



A Transcript of the Explorer Express Tour of New York City

Thursday 20th June at 10 a.m.

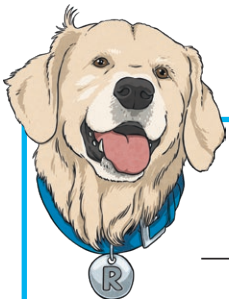
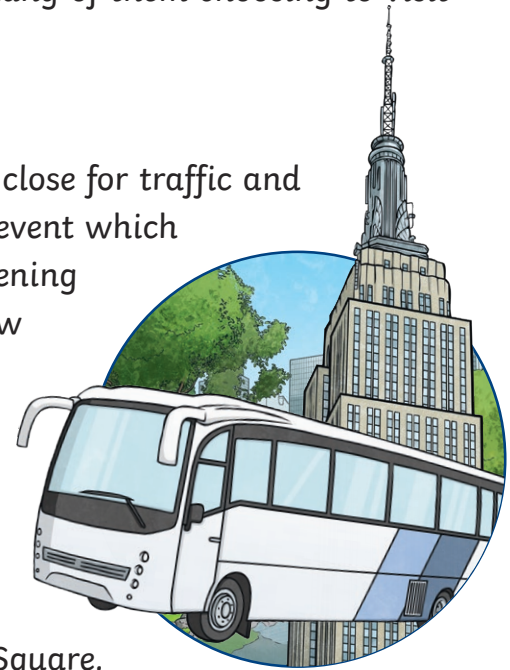
Frankie: Hello and welcome onboard this Explorer Express bus tour around the Big Apple itself, New York City. Please keep your belongings with you and keep your arms inside the vehicle at all times. My name is Frankie and I will be your tour guide today. I'm responsible for showing you the magnificent sights that downtown New York City has to offer.

Passenger 1: What will we see first?

Frankie: Great question, kiddo! First on our whistle-stop tour today are the bright, dazzling lights of Times Square. Once named Longacre Square, Times Square adopted its current name in 1904 after a prominent newspaper moved its headquarters to the area. Times Square attracts an estimated 50 million visitors per year from all around the globe – many of them choosing to visit on New Year's Eve to watch the ball drop.

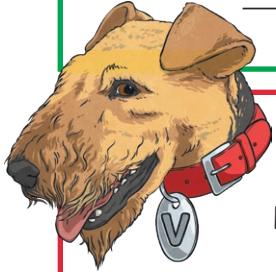
Passenger 2: What's the ball drop?

Frankie: On New Year's Eve, the streets of Times Square close for traffic and thousands of people gather to watch a special event which happens on top of a 25-story skyscraper. Happening for the first time in 1907 to welcome in the new year 1908, a special time ball is released and it falls down a specially-designed flagpole. Taking exactly 60 seconds to reach the bottom, the ball drops 141 feet during the last minute of the old year and, when it reaches the bottom of the pole, the new year begins. Right everybody, alight here for Times Square.



Q1: Which landmark of New York City did the Explorer Express visit first?

Q2: Give **two** opinions about Passenger 1's character.
Use evidence from the text to support your answer.



Q3: ...after a prominent newspaper moved its headquarters to the area.

Explain what you think is meant by the word **prominent**.

Passenger 1: What's next on the tour route?

Frankie: Next up, we'll visit Broadway and the Theater District: arguably, the entertainment hub of the USA. Comprising 41 professional theaters with the best reputation in the English-speaking world, Broadway is the place to be if you want to be awestruck by some of the world's best actors performing in sold-out musicals and theater shows.

With more than 100 shows performed each night across New York City, it is the place to be if you dream of seeing your name in lights. Alight here for Broadway and the Theater District.

Passenger 3: Thanks so much for sharing your knowledge, Frankie!

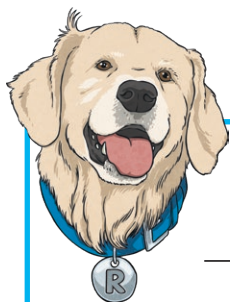
Frankie: As we travel along Fifth Avenue towards our next destination – a guaranteed showstopper – I'll give you a little more information about the giant itself, the Empire State Building. Standing at just over 380 meters tall to its roof and over 440 meters to the tippity-top of its antenna, the Empire State Building was constructed in just 410 days as part of an unspoken race to build the world's tallest building... and they did just that! For just shy of 40 years, between 1931 when it was completed and 1970, the Empire State Building was the tallest building in the world.



Passenger 2: What happened in 1970?

Frankie:

In 1970, the North Tower of the World Trade Center, which had been under construction since 1966, finally surpassed the Empire State Building in height. Unfortunately, since then, the Empire State Building has slipped to only the 28th-tallest building in the world but it still remains an American cultural icon. You may have even seen it in films! If you want to make your own memories at the Empire State Building, alight here.



Q4: How tall is the Empire State Building in its entirety?

