     | hue           | tone          |

### 4. What do these explanations make you think of?

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. A living area outside the city centre               | s _____ |
| 2. Short for Australian                                | O _____ |
| 3. The edge of a sea, lake or harbour                  | s _____ |
| 4. A way of spending your free time                    | r _____ |
| 5. A person who travels only with a rucksack           | b _____ |
| 6. A person found guilty of a crime and sent to prison | c _____ |
| 7. Many different cultures                             | m _____ |
| 8. Something very difficult and needing a lot of skill | f _____ |
| 9. A plant from whose grain flour is made              | w _____ |
| 10. A primitive small building                         | h _____ |

### 5. Fill in the missing words in the gaps.

Choose from the words in the box.

crossing	city centre	long
thrilling	requires	residential
beautiful	popularly	endless
span	shoreline	ride

Sydney Harbour is said to be the most \_\_\_\_\_ natural harbour in the world with its 240 kilometre long \_\_\_\_\_. The most \_\_\_\_\_ way to see the harbour is to \_\_\_\_\_ the Ozjet. The bridge \_\_\_\_\_ Sydney Harbour is \_\_\_\_\_ called the "Coat hanger". It links the \_\_\_\_\_ in the south with the Vnorth. Its main \_\_\_\_\_ from tower to tower is 500 metres \_\_\_\_\_. The bridge is so big that painting it has become an \_\_\_\_\_ task. Each coat \_\_\_\_\_ 80,000 litres of paint.



## Grammar Exercises

### The ing-form or not?

Complete the sentences by choosing the correct alternative of the verbs within brackets.

Example:

Fancy \_\_\_\_\_ *meeting* \_\_\_\_\_ you in Sydney! (to meet / meeting)

1. Billy is interested in \_\_\_\_\_ the history of Australia. (to learn / learning)
2. My sister talks of \_\_\_\_\_ Bondi Beach. (visiting / visit)
3. I didn't mind him \_\_\_\_\_ next to me. (to sit / sitting)
4. I do look forward to \_\_\_\_\_ the "Coat hanger". (see / seeing)
5. He booked a flight to Australia without \_\_\_\_\_ his wife. (tell / telling)
6. I gave up \_\_\_\_\_ two years ago. (to smoke / smoking)
7. I really would like \_\_\_\_\_ to Sydney! (going / to go)
8. We were waiting for him \_\_\_\_\_. (coming / to come)
9. Lately I have considered \_\_\_\_\_ a journey throughout Australia. (to make / making)
10. Has Linda learnt \_\_\_\_\_? (surfing / to surf)
11. She apologized for \_\_\_\_\_ so late. (to be / being)
12. Cecilia talked about her parents \_\_\_\_\_ for Sydney. (leave / leaving)
13. Eric lay \_\_\_\_\_ in bed when I came into his room. (and read / reading)
14. We stood \_\_\_\_\_ for them outside the Opera house. (waiting / and waited)
15. I couldn't help \_\_\_\_\_ at her. (to laugh / laughing)