

Higher and higher in New York



The skyline

What a terrific view! This is New York City and everything is modern and gigantic. Look at those buildings. The line formed by those towers is called the skyline.

You think the buildings are so high they can almost touch the sky! Well, that's why we call them skyscrapers!



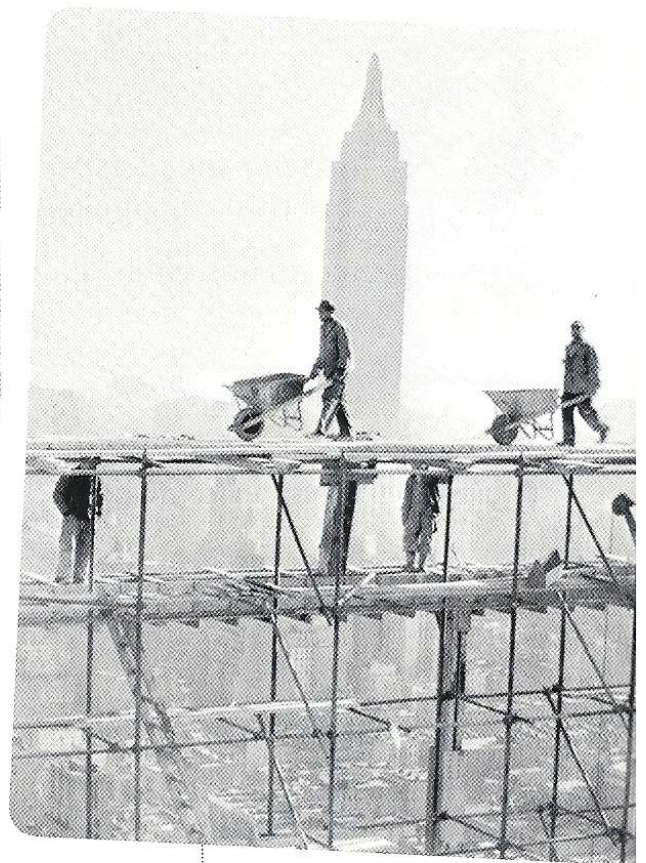
At lunchtime..., 1932

In the beginning

Skyscrapers are quite old. They were born in the 1880s thanks to several innovations: steel¹ structures and elevators. Manhattan was the ideal place because it is a single chunk² of granite, perfect for the foundations tall buildings need.

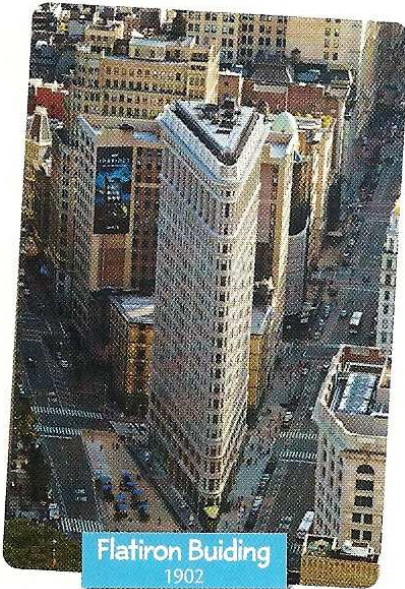
Mohawk Indians who were fearless³ at walking and working hundreds of feet in the air were good ironworkers⁴.

1. acier • 2. bloc • 3. n'avaient pas peur • 4. ouvriers métallurgistes



Working in the sky, 1949

The race to the sky



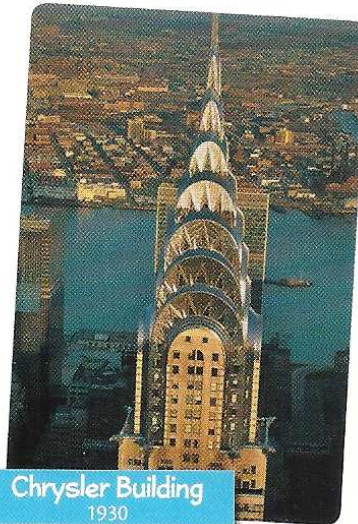
Flatiron Building

1902

285 feet

It is one of the oldest New York City skyscrapers. Guess why they call it the Flatiron Building? Look at its triangular shape. It looks like an iron¹!

