



Hunt for Neighborhood Treasures

This is an old-fashioned scavenger hunt through the Empire State Building's neighborhood. By exploring this neighborhood students will use their visual literacy skills to learn about New York's history, its built environment, its people and their culture.

Activity

This scavenger hunt will send your students in search of all kinds of New York treasures. Your route for the hunt runs through the Empire State Building's neighborhood. It will lead your students from the Empire State Building to Penn Station. It will take them from West 31st Street all the way over to West 34th Street and from 5th Avenue to 7th Avenue. In other words it will take your students in a big rectangle around the Empire State Building.

There is no order to the hunt but it should begin at the entrance to the Empire State Building on 5th Avenue. Have your students read the scavenger hunt first then use a map to plan their exact route. This planning is half the fun of it all!

The items on the scavenger hunt are not related --- they do not lead students to a treasure or to one special place. You'll see that the items on the hunt appear in different forms --- rhymes, riddles, true/false questions, etc. Nothing is straight forward! And many things are not as they seem. Enjoy!

Your Empire State Building Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt

Starting at the Empire State Building On 5th Avenue (between West 34th Street and West 31st Street)

1. Find out which is on the street signs *Fifth* or *5th*.
2. Find a school that undergraduates can not attend.
3. Quick! Was the door you used to exit the Empire State Building
Automatic?
Revolving?
Just a plain old open/shut door?
4. Name the establishments on each of the four (4) corners of 5th Avenue and West 33rd Street.

Empire State Building • 350 Fifth Avenue • New York • NY • 10118
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One of the buildings on this corner has beautiful arched windows. On which corner is this building --- South East? South West? North East? North West?

5. The movie, *The Godfather* featured a shop located at 314 5th Avenue, near West 32nd Street. This shop specialized in one of the following items:

- Cigars
- Leather goods
- Hats
- Trains
- Bagels

Visit the address (most recently a pizza restaurant) and find the name of the shop. Then tell us which of the above items was its specialty.

On West 34th (between 5th Avenue and 7th Avenue)

1. From one of the following corners you can see a yellow and white place to live:

- 5th & 34th
- 6th & 34rd
- 7th & 34th

Find out which corner it is and when you've located the building, draw it right here so we'll know you have the correct building:

2. There's a really weird building at 38 West 34th Street. Which of the following is the best description for this building:

- All glass, very tall and wavy
- Low, brown, and sad-looking
- Green and white with elegant columns

3. Look hard and think hard and locate --- *A geometric shape that will Herald your arrival.*

4. Although you can't see it or hear it yet, there is a parade on its way and it will end right here in the neighborhood. Find the famous building that's the ending point for the parade and tell us exactly where the parade ends.

(Check their basement for some great photos and memorabilia of foregone parades.)

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5. You should feel safe on 34th Street when you find the six (6) women guarding the door to this store. What is the store and what's its address? And now, describe the six women ----
6. Hotel McAlpin used to stand at 50 West 34th Street. It was the largest hotel in the city when it was built in 1913 and it had a *silent floor* for the nocturnal. Find out what's on this site today.

Wonder if they still have that *silent floor*? Why not ask and find out?

7. Find A.S. Beck.

On 7th Avenue (between West 31st Street and West 34th Street)

1. There is a lovely 46 story, Art Deco building close to the intersection of 7th Avenue and West 34th Street that was built in 1929. Here's the name of this building ---

Lnnseo Wtreo

Sorry! We forgot to mention that the name of the building is scrambled. Unscramble this name, find the building and give us the address.

Now tell us how you might guess that this building was built between 1916 and 1961.

2. Find out what used to occupy the building on the corner of West 34th and 7th Avenue, where Citibank is today. **Just read the past and you'll know.**
3. There are two buildings on 7th Avenue that are named for a state located on the East Coast. What are these buildings?

Which building is older?

4. 7th Avenue True/False
 - You can not see the entire Empire State Building from 7th Avenue.
 - 7th Avenue is a one-way street.
 - 7th Avenue is also called The Avenue of States.
 - 7th Avenue has a train terminal that services up to a thousand passengers every 90 seconds.
 - Taxi cabs are not allowed on 7th Avenue.

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On West 33rd Street (between 5th Avenue and 7th Avenue)

1. Find *Mr. Greeley* and tell us why he's here.
2. The original *Gimble's Department Store* (arch rival of Macy's Department Store ---- "Does Macy's tell Gimbel's?") is on this walk. Tell us where it used to be --- for it is no more. Hint: You'll be 100% correct if you look to the corners. But be careful that you don't get malled!
3. Find out what the hotel on the corner of 7th Avenue and West 33rd Street has to do with the Big Band Era in US history.

On West 31st Street (between 5th Avenue and 7th Avenue)

1. As you stroll down West 31st Street toward 7th Avenue, look for a lovely French mansard roof high above you. It tops a former grand hotel from the late 1890's. We want to know what occupies this grand hotel today.
2. Solve the following rhyme about a site on West 31st Street and tell us what's on this site:

6x4 is 24
There's a hook and ladder behind the door
9divided by 3 = 3 by Division
Hurry up, make your decision.
3. Go to St. Francis House between 6th Avenue and 7th Avenue. Stand on the steps facing the street. Then, look up --- count the water tanks you see from here on New York's roofs. How many do you see? Are you sure? Look again! You may be VERY surprised!

End of Your Scavenger Hunt

Discuss the results of your scavenge hunt as a group.

After your New York visit, when your class returns to the classroom, have students create a walking tour of their school neighborhood.



Materials Needed

- Map of Manhattan
- Copies of the scavenger hunt
- Pencils for recording answers
- Cameras