Sample Document for Section 005 and 008 / 204100

New York

New York is the most populous city in the United States and the center of the New York Metropolitan Area. The city is referred to as New York City or the City of New York to distinguish it from the State of New York, of which it is a part. A global power city and the home of the United Nations Headquarters, New York is an important center for international diplomacy and has been described as the cultural capital of the world. Located on one of the world’s largest natural harbors, New York City consists of five boroughs, each of which is a county of New York State.

Geography

New York City is located in the Northeastern United States, in southeastern New York State, approximately halfway between Washington, D.C. and Boston. Much of New York is built on the three islands of Manhattan, Staten Island, and Long Island, making land scarce and encouraging a high population density. The Hudson River flows through the Hudson Valley into New York and also separates the city from New Jersey. The Harlem River, another tidal strait between the East and Hudson Rivers, separates most of Manhattan from the Bronx. The Bronx River, which flows through the Bronx and Westchester County, is the only entirely fresh water river in the city.

Climate

Winters are cold and damp, and prevailing wind patterns that blow offshore minimize the moderating effects of the Atlantic Ocean; yet the Atlantic and the partial shielding of the Appalachians keep the city warmer in the winter. January in the coldest month however, winter temperatures can occasionally reach as low as 0 °F. Spring and autumn are unpredictable and can range from chilly to warm, although they are usually mild with low humidity. Summers are typically warm to hot and humid, with an average daily July high temperature of 84.1 °F. Hurricanes and tropical storms are rare in the New York area, but are not unheard of and always have the potential to strike the area.

Boroughs

New York City is composed of five boroughs. Each borough is coextensive with a respective county of New York State as shown below.

Manhattan (New York County) is the most densely populated borough and is home to Central Park and most of the city’s skyscrapers including Stark Tower. Most of the borough is on Manhattan Island, at the mouth of the Hudson River. Manhattan is the financial center of the city and contains the headquarters of many major corporations, the UN, a number of important universities, and many cultural attractions. Manhattan is loosely divided into Lower, Midtown, and Uptown regions. Uptown Manhattan is divided by Central Park into the Upper East Side and the Upper West Side, and above the park is Harlem.

New York City’s remaining four boroughs are collectively referred to as the “outer boroughs”.

The Bronx (Bronx County) is New York City’s northernmost borough and the location of Yankee Stadium, home of the New York Yankees. Except for a small section of Manhattan known as Marble Hill, the Bronx is the only section of the city that is part of the United States’ mainland. It is home to the Bronx Zoo, the world’s largest metropolitan zoo and is also considered by some to be the birthplace of rap and hip hop culture.

Brooklyn (Kings County) on the western tip of Long Island, is the city’s most populous borough and was an independent city until 1898. Brooklyn is known for its cultural, social and ethnic diversity, an independent art scene, distinct neighborhoods and a distinctive architectural heritage. Downtown Brooklyn is the only central core neighborhood in the outer boroughs. The borough features a long beachfront shoreline including Coney Island, established in the 1870s as one of the earliest amusement grounds in the country.

Queens (Queens County) on Long Island east of Brooklyn, is geographically the largest borough and the most ethnically diverse county in the United States. Queens is the site of Citi Field, the home of the New York Mets, and annually hosts the U.S. Open tennis tournament. Additionally, it is home to two of the three major airports serving the New York metropolitan area, LaGuardia Airport and John F. Kennedy International Airport. (The third is Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, New Jersey.)

Staten Island (Richmond County) is the most suburban in character of the five boroughs. Staten Island is connected to Brooklyn by the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and to Manhattan by way of the free Staten Island Ferry. The Staten Island Ferry is one of the most popular tourist attractions in New York City as it provides unsurpassed views of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and lower Manhattan. Located in central Staten Island, the 2,500 acres Staten Island Greenbelt has some 28 miles of walking trails and one of the last undisturbed forests in the city. Designated in 1984 to protect the island’s natural lands, the Greenbelt comprises seven city parks.

Recreational Areas

The City of New York has a complex park system, with various lands operated by the National Park Service, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

Central Park an 883-acre park in Manhattan, is the most visited city park in the United States, with 25 million visitors each year. The park contains a myriad of attractions; there are several lakes and ponds, two ice-skating rinks, the Central Park Zoo, the Central Park Conservatory Garden, and the 106-acre Jackie Onassis Reservoir. Indoor attractions include Belvedere Castle with its nature center, the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater, and the historic Carousel. Forty of the city’s theaters, with more than 500 seats each, are collectively known as “Broadway,” after the major thoroughfare that crosses the Times Square Theater District, sometimes referred to as “The Great White Way”. Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts is home to 12 influential arts organizations, including the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, New York Philharmonic, and New York City Ballet, as well as the Vivian Beaumont Theater, the Juilliard School, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Alice Tully Hall.

New York City is home to the headquarters of the National Football League, Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League, and Major League Soccer. Four of the ten most expensive stadiums ever built worldwide (MetLife Stadium, the new Yankee Stadium, Madison Square Garden, and Citi Field) are located in the New York metropolitan area.

Transportation

Mass transit in New York City, most of which runs 24 hours a day, is the most complex and extensive in North America. About one in every three users of mass transit in the United States and two-thirds of the nation’s rail riders live in the New York City Metropolitan Area. The iconic New York City Subway system is the busiest in the Western Hemisphere, while Grand Central Terminal, also popularly referred to as “Grand Central Station”, is the world’s largest railway station by number of platforms. New York’s airspace is one of the world’s busiest air transportation corridors. The George Washington Bridge, connecting Manhattan to Bergen County, New Jersey, is the world’s busiest motor vehicle bridge.