

UNITS 28-33: CUMMULATIVE READING COMPREHENSION

“New York City”

What do you think of when you picture the famous “New York City”? Big buildings, lots of people, bright lights, and busy streets? Well, New York City was not always famous. In fact, New York City was not always called ‘New York City’!

In 1626, Dutch settlers purchased the city from Native Americans. They named the city “New Amsterdam.” Later, in 1664, the English took over the city. They changed the name from “New Amsterdam” to “New York City.”

Can you believe that in 1698, New York City only had 4,937 people? It’s true. But little by little, the city began to grow. Finally, in 1790, New York City was larger than Philadelphia. Now, New York City is the biggest city in the U.S. with more than 8.2 million people. New York City also has the most skyscrapers of any U.S. city, and is second to Hong Kong for the most in the world! The skyscrapers in New York City are famous, and gigantic!

New York City is a city with many different kinds of people. In fact, 36% of New York City was born outside of the U.S.! These people are called immigrants, and they come from many countries. Some examples of countries that many “New Yorkers” migrate from are Mexico, China, Colombia, and Russia. The term “melting pot” is used to describe a place with lots of people from many different cultures, and this term originated in New York City!

New York City is famous for their subway system. A subway is an underground train that runs all over the city and stops in different neighborhoods. The first part of this subway system was developed in 1904. As you can see, the subway has been around a long time! Unlike most subway systems, the New York subway system runs 24 hours a day. This helps “New Yorkers” get around at any time, day or night. It is helpful, but it sure can be noisy! The subway even has musicians playing down in the tunnel.

Musicians have to audition to play in the subway, and many do not get chosen. Some of the musicians that play in the subway go on to be very famous!

New York City is also famous for their art museum. The “Metropolitan Museum of Art,” or the “Met” for short, holds over 2 million pieces of art. This museum opened in 1938, and has been a popular attraction ever since. It is one of the biggest art museums in the world, and is a beloved part of New York culture.

Whether you are with your mother, father, brother, sister, friend, or by yourself, New York City is a great city to visit! There is always something fun to do or see, and you’ll never be bored. If you are looking for a fun place to vacation, New York City is the spot.



Directions: Read the story carefully, and answer the following questions.

1. Who did the Dutch purchase New York City from? Native Americans/An African Tribe (Native Americans)
2. What was the original name of New York City? New Amsterdam/New Jersey (New Amsterdam)
3. New York City is second in the world for the most skyscrapers. Who is first? France/Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
4. New York is a city populated with immigrants from other countries. Name two of those countries.
_____ (Mexico, China, Colombia, and Russia)
5. Another expression for a place with lots of people from many different cultures is: “a melting pot”/“a boiling pot” (“a melting pot”)
6. What is a subway? A train/a sandwich (a train)
7. What makes New York’s subway system special? (Answers could be it runs 24 hours a day/musicians play underground)
8. The Metropolitan Museum of art has over _____ million pieces of art. 2 million/10 million (2 million)
9. The nickname for the The Metropolitan Museum is: “The Met”/”The Best” (“The Met”)
10. True or False: New York City is a great place for vacations. (True)