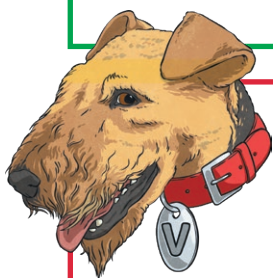
Q5: ...arguably, the entertainment hub of the USA.

Explain why people may think this.



Q6: ...with the best reputation in the English-speaking world...

What does this phrase imply?



Q7: ...if you want to be awestruck by some of the world's best actors...

Explain what is meant by the word awestruck in this phrase.

Q8: Why does Frankie keep repeating the phrase 'alight here'?



Frankie: We now head towards once of the most iconic constructions in the world. She's 93 meters tall and was a gift from the French in 1886 – can anyone guess who we'll be seeing next?

Passenger 1: The Statue of Liberty!

Frankie: You've got it, kiddo! That's right. Our next stop will be Liberty Enlightening the World – the full name of the Statue of Liberty. Standing proudly on Liberty Island in New York Harbor, Lady Liberty holds two precious items: a torch, which she holds above her head with her right hand, and a tablet, inscribed with the date 4th July 1776, in her left hand.

Passenger 2: What's so important about that date?

Frankie: Great question. That's the date on which the US Declaration of Independence was signed.

Passenger 4: Why is she green?

Frankie: Another great question from the lady at the back! To understand why our lovely Lady Liberty is green, first we need to think about what she is made from. The Statue of Liberty is made from an iron frame but she has a sheet of metal called copper hung over her. Copper starts off as a dull brown material but, when it reacts with water, it turns to a blue-green colour. Because Lady Liberty is stood beside a huge body of water, she turned green pretty quickly and has stayed that way ever since! If you'd like to explore Liberty Island for yourself, alight here and have a safe and pleasant trip.



Q9: Compare the Statue of Liberty's appearance when it was first created to how it appears now.



Q10: Why do you think that the Statue of Liberty is rarely referred to as her full name?



Q11: Why do you think that the Statue of Liberty holds a torch in her right hand?

Q12: Summarise why the Statue of Liberty is green in 15 words or fewer.





A Journey to America: Consolidating Reading Skills

A Transcript of the Explorer Express Tour of New York City – Answer Sheet

Q1: Which landmark of New York City did the Explorer Express visit first?

Accept the answer 'Times Square' only.

Q2: Give **two** opinions about Passenger 1's character.

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Accept any two reasonable points about Passenger 1's character providing that each point is supported by evidence from the text, such as: I know that Passenger 1 is a child because Frankie calls him 'kiddo'. I also know that Passenger 1 is inquisitive and wants to know more because he asks 'what will we see first?'

Q3: ...after a prominent newspaper moved its headquarters to the area.

Explain what you think is meant by the word prominent.

Accept any reasonable inference as to what 'prominent' means within the context of the sentence or its dictionary definition, such as: I think that prominent means important.

Q4: How tall is the Empire State Building in its entirety?

Accept the answer 'over 440 meters tall' only.

Q5: ...arguably, the entertainment hub of the USA.

Explain why people may think this.

Accept any answer which focuses on the concentration of theatres and shows in the area, such as: People might think it is the entertainment hub of the USA because of how many theatres are there and how many different shows you can see – which is unlike anywhere else in the USA.

Q6: ...with the best reputation in the English-speaking world...

What does this phrase imply?

Accept answers which acknowledge that parts of the world do not speak English and may have theatres with better esteem, such as: This phrase implies that there may be theatres with better reputations in parts of the world which do not speak English.

Q7: ...if you want to be awestruck by some of the world's best actors...

Explain what is meant by the word awestruck in this phrase.

Accept any explanation which correctly defines awestruck or gives an appropriate synonym, such as: I think awestruck means absolutely amazed.

Q8: Why does Frankie keep repeating the phrase 'alight here'?

Accept answers which refer to Frankie's use of 'alight here' because this conversation took place onboard a tour bus which made regular stops, such as: Frankie keeps using the phrase 'alight here' because they are onboard a bus which keeps stopping and this is a transcript of their real-life conversation.

Q9: Compare the Statue of Liberty's appearance when it was first created to how it appears now.

Accept any answer which compares the Statue of Liberty's initial copper appearance to its current green finish, such as: When the Statue of Liberty was first created, it would have had a brown finish but now it is green because of the copper's reaction with the water.

Q10: Why do you think that the Statue of Liberty is rarely referred to as her full name?

Accept the pupils' own interpretations and reasons, such as: I think that she is not referred to as her full name because it is not as catchy and it is harder to remember.

Q11: Why do you think that the Statue of Liberty holds a torch in her right hand?

Accept the pupils' own inferences and reasons, such as: I think that the Statue of Liberty holds a torch so that boats that are sailing the harbour can always see the safety of land.

Q12: Summarise why the Statue of Liberty is green in 15 words or fewer.

Accept any reasonable summary given in 15 words or fewer which explains the patination which occurs when copper reacts with water, such as: The statue is green because of a chemical reaction between its copper coating and water.