06. New York and other big cities

Location

In the north of **east coast** in America; on the river **Hudson**

Population

The most populous city of the USA

One of the largest cities in the world

About **8** million people

History

The area was inhabited by Indians, which is resembled by the name of the oldest part – Manhattan Island. This island was bought from the Indians by the Dutch in 1625

The original name was New Amsterdam → In 1644 was renamed it New York

Parts of New York

New York has five boroughs: *Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx* and *Staten Island* (Richmond)

Manhattan – Its scenery is formed by skyscrapers (the Empire State Building). It is the centre of cultural life and the centre of trade. It is the most important.

Brooklyn – It is the most popular borough. It is the home of the Brooklyn Museum, the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Botanic Garden.

Queens – It is the largest borough. Queens is known for its numerous and enormous cemeteries.

The Bronx – It is one of the biggest Afro-American communities. There is Yankee Stadium.

Staten Island – It is mostly family houses.

Places of Interest

The World Trade Centre – was built in 1973 and has 110 floors and more than 100 000 people come and go here every day; 9/11

Empire State Building – 102 floors, TV tower and a restaurant at the top. There are also many others – e. g. **Chrysler Building, Pan Am Building and UN building**

Harlem – black quarter with many poor and unemployment people

Time square – centre of entertainment, department stores, restaurants, nightclubs and hotels.

Broadway – more than 19km long, 33 theatres (Metropolitan Opera, Carnegie Hall…), cinemas, restaurants, clubs and bars

Washington D.C.

Washington, DC is **not a state or city**, nor is it part of any state. It is a unique „federal district, "created specifically to be the seat of government

History

In 1790 was establishment by the Act of Congress as a site of the capital city

It was chosen by President Washington himself

Before this, capital city was for example in New York or Philadelphia

Location

Washington lies on the Potomac River and consisted of 4 sections: **northeast**, **northwest**, **southeast** and **southwest**

There were differences between the north and the south and Washington had to be in the middle, also the two cities nearby were a source of goods shipping

Population

623,000 people inhabit the capital city

Some of 360 000 people living in the metropolitan area and they are employed by the Federal Government

All of them work in the federally buildings, which occupy 40 % of the city's land

Plan of the city

The layout of the city was initially a square measuring 10 miles (16 km) and is arranged in a grid.

Plan of the city designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant (broad roads, National Mall, federal buildings).

Government buildings

- **the White House:** the president's residence, exterior walls made of sandstone and painted white, universally recognised as the symbol of the US presidency; official rooms on the first floor, second and the third floor reserved for the presidential family
- **the Pentagon**: the largest single structure building in the world, headquarters of the Department of Defence
- **the Capitol:** centre of US Government; the *Library of Congress* (Thomas Jefferson building) added to the Capitol, it is the largest library in existence

Other Sights

- *Washington monument*: a white marble obelisk
- *Jefferson Memorial*: an adaptation of the ancient Roman Pantheon with a statue of T. Jefferson holding the Declaration of Independence
- *Lincoln Memorial*: inspired by Greek architecture, a Doric temple reminiscent of the Parthenon in Athens with a statue of seated Lincoln
- *Smithsonian Institution*: one of the largest museum and research complexes in the world; comprises of 14 museums and the National Zoo; the symbol is the red sandstone Castle which functions as a visitor's information centre

- ***Georgetown University***: the oldest and best reputed in Washington; 1789, the first Catholic institution of higher learning in the country
- ***Mount Vernon***: 16 miles south of Washington; Washington's private mansion, he and his wife are buried in its grounds