1. fer à repasser



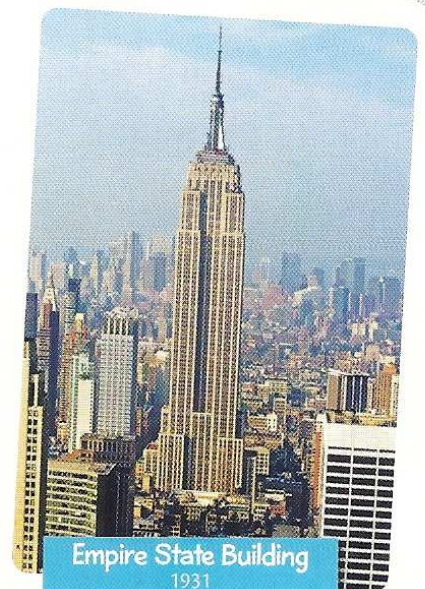
Chrysler Building

1930

1,050 feet

It is a dazzling¹ Art-Deco style tower. Walter P. Chrysler was a millionaire and a car-company owner. So, the top of the tower looks like a car's hubcaps².

1. éblouissant • 2. enjoliveurs



Empire State Building

1931

1,224 feet

The Empire State Building looks like a pencil. It is the most famous building in New York.

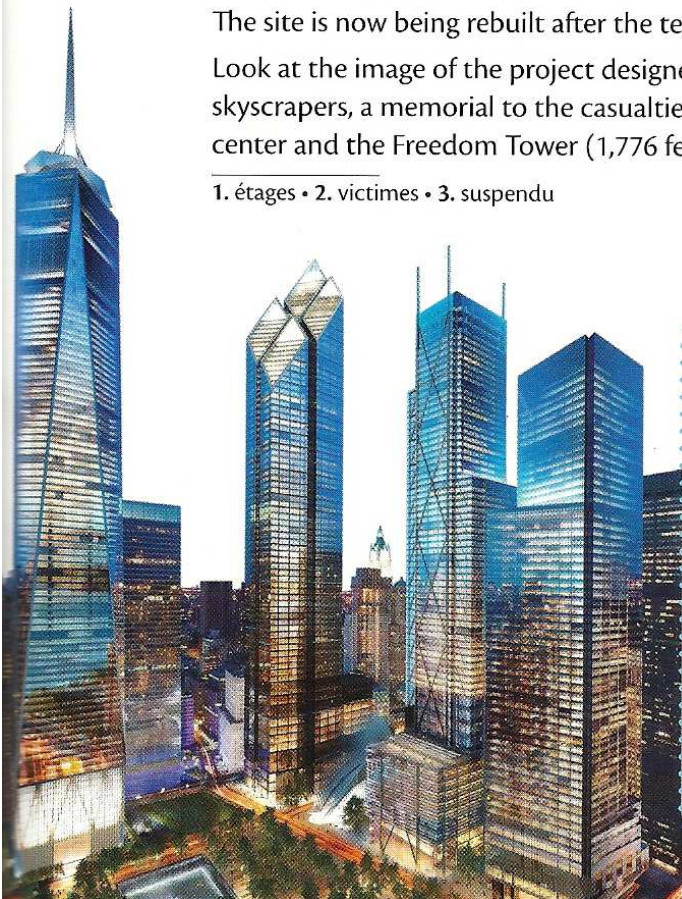
The changing face of New York

The two identical 110-story¹ towers of the World Trade Center were symbols of New York City.

The site is now being rebuilt after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Look at the image of the project designed by a group of architects. It includes six new skyscrapers, a memorial to the casualties² of the attacks, a hanging³ garden, a cultural center and the Freedom Tower (1,776 feet tall).

1. étages • 2. victimes • 3. suspendu



Quiz time

1. Can you name five of New York City's skyscrapers?
2. What is a skyline?
3. Why is the Flatiron Building called "Flatiron"?
4. Why does the top of the Chrysler Building look like hubcaps?
5. How tall is the Empire State Building?
6. Can you name the main tower of the New World Trade Center?



If you want to know more about New York's skyline, go online at:

www.beautyofnyc.org/nylandmarks.htm